

Revelation InDepth Teaching: Begins with Rev 5 on Jan 12, 2022

5 main messages in Rev. 5:

1. THE MAGNIFICATION AND EXALTATION OF THE WORTH OF YESHUA AT THE END OF THIS AGE. Right before the great tribulation begins, there's worship as Yeshua is recognized as the only One worthy to bring judgment. The response in heaven:
Rev 5:12-14 They all said with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.
2. THE DIVERSITY OF YESHUA'S PERSON AND WORTH. Not just that He's worthy. But He is diverse and complex. Those in heaven say, "Behold the Lion," but John sees a Lamb. He's a fierce Lion, and yes, He's as gentle as a Lamb. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all life, but He is also a Man who was born and died. He is the Judge and He's also the Redeemer and the Advocate. He loves infinitely, yet His wrath is terrifying. His mercy knows no end, yet His justice is furious and right.
3. THE GOOD NEWS OF THE JUDGMENT OF GOD. Justice only comes when judgement is executed.
4. THE DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS AND THE END OF THE AGE. John sees people holding harps in one hand and bowls of incense in the other hand, which represent worship and intercession. In chapters 5, 8, and 19, we see prayers trigger events/judgments on the earth. The saints pray and Yeshua executes judgment on the earth. Rev. 6:9,11 "How long until You avenge our blood and release judgment on the earth?" Prayer is happening before, during and after the tribulation. Not "make my life better" prayers, but heavenly ground prayers—prayers that are focused on the throne room and the will of Yahweh. I believe future of prayer mtgs will include us crying out for the Lamb to "take the scroll and break the seal".
5. THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIP AND CONSUMMATION. So many of us grew up on a gospel of forgiveness—He came to forgive us for our sins. That's true, but that's not the whole truth. Rev 5:9-10 "You are worthy to take the scroll and to release the end times judgments on the earth because You were slain and have redeemed us to Yahweh by Your blood from every tribe and nation. You have made us kings and priests and we will reign with You on the earth." You are worthy to loose end-times judgements because You bled and redeemed people so we can reign on the earth with You.

If you die before or during the tribulation and you are in the presence of Yahweh, you won't stay there forever. You will return to the earth with Yeshua to reign for 1,000 years. This is one of the main reasons Yeshua died and why He redeemed you and me. He bought us from the kingdom of Satan so we could reign on the earth with Him! The earth won't be destroyed at the end. But it will be purified with fire and redeemed. Yahweh didn't destroy us. He cleansed us and made us new.

2 Cor 5:17 "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation." (This is from Isa 65 & 66). Yeshua said, "I long to cast fire on the earth." John said Yeshua will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luk 3:16-17 John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

He won't destroy the earth. He will restore it. The Messiah will rule and reign in an earthy kingdom on the earth with us! The kingdom of God is the government of God that will come in fullness at the end of the age.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

The kingdom is the government of Yahweh on the earth.

Acts 3:21 says Yeshua will return and when He comes, He will restore all things—not by destroying, but by restoring.

Heb 12:27 He's going to shake everything that can be shaken. The kingdom isn't here until the King comes.

Joel 3 says that at the end of age, He will roar like a Lion from Mt Zion. He will rule and reign. The judge of the living and the dead is also the Savior of the world. He's fierce, but He's also the most gentle.

REVELATION 6 The Apostle John looked for a Lion, but he sees a slain Lamb. He was looking for One who is worthy, One who had overcome, but instead, he sees One who appeared to have been slain. He was looking for One who had the majesty of a King, but instead, he saw One who was stripped of His majesty and wrapped in humility. John sees a slain Lamb with 7 horns that represent perfect strength and power; with 7 eyes that represent perfect wisdom and all-seeing vision, and 7 Spirits representing perfect power and presence—a Lamb who covers the earth and denotes omnipresence.

Isa 26:16 -18 O LORD, they sought You in distress; They could only whisper a prayer, Your chastening was upon them. As the pregnant woman approaches *the time* to give birth, She writhes *and* cries out in her labor pains, Thus were we before You, O Yahweh. We were pregnant, we writhed *in labor*, We gave birth, as it seems, *only* to wind. We could not accomplish deliverance for the earth, Nor were inhabitants of the world born.

Isa. 26, describes a woman in labor but after going through all of the pain and trauma, but she only passes gas. There is no baby. And the people realize they cannot accomplish deliverance for the earth. Only Yahweh can do that. Time is coming when the birth pains will bring about the tribulation which will lead to the resurrection of the world.

Isa 26:19 Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew *is as* the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

Isa 66:7-9 "Before she (Israel) travailed, she brought forth; Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy.

Isa 66:8 "Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.

Isa 66:9 "Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?" says Yahweh. "Or shall I who gives delivery shut *the womb?*" says your Elohim.

This is amazing...it says that before Israel had labor pains, she had a baby. When does redemption come? After Yeshua returns. Birth pains lead to birth, which is redemption. Yeshua was the baby boy who was born before redemption. Isaiah is touching on the mystery of the 2 comings of Yeshua. Isa 66 is saying that the Baby will come before the tribulation (birth pains). When does redemption come? After He returns. The final tribulation will lead to redemption. Isaiah prophecies this.

Israel expectation was that when the Messiah comes that's when redemption would come. But Isa 66 says before labor, before redemption comes to the earth, the Messiah will come—twice. His birth and His return! Vs 10-13 says the pain is real, but the time will come and I will care for you like a mother cares for her baby! Vs 14- says He will come in fire and with anger, and those slain by Yahweh will be many.

When you get to Daniel 9 and you read about the 70 weeks and the final 7 years. It's clear that the final 7 years begins with a covenant...for one week (7 years). The antichrist makes a covenant with many for 7 years. In the middle of those 7 years, the antichrist puts an end to sacrifices and offerings, which is called the abomination of desolation. That period will be filled with suffering and tribulation, but will end with Yeshua coming in fire to bring justice to the earth.

As Yeshua is leaving the temple, He elaborates on what Isaiah and Daniel said:

Mat 24:1 -14 Yeshua came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Yeshua answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." Any Jew hearing this would think of Isa 26, Isa. 66 and Dan 9. What are the real birth pains? Yeshua said, "They will deliver you to tribulation and will kill you and you will be hated by all nations because of My name."

3 POSSIBLE TIMELINES

POST TRIBULATION RETURN OF CHRIST

First 3.5 years:

1st seal

2nd

3rd

Second 3.5 years:

4th seal

5th seal

6th seal

Yeshua returns and raptures His church—the church goes with Him and remains in heaven for a period of time

7th seal

Followed by 7 Trumpets

Followed by bowls of wrath at the end

Judgment Day

7 SEALS AND 7 TRUMPETS OCCUR DURING THE LAST 3.5 YEARS OF TRIBULATION

First 3.5 years:

Beginning of birth pains

Second 3.5 years:

1st seal

2nd seal

3rd seal

4th seal

5th seal

6th seal

7th seal

Followed by the 7 Trumpets

At the End of 7 years:

Yeshua returns and raptures the church. They go with Him and remain in heaven for a period of time (possibly during the time the bowls of wrath are poured out on the earth). The bowls of wrath are poured out followed by the Day of Judgment

PRE-WRATH and POST-TRIBULATION return of Yeshua:

First 3.5 years:

1st seal

2nd seal

3rd seal

Second 3.5 years:

4th seal

5th seal (possibly the beginning of the trumpets)

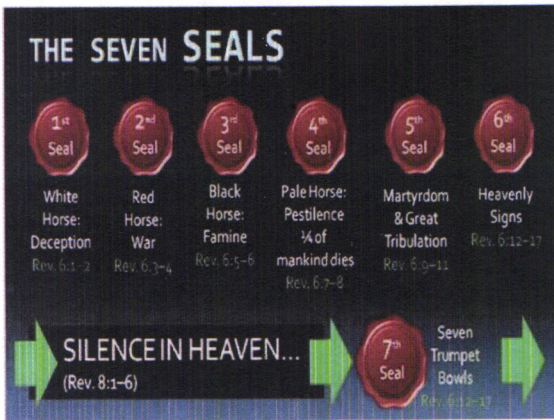
6th seal (6th trumpet)

YESHUA returns for His bride possibly between the 6th and 7th seal. He takes His bride to heaven for a period of time (probably while the wrath of Yahweh is poured out). The wrath of God is clearly a distinct time separate from the tribulation.

7th bowl and 7th trumpet

Judgment Day

We don't know how long each of the seals and trumpet judgments last. It's important to realize the return of Yeshua is a complex series of events that unfolds over a period of time. Rev 19 sounds like His return and the rapture happen instantly, but we know that there is a conquering of His enemies that must happen. He will march from the south making His way up to Jerusalem, in the same way Moses led the Jews out of Egypt from the south. His wrath will be poured out as He marches through the land as the Divine Warrior King.



The SEVEN SEALS are 7 wax seals on a scroll. (the scroll can't be opened and read until the final seal is removed)

1st seal: Rev 6:1-2 to conquer

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

Mat 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

2nd & 3rd seals (Rev 6:4, 6, 8), the sword & famines are also found in:

Mat 24:6-8 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 "But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

4th Seal: pestilence

5th seal: Rev 6: 9,10, martyrs (under the altar), are also found in Mt 24:9, 10

Mat 24:9-10 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time, many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another."

The 6th seal cosmic signs & great earthquake, (possibly takes place during 7th seal, which is silence in heaven for about half an hour Rev 8).

Rev 6:12-17 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they *said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Matthew 24:29-31: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Luk 21:25-27 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.

Isa 2:19 Men will go into **caves** of the **rocks** and into holes of the ground before the terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the earth tremble.

7th Seal is silence in heaven followed by an earthquake

7 Trumpets & 1/3rd

1/3rd Destruction Occurs 11 x's in Trumpets 1-6

- 1/3 - Earth Burned**, 1st Trumpet, Rev 8:7
- 1/3 - Trees Burned**, 1st Trumpet, Rev 8:7
- 1/3 - Sea Blood**, 2nd Trumpet, Rev 8:8
- 1/3 - Sea Creatures Die**, 2nd Trumpet, Rev 8:9
- 1/3 - Ships Destroyed**, 3rd Trumpet, Rev 8:9
- 1/3 - Rivers Wormwood**, 3rd Trumpet, Rev 8:10
- 1/3 - Springs Wormwood**, 3rd Trumpet, Rev 8:10
- 1/3 - Sun Dark**, 4th Trumpet, Rev 8:12
- 1/3 - Moon Dark**, 4th Trumpet, Rev 8:12
- 1/3 - Stars Dark**, 4th Trumpet, Rev 8:12
- 1/3 - Killed**, 6th Trumpet, Rev 9:14

**In 7th Trumpet Wrath,
1/3rd Destruction INCREASES to 100%!**

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7 TRUMPETS signal that war is about to happen. Who's coming to make war? The righteous just Judge, the divine Warrior, Yeshua, the Lion of Judah coming in blazing fire to make war on His enemies.

The first 4 include the devastation of natural objects. Nature, animals and even the earth itself, suffering because of our sin.

- 1st 1/3 of earth scorched earth & 1/3 of trees & all green grass
- 2nd Polluted earth
- 3rd Contaminated water
- 4th Reduced sunlight...(due to an event that clouds the sun)

3 WOES are attached to the last 3 trumpets: (Rev. 8:13—1st woe to 5th trumpet, 2nd woe to 6th and 3rd woe to 7th trumpet).

- 5th Locusts...(demonic perhaps) and 1st WOE
- 6th 2 million man army from beyond the Euphrates and 2nd WOE
- 7th His kingdom comes and 3rd WOE

THE BOWLS OF YAHWEH'S WRATH (7 plagues): **Revelation 16:1-9**

- 1st loathsome, malignant sores on those with the mark of the beast 16:2
- 2nd Blood in sea & every living thing in the sea died 16:3
- 3rd Blood in the rivers & springs of water 16:4-5
- 4th The sun scorches men with fire—they do not repent 16:8-9
- 5th Bowl of wrath poured out on throne of the beast—his kingdom is darkened; they gnawed their tongues because of pain 16:10
- 6th Euphrates river dries up to make way for the kings and for Armageddon (when Yeshua defeats the anti-christ) 16:12
- 7th Massive earthquake, 100 lb. hailstones, cities destroyed...His kingdom comes 16:17

The message of Rev. is: **BE PREPARED!**

The Seven Seals of Revelation

Sacrifices start at some point — 2½ years — 1 year — A very short time

Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse						The Day of the Lord — Time of God's Wrath (Joel 2:1, Revelation 6:15-17, 11:18, 14:19, 15:1)																	
First Seal	Second Seal	Third Seal	Fourth Seal	Fifth Seal	Sixth Seal	Seventh Seal: Seven Trumpet Plagues (Revelation 16:1)																	
White Horse	Red Horse	Black Horse	Pale Horse	Great Tribulation	Heavenly Signs	First Trumpet	Second Trumpet	Third Trumpet	Fourth Trumpet	Fifth Trumpet	Sixth Trumpet	Seventh Trumpet: Seven Last Plagues							Seventh Plague				
Deception	War	Famine	Pestilence	National Captivity	Heavenly Signs	One third of trees and all grass burned	One third of sea become blood, one third of sea clarity or one third of ships destroyed	One third of sea become bitter, one third of sea become wormwood	One third of sun, one third of moon, stars dimmed	Locusts, army of beasts	1/3 of mankind killed	1/3 of mankind killed	Sores on people who accepted mark of the beast	Sea turns to blood	Rivers turn to blood	Sun scorches humanity with great heat	Beast's seat of government effected	Euphrates dried up, world's armies gathered	Great earthquake and hail				
Matthew 24:4-5	Matthew 24:6-8	Matthew 24:7-8	Matthew 24:7-8	Matthew 24:9-21, Luke 21:25-28	Matthew 24:29-30, Luke 21:30-31	Revelation 6:1-2	Revelation 6:3-4	Revelation 6:5-6	Revelation 6:7-8	Revelation 6:9-11	Revelation 6:12-17	Revelation 8:7	Revelation 8:8-9	Revelation 8:10-11	Revelation 8:12	Revelation 8:13-14	Revelation 9:1-2	Revelation 9:3-4	Revelation 9:5-6	Revelation 9:7-8	Revelation 9:9-11	Revelation 9:12-15	Revelation 9:17-21
						Sealing of God's People Revelation 7, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ezekiel 9:4																	
						Return of Jesus Christ Revelation 10:7, 11:15-19, 19:1-21, Matthew 24:30-31, I Corinthians 15:51-52, I Thessalonians 4:16, Zechariah 14:1-4																	
						1,335 days (Daniel 12:12) Organized efforts of God's Work to proclaim the Gospel to the world end (Acts 8:11, John 9:4)																	
						1,290 days (Daniel 12:11) Sacrifices end, abomination of desolation set up, Church goes to place of protection (Daniel 8:9-12, Matthew 24:15-20, Luke 21:20-23)																	
						1,260 days (Daniel 12:7) Tribulation completed, sealed saints only, see remaining tribulation, Church protected in wilderness, hear Jesus' voice from heaven																	

In Rev 15, we see saints who have overcome the tribulation on the sea of glass and we see 7 angels are given 7 bowls of wrath to pour out on the earth. From this chapter, it appears the Christians are spending time there (*the rapture has already happened*).
Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed (*lit: made visible, appears*) then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

When Yeshua comes back, we will also be revealed (*lit: made visible, appears*) with Him in glory. Is this when we return with Him after His wrath is poured out or does this happen when we are raptured? I can see both. It seems to me that maybe the wrath (*at least a portion of it*) is poured out when He returns.

Isa 40:5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isa 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him.

Hab 3 describes the return of Yeshua: *Royal Procession*

Pestilence goes before Him and plagues come after Him...this is Exodus language. This describes Yeshua marching and destroying.

Hab 3:12 In indignation You marched through the earth; in anger You trampled the nations.

Jude 14&15 says Yeshua will come to do what? Jud 1:14 *It was* also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the 7th generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, 15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Yeshua is coming to execute judgement on all and to convict the ungodly. Because of these passages I lean toward the idea that Yeshua Himself will execute much of the judgment wrath, much like Yahweh did in the Exodus story. He's coming to judge the evil one and the evil! He's coming to deliver His people from evil! To set the captives free. To heal and redeem and restore and bring freedom to prisoners! Let that be our anchor.

