

COVER PAGE

# STUDY IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Prescott, Az. Starting January 27, 2015

NOTE: This material has been written and compiled by Ray Vaughn from many sources over the years. Some from unknown sources. Where known, credit has been given to the authors.

1. Class will be held in the **front** area of the Auditorium. Please sit where you can see the overhead on left front wall.
2. Read the historical background of the Jews under the Romans.  
*(probably MORE than once)*
3. Read the "Abundant Articles"
4. Bring your Bibles and a three-ring notebook for many handouts. Include some blank paper for note taking.
5. Important to be at every study session. If you miss, hopefully these studies will be recorded and put on line for catching up and review !
6. Start Reading and studying pages 7-13.
7. Questions and fill-ins on chapters 1-5 start on page 14.
8. Come to this study with an open mind **EXPECTING** to learn and understand what is in this inspiring book that has been so neglected !!
9. You will get out of this class about as much as **YOU** put into it and the amount of time and effort that goes into it outside of class !!
10. Look at the suggested reading list for good material that has helped me and I believe it can help you too....(for serious students)

1. Revelation is a very difficult book to study and understand for us today. It probably was not so for the ones to whom it was sent. Rev. 1:1, 11.  
1:3 "blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophesy, and keep those things which are written in it...."  
And it is possible, there were inspired interpreters still living at the time.
2. This book has been misunderstood, abused, perverted and used for all kinds of speculation, teachings and positions contrary to Bible teaching elsewhere.  
There are MANY commentaries written by brethren and others with differing and conflicting views, which adds to the confusion and misunderstanding.
3. There are at least five (5) different views of Revelation.
  - (1) **PRETERIST:** The word means "past" and thus implies that the subject matter has already been largely fulfilled. Written for the people of John's day and finds it's fulfillment in events "shortly to come to pass". (first century). Early date = Before the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 64-68)  
Has little meaning for Christians living today. (so-called AD 70 Doctrine)
  - (2) **THE FUTURIST METHOD:**
    - a. Chap. 1-3 for those to whom John wrote (7 churches in Asia)
    - b. Chap. 4-19 Events to be fulfilled close to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ.
    - c. Literalist in their interpretation, see very little that is symbolic.
      - (1) Chap. 11 Measuring the Temple  $\cong$  be rebuilt
      - (2) 2 witnesses = 2 great prophets to come near the end of the world
      - (3) Numbers have mathematical values
      - (4) Babylon be rebuilt (so it can be destroyed)
      - (5) Coming of a personal "antichrist"
      - (6) A 7 year rapture.....
      - (7) Literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth in Judea....etc...
    - d. Most popular with denominational world today...
  - (3) **THE CONTINUOUS HISTORICAL METHOD:**
    - a. Unfolding of history from 1<sup>st</sup> century to the return of Christ.
    - b. In it is revealed the fall of Rome, Mohammedanism, rise of the Papacy, the reformation, world wars, world religions ....specific Nations, world leaders (Hitler, Stalin, Russia, China, etc...)
    - c. Lots of guess work and arbitrary interpretation. (many proven wrong)
    - d. Becomes a calendar of historical events written in advance.

**(4) THE SPIRITUAL METHOD**

Things revealed are not about specific events or persons or places of past, present or future, but are symbolic of spiritual and temporal forces at work in the world, with an ultimate victory of right over wrong, of light over darkness....

**(5) THE HISTORICAL-BACKGROUND METHOD**

- a. Part of the preterist method. (much has already been fulfilled)
- b. Written for people of John's day, in it's historical setting.
- c. Written largely in symbolical language w/ref. to specific events so as to conceal it's meaning from unbelievers.
- d. Uses O.T. terminology w/ N.T. meaning and application.
- e. The final judgment & perfected state of mankind is yet to be fulfilled
- f. **Two schools of thought.**

(1) Mostly fulfilled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. Written AD 95-96  
Esp. persecutions by & fall of the Roman Empire, and NOT about the fall of Jerusalem.

(2) Mostly fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.  
Written 66-68 AD

NOTE: COMPARE LANGUAGE Jesus used to describe the destruction of Jerusalem with John's language used in the book of Revelation. (Mt. 24, Lk. 21, Mk. 13, see outline!) p. 8-12

4. I believe the date of writing has a significant influence on the understand of the Book of Revelation. There are three diff. dates that I am aware of.

(1) AD 66-68, *Nero*. (2) AD 75-78, *Vespasian*. (3) 95-96, *Domitian*

One thing is FOR SURE, either the book was written before the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70) or it was written after the destruction of Jerusalem. Depending on which we believe, will have an effect on our approach and understanding. IF it is written after, then nothing in the book seemingly will have anything to do with it. IF, however, it is written BEFORE, then this book could be mostly about this destruction as foretold by Jesus in Matt. 24, and Old Testament Prophets. 1Pet. 1:10-12

5. My position and what I will be presenting is from the perspective that Revelation was written before the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 66-68) and during the reign of Nero, Emperor of Rome. After many years of viewing Revelation different ways, and considering many commentaries written by Brethren and others.... I am convinced this is what it is mostly about. It makes more sense to me and is

more in harmony with the revealed evidence and the scriptures as a whole than the other dates. This also opens up a new understanding of many verses elsewhere in many parts of the Bible.

6. Admittedly, there are probably more brethren whom I respect that hold to the later date (95-96 AD) than the earlier date. (some of you may take this position) But, in recent years, I find that more and more brethren, including preachers, are coming around to the pre-70 AD date. I would encourage each of you to do some diligent and serious study and read carefully ALL the material I will be handing out. Search the scriptures to see if these things you hear from me and others are so..... Acts 17:11
7. I want to share some disclaimers, so you will know where we are going and what I believe in certain areas.
  - a. I do not believe the so-called "AD 70 doctrine".
  - b. Although written mostly about the fall of Jerusalem, there are other events John wrote about in this book.
  - c. I believe that the "great white throne judgment" in Rev. 20 is the day of judgment as we usually think of it. (2Cor. 5:10)
  - d. The resurrection of all the dead (John 5:28-29; 1Cor. 15) is yet to take place. Rev. 20:12-15
  - e. Rev. 21-22 is about the New Jerusalem = Bride of Christ, both on earth (church) and in a glorified state in heaven.

### **RECOMMENDED APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF REVELATION**

1. There are many references in Revelation to Old Testament events and situations, with over 400 ref. to the O.T. John must have directed his thoughts primarily to those who were acquainted with Hebrew thought and culture. The book of Revelation is the most Jewish of ALL N.T. books.

".....O.T. symbols make the book more meaningful." "It is believed that one of the major reasons why Christians fail to understand the Book of Revelation is that they lack an awareness of the use of the O.T. which permeates the book." "The book of Revelation is the most thoroughly Jewish in its language and Imagery of any New Testament book. This book speaks not the language of Paul, but of Old Testament prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel." **QUOTES from Farrell Jenkins in "The Old Testament in the Book of Revelation" pages 14-22**

"... The symbolism of the Apocalypse is Jewish, and not Greek or Roman. It is pervaded with the style and imagery of the Old Testament, and is molded by its historical in prophetic books. The book", says Milligan, "is absolutely steeped in the memories, the incidence, the thoughts and the language of the church's past. To such an extent is this the case that it may be doubted whether it contains a single complete sentence not more or less built up of materials brought from the same source. .... It is a perfect Mosaic of the passages of the Old Testament...."

2. The first verse in Rev. says, "...He sent and signifies it..." = SIGN language is used to reveal (not conceal) things to John = 7 churches !!

"The revelation was "signified" by Christ through His angel to His servant John. The word translated "signified" means to show by signs. Thus we are introduced to the nature of the book. It is a revelation (unveiling) of God's message through signs (symbols). This must be kept in mind and follow if the truth of the book is to be known. Its message comes not through literal understanding of its words but through the interpretation of the symbols. It is a divine picture book." Ray Summers, "Worthy is the Lamb" p. 99

**SIGNS:** Curve ahead; Talking to the deaf using your hands = signing; Signs stand for and represent something ! Is that something REAL, actual, or fig. ? Were the 7 churches supposed to understand the meaning of these signs ?

**Rev. 1:3** "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophesy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."

Can we understand it ?? (some have described it as being written in code)

Gen. 9:13 Rainbow "shall be a sign of the covenant"

17:11 Circumcision "shall be a sign of the covenant"

Ex. 12:13 "blood shall be to you for a sign"

Isa. 7:14 Virgin birth "the Lord himself shall give you a sign"

Mt. 12:38-39 No sign given but "the sign of the prophet Jonah"

Lk. 2:12 To shepherds at the birth of Jesus "this shall be a sign unto you"

Mt. 24:3 "and what will be the sign of Your coming?"

Lk. 21:7 "what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?"

Rev. 12:1 "Now a great sign appeared in heaven... a woman ... being with child"

15:1 "I saw another sign in heaven" etc... etc.....

**APOCALYPTIC SPEECH** ( see chart by McGuiggan)

p. 4-A

Also apply to Mt. 24 etc...

**SYMBOLS OF NUMBERS** (see Chart)

p. 4-B

**"The Book of Revelation" by Jim McGuiggan p. 14, 15**

"Apocalyptic" speech is a phrase we moderns dug up. We use it to denote speech which is made up of symbols. In the New Testament there is only one book of "apocalyptic speech" although there are a number of examples of such speech in books written in "ordinary" speech. In the Old Testament apocalyptic speech pervades books such as Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah. In a number of other books (eg. Isaiah and Joel) there are many examples of apocalyptic speech.

The word itself denotes "an unveiling, or uncovering, a revealing." In light of the confusion which swirls around these books, it is hard for the average fellow to believe this. The truth is, we borrowed the word from the "Revelation of John" (ie. the book of Revelation) where the word was not used to describe the speech used. In Revelation 1:1 we are told God gave Jesus a "revelation" to John in symbolic speech. Paul "revealed" some things in ordinary speech but the last book in the New Testament - the last "revelation" was given in symbolic speech. Because this last book is called an "apocalypse" and it was given in symbolic speech, men then called books written in symbolic speech — apocalyptic.

