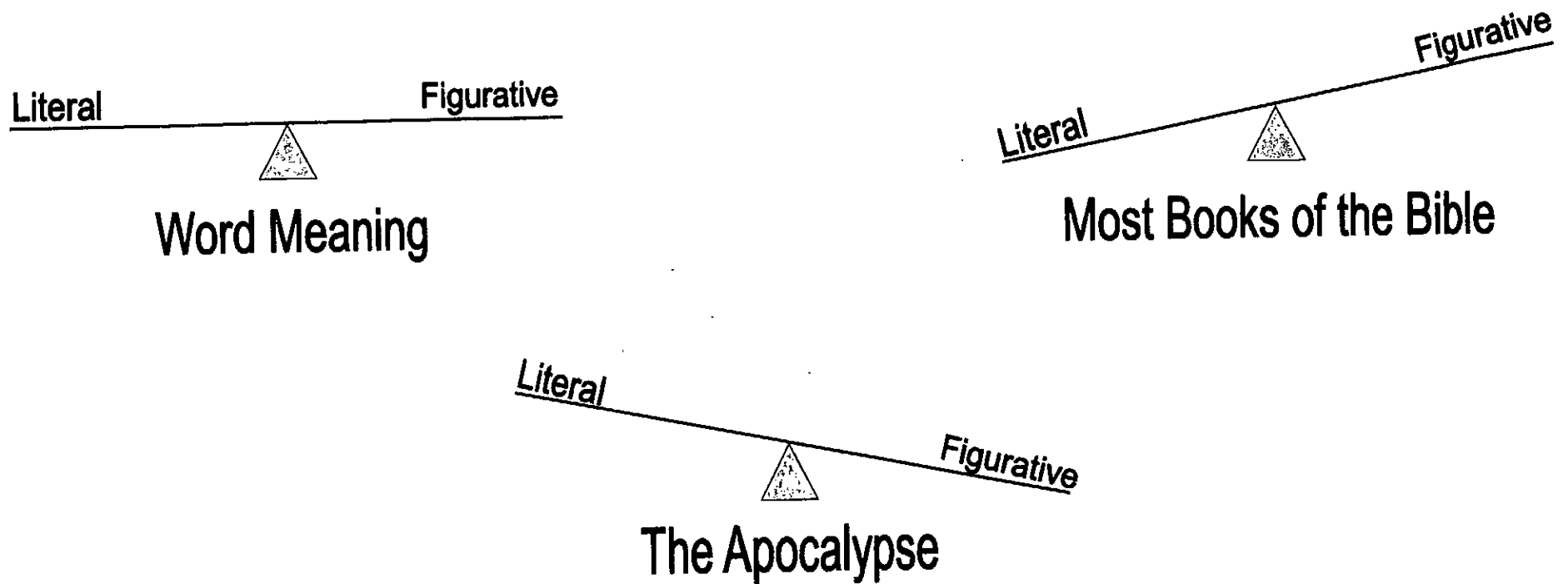


Revelation Notes and Handouts

Interpreting Literal and Figurative Language

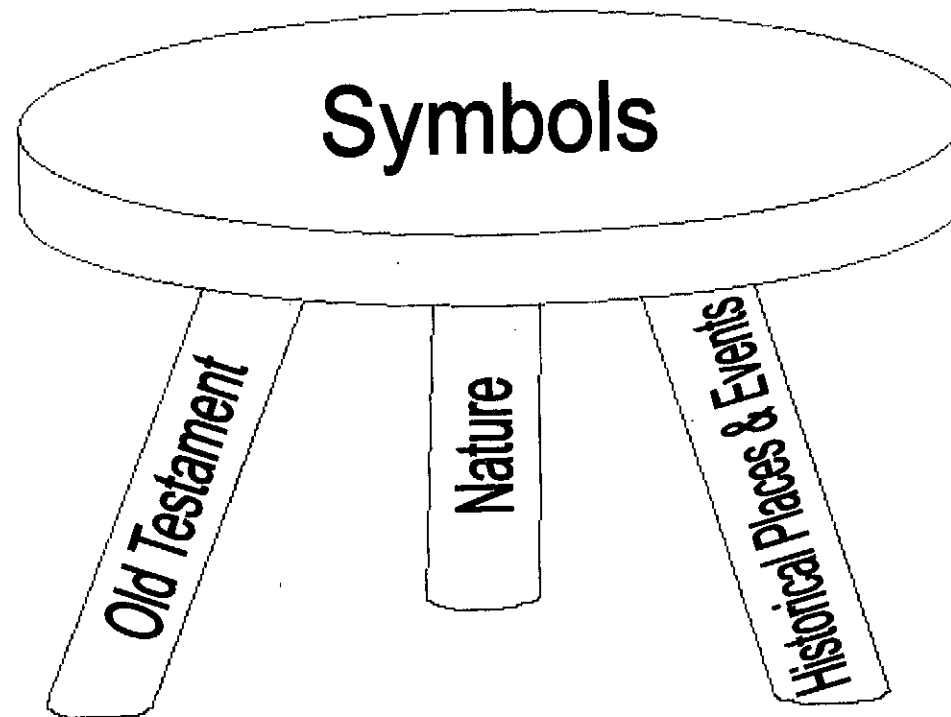


- A key in deciding whether a word is literal in meaning is, does it make sense? If it is non-sensical then we must look for a figurative meaning (i.e. God is a rock).
- Primarily the common meaning of a word is literal in most Bible books.
- Any book where figurative language or symbols are used they have a known meaning, that is why they are used.
- Symbols are used for the purpose of vividness while having the weakness of ambiguity due to discerning the relationship between the symbol and its meaning.
- In the book of Revelation "...a literal-where-possible mode of operation raises more problems than it solves (Dennis Johnson, p. 11)." Visionary symbolism is the major mode of communication throughout the book of Revelation and prepares us for consistent figurative usage.

Symbol Meaning and the Book of Revelation

The symbols in the book of Revelation largely derive their meaning from the Old Testament, nature, and historical events or places largely associated with God's people.

Symbol
Something that stands for or represents something else, especially an idea, quality, or condition.



Symbol
Object used to represent another object because of resemblance or analogy.

- The fundamental or root meaning of the symbols found in the Old Testament, may be more pregnant in meaning in the book of Revelation, but the root identity is established from the Old Testament usage.
- Historic happenings and places are frequently used symbolically, because they are so well known to the audience and suggest a particular characteristic. For example, Egypt = slavery; Babylon = worldliness; Waterloo = defeat; Rubicon = no turning back.
- "They are for the most part suggested by the religious position, training and habits both of the writer and his readers (Milligan, p. 25)."
- "When the symbols of the Apocalypse are not closely connected with the Old Testament they are drawn from the most familiar objects in nature and history (Milligan, p. 27)."
- It is well to remember symbols are utilized not because they are unknown or mystical, but because they are well known and can communicate to the audience due to familiarity. The symbols of the Apocalypse are well known, like the prophets and the Lord's use of symbols. "The seer of the Apocalypse lives entirely in holy scriptures." "The Book hardly ever refers to anything that is not biblical."
- Apocalyptic symbols are typically exaggerated, extravagant and out of keeping with probability.

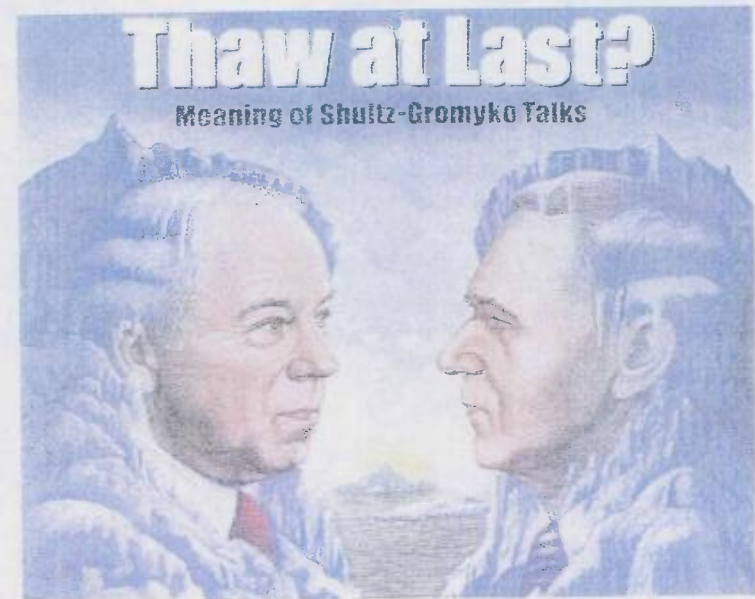
Symbol Meaning and the Book of Revelation

Symbol: *Something that stands for or represents something else, especially an idea, quality or condition.*

Symbol: *Object used to represent another object because of resemblance or analogy.*

- 1) The symbols in the book of Revelation largely derive their meaning from the Old Testament, nature and historical events or places largely associated with God's people. "The Apocalypse is an epitome of the whole bible, a unique interweaving of all the symbols, types, shadows, figures and fundamental ideas of the entire Old Testament into one comprehensive book of brief compass (Morris, p.11)."
- 2) The fundamental or root meaning of the symbols found in the Old Testament, may be more pregnant in meaning in the book of Revelation, but the root identity is established from the Old Testament usage.
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The Book of Revelation... Real Pictures or Symbolic Pictures?



Geneva Talks 1985

Attempting To End The
Cold War

US News & World
Report 1985



Question:

Which man is Uncle
Sam and which man is
a Russian Bear?

Secretary of State:
George Shultz

Soviet Foreign Minister:
Andrei Gromyko

The Book of Revelation... Real Pictures or Symbolic Pictures?



Chronology: Near, Beginning, Fulfilled, Certainty

Revelation 1:1

¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things **which must shortly come to pass**; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:"

Revelation 1:3

³ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**"

Revelation 2:15-16

¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.
¹⁶ Repent; or else **I will come unto thee quickly**, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

Revelation 3:11

¹¹ Behold, **I come quickly**: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

Revelation 11:14

¹⁴ The second woe is past; and, behold, **the third woe cometh quickly.**"

Revelation 22:6

⁶ And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things **which must shortly be done.**"

Revelation 22:7

⁷ Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:10

¹⁰ And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: **for the time is at hand.**"

The Term Prophecy in the Book of Revelation

Revelation 1:3

"Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand."

Revelation 19:10

"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 22:7

"Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:18

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"

Revelation 22:19

"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book."