THE EARTHQUAKES (during the 7 years of tribulation)

THE SIXTH SEAL Rev 6:12 -17

THE SEVENTH SEAL AND THE GOLDEN CENSER Rev 8:1 -5

WHEN THE TWO WITNESSES DIE Rev 11:12 -14

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET Rev 11:15 -19

THE SEVENTH BOWL: Rev 16:17 -21

THE SEVEN ANGELS WITH SEVEN PLAGUES (trumpets) Rev 15:1 -8

THE WRATH OF YAHWEH

REV 14:19 So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

Rev 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

Rev 15:7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

Rev 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

Rev 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

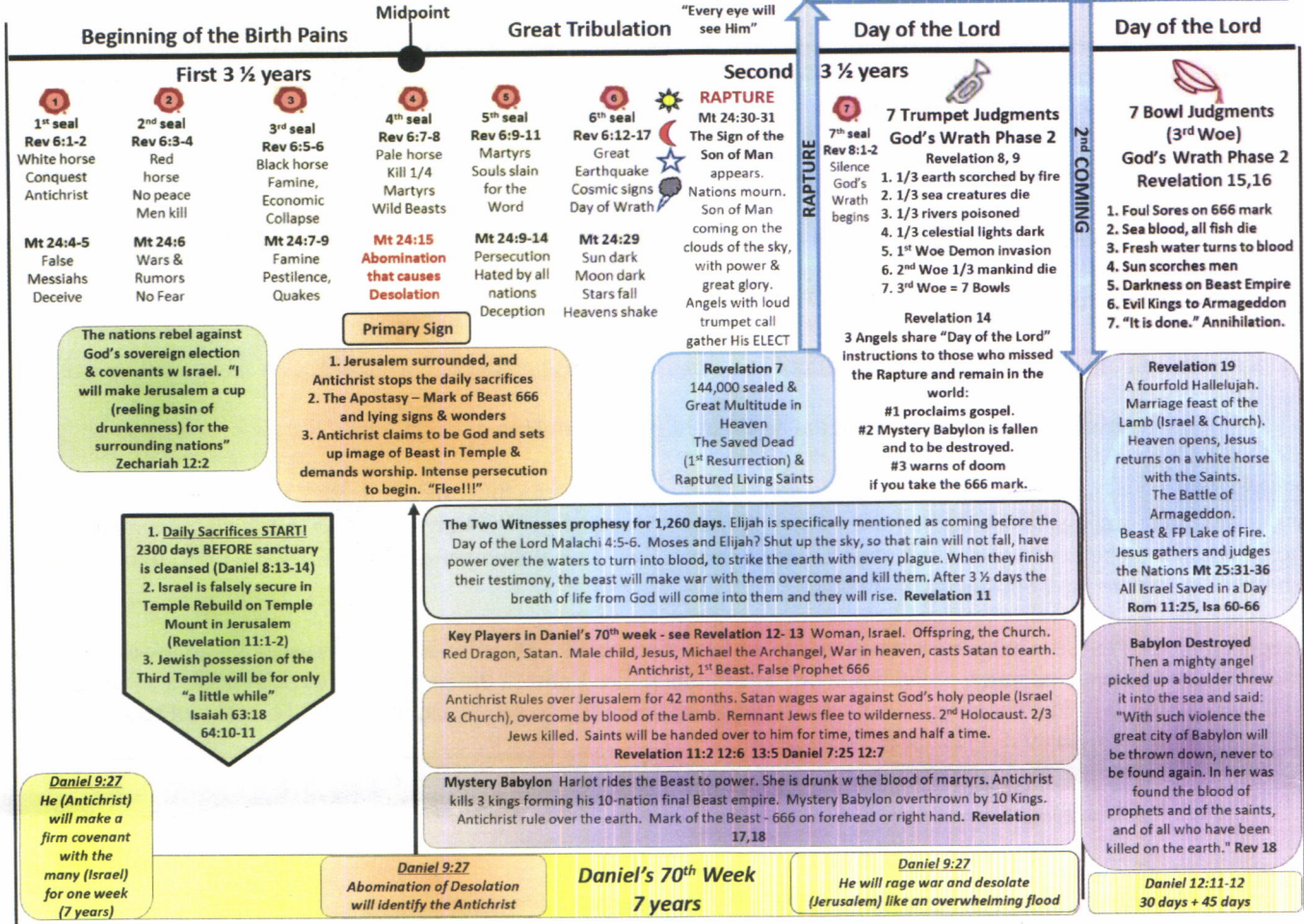
Rev 19:15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls

Consecutive & Sequential

"G.T. cut short"
"No man knows the day of hour"
"Every eye will see Him"

Second Coming (Parousia) means Jesus' arrival (in the air) and ongoing presence. Rapture sets off a complex series of events; Judgment Seat of Christ, Day of the Lord, Jesus physical return to earth...etc.



SEALS

1st 4 seals are very significant and describe a new world order that emerges and the future world war. New world order...there is an order, a structure, an authority structure that's coming and will be a new global order. It will completely change the face of the earth leading up to world War III.

Nature of the seals:

- Released by Yeshua. Not accidents. Not men deciding to do something. This is Yeshua opening the seals. When the scroll is unrolled, the end of all things happens. Yeshua, you are worthy to open the scroll. The Lamb is opening the seal.
- The seals are end time events.
- These are all future.
- They are all sequential. How do you know? the literal Greek word for first seal means the first. Greek word for 2nd means 2nd. They are put in sequential order for a reason. For ex: plagues in Egypt were numbered and happened in order.
- The seals intensify with each open seal. Seals, trumpets & bowls are all sequential and intensifying in judgment. The 6th & 7th seal end with incredible finality. 7th trumpet: mystery of Yahweh is complete and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Yahweh and his Christ. 7th bowl it is done, it is complete.
- The judgments events in Rev 6 are intentional. Yeshua is the one doing them and the Father is the one holding the scroll. There will be a temptation for people to say oh no, the Father is not on his throne...He's not sovereign. The 1st seal is the rise of the final antichrist. As he rises, the next event that happens is Yeshua allows peace to be taken from the earth. After that, famine and economic collapse. Then war. Then pandemics and pestilence. Death. Yahweh is intentionally backing the nations in a corner—He's uncovering what's true and what's not. Isa 26 says When the judgments of Yahweh are on the earth, the people will learn righteousness. As the judgments are poured out, the knowledge of Yahweh becomes the most important thing. The message won't be this is just a bunch of humans sinning, but the message will be that Yahweh is doing this. Yes, the rulers of the world will bear responsibility for these things, but Yahweh allows it.

7. The seals are multipurposed. like one stone that kills 500 birds. It's not as though Yahweh is doing just one thing. By raising up the antichrist and giving him authority, Dan 7, 11, & Rev 13 describe the antichrist arising as a sovereign event...because of the will of Yahweh. The antichrist will be raised up by Yahweh. There's a purpose for this. The church will face the antichrist—Dan 7 & 11 are clear about this so are the apostles. Yahweh will produce His very own nature and character in the body of Christ through the antichrist and his evil deeds. It will be Multi-purposed. His plans and judgments will effect satan, demons, angels and political systems and rulers, financial, religions, economic systems. Everything will be effected by these events. Heb 12 He will shake everything that can be shaken...but there is a kingdom that can't be shaken! Wheat and chaff will fall and be separated. And we will find out how much is wheat and how much chaff in us.
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Rev 6:1 And I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, "Come!"

Rev 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and in order that he might conquer (*the final conquest is Jerusalem*).

Who is the rider? John says, "I saw Yeshua open a seal...and I saw a rider with a bow seated on a white horse and a crown was given to him...The white horse speaks of victory in war. Yeshua returns at the end of Revelation riding on a white horse. He doesn't march across the earth in the beginning, but at the end. The rider is given a crown (authority is given to him...Yeshua already has all authority in heaven and on earth.)

Deut 13 says that if a false prophet rises up among you to draw you away to worship a false elohim, and he does a sign or wonder and that sign or wonder comes true, Moses says, "Know this, Yahweh raised him up to test you, to see if you love the Yahweh, your Elohim with all your heart and soul."

The antichrist will be raised up by Yahweh to test the hearts of all mankind. And he will do signs and wonders. He has a bow—no arrows, no real weapon. This is not the diadem (crown of a king). This rider is wearing a laurel wreath of vegetation. "Stephanos" in Greek. This is Not a king's crown, but a victors crown.

When is this 1st seal opened? In my opinion, there can be only 2 options: either at the beginning of Daniel's 70 weeks, which begins the final 7 years or in the middle with the abomination of desolation. I know the rider is the antichrist and I know he sets in motion the events of the tribulation.

But I don't know if the 1st seal is describing his initial rise or when he establishes the abomination of desolation and attacks Israel and is revealed for who he truly is. I don't know. When the events unfold, we will know what's happening. (Jer. 30, Dan 8, 9, 11, 12, Rev 12 & 13 II Thess. 2 describes abomination of desolation, which is the final 3.5 years)

Dan. 9:27 talking about the antichrist/prince to come. Either he strengthens a preexisting covenant or he makes a new one for one week. (read chapters Dan 8-12). Desolated means Satan/antichrist. The 7 years end with the one (the antichrist) who brought desolation to the earth and to mankind being desolated by Yeshua who pierces him with his own spear. **The key to understanding the antichrist is Dan 11 & 12—it's the best description in whole bible.*

Dan 11:21 describes the rise of the antichrist at the beginning of the final 7 years. In vs 21, he rises and in vs 31, he invades Jerusalem. Within those 10 verses, (Dan 11:21-31), the first 4 seals are possibly taking place.

SEALS: The nature of the 1st 4 seals: humans doing things to human. 1st seal: the Antichrist, a human with a vision to conquer land and people. 2nd men slaying each other. 3rd men creating financial crisis. 4th is the pestilence, sickness, plagues, war—because of what men did to each other.

After the 4th seal, everything changes. Now, it's Yahweh bringing judgment directly, not through allowing men to bring destruction. That's why I believe the opening of first 4 seals probably take place during the first half of the 7 years. It's mankind attacking mankind.

On the other hand, the first seal could be the abomination of desolation—when the antichrist conquers Jerusalem and he also burns Babylon because of her relationship with Jerusalem and he goes to war with Egypt, Africa and the middle east. First seal could set in motion WW3 and sets in motion 2nd seal etc. This could all happen in 3.5 years. Does the first seal happen in first 3.5 years? Or the last 3.5 years? We will find out—in time.

4 LIVING CREATURES are talked about in Ezek 1 & 10. The throne of Yahweh is sometimes described as a chariot with wheels that move in different directions and the living creatures are connected to those wheels.

Ezek 1:5-11 describes the living creatures—they have a human form to some degree: 4 faces & 4 wings.....under wings were 4 hands....faces did not turn....bull, ox, human and lion. These are so much more than just angels. In Ezek 10, they are called cherubim. They call forth the rider on the white horse.

1st seal: the rider is given a bow (he didn't have it before). There was given to him...you can say the Father gives things...this phrase "is given" is used in Rev 9:1, 3-5. Is given to the beast out of the sea. Rev. 13:5-7 and the false prophet is also given...this is pointing out that this is Yahweh's doing, his will. He is the Giver...of authority.

Dan 9:24 is clear: there is a period of 7 years which begins with the antichrist making a false peace agreement... Some type of covenant is made, which kicks off the tribulation.

7 weeks (7 years) are decreed...who are the primary recipients? Daniel's people—the Jews and Jerusalem. Israel.

Daniel lists 6 things that this 7 year period will accomplish:

1. bring rebellion to an end
2. bring an end to sin
3. to atone for iniquity
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up vision & prophecy
6. And to anoint the most holy place

The Rider on the white horse...lines up with the descriptions of the antichrist in Dan 8:23-24 he is a ruler, a king. Ruthless. Skilled in intrigue. Empowered by Satan. Outrageous destruction. Destroys the powerful and the common people. Yahweh will allow us to be broken. Deceit will prosper. A false sense of peace will deceive people, especially in the beginning. Perhaps because of the security alliance. The antichrist is so arrogant and he sets himself up in the temple.

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6:3 out came a bright red horse... Maybe this is the great tribulation because the impact of this red horse is men butchering each other. Immediate war. But Dan. 11:31 describes a series of preliminary wars before the World War. Paul said to the Thess...in the last days people will say Peace and safety but then sudden destruction will come upon them. When the antichrist rises, he establishes a new world order, peace from and in the middle east that requires all the nations to recognize that authority structure. Will peace be taken from the earth before or after the peace is taken from the earth? Not sure.

Dan 11 describes the Arabian peninsula, N Africa, Mediterranean, Asia, parts of Europe being involved in final massive World war because of the new world order that arises in chapter 21. When we're looking at these events and watching for the rise of the final antichrist, what are the things we're to look for? Daniel says when the antichrist shows up, he comes conquering immediately, which establishes a new world order and a kind of peace. Summary: first seal establishes a new world order. That effects the nations of the earth. When the antichrist rises, he sets in motion a World War, which is most likely the second seal.

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These are Age-ending conclusive events that wrap up this age in order to kick things off in the eternal age. The final false covenant is established first in Isa. Assyrians...Isa 28:14-15 he's talking to the rulers...you made a covenant with Sheol/death/grave. They believe the covenant would protect them from the Overwhelming scourge. They believe that a tsunami of whips can't touch them because they entered into a false covenant. Part of the Sinai betrothal covenant was Yahweh forbid the people not to enter into covenants with the people of the land. Yahweh gave a clear command, don't trust the pagans, don't place your security with anyone other than Me.

Isa 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Israel had entered into a trust agreement with their neighbors, a covenant. They believed they would escape invasion. Yahweh, says, "If you will put your trust in Me, I will protect you!" Yeshua, the cornerstone! If you do, then I will...You will not be disturbed.

Isa 28:18 "Your covenant with death will be canceled, And your pact with Sheol will not stand; When the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you become its trampling place.

Isa 28:19 "As often as it passes through, it will seize you (lit:it will cause terror);

He's rebuking His people. "You've put your trust in the things I told you not to put your trust in."

Isa 10: Woe to Assyria. Assyria is the rod of My anger—Yahweh's using a pagan nation to discipline his people. The antichrist is the ultimate latter day Assyrian. This passage in Isa. is end-times prophecy. After Yahweh uses Assyria to discipline the Jews, what does He do? He zeroes in on the king of Assyria and punishes those He used to chastise His people. The antichrist is Yahweh's antichrist...He will use the antichrist as the ultimate Assyrian army to punish the earth. Isa 10:20-26 this is end-times language. Those who survive will never again rely on the one who struck them (the anti-christ).

In the beginning, Israel will rely on antichrist partially and will enter into some kind of peace covenant with him. Destruction...thus says the Lord...don't fear the Assyrians...the way Egypt did...my anger will be directed at the antichrist.

Isa 10:26 The LORD of hosts will arouse a scourge against him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and His staff will be over the sea and He will lift it up the way He did in Egypt.

Yahweh arouse a scourge against the antichrist like He did for Gideon at Midian...and his staff will be over the sea And He will lift the sea up the way He did in Egypt! What? His staff will be over the sea. He compares this to Egypt. He's describing a procession when Yeshua returns like Moses did...possibly splitting the Red Sea again. The first seal is not vague conquering. Rather he aligns with the descriptions of the antichrist. The Rider on white horse...lines up with the descriptions of the antichrist in Dan 8:23-24 he is a ruler, a king. Ruthless. Skilled in intrigue. Empowered by Satan. Outrageous destruction. Destroys the powerful and the common people.

Yahweh will allow this. There will be a false sense of peace when the antichrist comes on the scene. Yahweh will allow us to be broken. Deception will prosper. A false sense of peace will deceive people, especially in the beginning. Perhaps because of the security alliance/peace treaty. The antichrist is so arrogant and sets himself up in the temple.

Dan 11:21 the antichrist will come during a time of peace. Dan 11:40-41 he will invade countries. He will be like an overflowing scourge. He engages in deception. Many will fall. He has a crown. Goes out to conquer and to conquer. Ends with his destruction. Isa and Dan align perfectly with the breaking of the first seal and the rider on the white horse.

Throughout Revelation, we see something being granted and something being taken. This implies sovereign administration. Vs 2 a crown was given to the rider on the white horse. In Vs 4, the rider is permitted to take peace from the earth and a great sword is given to him.

Taking and giving. Dan 7, 8 9 we see Rev 12 & 13 that Yahweh is the one giving the antichrist authority. But Rev 13:2 says...the dragon, Satan, gave the beast, the antichrist his power, throne and authority. In Rev 6, Yahweh gives a crown to the rider on white horse. In Rev 13 power, throne and authority is given to him by Satan. On one hand, Yahweh is giving things and Satan is giving him his authority.

Yahweh is allowing and administrating the antichrist because of His sovereignty. Dan. 7 says the saints will be given into his hand. Yahweh will give us into the hand of the beast. The antichrist will be given authority by Yahweh to spill the blood of the saints! Yahweh will give his cherished bride to suffer and be brutalized? Yes. We follow a slain Lamb and a crucified Savior who kept His mouth shut as He suffered.

Yeshua didn't go to the cross so we wouldn't ever have to bear a cross. He bore a cross to show us how to carry one. His cross bearing took care of our sins and paid our sin debt in full. We are to carry our cross daily. Our cross does not add anything to His cross, but exalts His cross. At the end of the age, when Satan empowers the antichrist and Yeshua grants the antichrist authority we will go the way of the cross!

Matt. 28:18, Yeshua said that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. We will live the gospel by carrying our cross like Yeshua carried His.

6:3 the second seal. He sees a bright red horse. It's rider was permitted to take peace from the earth so people would slay one another. He was given a great sword. This is the beginning of the final World war. It will be a series of wars. This final war is going to be shocking in terms of its magnitude and scope and in terms of the depths of human depravity. The first 4 seals are Yahweh allowing men to express all that is in their hearts.

Yahweh has been restraining mankind from doing what we are capable of. Yahweh is actively restraining bloodshed now. The final war will be Yahweh taking his hand off. He gives mankind what they want. He will allow a messianic figure to arise in our midst that does what's in our heart. He will test the hearts of all men. The end begins with the emergence of a political leader bent on conquering and stirs up the most brutal war in history.

Vs 3 The great sword: speaks of a kind of depraved violence. Like the days of Noah. Violence covered the earth.

1st seal: has a crown/political authority. has a bow which means he has military authority but isn't willing to use it in its fullness. When the antichrist comes out, he comes with manipulation, deception etc. Not great military violence. We do know that when the seal is opened, peace will be taken from the earth. Antichrist will have a bow without arrows but the impact of it will be a great sword. Rumors of war is very real in the earth. the world is not at peace right now. Peace will be taken from the earth. The eye of the storm will be Jerusalem and the middle east. The world will be involved but not the center. The antichrist will establish a form of peace.