Exactly what should be included in the term "apocalyptic" is hard to say. Should a metaphor ("I am the door") be said to be "apocalyptic" speech? Should we say any figurative expression is "apocalyptic"?

You'll draw your own conclusion since I don't think the issue can be fully resolved. I'm of the opinion that it doesn't really matter in the end. This much we can say for sure: One can go through the Bible and without much difficulty gather together the sections of scripture which remind him of the book of Revelation. These sections sound like one another. They strike the same chord in our mind — they are in a class of their own. This may be because they not only sound alike, but they have the same general import.

Apocalyptic speech is lurid in its colors and very often violent in its tone. It strikes the imagination and grabs hold of the mind. Who, having read of it, can forget the seven-headed sea beast or the scarlet prostitute on its back? Whose mind does not boggle over the falling of the stars and the rolling up of the heavens? Apocalyptic speech is vivid and easily remembered. It appeals to our imagination. It is the language of conflict and victory. It is the language used when God smites the oppressor and vindicates his people. It is the language of crisis if not of persecution.

It is the extension of the Biblically familiar. See examples of it in Isaiah 13,34; Micah 1:2ff; Zephaniah 1:2ff; Jeremiah 4:11-26. In these we read of God's attack on the world of the ungodly. A repetition of past historical events.

The earth (of the ungodly) becoming once more "without form and void;" the heavens (of the ungodly) once more coming under attack as they did in the days of Pharaoh; another Sodom and Gomorrah judgement comes on Edom; and the earth's high places tremble again at God's presence as they did at Sinai.

This is certain, though an apocalyptic book may have material in it which is to be understood literally, we must reverse the usual rule of interpretation when approaching it. Here is the usual approach to a book: Understand it literally unless forced to do otherwise. In approaching an apocalyptic book the rule is: Understand it figuratively unless there is good reason to do otherwise.

**A Concise Study of Revelation**

By Weldon E. Warnock

*The Preface*

19

The number seven occurs 54 times in Revelation. There are seven Spirits (1:4), seven candlesticks (1:13), seven stars (1:16), seven seals (5:1), seven horns and seven eyes (5:6), seven thunders (10:3), seven angels (15:6), and seven vials of wrath (15:7). Barclay said that the "ancient peoples regarded the number seven as the perfect number, and it runs all through Revelation."<sup>3</sup> In fact, there are a series of numbers in Revelation that are symbolic in meaning with definite concepts. The number two indicates strength, courage and energy. The number three represents divinity. The number four symbolizes the world where we live. The symbol for human completeness is ten. The number twelve among the Hebrews was the symbol of organized religion in the world. "This number was reduplicated to 144,000 when the writer of our pocalypse wanted to picture the security of a perfect number."<sup>4</sup> The number one thousand stood for ultimate completeness and perfection. Seven, cut in half, is three and one-half. This signified incompleteness or imperfection. The expressions a time, times, and a half time, forty-two months and a thousand two hundred and threescore days all mean the same thing. The number six was a bad omen—just like thirteen is thought to be by many today. We will discuss this farther when we come to Six hundred and sixty and six in 13:18. So, in view of the foregoing, the seven churches could well symbolize the whole.

**"Seven" in Revelation**

by Arthur M. Ogden

1. Churches — 1:4, 11:20
2. Spirits — 1:4, 3:1, 5:6
3. Golden candlesticks — 1:12, 13:20, 2:1
4. Stars — 1:16, 20; 2:1, 3:1
5. Lamps — 4:5
6. Seals — 5:1, 5
7. Horns — 5:6
8. Eyes — 5:6
9. Angels — 8:2, 6; 15:1, 6, 7, 8; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9
10. Trumpets — 8:2, 6
11. Thunders — 10:3, 4
12. Heads — 12:3, 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9
13. Crowns — 12:3
14. Plagues — 15:1, 6, 8; 21:9
15. Golden Vials — 15:7; 17:1; 21:9
16. Mountains — 17:9
17. Kings — 17:10, 11
18. Thousands (some might not count this) — 11:13

**SYMBOLS OF NUMBERS ?**

- 7 = Perfect number symbolizing completeness (50...x)  
churches, Spirits, lamp stands, stars, seals,  
trumpets, plagues, bowls, etc...
- 10 = Full number, represents the whole...  
days, horns, crowns, etc...
- 70 = 7 (perfect) X 10 (fullness) Sacred number to Jews
- 6 = one short of perfect 7 and failed.... (# of a man)  
A bad omen... (like our 13)  
Defeat, doom, failed to measure up.... (666)
- 12 = Patriarchs = 12 Tribes in O.T.;  
12 Apostles (thrones Mt. 19:28-30)
- 24 elders/24 thrones used 12 x in Rev. (leadership)  
24 courses of Priests - 1Chr. 23-27?  
(O. T. Priests offering praise & worship to God ?)
- 4 = The world we live in = Beasts, angels, winds, horns,  
Corners of the earth...etc....

see "Worthy is the Lamb" by Ray Summers, p. 21-25  
"A Concise Study of Rev." by Weldon E. Warnock, p. 19

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**6 = one short of perfect 7 and failed.... (# of a man )  
A bad omen... (like our 13)  
Defeat, doom, failed to measure up.... (666)**

**12 = Patriarchs = 12 Tribes in O.T.;  
12 Apostles (thrones Mt. 19:28-30)**

**24 elders/24 thrones used 12 x in Rev. (leadership)  
24 courses of Priests - 1Chr. 23-27 ?  
(O. T. Priests offering praise & worship to God ? )**

**4 = The world we live in = Beasts, angels, winds, horns,  
Corners of the earth...etc....**

see "Worthy is the Lamb" by Ray Summers, p. 21-25  
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3. The Bible is its own best interpreter. "Wherever we are able to correlate passages in this book with plain statements found elsewhere in the Bible, we have to understand them in this light. This has always been the best course to follow." ALL scripture must harmonize with all others. Our interpretation must not contradict other passages of scripture. Similar words, phrases, language found in Revelation and other parts of the Bible must be compared for possible meaning and understanding.

**Robert Milligan**, "But as the original scriptures are wholly from God, and of course perfectly consistent with all their parts, it follows as a second fundamental law and principle of interpretation, that every part of the Sacred word should be interpreted in harmony with every other part; and that the Bible should in all cases be made its own chief interpreter...." (let the Bible interpret the Bible, rv)

The Bible is **not** self-contradictory. The book of Revelation carries on with the general theme of the rest of the Bible. To affirm something else appears on the pages of this book that is denied elsewhere, is to array God against Himself. For this reason, we shall reject any view of Revelation that is out of harmony with principles of truth that are stated elsewhere.

4. We must proceed from the known to the unknown or more difficult parts. In regular Bible study we are taught to master the "basics" then proceed to the more difficult... Should we not also proceed on this basis in studying Rev. ?? There are similar words, phrases & contexts in other parts of the Bible that we do know what they mean ... (Matt. 24; Dan. 7, 9) These will help us understand what the signs in Revelation could be indicating, or identifying !! Several places in Rev. tells us what the symbols represent.... A few are:
- Rev. 1:20 - 7 stars = angels of the 7 churches
  - 1:20 - 7 lampstands = the 7 churches
  - 12:1 - Red dragon = Satan v. 9
  - 12:3; 13:1; 17:3 - 7 heads, 10 horns = 7 Kings, 10 Kings
  - 11:8 - Sodom & Egypt = great city where our Lord was crucified ??
- We shall interpret the unknown, or the more difficult "signs" in harmony with these "known" signs, and contexts.

### THE PURPOSE OF WRITING TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

1. Revelation was written primarily about events that were to "shortly" take place, viz. in the immediate future. (not everything written was to be fulfilled)

Intro. to book of Revelation, by Ray Vaughn  
immediately, but mostly ! Rev. 20 = Great white throne judgment; Satan,  
beast, false prophet into the lake of fire; the second death, etc...)

“SHORTLY” has time reference. (NOT 400 yrs. or 2,000 yrs & beyond)

Rev. 1:1 “things which must shortly take place”

1:3 “for the time is near”

22:6 “things which must shortly take place”

:7 “Behold I am coming quickly”

:20 “He who testifies to these things says, ‘surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus” (see 1:7)

Christ’s coming quickly cannot refer to “the second coming” but by various means to carry out what He said He would do (Matt. 24; Dan. 9, etc...)

How else would John express himself if he wanted his readers to be on the alert and WATCH for things to happen in the VERY NEAR future that would affect them ?? These things were written to seven historical churches then in existence and calls them by name and location. They were to read, hear, and keep things written in this book. Rev. 1:3

2. Revelation was written to comfort God’s people who are going to have **Great Tribulation** and encourage them to keep the faith, even unto death (2:10; 12:5). The “Great Tribulation” is a central part of these events. The Great Tribulation refers to only one Event. (Mt. 24:15-21; Mk. 13:14-23; Lk. 21:20-24) There are no other “great Tribulations” mentioned in the Bible.

**Rev. 7:14; Matt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1 (4, 7, 11)**

- (1) Unlike anything before or ever shall be in Jerusalem. (since they became a nation)
- (2) John writing to the 7 churches in Asia. Rev. 2:9-10, 12.  
He himself was “in tribulation” as he wrote. 1:9
- (3) Threatened with death, no food, etc... if they would not worship the “Beast” Rev. 13:15-17 (emperor worship)
- (4) Peter wrote to some of the same brethren (Asia, 1Pet. 1:1; 2Pet. 3:1)  
1Pet. 1:6-7; 3:14-16; 4:7-19; 5:6-11
- (5) They were to have hope. Their persecutors will be dealt with in due time. They can and will overcome with the power of the Lamb of God because He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords ! He rules the nations with a rod of iron (2:27; 12:5; 19:15; Psa. 2:8-9)

**“SHORTLY”** has time reference. (NOT 400 yrs. or 2,000 yrs & beyond) p. 6

Question? When was the City of Rome destroyed? When did the Roman Empire collapse ?