To Read the Book Right

Guidelines to help you read the book of Revelation

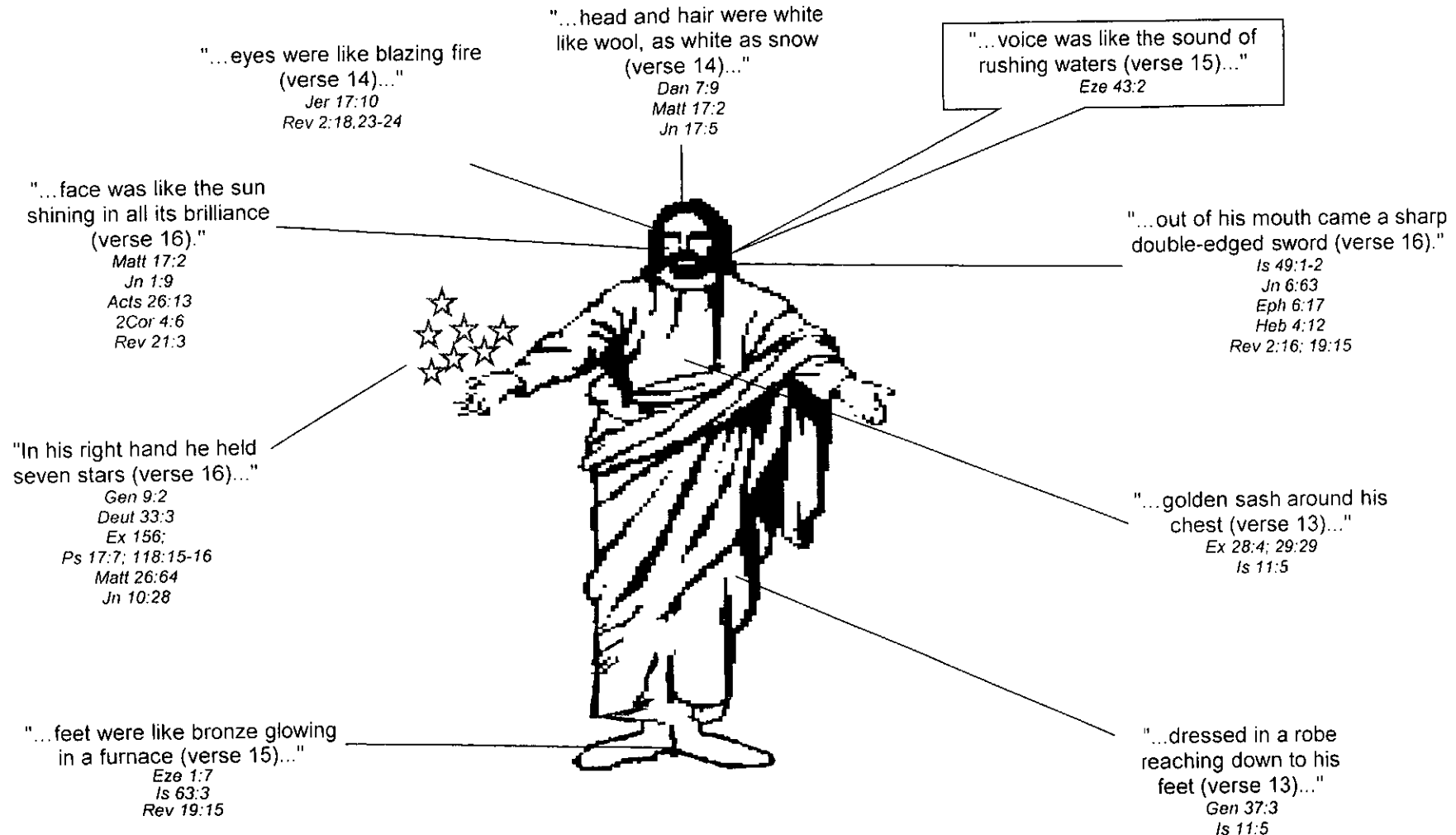
- 1) Revelation is a book to reveal.
- 2) Revelation is a book to be seen, a book of symbols depicting the battle of good and evil.
- 3) Revelation is understood by realizing the meaning of the symbols originate in the Old Testament.
- 4) Numbers count in Revelation, but it is symbolically and not statically.
- 5) The book of Revelation entertains the church under attack and notes how the church must respond in such circumstances to be faithful.
- 6) Revelation is dealing with what was about to befall the churches written to at that time.
- 7) Revelation declares to us the overall story of the Bible and how the victory belongs to God and to Christ.
- 8) The book had to mean something to the people it was written to, so they could be encouraged.

"Our interpretation of Revelation must be driven by the difference God intends it to make in the life of his people. If we could explain every phrase, identify every allusion to Old Testament Scripture or Greco-Roman society, trace every interconnection, and illumine every mystery in this book and yet were silenced by the intimidation of public opinion, terrorized by the prospect of suffering, enticed by affluent Western culture's promise of "security, comfort, and pleasure," then we would not have begun to understand the book of Revelation as God wants us to. The dragon's assault on the church comes in different forms and from different quarters in different times and places. In some parts of the world the attack comes head-on, through the persecuting violence of hostile governments or neighbors; in others the danger is insidious, a slow infection to numb the Body's discernment of error and weaken its immune system; in others the weapon is an appealing encouragement to enjoy the advantages of compromised conformity. But always, in every age and place, the church is under attack. Our only safety lies in seeing the ugly hostility of the enemy clearly and clinging fast to our Champion and King, Jesus (DJ, p.18,19)."

** These basic ideas on helps to read the book of Revelation largely come from a chapter in Dennis E. Johnson book *Triumph of the Lamb*

Symbolic Picture of Christ from Revelation 1:12-20

"Son of Man" emphasizes Christ's humanity and deity (Dan 7:13; Heb 1:3; Is 40:18)



Jenkins states "There is enough similarity for the Bible reader to get a good idea of the symbol, but not enough to make one simply conclude it is simply synonymous with Old Testament usage."

We have no physical picture of Christ in his humiliation on earth, but we have a vivid picture of Him in his exaltation in heaven!

Comparison of the Different Methods of Interpretation

Futurists



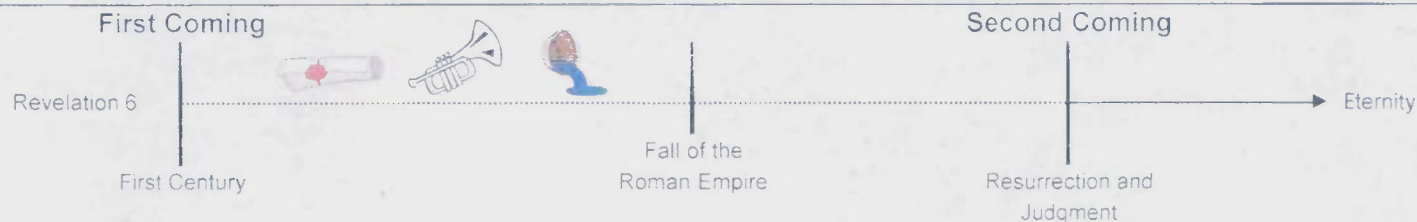
Basic Thrust: Fulfilled in the future just prior to the return of Christ to establish his earthly kingdom.

Preterists (Early Date)



Basic Thrust: Fulfilled in the past.

Preterists (Late Date)



Basic Thrust: Fulfilled in the past.

Historicists



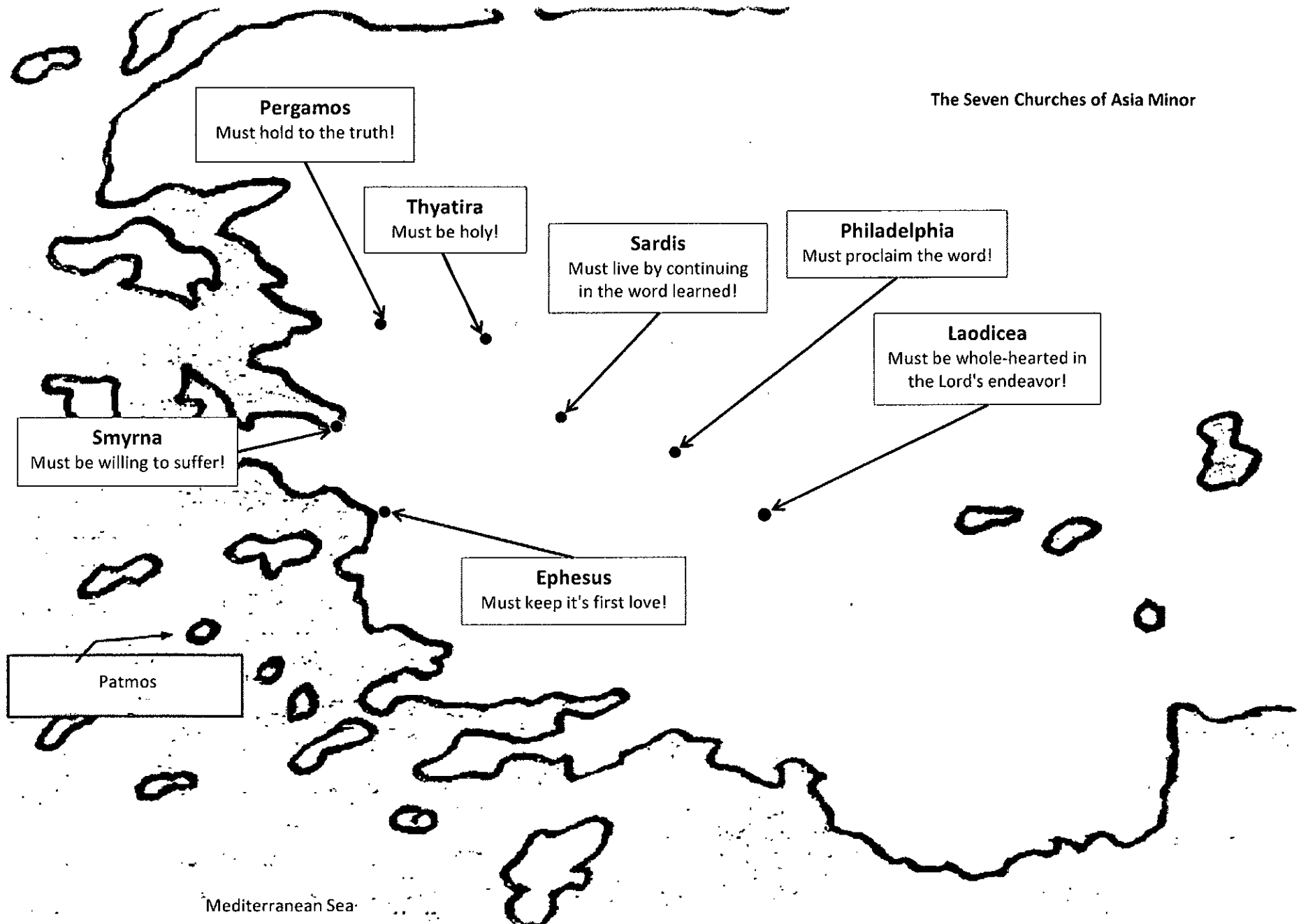
Basic Thrust: Basically fulfilled, but still being fulfilled.

Idealists (Principles Only) Parallelism (Events + Principles)



Basic Thrust: Historicists = Events (Succession - Visions do not Overlap); Parallelism = Events + Principles (Visions Overlap); Idealists = Principles.

The Lord's View of a Faithful Church



To Him That Overcometh

Revelation 2:7

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Revelation 2:11

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that **overcometh** shall not be hurt of the second death".