I believe the counterfeit peace will be shattered in Dan. 8: 12-14 the antichrist goes forth in great violence attempting to annihilate the Jewish people and anyone who opposes him. (1st seal is most likely the beginning of the 7 years.) Counterfeit peace is described in Dan 9 & I Thess 5. I believe it will end with the establishment of the setting up of the abomination of desolation. Dan 11:21-31 & Matt 24 describe a series of wars that take place before abomination of desolation.

Yeshua said before the abomination of desolation there will be wars and rumors of war. That means peace is being taken from the earth. Dan 11 & Matt 24. Famines, pestilence, death. Paul in I Thess 5 "For when they say peace and safety then sudden destruction comes upon them as labor pains on a pregnant woman. They shall not escape."

Who are "they"? Those who don't escape and those who say peace & safety. The people who establish the antichrist and his rulership will declare a kind of peace. It will come with force. The final world leadership will take place because of his force. Not because he's a nice guy. He will be a military leader. Dan 11 says he will have clashes with nations. There will be a sense of peace as a result of the war.

Exek 38 & 39 describe that Israel will dwell in peace and safety when suddenly the antichrist invades. In order to establish the abomination of desolation, you have to have military control over Jerusalem. The antichrist will have the authority to walk into Jerusalem and violate the sacrifices.

This sudden destruction that breaks out on the earth... Israel, antichrist & the harlot Babylon will be saying peace & safety. The only people not saying peace & safety are the believers who understand what's happening and are under the heel of Babylon. That means there's already been clashing. Rev 17 & 18 we see the saints suffering predominately at the hands of the harlot of Babylon, which the antichrist attacks and burns at the beginning of the 7 years.

6:4 its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth. Great sword. Great destruction. They say peace and they get sudden destruction.

Dan 9:27 the antichrist will confirm or strengthen or affirm a covenant with many for 1 week (7 years) but in the middle of the 7 years he will bring an end to sacrifice and offerings.

Dan 11 states the antichrist emerges and he's bent with hatred towards the holy covenant but he comes in with deception in Dan 9:27 and confirms the holy covenant. It's the only way that particular Hebrew word for covenant has ever been used is the covenant that Yahweh made with the Jewish people. I think the antichrist will acknowledge Israel's right to the land on the basis of covenant which is why there's a form of peace and security before the sudden destruction. He is the rider on the white horse...with a bow...he knows he needs to confirm and recognize the holy covenant. Israel's right to the land and the city of Jerusalem.

Dan 9:27 says in the middle of the final 7 years, the abomination of desolation happens. But I believe there will be a series of wars before the abomination of desolation.



2/9/22

THIRD SEAL: Rev 6:5 -6 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

3RD SEAL judgment is an economic collapse which causes food shortages, starvation and a massive catastrophe globally that results in famine.

1st Seal is the rise of antichrist in false peace—white horse

2nd seal is the war that breaks out after he arises—red horse

3rd is what we're looking at now—an economic collapse—a black horse

A black horse with a rider who holds a pair of scales. A pair of scales—this symbol is about economics. They are weighing wheat and barley. This 3rd judgment event is about a massive food shortage and massive famine. A denarius was equal to wages for one day. 1 qt. of wheat is the least amount one person can survive on in a day. Our good Father is going to execute a global famine on the earth. His Son will be executing this. This isn't Satan, it isn't inflation or a depression, but an economic collapse.

4TH SEAL is largest death toll of any event in human history. It will end with more deaths than the flood.

Rev 6:7 -8 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

A pale green or like ash (basically the color of a dead body) horse. The rider's name was Death and hell followed. Authority is given to the rider named Death over ¼ of the earth. Hades is a temporary location. The time will come when its thrown into lake of fire at the end of the 1000 year reign. It's a prison that will be thrown into the lake of fire. 25% of the earth's population is given to death and to hades in this judgment because of war, hunger, starvation, pestilence, wild animals.

Eze 14:21 -23 For thus says the LORD (*a proper name used for Yahweh only*) Yahweh, "How much more when I send My four severe judgments against Jerusalem: sword, famine, wild beasts and plague to cut off man and beast from it! Yet, behold, survivors will be left in it who will be brought out, *both* sons and daughters. Behold, they are going to come forth to you and you will see their conduct and actions; then you will be comforted for the calamity which I have brought against Jerusalem for everything which I have brought upon it. Then they will comfort you when you see their conduct and actions, for you will know that I have not done in vain whatever I did to it," declares the LORD Yahweh.

Yahweh could have done nothing other than what He did. We will see and understand that we reaped blessings that came out of events and difficulties and suffering that we had misunderstood or feared.

Rev 9:13 6th Trumpet judgment says 1/3 of the population is killed. In the 4th Seal, ¼ population dies. That means 50% of earth's population will die. There are approx.. 10 billion people alive. That means 2.5 billion people die. Zach 13 says that 2/3 of Israel's population will die during this final judgment time.

Rev 17 The Great Harlot/Babylon sitting on a scarlet beast with 7 heads and 10 horns. She was drunk with the blood of the saints. Vs 7 an angel explains the harlot and the beast that carries her. This is a global economic system. Vs 15 says the waters upon which the Harlot sits are multitudes of people and nations and languages. Vs 16: the 10 horns are 10 nations (vs 12). The 10 nations and the antichrist (beast) will hate the harlot Babylon.

Rev 17-18 is the longest prophecy in bible. We see the incredible wealth of Babylon. We also see that the antichrist hates the harlot. He will attack her and burn her with fire. The Antichrist will destroy the Babylonian system.

Isa 26:7 -9 The way of the righteous is smooth; O Upright One, make the path of the righteous level. Indeed, *while following* the way of Your judgments, O LORD, We have waited for You eagerly; Your name, even Your memory, is the desire of *our* souls. At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

This is the posture of the human heart as Yahweh intends it to be: That we wait, and eagerly long for Him and we desire His name. That we long for Him in the night, in the times of darkness where we don't understand...times when He's testing us...times when His judgments are in the earth...we learn from it—we learn righteousness. Yahweh is going to establish righteousness in the earth. He's going to war and open conflict against all rebellion, all sin, all wickedness, all evil, all pride. And He's going to openly confront the rage of Satan and put his authority to an end.

Amos 5:18-24

Amo 5:18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose *will* the day of the LORD *be* to you? It *will be* darkness and not light;

Amo 5:19 As when a man flees from a lion And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall And a snake bites him.

Amo 5:20 *Will* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

Amo 5:21 "I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.

Amo 5:22 "Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept *them*; And I will not *even* look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.

Amo 5:23 "Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.

Amo 5:24 "But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

vs 18 What He's saying is: Israel, don't you think this is a day when Yahweh will only judge and destroy your enemies. Judgment is coming for you too. We can't afford to be like that—Yahweh is coming to purge everything in all of us. The fear of Yahweh is a holy thing. We will ALL be judged—unbelievers will be called a goat and separated! Believer's deeds will go through the fire. My only hope, on that day, had better be the mercy and blood of Yeshua! Anything else is pride and self-righteousness! It will be a day of darkness for the earth, but out of that, those who submit themselves to the fire, it will be good for the rest of their existence—eternal life.

Joel 2:28-32

The Lord Will Pour Out His Spirit

Joe 2:28 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

Joe 2:29 "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joe 2:30 "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke.

Joe 2:31 "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

Joe 2:32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Yahweh pouring out His spirit and prophesying in context of the day of Yahweh. He will pour out his Spirit during this time and it will be the greatest outpouring of his Spirit the earth has ever seen. There will be signs, wonders and miracles—a revival while the antichrist is persecuting the saints!

Yes, there will be a great falling away, but there will also be a great outpouring of His Spirit.

(Joel 2:32) There will be an escape (he's talking about Israel). He pours out His Spirit before He returns (Acts 2, Peter pointed to Joel 2, but Peter wasn't saying it was the final fulfillment. It was a glimpse of what was coming in fullness.).

Acts 15:17 these people aren't drunk as you speculate—it's only 9 in the morning. This is what was spoken by...Joel. He wasn't saying the prophesy in Joel was fulfilled. Joel 2 clearly describes the fullness will come at the day of Yahweh.

Matt 24:29-31 The Coming of the Son of Man

Mat 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Immediately, after the tribulation...at the end of the tribulation. The sign of the Son of Man will appear...all the tribes of the earth. he's actually quoting Zachariah that says all 12 tribes of Israel, all inhabitant of Israel will mourn.

Notice what Yeshua doesn't say: nowhere does He even hint that His church would be departing before all of this happens. Instead, He states that (vs 29) immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will grow dark, moon grows dark, stars will fall and Yeshua will come as the Cloud Rider and will gather His church to Himself!

I am so against the idea that the church is not in the book of Rev. It's not true. That belief will keep people from being prepared.

Unless a seed falls into the ground, it cannot bring forth fruit. We are called to follow Him even unto death. The call to martyrdom is the call to love Yeshua more than you love your own life. Which is exactly what Yeshua did for you. He isn't asking anyone to do anything that He didn't do first! Are you clinging to this life?

2Th 2:1 Now we ask you, brothers, concerning the coming of our Yahweh Jesus Christ and our assembling to him,

2Th 2:2 that you not be easily shaken from your composure, nor be troubled either by a spirit or by a message or by a letter alleged to be from us, to the effect that the day of Yahweh has arrived.

2Th 2:3 Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, for *that day (what day?) will not come* unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

And we will be a witness to the lost. He designed the tribulation so we would testify to others and then they will slay us.

Rev 7:9 After these *things* I looked, and behold, a great crowd that no one was able to number, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed *in* white robes and *with* palm branches in their hands.

Rev 7:10 And they were crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Rev 7:12 saying, "Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and strength *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen!"

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are dressed *in* the white robes—who are *they*, and from where have they come?"

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "My Yahweh, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Because of this, they are before the throne of God, and they **serve** him day and night in his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

Tab of Moses class: serve (latreuo: *to minister to Yahweh, to worship. A bondservant, priest*).

John sees a massive gathering who are worshipping before the throne. Where did they come from? These are the ones who come up out of the great tribulation. It doesn't say these are the one who died before the tribulation, but in the midst of it. Revival has hit planet earth through intense suffering. People will be searching for an answer, for help! Before the end, the gospel will take root in every tribe, tongue, nation. Rev 7 tells us that every nation, tribe & tongue will hear the gospel before and during the tribulation. Matt 24...says they will deliver you up to tribulation and you will be hated by every nation. That means every nation will have believers and many will be martyred.

Rev 14 we see a great harvest takes place and there's a great harvest of souls for judgment and for redemption. In Rev 7, we see that the church will not just declare the gospel, but will demonstrate the gospel through the laying down of their lives.

I believe the tribulation is the grand finale of Yahweh's plan to save His people out of the world. The tribulation will set in motion the great harvest at the end of the age. There will be mass salvations and mass amounts of blood being shed.

Rev 12:10: Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

The Accuser of our brethren has been thrown down... That didn't happen in the garden of Eden...that happens in the tribulation.

Satan is kicked out of his place before the throne where he spent his time accusing you and me...this happens at the beginning of the tribulation. The war begins! The saints conquer Satan by Yeshua's blood and the word of their testimony and by not loving their lives! The tribulation will sift us like wheat. We will have to choose. We won't be able to play Christianity. It will be life or death. And the only way to eternal life for many will be by physical death.

Rev 13:7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

The beast and Satan are overcoming the saints. We overcome Satan by the word of our testimony, by His blood. But now it says the beast and Satan are overcoming the saints. Which is it? Both. Here's how we overcome Satan: By Satan overcoming us and we remain true even unto death!

Dan 8 says the antichrist goes forth in great fury devoting many to destruction.

Dan 7 says the saints will be given into his hands for a period of time to be shattered and broken by him.

Dan 11 says many will fall in that day by the sword, but they will turn many to righteousness. In other words, because we refuse to bend our knee to the antichrist and are martyred, others will see this and turn to Him!

The tribulation is a chosen, sovereign event in Yahweh's plan at the end of the age for martyrdom to dominate the world stage.

Rev 17 & 18 says the harlot Babylon will be beheading the saints, too.

The primary message of the gospel is that Yeshua was slain to buy you back from your sinful choice to follow Satan. As a result, if you choose to accept His gift and follow Him, your life may end in the same way. He saved us so we would be transformed into His image—that means we must walk like him, love like him by allowing Him to live his life through us.

Php 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Php 2:4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Php 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in the Anointed One, Yeshua,

Php 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of Yahweh, did not regard equality with Yahweh a thing to be grasped,

Php 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

Php 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

In other words...vs 5 Have this attitude in yourself to be a martyr. Nowhere does the bible say Yahweh will spare you from suffering on this earth. Yahweh does a million little miracles through our suffering.

There's a difference sometimes between what Yahweh wants & what Yahweh wills. So many examples in scripture where Yahweh doesn't want to do something, and He takes no pleasure in it, but He wills it, He decrees it, administrates it. For ex: in Ezekiel, Yahweh says, "I don't take any pleasure in the death of the wicked." In the same chapter, Yahweh talks about giving the decree that will bring about the death of the wicked. On one hand, His emotional will doesn't represent necessarily His decreed will. He is constantly decreeing things, willing things that He doesn't emotionally want to happen. The cross, for an example. He didn't will the cross to happen on an emotional level. He willed it, decreed it because of its significance, importance. Because He ordained it.

Yahweh willed the flood and He willed the protection of Noah and his family. He willed that every living thing would die. Yahweh decreed it. yet He didn't emotionally want that to happen. It's very important for us to see this.

THE 6th SEAL

Rev 6:12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

Rev 6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

Rev 6:14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

6th seal: Yeshua breaks the 6th seal. A great earthquake: this is a time marker. This earthquake accompanies Yeshua's return. Here's my theory: when you look at story of resurrection of Yeshua. 2 earthquakes—one is when He dies on cross and one is when He is resurrected and dead people come out of their graves.

We can't understand the physics of this. Heaven and earth are both physical and spiritual. There's a physical reality to the spiritual realm. When the power of Yahweh left Yeshua's physical body there was an earthquake. 3 days later, when the power of Yahweh was released into Yeshua's body to resurrect Him, the earth quaked. When Yeshua returns, millions will be raised from the dead and there will be a great earthquake! I believe the opening of the 6th seal that causes a great earthquake is actually the physical result of the power of Yahweh in the earth to resurrect millions from death. A mighty earthquake. Sun becomes black like sackcloth—this is black goat hair. Sackcloth is what people would wear when they were grieving or mourning.

It's as if the sun is grieving. It goes black. Not just clouds covering it. The moon, on the other hand, looks like it's covered with blood. Sun represents Yeshua. The moon represents the bride. Yeshua is grieving/mourning. The bride is covered in His blood!

The stars of the sky fall to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs...Stars are actually distant suns. I believe the suns represent spiritual beings...they will bow, they will fall before Him! The sky is rolled up like a scroll. Every mt and island are moved out of their places. These are literal events that will usher in Yeshua's return.

Rev 6:15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

Rev 6:16 and they *said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

Rev 6:17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

With the opening of the first 4 seals, there were a series of wars, the antichrist, famines, economic disasters. Satan is given authority to persecute the saints for 42 months, but Yeshua is the one who opened the seal and allowed this. The kings of the earth, great men, commanders, the rich and the strong, every slave and free man...they all hid themselves in caves. Because the light of the sun turned black and the moon turned blood red and the stars fell. They cry out for the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the One who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.

In this passage, when we get to this point, unbelievers, the ones the wrath of the Lamb is coming to punish, from greatest to smallest, they know that this is the One who sits on the throne. They know it is the wrath of the One who was slain. How do they know that? First of all, because what's unfolding here is far more miraculous than what has already happened—famines, earthquakes, plagues. Even unbelievers know who is punishing them. Yahweh will reveal Himself as the One true Elohim who overcomes all the false gods they serve—like He did to Pharaoh in Egypt.

This 6th seal points to the imminent day of Yeshua's return. The return of Yeshua is a complex series of events that unfold over time. There are events that take place after He returns. For ex: the wrath of the Lamb will be personally executed by Yeshua Himself. It won't be instantaneous. When you look at all the passages, the antichrist will be given authority for 3.5 years (42 mos) to persecute saints, to wear down the saints. That's 3.5 years. Yeshua's return happens after this. It must be near the end of the 7 years.

The day of the LORD (Yahweh's return).

Isa. 13:9-13; 24:19-23; 34:4; Ezek. 32:6-8; Obadiah, Joel 2:30-31

The Context is Yahweh is declaring that He is going to Judge on Babylon.

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of Yahweh is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Isa 13:7 Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every man's heart will melt.

Isa 13:8 They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of *them*; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame.

Isa. 13:9 Behold, the day of Yahweh (Yahweh) is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

The day of Yahweh is coming...That phrase is meant to express that He is coming and it's urgent. This phrase isn't about length of time, not that it's any day now. Yeshua, John the Baptist, Isaiah, Joel, and Zephaniah all talked about the Day of Yahweh is near, but the emphasis and urgency was on repenting. Repent because the day of Yahweh is coming when everyone will stand before Yeshua and sinners will be judged and the believers' deeds will be judged.

Wail for the day of Yahweh is near...it's a negative thing to the lost. All hands will fall limp. Every man's heart will melt. Don't think this is just unbelievers. ALL hands will fall limp in that day. We will overcome in weakness, in Yahweh's strength and grace. Not our own. This is serious. Pain and anguish will take hold of them....It's cruel. But, the emphasis is two-fold: exterminating evil and purifying believers.

Isa 13:10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light.

Isa 13:11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

Isa 13:12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir.

Isa 13:13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of Yahweh of hosts In the day of His burning anger.

Why am I connecting Isa 13 to Rev 6? The description in both are so very precise: the Stars fall, sun turns black, moon turns dark. They are talking about the same thing: the Day of the LORD's return.