Rev. 1:1 “things which must shortly take place”

1:3 “for the time is near”

1:19 lit. interliner, “...things which are about to occur...”

22:6 “things which must shortly take place”

7 “Behold I am coming quickly”

20 “He who testifies to these things says, ‘surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus” (see 1:7)

... later

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How else would John express himself if he wanted his readers to be on the alert and WATCH for things to happen in the VERY NEAR future that would affect them ?? These things were written to seven historical churches then in existence and calls them by name and location. They were to read, hear, and keep things written in this book. Rev. 1:3

**NOTE: The righteous will be delivered**

Matt. 24:16; Dan. 12:1; see Rev. 12:6; 18:4

Rev. 6:12-17 (mnts./ rocks fall on us)

cf. Lk. 23:26-31 (recorded after Lk. 21 = destruction of Jer.)

27:24-28, vs 32

3. John would be writing about "things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." Rev. 1:19  
John was told, "come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Rev. 4:1

**DIFFERENT WAYS OF DIVIDING REVELATION INTO SECTIONS**

**A Brief Preview of the Book of Revelation**

(by Arthur Ogden's outlines in his commentary on Rev.)

TRANSP ←

1. Prologue: Chapter 1:1-18
2. Vision of Jesus, the Revelator: chapter 1:1, 9-20; (22:16)
3. Letters to the Seven Churches in Asia: chapters 2-3
4. Visions in Heaven: Throne of God and the Son: chapters 4-5
5. The Seven Seals: chapters 6-7
6. The Seven Trumpets: chapters 8-11
7. The "Holy City" and the Two Prophets, chapter 11
8. The Dragon: chapter 12
9. The Beast and his authority: chapter 13
10. The Preservation of the faithful: chapter 14
11. The Seven Angels and the Seven Bowls: chapters 15-16
12. The Great Harlot, Babylon: chapters 17-18
13. The Victory of the Lord and His Faithful: chapters 19-20
14. The Vision of the Heavenly Jerusalem: chapters 21-22:5
15. Conclusions and Final Warnings: chapter 22:6-21 see p. 7-A

The following pages are an introduction to, and an outlined form of the conversation Jesus had with some of His Apostles concerning the destruction of Jerusalem as recorded in Matthew 24; Luke 21; Mark 13..... It is my contention that the whole of this information is completely about the destruction of Jerusalem, the signs given when Jesus would come through the mighty Roman army to destroy Jerusalem and the temple. It has nothing to do with the Second Coming of Christ, even though we might find some similar language to describe both. See Matt. 24:34  
Please read & study this carefully. (Matt. 24 is sort of a preview of Revelation)

## **A Brief Preview of the Book of Revelation**

- 1. Prologue: chapter 1:1-8**
- 2. Vision of Jesus, the Revelator: chap.: 1:1, 9-20; (22:16)**
- 3. Letters to the Seven Churches in Asia: chapters 2-3**
- 4. Visions in Heaven: Throne of God and the Son: ch. 4-5**
- 5. The Seven Seals: chapters 6-7**
- 6. The Seven Trumpets: chap. 8-11**
- 7. The "Holy City" and the Two Prophets: chapter 11**
- 8. The Dragon: chapter 12**
- 9. The Beast and his Authority: chapter 13**
- 10. The Preservation of the Faithful: chapter 14**
- 11. The Seven Angels & the Seven Bowls: chapters 15-16**
- 12. The Great Harlot, Babylon: chapters 17-18**
- 13. The Victory of the Lord and His Faithful: chap. 19-20**
- 14. The Vision of the Heavenly Jerusalem: chap. 21-22:5**
- 15. Conclusions and Final Warnings: chapter 22:6-21**

**CHART p. 11 (Arthur Ogden's outlines in his com. on Rev.)**

## INTRO:

p. 8

1. Read Matthew 24
2. False theories
  - a. Armstrong, JW's, Modernists, Denominationalist
  - b. Abused, misused, outright perversion (false teaching)
3. Different Views on Matt. 24
  - a. Most popular = Two Subjects
    - (1) 1-35 Destruction of Jerusalem
    - (2) 36-44 Second coming of Jesus
  - b. Second most popular
    - (1) 29-30 Could NOT ref. to dest. of Jerusalem !!
    - (2) 1-28 Destruction of Jerusalem
    - (3) 29-51 Second coming of Jesus
  - c. Third = switch back & forth, depends on the language
4. My position: ALL = destruction of Jerusalem = ONE subject....  
The end of O. T. Judaism, priesthood, the law, etc....

## I. BACKGROUND OF MATTHEW 24

1. Took place shortly before the crucifixion of Jesus
2. Chapter 23 to Jewish leaders
  - 23:13, 15, 23, 27, 29-39 38 "house left desolate"
3. Jesus/Apostles outside the temple & have a conversation
4. Matt. 24 Records Jesus statement,  
Apostles question, Jesus Answer

## II. THE APOSTLES QUESTIONS

1. cf. Mt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21 see Transp. Chart on these
2. NOT about the second coming
  - a. What did the apostles know about "second coming" ??
  - b. Slow to bel. in Jesus death/resurrection
    - Mt. 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:51-ff
    - cf. Lk. 24:13, 17, 18-ff, v. 25-27, 33, 44-45
    - Mk. 16:14; Acts 1:6 John 14:4-5

## III. APOCALYPTIC SPEECH, OR LANGUAGE (signs & symbols)

1. Quote McGuigan, Rev. p. 14 see CHART
2. Examples of this kind of language
  - a. Ezek 32:1-16 — Egypt
  - b. Isa. 13-14 — Babylon
    - Isa. 13:9-10, 13:1-22; 14:1-17, 22-23
    - Vs. 12-17 — cf. Dan. 4:28-37
  - c. Joel about Israel 1:1-7; 13-20; 2:1-11
  - d. Isa 34 = Nations (4-8)
  - e. Jesus — Jerusalem Mt. 24
  - f. John — 7 churches in Asia Rev. 1-22

## IV. NATIONAL PUNISHMENT OF ISRAEL

Mt. 3:7-12; Lk. 13:1-9; Mt. 23: 29-39 Mt. 21:33-46  
Heb. 12:22-28 Heb. 8:13 see Lk. 11:37-52

Jerusalem destroyed....people killed... WARNING !!

The Righteous could escape....WATCH for the "sign"

**SUN, MOON, STARS**  
by Ray Vaughn

**Matt. 24:29-30**

1. Joel 2:10-11 (2:1-2) Joel 2:31 (AD 70) Joel 3:15-16

**COMPARE:** Gen. 37:9-10; Isa. 13:1, 4, 6, 9-10, 13, 17, 19  
Ezek. 32:7-8; Rev. 12:1-ff

2. Symbolism: **SUN** = The religious LIGHT of a nation

**MOON** = The earthly Government of the Jews

**STARS** = The judges, leaders, priests, scribes,  
elders, etc..

a. Moon to blood: Joel 2:31; Rev. 6:12-17

b. Description of the day of Jehovah: Joel 2:30-31;  
Matt. 24:29-30, 34; Mk. 13:24-25; Lk. 21:24-25

c. The Judgment as a harvest: Joel 3:13; Mt. 13:39; Rev. 14:17

d. Treading the winepress as a symbol of judgment  
Joel 3:13; Rev. 14:19-20; 19:15; Isa. 63:2-3

e. The Locust of Joel 2:1-11 > figure used in Rev. 9:3-11

= CATASROPHIC EVENTS HAPPENING

## "COMING ON THE CLOUDS"

1. **Appears three times in the New Testament**
  - a. **Mt. 24:30 (Mk. & Lk.) Jesus to the disciples concerning the destruction of Jerusalem!**
  - b. **Mt. 26:64 Jesus to Caiaphas:**
  - c. **Rev. 1:7 John to 7 chs. in Asia**

30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

**Note:** Many passages in N. T. speak of the Lord's "coming", but only these three speak of HIM "coming on the clouds". *This is significant!* (cf. Rev. 14:14-16)

2. **Jesus is sitting on the right hand of God and coming in a figurative since to carry out what He said He would do ! He said He would destroy Jerusalem (Mt. 24).**
  - a. **Just like Isa. 19:1-ff says, "the Lord rides on a swift cloud" in reference to His judgment against Egypt carried out by another nation. cf. Isa. 10:5-12**

### 3. John tells the 7 churches:

1:1, "things which must shortly take place"

1:3, "the time is near"

22:6, "must shortly take place"

22:7, "Behold, I am coming quickly"

:10, "Do not seal the words of the prophesy of this book, for the time is at hand"

:20, "...Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus!" (soon or 400 yrs. Later?)

**Did every eye see him? Did those who pierced Him see Him? Did the tribes (12) mourn because of Him? Did they see the great power of God executed by KING Jesus through the Roman armies as they destroyed Jerusalem/temple? (Mk. 13:29) Or, did they see these things happen WHEN the Roman Empire fell some 400 years later?**

**JSA.**

**19** The "burden" against Egypt.

Behold, the Lord rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, and the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.

- 2 "I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; Everyone will fight against his brother, And everyone against his neighbor, City against city, kingdom against kingdom.
- 3 The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, And they will consult the idols and the charmers, The mediums and the sorcerers.
- 4 And the Egyptians I will give into the hand of a cruel master, And a fierce king will rule over them." Says the Lord, the Lord of hosts.



**MATTHEW 24:30 IS PERFECTLY PARALLEL TO REVELATION 1:7 AS PER CHART:**

Taken from Larry Haverstock's Notes on Rev.