Revelation 2:17

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

Revelation 2:26

"And he that **overcometh**, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:"

Revelation 3:5

"He that **overcometh**, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Revelation 3:12

"Him that **overcometh** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

Revelation 3:21

"To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

Revelation 21:7

"He that **overcometh** shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

The Beatitudes of The Apocalypse

Revelation 1:3

"**Blessed** is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

Revelation 14:13

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed** are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Revelation 16:15

"Behold, I come as a thief. **Blessed** is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

Revelation 19:9

"And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed** are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

Revelation 20:6

"**Blessed** and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

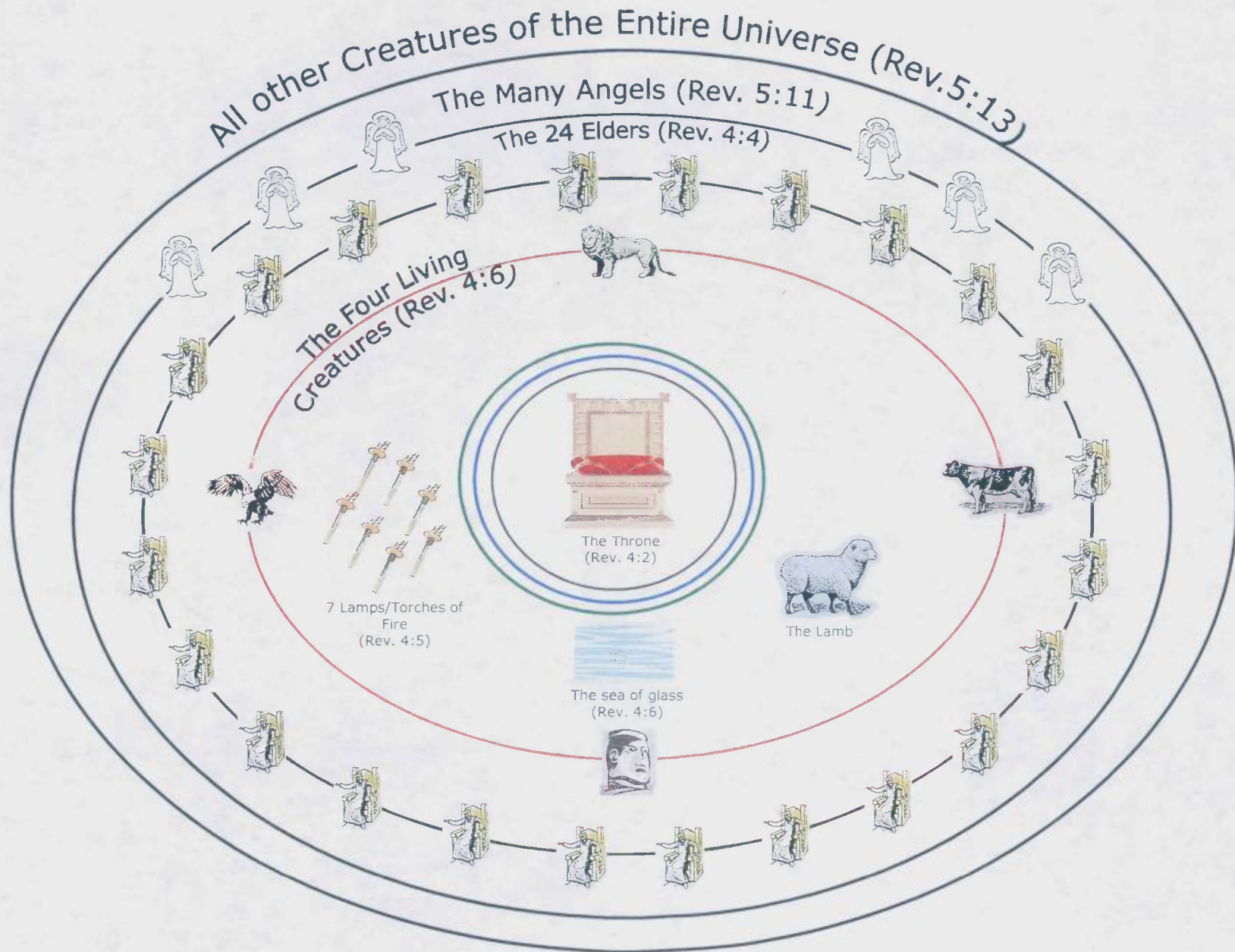
Revelation 22:7

"Behold, I come quickly: **blessed** is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

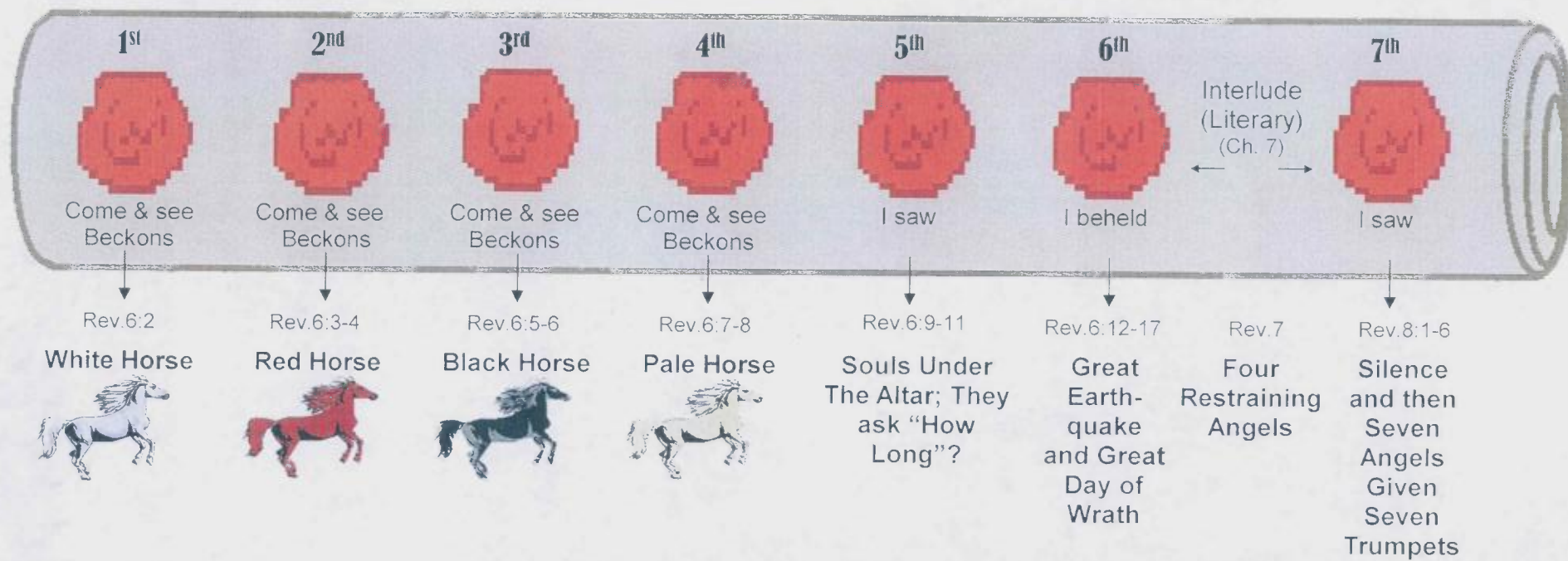
Revelation 22:14

"**Blessed** are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Diagram of the Vision Described in Revelation Chapters 4 and 5



The Seven Seals



Ready or Not: The Four Horses Are Out of Their Seals, But Thankfully They Are Not Totally Out of Control.

Is It This?



Is It This?



These judgments bring despair to the world, but they are limited by the providential hand of the administering Lamb!

The Lamb's punishment of the wicked on earth ultimately protects the cause of the righteous, even though the righteous will suffer due to the consequences of the wicked's earthly punishment.

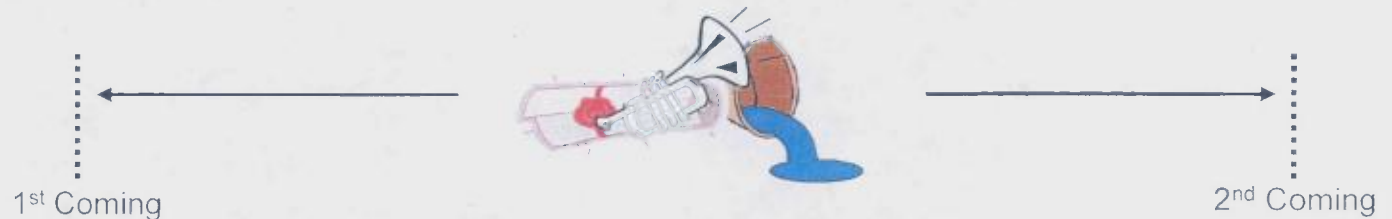
Succession or Overlapping Repetition

History Channel:

Is it This?



Is it This?



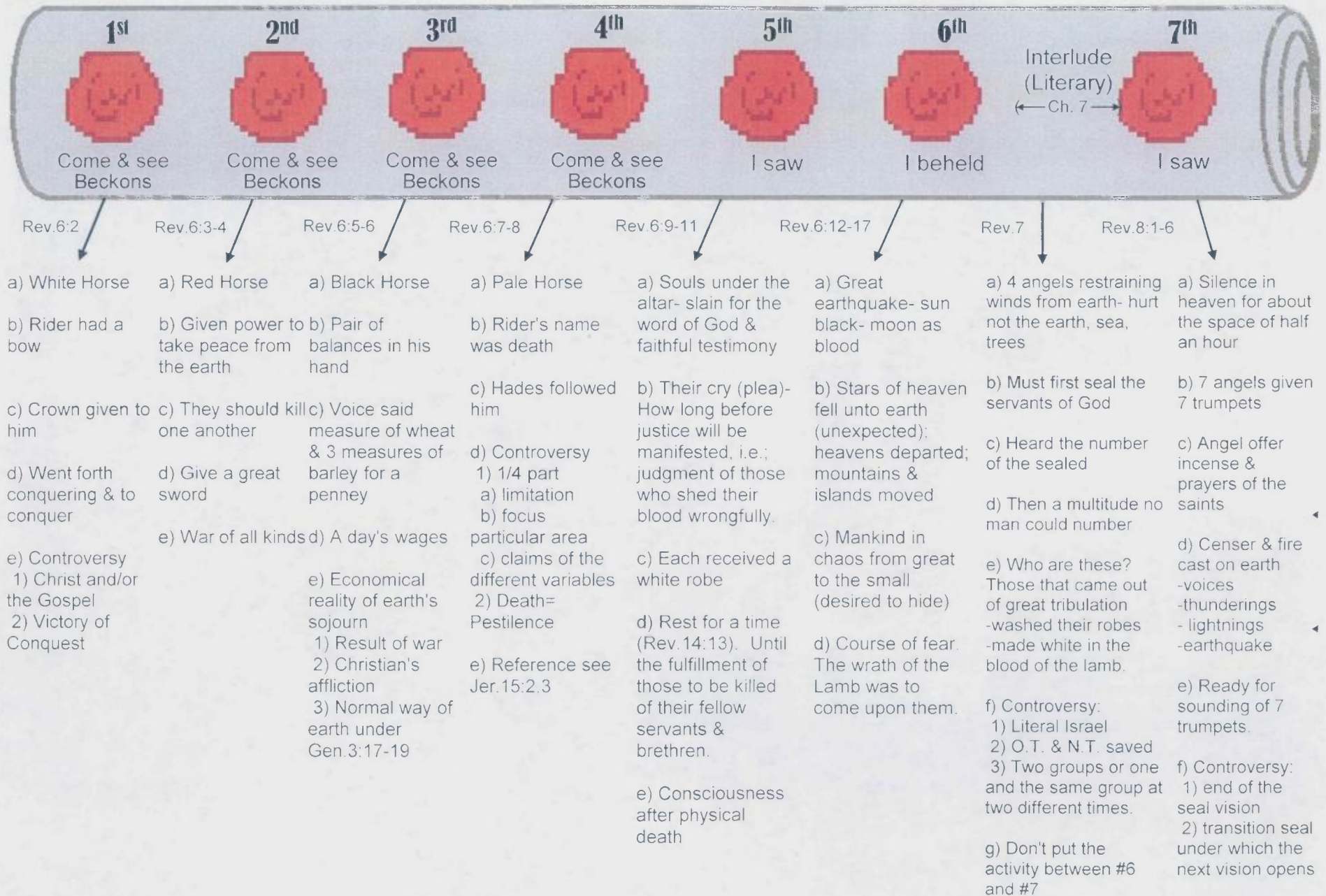
(Amplification of Overlapping Repetitions)



Various aspects of the same activity going on at the same time are revealed by the overlapping.

