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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.

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*<sup>®</sup>. 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 angels 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)

. . . *The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?* (Psalms 27:1)

*The righteous will see and fear; they will laugh at him, saying, "Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold but trusted in his great wealth . . .* (Psalms 52:6 - 7)

*He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge . . .* (Psalms 144:2)

*The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever. As for you, O watchtower of the flock, O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion . . .* (Micah 4:7 - 8)

*The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.* (Psalms 28:8)

(If you do not remember these truths, perhaps you should revisit the commentary on chapter seven.)

And the 144,000 reference the Wife of the Lamb. The only portion of believers who will not experience the great tribulation.

Just as Jesus is called the *Son of God*; so these are found occupying the Holy Mountain - and are the *Daughter of Zion*.

*First* - we see that the 144,000 are standing on Mount Zion (God) with the Lamb or Jesus.

Now scripture assigns various names to Jesus or the Christ. Just as scripture assigns various names to God, the Father. One of those names which is a reference to Jesus; and His sacrifice for us - is the *Lamb*. The **Lamb of God**. The *Lamb* shed his blood for us, and gave His life for us. (R1:5; R5:8,9)

*Second* - in this prophecy - every time it uses the word **Wife**, or **Bride** - this is ALWAYS in reference to the word **Lamb** or *Jesus*. The common phrase *Bride of Christ* is essentially the same as: *Wife of the Lamb*. It carries with it identical meanings. But the phrase **Bride of Christ** - does **not exist** in all of scripture. The meaning and concept of the phrase **Bride of Christ** is clearly seen in various verses; such as John 3:28 - 29; and statements Jesus made with regards to *Wedding Banquets & Bridegrooms*.

Chapter fourteen opens not only with the 144,000 standing on God - but they are also standing *next* to the **Lamb**. The 144,000 are the ONLY group identified in this prophecy - as having not only Jesus' or the **Lamb's name** written on their foreheads - but ALSO the **Father's** name.

In ALL of Revelation - this is the ONLY group identified with being given the Father's name. Of course I say that - knowing and understanding that the 'church' of *Philadelphia* - is also given the Father's name.

. . . *I will write on him the name of my God . . .* (Rev 3:12)

*Philadelphia* (love of brother/sister) - I stated in discussion on Chapter three - was the first description of the

Bride of Christ. Or the **Wife of the Lamb**. The church of **Philadelphia**, and the **144,000** - are one and the same. The same group of individuals.

*Third* - we have a great sound of **wonderful music**. God gives us living water; and we have the sound of the roar of **rushing waters**, with **Harp**s being played. And then they sing a song - which they alone are allowed to sing! A glorious new song. A new life, a new start. A wedding is often referred to as *starting a new life together*. And at weddings - the Bride and Bridegroom - frequently have their own song. Sometimes they sing it to one another; other times they have someone play it for them . . . But Bride and Bridegroom - often have 'their song'. Same with these verses. A loud, joyful celebration; with the Bride and the Bridegroom - having 'their' song. Only a song they are allowed to sing.

*Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.* (Psalms 149:2 - 3)

*Fourth* - then we have the statement that they did not **defile themselves with women**, for they kept **themselves pure**. And they **follow the lamb wherever he goes**.

In scripture, and even in today's life - the wife is generally expected to go - wherever her husband goes . . . In many places of the world - marriage vows include the words: "*In sickness and in health . . . till death do us part.*"

And a man who is marrying the woman he loves - desires for her to be a virgin. For her not to have been being intimate with various men . . . So too - with God! He is looking for intimacy with us, and with His Bride. So Zion is declared to be a virgin; and so too - are the 144,000 declared to be virgins! They have waited on their bridegroom, and **kept themselves pure**.

The statement: "**did not defile themselves with women**"; is not in ANY way stating that being *married* is a defilement. For the marriage bed is undefiled.

**Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure** . . . (Hebrews 13:4)

**Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled** . . . (Hebrews 13:4 KJV)

Neither is it stating that all of the **144,000** (symbolic number) are **males!** **No**, a **marriage statement** is being made here at the beginning of chapter *Fourteen*; and the fact that the Bride is pure and Holy is being declared. These people are declared by God to be **virgins** - they are the **Daughter of Zion**; and they have just been married to the Lamb! The phrase "**defile themselves with women**" is given for two reasons:

1. Because these verses open up discussing the *Wife of the Lamb*. So the verses are stating that she is pure, and undefiled.
2. As believers in Christ - if we wish to be part of the Bride; and not experience the great tribulation; if we wish to be part of that select group who are found **WORTHY** to be the wife of the Lamb - then we are required to be intimate with God. To put off all of the pleasures and distractions of this world - which so easily entangle us, and which encourage us not to be focused on God, and listening to our teacher - Mr. *Holy Spirit!*

The **144,000** have been focused on, and *intimate* with God. They **LOVE** Jesus, and **OBEY** His commands. They **LOVE** God; and they **LOVE their fellow brethren**, and the people all around them - who

hate them. They have decided not to be caught up in this world - but to be totally **consumed by God** - who is **a consuming fire**. They allowed God to heat them up, and **refine** them. They allowed themselves to become so intimate with God - that they became absolutely pure . . . And so God consumes them; and they are pure and holy; and they are found worthy to be the *Wife of the Lamb*.

*Fifth* - these **144,000** are declared to be **FirstFruits**. **Jesus** was the *firstfruit and first born* for our **salvation**. And so is His Bride. She has made herself ready, and has **clothed herself in righteousness**. She is **Blameless**. FirstFruits, and the sacrifices made for atonement, and celebration of various feasts and harvests - using Bulls, and Lambs, etc. were always to be without any Blemish; and had some age restrictions. *Perfection*, a Holy virgin with **sufficient oil**. Note also that they were *purchased or redeemed* from among men. The first offspring from any womb was required to be redeemed, or purchased. The **144,000** were *purchased* by Jesus; dedicated to serve God, and given by God to the High Priest of the *first born* of the **resurrection** of the dead - **Jesus** the ultimate **High Priest** - to be *His*. The best of the best was given to the Priests who served God.

Just as God made Adam, the first man; and then took a rib from Adam, and made Eve - the first woman; as a wife for Adam - so too Jesus saved and redeemed us all; and God has taken the best of the best from the Church; and made a Wife for the Lamb. Eve was taken from the body of Adam; and the Bride is taken from the Body of Christ - the Church.

. . . 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 14:4 - 5)

I have repeated some significant portions from the discussion of chapter Seven. This is necessary to remind you of several things . . . The entire prophecy is very interlaced and woven together. And the prophecy repeats itself in various ways, from several perspectives.

To have a genuine discussion of chapter Seven - it was necessary to delve **Deeply** into the beginning of chapter **Fourteen**. And so now, at chapter Fourteen; we have repeated a small portion of what was previously stated.

If you have not read the discussion of chapter **Seven** - I strongly suggest you do so. I dealt with the opening of **Fourteen** in tremendously more detail - at that chapter. This was necessary for a correct understanding of chapter seven.

Now chapter **One** of Revelation states that you are BLESSED if you read it, and take it to heart. It also states that Jesus is God, and the entire world will mourn when Jesus returns.

Chapter **Two - Three** discuss the various possible spiritual conditions of the Christian believer; using the known cultural traditions and histories of the cities named. The emphasis always narrows to the individual; and focuses on learning to Hear the Spirit of God - and being obedient to Him. And, we are introduced to the genuine idea of the *Wife of the Lamb*; and her number one qualification - LOVE. Deep, **DEEP LOVE** - for Jesus, God, and believers and unbelievers alike.

Chapters **Four - Five** reflect on Jesus's worthiness above ALL and everyone else - to totally **RULE** all of His creation. And we see Jesus receiving the redemption scroll; or 'property deed' for mankind. Man was originally given dominion; but he gave his authority over the earth to Satan - when he sinned; and Jesus has purchased mankind back into holiness and an intimate relationship with Him - for anyone who desires to be pure, holy, and to have a beautiful relationship with God.



Chapter *Six* reflects the basic overall foundational crises which will occur and build to the terrible tribulation period of the anti-Christ ruling, and killing anyone who refuses to worship him. And we flow from that - to the ultimate prophetic judgement - the day of God's wrath.

Chapter *Seven* reflects that it is possible to avoid being in the great tribulation period - which will require tremendous patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the Saints - from those who remain true to Jesus. Here, we see the *juxtaposition* of those who gave themselves fully to God; and are part of the Wife of the Lamb; and those who experience the great tribulation - but were victorious against the beast. They are waving palm branches - which historically signify victory.

Chapters *Eight - Nine* go into more detail on the judgements against man and those who reject God. The anti-Christ is ruling during all of Eight and Nine; and he uses these judgements from God - to help deceive those on the earth.

Chapter *Ten* shows Jesus standing on the earth - controlling the Land, Sea, and Air - protecting his very precious Bride - just as God protected the Israelites in the desert.

Chapter *Eleven* shows how the whole earth will rejoice in unrighteousness under the rule of the anti-Christ; reveals all of the dead in Christ being raised from the dead, and meeting Him at the last trumpet; and closes by stating that the day of God's wrath has come, and it is time to reward those who loved Jesus; and to destroy those who rejected God.

Chapter *Twelve* describes how the *Wife of the Lamb* escapes from Satan after he is cast out of Heaven and onto the earth. She is shown flying on the wings of God to the desert place prepared for her - where her bridegroom awaits. It closes with Satan going to make war against those Christians who did not qualify for the Bride, because of our lack of faith, lack of Love, lack of intimacy with Jesus, etc. To make war against those of Jesus who remain; and to deceive all of the nations and peoples of the earth.

Chapter *Thirteen* discusses the great power and authority which Satan will exhibit; and how all of the nations will bow and worship before him. Everyone will be required to accept him as God (which he will 'prove' that he is) or be killed.

Chapter *Fourteen* is a summary of everything *foundational* and which is very important in this prophecy; and adds just a little more detail.

So, as we have seen - chapter Fourteen opens up with a further description of the Bride; and how she is with God and protected by Him.

It then moves on to state that the judgement time of God has arrived; Babylon the Great has fallen; and to remind the reader that if ANYONE receives the mark of the beast, OR worships him - he will spend eternity in HELL. If you worship the beast *or* receive his mark - you will drink the wine of God's fury, and forever be in burning torment.

Punishment is given and directed for one of *either* two totally *different* actions. *Worship or Mark* acceptance. However - what is the condition of your heart? If you *worship* the anti-Christ; you will also receive his Mark(s). And if you receive his mark(s) - (the various 'names' and positions of power and authority and family *inheritance*) - then you will (of course) also worship him! But the same punishment

is explicitly stated and given for *either* one of these two separate actions.

So chapter *Fourteen* reiterates what was discussed in thirteen; (worshiping Satan and or taking his mark) and describes the ultimate and final true result. (Eternal torment.)

Fourteen continues with the admonishment that this time of the anti-Christ ruling the earth - requires patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. And that those who die for Jesus during this time of tremendous deception - are Blessed.

*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth - to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." 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." (Rev 14:6 - 13)*

Continuing in fourteen - we see a different perspective on the day the last trumpet is blown, and God's wrath is brought to the forefront. This is a segue into chapter Fifteen & Sixteen - which open up describing how God's wrath is going to come about and be displayed.

So the close of Fourteen opens with God's wrath, and the gathering of all the saints to Jesus. Which, as we have seen - has already been described from several different perspectives. Jesus stated that not even He Himself - the Son - knew the time of God's wrath, or of the gathering of the righteous.

*"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*  
(Mark 13:32)

*"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*  
(Matthew 24:36)

*He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.*  
(Acts 1:7)

In the quote from *Acts* above - this is the glorified, resurrected Son speaking. Note however, that He does not state that He does not know the date or time. He states that it is not for the disciples (in other words - US) to know the times or dates which the Father has set. Jesus is GOD. So, at this point - being resurrected and glorified - He might know the times. But WE are to WATCH, and be READY. To know the seasons, and what is going on spiritually. To learn to HEAR the Spirit of GOD!

Jesus is seated at the right hand of God.

*Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord*

said to my Lord: “*Sit at my right hand* until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” ’ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”  
(Acts 2:33 - 36)

But, since Jesus is GOD - he can be in more than one place at a time. He is sovereign. And so in chapter *Fourteen* - we also find Jesus sitting on a cloud - waiting to reap the righteous harvest. The time arrives - the last trumpet is blown (*see* chapter R11); and the righteous rise up and join our Lord. The earth is harvested. And following the harvest of the righteous; where the dead rise up and then the Bride and everyone righteous rises up into the air and the clouds - to be with our Lord - Jesus - after this amazing event - we have the ‘harvest’ of the unrighteous. The *wrath* of God is poured out upon all those who rejected God and His sacrifices for us.

*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.* (Rev 14:14 - 20)

(Chapter 15)

Chapter *Fifteen* opens somewhat dealing with the spiritual; and what is going on in Heaven. This continues the refrain from *Fourteen* - where we observed (from a different viewpoint and perspective) the gathering of the righteous - and the statement of extreme *wrath* which is going to befall the unrighteous. That is the intent and meaning of the phrase of **Blood** flowing out of the *great winepress of God’s wrath*.

Jesus referred to His Bride, and how He would keep His Bride from the great tribulation period. We saw in chapter *Seven* - the juxtaposition of those who qualify to be members of His Bride (the 144,000); and those numerous, numerous saints who failed to measure up; and must be tested and overcome the beast by remaining faithful to Jesus even unto death. Now, chapter *Fifteen* is a major preparation statement of God’s wrath to come . . . And we find that it opens up with references to those numerous saints who overcame the Beast or the anti-Christ; somewhat using statements made at the end of chapter *Seven*.

*Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes - who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* (Rev 7:13 - 17)

*I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues - last, because with them God’s wrath is completed. And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God*

*and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. 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." (Rev 15:1 - 4)*

Chapter Fifteen opens up mentioning the coming of God's wrath. Then we mention those who overcame the beast and were victorious during the great tribulation. This is followed up with the statement that EVERYONE will worship God. This is inline with the scriptural principle that EVERY knee WILL bow before Jesus Christ; and declare Him to be LORD!

These statements are also inline with the end of Chapter *Eleven* - where scripture states the following:

*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)*

Chapter *Eleven* details the *last trumpet* and those in Christ rising up to meet Him. As also seen in Chapter *Fourteen*. And then *eleven* declares that *God's temple was opened*.

Chapter *Fourteen* ends with the great winepress of God's wrath. We then move towards giving the details of the coming wrath; and what is happening in Heaven from a spiritual viewpoint and perspective. Consequently - we find the following statement in chapter *Fifteen*:

*After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. (Rev 15:5 - 8)*

After ending chapter *eleven*, God gives us more detail on those events of the Beast, and the Bride; and the tribulation period which was referenced in chapter *eleven*; and in numerous other places in this prophecy and other scriptures. *Eleven* ends by declaring *God's temple to be opened*; and God's *wrath* has come. *Fifteen* concludes by showing *God's temple being opened*; and revealing the angles who carry the bowls of His terrible wrath and plagues.

The seven angels being dressed in clean, shining linen, and with golden sashes around their chests - signify that the Saints who refused to worship the beast or to receive the number of his name - were *righteous* (clean, shining linen) & were *Faithful* (golden sashes around their chests. (Isaiah 11:15) ) And the seven angels with the golden sashes; who are carrying the bowls of God's wrath - also signify that GOD is faithful. And that although GOD is a LOVING God - at this point - WRATH is going to come! The nature of God and faithfulness - requires the wrath!

Finally - *Fifteen* also declares that **NO MERCY** exists for those who worshiped the Beast, killed the

saints; and rejected Jesus! NO ONE is allowed to enter the temple - (the seat of God's mercy) until AFTER the bowls of God's wrath have been poured out upon those who dwell on the earth. The only people who are dwelling on the earth - are those who rejected Jesus, and worshiped Satan. And no mercy will be given towards them, or granted to them. No prayers will be heard; and God's heart will not be changed. No one can enter the temple until these days of God's wrath have been completed.

(Chapter 16)

As we consider the tremendous *Wrath* of God which is described in chapter *sixteen*; please remember that Jesus has not yet come back! ALL faithful Christians have, during the great tribulation period, been martyred for Christ; and the *last trumpet* was revealed in Chapter eleven. The dead in Christ have been raised; and they and the Bride (protected in the desert place or wilderness) have been caught up to Christ (Jesus) and are now dwelling with Him!

However - the 'Lightning' coming which Jesus referenced - has not as yet occurred. He is now RULING earth from the Heavenly's - and will soon return - and start Ruling with His rod of Iron! But first - because the majority of the earth accepted Satan and his deceptions - first we have the Wrath of God being poured out. Wrath upon all those who rejected Christ - God's perfect son. The one who DIED for us; to allow our sins to be forgiven - so that we can dwell in God's marvelous presence. Jesus' lightning coming is seen in Chapter nineteen - but here in *Sixteen* - only those who rejected God and worshiped a created being - Satan or the anti-Christ are living and alive on earth. And on these - all who remain alive on earth - God's tremendous wrath is about to be poured out . . .

*Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died. The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments." (Rev 16:1 - 7)*

WRATH is going to be poured out. SEVEN bowls of WRATH. Complete, and total; the number *Seven* indicates finality; and the Judgement decision - with no possibility of change or mercy.

Terrible wrath is poured out on those who WORSHIPED the image; and on those who received the MARK; and on those who received the *Mark* and also *Worshiped* the image.

As previously stated if you 'ONLY' worship the beast OR his image - you ARE eternally condemned!

And if you 'ONLY' receive a 'mark' from the beast (anti-Christ) - you ARE eternally condemned!

And, of course - if you do any of the above - you will also do the others. But, we really need to get away from this perception and teaching that if you *only* 'take the mark' - you are condemned. PEOPLE!! *Please!* This is a time of massive, massive deceptions! Satan will have written on *his* thigh - "King of Kings; and Lord of Lords!" [see R19:16 for what Jesus will have written on HIS thigh as well . . .]

Do you think that God will somehow prevent him from writing this (*statement and name*) on his thigh??

Get real. As previously pointed out - Satan will be writing NUMEROUS names on his followers. Just as Jesus ultimately will; and Satan will be 'ruling with a rod of iron.' He WILL be mimicking what God has declared. My teaching, and beliefs - are that Jesus will NOT come (as of Lightning) - before ALL Christians have already risen and been joined to Jesus - in Heaven.

But - what if I am Wrong?? What then? What if Jesus comes during the tribulation period, or before - (as the anti-Christ is going to do; and declare that he is the Christ) and starts ruling?? Are you going to refuse to worship the one true God (Jesus) because of my erroneous teachings?? Are you going to be eternally damned and condemned - because Jesus has come back - and you refuse to acknowledge him as LORD?

Now, I am NOT wrong in my understanding of this subject. But the truth is - we must be INTIMATE with GOD - to be protected against falsehood and deception. We must learn to HEAR the Spirit of God; and to Obey the Holy Spirit!

If you are not deeply, deeply INTIMATE with God; and KNOW his VOICE - you are ripe for deception. I sincerely hope that my commentary, teaching, and understanding of this glorious prophecy - helps prevent you from being deceived. But one ultimate truth - is that each of us - *individually* - must be very, very INTIMATE with GOD - before this huge tribulation period comes upon us - or we will have a tremendous possibility of falling away; and being deceived. And this deception - has no mercy or grace attached to it! There is no turning back; or repentance from it . . .

*"I am the good shepherd; I **know** my sheep and my sheep **know** me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too **will listen to my voice**, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*  
(John 10:14 - 16)

*My sheep **listen** to my **voice**; I **know** them, and they follow me.* (John 10:27)

The first bowl of God's wrath causes *Ugly* and *Painful* sores to break out and cover those who are left on the earth. All Christians (or those who *Knew* Jesus) are now with Him. Only the unsaved, and condemned remain alive, and are dwelling on earth. Wrath is poured onto all peoples; and this *first* - causes tremendous illness, and skin afflictions.

*The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.* (R16:2)

The Greek words used (translated as *Ugly* & *Painful*) are: **κακὸν** & **πονηρὸν** respectively. The definitions are as follows:

G2805: *evil, wicked, wrong, bad, a perversion of what pertains to goodness; as a noun, an evil thing can refer to any crime, harm, or moral wrong* {for the reader - courtesy reference: (Strong's:#2556)}

G4505: *bad, the negative quality of an object; evil, wicked, crime, the negative moral quality of a person or action opposed to God and his goodness; (n.) wicked deed, wicked thing; the Evil One, a title of Satan* {for the reader - courtesy reference: (Strong's:#4190)}

Notice that *neither* of the two above definitions include any context or idea of *ugly* or *painful*.

G2805 is used 50 times in all of scripture. Examples of translation usage would be: *evil* (25x); *wrong*

(8x); *harm* (3x); *bad* (2x); *ill effects* (1x)

G4505 is used 78 times in all of scripture. Examples of translation usage would be: *evil* (47x); *wicked* (11x); *bad* (7x); *more wicked* (2x); *sinful* (1x); *crimes* (1x); *evil one* (1x)

I bring up these examples as a gentle reminder of the tremendous disservice and internal *self* deceptions with which we deceive ourselves - when we 'study' the Greek and or Hebrew. And in using these 'studies' we then declare that 'so and so' word is wrong; because it is *plural* . . . The case is *masculine* and not *feminine*; Jesus is not *God* because of so and so . . . etc. etc. etc.

Studying is GOOD! God rewards us for being diligent and studying! But declaring the meaning, and interpretation of prophecy; from *Studying* is *wrong*. We must first learn to HEAR; and acquire the *meaning* from *listening* to GOD - and not looking up definitions - before we declare the meaning - because we have 'studied' the Greek or the Hebrew - and this word is *past tense* at this point; and not *future tense* . . . Ugh!!

I have absolutely no problem with the translation of Revelation 16:2 referencing *Ugly* and *Painful* sores. I thought to dwell on this for just a bit - since the definition and meanings of the two Greek words *used* - have NOTHING to do with physical beauty; your skin condition; or how much pain or illness you are experiencing . . . And yet - the use of the English terms *Ugly & Painful* - is quite apt. At some point we must trust that God has truly guided man in his translations of the scriptures; and the *MILLIONS* of man hours spent over the centuries - has resulted in translations which are for the most part - faithful and true.

The *essence* and *significance* of scripture is found in learning to HEAR our very personal teacher and instructor - the Holy Spirit; as we give *Him* the time necessary to instruct us in the nuances and meanings of what HE wrote.

As a further example; the following are from various translations of (R16:2); given in no particular order:

*poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men* (KJV)

*his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men* (NKJV)

*his bowl on the earth, and foul and painful ulcers (sores) came on the people who* (AMP)

*and poured out his flask over the earth, and horrible, malignant sores broke out on everyone* (TLB)

*poured out his bowl into the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore upon the men* (NASB)

*poured his bowl on the earth, and foul and evil sores came upon the men* (RSV)

*pour out his vial upon the land, and there came a sore - bad and grievous - to men* (YLT)

*poured out his bowl on the earth; and there came an evil and grievous sore upon the men* (DARBY)

Continuing with the Wrath of God described in Chapter Sixteen:

*The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and*

*every living thing in the sea died. The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments." (Rev 16:3 - 7)*

The *Second & Third* bowls removes all life from the sea, and rivers. The well spring sources of water - the river Heads, and Ground springs - are totally destroyed. Water no longer sustains life; and turns quite red - or possibly becomes actual blood. Whether it is actual blood or not - is not the focus of the prophecy. The focus is the WRATH which God is now pouring out - because EVERYONE who is alive on earth - REJECTED His Son, and accepted Satan! And rejoiced in the killing of innocents, prophets, and of all who remained faithful to Jesus. So, however it happens - the water turns red; and *everything* in the sea - dies! And these judgements and the judgements which are still to come - are declared to be 'true and just'.

*The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done. The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. (Rev 16:8 - 14)*

Remember R8:12; where God struck the sun, and shortened the days - making a day be 16 hours instead of 24?? This was done, as you may recall - for the sake of the *elect*. (see Mark 13:20) Well, now all Christians or the *elect* are gone! We have been mocked, and killed for the testimony of Jesus. We remained faithful and true to Jesus; not denying Him - in the face of massive, massive deceptions; and your friends and family betraying, embarrassing, mocking, ridiculing, torturing you - etc. Calling you a FOOL for not turning to the 'One True God' . . . ALL of the elect are now with Jesus! The last trumpet has been blown; and the dead in Christ; and the Bride of Christ - all arose and met Him in the air! In glorious, indestructible bodies! (see R11:12,15 & 14:16)

Only those who rejected God and His Son, are inhabiting the earth. And God takes the Sun, and shakes it again! It is now made to burn with a fervent heat - and all inhabitants of the earth are seared by the intense heat. Yes, Global Warming or Climate Change is coming. But, NOT for any of the reasons which are loudly proclaimed . . .

The fifth bowl of wrath plunges this kingdom into darkness! The bowl is poured out onto the THRONE of the beast. The throne is his seat of power; and God strikes the symbol of his false, and deceptive power.

Now, Satan is dark. He may appear as an angel of *light* - but he is filled with deceptive darkness, and depravity. By definition - any Kingdom which Satan has - is DARK **BLACK!** So, what does it mean when scripture states his kingdom is plunged into darkness??

God is striking his power base. One of the reasons people rejected Christ (not listening to God - since the



anti-Christ declared that *he was* Christ returned) was so that they could buy and sell . . . Now, his kingdom is plunged into darkness. His throne is struck. ALL electrical power is destroyed. God changes the laws of physics; and NO electrical device functions. Cars, boats, planes, stores, homes, etc. NO electricity flows.

I am certain that this phrase of “*his kingdom was plunged into darkness*” has other meanings as well. But taking a dark, dark kingdom - which has as one of its foundational cruxes - buying and selling; and good times - means that all electrical devices and electrical power generation will stop. Period. This takes the *Spiritually* darkest kingdom which has ever existed and ruled on the earth - and plunges it into the *Physically* darkest kingdom and time which has ever existed . . .

The great ‘image’ which men worshiped will no longer work . . . That great prophetic oracle of mankind - giving instructions on how best to have a ‘great’ society . . . That is now silenced.

Then, evil spirits go out to continue the great deception! This was the man/false God whom NO ONE could stand against. (*see R13:4*) They go to the kings of the earth; and continue the great deceptions! Performing miracles - they rally the ‘troops’; and cause all military might of the world - (*now with no functioning war machines*) to come together at Armageddon to battle this one last ‘threat’. Probably stating something like this is an alien race from another planet - who is coming against us . . . But we have GOD on our side; and we will prevail . . . Lies and deceptions are the order of the day. The demons still have power; and they enter various men - and remind them of the tremendous ‘power’ they possess; and how can they be overcome??

Speaking of which - during the confrontation of Moses and the magicians of Pharaoh - miraculous false signs were performed by Pharaoh’s magician servants.

Probably, very much the same here as well . . . Yes, the waters are turned to Blood, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bowls of wrath! But, probably Satan ‘purified’ some of the waters - to impress all of the earth! These are just ‘little’ setbacks - don’t worry about it. I’ve got you covered . . . We have a spiritual WAR going on! These are now all unsaved people; who are LOST - but it is still very much a spiritual WAR! Continue the deceptions as much as possible. And that is one of the reasons why the 5<sup>th</sup> bowl strikes Satan’s throne . . . significantly reducing his spiritual power and his ability to perform false miraculous signs and wonders.

But, he still has some spiritual power. And with all that he has demonstrated previous; and going out and giving men ‘more’ power - he manages to rally the troops to come to their final earthly battle and destruction.

Also, we should consider and remember that NO global or any functioning electronic communication apparatus - of ANY type exists! The ‘three’ evil spirits going out to the kings of the earth - to *gather them* - is a direct representation of LISTENING to God. It is what WE should be doing! Instead we spend so much of our time ‘studying’ the scriptures - instead of just PRAYING, and talking with God throughout our day. Turning OFF our televisions; and giving TIME to become intimate with GOD; and learning to HEAR the Spirit of God.

The earth’s inhabitants - who have submitted themselves to the anti-Christ - no longer have a problem ‘hearing’ him! He sends out evil spirits - to the various leaders of the earth - to speak to them (we are supposed to be able to HEAR God remember); and causes them to declare that God has spoken; and all of the World’s armies are to get ready for one last battle to signify their major victory. Instead of space aliens - they might be declaring that they are going to fight against Satan and his evil hoards. Who

knows? The point is not *who* they are going to fight - the point and result - is getting the entire world's military might (with no functioning machines) - to come together for the great battle at Armageddon.

We arrive at the next scripture. It would appear to be out of context. Why do we have this statement in the middle of all of this . . .?? And yet, we know that it cannot be 'out of context' - since God is the one making the statement. And God does not interrupt a meeting; or what God is stating - for erroneous reasons.

*“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.”* (Rev 16:15)

This taking of the mark; this worshipping of Satan; the ultimate rejection of God - is so important; and so much against the desire of God for ANY person - that He again reminds us - that this is all going to happen very suddenly!

God does not state in the above - that Christians will be inhabiting the earth - when he comes like lightening. What He does state - is that He is going to come suddenly. Like a thief! When we do not expect Him. All true. And He states that if we stay awake - if we continue to have Faith in God - even as the world descends into a huge moral abyss; if we stay awake; and continue in the righteousness that God gives us - *“keeps his clothes with him”* - then we will not be naked (found in sin); and *shamefully exposed*. Standing before the true and righteous judge (God) with our sins. If we stand before the righteous one - with our sins enveloping us - we are ashamed; and condemned.

This scripture - is a short gospel statement. It is a witness for Jesus; that He is the only way to Heaven; and that Jesus controls access to the Father. And, it is a reminder that Jesus is going to come like a thief! All of these events - the terrible judgements; the anti-Christ; the ascension of the saints; the Wrath of God; Christ's battle return at Armageddon - are ALL very sudden. These events are almost upon us; and yet they will still unfold very fast; and very suddenly!

And GOD does not want ANYONE to perish; or to accept the mark of the beast - or to march against Him in the battle of Armageddon. And so - just as He has been constantly repeating Himself in various ways in Revelation - here as He discusses the condemned going out to battle against Him - he gently reminds and PLEADS with you - to remain faithful, and watchful. To turn TO Him; and not away from Him; to be BLESSED; and not condemned . . . to stand before Him clothed in *righteousness*; and not enveloped in your sins. And so we have another juxtaposition of scriptures . . . A very short version of the gospel; and the consequences of rejecting Christ. *Choose* this day . . .

*Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.*  
(Rev 16:17 - 21)

As we move on from Chapter **Sixteen** into *Seventeen, Eighteen & Nineteen* - we will see that these three chapters introduce a 'new' subject; and *yet* - still have substantial repetition. Delving into additional

detail and perspectives - on subjects already mentioned and discussed. Chapter *Nineteen* will come back to the subject of *Armageddon* and the great Battle - beginning with verse *eleven* - but really move into where Chapter *Sixteen* ends - at verse *nineteen* . . .

So, if you wished to just read along in a straight line flow - you would read from Chapter *Sixteen*; verse sixteen - and turn immediately to Chapter *Nineteen*, verse nineteen.

However, God declared and revealed this prophecy - in the way He chose - for our increased understanding! I am pointing out - that again - this prophecy will be moving from Chapter *Sixteen*; and go backwards in time - to look at additional views and perspectives of what has been declared . . . Keeping this in mind - let us finish up with Chapter *Sixteen*.

The Kings of the earth and their armies gather together at Armageddon. They gather at Armageddon with their 'god' King; to fight whomever he is stating that they need to fight. In actuality - they gather at Armageddon to fight against GOD. They LOSE. Big time. Chapter *Nineteen* - will give us more detail of that 'battle'. But Chapter *Sixteen* - closes with dual identities. Backwards & Forwards. What happens AFTER the battle at Armageddon is finished and *completed* . . . and what happened *before* . . .

The Kings and Armies have been destroyed! The anti-Christ or beast; and the false prophet have been thrown *alive* directly into the fiery lake of *burning sulfur*. The angel declares that it is DONE! And GOD sends an earthquake across the ENTIRE earth. ALL cities are destroyed; and all mountains are totally flattened . . . Men curse God, and attempt to hide from him - in the rocks of the rubble . . . God reigns HUGE hailstones down upon the earth; and men who have utterly rejected the one true God - curse Him because of the plague of tremendous hail . . . Babylon is mentioned as being 'remembered' and God giving her the wine of the fury of His wrath . . .

Many, many people discuss Babylon as being a 'system'. Or Rome, and the Catholic church. Quite frankly - utter rubbish and nonsense. Far, far too many Babylonian references exist describing purely physical events and cultural actions - for Babylon to be a 'system'. Babylon is a physical place. It is a NATION, and a Country. We will get into the solid reasons for these statements as we consider Chapters *Seventeen* & *Eighteen*. However - obviously - a system of beliefs also accompanies the *ideas* of Babylon. So, in fact - in some ways - a 'system' does 'constitute' Babylon. However - in the practical application of scripture, and what scripture and the Revelation prophecy is teaching and the Spirit of God is stating - we make a grave error - when we do not realize that Babylon as described in Revelation - is NOT a system - but is an actual physical place . . .

Babylon is a great 'city' where all who had ships on the sea - grew rich from her wealth; and the kings of the earth, and the merchants of the earth - grew rich from her excessive luxuries! Not many cargo ships are constantly visiting Rome or the Catholic church!

And considering the Catholic church - yes, she has *numerous* false doctrines. And encourages individuals to confess their sins to a 'priest'. Numerous shades of the old testament; and the *Mosaic Law*. However - in the *New Testament* we ARE encouraged to confess our sins to one another . . . And the Catholic Church is staunchly FOR Jesus Christ; and AGAINST abortion - which is much more than can be said for numerous 'Christian' churches throughout the rest of the world . . . This entire debacle of desiring to vilify the Catholic Church and state that 'she' is Babylon is very, very sad! I have never been a 'Catholic' and I am not advocating for you to join the Catholic church. But the references to BABYLON in the prophetic book of Revelation - are NOT discussing the Catholic church . . .