Vs 11 I will punish the world for its evil. I will put an end to the arrogance of the proud...I will make mortal men scarcer than gold....rare gems and precious metals. I will make the heavens tremble....and the earth will be shaken from its place...at the fury of the day of Yahweh!

Isa 24:19 The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently.

Isa 24:20 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard and it totters like a shack, for its transgression is heavy upon it, and it will fall, never to rise again.

Isa 24:21 So it will happen in that day, That Yahweh will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth.

Isa 24:22 They will be gathered together *Like* prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they *will be* punished.

Isa 24:23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For Yahweh of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And *His* glory will be before His elders.

In that day...a specific day. He will purify both heaven and earth. The gods/principalities and rulers on the earth will be punished. There is torment for the wicked. Moon and the sun will be abashed (*to blush, to be ashamed*)....Because Yahweh will reign on mt Zion and in Jerusalem! This is about the Return of Yeshua. He is present in Jerusalem. His Feet are on the ground. In that day, He will rule from Mt Zion and Jerusalem. He will punish the fallen elohim and the wicked on the earth.

Isa 34:4 And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, Or as *one* withers from the fig tree.

Isa 34:5 For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom and upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.

Isa 34:6 The sword of YAHWEH is filled with blood, It is sated (*it is fully satisfied*) with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For YAHWEH has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

Isa 34:7 Wild oxen will also fall with them and young bulls with strong ones; Thus their land will be soaked with blood, And their dust become greasy with fat.

Isa 34:8 For YAHWEH has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

Rev 6. Matt 24

His sword will judge His enemy, Edom. Bozrah is the region of Edom (*He actually names the names of His enemies*). "The people I've devoted to destruction" His judgment will fall on the people who live in Edom, those who hate His people, Israel. Yahweh is describing a day of vengeance. The day of Yahweh. One of the primary reason Yeshua returns in judgment on His enemies is because of the controversy concerning Israel. This gospel will be preached in all the world then the end will come. That's true. But rarely do you ever hear about His return not happening until the full number of martyrs arrives in heaven. Rev 6:11

Yeshua returns when the number of martyrs have been reached and the gospel has been preached in all the world and the bride has made herself ready. And when He returns Israel will have her back to the wall and He will come back to save her. Israel is His people and all of His followers are His people. All 3 of those things must happen before He returns. And when He returns, all of those left in Israel will come to know Him. All who are left—those still alive in their bodies. That's amazing grace!

Obadiah 1:15 "For the day of Yahweh draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head."

Obadiah is about the Mt of Edom and the kingdom of Israel/Mt Zion. Obadiah describes how Yahweh will deal with the Jews and their enemies. Yahweh is going to come back and judge them. Isaiah and Obadiah says same thing. As you have done to My people, I will do to you!

Eze 30:1 The word of Yahweh came again to me saying,

Eze 30:2 "Son of man, prophesy and say, 'Thus says Yahweh, "Wail, 'Alas for the day!"

Eze 30:3 "For the day is near, Even the day of Yahweh is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time of *doom* for the nations.

"Ezekiel, prophesy...same thing Isaiah said, Wail! All saying the same thing. Day of Yahweh is near. A time of doom for the nations. The day of Yahweh is primarily described as the day when Yeshua comes down from heaven in wrath to render justice. Isa 34 is a clear sister passage with Isa 63 which describes Yeshua, in the flesh, marching on the ground physically through the land of Edom soaking His robes with the blood of His enemies. At the end, the day of vengeance has come.

Amo 5:18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose *will* the day of the LORD *be* to you? It *will be* darkness and not light;

Amo 5:19 As when a man flees from a lion And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall And a snake bites him.

Amo 5:20 *Will* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

Amo 5:21 "I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.

Amo 5:22 "Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept *them*; And I will not *even* look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.

Amo 5:23 "Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.

Amo 5:24 "But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

vs 18 alas, you who are longing for the day of Yahweh, all of you who think you can't wait for that day. Yahweh says that day will be darkness and not light. What He's saying is: Israel, don't you think this is a day when Yahweh will only judge and destroy your enemies. Judgment is coming for you too.

Yahweh is coming to purge everything in all of us. The fear of Yahweh is a holy thing. For everyone who isn't perfect, it's going to be terrifying and painful. We will all be judged! My only hope, on that day, had better be the mercy and blood of Yeshua! Anything else is pride and self-righteousness! It will be a day of darkness for the earth, but out of that, those who submit themselves to the fire, it will be good for the rest of their existence—eternal life.

Joe 2:28 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

Joe 2:29 "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joe 2:30 "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke.

Joe 2:31 "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

Joe 2:32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Sun to darkness, moon to blood....He will pour out his Spirit during this time and it will be the greatest outpouring of His Spirit the earth has ever seen. There will be signs, wonders and miracles—a revival while the antichrist is persecuting the saints!

2:32 says that there will be an escape (he's talking about Israel). He poured out His Spirit before His return (Acts 2, Peter pointed to Joel 2, but Peter wasn't saying it was the final fulfillment. How do I know that? because the sun didn't turn black and the moon didn't turn to blood. It was a glimpse of what was coming in fullness). Acts 15:17 these people aren't drunk as you speculate—it's only 9 in the morning. This is what was spoken by Joel.

Matt 24:29-31 The Coming of the Son of Man

Mat 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Immediately, after the tribulation...at the end of the tribulation. The sign of the Son of Man will appear...all the tribes of the earth. he's actually quoting Zachariah that says all 12 tribes of Israel, all inhabitant of Israel will mourn. Matt 24, Yeshua says first you will see those things then you will see the sign of the coming of the Son of Man appear in the sky with power and great glory! What exactly is the sign of the coming of the Son of Man? The way Yeshua states this it's clear that it's something more than just regular signs...

Mat 24:29 THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the POWERS OF THE HEAVENS WILL BE SHAKEN.

Yahweh is called the cloud rider. Any OT literate Jew would have called Him the One who rides on the clouds. Deut 33:26 There is none like unto the GOD (El of might and power) of Jeshurun (Israel's pet name), Who rides upon the heavens to your help, and in His majesty, upon the clouds. Moses says...there's no one like the El of Israel...who rides across the heavens on clouds to help you, Israel! Yahweh is defined as the One who rides on the clouds.

The Canaanites, who lived in the land, worshipped Baal, who was known as the cloud rider. The Israelites declare that Yahweh is the only One who rides on the clouds—why? Because they saw Him with their own eyes and followed Him. The Canaanites had never seen Baal. This is the battle over who is the one true Elohim! This battle points to Yeshua coming back riding on the clouds—even as He left the earth—He left in the clouds. Every Jew who saw Yeshua leave the earth would be thinking about the cloud Rider in Deut. 33! This song of Moses was known by every Jew.

NT uses the language from Deut 33 when describing Yeshua's return. Psa 68:4 Sing to Elohim, sing praises to His name. Lift up a song to the rider on the clouds—His name is Yah—and rejoice before Him.

Dan 7:13 "I continued watching in the visions of the night, and look, with the clouds of heaven one like a **son of man** was coming, and he came to the Ancient of Days, and was presented before him.

Dan 7:14 And to him was given dominion and glory and kingship that all the peoples, the nations, and languages would serve him; his dominion is a dominion without end that will not cease, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Daniel is having a vision/dream. Suddenly, someone who looks LIKE a human man, He's not a human, but he looks like one. He

is coming on the clouds of heaven. Daniel would've immediately known that the One who comes on the clouds is Yahweh. That means whoever the Son of man is, He's the cloud rider. The cloud rider approached the ancient of Days and was given dominion that will never cease, glory, a kingdom that will never be destroyed, every nation will serve Him. The Cloud Rider is the promised One, He's the seed of Eve, Gen 3:15, seed of Abraham, seed of David Human, but so much more than just a human.

In Ezekiel, the term son of man is also used in Ezek...son of man, prophesy—that simply means human. In Heb, son of man is the term is Ben-Adam (means son of Adam)—but in Dan 7:13, it's Aramaic. In Aramaic, son of man is bar-annash. We know that Yeshua referred to himself as bar-annash (*Aramaic*) more than any other term. When He was before the high priest at His trial...He said, "I am bar-annash." That's why the high priest tore his robe, because Yeshua was claiming to be the cloud rider in Dan 7:13—He was claiming to be Yahweh Himself.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and at that time He will reward each one according to what he has done.

Yeshua was referring to Dan 7...I'm the one who will come like I came in the clouds. The exodus was an enactment of what is to come, it's a foreshadow of future events of even greater intensity and destruction. Christians say Yeshua is coming back in the clouds. And the Jews say Yahweh is coming back. Yahweh came the first time at Mt Sinai and was seen by approximately 1-3 million people. And they heard with their ears Yahweh speak to them. They saw Him come down in a furnace of blazing fire, accompanied by smoke, trumpets blasting, lightening, thunder and an earthquake.

They begged Moses to tell Yahweh to stop talking—we can't bear it! The Jews believe that Yahweh came once and they believe He's going to come back once more to save Israel.

There are multiple OT prophecies that describe this. For ex: Deut 33, Hab 3, Judges 5, Ps 68, Multiple places in Isa., Zachariah say that Yahweh is coming again. The Jews agree that Yahweh is coming again. Christians say Yeshua is coming back. Both are correct. The Jews don't know that Yahweh is coming back as Yeshua.

What is the sign of the Son of man? We have to look at the pillar of fire and the cloud. They were both the tangible evidence that Yahweh was present with them. The shape: it was a cylinder shape but probably mushroom-shaped because Exodus says the cloud gave them shade, so it had to be like a mushroom or umbrella. But it was also a pillar. The pillar was a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The pillar is referred to as Yahweh Himself. Yahweh was in the pillar...day and night.

Exo 14:19 And the angel of Yahweh who was going before the camp of Israel set out and went behind them. And the column of cloud set out ahead of them, and it stood still behind them,

Exo 14:20 *so that* it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. And it was a dark cloud, but it gave light *to* the night, *so that* neither approached the other all night.

From a Jewish perspective, they say the angel of Yahweh is a messenger. They say it's Yahweh, but distinct from the Father who is on the throne. The Elohim who sits in heaven has always been a self-revealing Father. He's always assumed a form to reveal Himself to us weak, unbelieving humans. He is and always has been the Self-Revealing One. He's always wanted us to know Him. For that to happen, He had to come down and reveal Himself to us. This is Yeshua in the cloud. The angel of Yahweh.

Exo 14:24 And during the morning watch, Yahweh looked down to the Egyptian camp *from* in the column of fire and cloud, and he threw the Egyptian camp into a panic.

Ex 19:16-17 they are now at Mt. Sinai.

Exo 19:16 And on the third day, when it was morning, there was thunder and lightning, and a heavy cloud over the mountain and a very loud ram's horn sound, and all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.

Exo 19:17 And Moses brought the people out from the camp to meet Yahweh, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain.

They are terrified. Moses brings the people out to meet Yahweh. They stood under the mt. (literally). The mt was covered by the cloud, by Yahweh Himself, which was the Huppah (covering) for their betrothal ceremony. Yahweh is in the cloud and He rests on the mt.

How do we know God was present?

Exo 19:18 Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke because Yahweh went down on it in the fire, and its smoke went up like the smoke of a smelting furnace, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.

Exo 19:19 And the sound of the ram's horn became louder and louder, and Moses would speak, and God would answer him with a voice.

Exo 19:20 And Yahweh went down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, and Yahweh called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

When the cloud, the pillar was present it was evidence that Yahweh was present in their midst. We, as Christians, have a backstory we can point to—Yahweh dwelt among us as Yeshua, the Son of man, the Son of David. But the Jews also have a backstory—Yahweh dwelt among them in the cloud. As Christians, we often base our belief in the incarnation, which is the fact that Yeshua was born of a woman. That's true and important, but there is so much more to our foundation than that. More true to scripture, our foundation was built before Yeshua was born. Our foundation began when Yahweh appeared to mankind at Mt. Sinai and entered into a brotherly covenant with Abraham's children.

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law *by* becoming a curse for us, because it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree,"

Gal 3:14 in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew or Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you *are* Christ's, then you are descendants of Abraham, heirs according to the promise.

The cross isn't the main point of our Christian faith and neither is it the foundation. It's wonderful. But the pinnacle of redemption is His return! What happened at Mt Sinai when Yahweh came down, as life changing as that was, as majestic and terrifying, it's to be understood as a faint foreshadow of the glory that's coming when He returns riding on the clouds.

CHAPTER 7 consists of 2 primary parts.

First part is John's vision of 144,000—12,000 from each tribe who are sealed before the angels are allowed to open the 7th seal. Second part: John has a vision of a great multitude in heaven.

Part 1

Rev 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

4 angels standing at the 4 corners: because of this verse some people say the earth is flat. It's not.

Isa 40:22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

These 4 angels holding back the wind are the same angels who sound the first 4 trumpets in Rev 9. The angel tells the 4 angels to wait until the 144,000 are sealed.

The final beast, little horn, antichrist, Gog, Magog scenario focus on destroying the Jewish people in Israel. As this is happening, Yahweh's judgments are being poured out on those who are trying to kill the Jews. The anti-christ is a pharaoh-like leader who is persecuting Jewish people. Yahweh, in order to confront the leader, pours out His judgments on the earth while protecting His people. Jews were being protected in Goshen while Yahweh poured out the plagues. There will be believers living in & around the territory that's controlled by the antichrist. Yahweh's judgments will be poured out and they will affect us.

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

Rev 7:5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand *were* sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,

Rev 7:6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,

Rev 7:7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,

Rev 7:8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand *were* sealed.

(John hears an angel tell the 4 angels holding back the 4 winds of the earth say that 144,000 Jews (12,000 from each of the 12 tribes) are to be sealed)

The 12 tribes:

The sons of Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun

The sons of Rachel: Joseph, Benjamin

The sons of Zilpah: Gad, Asher

The sons of Bilhah: Dan, Naphtali

There are 2 differences between the 12 tribes and the list here in 7:5-8.

1. Judah, not Reuben is listed as first in vs 5. Reuben was the first born and is almost always listed first in scriptures. Perhaps, Judah is listed first to honor that tribe because Yeshua descended through the tribe of Judah.
2. Manasseh (Joseph's son) replaces Dan, probably because Dan fell into idolatry (Judges 18; I Kgs 12). Remember the warning in Rev.2 to not follow the way of the Nicolaitans and to not worship other gods! Dan was guilty of doing exactly that.

This verse says 144,000 are sealed. There's no indication that it's symbolic. I believe these are literally Messianic Jews. That means all 12 tribes are in the land of Israel. But we've been told that the 10 tribes are lost.

One of the popular ideas in the Hebrew Roots movement (not all believe it) is called the 2 house doctrine. They teach that after Syria invaded northern Israel that the 10 tribes in north were lost because they intermarried and became like Gentiles. There were 2 tribes in southern Israel, Judah and Benjamin.

The 2 house doctrines teaches that Yahweh is reuniting the whole house of Israel—meaning the north and south—and that born again Christians are actually the 10 lost tribes of Israel. Another groups teaches that the British are the 10 lost tribes. They teach that the 10 tribes were just watered down—mixed with Gentiles. This is important because of Rev 7—all 12 tribes will be present and sealed.

Another teaching that's growing is a cult called the black Hebrew Israelites. They use the scriptures and teach if you're black then you're one of the lost tribes. If you're white, salvation is impossible for you. They teach that the USA is Israel and the Jews living in Israel are fake Jews. This cult is growing in US. It's so ridiculous—read Joel 3:1-3 the context is the last days and the armies of the antichrist...where does this happen? It's not USA, it's Jerusalem/Israel.

The best interpretation of the 144,000 is that they are who the scriptures says they are—Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel. The angel says they are bondservants of Yahweh. The 144,000 are the first fruits as we see in Rev 14:1-5.

Rev 14:1-5 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard *was* like *the sound* of harpists playing on their harps. And they *sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. Rev 14:5 And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

We are told here that the seal is Yeshua's name and the name of His Father—YESHUA & YAHWEH.

They are Jews, but they aren't just any Jew:

Vs 4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women—I believe it means they have kept themselves pure and are wholly devoted to the Lamb.

IT DOESN'T MEAN THEY NEVER MARRIED.

Heb 13:4 Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage* bed *is to be* undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

I believe the 144,000 are men and women who follow the Lamb wherever He goes—while they were alive on earth. They speak only the truth—they were blameless. Refused to lie...even if it means their deaths.

There are only about 20,000 messianic Jews in Israel today. This means that there's a great harvest coming in the future...144,000 from all 12 tribes which will be followed by many more—both from Israel and the nations!

Rom 11:25-27 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB. THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

PART 2 A GREAT MULTITUDE FROM EVERY NATION

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands;

A great multitude that can't be counted from every nation are seen standing in a place of honor before the throne. They're given white robes in 6:11, which represent purity and victory. They are given palm branches, which is a sign of joy and used during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Rev 7:10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God (divine Theos) who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

They praise Yahweh for His victory over the powers of evil and the deliverance of His sealed followers. It is His sovereign power, emphasized in the phrase "who sits on the throne" that delivers His people. And the Lamb stands beside Yahweh.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and "worshipped" Yahweh,

"worshipped" is "proskuneō" (meaning to *kiss*, like a dog *licking* his master's hand); that is, (literally or figuratively) *prostrate* oneself in homage (*do reverence* to, *adore*): - worship.

Rev 7:12 they worshipped saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God (divine Theos) forever and ever. Amen."