Milligan, p. 100 "...one of the structural principles of the Apocalypse is to set before us different series of pictures relating not so much to successive events as to the same events under different aspects..."

Seven Seals



Seven Trumpets (O.T. Background: Egyptian Plagues/Destruction of Jericho)



Rev 8:7
[Ex 9:22-25;
9:31-32]

- a) Hail and fire mingled with blood.
- b) Cast on the earth.
- c) 1/3 of the trees and all the grass burnt up.
- d) Question: If the first five seals and died, the first five trumpets are similar - do we have aspects of the worlds situation at anytime rather than particular dateable events?



Rev 8:8-9
[Ex 7:20-25; Jer 51:25,42; Rev 18:19]

- a) As a great mountain burying with fire.
- b) Cast into the sea.
- c) 1/3 of the sea became blood.
- d) 1/3 of the living sea creatures
- e) 1/3 of the ships were destroyed.
- f) Environment and commerce disrupted.



Rev 8:10-11
[Ex 7:24; 15:23; Jer 9:15; 23:15]

- a) A great star fell from heaven
- b) Burning as a lamp.
- c) Fell on 1/3 of the rivers and mountains of waters.
- d) Star's name was wormwood.
- e) 1/3 part of the waters became wormwood.
- f) Many men died of the waters because the waters were bitter.
- g) Natural resources as sustainer of life is disrupted.



Rev 8:12-13
[Ex 10:21-23; 8:7,18f; 9:20f]

- a) 1/3 part of sun-moon stars were smitten.
- b) 1/3 part darken - day shone not for a 1/3 part - also night [abbreviated natural order]
- c) ...saying woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth.
- d) Reasons for anticipated woes was voices yet to be sounded.
- e) Who and why is the question.



Rev 8:13; 9:1-12
[Ex 10:12-15; Joel 2; Job 1:8-12; 2:3-7]

- Distinct Announcement. Affect men directly, rather than environment. Character exposed.
- a) A star fell from heaven onto the earth.
- b) Key given to bottomless pit.
- c) Smoke out of the bottomless pit darkens the sun and the air.
- d) Locusts with harsh power given to them - come out of the smoke to hurt the unsealed in forehead.
- e) Restrained in hurt and time, but bearers of grief so that men seek death, but it will flee from them.
- f) The form of the locust is given to our dismay.
- g) Their king is Abaddon or Apollyon.



Rev 9:13-21; 11:14
[Ex 10:14-15- Joel 2:1-2]

- a) A voice from the four horns of the golden altar.
- b) Loose the four angels bound at the Euphrates.
- c) Prepared to slay 1/3 of mankind for the hour, a day, a month, and a year.
- d) A multitude of horsemen - so ferocious.
- e) Their deed is done, but paganism's survivors will not repent.

← **Interlude
(Literary)** →



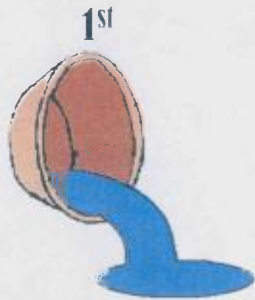
Rev 11:15-19

- a) Little book, the message of 7 thunders not to be exposed [Ps 29; 2Cor 12:4]
- b) No more delay and the seventh trumpet will mark the end of the gospel declared.
- c) Thoughts of Daniel come to mind [Dan 10:5f; 12:6f]
- d) Question: End of delay - enter eternity or fulfillment of divine purpose relating to the church?
- e) New testament or the latter part of the book of Revelation.
- f) God's forbearance does end.
- g) Measured temple: Distinction of inside/outside Rev 11:1-2
- h) The two witnesses: down, but never out.
- a) Announcement: The kingdoms of the world overcome
- b) Righteousness upheld
- c) The temple opened - the very presence of God. Victory is realized and defeat cannot be denied.
- d) Rev 11:19 appears to close the seal and trumpet visions and the sequence opening in Rev 4:1.
- e) Question: Does 11:19 introduce the next vision or close the previous vision?

Pour Out the Seven Vials (Bowls) of the Wrath Of God Into the Earth

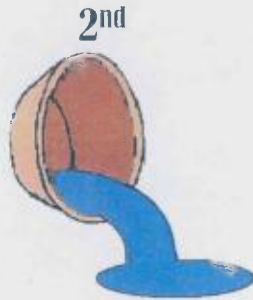
Rev. 16:1-21

The Finality and Terribleness of God's Wrath is Manifested



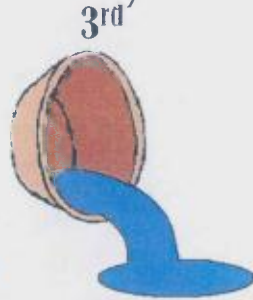
Earth
(Rev.16:2)

- Then Fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men.
- What people? Those that had the mark of the Beast & they that worshipped his image.



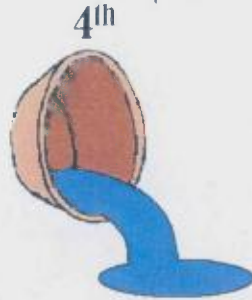
Sea
(Rev.16:3)

- The sea became as the blood of a dead man.
- Every living soul died in the sea.
- soul= living being



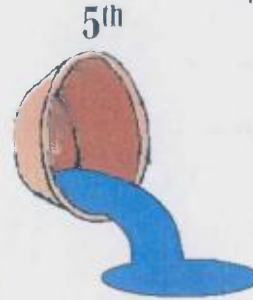
Rivers & Fountains of Waters
(Rev.16:4-7)

- The rivers & the fountains of waters became blood.
- God's righteousness in judgement is affirmed, for those judged had shed the blood of saints and prophets- so they were worthy of the judgment.
- God is the sovereign of history.



Sun
(Rev.16:8-9)

- Men were scorched with fire.
- The result, the wicked blasphemed the name of God.
- God had authority over the plagues.
- No repentance, no willingness to glorify God.



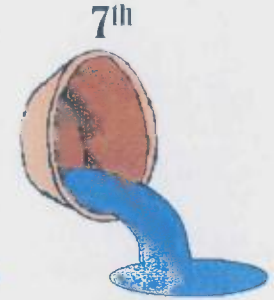
Seat of the Beast
(Rev.16:10)

- Poured upon the seat of the beast- his kingdom was full of darkness- they gnawed their tongues for pain.
- Continued in blasphemy due to grief and torments, but repented not.



River Euphrates
(Rev.16:12-16)

- Poured upon the Euphrates river- water dried up, so kings could come.
- Unclean spirits came from the dragon, the beast & the false prophet.
- These were the spirits of demons working miracles influencing the whole world of mankind for evil to oppose truth.
- Don't be caught in the trap- The Lord cometh.
- The unholy alliance gathers for its destruction.

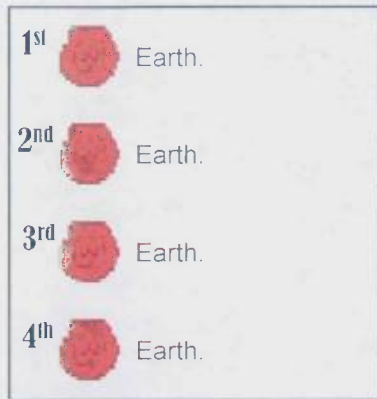


Air
(Rev.16:17)

- Heaven authorizes the conclusion- the fullness of redemption, fullness of judgment, it is done.
- The universe is swept away, the corruption of men judged.
- The new heavens & earth.
- The judgment of evil and the unrepentant.
- Change not in heart toward God. No change in the hearts of evil men.

Seals, Trumpets, Bowls

Seals (General)



(Rev 6:1-8)

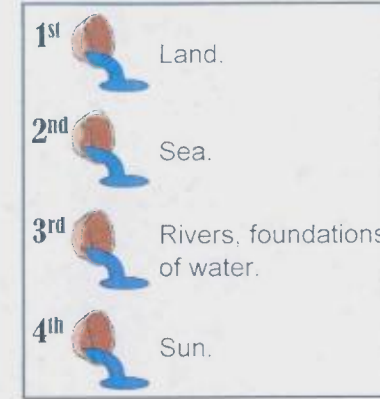
Trumpets (Cast into the earth)



1/3 Part
(Rev 8:5-13)

Bowls

(Pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.)



More intense than the trumpets. More far reaching
(Rev 16:1-9)

The introduction of number 5 in each group moves us into a spiritual sphere.

- 5th Souls under the alter (Rev 6:9)
6th Great day of wrath (Rev 6:12).
Interlude or consolation (Rev 7).
7th Period of silence and then the seven trumpets are given (Rev 8:1,2).

- 5th Pit of the Abyss (Rev 9:1-2)
6th Euphrates river (Rev 9:13,14).
Interlude or consolation (Rev 10:1-11:14).
7th The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord (Rev 11:15).

- 5th Throne of the beast (Rev 16:10).
6th Euphrates river (Rev 16:12).
There is no interlude in the bowl series for it is the last cycle. There is what we might call a prelude of consolation or victory (Rev 14:1-5; 15:1-4).
7th It is done (Rev 16:17).

The vision of the seals, trumpets and bowls following one another would be obviously necessary for presentation. They would be impossible to apprehend if they had all been given to John in one simultaneous moment.








The visions given in a necessary order does not mean they have a definite succession.

The Parallels within the Trumpets and Bowls

Trumpets

-  1st Earth or Land (Rev 8:7).
-  2nd Sea (Rev 8:8).
-  3rd Rivers, foundations (Rev 8:10).
-  4th Sun, moon, stars (Rev 8:12).
-  5th Pit of the Abyss (Rev 9:1-2)
-  6th Euphrates (Rev 9:14).
-  7th Great voice followed (Rev 11:15,19).