<b>MATTHEW 24:30</b>	<b>REVELATION 1:7</b>
SON OF MAN	SON OF MAN (1:13, 17f)
COMING ON CLOUDS	COMING WITH CLOUDS
TRIBES OF THE EARTH MOURN (EARTH = LAND; JOHN 3:22, MT. 4:15)	TRIBES OF THE EARTH MOURN (EARTH = LAND; JOHN 3:22, MT. 4:15)
THEY WILL SEE HIM	EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM, EVEN THOSE WHO PIERCED HIM
("THEY" IN CONTEXT = TRIBES)	
THIS GENERATION (MT. 24:34)	SHORTLY & NEAR (REV. 1:1, 3)

Matt. 24:30

Rev. 1:7

30 <sup>a</sup>“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, <sup>b</sup>and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

7 Behold, He is coming with <sup>a</sup>clouds, and every eye will see Him, and <sup>b</sup>they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

**MAT. 26:**

This judgment is the kind often spoken of in the O. T. where God was pictured coming upon clouds.

cf. Isa. 19:1; Jer. 4:5, 8, 13-14; Joel 2:1-2; Zeph. 1:14-15;  
Ezek. 30:1-4, 18 (29:19; 30:10) 34:11-13

see Mt. 26:64 & Psa. 104:3

<sup>57</sup> And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were as-

<sup>62</sup> And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it that these men testify against You?"  
<sup>63</sup> But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God that You tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God."  
<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."  
<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!"  
<sup>66</sup> "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

**THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM/TEMPLE FORETOLD (p. 1) p. 9**

By Ray Vaughn

This is a conversation that took place between Jesus and His apostles not long before the Lord was crucified. We will compare the accounts of Jesus foretelling of the destruction of Jerusalem/Temple in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. I believe the accounts are only about what was going to happen in and around Jerusalem, (perhaps including the regions of Palestine) and NOT about the "second coming of Jesus" as we know it.

Matthew 24:1-51

Luke 21:5-36

Mark 13:1-37

**I. THE LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES VIEWING THE TEMPLE TOGETHER**

1. The Lord's statement:

Mt. 24:1-2	Mk. 13:1-2	Lk. 21:5-6
Shall not be left here one stone upon another	Not be left one stone upon another	Not be left one stone upon another

2. Question asked by the disciples (based upon the Lord's statement)

Mt. 24:3	Mk. 13:4	Lk. 21:7
a. When shall these things be?	When shall these things be ?	When shall these things be?
b. What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?	What shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?	What sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

Note: "end" = completion or consummation, Thayer  
"completion of the age" = Nestle Text

"World" = compare Mt. 12:32; 28:20; Lk. 18:30; Heb. 6:5;  
Heb. 9:26; Eph. 1:21; 1Cor. 2:7, etc... "age"

SEE  
p. 12-A

THY COMING ... THESE THINGS ... SIGNS OF FULFILLMENT

NOTE: If the disciples were also inquiring about the Lord's "second coming" how & when did they get this insight & understanding when they did not know he was leaving in the first place? In. 14:4-5

3. Time limit for fulfillment (*Then the end shall come*)

- Gospel shall be preached in all the world.  
Mt. 24:14; Mk. 13:10; (Col. 1:23; Rom. 10:16-18 A.D. 64 ??)
- When **THEY** see Daniel's **abomination of desolation standing in the holy place**. = Luke 21:20-24... Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem.
- When physical flight will save your life Mt. 24:16-22
- When false prophets abound. Mt. 24:23-28 ( see Josephus Wars 6:5:2)
- THIS generation SHALL NOT pass till ALL BE FULFILLED !**  
Mt. 24:34; Mk. 13:10; Lk. 21:32 (see p. 13 = "generation")

## II. SIGNS LEADING UP TO THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL THESE THINGS

1. False Christs - Mt. 24:5; Mk 13:6; Lk 21:8 (2Cor.11:13; 2Pet. 2:1; 1Jn. 4:1)
2. Wars and rumors of wars - Mt. 24:6; Mk 13:7-8; Lk 21:9-10
3. Great and natural disturbances - Mt. 24:7-8; Mk 13:8; Lk 21:12  
THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS - Mt. 21:8; Mk 13:8
4. Outbreak of persecutions - Mt. 24:9; Mk 13:9; Lk 21:12  
Hatred, betrayed, delivered up, put to death, etc...  
(see Lk 21:12 - "before all these.... # 1, 2, 3 above)
5. Gospel is first preached (before the end)...then the end comes!
  - a. End of what? (Jewish Temple, priesthood, religion of O. T. etc...  
Mt. 24:14; (compare Lk 21:9 "not immediately")  
Mt. 24:8 beginning of sorrows, beginning of the end...
  - f. When Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, many Jews killed, others scattered.... Since that time = no Jewish nation, religion, priesthood as per the Law of Moses (see Heb. 8:13)

## III. ABOMINATION WHICH MAKES DESOLATE.

Mt. 24:15; Mk 13:14; Lk 21:20 (Daniel 9:23-27 )

1. Jerusalem compassed with Gentile armies Lk 21:20, 24
2. Those in Judea flee to the Mtns. Mt. 24:16; Mk 13:14; Lk 21:21
3. The haste and difficulty of the flight  
Mt. 24:17-20; Mk 13:14-18; Lk 21:21-23; (19:41-44)
4. Great affliction and calamities Mt. 24:21-22; Mk 13:19-20; Lk 21:24-26

## IV. THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN.

1. Mt. 24:30 "Then shall appear the SIGN of the Son of man in heaven....  
they....see Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with  
power and great glory."
2. Mark 13:26 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds  
with power and great glory."
3. Luke 21:27 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with  
power and great glory."  
(v. 31 - Kingdom of God in nigh. - Thayer, "Royal power and dignity  
belonging to God.... Rev. 12:10...")  
Also see Mt. 24:33; Mk 13:29
4. WHO shall see Him come in the clouds ?? THEY (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7)
  - a. Read Mt. 24:29, "powers of heaven"  
Mk. 13:24-25, "powers that are in heaven"  
Lk 21:26, "powers of heaven"
  - b. Powers of heaven = Rulers (see Isa. 13:9-10; Rev. 12:1; Gen. 37:9-10)  
The Sun - the religious light of the nation  
Moon - the earthly govt. of the Jews  
Stars - the judges, leaders, priests, rabbis, scribes, elders

Powers of heaven = Jewish church or religious commonwealth

Compare the fall of Egypt Ezek. 32:7-8

Fall of Babylon, Isa 13 - 14 chap.

Consider Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-21

5. The Lord will come with retribution through the Romans - Mt. 24:27

a. Mt. 24:28 Carcass = Jewish govt., nation = DEAD

b. Eagles = The Roman army devouring the Jewish nation

Compare Isa. 13:4-9, 13, 17, 19; Dan. 8:10

**READ Isa. 10:5-12-ff**

**THIS GENERATION WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY TILL ALL THESE THINGS ARE FULFILLED. Mt. 24:34; Mk. 13:30; Lk. 21:32**

ALL = that is said BEFORE these verses !!

**V. BE WATCHFUL - DAY IS COMING - MY WORD WILL NOT FAIL**

Matt. 24

Mark 13

Luke 21

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 27. Coming of the Son of man                                      | 26. See Son of man coming in the clouds | 27. Son of man coming in the clouds |
| 30. Appear the sign of the Son of man... see coming in the clouds | (28-29 Fig tree= signs)                 | (29-31 fig tree)                    |

**WILL BE FULFILLED IN THIS GENERATION**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 34  | 30   | 32   |
| 35. My word will not fail   | 31 My word not fail  | 33 My word not fail  |
| 36. No man knows the day or the hour                                      | 32-33 Know not the day, hour, time   |  |
| 37-41 Coming of Son of man be like days of Noah (life as usual, unawares) | 34 Son of man on long journey - left house & authority to servants. Every man his work Porter to WATCH | 34 Take heed to self cares of this life Worldly activities THAT DAY catch you unawares |
| 42. WATCH - know not hour your Lord is coming                             | 35 WATCH - know not when the master is coming  | 36 WATCH   |

44 Be READY – son of man  
is coming unexpectedly

Matt. 24

Mark 13

Luke 21

45-47 Faithful servant:  
Expectant, watchful  
Ready, Rewarded!  
(see vss. 13, 16 22, 31, 33, 34)

36 Counted worthy to  
escape all these  
things that shall  
come to pass & to  
stand before the  
Son of man

48-51 EVIL SERVANT  
says – Lord's coming is  
delayed; lived ungodly  
life. Mistreated other  
servants. DESTROYED

36-37 SLEEPING, not  
watching

36 Unwatchful? shall  
not escape all  
these things that  
shall come to pass

NOTE:

There are MANY “comings of Christ” in the scripture... Context, Context, Context!!