Two sets of praise:
Praise, glory, wisdom
Thanks, honor, power, strength

They praise Yahweh for his wisdom and for his might in delivering his people and for making them overcomers. They declare that this will be eternal praise—forever and ever. Amen means: so be it.

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"

Rev 7:14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 13:7 Yahweh allows the dragon for this short period to conquer the saints. Yeshua said this will result in terrible days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when Yahweh created the world, until now—and never again (Mk 13:19).

Rev 7:15 -17 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God (divine Theos); and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God (divine Theos) will wipe every tear from their eyes."

At this time, the overcomers begin their heavenly priestly duties to serve Him day and night in His temple. The verb "serve" is the word *latreuo*, which means to serve and worship—bondservant.

Rev 1:6 and 5:10, Christ has made His followers a royal priesthood, fulfilling Ex 19:5-6. The redemptive acts of Yeshua in vs 14 and the faithful response of the overcomers in vs 9-14 there is a joyful celebration at the throne where rewards given to those who suffered. They will never suffer hunger or thirst nor be burned by the sun because the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will guide them to spring of living water. And Yahweh will spread his tent over them or tabernacle over them. He not only covers his people, but He also covers them with his glory.

As a result, they will never again feel fear or experience any kind of harm or pain or suffering. And Yahweh will comfort them! He will wipe away all tears. That means every hurt and all sorrow will be gone. Forever. These are tears of suffering for both persecution and life's afflictions, drawn from Isa 25:8

Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the LORD Yahweh will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For YAHWEH has spoken.

Rev 7 & 14: are the same. In Chapter 7, we see the Preservation of 144,000, a Gentile harvest and martyrdom. In Rev 14, we see the same thing—the harvest and martyrdom.

Jer 30-33 describes a time of great trouble, tribulation when the nations will target and persecute the Jews, which will bring about a global catastrophic crisis.

Zach 14 says all nations will gather around Jerusalem in order to destroy it.

Isa 4 says all who are left will be made holy in that day.

Zach 12 says that all 12 tribes will mourn at the end of Jacob's trouble (tribulation) when they look upon the Messiah.

The 144,000 isn't limited to just that number because chapter 14 says they are the first fruits.

Dan 7-9, & 11- 12 describe the rising up of the little horn (anti-christ) who targets and seeks to destroy Israel. This is why Yahweh seals them, to preserve them on an ethnic, tribal, national, territorial level. Because there is a target on them from the antichrist.

Rom 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

The Jews and Gentiles will rise together. Once the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, then the fullness of the Jews will come in. Yeshua says in Luke 21:24 that Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Rev 7 Vs 9 says there will be a great multitude of souls that no one could number.

One of the elders addressed John saying, "Who are these and where have they come from?" They came up out of the great tribulation...they've washed robes in Yeshua's blood. This is a multitude of people who are willing to give their lives to stand with Yeshua and Israel. They counted the cost and they were willing to pay with their lives...people from every tribe, tongue, nation.

Rev 7 gives us confidence that, in the midst of the tribulation, all things will work together for good and there will be a massive harvest Matt 24:14.

Jer 30-33 & Dan 7, 11 and Isa. all describe that many will turn to righteousness. This is during the final persecution during the tribulation.

Rev 12:17 describes that the dragon is thrown down...vs 11 says they've conquered Satan, the dragon and the antichrist. They conquer him by giving their lives. The woman is Israel/Gentile/church? (look at that more later) The dragon makes war on the rest of her offspring—that's the one new man—us!

Dan 8 the dragon/antichrist will go out with great fury to destroy many. Who is he trying to destroy? The woman and her offspring. The one new man, the church, is the offspring of the Jewish people. At the end of the age, the Jewish people will be hated by all nations. When the nations attack Israel, the true church will rise up and say this is wrong and will take a stand against it. What Rev 7 teaches us is that every tongue and tribe and nation will be represented before Yahweh's throne at the end of the age.

This is the fulfillment of the prophecy given to Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand of the sea (Gen 15:5, 32:12) One reason the nations will come to believe Yeshua is truly Yahweh is because they will see Christians give their lives on behalf of the Jews and because of their faith in the Son of Yahweh.

We are to stand with the nation of Israel when they are being attacked. Before the end, Israel will be the target of trouble, called Jacob's trouble. The nations of the earth already hate Israel.

8:1-5 describe what happens before the first 4 trumpets are blown. 8:6-13 The first 4 trumpets are blown. Chapter 9 describes the 5 & 6th trumpets. Chapter 10 & 11 describe 7th trumpet as a stand-alone event and one of the most significant events in all history. I believe it's important to realize that these events aren't random. These events are a thought out, preplanned series of judgments—much like what happened in Egypt. They are targeting the modern day, Pharaoh, also known as the antichrist.

In the original Exodus story, the judgments were poured out not only to get Pharaoh's attention so that he would let the Jews go, but they were also poured to protect and give legitimacy to what Moses and Aaron were saying. I believe this will be true today—Yahweh will pour out his judgments while protecting his people and validating His word.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

This is the beginning of the next round of judgment events which are significant, but it's also the lead up to the judgment events that's going to be important for us to understand because the implications of this will be seen and felt by all.

9. These judgment events are released by or through the global church. For ex: Moses takes his staff and says today the Nile will turn to blood. He strikes the water and it turns to blood. Yahweh is the one doing it, but it's Moses' intercession and participation that releases the judgment events. They are released through Moses and Aaron's leadership. It's the prayers of the saints that initiate the trumpets after the seals are torn.
10. These judgments are released directly at the antichrist & his followers. Plagues in Egypt were targeted at Pharaoh and his house—not randomly. At the end of the age, antichrist will target the Jews and he will be met with resistance. Yahweh will give him some time to wear down the saints. You can't say that the saints are just going to suffer and won't be protected. They will be. But you can't say they will be protected and no harm will come to them either. It's both. Dan 11 says there will be incredible miracles and a profound display of the power of Yahweh, but there will also be suffering, martyrdom, etc. Micah 7 says that, in the last days, I will show you the same wonders I showed in Egypt. We will see a global exodus of people coming out of the world and into the kingdom, their promised land. There was a profound, supernatural protection for the Jews in Exodus. We will be a martyred church at the end of the age. Protection, power and wonders in midst of great pain, suffering.
11. The first 6 judgments events against the antichrist empire will be limited in their scope. It's clear that there is more to come. And the more will be released when the bowls of wrath are poured out. That's one reason I tend to wonder if the judgment events are not overlapping, but chronological. Because All the judgments events are numbered. It sounds like 1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6, 7...the 7th seal releases the 7 trumpets and 7th trumpet releases the bowls of wrath. The chronology is easy to get bogged down in...it may be overlapping, it might be chronological because it's numbered. But it could be both. Another reason I tend to think they will be released chronologically is because they escalate in intensity. The bowls of wrath are the ultimate judgments.

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

This is the first and only time this has ever happened, or at least the only time it's been recorded. There has always been and always will be unceasing, unending worship and praise happening around the throne. We have to remember that the 7 seals are what kept the scroll closed. With the final seal being broken by the Lamb, that scroll is now open. The goal was to open the scroll. With the opening of the scroll comes the final judgments that will end human history as we know it. The final judgments can now be released on the earth, which will bring in the fullness of the kingdom of Yahweh and His Lamb! Mal 4:5

There may be another reason for the silence—the priests performed their service in silence. Perhaps, this is also a reflection of the Lamb being the Great High Priest performing his service to Yahweh. And the onlookers, as priests, observing that silence.

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before Yahweh, and seven trumpets were given to them.

Rev 8:3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before Yahweh out of the angel's hand.

Rev 8:5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

This angel is putting together the prayers of ALL the saints on the golden altar with the fire from the altar. Remember, in Rev 5:7-8, the saints were filling up the golden bowls of incense with their prayers. Rev 6:9-10,

Here, in 8:5, fire is added to ALL the prayers, the fire comes from Yahweh. The prayers come from human saints/people. The prayers are combined with the power of Yahweh and thrown back to the earth. I want to point out that throughout the book of Revelation, worship accompanies the divine judgments. The removal of evil from this world is a holy event, and all of Yahweh's followers, angel and human alike, are filled with praise at the thought destruction of evil forces.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

The first 4 trumpets: These trumpet judgments reproduce the Egyptian plagues and like them are directed against the gods and those who worship them on the earth. The purpose of the trumpet judgments is to prove the absolute sovereignty of Yahweh and to provide a final chance for people to repent. With each trumpet blast, a further part of the One World Order experiences partial destruction. We see the escalation of the intensity of judgments. With the 7 seals, 1/4 of the earth was destroyed. With the trumpets, 1/3 of the earth will be destroyed.

As we go through this, the first 4 trumpets are mostly environmental impacts. By targeting the environment, Yahweh's impacting the resources, the supply and demand chain, while creating obstacles for the antichrist and his empires. The first trumpet is about destroying food supplies and the earth's vegetation. Hail and fire mixed with blood—is this literal or figurative? Literal. 1/3 of the earth is impacted and catches on fire! The 2 witnesses had shut the heaven for 3.5 years so there's no rain. 1/3 of the trees on earth will burn. The smoke will be unreal. This is the first trumpet judgment.

Rev 8:6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves

Rev 8:7 The FIRST sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

With the first trumpet blast, hail and fire mixed with blood appear in heaven and are thrown to the earth, which repeats the action the angel in 8:5 did when he hurled the censer to the earth. As a result, 1/3 of the earth and trees and all the grass are burned up. This description would certainly fit with a volcanic explosion. This is a repeat of the Egyptian plague in Ex 9:13-35 where Yahweh sent hail mixed with lightning and thunder, the worst storm in Egypt's history, which destroyed all vegetation. Hail is a common form of judgment in OT. The fire mixed with blood is described in Joel 2:30-31. This could be volcanic eruptions.

Rev 8:8 The SECOND angel sounded, and *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood,

Rev 8:9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

2nd trumpet deals with food supplies and economic trade—ships. 1/3 of the ocean's resources will die. 1/3 of the ships are destroyed. A huge mt burning with fire was thrown into the sea—possibly a meteor or another volcano. This judgment corresponds with the first plague in Egypt—the Nile turn to blood Ex 7:14-21. It happened before and it will happen again. Civilization, as we know it, would cease due to such a catastrophic event. Still, it is partial (1/3), which allows for repentance.

Rev 8:10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters.

Rev 8:11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

The 2nd trumpet judgment is aimed at fresh water, rivers, drinking water, springs. This clearly sounds like a meteor hits 1/3 of the fresh water around the world. How could this happen? I have no idea. If Yahweh says 1/3 of the fresh water will

become bitter, it will happen. This star falling from the sky has a name, Wormwood, which is a bitter tasting shrub that was a symbol of bitter sorrow in Prov 5:4 and a symbol of judgment and death in Jer. 9:15. This star poisons 1/3 of the earth's fresh water.

Rev 8:12 The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

1/3 of sun, moon and stars are struck. Our light sources are impacted, which will mess up so much...agriculture, to mental health and GPS. Isa 24:27 says earth will be knocked off its axis, which means Time will be altered. And both night and day will be diminished by 1/3. Which means the darkness lasts 1/3 of the day and 1/3 of the night. And the darkness is complete—there is NO light. This replicates the 9th Egyptian plague in Ex 10:21-23, when Yahweh sent darkness over Egypt for 3 days. There was NO light!

The 4th trumpet judgment says that 1/3 of the sun, moon and 1/3 of the stars were struck. In the Greek, it says He plagues them. Again, mirroring the Exodus plague. Zeph 1:15 & Joel 2:2 describes the Day of Yahweh as “a day of darkness and gloom”. This judgment prepares for the 5th bowl of wrath judgment when the kingdom of the beast is ‘darkened’ and his followers ‘gnaw their tongues in agony (Rev 16:10)

As in the first 4 bowls of wrath, one of the purposes of these 4 trumpet judgments is to reenact the Egyptian plagues by disproving the earthly gods and proving that Yahweh alone is on the throne. We'll see that Yahweh is indeed the only true Elohim.

Notice that each judgment affects a different part of this earthly life:

- First, the material world,
- Second & third, the food supply, trade and commerce
- Fourth, heat and light

3 main purposes of these trumpet events. Why are they happening?

1. PURPOSE #1: To cripple the antichrist's advance. When the judgments are poured out, it will be a massive hindrance to the Antichrist's military, political and economic advances. All the nations of the earth don't join the antichrist. The nations of the earth fight with him at the end. These judgments weaken his ability to destroy and rule over the world, which sets the stage for nations to come for the final war.
2. PURPOSE #2: To confirm the witness of the church at the end of the age. The physical earth will be on fire with the first trumpet. People will be asking questions. Christians will respond with clarity and boldness and tell them what's happening and here's what's coming next. Those who know Yahweh will stand firm and will take action Daniel 11:32. It's important for us to know that we will be able to explain to those around you what's happening, why it's happening and how we should respond.
3. PURPOSE #3 To set the stage for the coming escalation of the bowls of wrath in hopes that they will turn and repent. In His kindness, He's setting the stage for escalation. That is mercy.

Rev 8:13-9:21 actually need to be viewed together. (Remember, there are no chapter breaks in the original vision.)

The 5th & 6th trumpet judgments are unique because they are the only 2 judgments that come with prophetic warnings of woe. The first 4 trumpets centered on the dismantling of creation, but these now center on the demonic powers that turn on their own followers. The first 4 were directed at nature; these are directed at people. Again, notice that Yahweh doesn't need to send these judgments Himself; He simply turns the evil forces loose to do His will. The theme once more is the self-destructive power of evil. Also, notice that each of the 2 judgments in this chapter is twice as long as the first 4 trumpets put together. These two judgments prove to the sinners that their gods are not their friends. In fact, they experience that their gods only want to torture and kill them.

Rev 8:13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

The next 3 judgments escalate into something much more intense, crippling and almost final. Not as intense as the 7 bowls of wrath. These judgments are given to us in a certain order. The 3-fold woe is parallel the 3 holy, holy, holy. It is announcing disaster is coming.

THE FIRST WOE ACCOMPANIES THE 5TH TRUMPET

This first woe judgment tells of a terrifying invasion of supernatural locust-scorpions from the pit of hell that torture those on earth without the seal for 5 months.

2 MAIN POINTS:

1. First, the demons turn on their followers and show utter contempt and extreme cruelty by torturing their worshippers.
2. Second, Yahweh is in complete control and is orchestrating the whole event.

Rev 9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.

It's difficult to decide whether or not this star (angel) is good or fallen. Perhaps, this is Satan himself since he's described as fallen from heaven in 12:5-7. Isa 14:12-14 describes the king of Babylon as the morning star...cast down to the earth, which is also a description of Satan. So, it's possible. But, having said that, nowhere else in Rev. does Yahweh use a fallen angel to execute His plan, with the possible exception of 17:16-17. This angel is given a key. This verb which designates Yahweh's sovereign control. The key is to the bottomless pit.

Rev 9:2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.

Rev 9:3 Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev 9:4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of Yahweh on their foreheads.

Rev 9:5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man.

Rev 9:6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

When the angel opens the pit, a huge column of smoke rises like a gigantic furnace. This same image is seen in Ex 19:18, Psa 144:5 where Yahweh descends on Mt Sinai. Other scriptures describe this image as divine wrath—2 Sam 22:9, Ps 18:8. Also in describing Sodom and Gomorrah Gen 19:28. And also the Day of Yahweh in Joel 2:30. The smoke is so thick that it darkens the sun and the air, which reminds us of the 4th trumpet and Joel 2:10 where the sun and moon are darkened a the day of Yahweh. Out of the thick smoke, locusts fall to the earth Rev 9:3. Again, we are reminded of the Egyptian plagues Ex 10:14. Locusts are a clear sign of judgment in the OT. Normal locusts eat only vegetation. This is like the Egyptian plague Ex 8:22-23; 9:4; 10:23. Yahweh's people are protected from the outpouring of divine judgment Rev 3:10; 7:1-8. Only those who have rejected His offer of repentance 9:20-21 are subjected to this demonic torment. They are demonic. Yahweh is the One who is giving them the power and permission to torment the sinners. Satan cannot do whatever he wishes! These creatures aren't allowed to kill anyone; only torment them for 5 months. The pain will be so severe that the sufferers will long to die and seek death, but will not die. They took the lives of the martyrs in 6:9-11, and now they want to take their own lives. Yahweh will not allow them to die until the right time, in the 2nd demonic invasion of the next judgment. They have tortured and killed Yahweh's people, and now He sends the demonic torturers to return the favor on their own followers.

Rev 9:7 The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

Rev 9:8 They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions.

Rev 9:9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

Rev 9:10 They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.

These creatures are supernaturally large and incredibly frightening. Joel 1:6-7 and 2:4-5 describe these beasts. They are prepared for war—against their own followers! The word 'crown' here is the Greek word *stephanos*, which is the wreath won by the victor in an athletic contest or a military fight. In Rev, it's worn by the angelic elders in 4:4, by Yeshua when He returns for His bride in 14:14, and by the victorious saints in 2:10, 3:11, 12:1.

9:5 they have tails like scorpions and stings...stings is the Greek word *Kentron*. It's used in I Cor 15:55 of 'the sting of death' and is the word used to describe the whip used to tear a back apart—we see it in Matt 27:26 when they whipped Yeshua. What they did to Him and to His followers, is now being down to them. Combining the imagery of the locust, the scorpion and the warhorse the image is complete—displaying the torture caused by the war the demonic forces brought against the very one who worshiped them.

Rev 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Prov 30:27 says that locusts have no king. But these demonic locust-scorpions do have a king. Abaddon may be Satan himself. Abaddon and Apollyon are the same names and mean Destroyer. This title becomes the title for the 5 & 6th trumpet judgments where 1/3 of the population will be destroyed.