Bowls

-  1st Earth or Land (Rev 16:2).
-  2nd Sea (Rev 16:3).
-  3rd Rivers, foundations (Rev 16:4).
-  4th Sun (Rev 16:8).
-  5th Throne of the beast (Rev 16:10).
-  6th Euphrates (Rev 16:12)
-  7th Great voice followed (Rev 16:17,18,21).

These parallels lead us to think of the embellishment of synchronous events, rather than events in a given succession of time. Obviously there is a succession of time as we move through earth history, but the series aren't given for the purpose of giving us a chronological history of events.

It is very, very difficult to examine the likeness of the series of visions and conclude such things described are totally disconnected and that large gaps of time exist between the description given in one series and that given in another series.

Length of Time References

- Revelation 2:10 "... and ye shall have tribulation **ten days....**"
- Revelation 11:2 "... and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months.**"
- Revelation 13:5 "... and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months.**"
- Revelation 11:3 "... and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and three score days**, clothed in sackcloth."
- Revelation 12:6 "... feed her there a **thousand two hundred and three score days .**"
- Revelation 12:14 "... nourished for a **time, and times, and half a time.**"
- Daniel 7:25 "...given into his hand until a **time and times and the dividing of time.**"
- Revelation 11:11 "... And after **three days and an half**"

Questions to Ponder:

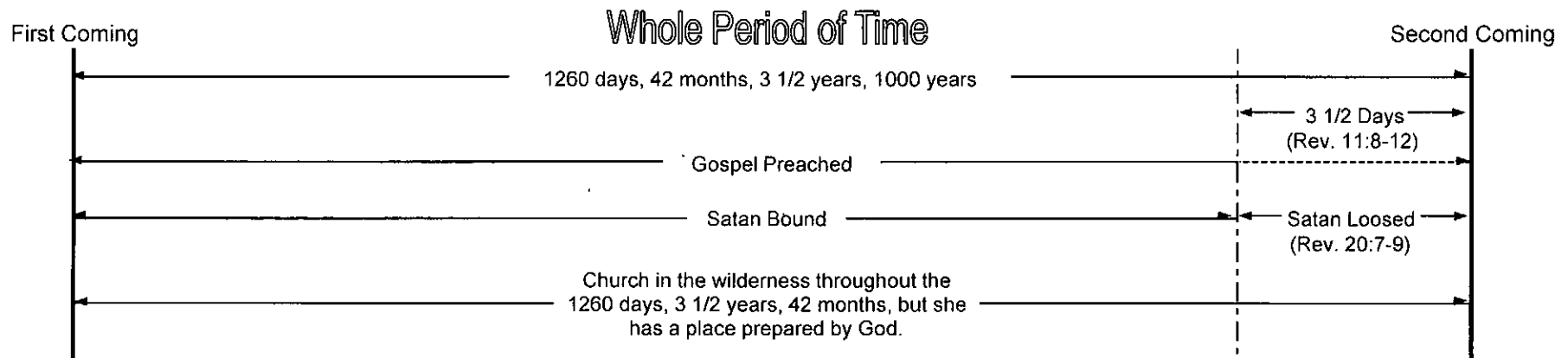
- 1) Does the a thousand two hundred and three score days, the forty and two months and a time and times and half a time all refer to the same period of time?
- 2) Do the terms refer to the time from Christ's first advent to the time of his second advent, or do they refer to a limited period of time between the two advents?
- 3) Do you think the evidence that a day stands for a year is adequate?
- 4) Note the calculations are typically made on the basis of thirty days to a month and three hundred and sixty days in a year.

1260 Days, 42 Months, 3 1/2 Years, 1000 Years

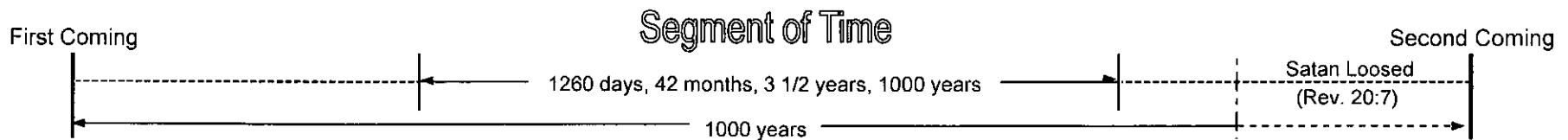
It is commonly agreed these terms refer to the same period of activity.

It is not commonly agreed whether these terms are to be considered:

- (a) As a literal or figurative period of time.
- (b) Whether these terms take in the whole period of time from Christ's first coming to his second coming or whether they refer to a particular segment of time between Christ's first coming and his second coming.



OR IS IT?



Rev. 11:2	"...tread under foot forty and two months."
Rev. 11:3	"...and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days..."
Rev. 11:9	"...shall see their dead bodies three days and an half..."
Rev. 11:11	"...And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them..."
Rev. 12:6	"...feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."
Rev. 12:14	"...where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time..."
Rev. 13:5	"...power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."
Rev 20:3-7	"...till the thousand years should be fulfilled..."
	"...when the thousand years are expired..."

The Judgment Scenes

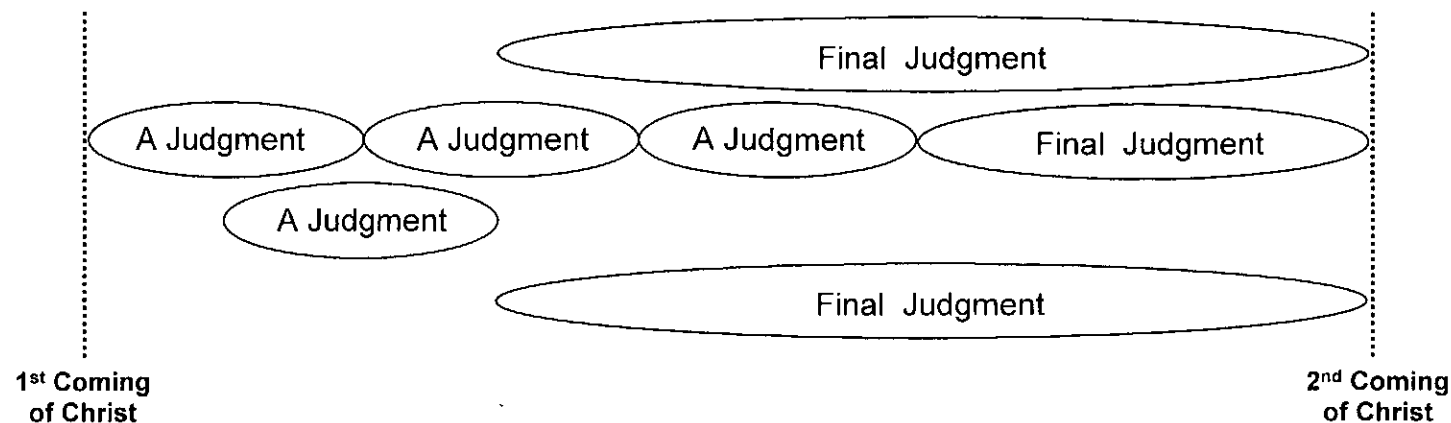
- 1) Revelation 1:7 Judgment announced.
- 2) Revelation 6:12-17
- 3) Revelation 11:15-19
- 4) Revelation 14:14-20
- 5) Revelation 16:15-21
- 6) Revelation 19:11-21
- 7) Revelation 20:7-21

Some questions and thoughts to consider to help understanding:

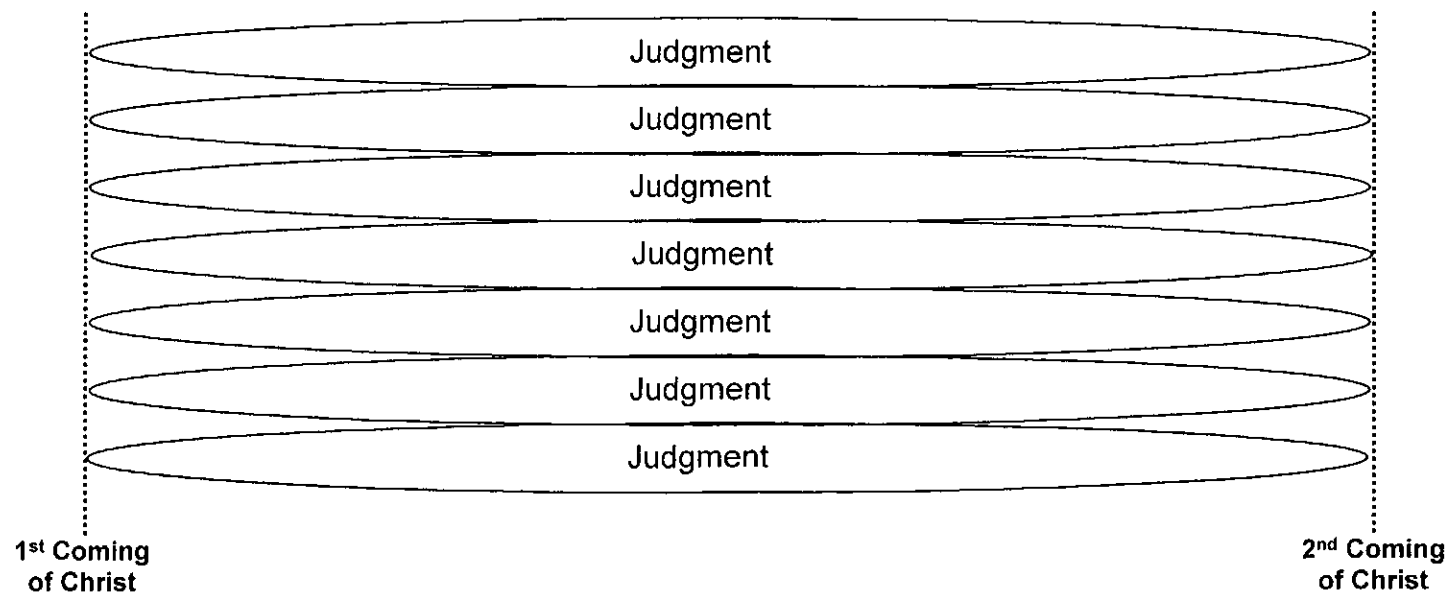
- 1) Do all of these judgments scenes speak of the second coming of Christ?
- 2) The second coming of Christ will be literal and involves the judgment of all of mankind.
- 3) The scriptures may speak of a coming of Christ figuratively when referring to some great event being fulfilled in God's plan.
- 4) Parallelism largely structures the book by judgments and many see each judgment as a picture of the final judgment. This has each vision or section reaching from Christ's first advent to the time of his second advent .

Succession or Synchronism (A Question of Judgments)?

Is it This?



Is it This?