(Chapter 17)

*One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. (Rev 17:1 - 3)*

We open with the above three verses. In verse *five* - it is specifically stated this is "**Babylon the Great**". And part of the summation and ending of Chapter Sixteen - states that *God remembered **Babylon the Great** and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.*

Consequently - these next two chapters must be dealing with the tremendous wrath of God - towards the *system* and beliefs of the world - which constitutes Babylon. Or, the Catholic church; or the Pope; or Barak Obama; or George Bush; or the *Beetles* - oh wait - they are no longer a contemporary Rock group.

Whoever, whatever - the current person or interest which we wish to vilify . . . Some individuals still believe Nero was/IS the anti-Christ . . .

Chapter Sixteen closes with a reference to Babylon. Chapter Seventeen opens with a discussion of Babylon. OBVIOUSLY - we are continuing to move FORWARD in time and events. Right?? Wrong.

In Chapter Sixteen closing - we have the following statement:

*The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.*

However - Revelation makes ALL of the *following* statements - BEFORE the *above!*

*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.*

*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.*

*There was a great earthquake . . . The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the **great day of their wrath has come**, and who can stand?"*

*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 kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." . . . "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.***

*“Fallen! Fallen is **Babylon the Great**, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”*

*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 . . .*

*. . . with the seven last plagues - last, because with them **God’s wrath** is completed.*

As I have stated throughout this ‘commentary’ - Revelation repeats itself constantly! In various and numerous ways - describing the same sequence of events - from various perspectives.

Notice the above statements (all are in order of appearance and sequence in Revelation) - have previously described the WRATH of God; and have previously stated that Babylon the Great - has been destroyed (fallen). **ἔπεσεν** {G4406} (to fall, collapse; to bow down; to die) And this Greek word is stated *twice* for emphasis on the accomplishment or action.

Earlier, I pointed out that a straight line reference in Revelation and the battle of Armageddon would be 16:16 & 19:19

*Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. (R16:16)*

*Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. (R19:19)*

The point to all of the above - is that Chapters *Seventeen & Eighteen* give substantial detail with reference to Babylon. And the close of chapter Sixteen - states that God ‘remembered’ Babylon the Great.

However, the close of chapter Sixteen - is given as a ‘heads up’ that we are changing perspective and views again . . . How can God ‘remember’ and pour out wrath on something which has *already* been destroyed??

Babylon the Great was declared *fallen* or **destroyed** - in Chapter *Fourteen* - just before encouraging believers to NOT succumb to the massive deceptions of the anti-Christ or Beast.

*A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is **Babylon the Great**, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.” 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 . . . (R14:8 - 9)*

God ‘remembering’ Babylon - is remembering to tell us how He destroyed Babylon. Babylon does receive Wrath from God. The issue is WHEN. I submit that Babylon was/is destroyed and fallen long before all of the mountains and islands are destroyed; and men call out to rocks to fall on them; and the armies and Kings of the world gather together to make war against the Lamb of God at Armageddon! Babylon is destroyed long before that . . . And these two next chapters (Seventeen & Eighteen) - are given so that we can correctly identify *Who & What* Babylon **IS**; and so that we can see *how* - Babylon is destroyed!

*One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the **great prostitute**, who sits on **many waters**. With her the **kings of the earth** committed*

*adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.” Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Rev 17:1 - 5)*

In the above description - *who* or *what* - is *Babylon*?

1. Babylon is a PROSTITUTE.
2. Babylon is Wealthy & Beautiful.
3. Babylon has great world influence; and controls the beast.
4. Many different peoples and cultures live in Babylon.
5. The entire world is fascinated with; and deals with Babylon.
6. Babylon is in a spiritual desert.
7. Babylon encourages Prostitution & Abominations.

Babylon is a Prostitute. But what *is* a prostitute?? What is the usage of this word?

Well, in ALL of scripture - in EVERY instance of the use of the word Prostitute, Harlot, or Whore - in 100% of EVERY usage of this word - it is used in ONLY *two* ways - in ALL of scripture.

1. A *Person* who sells themselves; or makes a living for someone else - by providing sexual pleasure.
2. A *Person; Family; Group* of people; or *Nation* - who will cause you to turn away from God; or used to serve God; and have now become unfaithful; and no longer follow His desires & moral codes; and serve wickedness, immorality, and or false gods.

A few examples:

*But they replied, “Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute? ” (Genesis 34:31)*

*He asked the men who lived there, “Where is the shrine prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?” “There hasn’t been any shrine prostitute here,” they said. (Genesis 38:21)*

*The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. (Joshua 6:17)*

*They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink. (Joel 3:3)*

*“Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. (Matthew 21:31)*

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*“Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same. (Exodus 34:15 - 16)*

*I will set my face against that man and his family and will cut off from their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molech. (Leviticus 20:5)*

*You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. (Numbers 15:39)*

*And the LORD said to Moses: “You are going to rest with your fathers, and these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them. (Deuteronomy 31:16)*

*They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves. (Psalms 106:39)*

*“If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers - would you now return to me?” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 3:1)*

*“They will eat but not have enough; they will engage in prostitution but not increase, because they have deserted the LORD to give themselves to prostitution, to old wine and new, which take away the understanding of my people. They consult a wooden idol and are answered by a stick of wood. A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God. (Hosea 4:10 - 12)*

Now numerous individuals in reading Revelation - state that Babylon references a “system” and does NOT refer to a *physical* place. What we do know (from scripture) is that whomever, or whatever Babylon *is* (a system, culture, place, people, or person); Babylon used to identify with and ‘serve’ God. But now this stated ‘system’ has turned to their own lusts and pleasures - and became a *prostitute*. Babylon has turned away from God.

In scripture - you will find almost NO references to a people, culture, or nation who have *never* served God - being described as a prostitute when they continue to serve their false Gods, and do what they have always done . . . *Exodus 34:15 - 16* is the ONLY reference in ALL of scripture - stating a people who do not know God - ‘prostitute’ themselves before false gods. And these two verses are also the very first time in scripture that the word ‘prostitute’ is used as a descriptive reference to serving false gods. Any and ALL other references with regards to a spiritual prostitution - is ALWAYS in regards to God’s *chosen* people - deliberately turning away from Him.

The word *prostitute* in scripture - has NEVER been used to describe a ‘system’.

Neither has the word prostitute ever been used in scripture to describe a ‘culture’. Except in the context of

the word *prostitute* being a ‘culture’ of turning away from God. Since that is the way the word is *always* used - when not describing a person’s actual job profession.

*Babylon the Great* is also called a *woman*; and a *great city*.

*The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”* (Rev 17:18)

The word *woman* refers to a female *person* or a *wife*.

γυνή [G1222] (*woman; wife*)

This word is found 215 times in scripture; and is translated in various ways . . . Typical examples would be:

*woman* 91x; *wife* 59x; *women* 30x; *wives* 12x; *widow* 3x; *wife’s* 2x; *dear woman* 2x; *women’s* 1x; *woman’s* 1x; *she* 1x; *mother* 1x; *married to* 1x; *bride* 1x

The word typically refers to a person. For example - ‘*dear woman*’ is found at John 2:4 & 19:26

The word *bride* is found at: R19:7

The *Prophecy* which is Revelation - uses the word *wisdom σοφία* {G5053} (*wisdom (either secular or divine)*).

*Christ is called “the wisdom of God” in 1Co 1:24, 30. On the basis of the OT, wisdom can be personified) 4 times total.*

These 4x are found at: R5:12; 7:12; 13:18; 17:9

Note that the first two - discuss that Jesus is worthy to receive *wisdom*; and declares a blessing of wisdom upon Him.

The final two are discussing the *mark* of the Beast (anti-Christ); and *Babylon*. As we previously saw - *identification* of 666 requires wisdom. And now - in reference to Babylon - it is again stated that *wisdom* is required. Obviously - if identification of Babylon and actions of the *Beast* require wisdom - it might not be so simple as stating Babylon is in *Iraq*; or Babylon is a *System*; or Babylon is the errant *Church*.

*Wisdom* is required to correctly identify the *Prostitute*.

In addition to being referenced as a *Prostitute* and a *Woman*; Babylon is also declared a *Great City*.

μέγας [G3489] (*great; spatially: large; of quantity or degree: loud, intense, violent; of time: long (time); of position: great, important*)

πόλις [G4484] (*city, town, village*)

And in scripture - what were the *differences* between a town, village, or *city*??

[**CITY**. In ancient times *cities* owed their origin, not to organized manufacture, but to agriculture. When men left the pastoral life and settled down to the cultivation of the soil, they often found their cattle and crops endangered by wandering tribes of the desert; and it was to **protect themselves** from such enemies that they created first the *village* and then the **city**. *Cities* were built in areas where agriculture could be carried on, usually on the side of a mountain or the top of a hill, and where a sufficient supply of water was assured. The names of cities often indicate the feature that was determinative in the selection of the site. For example, the prefixes *Beer*, meaning “well,” and *En*, meaning “spring,” in such names as Beersheba and En Gedi, show that it was a local well or spring that



determined the building of the city. Names like Ramah, Mizpah, and Gibeah (all from roots indicating height), which were very common in Palestine, indicate that a site on an elevation was preferred for a city. A ruling family sometimes gave its name to a city (*Beth*, meaning “house of”).

Ancient farmers did not have their own farms. At the end of a day’s work they retired for the night to the **village** or city. **Smaller villages sought the protection** of nearby **cities**. That is the meaning of the expression, added to the name of a city, “and its surrounding settlements” (Num 21:25; 32:42). In return for the protection offered against nomadic attacks, the **cities received payment** in service and produce. Sometimes a city was protected by a feudal lord around or near whose fortress the city was built. Often it depended entirely on the strength of its walls and the bravery of its men.

The chief feature **distinguishing a city from a village** was that it had a wall (Lev 25:29-30). Walls twenty and thirty feet (six to nine m.) thick were not unusual. Sometimes a city was also surrounded by a moat (Dan 9:25; KJV “wall;” NIV “trench”), and even by a second smaller wall acting as a rampart (2 Sam 20:15). The wall had one or more gates that were closed during the night (Josh 2:5, 7), and in later times on the sabbath (Neh 13:19). The gates were strengthened with iron or bronze bars and bolts (Deut 3:5; Judg 16:3) and had rooms overhead (2 Sam 18:24). From the top of the wall or from a tower by the gate, a watchman was on the lookout for approaching danger (Jer 6:17). The gates were approached by narrow roads easy to defend. From a distance, usually all that could be seen of a city was its walls, except possibly its inner fortress or citadel.

Within the walls, the important features of a **city** were the **stronghold or fortress**, the high place, the broad place by the gate, and the streets. The stronghold was an inner fort protected by a garrison to which the inhabitants could run when the outer walls were taken by an enemy. The people of Shechem tried unsuccessfully to hold out against Abimelech in such a stronghold (Judg 9:49), and the king was afterward killed by a woman who dropped a stone from the tower within the city of Thebez (Judg 9:50, 53). When David captured the fortress of Zion, the whole city came into his possession (2 Sam 5:7). Sometimes towers abutted the inside of the city wall.

The high place was an important part of every Canaanite city and retained its place in Palestine to the time of Solomon’s reign (1 Sam 9:12 ff.). There sacrifices were offered and feasts held. Originally they were on an elevation, but the term became the general one for any local sanctuary even when it was on level ground.

The broad place was an open area - not a square, but only a widening of the street, just inside the city gate, serving as a place for social intercourse in general. It was the center of communal life. Here the people of the **city administered justice**, held deliberative assemblies, exchanged news, and transacted business. Strangers in the city passed the night there if they had no friends in the city. It had a defensive value in time of war, as it permitted the concentration of forces in front of the city gate.

The streets in ancient cities were not laid out on any fixed plan. They were narrow, winding, unpaved alleys. The streets of Jerusalem were not paved until the time of Herod Agrippa II. Cities built on steep hillsides had streets on the roofs of houses. Streets were rarely cleaned and were unlighted. Certain streets were allocated to particular trades and guilds - for bakers, cheese-makers, goldsmiths, etc.

Little is known about how **city government** was administered. In Deuteronomy 16:18 and 19:12 mention is made of elders and judges. Samaria had a governor (1 Kings 22:26). Jerusalem must have had several high officials (2 Kings 23:8). - SB *New International Bible Dictionary*, Pradis CD-ROM: Articles/C/City., Book Version: 5.1.50 ]

**[TOWN.** The translation of several words used in the OT: *banôth*, literally “daughters,” always in the plural, refers to the **towns** surrounding a **city**. **Cities** listed as having towns are: Heshbon, Jazer (Num 21:25, 32; KJV “villages,” NIV “settlements”); Ekron, Ashdod (Josh 15:45-47); Beth Shan, Ibleam, Dor, Endor, Taanach, Megiddo (Josh 17:11; Judg 1:27); Areor (Judg 11:26); Jair, Kenath (1 Chron 2:23); Bethel, Gezer, Shechem, Ayyah (7:28); Ono, Lod (8:12); Gath (18:1); Jeshanah, Ephron (2 Chron 13:19); Soco, Timnah, Ginzo (28:18 ASV; KJV and NIV “villages”); Kiriath Arba, Dibon, Jekabzeel, Beersheba, Meconah, Azekah (Neh 11:25-30 ASV, KJV “villages”; NIV “villages” and “settlements”). All the “daughters” of these **cities** were **small towns** without walls: *hawwôth*, “village, tent village” (Num 32:41; Josh 13:30; 1 Kings 4:13; 1 Chron 2:23), sometimes in compound names - Havvoth Jair (Deut 3:14; Judg 10:4). These **villages** may have been the dwelling places of nomads, that is, tent dwellings. *Hatser*, “settled abode, village” in Genesis 25:16 was a village of Ishmaelites, probably a movable one made up of tents; but this word usually means **villages** without walls around them. *’îr*, the common Hebrew word for “city,” can indicate an unwallled town (Deut 3:5); a town with gates and bars (1 Sam 23:7); “country town” (27:5). Other words used are *qîr*, “wall,” once translated “town” (Josh 2:15 KJV; ASV and NIV omit); and *perazôth*, “open region, hamlet” (Zech 2:4, KJV “towns,” ASV “villages,” NIV “city”). The latter word denotes

villages in the open country in contrast to those located in the mountains.

The only NT word that, strictly speaking, means “town” (*komopolis*) denotes a community larger than a **village** but smaller than a **city**; it occurs only once (Mark 1:38 KJV, RSV; NIV “village”). Another word, *kome*, “village,” is rendered “town” ten times in KJV (Matt 10:11; Mark 8:23, 26-27; Luke 5:17; 9:6, 12; John 7:42; 11:1, 30). NIV occasionally follows this but usually, like ASV, prefers “village.” *New International Bible Dictionary*, Pradis CD-ROM: Articles/T/Town.,

Book Version: 5.1.50 ]

Cities provided protection to villages, and towns. In addition to walls of protection - Cities might even have armies (*feudal lord*) who provided additional protection. Cities received payment (*taxes*) - for the services provided to all surrounding areas - allowing people to live their lives in peace; and grow food, and produce products for sale . . .

Governments collect taxes for the services they provide. Cities had ‘watchmen’ on the lookout for approaching danger. Countries and Nations now have ‘watchmen’ viewing computers & radar screens constantly watching for any approaching threat. And most governments have armies to help protect their citizens. *Today* - Babylon - the *Great CITY* which *rules over the kings of the earth* - might more correctly be called a NATION or Country.

*The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”* (Rev 17:18)

The use of the word “city” might therefore be referencing a Nation. And Babylon is not classified as just *a* city - but *the* GREAT city.

And we have seen that Babylon used to serve God; but now she has turned away from God and His commands; and become a prostitute. And she revels in her prostitution, and her immorality - since she is declared to be the ‘*Mother*’ of prostitutes.

Babylon is extremely rich and wealthy - so she is described as being dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet (expensive clothes); and covered with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She holds a cup made of gold in her hand . . .

Does this really sound like a *system*?? Yes, because the pope has a golden cup - and the pope resides in Rome; people like to state this is the Catholic church; or Rome, or the pope! Or the Catholic church tradition or **system** of *rules* and *regulations*; and how one should pray; whom to pray to; etc.

Does the Catholic church have false doctrine? YES. Might the Catholic church become even more deceived and run after the anti-Christ when he comes into power? Possibly. Is this description of Babylon - in the prophecy of Revelation - discussing a ‘system’ or the Catholic church; or Rome? NOPE.

Babylon substantially controls world (global) policy. She is described as *riding* the beast. You *remember* the beast?? From chapter *thirteen*? The one who is covered in *blasphemous* names (declaring himself to be God), and has *seven* heads and *ten* horns?? The one where we saw the description of his kingdom being totally & utterly **Destroyed** in chapters fifteen & sixteen. (And God’s wrath coming against this kingdom, at the end of chapter *Eleven*.)