Rev 9:12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

Rev 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns (horns are a symbol of the power of Yahweh) of the golden altar (this is the golden altar of incense in 8:3-5) which is before Yahweh,

Rev 9:14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

A voice from the golden altar (possibly the priestly angel in chp 8), tells the 6th angel to release the 4 angels who are bound at the Euphrates river. The fact that they are bound tells us that they most likely fallen angels. Satan is described as being bound by Yeshua in Mark 3:27. The Euphrates is the eastern boundary of the Roman empire. The Euphrates is a symbol of foreign invasion in the bible. In Rev. 16:12, the Euphrates is dried up so the kings of the east can invade.

Rev 9:15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.

Again, we see Yahweh's sovereignty at play here. The 4 angels had been prepared for this hour and for Yahweh's purposes to be accomplished, which will result in 1/3 of mankind, 2 billion people dead.

Rev 9:16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Rev 9:17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.

Rev 9:18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.

Rev 9:19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

This judgment is meant to provide a warning to the rest of mankind not killed—showing very clearly that they must get right with Yahweh or else. Yahweh is restraining the death toll in order to give mankind a chance to repent!

Rev 9:21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Mankind had just been given absolute proof of the true intentions of their gods and what happens when you worship the idols that represent them, yet they not only refuse to embrace Yahweh's offer of eternal life, but they prefer the evil works of their hands—murders, sorceries, immorality and thievery.

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April 6, 2022

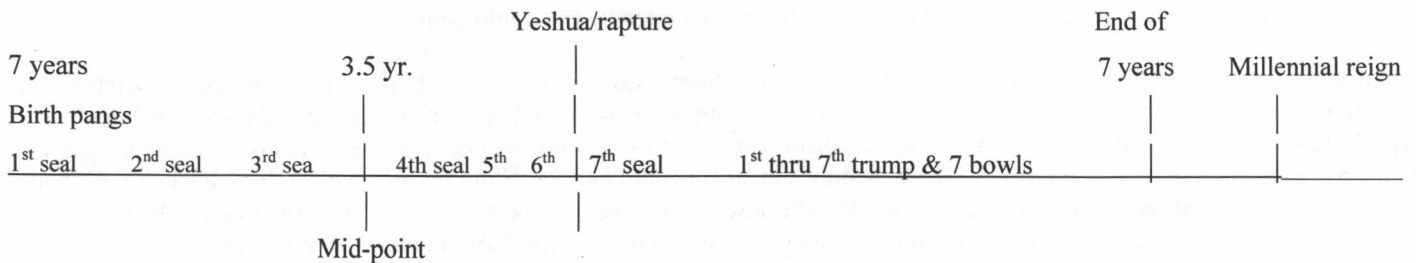
Pre-wrath model believes the seals, trumpets & bowls unfold in a consecutive manner and Yeshua returns between 6th & 7th seal.

Mid trib view—Yeshua returns after the first 3.5 years

Pre-wrath view— He returns after the tribulation, but before the bowls of wrath).

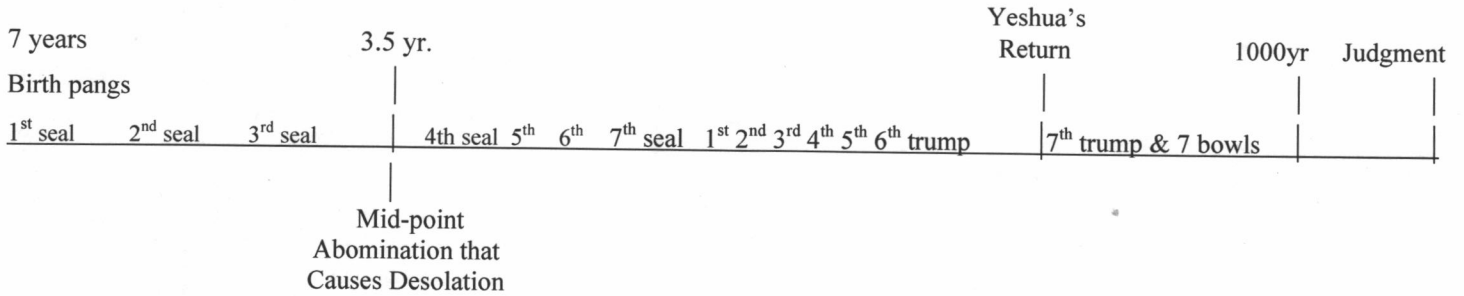
Post trib view (Yeshua returns for His bride at end of trib) believes the seals, trumpets and bowls as concurrent to some degree, there are variations of this. For some people the first seal, 1st trumpet and 1st bowl and 1st bowl are the same. Some have the trumpets mixed in with the seals. Most usually see the 7th seal, trumpet as the same.

PRE-WRATH MODEL

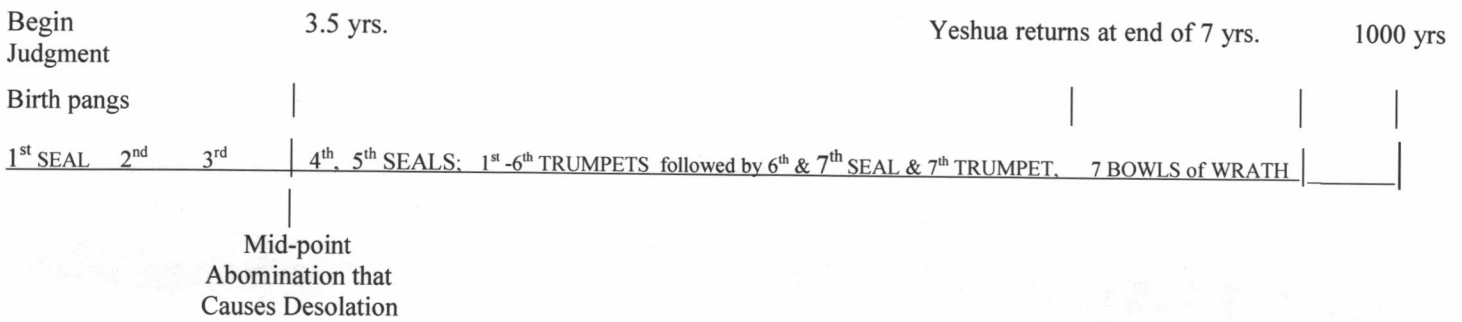


Abomination that Causes Desolation

POST-TRIBULATION



PRE-WRATH & POST-TRIBULATION COMBINATION POSSIBILITY



TRUMPETS APPEAR TO BE SANDWICHED BETWEEN 6th and 7th seal. It is difficult to see trumpets occurring within or before 7th seal.

How we lived and how faithful we were, how we laid down our lives, denied ourselves, carried the cross—that's what will matter on judgment day. It's faithfulness that will be judged. Not whether we believed in post tribulation or pretribulation rapture. We are to be prepared to meet Him whenever He comes!

Israel is a modern day miracle. Israel has been regathered in the land. The bible prophecies describe the Jews as being regathered to Israel in complete belief. The majority of Jews living in Israel today are not believers. They are not fulfilling the prophecies.

Those will be fulfilled when Yeshua returns. They will turn to the Messiah and He will be their King.

Here's the point. Even though they are in the land today they are still in exile, spiritually speaking. Similar to Christians. 1 Peter 2:11 says we are strangers and exiles. We aren't home. Where is home? It's ultimately when heaven and earth become one and Yeshua is on the throne in Jerusalem. Israelis are exiles. Rev 12, Luke 21 describes the anti-christ in Jerusalem and many being taken as prisoners of war. During the tribulation many will be in exile.

The exodus story begins with Israel in exile and ends with them in the promised land. The book of Revelation begins with us in exile and ends with us entering the eternal promised land with Yeshua on the throne in Jerusalem. The fullness of redemption will bring an end to our exile. The cross didn't end it, but it did guarantee that it would come.

The Antichrist is the last Pharaoh. The first Pharaoh was just a foreshadow, a type. The Egyptian Pharaoh was the dictator and his magicians served as the false prophets. There were 10 plagues—that was Yahweh displaying his power to Jews and to Egypt. It wasn't primarily evangelistic. Yahweh was displaying his power to his own people mostly to convince them that he is able to save them so they would choose to be His people and so He could be their Elohim/God. We can look back at the Exodus story and realize we will be delivered from this world. The Jews were saved by the blood of the Passover lamb. And ultimately Israel will be saved by the blood of the Lamb and all Israel will be saved...all who look on Him will be saved!

Chapter 9 is one of the first places where there's a breaking in of a new pattern. The message in chapter 9 is very clear—we see the consequence of human rebellion is global sin against the sovereignty and leadership of Yahweh. There is global economic collapse and wars and martyrdom. The judgments increase as humanity continues to harden its hearts.

The 5th and 6th trumpets lead up to the 7th trumpet. The 5th & 6th trumpets are directed at unbelievers. Yahweh will use these locust-like demons to torment people, but they are told they can't touch those who are sealed by Yahweh. Some people say that this isn't the church because it has been raptured, but it's people who got saved during the tribulation. But there isn't a scripture anywhere in the bible that says that. This is a season of war, economic collapse, depravity, rebellion, torment, and evil deeds while demons torment those who aren't sealed by Yahweh. And Yahweh protects his people from those locust demons.

Remember, in chapter 8, the prayers of the saints were hurled to the earth and, as a result, judgments were released in the form of the first 4 trumpets.

2 major points in chapter 9

1. The demons turn on their own people and show utter contempt and cruelty by torturing their very worshippers.
2. Yahweh is in complete control and is orchestrating the whole event. In doing so, He proves once more his justice and the necessity of destruction of evil.

The angel is given the key to the bottomless pit, which is called the bottomless depths of the ocean, it is also called the place of the dead in Pa 63:9, 71:20. 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6 says that it is a pit or prison house for the fallen angels.

Rev 9: 2-6 and 11:7 says that when the angel opens the pit, a huge column of smoke rises like a giant furnace. This image is described like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Gen 19:28 and the Day of Yahweh in Joel 2:30. Locusts come out of the smoke and fall to the earth Rev 9:3. This reminds us of the plagues in Egypt. Locusts were common in the OT and were a sign of divine judgment Deut 28:38-42, Jer 46:23; 51:14. In Joel 1-2, a locust plague is a sign of the Day of Yahweh.

The locusts are given power to torment people who are not sealed. That is what happened in Egypt—the Jews were protected. The Egyptians were tormented (Ex 8-10). For 5 months, they will torment sinners, but they are forbidden to kill them. Only those who rejected his offer for repentance (9:20-21), are tormented because of what they have done to Yahweh's people. They have the mark of the beast (13:16), not the seal of Yahweh.

This judgment is different from what we will see in the 6th trumpet. 5th trumpet harms them, but they can't kill them. 6th trumpet is kill them, but don't harm them and don't kill all of them, just some of them. Remember, Yahweh is the one giving them the authority to do what they do (Rev 6:1-8, 13:5-8). Satan cannot operate outside of Yahweh and he cannot do whatever he wants.

Yahweh is giving evil doers an opportunity to soften their hearts and return or to harden their hearts and endure the wrath to come.

The impact of these scorpion-locust creatures is that man wants to die because the pain is so extreme. They took the lives of the martyrs in 6:9-11, and now they want to take their own lives. But Yahweh will not allow it. This is called the law of retribution. They have tortured and killed Yahweh's people, and now Yahweh will allow the demons to do the same thing to them.

9:13 The 6th angel blew the 6th trumpet. 4 angels are bound at the Euphrates river. They have been prepared for the hour, day month and year to be released. They are presently hanging out and waiting and watching at the Euphrates river.

Those 4 angels will be released to kill 1/3 of mankind. In chapter 6, 1/4 of population is killed. Then 1/3 of the people are killed. That means that 1/2 of population is killed. That's about 4-5 billion people killed in 3.5 year period.

A 200 million "man" army will come across Euphrates river. This isn't actually a human army, but a demonic army. This is a judgment event against those who are choosing evil. These 3 plagues: fire, smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. Tails are like serpents with heads and they wound. People are delivered from demons and delivered to demons. Yahweh is doing that in 5th and 6th trumpets. Vs 20 says they did not repent. This is a sin issue and a worship issue. This is open worship of demons and their hearts grow harder. Like Pharaoh.

We see the fruit of the final rage of man against Yahweh: Murder, thefts, work of their hands, worshipping demons, sorcery (pharmacy/drugs), sexual immorality. These things are more than simple murder or stealing, this is more than what we call everyday sins. This is demonically empowered sin because of the hardness of their hearts.

Worship is more than singing songs to Satan. What it means to worship a demon is to be its slave, to be addicted to that thing, to be chained to it, possessed by it. When we worship Yahweh, we give Him everything. We are possessed by Him. To be a bondservant. To be obsessed with Him. If you worship demons, they will turn on you and torment you and kill you. If you worship Yahweh, He protects, advocates for you, defends you, saves you, adopts you redeems you, restores you and will give you a place in eternity and will pour out the Father's affection that he poured out on His Son onto you! If you worship demons, you get wrath and destruction. The demons will destroy you.

Daniel 8 says until the transgression has reached its fullness...even before the Jews came into Canaan...it says not until the fulness of sin of the people of the land has reached. 430 years passed between when the promise was given and when Yahweh leads the Jews into Canaan. Yahweh said I won't judge the Canaanites until they come to the fullness of sin. Jews want to take the land. But Yahweh says no. Why not? Because of the people in the land of Canaan...once their sin has reached the point of fullness, then I will judge them. He does the same today. He waits and waits for us to turn...He waits to send judgment...until we either turn or our sins increase then judgment. **THE POINT OF CHAPTER 9: Don't ever worship demons!**

CHAPTER 10

Rev 10:1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;

Rev 10:2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land;

Rev 10:3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.

Rev 10:4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."

Rev 10:5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven,

Rev 10:6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer,

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

Rev 10:8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven, *I heard* again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land."

Rev 10:9 So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he *said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

Rev 10:10 I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

Rev 10:11 And they *said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

OVERVIEW: This is our second 'pause' in Rev.10-11:13. The first was 7:1-17.

In this section, we see the role of the church in the last days in 3 ways:

1. John's commissioning as a prophet 10:1-11
2. The reintroduction of Yahweh's protection of the saints 11:1-2
3. The description of the ministry of the 2 witnesses 11:3-13

John is asked to join Yahweh's mission to the world as a prophet, which will involve the 2 witnesses as well. Yahweh reveals the church is to have a bold witness in times of intense tribulation and suffering. They are sealed and protected (7:3-4; 9:4) and are called Yahweh's special possession (11:1-2). At the same time, they are pursued and persecuted by the dragon/beast and their followers (11:7-10), but that suffering will be their victory (11:11-12).

10:1-3 We see a powerful "angel" coming down from heaven, which is Yeshua.

Jud 1:14 *It was* also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the seventh *generation* from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

Jud 1:15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Vs 1 He is Clothed with a cloud like Yahweh in Ex 16:10, Lev 6:2, Ezek 10:4.

His face shining like the sun like Christ in. Rev 1:16, Matt 17:2.

His feet are like pillars of fire like Christ in Rev 1:15.

He has a Rainbow around his head like Yahweh in Rev 4:3 and Ezek 1:28.

His voice sounds like a lion like Yahweh in Joel 3:16, Amos 1:2.

Vs 2 He has an open scroll in his hand. It's open. The 7 peals of thunder utter their voices! Rev. begins with a sealed scroll. Here it's open. Some people say it's a different scroll from the first scroll in Rev 5. Some say this may be Daniel 11, where Daniel is told to seal up what he was told. But the context of Dan 11 doesn't seem to support that idea. I believe it's most likely the same scroll from chapter 5.

This powerful mighty angel is Yahweh, the Son. He's still holding the open scroll. In comparison to Yeshua, the scroll appears little. I believe the contents of the scroll are the seals, the trumpets and what is yet to happen.

Rev 5:1-7 John says I saw the Lamb who had 7 horns, 7 eyes: (number of perfection). 7 spirits of Yahweh are different facets of Yahweh.

In Rev 10. Yeshua, the Lamb, has the open scroll.

Vs 2 His Left foot is on the land of Israel. Right foot is on the sea. He's looking south...maybe to Egypt or Mt Sinai. Perhaps, this could be Isa. 19, which is one of the great end-time prophecies concerning Egypt—Isa 19 describes an end time scenario of a mighty revival, economic disasters, the Nile river dries up, which would destroy their economy. Or perhaps Yeshua is looking at Mt. Sinai and hinting at the beginning of the final exodus.

There are 4 primary so called "mountain peaks" or highlights in bible history.

- 1st is creation. Yahweh is hovering over the deep, the chaos. He separates waters above from waters below. He brings order. The language of ocean, in the mind of ancient Hebrew, this would've brought thoughts of Yeshua exerting order. He is demonstrating his sovereignty over the realm of the deep.
- The 2nd great event is the Exodus which culminates at Mt Sinai when Yahweh comes down. Yahweh splits the sea/separates the waters again which is a foreshadow when Yeshua will return.
- 3rd is the coming of Yahweh from heaven as a Man, defeating Leviathan/Satan and saving his people.
- 4th is when the ultimate exodus happens, which is when Yeshua returns for His bride. Will He split the sea again? A few passages seem to indicate this.

Isa 10:20 Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

Isa 10:21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty EL.

Isa 10:22 For though your people, O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, *Only* a remnant within them will return; A destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness.

Isa 10:23 For a complete destruction, one that is decreed, the Lord Yahweh of hosts will execute in the midst of the whole land.