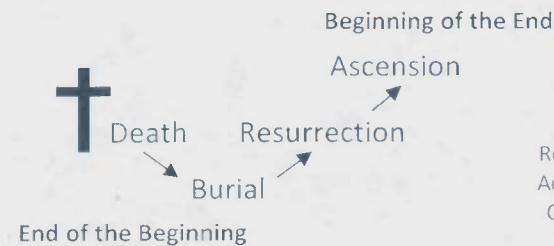
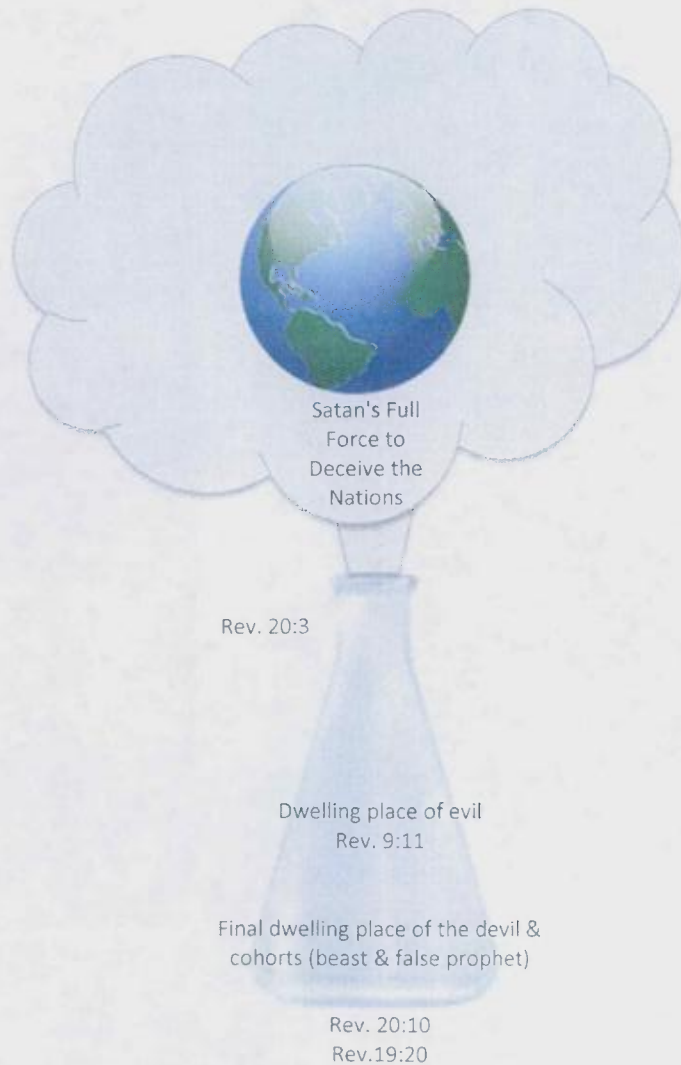


The question is, does each judgment scene ending a vision or section cover from the first advent to the second advent.

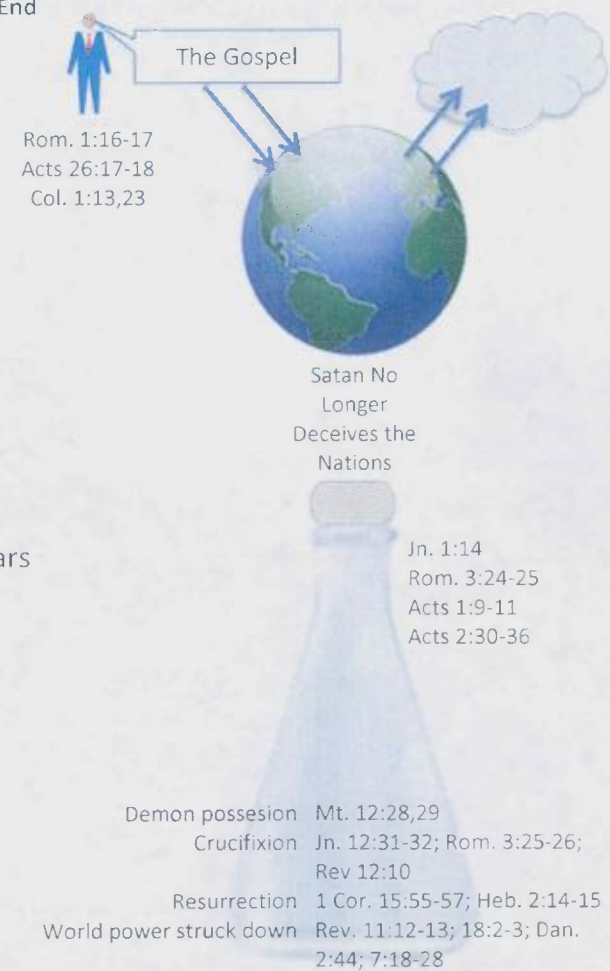
Satan Loosed- Satan Bound

Revelation 20-23

Satan Loosed



Satan Bound



(1) Cast out of Heaven

(2) Bound in the abyss for 1,000 years



(3) Cast into the lake of fire and brimstone

Walk Through Outline for Revelation 20:1-15

- We are not simply stepping chronologically out of chapter 19 and continuing with the next chronological step in time with the events in chapter 20.
- We are looking at the whole story of Christianity from the time of Christ's first coming to the time of his second coming.
- When it comes to reality there really is no other story like this story and everybody plays a part in this story. Everybody will appear at the 'curtain call' to receive their 'just applause', unless they have been bathed in the blood of the lamb.
- The plot of this story is not so much about the reign of Christ, as about those who reign with him.
- The focus of this story is not so much about Satan being bound or loosed, as it is about his final destruction.

The Story

Revelation 20:1-3 Satan's binding and being bound. (Satan being bound).

Revelation 20:4-6 What happens during the time of the one thousand years, that is; the definite time during which Satan is bound? (The faithful victorious reign).

Revelation 20:7-10 What happens after the time of the one thousand years, that is; during the short time that Satan is loosed? (The final struggle and threat and Satan's utter defeat).

Revelation 20:11-15 What happens at the end of Satan being loosed? What is the fate of Satan, will he have another day to reek havoc? What is the fate of all mankind and will it be forever? (Judgment day).

** A footnote for later reflection. This was not on the original handout. Revelation 20 tells the end of the story found in the previous chapter. The focus has been upon the great enemies of the kingdom of Christ. They are Satan, the Beast and the false Prophet. When chapter 20 is reached the focus is to show the handling of the primary source 'the Devil Father' and his destruction. This is done, so there will be no surviving stories that the villain of villains might have escaped. Revelation 20 will put such theories to rest.

Folks need to be reminded that while Revelation 20 is considered in the minds of most people to be primarily about the millennium, it isn't. The defeat of Satan is the focus of the chapter and the millennium simply comes up in the middle of the discussion. The problem one faces here is the typical problem of getting something wrong from the beginning will end up with one getting it wrong at the end. The Pre-millennial mindset is going to get this wrong. It is true many of us struggle with the concept of the millennium in its details, but that doesn't mean we are going to get the end of the story wrong or violate the tenor of the Bible story with our struggles in interpretation. The Pre-millennial mindset is going to result in wrong teaching about the second coming of Christ with the resurrection and the judgment that is contrary to the word of God.

The Heavens

Heaven spoken of in the Bible may refer to three major realms.

Heaven constantly considered in direct relationship to earth, man's dwelling place (Gen. 1:1).

Cosmological

"This surrounds the planet earth, and from it comes the air we breathe, the rain, clouds and other elements (I.Powell'p.9)."We think of the 'first' heaven, the atmospheric (Isaiah 55:9-11; Ps. 147:8).We relate the rain, snow, frost, dew, clouds, and winds with such. The heavens and the earth speak of the entire universe (Gen.1:1; Ex.20:11; Rev. 10:6). We associate the term heaven with the air and the sky, where the birds fly (Mt. 6:26).

Celestial

Secondly, we associate the heavens with the celestial, the planetary (Gen. 1:14,16,17). We consider the sun, the moon and the stars. The Bible speaks of the planets (Job 9:9; 38:31' Amos 5:8). Possibly, we think of 'outer space' as the world would speak of it.

Divine

Thirdly, we think of the Heaven of Heavens i.e.; the divine heaven. This is the abode of God, his habitation, the dwelling place of God. This is obviously beyond the cosmological heavens and is presently invisible. But it is where God dwells (Isa. 57:15; 63:15; 66:1) Heaven and God are so closely related in the sense of where He abides, the term heaven is used as synonymous with God (Mt. 21:25).

Reflections on the Eternal Abode

- 1) New heaven (s) and earth - 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1 A reference to the new abode of the saved. The living saints abide on earth and breathe the air of the first heaven (atmosphere), so their abode is associated with earth. The deceased saints spirits abide in the heavenly realm (Paradise – Third heaven). It is of little surprise the eternal abode of the righteous would be spoken of as the new heaven and earth. This is described as 'wherein dwelleth righteousness' and will only be available after the destruction of the first heaven (s) and earth. We view the new heaven (s) and earth as the placed prepared by Jesus (Jn. 14:2). We see the scriptures anticipate his return to take the saved to the prepared placed (1 Th. 4:16,17). The term 'new heavens and earth' are associated with the concept of a 'new order', as Isaiah anticipated the change from the former covenant (old covenant) to the (new covenant). Peter and John utilize the same terminology to anticipate the final abode of the saints after the destruction of the first heavens and earth. This would appear to be a fitting figure of the eternal abode, as we consider the present heaven and earth the abode of man and so the new heaven and earth is a metaphorical expression of man's future abode in the very (immediate) presence of God. It is true many think this language speaks of a refurbished earth and that heaven will be here on earth. We have not presented that view, because the passages that are brought forth to support the view at this point seem suspect to us. The underlying issue is one of hermeneutics, since we must deal with the idea of literalizing or spiritualizing the scriptures. We admit some ambivalence, as the degree of spiritualizing in some passages seem extravagant, but at the same time it is evident that literalizing becomes extremely extravagant in explanation. The materialistic bent to which denominational writers have carried this is surely evident and this can be said without making materialistic things inherently evil.
- 2) Holy City - Rev.21:2; 22:19 This pictures the place of resident of the redeemed and it is fully associated with holiness (there will never be anything defiling there – Rev. 21:27).
- 3) New Jerusalem - Rev. 21:2; 3:12 Jerusalem, a name constantly associated with the endeavors of heaven (the Lord's church began there Acts. 2 and reference to those enrolled in heaven Heb. 12:22,23. It was constant in association with the place of God's house and dwelling place and where his people gathered to worship. It is spoken of as holy in Rev. 21:10.
- 4) Heaven - Col. 1:5; 2 Pet. 1:4,5; Mt. 6:19,20; 5:12; Heb.9:24; 1 Pet. 3:22; Jn. 14:2,3; 1 Th. 4:16,17; Acts 1:11

The inhabitants of the new heaven and earth besides God and the holy angels:

- 1) The saved – Rev. 21:24
- 2) The overcomers – Rev. 21:7; 2:7; 7:14

Reflections on the Eternal Abode

- 3) The pure – Rev.21:27
- 4) The obedient – Rev. 22:14
- 5) The faithful – Rev. 2:10; 20:6
- 6) The enrolled – Rev. 21:27; 20:15

Description of the city: grandeur that defies description – “Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal....”