*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.* (R13:1)

Scripture is quite clear - that a ‘spirit’ of the anti-Christ does exist.

*Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.* (1John 2:18)

*but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the **spirit** of the **antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.* (1John 4:3)

Babylon is controlling world policy. She is extremely rich; has immense power, and authority; and is attempting to control the policies of the Beast.

Satan has been ruling the earth for quite some time. Jesus made it clear that various individuals were obeying their father the devil. Satan, or the Beast - **is** - currently ruling this earth.

*. . . “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do the things Abraham did. As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the things your own father does.” . . . Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. 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 8:39 - 44)

*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**.* (Eph 2:1 - 2)

*Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.* (Eph 6:11 - 13)

Babylon, the *woman* - a *prostitute*; is a hugely influential, wealthy and prosperous nation - and is riding the beast - and attempting to control world policies. The **Great City** - is NOT a world ‘system’; and is NOT Rome; and is NOT the Catholic church; and is NOT Babylon in Iraq. And Iraq is essentially a landlocked country; and although Italy (Rome) does have sea ports (*Mediterranean*) ; it has no immediate global access to ocean ports.

*In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’ “**Every sea captain**, and all who travel by **ship**, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the **smoke** of her **burning**, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “ ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, **where all** who had **ships** on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!’ (Rev 18:17 - 19)*

The **Great City** - IS a physical place, and IS a very powerful and influential NATION.

Babylon is described as being dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet (expensive clothes); and covered with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She holds a cup made of gold in her hand, filled with things she LOVES - but God declares are abominable and filth.

If you persist in declaring that Babylon is a 'system'; then just a quick reminder of what God declares about Babylon - at the very beginning of Chapter 17:

1. Babylon is a PROSTITUTE.
2. Babylon is Wealthy & Beautiful.
3. Babylon has great world influence; and controls the beast.
4. Many different peoples and cultures live in Babylon.
5. The entire world is fascinated with; and deals with Babylon.
6. Babylon is in a spiritual desert.
7. Babylon encourages Prostitution & Abominations.

In light of what Revelation states about Babylon - how can we honestly say that when scripture states:

*Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;" (Rev 18:4)*

that this is discussing leaving a world 'system'; living a Godly life, and not being caught up in sin??

How can we honestly state that being declared a 'prostitute' constitutes an entire world system?? Especially in light of ALL other verses referencing prostitute or prostitution in scripture? Or that the phrase "the Great City" is just referencing our entire world system of how we routinely conduct business??

And - if the "Great City" is another term for "world system" or "business as usual throughout the world"; then why would Satan and various rulers - hate the world system which Satan controls and set up??

YES - Satan HATES all people. Satan wants every person deceived and going to Hell! Satan does not want you partaking of the tremendous calling which God desires for you . . . But, one of the ways which Satan keeps us from turning to God - is thru the world business system. Being caught up in all of the pleasures of the world. He is Ruling. Why would he hate it? It is one of the reasons people are going to worship him as god. He controls the entire world . . .

Why would Satan destroy the world 'system' which has the entire planet Worshiping him as god?? He created and rules the system. Part of the final functioning of the system - is the *requirement* to WORSHIP him! And Satan (or the Beast) loves and craves worship. Worship as God. The world system eventually gives him that worship. And you believe that Satan destroys the very 'system' which is finally giving him what he has been seeking for almost his entire existence!?!?? Pure, unadulterated Worship??

But yet - Satan does indeed hate Babylon, the prostitute, and the great city. Satan plans the destruction of the great city. Why?? Because Satan HATES people; since we are ALL made in the image of God - and have a great destiny if we would only turn to God! So, Satan HATES every person on the planet. And Babylon is a physical place; filled with people from many nations, cultures, and languages - and Satan HATES people; and Satan hates this nation (*prostitute*) which at one time served and worshiped God - but

now is only consumed with their own lusts and pleasures . . .

*Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (Rev 17:15 - 16)*

Ok, so the Beast, and the ten horns - will hate this system they have created; and BURN the system with FIRE?? This interpretation of ‘Babylon’ does not make any sense . . .

*The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.” (Rev 17:18)*

. . . *“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. (Rev 18:2)*

. . . *The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.” (Rev 18:3)*

*Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.’ Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire . . . (Rev 18:7 - 8)*

*“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!’ “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more . . . (Rev 18:9 - 11)*

*In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!” “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “ ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin! (Rev 18:17 - 19)*

. . . *“With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. (Rev 18:21)*

*The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. (Rev 18:22 - 23)*

I have been discussing the idea of Babylon being a ‘system’; or just the world’s “business as usual” concept quite a bit - because I disagree with it so vehemently.

The entire concept of Babylon/Prostitute/Great City - being classified as a ‘system’ or the sinful patterns and ways of the world - is really just a ludicrous concept. It has no basis in Revelation foundation; and exists solely so that significant choices in our lives - do not have to be made or dealt with!

If Babylon constitutes the world of sin which surrounds us - then when we accept Jesus as our Lord; and come into a relationship with Him - then we have automatically fulfilled our obligation to: “Come out of her . . .”

Scripture is already quite clear that we should CHANGE when we are 'born again'; and have our lives made right before God. We ARE a *new creation*. And scripture is very clear - that as a new creation - we are no longer subject to the sins which previously enslaved us; and that we should live lives FREE from sin. As we learn to hear God; and do what God requests.

Since various verses are so clear on the ills of us continuing to walk in our old ways of life; while now having the choice of obeying GOD - then why would a PROPHECY - which is about End Times - and which Jesus stated we MUST know and understand - be so filled with symbology that it confuses everyone? Why not just clearly state that we are not to continue to carouse in sin; and to conduct ourselves as strangers in a strange land?? Romans, Corinthians, Hebrews; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter; etc. ALL deal somewhat directly with how we are to conduct ourselves; considering all that has been given freely to us!

It is because we wish to reject the message in Revelation - that we have so much difficulty with it! It is not because it is so hard to understand that when Revelation refers to Babylon - it is referring to a physical place. Spiritual depravity; and various world systems do exist when discussing Babylon - the Prostitute; and MOTHER of all Prostitutes - but Babylon is a physical place!

A quick summary of Revelation teachings concerning Babylon:

1. Babylon is Wealthy & Beautiful.
2. Babylon has great world influence; and controls the beast.
3. Many different peoples and cultures live in Babylon.
4. Babylon is in a spiritual desert.
5. Babylon is very diverse; and is filled with people from various Nations, and Cultures.
6. Many different languages are spoken in Babylon.
7. Babylon is full of POWER; and is the world's 'Leader'.
8. Babylon consumes the majority of the world's goods. (*because no one buys their cargoes any more . . .*)
9. Babylon is very rich, and her inhabitants reside in luxury.
10. Ten *Horns* (*rulers/countries*) will hate Babylon and destroy her.
11. The destruction will be extremely sudden.
12. The result of the destruction will be FAMINE & DEATH (for the inhabitants of Babylon.)
13. After the destruction - NO ONE will live in Babylon - anymore. NO machines, NO weddings, NO lamps, NO dancing, NO work of any type will be conducted in Babylon.
14. After the destruction - only DEMONS and Evil Spirits will dwell in Babylon.

Right up to the moment of Armageddon; even during the BATTLE at Armageddon - the world SYSTEM

continues to exist! This is why ARMIES are gathered together to FIGHT Jesus at this battle! The world SYSTEM is alive and well; up to this very moment.

Even with all of the JUDGEMENTS, and searing pain and fire; and the elimination of electricity - which GOD poured out upon the earth with the Seven Bowls of WRATH - the world SYSTEM still exists! If it did not - NO Battle would take place!

But Babylon was destroyed LONG before. She is spoken of as being destroyed in chapter Fourteen! The Beast rules from Jerusalem. Jerusalem is not currently the World's headquarters. Jerusalem & Israel do not consume all of the World's goods . . .

How can you say that a SYSTEM which still exists up to the point of Armageddon - was previously destroyed? People will still be getting married during the anti-Christ's rule. Individuals will still be WORKING! TRADE and workmen will still exist. Even ARMIES are actually a type of 'profession'. And they still exist up to the final Battle! So how can you state that the World SYSTEM is destroyed; and you have no weddings, or lamps, or people buying and selling (one of the major reasons for the MARK/ was so that you could buy and sell); while you are still DOING all of the above?

If we are HONEST - it is fairly obvious - that BABYLON is a physical place; a NATION; who consumes a huge amount of the world's global products; and that she is DESTROYED very suddenly.

Some like to say: "Well of course Babylon is a physical place. Babylon exists in *Iraq*. And it is going to be rebuilt; and a major commercial center."

Well, Babylon in Iraq might be rebuilt. And it might even become a big commercial center. But Babylon in Iraq will never be the Babylon discussed here in scripture. Couple of reasons:

1. Iraq Babylon was never a Godly city. Babylon was known for being ungodly; worship of false gods; exalting themselves; etc. She was never known for being a righteous, upright, moral *Standard*. Babylon in Iraq does not qualify as a "Prostitute."
2. Iraq Babylon is (as stated previously) essentially landlocked. Iraq Babylon has NO access to ANY ocean; and has just a very, very tiny bit with any sea access at all! It is Impossible for numerous cargo ships of all sorts - to carry their goods to Babylon in Iraq.

Now, Revelation prophecy expands in influence as time continues . . .

What do I mean by that statement? Well, during the time of John - who received Revelation from Jesus - the World commerce scene was significantly smaller. What was considered the 'world' was essentially Rome and its various areas of conquest. The North American continent for example; was not even known to exist. God knew it existed. John, Peter, etc. did not . . .

So, at the time when John recorded what Jesus showed him, what was considered the world was much smaller than today. And John and others, were able to look around, and make a determination of *who* constituted Babylon.

At the time when John recorded this prophecy - a place existed that the 'world' considered consumed the majority of the world's goods.

And ALL thru the centuries; the same statement can be made. Three hundred years after John; people could look around and say: "This is Babylon."

Of course, the vast majority of scriptures were LOST to the majority of mankind, for quite some time! They have been preserved by monks, etc; but the majority of people - had no access to scriptures.

But through all the centuries of time since this prophecy was given and revealed - at any time - a "Babylon" could always be identified. One could always say: "So and So is the world's leader; and consumes the world's goods. I need a job. I will move to so and so . . . If only I could live in such a place . . ." Etc. A 'Babylon' has always existed. Not necessarily so much as fulfilling all of the scriptural requirements. But a Babylon could be identified.

So it is today. Today, a Harlot; (who leads the world; institutes world policies; and previously some school text books even classified her as the "World's Policeman") does indeed exist.

A physical place - a NATION - that fulfills ALL of the scriptural requirements of BABYLON does exist!

And, if as time continues - if the anti-Christ does not come into visible power soon; and Jesus return . . . well at some point - a different physical place will be able to be identified as "Babylon." And I guess that as we get closer to the time of Christ's glorious return - this new 'Babylon' could mirror the scriptures even closer . . .

How one could be closer to matching the requirements of Babylon, not quite sure. (Well, actually - a few ideas do exist in my little head!) But, be that as it may - a Babylon does currently exist which is a virtual mirror fit of ALL of the scriptural requirements of Babylon!

Who is it? Well, you already KNOW, don't you? You just don't LIKE the idea. But you already KNOW. And you *KNOW* - because she fulfills ALL the requirements of Babylon.

1. She used to be Godly.
  - 1a. Now, she revels in Homosexuality. She even led the world in renaming that particular sin. It is now called 'gay'; and is no longer a 'sin'.
2. She used to FIGHT the sex trade.
  - 2a. Now, CARGO ships filled with women and young men and boys - for SEX SLAVERY - routinely come to her shores!
3. She used to produce the vast majority of the World's goods. All of the world was jealous of her power, might, and the quality of all the goods she produced which were shipped all around the world.
  - 3a. Now, instead of *producing* - she CONSUMES the world's goods.
4. She used to control the World's financial markets.
  - 4a. She still does control the World's financial markets. If you want to get rich - you must trade and deal with Babylon.



5. Her very FOUNDING documents acknowledge God, the Creator. And essentially state that ALL rights, property, and privileges come from God.
- 5a. Now, it is ILLEGAL to even PRAY in her schools.
6. The FACT that God created all men - used to be taught in her schools.
- 6a. Now, it is ILLEGAL to teach about GOD; and only the humanistic LIE of evolution is taught. (In the name of 'science'.)
7. She used to respect LIFE. Even the smallest, and weakest among her were protected by law.
- 7a. Now, Abortion is RAMPANT throughout her borders. She has murdered BILLIONS of her most innocent and smallest citizens - in the name of "free sex."
8. Adultery, sexual promiscuity; sexual orgies; ALL were frowned upon; and *discouraged*.
- 8a. Now, her motto is: "If it feels good: DO IT!" Rare, rare, rare is the young woman or man who gets married and is a virgin when he/she does so . . . CONDOMS are ROUTINELY handed out in Junior High school.
9. She once provided food, coal, and numerous other supplies to an entire City - on the other side of the world for almost one full year - totally by air. In a successful effort to help prevent starvation.
- 9a. Now, while MILLIONS of people in other parts of the world STARVE - she routinely throws food away into the trash.
10. Her monetary coins and bills state: *In God we Trust*.
- 10a. Today, she rejects God in numerous, numerous ways; while constantly stating: Look how powerful, and great I am! I am so wealthy and rich; Look what I alone have accomplished by my own power and abilities! But - her coins still say: "*In God we Trust*" - while she denies that statement in virtually EVERYTHING she does!
11. The vast majority of her citizens used to be Christians, and repent for sin.
- 11a. Now, a huge amount of people within her borders still proclaim they are 'Christians' - while relishing and rejoicing in immoral and un-Godly activities.
12. People used to fellowship together; and READ the Bible together.
- 12a. Now, virtually no one reads the Bible; and everyone stays in their homes and watches Television. With filth about murder, sex, homosexuality, witches, vampires, occult, and 'super heroes' pouring out of it - on a daily, daily basis . . .
13. Marriage - which was created by God - used to be understood to be between a man and a woman.
- 13a. Now, women marry women. Men marry men. And Homosexuals are a Federally protected class of citizens . . .

14. She used to be called the *Melting Pot* of the World! Where people from various other countries and nationalities came together into one common bond and commitment. Rejoicing in becoming a *citizen*.
- 14a. Now, she is still filled with numerous peoples from various other countries and nationalities. Even more than previously. However; many, many people state: “I am *this*... I am *that*! I have my *own* cultures and *beliefs*. Numerous, numerous separate languages are now routinely spoken throughout her borders. She even has totally separate, *sovereign Nations* existing WITHIN *her*!

In other words - a Nation which used to Honor God - now totally REJECTS everything which God has said . . . And RELISHES sin and murder.

WHO is this Nation? Well, as I said previous - you ALREADY know. And you *do*! It is (as you know) - the *United States of America*.

The United States of America - fulfills EVERY qualifying statement made with regards to Babylon!

1. *One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.”* (Rev 17:1)
- 1a. The phrase: “many waters” has the specifically stated meaning - of many (different) peoples. (*see R17:15*) And the US is also ‘sitting’ on many physical waters. Having numerous lakes, seas, and *two* ocean fronts; along with numerous worldwide shipping ports . . . And, as we have seen - scripturally the word ‘prostitute’ in the context being used here - is indicating a group of *People* or *Nation* - who used to serve God; but now serve only their own pleasures and lusts.
2. *With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”* (Rev 17:2)
- 2a. “Adultery” is indicating the tremendous leadership this People or Nation have - enticing other rulers away from any moral foundation or goals; in the pursuit of whatever “the great prostitute” is pursuing.
3. *Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.* (Rev 17:3)
- 3a. The word “desert” ἔρημος [G2245] (*deserted, remote, solitary; as a noun, desert, uninhabited wilderness, or grasslands, implying in some contexts to be a forsaken, desolate place*) is specifically referencing the spiritual condition of this Nation. John is already ‘in the Spirit’; he is being given a prophecy; and he was already ‘caught up to heaven’ (R1:10 & R4:2). Here, the Spirit takes John to the Spiritual condition of the woman. A DESERT. Where she is depicted as being Spiritually destitute; while RIDING the beast. She is dictating world policy. She has vast, vast influence . . .
4. *The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.* (Rev 17:4)
- 4a. The use of the words ‘purple and scarlet; glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls . . .’ is

stating that this woman or Nation is EXTREMELY rich. She is the richest nation on earth! She is COVERED in precious stones! Her wealth is VAST. And she holds a cup of GOLD in her hand; which is filled with things which are *precious* to *her*; but are abominable to God! We FIGHT over Abortion - with various groups stating that NO ONE *WANTS* an Abortion - and EVERYTHING should be done to LIMIT abortions - while also stating that EVERY woman should be *allowed* to have one! And they FIGHT for Abortions. Stating that if you contact a Parent - when a 14 year old girl wants an abortion - that is 'limiting' access! We no longer have ANY foundation, except for what seems good in our own eyes. We have homosexual PARADES in ALL major cities EACH year! We prohibit the use of the word 'JESUS' at Veteran Funerals and cemeteries . . . We constantly have various political leaders and groups stating that we must guard ourselves; and remember the: "*separation of Church and State.*" Referencing the *Constitution* {the *Foundational* document for ALL of our laws} as they do so . . . DELUSION. Do you know that the words: "*separation of Church and State*" do NOT exist in ANY founding documents? NONE! The word 'church' does not even exist in the entire US Constitution; and the words 'religion, and religious' are found only *once* - for each. And yet - based on various court rulings - we have numerous Local and Federal governmental authorities - stating that we must always have the 'church' separate from the government. No religion or religious beliefs allowed! And the *Constitution* - states that ALL of our rights and privileges come from the CREATOR. How far we have fallen.