The following is taken from Com. On Rev. by Foy E. Wallace Jr., p. 39-40

1. It refers to His first advent into the world. Gen. 49:10; Matt. 2:6; Rom. 11:26
2. To His second advent. Heb. 9:28
3. To his chosen apostles in the church. John 14:3
4. To the coming of His Kingdom on Pentecost. Matt. 16:28; Mark 9:1
5. To the destruction of Jerusalem. Zech. 14:1-5; Matt. 24:30; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27
6. To the death of a Christian at the end of life. Psa 23:4; 1Cor. 1:7-8
7. To the end of time at the resurrection. 1Cor. 11:26; 1Thes. 4:15
8. To the last judgment. Matt. 25:30-31; 2Thes. 1:6-10
9. ...and to the rewards and judgments in the events of trial described in Revelation, as mentioned in the letters to the seven churches in Asia. Rev. 2:5; 2:16; 2:25; 3:3; 3:11; 3:20

**WHAT DID THE APOSTLES KNOW ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST at the time Jesus spoke to them in Matt. 24 ??** p. 12-A  
by Ray Vaughn

**Matt. 24:1-3 Sign of thy coming, \*End of the world ???**

**When did the sacrifice of Christ happen ?**

**Heb. 9:26 = "...now once at the end of the ages,... NKJV**

**1Cor. 10:11 = ".....were written for our admonition, upon whom the end of the ages have come." NKJV**

**PASSAGES CHRONOLIGICALLY BEFORE Matt. 24**

**Matt. 16:21-23; 20:20-23; Luke 18:31-34**

**PASSAGES CHRONOLIGICALLY AFTER MATT. 24**

**John 14:1-4, 5; 16:16-18; 20:9, 25; (Lk. 24:21, 25-27)**

**Apostles knew nothing about the second coming of Christ. They did not even understand His resurrection. Therefore, their questions in Matt. 24:3 was NOT about the second coming, but when would these things come to pass and what signs would accompany these things !! (not one stone left upon another)**

**Compare their questions in Matt. 24:3 to Mk. 13:4; Luke 21:7**

**\* END of the WORLD :**

**(completion of the age of Judaism as per Law of Moses)**

**End = "completion, consummation" ( Thayer's Greek Lex.)  
"completion of the age" Nestle Greek text;**

**World = compare Matt. 12:32; 28:20; Lk. 18:30; Heb. 6:5  
Heb. 9:26; Eph. 1:21; 1Cor. 2:7, etc = "AGE".**

"If Thou Hadst Known" by Stanley W. Paher, p. 102,103

Jesus had in mind only His generation because He used the very same phrase earlier in the day to pronounce woes on the Pharisees, concluding with, "Verily, I say unto you, *all these things* shall come upon this generation (Mt. 23:36). Considering the repetition of the key phrase and the context, the only defensible conclusion is that the disciples would witness the fulfillment of His prophetic word, culminating with the fall of Jerusalem and the dismantling of the temple.

This generation of Jews in Jesus' time is thoroughly described by Matthew. It was faithless and perverse (17:17), unrepentant, evil and sign-seeking (16:4), ill-tempered and capricious (11:16-19), wicked and very adulterous (16:4), evil-speaking, inhumane (23:4, 14), tradition-steeped (15:9), and sinful. It was destined for condemnation (12:42), for it had rejected the Christ (Lk. 17:25). It was worse than previous generations (12:45). In fact, Jesus promised to heap upon it the blood of prophets from Abel to Zechariah (23:35).

The hypocritical Pharisees of that generation had shut up the kingdom of God against others (Mt. 23:13); and the lawyers had taken away the key of knowledge (Lk. 11:52). It was the generation that Peter admonished others to save themselves from (Act 2:40), because the nation's disaster course would be realized in 70 A.D.

That the generation of verse 34 is Christ's is also borne out by scholarship. The Greek word is *genea*, meaning "age or progeny. . . It does not denote a period of unlimited duration." Vine says that *genea* means "a whole multitude of men (a progeny) living at the same time, especially those of the Jewish race."

All these things shall come upon this generation. The time reference is unmistakable. Mt. 24:34

"Generation" in Thayer's Lexicon = "The whole multitude of men living at the same time."

"Generation" is defined by the Bible in Matthew 1:1-17.

"Generation" is the same word used in Luke 11:49-51 and Matthew 24:34.

"Generation" never means "Jews" or "race" as some suggest in an effort to deny this verse.

**STUDY IN BOOK OF REVELATION**  
Chapter 1

p. 14

1. The Book of Revelation was written by: (a) John the Baptist; (b) Apostle John; (c) Some other John; (d) John Mark.
2. The word "revelation" means: (a) to cover or conceal; (b) to prophesy; (c) to draw back the veil; (d) to inspire.
3. Things in the book of Revelation are to be: (a) feared; (b) postponed in understanding until we personally see some signs; (c) read and understood; (d) concealed.
4. Jesus was to show his servants some things that: (a) would happen in the dark ages; (b) would come to pass in the very near future; (c) take place throughout all of time; (d) be fulfilled during a millennium on earth.
5. Another man who used the expression "the time is at hand" was: (a) Elijah; (b) John the Baptist; (c) Paul; (d) James.
6. The major events described in Revelation would take place: (a) in every generation; (b) shortly; (c) in the distant future; (d) at the second coming of Christ.
7. The signs or symbols in the Bible are to be interpreted: (a) according to each person's individual experience; (b) according to history; (c) literally; (d) in harmony with the Biblical event they refer to.
8. The sign or symbol refers: (a) to a likeness of events; (b) to the original event again; (c) to something too vague to understand; (d) to an event to be seen exactly as represented by the symbol.  
**ILLUS.** When Peter saw the vision (Acts 10) and afterward the three men from Cornelius he: (a) knew it was alright to eat pork; (b) realized God was accepting the Gentiles; (c) didn't really know what to do; (d) refused to draw a conclusion.
9. The meaning we attach to the signs found in the book of Revelation should be: (a) imaginative; (b) consistent with what we believe the book teaches; (c) consistent with circumstances surrounding the O. T. usage of the term; (d) speculative



10. In the book of Revelation we are interested in knowing what symbols meant to:  
(a) my preacher; (b) denominationalist; (c) Gentile Christians; (d) Jews who were Christians in the first century.
11. John wrote down things that; (a) he had read about the future; (b) he saw; (c) were happening at that time; (d) he couldn't understand.
12. John affirms that he was a companion in patience and: (a) salvation; (b) tribulation; (c) kingdom; (d) confusion.
13. John says he was in Patmos (locate on map) for: (a) vacation; (b) banishment by Caesar; (c) the word of God; (d) preaching the gospel.
14. The Lord's Day refers to: (a) Sunday; (b) second coming of Christ; (c) a day of judgment; (d) Sabbath.
15. The number seven has a special implication or connotation to the Jews. It meant (a) servitude; (b) mysticism; (c) completeness; (d) the day of judgment.
16. Perhaps the seven churches were named because they: (a) were better than all other churches; (b) were the only churches close enough to write to; (c) were representative of churches as to what they should and should not be; (d) had more prominence in their day.
17. Christ coming on the clouds refers to: (a) the second coming of Christ; (b) the last day of judgment; (c) coming judgment on Jerusalem; (d) to start the rapture.

NOTE: Every eye will see Him !

(a) Even they who \_\_\_\_\_ Him

(b) All the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth will \_\_\_\_\_ because of Him.

18. The seven golden candle sticks are taken from a reference to: (a) the O. T. Tabernacle; (b) the streets of gold in the new Jerusalem; (c) the seven churches; (d) seven plagues.
19. The imagery of the Son of Man is a composite from (a) Ezekiel; (b) Hosea; (c) Hezekiah; (d) Daniel

Study in book of revelation, chapter 1 continued....

20. The sharp two-edged sword is a reference to: (a) the word of God; (b) the Holy Spirit; (c) a coming disaster; (d) an instrument for self-protection.
21. The seven stars have reference to: (a) the seven churches; (b) the seven outstanding Bishops of Asia; (c) the messengers of the churches; (d) seven virtues of the churches.
22. The term "first and the last" refers to Jesus Christ as: (a) having a beginning and an end; (b) being resurrected; (c) seen from an earthly viewpoint; (d) an eternal being.
23. What John saw he was commanded to: (a) seal up in a book; (b) act upon it immediately; (c) reserve for future generations; (d) write in a book.
24. When a passage in Revelation is difficult to correlate with the rest of the Bible, we are: (a) free to speculate; (b) to make sure our belief harmonizes with God's truth elsewhere; (c) to forget trying to understand Revelation; (d) to press our opinion.

**EPHESUS**

2:1-7

Jesus (figure)

Praise:

Rebuke

Warning

Overcome:

**SMYRNA**

2:8-11

Jesus (figure)

Praise:

Warning:

Overcome:

**PERGAMUM**

2:12-17

Jesus (figure)

Praise:

Rebuke:

Warning:

Overcome:

**THYATIRA**

2:18-29

Jesus (figure)

Praise:

Rebuke:

Warning:

Overcome:

**SARDIS**

3:1-6

Jesus (figure)

Praise??

Rebuke:

Warning:

Overcome:

**PHILADELPHIA**

3:7-13

Jesus (figure)

Praise:

Rebuke??

Warning:

Overcome:

**LAODICEA**

3:14-22

Jesus (figure)

Praise??

Rebuke:

Warning:

Overcome:

## STUDY IN BOOK OF REVELATION

p. 19

### Chapter 4

Chap. 4 begins a new vision John saw in the revelation of Jesus Christ. He saw an open door in heaven and heard the voice of the first vision saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

(Chapter 4 is an Old Testament throne scene of God the Father on the throne.)

1-4. 1. As John looked through that open door in heaven, what was the first thing he saw?

2. Was this throne occupied? How does he describe the occupant?

Can you picture this ?

3. What did John see around the throne? Who sat on them?  
How were they arrayed?  
What was on their heads?

4. What kind of sights and sounds came from the center of the throne?

5. What did John see burning before the throne ?  
Representing what?

v.6 6. What kind "sea" did John see before the throne?

7. How many "living creatures" were "in the midst...and around the throne" ?

v.7 8. What were the four living creatures "like" or compared to?

v.8 9. How many wings did each creature have? Eyes?

10. What are they saying day and night?

v.9-11 11. What do the 24 elders do when they hear the praise from the 4 living creatures?

12. Where is Jesus in this chapter ?

**STUDY IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**  
( Chapter 5 )

p. 20

As God the Father is the preeminent one in chap. 4, so Christ becomes the focus in chap.5  
(Ogden calls this chapter "The N. T. Throne Scene")

- 1-3
1. What did John see in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne?
  2. Was it full of writing?                      Open or closed?
  3. What reasons for sealing a scroll?                      How many seals? Significance?  
(cf. Ezek. 2:9, 10)
  4. It's contents remained \_\_\_\_\_ until the seals were broken.  
( see 1Cor. 2:7-9; Eph. 1:4- ff; 3:1-5)
  5. What did the strong angel proclaim with a loud voice?  
What man could answer the challenge?                      Why?
- 4-5
6. What did John do when he saw that no one was able to take the scroll and open it?  
What did one of the elders tell John?
  7. Who was "the lion of the tribe of Judah"? (see Gen. 49:9ff; Heb. 7:14)  
Why was He also called "the root of David"? (see Isa. 11:1, 10)
  8. How did He "overcome" or "prevail" so as to be able to take the scroll & open it and its 7 seals ?
- 6-7
9. When John looked to see the "lion", what did He see instead?
  10. What is said about the lamb John saw?
  11. What did the lamb do?
- 8-10
12. When the lamb took the scroll, what did the 4 living Creatures & the 24 elders do?
  13. What did each elder hold?  
Were these O. T. Worshippers?                      Priests?                      Singers?
  14. What were the golden bowls full of incense?  
Are these bowls literal?                      Are the harps literal?