- 1) Foursquare – Rev. 21:16 (equal in length, width, and height – 12,000 furlongs).
- 2) Wall (great and high – 144 cubits and built of jasper – Rev. 21:12,17,18)
- 3) Foundations – 12 (in them the names of the twelve apostles and the Lamb – Rev. 21:14. The foundations for the wall were garnished with precious stones with each foundation having a different stone – Rev. 21:19,20)
- 4) Gates – Twelve gates with three on each side of the city and they were made of pearl, also angels present at the gates – Rev.21:12,13,21 - they were inscribed with names, the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. These gates will never be closed and this relates to the fact there will be no night there – Rev. 21:25
- 5) The streets of pure gold, like transparent glass – Rev.21:21 (street –collective noun).
- 6) The city of pure gold, like clear glass – Rev. 21:18

Things that will be absent:

- 1) No sun, moon – Rev. 21:23; 22:5
- 2) No night – Rev.22:5
- 3) No sea – Rev.21:1
- 4) No curse or its consequence – Rev.22:3
- 5) No tears – Rev. 21:4;
- 6) No sorrow – Rev. 21:4
- 7) No death – Rev. 21:4; 20:14

Things that will be present:

- 1) The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb will be there – Rev. 21:3,22; 22:3
- 2) The holy angels will be there – 21:12; 5:11
- 3) A pure river of water of life – Rev. 22:1 (clear as crystal and flowing out from the throne of God and the Lamb).
- 4) The tree of life – Rev. 22:2 (twelve manners of fruit and leaves of healing).
- 5) The fountain of the water of life – Rev. 21:6. (??)
- 6) His servants will be serving him and they will be clearly manifested – Rev. 22:3,4.

Overview of Revelation 21:1 through Revelation 22:5

(The Consummation of the New Creation – the new heaven and earth – the promised heaven).

We now have come to the end or should we say the beginning of that which shall never end? The Bible has always pressed forward from the promise of Genesis 3:15 to the fullness of God's redemptive plan initiated by God's grace and received by man's faith founded on the evidence of divine testimony. The progression of the plan is captured in the idea of 'new things' and the passing away of 'former things'. We hear words about a new covenant, a new temple, a new Israel, a new Jerusalem and a new creation. All of these terms leave behind them a former companion that was real and yet a shadow. These former companions played a very significant role in the plan of the God (who never changes in nature or in purpose) by being changed. Beale speaks of these things that are new as "...metaphors, for the one reality of God's intimate, glorious presence with his people (p.173)." The language of Rev. 21:1-22:5 expresses the eternal state wherein God and man will be in the immediate presence of one another. Never again will there be a 'go-between' between God and man and the fullness of the phrase "...so shall ye be my people. And I will be your God...." is consummated in Rev. 21:1-22:5 – at this point it is a 'done deal' forever. These verses describe the fulfillment of the hope which is now laid up for us in heaven (Col. 1:5). When we experience the scenes of Rev. 21:1-22:5 we will shed our present hope, for hope fades away when the object of one's hope appears (Rom. 8:24). This hope could never 'make ashamed', for it founded upon the love, the righteousness and faithfulness of God (Rom. 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:20; Heb. 6:10; Rom. 3:3,4; Heb.6:17-20).

Revelation 21:1-8

The redeemed are viewed as the holy city, the New Jerusalem, the prepared bride.

Revelation 21:9-21

The structure, the grandeur and the scope of the heavenly city.

21:9 The phrase of introduction.

21:10-14 The initial view and appearance of the city.

21:15-17 The measurement of the city.

21:18-21 We learn more about the great wall and the gates of verses 12 and 13.

Revelation 21:22-27

The glory, the security and the sanctification of the city.

21:22 No temple, for therein is the immediate presence of God and the Lamb. Man shall now dwell in the very presence of deity. This demands changes presently beyond our comprehension, so the eternal state is presented to us in symbolic language. We have already

Overview of Revelation 21:1 through Revelation 22:5

learned the resurrected body would have to undergo changes to be fitted for this environment (1 Cor. 15:42-50).

21:23-24 The glory of God from His immediate presence is manifested in light so startling, so magnificent that it removed any necessity in the new heaven and earth of the lights that the Creator had provided for the first heavens and earth.

21:25,26 The security, the protection of the redeemed forever from evil influence or force is clearly stated. It is only the redeemed that can come there to express reverence, love and honor to and for the God of Heaven and the Savior of man.

21:27 The city will have holiness ever dwelling in it and in it alone. The unholy, the defiled are far removed from the heavenly sphere and are residents in the lake, which burneth with fire and brimstone. We know there is no possibility of these two spheres to ever be drawn together for the heavenly is characterized with no death, but the other is characterized with death. Actually it is characterized by the worst of all deaths i.e.; the second death.

Revelation 22:1-5

The observing of the river of water of life, the tree of life and the manner of produce assures everlasting provisions and everlasting life. Now, the environment and the people of God are beyond sin and its consequences. Ironically, this blessed future without end is impressed upon us by going back to the beginning. Furthermore, no curse could befall the people of God for they are in the very immediate presence of God, total in their acknowledgement of Him and ever diligent in their service to Him.

22:1,2 Life abounds and death will never be experienced here, as the river of water of life originates from the throne of God and the Lamb. The tree of life and her fruits now available to the redeemed symbolizes immortality.

22:3,4 The curse of sin is now gone forever, for in the presence of God such could never occur and the redeemed are in His very midst and fully acknowledge Him. They are engaged in serving Him, serving which begets further joy and provokes more service and glory to God.

22:5 The changes that must follow where God is present is recorded and the everlasting position of the redeemed is recorded.

“...Write: for these words are true and faithful....These sayings are faithful and true....”

Revelation Exercises

First Exercise

Learning to Think About Symbolism

When you see the symbolic presentation you ask yourself what historical event, theological reality or event in salvation history is this passage conveying? What is this passage a symbolic version of?

Revelation 7:1-4, "¹ And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. ² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. ⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."

What does this depict theologically? _____.

Zechariah 3:3-5 "³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. ⁴ And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. ⁵ And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord stood by."

What does this theologically depict? _____.

Genesis 37:7,9 "⁷ For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf... ⁹ And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me."

The visions often portray an event, but the event or action is portrayed through _____. Joseph's dreamed of sun, moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to him. Was Joseph's dream literally fulfilled? _____. Genesis 43:26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and _____ to him to the earth.

Symbolic writing is not the painting of pictures, but the presentation of an idea. The symbolic language presents the idea with more force and leaves a stronger impression upon the reader, than if simply expressed in straight forward literal language. Symbolic writing is not pictographic, but it is ideographic. Illustration: The skull and the crossbones on the bottle of medicine is this a picture or a symbol of poison?



Questions from Revelation Chapter 1

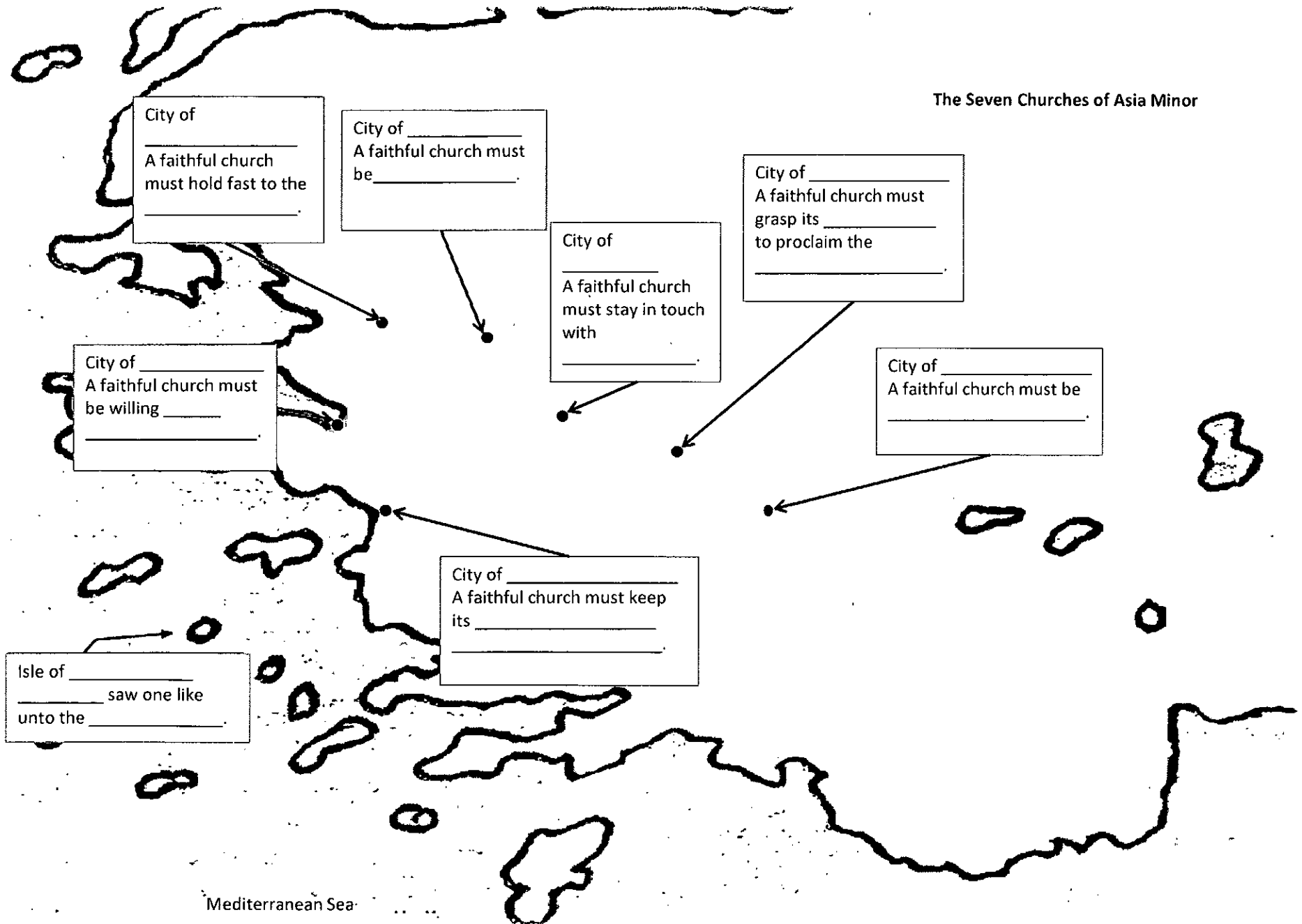
- 1) True or False- Jesus said he was the first and the best.
- 2) True or False- the seven churches represent a composite of all the churches of Christ in Asia.
- 3) True or False- In this revelation Christ is both the receiver and the giver.
- 4) Who bore record of the Word?
a. Satan b. Angels c. Paul d. John
- 5) Revelation 1:12- "And I turned to see the _____ with me..."
- 6) Revelation 1:17- "...I fell at his feet as dead. And he _____"
- 7) Revelation 1:5- "... Unto him that _____ us, and _____ us from our _____ in his own _____."
- 8) Revelation 1:2- "Who bare record of the word of God..... and of _____ that he saw."
- 9) Revelation 1:17- "... _____ not; I am the _____ and the _____."
- 10) What are the various ways Christ is described in Revelation chapter one?
Verse 5: _____
Verse 8: _____
Verse 11: _____
Verse 13: _____
Verse 14: _____
Verse 15: _____
Verse 16: _____
Verse 17: _____
Verse 18: _____
- 11) Revelation 1:3- "Blessed is _____ that _____, and _____ that _____ the words of this prophecy, and _____ those _____ which are written therein: for the _____ is at hand."
- 12) Who is the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of earth?
- 13) What brother was in the spirit on the Lord's Day?
- 14) Who gave the revelation of Jesus Christ to Jesus Christ?
- 15) Who did John write to?
- 16) What is Alpha and Omega in verse 8 and then in verse 11?