5. *This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.* (Rev 17:5)
- 5a. *Mystery* Babylon: A Babylon you do not expect! This is *not* the Babylon you think of when using the word *Babylon*! It is NOT *Iraq* Babylon! It is *MYSTERY* Babylon. And this Babylon is HUGE! She is GREAT. Very large, and powerful! And she leads the world in all types of terrible vices. Just as someone who has a car that they have really souped up - is said to have a 'bad ass' vehicle; or someone who really rips into a guitar riff with hard, fantastical playing is said to be: *BAD*. Being stated as a compliment . . . so too is the phrase: MOTHER of prostitutes. This is NOT saying that every and all prostitutes come from her; it IS saying that Babylon is the MOTHER of PROSTITUTES! She has totally FORSAKEN God and his foundations; and so not only is she the MOTHER of prostitutes in that sense . . . but she is also totally REJOICING in all of her sins; and is engaging in numerous sexual immoralities; etc.
6. *I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.* (Rev 17:6)
- 6a. Here in the US - the land of the Free; and Freedom of *Speech* - it is ILLEGAL to go to Seattle's Public Pike Place Market; stand on the Street - and vocally *Preach* Jesus. That is correct. If you do so - you WILL be arrested. The Pike Place Market (easily an area of several blocks) has been declared to be 'private property'. You have cars driving on the streets of this open air public market - but it is 'private' property. If you declare in a science class that you believe in Adam & Eve - you will be laughed out of the classroom. It does not matter that LOGICALLY Evolution does not make ANY sense at all . . . It is what is deemed true and correct. If you believe in GOD *and* the BIBLE; you are deemed a 'right wing' nut . . . a *loon*. Prophets are laughed at - even in CHURCHES! What God is speaking is not really listened to . . . And so those who give and bear testimony to Jesus - are washed down the drain. Our words are given no significance; and we are laughed at! How many of the MILLIONS of unborn BABIES (aborted) have gone to Hell? Might actually be that some have . . . I personally don't believe that ANY have! But this is a decision of God's and not mine. Personally - I think these are the most INNOCENT; and NONE are going to

Hell. So, they ARE Saints - and we DO have their BLOOD on our hands! In addition to that - Revelation is PROPHECY; and it is easy to see that the US is becoming more and more and *more* NEGATIVE towards Christians. Right NOW, this document (commentary/writing) is ILLEGAL in Canada! Because it states that Homosexuality is a SIN! This is part of the US spread of adulteries! And it is easy to see that this is going to become worse and worse throughout the entire world. And our filth and adulteries are a major focal. Rather than being GODLY and MORAL - being a LIGHT to the world - we have sunk into filth and depravity. Encouraging the world to engage in more filth and depravity. John's 'astonishment' is the fact that a Nation which originally was so rooted in God; and has such vast wealth and power given to it by God - could so utterly reject God with absolutely NO remorse! And that with her total rejection of God - while still stating that she is 'Godly' and a 'Nation under God'; and a 'Christian' Nation - that she has not been punished! John is astonished that a Nation which is so filled with filth and abominations - is allowed to exist . . .

7. *"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have **one purpose** and will give their power and authority to the beast . . . The beast and the **ten horns** you saw will **hate the prostitute**. They will bring her to **ruin** and leave her naked; they will eat her **flesh** and **burn her with fire**. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. The woman you saw is the **great city** that rules over the kings of the earth."* (Rev 17:12 - 13 & 17:16 - 18)
- 7a. Satan or the Beast - who is being ridden and somewhat controlled by Babylon - will hate this Nation. The center of the entire world needs to become Jerusalem; from where he will rule. Plus, Satan is controlling the world; and he does not wish to share his controlling power. He disagrees with some US policies. And he hates our *Constitution*. He hates man; and also hates anything Godly - or that used to be Godly. So, he hates the US; which used to have a protective hedge & shield around it - supplied by God. (*see* Job 1:10) He desperately desires to be recognized as GOD to the world; and worshiped as GOD; and he will have this - while ruling from Jerusalem. So, with our tremendous sins and lack of repentance - comes judgement. He is allowed to destroy us; and consequently ten small countries or Rulers are allowed to come into power. They give their power to the Beast - in other words - they do what the Beast desires. The Beast desires us destroyed. Have you not noticed the various small countries - who HATE the US?? They burn various effigies of our presidents; and call us 'blasphemous' names. Osama Bin Laden - *routinely* referred to us as the: "Great Satan." Various other elements around the globe - think of the US as just being *Evil*. Some Factious rulers around the world HATE us; and want us DESTROYED. That is current, modern day reality. And Revelation PROPHECY - declares that ten rulers - will receive power from Satan. (That is what it means when it states they give their power (*self-will*) to Satan. They give themselves to him; and receive more power in return.) They receive power (the green light to destroy); and destroy the US - in one hour. Massive destruction.
8. *"The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more - cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.'* (Rev 18:11 - 14)

8a. Babylon is not a huge producer of goods. She is a *consumer*. Looking at the US - we can see that this came about because of the fact that we used to PRODUCE all types of items; and they were proudly sold to ourselves; and to others around the world. Now, we consume a lot of what we produce; and we consume a lot of what everyone else produces. We consume EVERYTHING which is listed above; and MORE. We have illegal immigrants flooding this land - to get 'rich' and be able to send some funds back home . . . We *literally* sell women from other countries (who were poor and looking for a better life) into sexual slavery. They have made raids on CARGO containers filled with people - who were GOING to be sex slaves! The above is NOT a complete list! It is just a litany of items - to indicate the BROAD and IMMENSE amount of various goods imported and consumed by Babylon. But, the amount of various goods which Babylon consumes - is so HUGE - that when Babylon is destroyed (suddenly) - the rest of the world WEEPS and MOURNS! Babylon's influence and consumption is HUGE; and the vast majority of the world WEEPS at our destruction. They are also TERRIFIED at our torment and stand far off! (*see* R18:10) This indicates several things:

1. Concern for their own safety. If Babylon is destroyed; what country can you be safe in?? And people from around the world (far away) are deeply affected.
2. The utter destruction of Babylon is HORRIBLE. And it is hard to contemplate. Plus, it might affect rescuers physically. So, you DON'T get close to the destruction; or offer ANY help. All who are weeping and mourning - stand FAR OFF! This statement is repeated THREE times in Revelation. (R18:10,15,17) Although the world will WEEP and MOURN at Babylon's destruction - NO ONE will come to her aid! There will be NO outside help for the inhabitants of Babylon.

*With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. (R18:2)*

9. *Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.' Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her. (Rev 18:7 - 8)*

9a. The US is extremely arrogant; and proud about our power. We *do* (in spite of some successful attacks against us) consider ourselves virtually untouchable. Even though we had 9/11; various individuals routinely discuss how we just need to be better 'friends' with the world. And that we do not need to have much 'security' to protect ourselves from attack! Various internet conversations - always boast about how 'great' we are; and how 'powerful'. And just let someone try something - we'll kick their butt! Plus, we constantly hold ourselves up as the Great Power - which the rest of the world should emulate! Others starve - because they haven't done what WE did . . . Others are not as rich or successful - because they did not emulate what WE did . . . It is constantly what WE *did* - NOT the immense BLESSINGS from GOD - because of our stance with Him! We boast of our own power and might constantly; in various ways . . .

Now, you might be saying - "Wait, China murders people! China hates Christians! China is rich and wealthy!"

NOT so! The vast majority of Chinese - are still in poverty. However; one of the qualifiers of Babylon is

that she CONSUMES the world's goods. NOT that she PRODUCES the world's goods!

A LOT of the tremendous goods which China produces - she still first has shipped to her. For example; a lot of the steel which comes out of China - has the raw materials shipped to her. And then she produces the steel; and it is shipped to the US.

The US consumed a vast amount of the world's resources even when we PRODUCED goods! And now that a tremendous amount of the manufacturing base (of physical goods) has left - we still CONSUME the vast majority of the world's goods . . .

Many, many people are still trying and attempting to GET INTO the US! People are trying to LEAVE China! But China restricts their citizens from leaving very severely.

In fact; the majority of various countries and nations around the world - are extremely homogenous. The diversity of any specific population group is very limited in the vast majority of countries and nations. Even China - where the vast majority of the world's population resides - has a very limited population diversity.

The *United States* however; in contrast to EVERY other country and nation on earth - is FILLED with a HUGE diverse population! MANY different people, cultures, and languages - dwell within the US. And the various Indian tribes are even declared to be totally separate SOVEREIGN Nations - within the US - while at the same time - are still fully recognized as being US citizens!

*Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages." (Rev 17:15)*

The US is the ONLY place on earth - where the above scripture makes sense. Unless you wish to state that Babylon is a 'system'. Which, as we have seen from other scriptures - Babylon is a physical place.

How does FAMINE and DEATH come to a 'system'?

*Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her." (Rev 18:8)*

Now, let us move slightly on; and contemplate another interesting facet of this prophecy.

We have been discussing Babylon, and Chapter Seventeen. But remember; that at the end of Chapter Six - it was stated that the time for God 's wrath had come . . . So too -with *Eleven*. And essentially also - the end of *Fourteen* . . .

*They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" (R6:16,17)*

*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." (R11:18)*

*The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of*

*God's wrath.* (R14:19)

After the *wrath* of God - comes His millennial rule! His glorious reign of ONE THOUSAND years over all the inhabitants of the earth. Ruling with a rod of iron - since not everyone will be willingly submitted. During His millennial reign - Satan will be LOCKED UP! He will be LOCKED, and CHAINED in an Abyss - and will NOT be able to influence men.

*And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.* (Rev 20:1 - 2)

Well, as Chapter Seventeen points out - Satan (the Beast) - is already BOUND. He is NOT bound during the destruction of Babylon! After all, some Kings receive power from him to destroy Babylon. And as chapter Fourteen also declares - Babylon was destroyed long before Chapter *Seventeen*. In *Seventeen*, and in *Eighteen*; we are looking at *why* and *how* Babylon was destroyed! But the judgements against man have already occurred . . . and the Beast or Satan or the ancient serpent - is ALREADY locked up! He is in the abyss - for one thousand years . . .

And that is why *Seventeen* makes the following statement:

*The beast, which you saw, once was, now is **not**, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his **destruction**. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is **not**, and yet will come. "This calls for a mind with wisdom.* (R17:8,9)

*The beast who once was, and now is **not**, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his **destruction**.* (R17:11)

*When the **thousand years** are over, Satan will be **released** from his prison . . . And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the **lake of burning sulfur**, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be **tormented** day and night **for ever and ever**.* (R20:7,10)

HELL and the lake of burning fire - DOES exist; and is ETERNAL torment!

Scripture is quite clear that understanding of the *Beast*, *Babylon*, and the *Mark* - requires **WISDOM**. Wisdom from God. READING Revelation!

Chapters *seventeen* & *eighteen* of Revelation are interesting - in how intrinsically they are tied together. Chapter *seventeen* is discussing who *Babylon* is; and the coming destruction of *Babylon* - in somewhat generic terms. As we flow into chapter *eighteen* - we continue with the discussion of the destruction of *Babylon* - but with more specifics.

*"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him will be his*

*called, chosen and faithful followers.” Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God’s words are fulfilled. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.” (Rev 17:9 - 18)*

The woman (*United States* [great city/nation]) is sitting on seven hills or kings. She is attempting to control their actions; and dictating how they rule . . . She has destroyed various kingdoms; (rulers, dictators); but remnants of the doctrines and policies of those kingdoms still exist. Satan of course - as ruler of the earth - is a king who also dictates actions. Satan only desires to steal, kill, and destroy. He ‘belongs’ to the seven; and will of course go to his ultimate *destruction*.

The ten horns are ten future kings or rulers - who will give up their self will and become totally subservient to Satan; receiving power and authority to destroy the United States (Babylon). They have *One* purpose & goal - the destruction of Babylon. For God has determined that Babylon needs to be judged for her prostitution; and to fulfill His words. And of course, these ten kings will also join the Beast and all other rulers - and make war against the Lamb of God - Jesus Christ. And as we have seen; the tribulation period ends with those in Christ rising up in the air to meet Him; being changed in a twinkling of an eye - as described in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:52. And after the tribulation period ends - Jesus rules! And one of His first actions - is to pour out the bowls of His wrath upon the earth; and those that rejected Him. And after the bowls of His (God’s) wrath have been poured out - the world still gathers its armies together to come fight against Him - at Armageddon. (*see R11,14,15,16*) Consequently, if you are a servant & follower of Jesus; and remained faithful to Him - during the tribulation period - you will be WITH Him - riding on a WHITE HORSE; behind Him - and in the AIR - when He returns to FIGHT Satan and his armies at the battle of Armageddon.

If you are ON earth - when Jesus returns - and are NOT behind Him on a white horse; in an immortal, indestructible, glorious body (R19:14); then you are doomed to destruction; and you will not be happy; and you will MOURN at his coming!

*. . . and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers . . . (Rev 17:14)*

*The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. (Rev 19:14)*

*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. (Rev 1:7)*

(Chapter 18)

As we have seen, Babylon was destroyed before/or as - the anti-Christ came into power. Babylon was declared destroyed in Chapter 14 - along with the *warning* - NOT to worship or receive the mark of the Beast!

Chapter seventeen discussed Babylon’s destruction; and somewhat why God wants her judged! (For her tremendous turning away from Him; and her utter lack of repentance!) Now *Eighteen* continues with the description of her destruction; and a PLEADING for righteous servants of GOD - to LEAVE Babylon. To MOVE to a different place on the planet; devote yourself to more Godly pursuits; to go where it is hard to



live for Christ; to move by FAITH - (as Abraham did); but LEAVE! Because GOD does not desire for the few righteous people living in Babylon to experience the judgements which He is about to have come upon her . . . But if you insist on staying - then you WILL receive the judgements as well . . .

*After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a **home for demons** and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries." Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her **plagues**; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. (Rev 18:1 - 5)*

Many, many people became rich from various aspects of Babylon. But she has sinned tremendously, and God uses other nations (*ten*) to judge her . .

*Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.' Therefore in **one day** her plagues will overtake her: **death, mourning and famine**. She will be consumed by **fire**, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her. (Rev 18:6 - 8)*

The US is very arrogant. "God's Country!" "The greatest place on the face of the earth." "We are a Christian Nation." "Greatest nation on God's green earth." "Nuke em!" "What are we doing *there*?" They want to starve, we should let them starve . . ." "We're the most powerful nation on the face of the earth! Don't mess with us." "One nation, under God . . ."

Because of our arrogance, and our self will; Babylon will be destroyed in One day. In one hour; massive destruction will come to us . . . Ten nations or kings will attack us; and we will be destroyed. And DEATH & FAMINE will be the result. When has FAMINE ever come against a 'system'? When have *ten kings* ever attacked a 'system'?

And if Babylon is a 'system'; and the meaning of the phrase: *Come out of her, my people* . . . is that Christians worldwide should not be partakers of the world's sinful system; then how do ten kings who would obviously be part of said worldly system - attack the world system which they are a part of??

And then, you have the world system utterly destroyed - with all of the cargo ships on various seas - and merchants tearing their hair out and weeping - because all though the lands they were sailing to . . . and the ports they were going to dock in - still exist; and people still live in those lands - for some reason because of the destruction of the world's 'system' - they can no longer dock or unload their cargo . . .

And even though the world system is utterly destroyed by these ten kings - and cargo ship merchants weep at the destruction of the world's sinful system - we still have a system of buying and selling with the Beast or the anti-Christ . . . And we have the entire world REJOICING and worshiping as GOD the Beast! Why?? Did he somehow miraculously 'restore' the ability of people to buy and sell? People can't barter and sell goods on their own??

When it is declared that 'Babylon' is a world 'system'; referencing the sinful state of man; and the phrase: 'come out of her my people . . .' is referencing being born again; and no longer being a sinner, concerned

with all of the world's pleasures or 'system' - that is just a huge, huge crowbar of deceptions and lies. It is an absolute denial of what God's word; and this prophecy is teaching and stating.

The destruction of Babylon (a physical place) is extremely sudden and total. The US will become uninhabitable. Only demons, evil spirits; and unclean birds (eating the carcasses of the dead probably) will be dwelling in Babylon. And no statement exists on how long the 'unclean birds' will live . . . I suspect they too - will soon be dying. Of probably radiation poisoning. Of course - it is also possible that GOD - who is sovereign - allows the birds to live in a radiation infected area . . .