15. What did they sing? (see Isa. 42:1, 10)  
Was this a song with new meaning?

11-14 16. Who are the thousands in v. 11?  
What are they doing?

17. Who did John hear in v. 13?

18. The four living creatures said \_\_\_\_\_!  
What did the 24 elders do?  
Who is worshipped in v. 14?

# **The Structure of the text of Revelation chapters 6-11** Page 22

(by Ray Vaughn, Prescott, Az.)

Seven Seals to be opened. At end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, Jerusalem destroyed and the "Mystery of God" will be finished. ALL of this is

**DIRECTED from the Throne of God by the Lamb**

**Chap. 6: Opening the first SIX Seals: 6: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12**

**Chapter 7: FIRST INTERLUDE** (Web. "... interruptive period, space or event....")

**Chapters 8:1-11:19 Opening of the SEVENTH SEAL**

**8:1 - Opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal (chap. 8-11)**

**:2 - SEVEN ANGELS WITH SEVEN TRUMPETS**

**8:6 Preparing to Sound**

**8:7 1<sup>st</sup> Angel Sounded**

**8:8 2<sup>nd</sup> Angel Sounded**

**8:10 3<sup>rd</sup> Angel Sounded**

**8:12 4<sup>th</sup> Angel Sounded**

**8:13 Three WOES to come from last 3 Trumpets**

**9:1 5<sup>th</sup> Angel Sounded (one woe)**

**9:1-12 ONE WOE is past, 2 more to come**

**9:13-21 6<sup>th</sup> Angel Sounded (second woe)**

**Chapter 10: SECOND INTERLUDE**

**11:14 2<sup>ND</sup> WOE is past**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> WOE to come quickly) see 11:8**

**11:15-19 7<sup>th</sup> Angel Sounded (3rd woe)**

**See 10:7 days of the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Angel, mystery of God will be finished, as per the Prophets.  
HAMMER DROPS, JERUSALEM DESTR'YD**



## **"The Mystery of God Finished"**

When the seventh angel sounded his trumpet... **Rev. 10:7, 6**

"...the mystery of God would be finished as He declared to His servants the prophets." **It sounded in Rev. 11:14-15**

1. **The Mystery:** Hidden wisdom... The gospel plan of salvation, Jesus and what He did for us... (also included the destruction of the City of Jerusalem and the Temple. **Eph. 1:9-11; 3:1-11; 1Cor. 2:6-13**)
2. "His servants the **prophets**" refers to O. T. prophets.  
Used exclusively in ref. to O. T. prophets 17 X (see Hailey, p. 246)  
**1Pet. 1:10-12**
3. Foretold by Daniel's "**70 weeks**" **Dan. 9:24-27**
  - v. 26 "...Messiah shall be cut off.... Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.....  
And till the end of the war **desolations** are **determined**."
  - v. 27 "...He shall bring an end to **sacrifice and offering**."  
(see also Amos 9:19-10 = Acts 15:16-17; Zech. 14:1-5, 8-ff;  
Joel 2:28-32; Mal. 3:1-3)
4. **Jesus** confirmed this in **Matt. 24:15**, "...abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet,...." = Destruction of Jerusalem
5. **Rev. 11:17-19, 8** Mystery finished = Jerusalem is destroyed
6. Several things accomplished:  
Finish transgression, end of sin, reconciliation, bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up vision and prophesy, anoint the most Holy One, sacrifices & offerings ended. **Heb. 8:13; 12:22-29**  
**Destroy the city & the sanctuary = Abomination/desolation**  
(blood was avenged on Jerusalem **Matt. 23:29-39; 21:33-45**)

**GOD KEEPS HIS WORD & ANSWERS PRAYER! Rev. 6:9-11 = 8:3-6**

## **4<sup>th</sup> Beast of Daniel 7 = Sea Beast of Revelation 13**

### **BOTH:**

**Dan. 7:3 – Came up from the sea – Rev. 13:1**

**Dan. 7:7 – Had Ten Horns (Power) – Rev. 13:1**

**Dan. 7:7-12 – Like Lion, Bear, Leopard – Rev. 13:2**

**Dan. 7:8,20 – Mouth spoke great things – Rev. 13:5,6**

**Dan. 7:20,21 – Made war with Saints – Rev. 13:7**

**Dan. 7:20,21 – Overcame the Saints – Rev. 13:7**

**Dan. 7:23-25 – For same limited time – Rev. 13:5**

### **BOTH BEASTS ARE THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

God used the Roman Empire to avenge the blood of the apostles and prophets by destroying Jerusalem and the temple and the Jewish nation.

Satan tried to use the Roman Empire to destroy the church of Christ which began in Jerusalem. He failed, because Christians had fled Jerusalem and gone to Pella across the Jordan.

A composite of:

**Leopard = swift**

**Bear = mighty & strong**

**Lion = Terrifying power of the empire**

Now, using common sense, Christ did not expect the seven churches of Asia to figure out the name of some 20th or 21st Century person! It requires "understanding" (v.18) to figure it out, and John does not give the number where it can be figured out in Greek (as the enemies might expect), but the unexpected element in the computation is - it has to be worked out in the Hebrew language. See Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr., *Before Jerusalem Fell*, pp. 192-212.

Many in the church would know Hebrew and probably grasped its meaning immediately. (The great symbolism of the book is *Hebrew in nature*).

●The numerical values of the Hebrew letters in Neron Kesar (Nero Caesar) are  
Nun: 50 + Resh: 200 + Vau: 6 + Nun: 50 + Koph: 100 + Samech: 60 + Resh: 200 = 666.

The name of NERON CAESAR may be the primary identification, but keep in mind that Nero stands for the persecuting power of Rome. (The form *Neron Kesar* is the linguistically correct Hebrew form; it is found in the Talmud and other Jewish writings and was used by Hebrews in the first century as archaeological evidence has shown).

"No name could be more conclusive and decisive than that of Nero Caesar - the ruling Emperor." Foy E. Wallace, Jr., *The Book of Revelation*, publ. 1966, p. 301. Wallace adds: "*The International Critical Commentary* on Revelation states, along with other scholars quoted, that the solution is to be found in Hebrew, not in Greek (numbers), and that Nero Caesar is the man of the number." p. 302.

The argument for the early Neroian date has solid internal proof - within the book of Revelation itself - and external historical support by recognized exegetical scholars. "In the first book of the eight volume set which is entitled *The History of the Christian Church*, Philip Schaff, the author, cited a group of twenty scholars who assign the date of Revelation to the early period during the reign of Nero." (ca. AD 64-66). Foy E. Wallace, Jr., *Commentary on Revelation*, p. 16.

*Don Givens, "Revelation Revealed" p. 56*

## Nero's Number

Of course, the necessary condition for any candidate is that his name fit the cryptogrammatic value. If any given name does not contain the value of 666 then that name must necessarily be excluded from consideration.

Interestingly several scholars of the nineteenth century—Fritzsch, Holzmann, Benary, Hitzig and Reuss—each stumbled independently upon the name Nero Caesar almost simultaneously.<sup>19</sup> We have seen that the Greek spelling of Nero's name has the value 1005. A Hebrew spelling of his name was *Nrw nqr* (pronounced: Neron Kaiser). Archaeological finds have documented that a first century Hebrew spelling of Nero's name provides us with precisely the value of 666.<sup>20</sup> Jastrow's lexicon of the Talmud contains this very spelling.<sup>21</sup> The numerical valuation is as follows:

$$\aleph = 50 \quad \varkappa = 200 \quad \aleph = 6 \quad \beth = 50 \quad \daleth = 100 \quad \beth = 60 \quad \varkappa = 200$$

which gives:

$$\aleph \beth \aleph \varkappa \beth = 666$$

A great number of biblical scholars recognize this name as "the most likely solution" to the problem.<sup>22</sup> Is it not remarkable that this most relevant emperor has a name that fits precisely the required sum? Is this sheer historical accident?

## The Textual Variant 616

If you consult a Bible with marginal references you may notice something quite remarkable about Revelation 13:18. Your reference may say something to the effect: "Some manuscripts read 616." Interestingly, the number 666 in some ancient biblical manuscripts is actually changed to 616. But why? Was it changed accidentally, or on pur-

"Before Jerusalem Fell"  
by Kenneth Gentry (p. 42, 43)

The Number of the Beast

43

The difference surely is no accident of sight made by an early copyist. The numbers 666 and 616 are not even similar in appearance in the original Greek—whether spelled out in words or written out as numerals. The letters representing the values for 60 and for 10 (which would make the difference between the two readings) are quite different in appearance. The letter used in the Textus Receptus as the value for 60 is  $\xi$  the letter for the value 10 is  $\iota$ . If these values were originally spelled out in words as in the standard critical texts,<sup>23</sup> even less similarity would exist. The value for 60 would be indicated thus: *hexakonta* ( $\epsilon\gamma\kappa\omicron\upsilon\upsilon\tau\omicron\varsigma$ ); that for 10 would read: *deka* ( $\delta\epsilon\kappa\alpha$ ). There is no way a copyist could confuse the two. As many textual scholars agree, it must be intentional.<sup>24</sup>

But *why* does this variant appear in the textual tradition? Although we cannot be absolutely certain, a strong and most reasonable conjecture arises: As shown above, John, a Jew, used a Hebrew (or Aramaic) spelling of Nero's name in order to arrive at the figure 666. But when Revelation began circulating among those less acquainted with Hebrew, a well-meaning copyist who knew the meaning of 666 might have intended to make its deciphering easier by altering it to 616. It surely is no mere coincidence that 616 is the numerical value of "Nero Caesar," when spelled in Hebrew by transliterating it from its more common Latin spelling.