Questions from Revelation Chapter 1

- 17) What did God send to signify this revelation unto his servant John?
- 18) When Jesus “washed us from our sins in his own blood” as stated in Rev. 1:15, what does it say we were made in verse 6?
- 19) What did John hear in verse 10?
- 20) What did John do when he saw “one like unto the Son of Man?”
- 21) What are the names of the seven churches?
- 22) What is the “mystery” of God?
- 23) What eyes are going to see Jesus when he comes?
- 24) What is meant by the word “Blessed,” as used in verse three?
- 25) What is meant by, “Keep the things that are written therein,” in verse three?
- 26) What is the name of the isle that John was on when he received the revelation?
- 27) Why was John on this island?
- 28) Where was the phrase, “like unto the Son of Man,” taken from in the Old Testament?
- 29) What is Christ’s second coming pictured as? (Rev. 1:7)
- 30) How were the seven candlesticks, the seven stars, and the Son of Man arranged in John’s vision?
- 31) In verse 13, John saw one like unto the Son of Man in the midst of the seven churches; what does this represent?
- 32) In the Bible others are risen from the dead only to die again. Jesus is different. List at least one verse from chapter one supporting this fact.
- 33) What is a better word that can be used for the word candlestick?
- 34) What things was John supposed to write?
- 35) Give an example of the Bible defining itself by giving symbols and then explaining them (from chapter one)?
- 36) Where were the seven churches located at?

The Road To Heaven Involves

The Seven Churches of Asia Minor



Study Sheet One for Seven Churches

We know that _____ was on the isle of _____,

When he received a revelation from _____.

This had been received from _____. John was instructed to

_____ what he _____ and send the _____

to the _____ churches. John was their _____ and

their _____ in _____ and _____.

They were also in the _____ together at this time.

The opening verses reveal that John was to write to his fellow
_____.

They were in the kingdom with him and they were also being
_____.

Study Sheet Two for Seven Churches

John heard a great _____, so he turned and saw _____
_____ candlesticks. There in the midst of them he saw one like unto
the _____. The garment went down to his _____ and the
feet were like unto _____. His right hand contained
_____, but from his mouth came a _____
_____. The one seen said several things, but one of the things he
said was that he had the _____ of hell and of _____.

- 1) What lessons are being taught to us by the appearance of the one like unto the Son of Man?

- 2) There were _____ stars and _____ candlesticks.
- 3) The _____ stars are _____.
- 4) The _____ candlesticks are _____.

Study Sheet Three for Seven Churches

How God Teaches –A key to Interpretation based upon Revelation 1:20

- 1) The mystery of the seven stars and the seven golden candlesticks in my right hand.
- 2) What does the word 'mystery' mean in the scriptures?
- 3) The stars and candlesticks are a mystery for their meaning cannot be known until revealed by God.
- 4) The seven stars are the angels of the churches. The seven candlesticks are the seven churches.
- 5) The visions are mysteries .
- 6) The symbols stand for something other than themselves.
 - a) No physical resemblance.
 - b) A moral or spiritual likeness.
 - c) It is understood once pointed out by the Holy spirit.
 - d) Revelation 1:20; 10:7; 17:5,.
- 7) The dynamics of interpretation as seen in this simple picture from the scriptures reveals why the child of God sets long and longingly with a copy of the scriptures in his hand.

Study Sheet Four for Seven Churches

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that _____, and they that _____

the _____ of this _____, and _____

those things which are _____ therein: for the

is at _____.

The seven churches are

E _____

S _____

P _____

T _____

S _____

P _____

L _____

Study Sheet Five for Seven Churches

Revelation 2:4 _____ I have somewhat _____

Thee, _____ thou hast _____ thy _____

_____.

Revelation 1:3 _____ is he that _____, and they that

_____ the _____ of this _____,

and _____ those things which are _____ therein:

for the _____ is at _____.

The seven churches are

E _____

S _____

P _____

T _____

S _____

P _____

L _____

True or False

- 1) True - False The symbols used in chapter one to speak of the risen and glorified Christ appear again in the letters to the seven churches.
- 2) True – False There were other congregations of the body of Christ in Asia Minor at this time.
- 3) True – False The fact that seven churches are noted fits into the symbolic nature of the book of Revelation.

Study Sheet Six for Seven Churches

1) Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that _____ the words of this _____, and keep those _____ which are written _____: for the _____ is at hand.

2) Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have _____ against _____, because

Thou hast _____ thy first _____.

3) Revelation 2:4 was written to the church at _____.

4) Revelation 2:16 _____; or else I will _____ unto thee _____, and will _____ against them with the _____ of my _____.

5) These words are found in the message sent to the church in _____.

6) Which of the seven churches was located the most northern position in Asia Minor?

7) What was coming out of the mouth of the one like the Son of man in Revelation 1:16?
_____.

8) The church at _____ hated the _____ of the _____.

9) The church at _____ had some that held to the _____ of the _____, which the Lord _____.

10) The _____ of _____ was located in _____ and the folks that went there said they were _____, but they weren't.

11) The church in Smyrna was the _____ church in town, but also the _____.

Study Sheet Seven for Seven Churches

- 1) The memory verses have been Revelation

a) _____
b) _____
c) _____
d) _____

One of the differences between an undergraduate student and a graduate student is undergraduate students have to learn what they read and graduate students have to also remember where they read it.

- 2) Review your map and the location of each church. Starting with the church at Laodicea and traveling back around to the churches in order list them as you come to them. They would be _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____.
- 3) The church at Ephesus reveals a living church cannot _____ false _____ nor can they _____, the _____ of false _____.
- 4) The church that does not _____ Jesus Christ and loses its _____ to do the _____ works will not be a lamp stand acceptable to he that _____ the seven stars in his _____ hand.
- 5) The church at Smyrna was _____, even though you would have probably found their living _____ rather difficult.
- 6) The church that is not willing to _____, will not be acceptable to him who is the _____ and the _____.
- 7) The phrase 'be thou faithful unto death' is saying more than be faithful until you die, but it is saying be faithful, even if it causes your _____.
- 8) There are people who lay up treasures for themselves, but they are not _____. (If you need help with the answer check out the parable in Luke 12).
- 9) List briefly something you have become aware of through the study that has sharpen your spiritual understanding and provoked reflection and thought in your life.

A Study Sheet For Each Of The Seven Churches

- 1) Unto the angel of the church of _____. Revelation ____: ____-____.
- 2) How did Christ describe himself to the church in this city?
- 3) What are the things that Jesus said he knew about this church?
- 4) What are the things, if any, that Jesus commended about this church?
- 5) What are the things, if any, that Jesus reprovved about this church?
- 6) What promise did Jesus give to those that would overcome in this church?
- 7) List miscellaneous notes about this church and its location you want to recall.
- 8) Jesus solemn call was always, "He that hath an ear, _____
_____."
- 9) For memory aid of this church list an identifying idea. For example: Ephesus (A lost love or Missing her first love).

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- 9) For memory aid of this church list an identifying idea. For example: Ephesus
(A lost love or Missing her first love).

A Study Sheet For Each Of The Seven Churches

- 1) Unto the angel of the church of _____. Revelation ____: ____-____.
- 2) How did Christ describe himself to the church in this city?
- 3) What are the things that Jesus said he knew about this church?
- 4) What are the things, if any, that Jesus commended about this church?
- 5) What are the things, if any, that Jesus reproved about this church?
- 6) What promise did Jesus give to those that would overcome in this church?
- 7) List miscellaneous notes about this church and its location you want to recall.
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Thoughts for Memory Aid and the Seven Churches

(Study each church carefully and then come up with an idea that you find in the writing that you can associate with that church for your memory key. Read and reread the letter to that particular church only – do so seven days consecutively for seven days increasing the numbering of reading each day by one. You will have read that short letter at the end of the seven days twenty eight times. Take seven minutes the next three days to simply think about that letter and then determine your memory aid for that church).

Here are some examples to give you an idea of what we are suggesting. We are sure when you have finished you will have some helpful and valuable information. We would love to hear the memory aids you came up with and why.

Ephesus: Missing her first love.

Smyrna: Poverty without – rich within – dressed in rags, but full pockets.

Pergamos: Satan's Place – I don't call this home any more.

Thyatira: Jezebel been talking rather than listening - Jezebel is not a lady.

Sardis: Grave warning – Nothing but reputation.

Philadelphia: Sure you are tire, but just keep going – The door is open.

Laodicea: You make me sick – You have everything, but what you need.

Questions from Revelation Chapter 4 and 5

- 1) A door was opened into _____ and JOHN was invited to come up to see the things that would be _____.
- 2) List the scriptures in chapters 4 and 5 where the throne is mentioned:
 - a) _____ a) _____
 - b) _____ b) _____
 - c) _____ c) _____
 - d) _____ d) _____
 - e) _____ e) _____
 - f) _____
 - g) _____
- 3) What were around the throne? _____
- 4) Who were around the throne in chapter 4? _____
- 5) What Old Testament event do you associate with lightnings and thunderings? _____
- 6) The first creature was like a _____.
The second creature was like a _____.
The third creature was like a _____.
The fourth creature was like a _____.
- 7) What do these creatures represent? _____
- 8) The four living creatures were like the _____ in the Old Testament.
- 9) What on earth had symbolized these various things in heaven? _____
- 10) How many times do the following appear in chapters 4 and 5?
 - a) Throne _____
 - b) Seals _____
 - c) Creatures _____
 - d) Horns _____
 - e) Eyes _____
 - f) Elders _____
 - g) Harps _____
 - h) Angels _____
- 11) The harps represent _____ and the incenses _____.
- 12) Who had the book in his right hand? _____

Questions from Revelation Chapter 4 and 5

13) Where could they not find any one worthy to open the book?

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

14) The word 'man' in verse 3 should be translated no _____.

15) Each elder had a _____ and a _____.

16) List four things Christ had done to be worthy to open the book.

(See verses 9 and 10).

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

17) What were the seven things Christ was worthy to receive according to verse 12?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)
- g)

18) Chapters two and three dealt with the things that _____ according to Rev. 1:19.

19) The book can be outlined by using chapter _____ verse _____.

20) The book was written by _____ in the year _____ A.D..

21) What is the lesson to be received from chapters four and five?