Whether it is radiation; or conventional bombs and earthquakes - the end result is that NO ONE will live or dwell in the US anymore! We ARE going to be massively destroyed. And GOD asks, begs, *pleads* with us (Christians) to LEAVE before he pours out the massive plagues and judgements.

*“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!” “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more - cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn and cry out: “Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!” “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin! Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.’ ” Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.” (Rev 18:9 - 24)*

(Chapter 19)

*After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.” The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!” (Rev 19:1 - 4)*

Nineteen opens up finishing with the destruction & judgement of Babylon. The great prostitute's

destruction is total and complete; and the smoke from her destruction - is stated to go up for *ever* and *ever!* This is the ONLY statement which is somewhat confusing with regards to Babylon the prostitute. How can the destruction of a Nation or a spiritual prostitute - go up forever and ever??

Well, consider that Babylon declares herself to be a “Nation under God.” And yet, she is FILLED with idolatries; Bloodshed, and wickedness! Many, many, many people who reside in the US - are doomed to eternal judgment in HELL. We have truly become a wicked, and vile generation and nation - which relishes and rejoices in wickedness.

The physical location of BABYLON or the US - will never be inhabitable again. It will be utterly destroyed until Jesus makes everything new! (*see* R21:5) And it is not known if Jesus will remake the land mass of the US. Do you really believe the *earth* will look the *same* - after Jesus remakes all the heavens and the earth??

And when He states He is making EVERYTHING new - does that include the remaking of *Sin? Wickedness?* So, by definition - when Jesus states He is making EVERYTHING new - some things are in fact *excluded* . . . And the land mass of Babylon was not wicked. The people who reside and dwell in the US have become much, much, much worse than those who dwelt in Sodom and Gomorrah. And the torment of millions of wicked, sinful, unrepentant people - who REJOICED in ungodliness; and laughed and mocked Prophets and Christians - the smoke of their destruction will go up - forever and ever. Just as the smoke and burning of other people who utterly reject God - will also go up before God forever and ever . . .

*The twenty - four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!”* (Rev 19:4 - 5)

We are gently reminded to PRAISE God and that even his servants should *Fear* φοβέομαι {G5828} (*to fear, be afraid, alarmed, in some contexts improper and an impediment to faith and love; to reverence, respect, worship, in other contexts a proper fear for God, a deep reverence and awe*) Him . . .

*Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 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.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”* (Rev 19:6 - 9)

We move on, and change our focus to that of Jesus and His Bride! Ultimately - Jesus is going to REIGN! HE is SOVEREIGN; and HE is looking for a wife, suitable for Him. We saw Him protecting his Bride in chapter ten; and twelve. We saw Him calling out His bride; in chapter seven; and we saw Him WITH *her* (married) in chapter fourteen. And we shall see her decked out with the very glory of God - in chapter 21. And here again - God reminds us - that to be a member of the wife of the lamb - is very, very, very special. And BLESSED are those who are invited to the wedding supper!

Notice that the WEDDING takes place - *before* the destruction of the anti-Christ. And the bride is *with* child - before she is taken out to the desert. She KNOWS Jesus, and has an intimate, intimate relationship with her Lord and husband; even before the tribulation period starts . . . Now, the revealing of the Bride to all other saints, and the rest of the world - comes about as Jesus starts RULING; and makes all the

world bow down before Him! The Bride is revealed to the world at the beginning of the thousand year reign . . .

We saw that Jesus started ruling at the end of chapter eleven - with all of the dead in Christ rising up to be with Him; and his coming wrath against the beast and all who rejected the one true God.

Now, that Satan's kingdom is in darkness, and has no electricity; or functioning advanced weaponry or machines; the final battle of Armageddon approaches. But God reminds us that the wedding supper is about to also take place; and His bride made herself beautiful and ready! What a marvelous reward saints - if we will only humble ourselves and LOVE Jesus unconditionally; and LOVE sinners; and LOVE our numerous Christian brothers and sisters!

If we will only allow ourselves to be FILLED with the *Oil* of the Holy Spirit! **LOVE!** To be filled with the Holy Spirit's LOVE of man and His immense desires and jealousy for man - before this time of tribulation occurs! LOVE. The wife of the lamb - is filled with LOVE. And she is rewarded for her LOVE of Jesus, and her obedience to Him; and her LOVE for her fellow brothers and sisters! She is rewarded by being found worthy to be Jesus' WIFE!

. . . *These are the true words of God.* (R19:9)

Emphasis is again given that the Bride is very, very special; **AND** that this entire prophecy is very special; and GOD given!

If ever a reason existed to IMMERSE yourself continually in this marvelous prophecy - the above statement (and numerous other similar statements) in Revelation is IT! GOD declares this prophecy is OPEN to understanding; and GOD WANTS you to UNDERSTAND this marvelous prophecy which GOD gave - so that you can KNOW what is going to happen during the end times; and during the tribulation period!

*At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* (Rev 19:10)

*The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "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!"* (Rev 22:6 - 9)

At the statement that these words were coming from GOD - John fell down to worship. At several times during this prophecy - JESUS is talking with John. And Jesus **IS** GOD! Notice that immediately after mentioning GOD - the angel mentions JESUS. *Worship God! For the testimony of JESUS is . . .* However; here the person who is speaking the words of JESUS (GOD) is a servant of God and Jesus; and is NOT God. But, the angel IS speaking the words of JESUS - who IS God!

No argument exists that Angels are servants of God. God created the Angels. They are GOD's angels. Angels are servants of GOD - doing HIS bidding!

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End . . . "I, Jesus, have sent*

*my ἐγώ* {G1609} (I, me, my; we, us, our; often added for emphasis: myself, ourselves) *angel* to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the *Root and the Offspring* of David, and the bright Morning Star.” (Rev 22:13 & 16)

God wants you to understand this marvelous prophecy; and it is declared open to understanding. John falls down to worship the angelic servant who is speaking to him at this particular moment - when the angel declares these are God’s words . . . John misunderstands; and believes the angel is stating that the angel is GOD. The angel who is (at that time) speaking to John, is quite awe inspiring . . . John is corrected; and instructed to worship only GOD or Jesus! And we see Jesus taking ownership of all the angels; and also declaring that He is the Alpha and the Omega. A term specifically prescribed to the almighty God alone . . .

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

John falls down to worship this awe inspiring servant of Jesus; and John is corrected. However; the instance of falling down to incorrectly worship - occurs ONLY once! It does not occur twice. Revelation (as you have seen) repeats itself constantly. Jesus is RULING at the *end* of chapter six; chapter eleven; chapter fourteen; chapter sixteen; chapter nineteen, etc. Jesus’ RULING is mentioned numerous times; and discussed (in various amounts) from numerous perspectives during this prophecy.

And John falls down to incorrectly worship the angelic servant - only ONCE! John discusses and mentions it TWICE. Because Revelation repeats itself all over; and John states his error from two different perspectives . . . in two different chapters.

The focus is not on John’s brief mistake; but on the *Bride*, (Wife of the Lamb); and on the fact that these words are given to the Church - by GOD! And we really, really need to spend more time in this marvelous prophecy.

Now we move on - to the destruction of the armies which have come against Jesus; and the chaining up of the Beast or the devil or Satan - for One Thousand years. We were gently reminded in chapter *seventeen* - that the Beast had *already* been destroyed; and was chained up! *The beast who once was, and now is not* . . . Chapter 19 Revelation prophecy - is going to give us more *details* - on Satan being chained up for a thousand years - and becoming: *now is not!*

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.* (Rev 19:11 - 15)

Now we have these verses declaring heaven to be open; and God is coming out on a white horse - to judge, and to make war against the inhabitants of the earth. And WITH Him - are ALL redeemed saints! The saints (armies of heaven) have all been cleansed (thru Jesus) of our sins; and are dressed in fine linen, white and clean. We too - are riding white horses! And He has a very special name - which He makes known, and bestows only upon His *Bride!* ( . . . and I will also write on him my *new name*. (see R3:12))

. . . *Fine linen* stands for the *righteous* acts of the *saints*. (R19:8)

Jesus died for us; and his robe is forever dipped in BLOOD. HIS Blood! For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins! (see Hebrews 9:22) He is described as Faithful and True (*these are the true words of God*); and His very *name* is: **WORD** of **GOD!**

He will rule the earth with an iron scepter (force); and *He* treads (fully **Controls, Owns, Possesses**) the winepress of the **WRATH** of **GOD Almighty!**

*On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. (Rev 19:16 - 21)*

Let's see: these verses are mostly self-explanatory:

**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.** He is KING over ALL; and is LORD over ALL! Jesus is GOD; and Jesus RULES; and REIGNS; and is SOVEREIGN; and destroys with just an *utterance* from his mouth!

And EVERYONE who worshiped or bowed down to the anti-Christ (who was stating and 'proving' that he was Jesus) is going to eternal punishment. ". . . *the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.*" Those gathered at Armageddon were the armies of the world; and they are killed, and their flesh left as a feast to the birds . . . But all peoples who 'rejected' Jesus (worshiped the beast as Jesus and God); are condemned. They will be ruled for 1,000 years and probably given opportunity to repent - but in the End - if you worshiped Satan before - you do it again . . . (see R20)

The Beast and the false prophet are both captured and thrown DIRECTLY (Alive) into HELL! The fiery lake of burning sulfur. God took Enoch and blessed him; and God took Elijah; and blessed him as well. This is the OPPOSITE description of that event; where God takes two wicked, deceiving men - and picks them up alive; and casts them DIRECTLY into Hell.

Now, the 'Beast' is no longer the 'beast' at this instance. The spirit of Satan, or *however* he was possessed & empowered by Satan; LEAVES; and this man who gave himself totally to an unrepentant powerful being; (the Devil, Satan; Lucifer; great Dragon; Ancient Serpent; etc.) experiences the total end results of his utter rejection of God; and his willing massive deceptions of the rest of mankind! The exact same result for the false prophet.

ALL of the rest of the armies who are gathered against the one true triune God at Armageddon (Jesus); are destroyed by the KING of Kings and LORD of Lords! And ALL Christians; those who remained faithful to Jesus; and those who lived for Him down thru the centuries; EVERY Christian; EVERY person who lived a life and testimony faithful to GOD - is WITH Jesus; BEHIND Him; riding on white horses; watching and observing as our KING, and our BROTHER; and our PRIEST; and our GOD; and our FRIEND - destroys and kills EVERYONE who is gathered against Him - with just a *nod* of His head; or just an initial *thought*; or a bare *utterance* from His glorious mouth!

The 'battle' is over and complete; virtually before it begins! And Jesus will now rule all people of the earth; who are MOURNING at His appearance and the utter destruction of the Earth's military might! Since, at the time Jesus returns to Armageddon to do battle - EVERY person who is alive on earth - has REJECTED Him; and received the mark of the beast! They received the Beast as Jesus; falsely believing and being DECEIVED - that the anti-Christ was Jesus returned; and subsequently - they worshiped Satan as God . . . Bad move! Which is one of the REASONS why Jesus gave us REVELATION prophecy! So that you can KNOW what is going to happen, and what MUST soon occur . . .

*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. (Rev 1:7)*

(Chapter 20)

Now Satan, who used to have access to heaven - but whose access to Heaven was denied (see R9 & 12) shortly before he manifested himself as the anti-Christ, - mimicking Jesus; and DECEIVING people; causing them to worship him, etc. - Satan is now captured and LOCKED UP - for ONE THOUSAND years.

He is imprisoned into the Abyss; which he had earlier opened; when given the key; releasing demonic beings upon the earth and mankind . . . He no longer has the key to the Abyss; and God now wishes to rule the Earth without ANY interference from Satan - so Satan is LOCKED UP in the Abyss - for ONE THOUSAND years.

*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**. (Rev 9:1)*

*And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having **the key** to the **Abyss** and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the **dragon**, that ancient serpent, who is the **devil**, or **Satan**, and bound him for a **thousand years**. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from **deceiving** the nations anymore until the **thousand years** were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had **not worshiped the beast** or his image and had **not received his mark** on their foreheads or their hands. They **came to life** and **reigned with Christ** a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will **reign with him for a thousand years**. (Rev 20:1 - 6)*

In Revelation prophecy chronology; the above verses might be hard to understand in regards to the first resurrection; and the saints. These verses discuss a resurrection. The resurrection they are discussing - has ALREADY taken place.

The statement: "*They **came to life** and **reigned with Christ** a thousand years . . .*" is a true statement; but the same description of them coming to life is also found in R11:11 & R14:16.

Those two scriptures (& R11:15) are referencing the exact same event from different perspectives. So too - with this (R20:4) description. God wishes to be quite clear - that if you persevere and remain faithful to Jesus - you ARE rewarded; and have ETERNAL life; and will RULE with Jesus! This prophecy ties various events together; and God emphasizes various aspects - at various times in the prophecy. The LAST trumpet sounded in R11:15; and we saw that at this point - the two witnesses; and the ENTIRE

'church' (all saints) rose up into the air to be FOREVER with Jesus. Just as described in 1Cor 15:52.

Chapter 20 has a brief description of this event - but it has ALREADY occurred and happened. It is being repeated here from a different perspective; since that is the format and structure of Revelation prophecy. Soon, we will be again describing the BRIDE of Christ in R21 - but as we have also seen - the BRIDE is currently *with* Jesus (R14); and we saw initial references to the Bride in R3 & R6: and the first description or calling out of *Her* in R7.

We saw the **Winepress** of God's **wrath** being treaded at the end of Chapter 14; the results of that action displayed in chapters 15 & 16; and the *same winepress* is again mentioned in chapter 19.

If you are in Jesus - you will be Resurrected into an immortal and indestructible body. And you will RULE with Jesus! And chapter 20 has a reference to these events; but they have already occurred. You were already on a WHITE horse; FLYING thru the air, in an immortal and indestructible body; looking at your LORD; and the KING of KINGS - who was ahead of you - on His white horse; preparing to do battle at Armageddon!

*They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."* (R17:14)

*The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.* (R19:14)

*. . . Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.* (R19:8)

And chapter 20 is also again referencing that the *Church* or Saints - WILL experience the 'tribulation' period. The ONLY people who are spared this experience - are those who qualify for the BRIDE of Christ; or the Wife of the LAMB! She is special, special, special! She had immense, immense LOVE; and Jesus protected Her . . . The rest of the church - those of us who were to busy with our own importance and all of our life's business; and various distractions; who did not have a deep, deep, DEEP LOVE for our fellow brothers and sisters - *WE* get to experience the tribulation period; and make a choice! And if you recognize that the anti-Christ is NOT JESUS (not an easy thing to do); and if you refuse to take his mark; and refuse to worship him; and if you OVERCOME; and remain faithful - then you will be blessed in Christ!

*. . . And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.* (Rev 20:4)

Chapter 20 of Revelation now briefly moves on - to what will happen after the *Thousand years* of reign - are finished and completed.

*When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth - Gog and Magog - to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I*



saw the dead, *great and small*, standing before the throne, and *books were opened*. Another book was opened, which is the *book of life*. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If *anyone's* name was *not* found written in the *book of life*, he was thrown into the *lake of fire*. (Rev 20:7 - 15)

The prophecy which is Revelation discusses much! Including - JUDGEMENT. God's wrath and JUDGEMENT against those who reject Him & His Son. (*Jesus* - who is fully GOD.) Revelation is given for many reasons, including - so that we can KNOW - what MUST come to pass!

The 6<sup>th</sup> seal of the scroll; which ONLY Jesus or the Lamb was found worthy to open - mentioned in a prophetic manner - the WRATH of GOD which was going to come upon the entire earth! This wrath is again mentioned at the end of chapter 14; and is discussed in much greater detail in chapters 15 & 16. And here, in chapter 20 - Revelation mentions what will happen AFTER Jesus has ruled with a rod of iron! When the entire Earth has experienced the rule of GOD; and His righteousness, and glory; where will their allegiance lie - if given the chance . . .

Jesus's ruling is briefly mentioned in the letters to the churches - where it is stated (*Thyatira*) that He and US (if you *overcome*) will RULE the nations with an iron scepter.

But after this Thousand years of reign is over - what occurs? Revelation prophecy briefly discusses just the very beginning of that wonderful, and eternal time . . .

So during this Thousand years of reign - we still have DEATH; (*see* Isaiah 65:20 & Ezekiel 47:10) & we also have the tremendous result of God and His reign. (*see* Isaiah 11:7)

People are being born; growing up; getting married, etc. LIVING - under God. But - LIVING. Some of those who are living - received the mark of the beast under his rule of deception. Some are just now being BORN . . . And WE - (those who OVERCAME; and were given Indestructible and Immortal bodies at the last trumpet) - are alive FOREVER - and are Ruling with Jesus as well . . .

Wait! WAIT!! Do you mean to say that IMMORTAL, GOD LIKE PEOPLE, will be *living on* the earth; *with* OTHER people who are capable of DYING??

YEP! That is what scripture, and prophecy teaches.

This is not quite so odd as you might first believe . . .