This conjecture satisfactorily explains the rationale for the divergence: so that the non-Hebrew might more readily discern the identity of the Beast. Even late-date advocate Donald Guthrie, who rejects the Nero theory, grants that this variant gives the designation Nero "a distinct advantage."<sup>25</sup> As renowned Greek scholar Bruce Metzger says: "Perhaps the change was intentional, seeing that the Greek form Neron Caesar written in Hebrew characters (*nrrw nqr*) is equivalent to 666, whereas the Latin form Nero Caesar (*nrrw nqr*) is equivalent to 616."<sup>26</sup> Such a possibility offers a remarkable confirmation of the designation of Nero. As you continue reading through the chapters to follow, note how well Nero fits all the requirements of the case.

"BEFORE JERUSALEM FELL" by Kenneth Gentry p. 158

From the above considerations we are justified in viewing the kings list of Revelation 17 as indicating the line of Roman emperors as beginning with Julius Caesar. Consequently, the count of the emperors into the first century is as follows:

1. Julius Caesar (49-44 B.C.)
2. Augustus (31 B.C.-A.D. 14)
3. Tiberius (A.D. 14-37)
4. Gaius, also known as Caligula (A.D. 37-41)
5. Claudius (A.D. 41-54)
6. *Nero* (A.D. 54-68)
7. Galba (A.D. 68-69)
8. Otho (A.D. 69)
9. Vitellius (A.D. 69)
10. Vespasian (A.D. 69-79)

Revelation 17:10 says: "They are seven kings; five have fallen, [i.e., Julius, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, and Claudius], one is [i.e., Nero], the other has *not yet come*; and when he comes, he must remain a little while [i.e., Galba reigned from June, 68 to January, 69]." It seems indisputably clear that the book of Revelation must be dated in the reign of Nero Caesar, and consequently *before* his death in June, A.D. 68. He is the sixth king; the short-lived rule of the seventh king (Galba) "has not yet come."



## **Mystery Babylon = Jerusalem in book of Revelation**

- 14:8** Babylon is fallen “that great city” (“where our Lord was crucified,” 11:8)
- 17:1** judgment of the great harlot (cf. Jer. 22:8)
- :3** woman sitting on a scarlet beast = Rome
  - :4** woman arrayed, adorned...etc...
  - :5** name = Mystery Babylon the Great....Mother of harlots...
  - :6**...drunk w/blood of saints and blood of martyrs
  - :7** tell you mystery of the woman and the beast
  - :8** -ff..
  - :17** God put it in their heart to fulfill His purpose...
  - :18** “great city”
- 18:2** Babylon fallen;
- :5** sins reached to heaven;
  - :10** great city Babylon, mighty city...judgment come
  - :16-17** that great city....come to nothing
  - :20** Rejoice....God has avenged you on her....(Mt. 23:35)
  - :21** the great city...Babylon thrown down
  - :24** in her was found blood of prophets and saints...all who were slain on the earth
- 19:2** great harlot judged....has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her

The perversity of Israel's leadership is such that they encourage those who dwell on the Land - the Jewish people - to make an image to the Beast, as Nebuchadnezzar had erected an image to himself (Daniel ch. 3). Instead of worshiping and serving the True Lord, they were worshiping and serving an alien god.

The Jewish synagogues enforced submission to the Emperor. Indeed, their leaders' charge against Christ was that HE was a rival to the all-embracing authority of Caesar (John 19:12-15). "They organized economic boycotts against those who refused to submit to Caesar as Lord and the leaders of the synagogues forbid all dealings with the excommunicate" and went so far as to kill them. Austin Farrar, *The Revelation of St. John*, Oxford Univ. Press, p. 157.

In v. 16 - he causes all (note the SIX categories: "small, great, rich, poor, free, slave," SIX is the number of *man*, *imperfection*; one short of *God*, *perfection*), to receive A **MARK of the Beast**.

The MARK OF THE BEAST is a Satanic parody of the SEAL OF GOD on the foreheads and hands of the righteous - 3:12; 7:2-4; 9:4; 14:1, and 22:4. The "Seal of God" is the mark of whole-hearted obedience to God's Law in thought and deed (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). It is the mark of blessing and protection (Ezekiel 9:4-6), and the Sign that one is HOLY to the Lord (Exodus 28:36).

Apostate Israel has REJECTED Christ and accepts the mark of the Beast. The faithful church has ACCEPTED Christ and is given the seal of God!

The number of the Beast is "the number of man" (imperfection), and it is 666, or "six-hundred threescore and six." (A "score" is twenty). Here is a reference to an ancient practice of figuring the number of one's name by adding up the *assigned total* for each letter in his name. The process is known as *gematria*, and is subject to human whim, prefabricated arrangements, and fancy contrivances.

"It is sometimes objected that, by using various systems of computation, it is possible to give practically anyone's name the value of 666. Thus, interpreters have identified the Beast with the Pope, Martin Luther, Napoleon, Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein and Henry Kissinger (among a host of others). The point should be understood, however, that NOT 'any possible solution' of the name, but **rather a relevant solution, is required**. Having already shown that the Roman Empire is the Beast described in verses 1-8 of this chapter, we naturally look for some name that gives a specific designation of that power." Milton Terry, *Biblical Apocalypics*, p. 401.

As shown later, the number 666 [ literally in the Greek · χξϛ ] is the numerical value of the name Nero Caesar who, at this time, represents the persecuting Roman Empire. In N.T. times the obsolete letter ϛ (stigma, which made the sound *st* ) was used for the numeral 6. A.T. Robertson, *A New Short Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, p. 109.

John writes the number 666 not in words, but IN GREEK LETTERS:

$\chi = 600$ ,  $\xi = 60$ , and  $\varsigma = 6$ , thus **666**,

three times falling short of the Divine 7. In other words not 777, but seeking to obliterate 777, but doing so abortively, its failure being complete, as well as its expansion, by puffing itself up from 6 to 666. RCH Lenski, *The Interpretation of St. John's Revelation*, pp. 411ff.



Apostate man always attempts to identify himself WITH GOD. He tries to DEIFY himself, make himself a god and increase his might: remember the Tower of Babel, Goliath, Ahab and Jezebel, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod, etc.?

In Hebrew (as in most ancient languages) the alphabet served double duty; **each letter was also a numeral**. Thus any given word or group of words had a numerical value, which could be computed simply by adding up the numerals.

The language of the West avoids this by using the Roman alphabet for its letters, and the Arab alphabet for its numerals. It is thus difficult and artificial for us to imagine going back and forth between the letter-use and numeral-use of the characters in our language, but for the ancients it was quite natural. In all probability, they did not need to engage in any great mental shifts back and forth, but simply saw and comprehended both aspects at once. Ref: David Chilton, *The Days of Vengeance*, p. 346.

Now, using common sense, **Christ did not expect the seven churches of Asia to figure out the name of some 20th or 21st Century person!** It requires "understanding" (v.18) to figure it out, and John does not give the number where it can be figured out in Greek (as the enemies might expect), but the unexpected element in the computation is - it has to be worked out in the Hebrew language. See Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr., *Before Jerusalem Fell*, pp. 192-212.

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Later, in chapter 17, verses 9 through 11, the text says that "there are seven kings, five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come." At the time of the writing of the book of Revelation (if we are correct) Nero is the "king" or Caesar / Emperor. So this computes as follows:

1. Julius Caesar is the first Emperor: killed March 15, 44 B.C.
2. Augustus Caesar is the second: 27 B.C. to AD 14.
3. Tiberius Caesar is the third: AD 14 to 37.
4. Caligula Caesar is fourth: AD 37 to 41.
5. Claudius Caesar is fifth: AD 41 to 54.
6. **Nero Caesar is sixth: AD 54 to 68.**
7. Galba is seventh, but reigned for only seven months, v.10 - "he must continue a short time."

Remember the text (17:10) states that "THERE ARE 7 KINGS, and 5 HAVE FALLEN, and ONE IS, and the OTHER HAS NOT YET COME." The first five Caesars were Julius, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, and Claudius. The one who NOW IS - is Nero, number six. The next to come will continue "shortly."

These seven kings were associated with the seven mountains which is true of the capital city of the Roman Empire (17:9).

"Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of man: And his number is six hundred and sixty-six."

For thorough documentation of Nero as 666 and Jerusalem symbolized as "Babylon," see Kenneth L. Gentry, *Before Jerusalem Fell*, Dating the Book of Revelation.