Isa 10:24 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh of hosts, "O My people who dwell in Zion, do not fear the Assyrian who strikes you with the rod and lifts up his staff against you, the way Egypt *did*." *Anti christ*

Isa 10:25 "For in a very little while My indignation *against you* will be spent and My anger *will be directed* to their destruction."

Isa 10:26 The Yahweh of hosts will arouse a scourge against him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and **His staff will be over the sea and He will lift it up the way He did in Egypt.**

The Assyrians were an enemy and threat to Jews. Yahweh tells the Jews not to fear them. Because Yahweh will use a scourge/whip against the Assyrians, which are a type of the antichrist and his army. Yahweh's staff will be over the sea and He will lift it up the way He did in Egypt, which will bring destruction on them. *Anti christ*

YAHWEH says to Isaiah that the day is coming when I will punish the Assyrians. This passage In Isa. is about the antichrist and the final exodus.

Isa 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Isa 11:3 And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;

Isa 11:4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

Isa 11:5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Isa 11:6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them.

Isa 11:7 Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox.

Isa 11:8 The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

Isa 11:9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

Isa 11:10 Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.

Isa 11:11 Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea.

Isa 11:12 And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

Isa 11:13 Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, And those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, And Judah will not harass Ephraim.

Isa 11:14 They will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; Together they will plunder the sons of the east; They will possess Edom and Moab, And the sons of Ammon will be subject to them.

Isa 11:15 And Yahweh will utterly destroy The tongue of the Sea of Egypt; And He will wave His hand over the River With His scorching wind; And He will strike it into seven streams and make *men* walk over dry-shod.

Isa 11:16 And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant of His people who will be left, Just as there was for Israel In the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.

After Yahweh/Yeshua returns, He will lift up a standard for the nations, He will gather all the exiles of Judah; He will utterly destroy the sea of Egypt. There it is again. 7 streams are dry....just like the first Exodus. We see here that Yeshua will do so much than just rapture His church when He returns.

Hab 3 is one of the most detailed descriptions of Yeshua's return.

Hab 3:8 Did the LORD rage against the rivers, Or *was* Your anger against the rivers, Or *was* Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, On Your chariots of salvation?

On your chariots of salvation...In Rev 19, Yeshua returns on a horse an army following on horses. Hab 3 describes Yeshua riding on horses, but then it brings in chariots. Ezekiel 1 describes the throne of Yahweh and it's a chariot throne. It's not just a seat. It's not only a throne that's described like a chariot, but when Yahweh returns we read that He's riding a horse. Ps 68 talks about Him coming with chariots. On the first day of Pentecost, the Jews required daily scripture reading is Ezek 1 (describes the chariot throne) and on day 2, it's Hab 3 which describes Him riding on horses and on chariots of salvation.

Hab 3:8 Did the LORD rage against the rivers, Or *was* Your anger against the rivers, Or *was* Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, On Your chariots of salvation?

I believe He's coming back on His horse drawn chariot throne to reestablish His throne in Jerusalem.

Hab 3:2 Yahweh, I have heard the report about You *and* I fear. O Yahweh, revive Your work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

Hab 3:3 EL comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, and the earth is full of His praise.

Hab 3:4 *His* radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays *flashing* from His hand, and there is the hiding of His power.

Hab 3:5 Before Him goes pestilence, and plague comes after Him.

Hab 3:6 He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations. Yes, the perpetual mountains were shattered, the ancient hills collapsed. His ways are everlasting.

Hab 3:7 I saw the tents of Cushan under distress, the tent curtains of the land of Midian were trembling.

Hab 3:8 Did Yahweh rage against the rivers, or *was* Your anger against the rivers, or *was* Your wrath against the sea, that You rode on Your horses, on Your chariots of salvation?

Hab 3:9 Your bow was made bare, the rods of chastisement were sworn. Selah. You cleaved the earth with rivers.

Hab 3:10 The mountains saw You *and* quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, it lifted high its hands.

Hab 3:11 Sun *and* moon stood in their places; they went away at the light of Your arrows, at the radiance of Your gleaming spear.

Hab 3:12 In indignation, You marched through the earth; in anger You trampled the nations.

Hab 3:13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for the salvation of Your anointed. You struck the head of the house of the evil to lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

Hab 3:14 You pierced with his own spears the head of his throngs. They stormed in to scatter us; their exultation *was* like those who devour the oppressed in secret.

Hab 3:15 You trampled on the sea with Your horses, on the surge of many waters.

Hab 3:16 I heard and my inward parts trembled, at the sound, my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, and in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, for the people to arise *who* will invade us.

HABAKKUK REJOICES IN THE LORD

Hab 3:17 Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, *though* the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls,

Hab 3:18 Yet, I will exult in Yahweh, I will rejoice in the EL of my salvation.

Hab 3:19 The Lord Yahweh is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*, and makes me walk on my high places.

Yeshua marches through the earth for the salvation of His people. Habakkuk says that Yahweh will strike the head of the house of evil...that's the antichrist and Satan. The armies of the antichrist stormed in to scatter us....but Yahweh trampled on the sea....He will trample the head of Satan. I believe when Yeshua returns, He may retrace the steps of the Jews leaving Egypt. Habakkuk says that plagues will go before him. He will deliver His people through the desert... Isaiah 35 talks about the highway of holiness in the desert.

Rev 5:5 Lion from the tribe of Judah.

Rev 10 a voice roaring Lion. He's holding the same scroll. When He cried out, the 7 thunders raised their voices. In Job 37:2, Ps 29:3, John 12, Yahweh voice sounds like thunder. In front of the throne are 7 lampstands. 7 pointing to Yeshua himself. 7 spirits. 7 horns. Yahweh's voice thundered.

John is told to Seal up the things he heard...don't write them.

Rev 10:5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven,

Rev 10:6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer,

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of Yahweh is finished

Vs 5-7 The time has come—there will no longer be any delay...when the 7th angels sounds then the mystery of Yahweh is finished. It will be the culmination of human history, the salvation of the Jews, the restoration of all things, the end of this wicked age and the establishment of Yahweh's kingdom on earth!

Vs 8-11 the focus now turns to the little scroll.

Similar to the commissioning of Ezekiel in Ezek 3:1-3. Ezekiel is told to eat a scroll and to go prophesy to Israel. He does and the scroll is sweet as honey. This was Ezekiel's commissioning as a prophet. And now, John is about to experience the same thing. Except for the fact that the scroll is sweet in his mouth and bitter in his stomach. In other words, your message will be sweet because the church will be victorious, but it will be bitter because it involves much suffering.

John is told to do what the Lamb was told in chapter 5: 7-8—to take the scroll from the Father's hand. John is to take the scroll from this mighty Angel's (Yeshua's) hand. For the 3rd time we are told the Angel is standing on sea and land (10:2, 5, 8), which signifies Yahweh's dominion over this world. John is to prophesy to the rebellious nations of the world that that Yahweh is reclaiming His world.

10:9 John takes the scroll. The angel repeats the command for him to eat it. They tell John to prophesy.

In chapter 11, someone tells John to measure the temple...11:3-4 the same voice tells John that I will grant authority to my 2 witnesses...It seems to me that John is talking with the Angel who says eat the scroll and John takes it and a voice says keep prophesying. That same voice says measure the city in chapter 11. That same voice says I will grant authority to my 2 witnesses...again, these are more reasons why I believe the mighty angel is Yeshua. John is to take the revelation that he is being shown and prophesy to the nations.

Two themes are obvious in chapter 10.

1. Yahweh's complete sovereignty over his creation.
2. The prophetic witness of the church. John reenacts Ezekiel's commission as a prophet, and the sweetness and bitterness of both Ezekiel's and John's difficult ministry is to be given to the church. There is sweetness in the knowledge that Yahweh will bring his people victory. There is bitterness that the world is rejecting Yahweh's offer and turning against His people.

CHAPTER 11 The Two Witnesses

Rev 11:1 And a measuring rod similar in appearance to a staff was given to me, saying, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship in it.

Rev 11:2 And leave out the courtyard outside of the temple, and do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city for forty two months.

Rev 11:3 And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for *one* thousand two hundred sixty days, dressed in sackcloth."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, in this way he must be killed.

Rev 11:6 These have the authority to shut the sky, so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. And they have authority over the waters, to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with every plague as often as they wish.

Rev 11:7 And when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war with them and will conquer them and will kill them.

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which is called symbolically Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Rev 11:9 And *those* from peoples and tribes and languages and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and they will not allow their dead bodies to be placed in a tomb.

Rev 11:10 And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them, and will celebrate and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth.

Rev 11:11 And after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here," and they went up into heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

Rev 11:13 And at that hour a great earthquake took place, and a tenth of the city collapsed, and seven thousand people were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Rev 11:14 The second woe has passed. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly!

The Seventh Trumpet

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel blew the trumpet, and there was a loud voice in heaven saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."

Rev 11:16 And the twenty-four elders *who are* seated on their thrones before God fell down on their faces and worshiped God, Rev 11:17 saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God All-Powerful, the one who is and the one who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets and to the saints and to the ones who fear your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

Rev 11:19 And the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple, and there were lightnings and sounds and thunders and an earthquake and large hail.

Chapters 10:1-11:13 is a pause in the judgment events. It is a pause and it's also part of the 7 trumpet judgments that began in 8. There are 3 parts:

1. The measuring of the altar 11:1-2
2. Centering on divine protection and opposition to the saints; the ministry of the two witnesses (11:3-13), describing the church's bold witness to their persecutors
3. The 7th trumpet 11:14-19, picturing the arrival of the kingdom of Yahweh 11:15.

2 threads hold all 3 of these parts together:

1. Yahweh's presence with His people
2. and the church triumphing over their enemies.

We see both the sweetness and the bitterness of the judgment events in this chapter: Sweetness is seen in 11:1-2 in Yahweh's possessive presence with His people and in 11:14-19 we see the triumph of Yahweh on behalf of His people. Bitterness is seen in 11:2 where the Jews are trampled by the gentiles and in 11:7-10 with the death of the 2 witnesses.

Vs 1. Yeshua gives John a measuring rod, a straight hollow reed 10 ft 4 inches long, which was used to survey land. This represents Yahweh's ownership of the land. John is asked to measure 3 things: the temple, its altar and its worshippers. Temple is the Greek word, "naos", and it's the term for the holy place and the holy of holies. This is the heavenly temple, not a reconstructed temple in the last days. The body of Christ, the church is the temple: Matt 16:18, I Cor 3:16-17, 2 Cor 6:16.

3 things are measured:

1. a temple—corporate entity
2. an altar—corporate entity
3. the worshippers—individual members

When the members are measured, they are identified as belonging to Yahweh and protected by Him. Their true home is in the temple/church, and they have no part in the world. Instead, they conquer it by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony Rev 12:11.

The measuring is a prophetic act that announces Yahweh's ownership and protection over his people. This doesn't protect them from persecution and martyrdom. In 13:7, Yahweh gives or permits the beast to conquer the saints. But, in that very area the saints actually conquer the beast by giving up their lives 12:11. So they are protected spiritually but not physically.

Suffering is the path to glory.

1Pe 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, *when it takes place to test you, as if something strange* were happening to you.

1Pe 4:13 But to the degree that you share in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice *and* be glad.

1Pe 4:14 If you are reviled on account of the name of Christ, *you are* blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

That suffering, as in Rev 10:8-11, is their bitterness, but it will produce the sweetness of their final victory over the powers of evil and their vindication by Yahweh.

11:2 EXCLUDING THE OUTER COURT

There is a double meaning in "outer", for it both describes the court of the Gentiles in the outer court and also that it is outside Yahweh's protective presence.

It has been given to the Gentiles, meaning Yahweh has handed over the church to the Gentiles for a period of time. For a short time, Yahweh will allow the enemies of his people to persecute them severely, but they will reemerge triumphant. Dan 8:9-14 says that Yahweh allows the little horn to trample the host of the heavens, Yahweh's followers for a time. (Also Zech 12:3). The time He allows this is 42 months.

The 3.5 year great tribulation time frame is presented to us in 3 different formats:

1. Rev 7:14, 11:3, 12:6, Dan 12:11, we see 1260 days
2. Rev 12:14, Dan 7:25; 12:7, we see "Time, times, and half a time"
3. In Rev 13:5 we see "42 months"

11:3-6 Yahweh gave the outer court to the gentiles (nations). Here, Yahweh gives power/authority to the 2 witnesses. The church overcomes by taking the war to the nations but with a twist—their weapons are not military but spiritual. The people of Yahweh fight back with a bold witness. Yahweh chooses 2 witnesses that He calls, "My two witnesses" signifying His special possession of them. He gives them both power and authority—authority to prophesy and power to perform great miracles.

These 2 men remind me of Elijah and Moses. Like John the Baptist, in Lk 1:17, they will come in the spirit and power of Moses and Elijah. They will prophesy for 1260 days. This must mean that they will minister during the last 3.5 years, which will be dominated by the antichrist and the beast. Like Elijah, they will wear sackcloth to signify sorrow and mourning over the sins of the nations (Joel 1:8, Amos 8:10). Sackcloth was often worn to signify repentance for sin. The Spirit of Yahweh stands over the 2 witnesses and will overcome any opposition on their behalf.

The 2 witnesses have a 2-fold mission: to witness to the nations and to warn of imminent judgment. The sinners attempt to kill the 2 witnesses as they did the martyrs of Rev 6. But in response, the Elijah miracle of fire falling from heaven happens again (2 Kgs 1). Those who tried to kill them are killed by Yahweh when He cause fire to come out of their mouths and it devours their enemies. The power they were given allows them to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during this 3.5 year time. This reminds us of Elijah's time of drought in I Kgs 17-18.

The last 3 miracles they perform are parallel to the trumpet and bowl judgments which involved the heavens, the waters, and the earth. They have power to turn water into blood, like the Egyptian plague and the 2nd trumpet Rev 8:8 and the 2nd and 3rd bowls in 16:3-4. The last miracle is general, referring to Moses' authority from Yahweh to strike the earth with every kind of plague whenever they wished. This sums up all of the Egyptian plagues and describes the trumpets and the bowls.

11:7-10 DEATH AND DEFEAT

The close of the last 3.5 years when the 2 witnesses have finished their testimony. Yahweh will not allow the false trinity (the dragon, beast and false prophet Rev. 16:13), to have their temporary triumph until the prophetic witness by these 2 men are complete. While the believers are hunted down during this great tribulation (7:14), the forces of evil will not be able to stop their testimony. As we saw in 11:5-6, their witness has brought judgment on the nations.

Yahweh allows the beast to attack and kill the 2 witnesses (11:7). This is also the important point of 13:5-8, when the beast in all its evil actions can only do what Yahweh permits, and that for only a short time. He ascends from the Abyss, proving his demonic origin. The powers of evil ascend from the sea or the Abyss—smoke in 8:4 and 9:2 (the locusts descend in 9:3, the beast here and in 17:8, the beast from the sea in 13:1, the beast from the earth in 13:11. Yahweh allows this beast to make war and to conquer and kill them. In the final war in 19:17-19 there is no battle; the sword comes out of Yeshua's mouth and every member of the army of the beast is beheaded instantly.

The people show no respect, compassion or honor of the 2 witnesses. Their bodies lie in the public square of the great city (11:8).

The great city is Jerusalem. After their deaths, a religious celebration breaks out as the whole world takes a holiday, looking on their dead bodies and rejoicing (11:9).

Rev. 13:11-18 He has established a one world religion centered around the worship of the dragon and the beast/antichrist. He causes the world to view the dead bodies while refusing to bury them. They are dead for 3.5 days. They celebrate and send each other gifts like the religious holiday of Christmas, which was originally called Saturnalia, a time of worshipping a false god.

RESURRECTION Rev. 11:11-12 The world celebration is cut short when Yahweh's sovereignty takes over and ends the celebration. At this time, the breath of life from Yahweh enters them and they stand to their feet! Much like the valley of dry bones in Ezek. 37:10, "Breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet." Ezekiel's vision is prophesying Israel's return from exile as a valley of dry bones come to life. It also speaks of Gen 2:7, where Yahweh breathes life into Adam's nostrils. As the two are resurrected and stand up, the earth feels great fear and terror. This reminds me of Psa. 105:38 "Egypt was glad when they left, because dread of Israel had fallen on them (Ex 15:16). This terror will lead either to repentance Rev 11:13; 15:4, or to judgment Rev 18:10,15, depending on their response.

The 2 witnesses are immediately taken up to heaven 11:11. Those standing around hear a loud voice—we aren't told who is speaking. The voice commands, "Come up here." They ascend in a cloud, which points to Yeshua ascending in a cloud after his resurrection. The cloud represents the presence of Yahweh in all his glory and majesty, especially at Yeshua's return, which may be happening at the 2 witnesses "rapture". The context here is definitely about resurrection.

This takes place at the end of the second 3.5 years. It happens when the 2 witnesses finish their "mission" to prophesy and testify to the world 11:7, which may be a sign of the church finishing her mission. In Rev., the only event following Yeshua's return is the battle of Armageddon, so there doesn't seem to be room for the earthquake, the deaths, and the repentance of many. It seems that the resurrection here is the "first-fruit" of the church's soon coming rapture.

The order of events here seem to be:

1. The resurrection and ascension of the 2 witnesses
2. The earthquake
3. The conversion of the onlookers,
4. The return of Yeshua to gather His church
5. The events of Rev 20-21 (the 1,000 yr reign, the throne judgment, the new heaven & new earth, the new Jerusalem)

(for more on this—I Cor 15, I Thess 4:13-18)

JUDGMENT AND REPENTANCE Rev 11:13

After the witnesses are caught up to heaven, another terrible earthquake happens (6:12, 8:5, 11:13 & 19, 16:18) and 1/10th of the city is destroyed. We see this described in the OT in Ezek 38:19-20 with Gog and Magog, Zech 14:4 with Yahweh descending on the Mt of Olives at the Day of Yahweh.