Haven't you wondered why YOU didn't get the chance that Adam had?? YOU wouldn't have 'blown it'; now would you . . . OR - what about the time of Jesus? WHY were YOU not allowed to live during THAT time; to SEE GOD walking on the earth . . . WHY do you have to live during this great massive deception time discussed as the TRIBULATION - which has NEVER been equaled; and will NEVER come close to being equaled again . . . Huh?? WHY?? That is just not fair . . . Why were YOU not BORN a Jew; and get to MEET PETER!

But, in God - EVERYTHING has a place. WHO KNOWS what GOD will be doing ONE TRILLION years from now! I DON'T! I HOPE I remain Faithful to GOD; and do not run after the anti-Christ! I hope that I allow myself to be killed for Jesus! Or, that I finally acquire enough genuine and deep, deep

LOVE for my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ; and the unsaved - that I qualify for the Wife of the Lamb! To be part of His marvelous and glorious BRIDE! WOW!!

But, God gives everyone various choices. We do not all have the SAME choice. Only in serving GOD do we have the SAME choice. But God certainly does not give every person the same task; or ask every person to DO the same thing . . .

Abraham was asked to walk to a place he had never been; and a place he did not know where . . . Noah was asked to build a BOAT - when he was surrounded by dry land . . . Moses was asked to be a Shepherd to an unruly, complaining group of people . . . David was taken from being a Shepherd to ruling a nation . . . Ezekiel lay on his left side for 390 days - bound so that he could not turn - and eating food cooked over cow manure . . . Paul was stoned three times . . . Jesus died on a cross (a terrible, painful death) for US . . . GOD walked about 7 miles to a village named *Emmaus*; discussing scripture with two disciples . . . Peter walked ON water . . . John slaved away in a MINING penal colony; and most people ignore the tremendous prophecy he was given while enduring such hard physical labor . . .

We are all asked by God - to DO different things; and walk different walks - *in* GOD!

God is going to rule for ONE THOUSAND years. Hopefully, you will not have taken the mark of the beast; and you will have an IMMORTAL and INDESTRUCTIBLE body! And you will get to RULE with absolute GODLINESS!

So, we are ruling, and encouraging (to dwell in God) those mortal people who took the mark of the beast; and those who are being BORN while during this 1,000 year reign . . .

*“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)

*The **infant** will play near the hole of the cobra, and the **young child** put his hand into the viper’s nest.* (Isaiah 11:8)

*They will not toil in vain or **bear children** doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their **descendants** with them.* (Isaiah 65:23)

And at the end of this glorious 1,000 years - Satan is RELEASED! Satan is released by God. And a FINAL test occurs for those who do not as yet have immortal and indestructible bodies. A test for all of those that we have been encouraging and instructing during the glorious 1,000 year reign.

Some fail that test; and some don’t. Unfortunately - ALL of those who originally received the mark of the beast; or who worshiped the image of the beast - will fail this test! Even though LOVE hopes all things; and we have LOVED and instructed, and encouraged . . .

EVERYONE who took the mark of the beast - fails this test. Very, very sad. And some who were born during the 1,000 years - fail this time as well . . . And some don’t! Hallelujah!!

So, Satan is released; and he goes out and BRAGS; probably stating that he somehow managed to escape because he is so ‘powerful’; and the world is astonished (*see* R17:8) - because Satan takes the FORM of; and APPEARS as - the person who was the ‘beast’. And many people declare that he has ‘come back’ and that he is in fact ‘god’; etc. And so - those who are being deceived FOLLOW him; and they go to attack

the WIFE of the lamb! The 'city' which God loves! The wife of Jesus! And they surround the dwelling place of God and Jesus and the Wife; with the purpose of destroying *Her* . . .

God destroys the armies which have come against the Wife of the Lamb; and Satan is FINALLY forever cast into HELL! FOREVER!

And we have the massive, massive JUDGEMENT day! EVERYONE who has EVER lived - stands before the tremendous judgement seat of God! But the Wife of the lamb; and the rest of US - who are all in Immortal and Indestructible bodies - have already been judged - and we have NOTHING to fear! We are with our LORD and GOD! We are REWARDED.

And those who were born during the Millennial reign - if they did not march with Satan against the 'city' which God loves - then they are found to be written in the Lamb's book of life! And they too are REWARDED; and receive Indestructible and Immortal bodies . . . And ANYONE whose name is NOT found written in the LAMB'S book of LIFE (JESUS is in CONTROL of this ENTIRE judgement) - is cast FOREVER into HELL. ETERNAL TORMENT; and ETERNAL JUDGEMENT! And, it is at this point in time - that DEATH is *finally* destroyed. NO MORE DEATH!

(Chapter 21)

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (Rev 21:1 - 7)*

Chapter 21 is mostly concerned with the Bride, and her Husband - the wife of the Lamb. But Jesus has done EVERYTHING; and is fully God - so, it has both sovereignty of God, and some creation statements. We shall take a quick look at those before we consider the Bride.

God is triune. God is three distinct individuals - all EQUAL; all SOVEREIGN; submitted to each other; completely HOLY; and completely PERFECT.

These three distinct, complete individuals - are commonly referred to as: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Joseph Seiss in his book: *The Apocalypse* - made the following observations:

*[There is a sacred arithmetic, as well as sacred persons, places, and times. Numbers in the Scriptures are as significant as words. They are as much a part of the Apocalypse as anything else. And there is as much resting upon them, as upon any other class of particulars contained in this book; as we shall see when we come to consider them . . .*

*There is a sacred significance in numbers : not cabalistic, not fanciful; but proceeding from the very nature of things, well settled in the Scriptures, and universally acknowledged in all the highest and*

deepest systems of human thought and religion. The unit, one, is the source and parent of all numbers . It therefore stands for God, in the most hidden absoluteness of His being, in which the whole Godhead, and all things, stand. "There is one God, and there is none other but He" (Mark 12:32). One expresses commencement, and God is the commencement. The unit underlies all continuation, and by God all things consist. And nothing can so well express the absolute First Cause, as the number ONE. It stands for the absolute Unity in heaven, and the abstract individual on earth. But Godhead, as let forth to the contemplation of rational beings, is a Trinity-a One Three and a Three One. Nearly all the leading nations of antiquity, in harmony with revelation, have so represented Him. In this Trinity, the Son is the second. Two, therefore, stands for Christ, and is significant of in-completion, or something missing. It is the first from the one, and reposes on the one, and is necessary to the making up of the first complete complex number, but is not complete in itself. It is the productive number, but it is only complete when the product is added. The Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. Man and wife are two-one, but the product of dual unity is needed to complete the family. Three is the number of individual completion. It is composed of three numbers , each of which is in itself one, and which multiplied together still make only one. Three, therefore, represents the Trinity, each number of which is God, and yet the Three together are still only One. It is the simplest composite unity, and forms the simplest compound figure in geometry-the equal-sided triangle, which is indivisible, and unresolvable into anything else. It is the first and fixed compound unit of mathematical science. It therefore properly stands for the Trinity and individual completeness. As such, it has also been done in all God's works. Man is body, soul, and spirit-three-one. The family is man, and wife, and offspring-three-one. Religion is knowledge, action, and experience-three-one. ] (The Apocalypse: An Exposition of the Book of Revelation; by Joseph A Seiss (Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1998 by BibleSoft))

Chapter 21 of Revelation Prophecy - is mostly about the Bride of Christ; or the Wife of the Lamb.

In Revelation - we saw the other two major references to the Bride - with Chapter 7; and then Chapter 14.

THREE is the number of individual completion; and of the **Trinity**. The very first reference to the Bride is in Revelation Chapter 3, starting with *verse 7* - addressing the 'church' of Philadelphia.

We then have the two chapters of 7 & 14; and finally we come to the last chapter with major references to the Wife of the Lamb; and *who* she is - chapter 21. (R6:6 & R12 discuss the escape of the Bride) **Three times Seven equals Twenty One**. And so, in Revelation Prophecy - God put His last major description and reference to the Wonderful WIFE of Jesus - at Chapter 21.

Now, JESUS is the HEAD of ALL!! So, before we come to the major description and focus on the Bride (*most* of R21) - Revelation Prophecy again declares WHO is GOD; and the SOVEREIGNTY of JESUS; and who HE is; and WHAT HE has DONE; and is going to DO!!

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (R21:1 & 2)*

A totally NEW heaven; and a NEW earth! The OLD has passed away! And the Holy City - the new Jerusalem - comes down out of heaven - as a BRIDE for her husband!

Will a city *Jerusalem* exist during the Millennium? YES! Will the WIFE of the Lamb - BE an actual CITY??

NO!

The Wife of the Lamb is composed of various believers who LOVED just as JESUS LOVED; with passion, conviction, and as GOD would have us LOVE. She repented of her sins; and LOVED so much - that God declared her to be a VIRGIN and BLAMELESS!!

SHE is a group of SAINTS - who have become the WIFE of the LAMB. She has become equal with God; and is married to the Lamb. She has AUTHORITY. And she is ONE with JESUS - while consisting of many, many people - who made themselves ready to be a Wife for the lamb. They CLOTHED themselves with the OIL of the HOLY SPIRIT; and all that HE would have them do and become!

Will a CITY exist? Probably. But, this description is *of* the WIFE - who is being described as a CITY - since the *dwelling place* of God was supposed to be in the Temple which was located in the city of Jerusalem. And now the WIFE is shining with the Glory of God (R21:11); and is described in wonderful, beautiful terms . . . while not meaning that God is going to take people and make them become a cube with walls; unable to move . . .

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (Rev 21:3 - 7)*

God is now intimately dwelling with men; and ALL pain and tears are gone! NO more death!

GOD makes everything new; and declares that these words (this prophecy) are TRUSTWORTHY and TRUE! God takes the time to declare that this is an IMPORTANT prophecy! And that HE is the BEGINNING and the END. And that HE will give the water of LIFE without COST; to those who are thirsty and have overcome!

GOD has PAID our debts! HE LOVES us; and asks us to TRUSTS him!

The phrase: *Alpha and the Omega; the Beginning and the End* is interesting. The Greeks have a word ALPHA. And the Greek *alphabet* names the first letter of the Greek Alphabet - ALPHA.

ALPHA - ἄλφα [G270] (*Alpha, "{First} or {Beginning}"*) The word ALPHA is used - referencing the very first letter of the Greek Alphabet - but using the word which means FIRST.

OMEGA - ὦ [G6042] (*letter of the Greek alphabet; Omega*) This is just the LAST letter of the Greek Alphabet. It is not a 'word' in the strictest sense of the term. It is a LETTER. It is used as a word (*Omega*) and found only in the following three instances: R1:8 ; 21:6; 22:13 Always small case in those three locations: ὦ

**[Alpha and Omega**

in Christianity, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, used to designate the comprehensiveness of God, implying that God includes all that can be. In the New Testament Revelation to John, the term is used as the self-designation of God and of Christ. The reference in Revelation likely had a Jewish origin, based on such Old Testament passages as Isa. 44:6 (“I am the first and the last”), and Ps. 90:2 (“from everlasting to everlasting thou art God”). In rabbinic literature, the word *emet* (“truth”), composed of the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet, is “the seal of God,” and in Judaic tradition it carries somewhat the same connotation as Alpha and Omega.] (Copyright © 1994-2002 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc; 2002 Deluxe Edition CD-Rom v2002.01.0002.0)

In the above scriptures - we have the declaration (in a LOUD voice) - that the dwelling place of GOD is now with MEN!

No more sin separates us. SIN does not exist any longer. Unrighteousness no longer exists. ALL those who refused to repent and accept Jesus are in eternal torment (Hell); and God has made EVERYTHING new; and is now dwelling with Holy, Sanctified; men! And we LOVE being with Him and our God!

This declaration that GOD is now dwelling with us - flows into the declaration and statement of the *Alpha* and the *Omega*. This is a SOVEREIGNTY statement. It is a GOD statement. It is an absolute statement. A statement of power, authority, rulership, all rolled into one . . .

JESUS or the CHRIST - is the ONLY one who has DIED for us - and been resurrected! He has ALL authority - in Heaven - and on Earth!. SOVEREIGN. Scripture is so very clear that Jesus is GOD! And that he LOVES us; and FREED us from our sins!

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

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

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

*To him who overcomes and does **my will** to the end, I will give authority over the nations . . .* (Rev 2:26)

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* (Mt 28:18)

Jesus is seated on His throne; and also makes the following statement:

*. . . To him who is thirsty **I** will give to drink **without cost** from the spring of the **water of life**. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and **I** will be his **God** and he will be my son.* (Rev 21:6 - 7)

Chapter 21 is focused on the Wife of the Lamb; and it is focused on Jesus. Which is why it declares Him to be God. It also continues and states that Jesus is making everything new! The triune God created it in the first place (beginning); and now He is making it anew!

Will this new heaven and earth - have an ocean, or any type of sea?? Well, the first earth was declared ‘good’ before the corruption brought about by sin. All of the fish and water life were declared ‘good.’

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was **no longer any sea.***

The above verse would seem to indicate that this new Earth will not have any *boating* possibilities.

However; in Revelation prophecy - the word 'sea' seems to have several meanings. Just as in the rest of the scriptures.

1. A body of water.
2. A place or heart purified from sin.
3. Pure water cleansing everything it touches.
4. A group of sinful, wicked people.
5. A multitude of many diverse people.
6. An abode or dwelling place of unrighteousness and sin.

*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!"* (Rev 5:13) {1}

*. . . "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.* (Rev 18:17) {1}

*Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal . . .* (Rev 4:6) {2}

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

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb . . .* (Rev 22:1) {3}

*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.* (Ezekiel 47:8 - 9) {3}

*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.* (Rev 13:1) {4}

*For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.* (Rev 11:9) {4}

*. . . "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.* (Rev 17:1) {4}

*I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus . . . (Rev 17:6) {4}*

*Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. (Rev 17:15) {4 & 5}*

*Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. (Rev 12:15) {4 & 6}*

*The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. (Rev 20:13) {6}*

I believe that in (R21:1) when it states that no *sea* exists; it is actually stating that no more SIN exists. All is new, and perfect; and no more sin or unrighteousness. It is entirely possible that I am wrong; and it is stating that no more seas or lakes or oceans will exist on the new earth. But Jesus states He is making EVERYTHING new; and that would probably include sea life. And considering that the word ‘sea’ & ‘water’ references both purity and sin - in the book of revelation (and other scriptures); it is entirely probable that this is a statement of “No more SIN!”

**[SEA** (Heb. *yām*, Gr. *thalassa*). *In the Bible the term is used in several ways.*

- 1. The ocean, the gathering of the waters at the creation, is called sea (Gen 1:10; Ps 8:8; 24:2).*
- 2. Almost any body of water, salt or fresh, is called sea. The Mediterranean (Acts 10:6), the Sea of Galilee (Num 34:11; Matt 4:18), the Dead Sea (Deut 3:17), and the Red Sea (Exod 13:18; 14:2) are referred to in Scripture. Obviously, not all of these would be called seas by us. Galilee is a lake, being only about twelve and a half by seven and a half miles (twenty-one by thirteen km.) in size, but it is often called a sea.*
- 3. Even rivers may, in poetic language, be called a sea: the Nile (Isa 18:2; 19:5) and the Euphrates (21:1).*
- 4. The basin in Solomon’s temple was called a sea (see BRONZE SEA).*

*The ancient Hebrews were not a sea people. The **sea** in the Bible becomes a symbol of restlessness, instability, and **sin** (Isa 57:20; Jer 49:23; James 1:6; Jude 13; Rev 13:1). ]* (New International Bible Dictionary, Pradis CD-ROM:Articles/S/Sea, Book Version: 5.1.50)

It might be somewhat instructive to also note that the very first words in scripture used for *Sea* - which was pronounced ‘good’ - also carries with it an indication of *opposition* to God.

God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “**seas.**” **ים** [H3542] (*sea; seashore; the west (the direction of the Mediterranean Sea relative to the Near East); by extension: a large container for holding water; the recurring image of the sea as a terrifying danger and opponent of the LORD has its source in the Sea (Yamm) as a hostile Canaanite god*) And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:10)

So God created the great **creatures of the sea** **תנין** [H9490] (*serpent, snake; monster of the deep; (pr.n.) Jackal (Well); can refer to large sea creatures as well as to mythological monsters of chaos opposed to God*) and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:21)

God reiterates - that sinners (vile, unbelieving, cowardly, sexually immoral, etc.) - everyone who did not repent and allow themselves to be WASHED clean by the blood of the Lamb - will spend ETERNITY



(*second death*) in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. We then progress to the Bride, the wife of the Lamb,

*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will **show** you the **bride, the wife of the Lamb.**” (Rev 21:8 - 9)*

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a **mountain great and high**, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It **shone with the glory of God**, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Rev 21:10 - 12)*

We have previously seen (chapter 7) that the word **Mountain** has direct references to God. Now, we are taken to a **mountain GREAT & HIGH**; from which comes the HOLY City - Jerusalem. This wonderful, glorious city is shining (shone) with the glory of God. It is not reflecting the glory - it is shining **with the glory**.