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### Identifying Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots

Rome's Character	Babylon's Characteristics	Jerusalem's Character
Rome ruled over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations (13:7).	Babylon sat upon many waters (17:4) which are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues (17:15).	Spiritually, Jerusalem ruled over the Jews scattered into all the nations of the world (Acts 2:5-11; cf. Jos., Ant., 14,7,2).
Rome would have qualified as guilty of this as political, economic and religious fornication (cf. Jer.51:7; Isa.23:17).	The Kings of the earth committed fornication with Babylon, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication (14:8; 17:2; 18:3).	Jerusalem was accused of this kind of fornication from of old (cf. 2 Chron.21:11; Ezek.16:15,26,29).
Rome does not fit the picture, because Rome was the beast upon which this Harlot sat.	Babylon sat upon the beast and was carried by the beast (17:3,7). The woman is not the beast but was carried or supported by the beast.	Jerusalem was not the beast or any part of the beast. Judaism was aloft from the Empire, refused to accept a position with the Empire, and was tolerated and protected by the Empire.
It is possible, I suppose, to characterize Rome with these words.	Babylon was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, and a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication (17:4; 18:16).	Jerusalem was described in similar terms in the scriptures (cf. Jer. 4:30; Ezek. 16:1-63).
Rome could never be described as the MOTHER of Harlots. When John wrote, Rome was the youngest of political harlots and remained so for hundreds of years. She might be identified as the DAUGHTER of Harlots but never as the MOTHER of Harlots.	Babylon's forehead is inscribed: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARTLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (17:5).	The nation of Israel with Jerusalem as the capital is the oldest political, economic and religious harlot identified in the scriptures (cf. Ezek. 16, esp. vs.43; Jer.3:1-3).
Rome through the sovereignty of her kings ruled over the kings of the earth (17:9-16).	Babylon is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth (17:18).	Jerusalem, through the majesty of her position as the religious headquarters of Judaism throughout the world, ruled with a dominion superior to that of the kings of earth.
There is no satisfactory explanation of this with respect to Rome.	Babylon is divided into three parts (16:19).	Jerusalem was divided into three parts both geographically and politically.
<b>ROME AS PERSECUTOR</b>  Blood found in Rome: Martyrs of Jesus No prophet could perish Rome (Lk.13:33).	<b>BABYLON AS PERSECUTOR</b>  Blood found in Babylon: Saints, martyrs of Jesus, prophets and ALL that were slain upon earth (17:6, 18:24).	<b>JERUSALEM AS PERSECUTOR</b>  Blood found in Jerusalem: The blood of all of them. Jerusalem held responsible for deaths of apostles, prophets, and ALL the righteous blood shed upon the earth (Matt. 23:34-39; Lk. 11:46-52; 13:34-35).

Rome's Character	Babylon's Characteristics	Jerusalem's Character
While this may in some sense be said of Rome, commentators are slow to pinpoint when and by whom it was so inhabited.	Babylon became the habitation of devils, the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hateful bird (18:2).	Josephus leaves no doubt about the character of the inhabitants of Jerusalem just before it was destroyed (Jos., Wars, 4.6.3; 5.10.5).
There is no recorded call or reason for a call to God's people to come out of Rome. Rome has not as yet suffered destruction for her sins.	God's people are called to come out of her lest they be partakers of her sins and her plagues (18:4).	Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and gave instructions for them to leave lest they suffer because of her sins (Matt. 24:15-22; Mk. 13:14-20; Lk. 21:20-24).
As Babylon of old could have cried this, so Rome also could be pictured as crying this (Isa. 47:8).	Babylon said in her heart, "I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow (18:7).	Jerusalem also could have cried this in her heart (cf. Isa. 54:4; Lam. 1:1). Israel was married to Jehovah.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROME'S DESTRUCTION???</b></p> <p>When, where, how, and by whom was Rome destroyed? Rome was captured and conquered, but not destroyed. Rome is called the Eternal City because it has a continual existence of more than 2000 years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION</b></p> <p>The ten horns of the beast were to hate the whore, make her desolate, naked, eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. Death, mourning, famine, and utter burning were the result (17:16; 18:8). Babylon was totally destroyed (18:21; 19:3).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JERUSALEM'S DESTRUCTION</b></p> <p>The kings of the provinces joined Vespasian and Titus in the Roman war against the Jews, and Jerusalem was made totally desolate, naked, her citizens cast to beasts; death, mourning, famine and total destruction the results.</p>
The city of Rome to this day has not been rewarded once much less twice.	Babylon was to be rewarded double according to her works (18:6).	Jerusalem was destroyed twice for her sins. In 586 B.C. and in 70 A.D.
Since these were to be avenged on Jerusalem, there were none left to avenge on Rome.	The heaven, saints, apostles, and prophets were avenged on Babylon with her destruction (18:20; 19:2).	Jesus said God would avenge these on Jerusalem (Matt. 23:34-39; Lk. 11:46-52; 13:34-35).

Author Ogden via [www.aogden.com](http://www.aogden.com)

### Identifying Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots

## Avenging of Innocent Blood

JESUS : "This Generation" will pay for ALL the righteous blood shed...from Abel to present... **and on...**

Lk. 11:45-52 Apostles, Prophets...Able...etc...

Lk. 13:31-33, 34-35 Jesus MUST die at Jerusalem and  
"this generation" shall be held responsible for ALL!

See Matt. 21:33-44

Lk. 19:41-44 (Mt. 24; Mk. 13; Lk. 21)

Lk. 23:28-31 (Heb. 10:26-31)

This was ALL to take place on Jerusalem in "this generation"  
God Avenged "His servants the prophets" Rev. 11:17-18

NOTE: Rev. 16: 5-6; 17:5-6; 18:20-21 The reason for the destruction of "Babylon the Great" was because in "her" was found the blood of prophets and saints and ALL who were slain on the earth. Rev. 18:24; 19:2

If we Identify "Babylon the Great" as Jerusalem = harmony

Consider Rev. 17:6-7 Mystery? I will tell you !!

Beast = 7 heads, v10 = 7 Kings /

10 horns = 10 Kings v12

Woman sitting on the Beast v3. - Graphics chart (328)

She was drunk w/blood of saints & martyrs of Jesus v6

**Summary:**

1. Jerusalem/temple destroyed as Vengeance/God.
2. In her was found the blood of prophets/righteous
3. Blood required of "that generation" then living

Babylon the Great has to be Jerusalem

See chart... "Mystery Babylon" that "great city" ... etc...

**CHAPTER 15 & 16      TEMPLE OF TESTIMONY AND SEVEN LAST PLAGUES**

*Chapters 13 & 14 portray the role of Nero as he is used by Satan to conduct the war of 12:17.  
Chapters 15 & 16 comprise one vision encompassing 3 1/2 years of Roman war.*

**15:1-4 SONG OF MOSES AND THE LAMB = FAITHFUL REJOICE AT JUDGEMENT**

**Those who had come off victorious from the beast:** The faithful saints of Rev. 6:9.

**15:5-8 TEMPLE OF TABERNACLE OF TESTIMONY = SOURCE OF JUDGEMENT**

**Temple:** ναός {nah-os'} Strong's #3485 "sanctuary, used only of the Holy place and Holy of Holies."  
**Testimony:** μαρτυρίου {mar-too'-ree-ou} Strong's #3142 = "testimony, witness." We get our "martyr."  
**Temple is open:** The testimony of Jesus (the gospel) is available for all who will believe.  
**Seven angels came out of the temple:** These judgements arise out of human refusal to obey the gospel.  
**No one was able to enter the temple:** The saints who had the gospel were hiding in the Judean hills.  
 No one was able to enter because no one was proclaiming the gospel. It wasn't being offered.  
**Until the plagues were finished:** After Jerusalem is destroyed the saints will begin preaching again.

**CHAPTER 16      THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH**

*NOTE: These bowls and the trumpets of Chapters 8-11 are very similar, but not identical.*

**16:1f FIRST BOWL OF WRATH = VESPASIAN'S EARLY CAMPAIGNS (67 & 68 A.D.)**

**Loathsome and malignant sore:** This is perfectly parallel to Revelation 8:6f.

**16:3 SECOND BOWL OF WRATH = VESPASIAN'S SUCCESSFUL SEA BATTLES**

**Every living thing in the sea died:** This is perfectly parallel to Revelation 8:8f.

**16:4-7 THIRD BOWL OF WRATH = POLLUTION OF DRINKING WATER**

**Rivers and springs of water become blood:** This is perfectly parallel to Revelation 8:10f  
**They poured out the blood of saints and prophets:** Mat. 23:34-39 = the reason for all the judgements.

**16:8f FOURTH BOWL OF WRATH = VESPASIAN CONQUERS GALILEE AND JUDEA**

**Sun scorches men with fire:** Vespasian is the "sun" (principal leader) of the Roman armies.

**16:10f FIFTH BOWL OF WRATH = THE YEAR OF ROMAN ANARCHY (69 A.D.)**

Rome nearly fell in the single year of turmoil when Galba, Otho, and Vitellius vied for the throne.

**16:12-16 SIXTH BOWL OF WRATH = ROME'S FORCES GATHER IN HAR-MAGEDON**

**Har-Magedon:** Translation = Mount of Megiddo and refers to Mt. Carmel.  
 Titus' headquarters was Caesarea, next to Mt. Carmel. His northern troops marched through Megiddo.  
 Scripture says nothing about a BATTLE in Megiddo, only a GATHERING, precisely what Titus did.

**16:17-21 SEVENTH BOWL OF WRATH = THE FALL OF JERUSALEM ITSELF**

**Great city split into three parts:** Exactly what happened according to Josephus (Wars, 5:1.1).  
*"The civil strife in Jerusalem had reached a fresh climax and became a three-cornered fight..."*  
 Titus conquered this three-fold division of Jerusalem one part at a time.

## THE FOUR BIBLE PASSAGES

## “ANTICHRIST”

1John 2:18-19 “Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of us, for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.”

1John 2:21-23 “Who is a liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the son. Whoever denies the son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the son has the Father also.”

1John 4:2-3 “By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”

2John 1:7 “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

From the Bible we can clearly see 3 things. First, the “antichrist” is defined as anyone who doesn’t believe Jesus is the divine son of God. Second, “antichrists” appear to actively teach against Christ. Third, there were many “antichrists” in the world when John wrote the book. This directly contradicts the teaching of modern speculationists who say that one antichrist will arise at some still future time.

The Greek word from which we get our English word “antichrist” is translated is very simple to understand. It is a simple compound word and means “anti” + “Christ”= “antichrist”. We use the same compound word everyday. We have people who are “anti-smoking” or “anti-gay” or “anti-hunting” or “anti-Semitic” or “anti-abortion”. There really is no big mystery as to what the word means. “Anti-Christ” is anyone who opposes Christ.

The “antichrist” then, has no horns or red glowing eyes. Neither is the “antichrist” some demon possessed super-intelligent human clone. Rather, the “antichrist” is that sweet elderly lady living next door who openly teaches the neighborhood kids that Jesus just was a myth.

From: <http://www.bible.ca/D-AntiChrist.htm>