**Shone with** ἔχω [G2400] ((tr.) to have, hold, keep; (intr.) to be)

The above Greek word is fairly common in scripture; occurring a total of 710 times; *not translated* into English 19 times; and using 168 *different* English words - when it is translated. To understand the Greek or the Hebrew, I read the ENGLISH. And listen to the Holy Spirit - my personal God instructor. I appreciate the English translation of: **shone with** in this particular verse. But this Greek word does carry a Wide variety of meanings. The most common being the word: **have** - 207x. It is also translated as **had** - 74x; / **with** - 24x; / **need** - 24x; / **is** - 13x; / **having** - 11x; / **possessed by** - 5x; / **retain** - 1x; etc. (160 more different variations.)

Translated as: **shone with** - 1x

**the** [G3836] **glory** [G1518] **of\*** **God** [G2536]

\* - not in the Greek

**glory** [G1518] δόξα (This word has a wide range of meanings in the NT, corresponding closely the Hebrew 3883: glory, splendor, brilliance, from the base meaning of the awesome light that radiates from God's presence and is associated with his acts of power; honor, praise, speaking of words of excellence and assigning highest status to God)

**God** [G2536] θεός (God, usually refers to the one true God; in a very few contexts it refers to a (pagan) god or goddess. The “Son of God” as a title of Jesus emphasizes his unique relationship to the Father. “The god of this age” refers to the devil)

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a **mountain great and high**, and showed me the **Holy City**, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It **shone with the glory of God**, and its brilliance was like that of a **very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal**. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Rev 21:10 - 12)*

John sees the Bride, the Holy City, the Wife of the Lamb - descending from heaven - coming from

the mountain of God, and shining with the glory of God. The wife is adorned brilliantly; and her brilliance and radiance are overwhelming. She has written on her - the names of the twelve tribes of Israel - since as we have seen - the twelve tribes or the 144,000 (symbolic number) constitute the Wife of the Lamb.

*There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.* (Rev 21:13 - 14)

As you might recall, twelve is the number of final and total, absolute completeness. Yes, seven is a number of completeness as well; but twelve indicates full and total. Everything is finalized, and done.

The Bride & the 144,000 center around the number **Twelve**. Twelve and *multiples* of it. Numbers have meaning in scripture . . . *Seven* is the number of *fullness* and completeness in God. We have *seven* days in a week; God *rested* on the *seventh* day; we have *seven seals*, *seven lampstands*, *seven spirits of God*, *seven thunders*, *seven eyes* of the Lamb, *seven requests* to listen to the Spirit of God . . . etc, etc.

**Twelve** is *final* or absolute total **Completeness**. *Twelve* includes the *twelve apostles* of the Lamb; *twelve months* in a year; *twelve rulers*; *twelve stone pillars*; *twelve stones* (Ephod); *twelve loaves of bread*; *twelve gold dishes*; *twelve thousand horses*; *twelve bulls*; *twelve lions*; a *crown of twelve stars*; *twelve crops of fruit*; the *Bride of Christ* has *twelve gates* and *twelve angels* . . .

*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)

These concepts were developed more fully in chapter *Seven*; and if necessary - you might wish to review that section.

*The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.* (Rev 21:15 - 18)

We have a measurement and revealing of Faith.

*These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* (1Peter 1:7)

*Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.* (Isaiah 11:5)

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

The measuring rod used - is that of gold. It is pure, and measuring the faith of the Bride. She is not found wanting! Her faith is found to be PERFECT. A deep, and pure faith - of pure gold, as pure as glass. Her faith constantly adds up to multiples of twelve. Perfection. She is the wife of the lamb, and she made herself ready! Faith and faithfulness. In everything related to God, love, and Jesus.

With regards to chapter 21; the Bride, and her dimensions - *Adam Clarke* wrote:

[*The quadrangular form intimates its perfection and stability, for the square figure was a figure of perfection among the Greeks; **aneer tetragoonos**, the square or cubical man, was, with them, a man of unsullied integrity, perfect in all things.*] (A COMMENTARY and CRITICAL NOTES by Adam Clarke, LL.D., F.S.A., & c. (Adam Clarke; 1762 - 1832) CLARKE'S COMMENTARY on THE HOLY BIBLE) [on R21:16]

**aneer ἀνήρ** [G467 /SG435] (man, male, husband; usually an adult male, but in some contexts the emphasis is on maturity rather than gender (1Co 13:11; Eph 4:13; Jas 3:2))

**tetragoonos τετράγωνος** [G5481 /SG5068] (square, cubical)

*The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.* (Rev 21:19 - 20)

The bride is decorated with precious, precious gem stones (precious to God; not necessarily man). These stones represent tremendous beauty, and honor; and the love and choosing which God declares for his bride. They represent the twelve tribes of Israel and the choosing which God performed. The twelve tribes of Israel, are the *apple* of God's eye.

*"Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the **delight** of your eyes . . . "* So I spoke to the people in the morning, and in the evening my **wife** died . . . (Ezekiel 24:16 & 18)

*"Come, O Zion! Escape, you who live in the Daughter of Babylon!" For this is what the LORD Almighty says: "After he has honored me and has sent me against the nations that have plundered you - for whoever touches you touches the **apple** of his eye - I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me. "Shout and be glad, **O Daughter of Zion**. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD.* (Zechariah 2:7 - 10)

*The twelve gates were **twelve pearls**, each gate made of a **single pearl**. The **great street** of the city was of **pure gold**, like **transparent** glass.* (Rev 21:21)

The Bride has pearls. Pearls are not hard; and are easily crushed. But they are formed from debris; and **worthless** waste. But from the worthless debris and unwanted foreign matter - we have an object of great beauty, and desirability. And we have the great **faith** of the people who constitute the Bride. Their **paths** are of **pure gold**, their **hearts** as **transparent** as glass; with **no shadow** of turning, they are faithful and **LOVE**. Embracing the commands of; and having an intimate walk and life with their Bridegroom - the Lamb.

The wife has twelve pearls. And just as a *little* sin - corrupts and destroys; so too - just a *small* bit of acid - will utterly destroy a pearl. But - she is sinless. She has purified herself. She is a **Virgin**. She made herself ready for the groom; so no sin exists in her . . .

[**Pearl** . . . Pearls, like coral, develop in the sea by the abstraction of calcium carbonate from sea water. The pearl develops around a bit of foreign matter within the shell of oysters or mussels. Like coral, it cannot be classed with the hard enduring precious stones. It is easily destroyed. A **small** amount of **acid** would convert it to nearly **worthless** calcium chloride, a water-soluble salt, and the gas carbon dioxide . . . ] (New International Bible Dictionary, Pradis CD-ROM: Articles/M/Minerals., Book Version: 5.1.50)

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a **little yeast** works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a **new batch without** yeast - as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:6 - 7)

You **were** running a good race. Who cut in on you and **kept you from obeying** the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. "A **little yeast** works through the whole batch of dough." (Galatians 5:7 - 9)

The twelve gates were **twelve pearls**, each gate made of a **single pearl**. The **great street** of the city was of **pure gold**, like **transparent** glass. (Rev 21:21)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his **joy** went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine **pearls**. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and **bought it**. (Matthew 13:44 - 46)

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an **opportune** time. (Luke 4:13)

I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has **no hold** on me, but the world must learn that I **love** the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave. (John 14:30 - 31)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God** is light; in him there is **no darkness** at all. (John 1:5)

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

Whoever **loves** his brother lives in the light, and there is **nothing in him** to make him **stumble**. (1John 2:10)

. . . He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the **motives** of men's **hearts**. At that time each will receive his praise from God. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:5)

For if you **forgive** men when they **sin** against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14)

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an **example**, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and **no deceit** was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he **entrusted himself** to him who **judges justly**. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:21 - 23)

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

Whoever has my commands and **obeys** them, he is the one who loves me. He who **loves me** will be loved by my **Father**, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (John 14:21)

"As the **Father** has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (John 15:9 - 10)

I have told you this so that my **joy** may be in you and that **your joy** may be complete. My **command** is this: **Love each other as I have loved you.** (John 15:11 - 12)

Finishing up with chapter 21:

*I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 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.* (Rev 21:22 - 27)

The city - or Wife of the Lamb - does not need a temple; because she is totally intimate with God. Her husband - Jesus - gives her instruction, protection, and is her temple. Her EVERYTHING. The lamb is the wife's 'apple'. He is the light of her life; and she adores her husband!

And Jesus and the Father protect the wife from anything, or anyone who is impure. The wife of the Lamb made herself ready; she became without spot or wrinkle. Nothing impure or shameful or deceitful will ever enter her heart or mind; and only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life are allowed to approach the Wife of the Lamb.

For the calling and reward of being part of the BRIDE - we really need to get hold of LOVE and making ourselves READY. OBEDIENT! Is this a SELFISH motivation?? YES! But Jesus does want us looking to what lies beyond, and the various REWARDS which are given - to those who OBEY; and become **One** with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

*But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus . . . I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:11 - 14)

*So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.* (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:14)

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* (Ephesians 5:25 - 27)

*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." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)* (Rev 19:7 - 8)

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become One flesh." This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church.* (Ephesians 5:31 - 32)

**profound:** μέγας [G3489] (great; spatially: large; of quantity or degree: loud, intense, violent; of time: long (time); of position: great, important)

*mystery: μυστήριον* [G3696] (mystery, secret; often refers to a misunderstood part of the OT that, with Christ's coming, is now unveiled)

(Chapter 22)

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." (Rev 22:1 - 6)*

The influence of God flows out of the city. The Bride is totally in God, and dedicated to her husband - Jesus or the Lamb. God's influence and purity flows from her and God out through the world and all inhabitants.

The twelve crops of fruit represent the twelve perfected tribes of Israel - who make up the Bride; and the various fruit of the Holy Spirit with which she clothed herself; and made herself ready. Perfection. Absolute completion. The yielding of the fruit every month - is again referring to TWELVE (twelve months of the year) and the completion and perfection which God assigns to this number. The leaves of the tree also spread their influence through the world. The Bride and Jesus comfort the nations and all who are in God.

Jesus is the tree of Life. He is seen in Genesis 2:9 & 3:22. But the Bride has also become part of this tree or Jesus - since she has become ONE with Him.

*. . . The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. (R22:3)*

The throne of God and the Lamb resides in the Bride; they have become *One*. God is in the city. The Bride has become part of God; she dwells with the Lamb; and the servants of God will serve him.

Before Christ; no one could see the Face of God and live. Now, all saints are allowed to stand before Him and see His face; and His holy, awesome name - will be on our foreheads. The name of God has become part of our being.

*There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. (R22:5)*

It will no longer be possible to dwell in darkness or commit sin. No night or darkness will exist. Our lives and being are illuminated by God; and we and Him will rule and reign for ever and ever. God has made us Holy and righteous; He has made us *One* with Him; and this glorious time will never end!

This entire prophecy is *trustworthy and true*; and was given so that if you are a servant of God - you can KNOW what is going to happen. God, the one who speaks to righteous prophets - declares we should listen to these words. Learn to LISTEN to the Holy Spirit; and then OBEY!

*“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps τηρέω [G5498] (to keep, guard, obey, observe) the words of the prophecy in this book.” I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, “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!” Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. (Rev 22:7 - 10)*

Jesus reiterates that He is coming soon! We need to be READY! One of the ways to be ready - is to KEEP the words of this prophecy. To write it upon our hearts; so that we are able to honor and obey Him. To obey this command from Jesus - to KEEP the words of this prophecy; and to be BLESSED - we MUST READ this prophecy. We must READ it - until we UNDERSTAND it! When we refuse to invest the time to read - it is impossible to KEEP the words. We cannot guard them; we cannot observe them; and we cannot write them upon our hearts and being - unless we READ them!

The disciple of Jesus - John, the disciple whom Jesus loved - who was enslaved in the Penal mining colony on the Island of Patmos - he is the one who received this prophecy from Jesus. And he reminds us that He is the one; and that he saw and heard them; and that he also fell down to worship the angel who spoke to him!

John was given this prophecy by Jesus; and Jesus also asks an angel to sometimes speak the words to John. So, we have John falling down before Jesus (R1:7); and we have John falling down before a servant of God - an angel. (R19:10) This is a retelling; a repeat from a different perspective. (R22:8) John did not fall down to worship the angel *twice*.

We are reminded that we are always to worship GOD; and that this prophecy which is *trustworthy and true* - is NOT sealed up! It is open to understanding to ANYONE who develops their ear to hear God; and who gives GOD the TIME to reveal the prophecy. And this prophecy is not sealed up - because the time is near - Jesus wants us prepared for what is coming and going to happen.

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

The time of judgement is near! If you desire to be wicked - continue to be wicked. You will be judged. If you are being righteous - continue to be holy. The time of judgement is at hand. Be prepared.

*“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” (Rev 22:12 - 16)*

Reward or Judgement. Quick repeat of *the time is near* - in the phrase, *I am coming soon!* We have the divinity statements of the fact Jesus is GOD; and is SOVEREIGN. GOD created the angels. GOD created man. Yet, here - Jesus sent HIS angel. It is an additional God statement; coupled with the fact that He existed before David was even born . . .

We are requested to wash our robes; and we are BLESSED if we do so! Since those who are made

righteous thru Jesus Christ - are allowed access to Jesus and to His Bride. And the Bride has purified herself; and NO unrighteousness or wickedness, or any impurity - will EVER affect her again.

Jesus Himself sent and gave this testimony to all the churches and all the saints! What are you going to do with it?? Are you going to ignore it? Or are you going to allow God to TEACH you, and instruct you on this glorious prophecy. It is for YOU! Jesus gave it to us, for us to be enriched, blessed, and to be able to understand the end times. PLEASE - do not ignore this glorious prophecy which Jesus Christ - GOD - gave each and every one of us!

Jesus states that He is the Bright, Morning Star. He is glorious, and shining. He is GOD. Even while God is three separate beings - who are totally ONE - who has now incorporated the BRIDE; and allowed the BRIDE to become ONE with God.

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev 22:17 - 20)*

All of God states: COME! The Holy Spirit desperately desires for it to be finished, and complete. And if you are in Christ, and in the Bride - so do *you!* Your cry from your heart - is to Jesus - COME!

And if you are trodden with sin, and thirsty for God; if you desire to be Holy - you are allowed to TAKE and partake of the FREE gift of the glorious water of Life! JESUS. Jesus determines who enters into Heaven; and Jesus FREELY gives! He desires for you to be HOLY; and have unlimited access into His presence and before the THRONE! The water of eternal life is FREE. All we have to be - is thirsty for righteousness, or just desire to be in God's glorious presence; and we are allowed to partake of the Free gift which Jesus purchased for us - by His BLOOD. His sacrifice.

We have the somber warning that if you ADD anything to the words of this prophecy - GOD will remove you from the Lamb's book of Life. Which is God's book. You will receive the plagues described in this prophecy. That is a somber judgement, and somber warning.

And we have a repeat of the same warning. A slightly different perspective. But God desires for everyone to KNOW this prophecy; and for no one - to add or take away any words from this prophecy!

Consequently - it is stated that if you REMOVE any of the words of this prophecy - God will remove your share in the tree of life. Or - your share and position in Jesus. In other words - same as before - you will LOSE your salvation - if you deliberately ADD to; or REMOVE any words from this prophecy which was given by JESUS to the disciple John. For the dispersion to the churches and all saints. This prophecy is given to YOU; and it is given to ME. Don't neglect it! Jesus wants you to READ it; and learn to HEAR the Spirit of God!

And He who gave this prophecy; and testifies to the truth and trustworthiness of it - again (repeat) states: that He is COMING SOON! And we have the prayer of the spirit and of the Bride - *Amen*. The truth! Let it be done! Come, Lord Jesus!

*The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen (Rev 22:21)*



The favor, kindness, and blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ (the fullness of God) be with God's people. *Amen.*

Grace: χάρις [G5921] (*grace, the state of kindness and favor toward someone, often with a focus on a benefit given to the object; by extension: gift, benefit; credit; words of kindness and benefit: thanks, blessing*)

Amen: ἀμήν [G297] (*amen, the truth; a formula of solemn expression of certainty. In the Gospel of John it is doubled in the sayings of Jesus for emphasis*)

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This commentary on the book of Revelation was finished on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

I sincerely hope that it has been a blessing to you; and that you will continue to delve into this glorious, and marvelous prophecy; and no longer be afraid of that which Jesus himself gave to you, and to me! For all believers to be able to read and understand. Please, just READ the book of Revelation, over, and over and over again!

I am sure that I will probably change some stuff as I peruse it. Probably more now in the next few days - then say 5 months from now. I have been going back and changing stuff, as I have been writing this commentary. But, it is essentially completed; and I wish you the very Best in God and our wonderful Lord. May the triune God, the LORD JESUS CHRIST - richly bless and encourage you, in your wonderful walk with our glorious creator and sovereign God!

Feel free to contact me. Contact info is given in the '*about the author*' section; at the beginning of this commentary.

God Bless! And may the peace and marvelous grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ - richly impact and empower your life!

In Christ,

*David Steyh*