7,000 people die—1/10th of the population of Jerusalem. They perish because of their idolatry and rebellion.

This is partial judgment like the 1/4th killed in the seal judgments 6:8 and the 1/3rd killed in the trumpet judgments 9:18. These judgments are a call to repentance.

CHAPTER 12: THE SOUNDING OF the 7th trumpet is the most significant event in history. There's actually a number of events that will happen like book of Exodus. The Antichrist dictator oppresses the Jews. Plagues are poured out. The deliverance and salvation of the Jews and those who partner with them. The exodus didn't take place in a day. There will be some significant dynamics that take place when he returns.

- Chapters 10-16 give a bunch of info on what happens before the 7th trumpet sounds.
- 10-15 sets in motion the 7th trumpet.
- Chapter 16 is the bowls of wrath.
- 19 return of Yeshua in detail
- 20 establishment of millennial reign
- 21-22 eternal reality and restoration of all things

CHAPTER 12

The Woman and the Dragon

Rev 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven:

Picture John—he's looking at the sky and a great sign appears and it's a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

Rev 12:2 and she was with child; and she *cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

Rev 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven:

Rev 12:4 And his tail *swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

Rev 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev 12:6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she *had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Satan is Thrown Down to Earth

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon (Satan). The dragon and his angels waged war,

Rev 12:8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Rev 12:12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time." ...here's the good news—his time is short!

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.

Rev 12:14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Rev 12:15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

Rev 12:16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

Rev 12:17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of Yahweh and hold to the testimony of Yeshua.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

We see here the beginning of the conflict of the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. In Gen 12, Yahweh calls Abram out of his land and idolatry in order to bring forth the Messiah. He turns a man who is unable to have children into a family and changes his name to Abraham, the father of many. And through this man, the messiah will come. Yahweh's plan has always been to bless the Jews through which He will bless the entire earth. We see this here in Rev 12. Through the woman, a male child is born, the Messiah. This woman is Israel and all her descendants who are those who follow the Messiah.

Rev 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven:

Rev 12:2 and she was with child; and she *cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

Who is the woman? There are a number of ideas out there.

1. Virgo (astrology)
2. Mary (Yeshua's mother)
3. The church
4. Israel

I believe she represents Israel.

1. Virgo: we have to be so careful when using the alignment of the stars to predict His coming. (2017 the sun passed through Virgo, the moon passed by her feet and above her head were 12 stars and then Jupiter was in Virgo for 9 mos.)

Holiness means to be separate, to be different. The opposite of holiness is to have mixture—don't mix different threads when you make your clothes: wool & cotton. That's so true when we are communicating the gospel—don't mix the gospels with the worldly living/doctrine/beliefs. When Jews entered Canaan, the Canaanites followed Baal, who was known as the god who rides on the clouds. But the Jews knew better—Yahweh is the One who rides on the clouds! Yeshua is the one who rode on the clouds when he ascended. The people saw Him riding on the clouds!

2. Mary: we have a picture of a woman having a male child. However, the exalted manner this woman is clothed, a majestic figure. The exaltation of Mary isn't seen anywhere in the NT or in early Christian writings. You see it much later—catholic teachings. Lk 1:26 Gabriel shows up to Mary...Greetings, highly favored one! Yahweh is with you! The point is Yahweh was waiting for the Messiah...he didn't just randomly choose a woman. Mary was one who captured Yahweh's attention—this is the one I'm choosing to be the mother of My Son. She is highly favored by Uahweh. But that doesn't mean we are to worship or exalt her. This woman is not Mary.
3. The church: Christ birthed the church. The church did not birth Christ. Gen 12, from the beginning Yahweh clearly called the Jews to be his treasured possession. The nations are mine, but Israel was chosen in a special way. Yahweh has a special calling for Israel but his love is for everyone. To this day, Yahweh stays true to his covenant with Israel while called the world into in kingdom. His primary call is to Israel while throwing the door open to all people! It's not just to Israel.
4. Israel: gave birth to the Messiah. This woman is clearly Israel.

Rev 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven:

Rev 12:2 and she was with child; and she *cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

Rev 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

Rev 12:4 And his tail *swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. (*You will bruise His heel, but when it's all said and done—He will crush your head!*)

Rev 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev 12:6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

At the front end of the great tribulation, the primary target of the serpent is Israel, the woman. He's going to go after Christians, it says so in the text, but Israel is still front and center. Yahweh is going to accomplish redemption with his people as he promised. At the end of vs 17, the dragon is furious with the woman and goes after her offspring—those who are Gentile believers.

We see these symbols described in Gen 37 where Joseph had a dream—the sun, the moon and stars were bowing down to him. We see Israel is described as stars. Sun and moon are Abraham and Sarah.

Joe 3:1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, (*after Israel has been regathered, Yahweh will restore their fortune*)

Joe 3:2 I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. (he's talking about the surrounding nations gathering together to invade, occupy Israel under the leadership of the antichrist, the dragon and his puppet, the beast, the antichrist and his armies invade Israel). Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land.

Yahweh remains true to his covenant even when we aren't.

Zec 12:2 "Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

This verse is prophesying the invasion of the armies of the antichrist in Jerusalem. In that day I will set about to destroy all of the nations who come against Jerusalem and Judah.

Zec 12:7 "The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be magnified above Judah.

Zec 12:8 "In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David *will be* like God, like the angel of the LORD before them.

Zec 12:9 "And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Zec 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Yeshua returns and all of the Jews who are alive and look at the One they pierced are saved. His grace is poured out on them. Every covenant He has made, He will fulfill.

Rom 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

Rom 11:26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."

Rom 11:27 "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Rom 11:28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God's* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;

When the fullness of the Gentiles have come in, then all of Israel will be saved. (Ezek. 39 and Isa. 59, Jer. 30-33). Paul says, from the standpoint of the gospel, they are enemies. The majority of Israel are not following Yahweh. In that sense, they are enemies, but from the standpoint of *Yahweh's* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;

Exo 6:6 "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

Exo 6:7 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Exo 6:8 'I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you *for* a possession; I am the LORD.'"

Jer 31:1 -2"At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the Elohim of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people." Thus says the LORD, "The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness—Israel, when it went to find its rest."

Jer 31:31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

Jer 31:32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

Jer 31:33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

A new covenant is to come at the return of Yeshua.

Eze 36:24 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

Eze 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Eze 36:28 "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

printing

Rev. 6	Chronological Section #1	<u>SEALS</u>
Rev 7	Angelic Explanation #1	Protection
Rev. 8-9	Chronological Section #2	<u>TRUMPETS</u>
Rev 10-11	Angelic Explanation #2	Direction
Rev 11	Chronological Section #3	<u>2nd COMING</u>
Rev 12-14	Angelic Explanation #3	Confrontation
Rev 15-16	Chronological Section #4	<u>BOWLS</u>
Rev 17-18	Angelic Explanation #4	Seduction
Rev 19-20	Chronological Section #5	<u>TRIUMPHAL ENTRY</u>
Rev 21-22	Angelic Explanation #5	Restoration

REV 12

The Woman and the Dragon

Rev 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

Rev 12:2 and she was with child; and she *cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

Rev 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

Rev 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

The woman is Israel. The child is Yeshua. The dragon is Satan. These are the main players. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. This is a picture of the birth of Yeshua.

Rev 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron;

What would a first century Jew think of when they heard that? Ps 2 would come to mind.

Psa 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

Psa 2:3 "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"

Psa 2:4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.

Psa 2:5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying,

Psa 2:6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

Psa 2:7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Psa 2:8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.

Psa 2:9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

Rev 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Heb 10:12-13 What is Yeshua, the male Child, doing? sitting at the right hand of Yahweh until the time comes for Him to return and save His people and crush His enemies.

Rev 12:6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness (literally, the desert—a desolate place). Some Jews will flee into the desert for 3.5 years) where she had a place prepared by Yahweh, so that they would be nourished for 1,260 days.

Deu 32:36 "For the LORD will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, when He sees that *their* strength is gone, and there is none *remaining*, bond or free.

Deu 32:37 "He will say, 'Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge?'"

Deu 32:38 'Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, *And* drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you, Let them be your hiding place!

Deu 32:39 'See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

SATAN THROWN DOWN TO EARTH

- the angel assigned to Israel

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

Rev 12:8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Rev 12 is an event that happens in the middle of the 7 years, at the 3.5 year mark. Satan accuses us before the throne. No more accusations. No more legal grounds. No more freedom sessions needed.

Dan 8:3 Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns *were* long, but one *was* longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last.

Dan 8:4 I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified *himself*.

Dan 8:5 While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat *had* a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

Dan 8:6 He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.

Dan 8:7 I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power.

Dan 8:8 Then the male goat magnified *himself* exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; and in its place there came up four conspicuous *horns* toward the four winds of heaven.

Now, let's look at Dan 8:9-12

Dan 8:9 Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land (*Jerusalem*).

Dan 8:10 It (*anti-Christ*) grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it (*anti-Christ*) trampled them down.

Dan 8:11 It (*anti-Christ*) even magnified *itself* to be equal with the Commander of the host (*Yahweh*); and it (*anti-Christ*) removed the regular sacrifice from Him (*abomination of desolation*), and the place of His sanctuary (*Jerusalem*) was thrown down.

Dan 8:12 And, on account of transgression, the host (*the people*) will be given over to the horn (*anti-Christ*) along with the regular sacrifice; and it (*the anti-Christ*) will fling truth to the ground and perform *its will* and will prosper.

This is describing Rev 12:9 where we see angels are cast to the earth. 2 Thess 2:4 says that the antichrist will exalt himself over every so-called god or object of worship and will take his seat in Yahweh's temple, displaying himself as God (Theos—divinely Supreme—Yahweh).

Daniel makes it very clear that the antichrist will prosper for a short time in order to bring Israel to the end of her self-focus and self-absorption and strength so they will turn to Him for help. The antichrist's reign isn't just for the Jews, but also so that the Christians will be purified through fire/suffering. Yahweh is working to present to Himself a bride (both Jew and Gentile) without spot or wrinkle or blemish.

Dan 8:13 And I heard a certain holy one speaking, and a certain other holy one said to the specific one who was speaking, "For how long is the vision *concerning* the regular burnt offering, and the transgression *that* makes desolate, and *the* giving over of *the* sanctuary and *the* host to trampling?"

Dan 8:14 And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings, then *the* sanctuary will be restored."

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION

Dan 8:15 And then when I, Daniel, saw the vision, and I was seeking understanding, there was *one* standing before me with *the* appearance of a man.

Vs 15-16 Daniel seeks to understand the vision and he sees someone who looked like a man (Yeshua/Yahweh?) and had the voice of a man. He called out and said, "Gabriel, *make* this *man* understand the vision."

Vs 17-19 Gabriel came to him and Daniel fell on his face. Gabriel said, "Understand, son of man, that the vision *is* for *the* time of *the* end." Daniel faints. Gabriel raise shim up and says, vs 19 "Look, I am making known to you what will happen in the period of wrath, for *it* refers to *the* appointed time of *the* end."

THE RAM WITH TWO HORNS

Dan 8:20 "The ram that you saw who had two horns *represents* the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 "And the hairy he-goat *is* the kingdom of Greece, and the great horn that *is* between his eyes—he *is* the first king.

Dan 8:22 And the *horn* was broken, and *then* there arose four *horns* in place of it—*these are* four kingdoms that will arise from *his* nation, but not with his power.

Dan 8:23 And at the end of their kingdom, when the transgressions are completed, a king will arise (*the antichrist*), fierce in countenance (literally: *strong, mighty, fierce*) and skilled in riddles (literally: *intrigue, puzzles, insolent*).

Dan 8:24 And his power will grow, but not by his *own* power, and he will cause fearful destruction, and he will succeed and he will act, and he will destroy *the* mighty and *the* people of *the* holy ones.

Dan 8:25 And by his planning he will make a success of deceit by his hand, and in his mind he will boast, and in *their* ease he will destroy many, and *even* against *the* prince of princes (*Prince of Peace? Prince of the power of the air—Satan? Satan won't be the one to destroy him*) he will rise up (who will rise up? the Prince of Peace), and he (*the anti-christ*) will be broken, *but* not by human hands.

The main fulfillment of this vision is the time of the end. Any first century Jew, when reading Rev 12:9 where Satan and his angels are thrown out of heaven to the earth, would immediately would think of Daniel 8. Dan 8 is clearly speaking of events that will happen in the final period of indignation, when Yahweh pours out His wrath!

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our Yahweh and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our Yahweh day and night.

Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Rev 12:12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens (*the heavens have been purged—Satan has been cast out*) and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time." Satan is raging.

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon (*Satan*) saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.

at yr 3.5

look out Israel!

Rev 12:14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she **was* nourished for a time and times and half a time (*3.5 years*), from the presence of the serpent.

I believe this represents a remnant of Jews that will be supernaturally protected in the wilderness. This passage would remind every first century Jew of Exodus 19:3-6

Exo 19:3 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel:

Exo 19:4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.

Exo 19:5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

Exo 19:6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Yahweh said that if you will keep my covenant, you will be My treasured possession. This happened before the betrothal meal.

Rev 12:15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth (*a reference to the antichrist*) after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

Rev 12:16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river (Jews understand this to be Yahweh) which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

Isa 28:18 "Your covenant with death will be canceled, And your pact with Sheol will not stand; When the overwhelming scourge (the antichrist) passes through, then you become its trampling *place*.

Isa 28:19 "As often as it passes through, it will seize you; for morning after morning it will pass through, *anytime* during the day or night, and it will be sheer terror to understand what it means."

This describes the abomination of desolation. When the antichrist (it) comes, he's described as a flood with whips and scourges. On one hand, the antichrist will be allowed to succeed, but we also see Israel being protected. It's both. Many will be protected,

many taken as prisoners, many killed, and many will flee. Jews understand Isa 28 refers to the final assault of Israel when they will flee to the desert, but the messiah comes and helps them, delivers them like He did in Egypt.

^{-Yeshua}
Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our Yahweh and the authority of His Christ have come, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our Yahweh day and night.

Rev 12:11 And they conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives until death.

The one who accuses them before our Yahweh day and night—who is that? He is thrown down to the earth. Who is speaking? A loud voice. Whose voice? Who calls us brothers?

They conquered Satan by overcoming him—not by their own strength or because they are super soldiers or because they somehow became perfect Christians. How did they overcome him?

1. By the blood of the Lamb.
2. By the word of their testimony. (*My testimony is not my life story only, but the story of what Yeshua has done in my life*). He showed me mercy when I was lost in my sins! And He continues to show me mercy! That will stop Satan in his tracks.)
3. By not loving their lives even when faced with death. (*If we want to be His disciple: Yeshua said we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross daily and follow Him.*)

We are to live this way today. We can overcome Satan today by, first and foremost, putting our trust/faith in the blood of the Lamb! Secondly, by our lives being a testimony of what that blood has done and will do. Thirdly, by not loving my life. Even if it means my death. It's easy to think of this in terms of martyrdom. But this isn't just martyrdom. This is something that is required of us daily. To deny ourselves. Deny: to *deny utterly*, that is, *disown, abstain*.

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luk 18:9 Yeshua also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and looked down on everyone else:

2 men went to the temple to pray. One was a religious man, a Pharisee who is considered to be the most righteous of all humans.

The other man was a tax collector, who was considered to be the most vile of all humans—a traitor and a thief—stealing from his own people. The Pharisee stood *and* prayed these *things* with reference to himself: 'God, I give thanks to you that I am not like other people—swindlers, unrighteous *people*, adulterers, or even like that tax collector over there! I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all that I get. But the tax collector, who was standing far away, did not want even to raise his eyes to heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, 'Yahweh, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

Luk 18:14 I tell you, the tax collector went to his house justified rather than the self-righteous one! For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

In other words, Yeshua said that everyone who exalts himself by looking down at others and judging them to be less than, or not as good as, or doesn't do life the way I do life because the way I do life is the "right way", or the best way, or the Christian way. The tax collector saw himself as a sinner, someone who deserves nothing, someone who will be lost unless Yahweh extends him mercy.

That is what overcomes Satan. When you stand before Him, your focus must be on the fact that He is your only hope! His blood covers you and your life—your thoughts, your words, your actions, your non-action. His blood. His life flowing through your defiled life. Focus on that! Keep your eyes on what He has done, not on what you've done or haven't done. Practice trusting in the faithfulness of Yahweh—not in your own strength or ability to be good. That doesn't mean I'm going to sit back and do nothing. Salvation is a dance, it's a relationship.

We aren't going to overcome the dragon and the serpent in the last days because we are more holy or faithful or more devout than someone else, but because we've accepted and understood the power of the blood of the Lamb. And because we've learned to crucify ourselves now. Nothing testifies more clearly than someone who lays his life down for another.

We have one life to live—Paul said, I consider my life to be manure.

Php 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and do not *put* confidence in the flesh,

Php 3:4 although I *could* have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else thinks to put confidence in the flesh, I *can do so* more:

Php 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, from the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew *born* from Hebrews, according to the law a Pharisee,

Php 3:6 according to zeal persecuting the church, according to the righteousness in the law being blameless.

Php 3:7 But whatever *things* were gain to me, these *things* I have considered loss because of Christ.

Php 3:8 More than that, I even consider all *things* to be loss because of the surpassing greatness of the knowledge of Christ Yeshua my Lord, for the sake of whom I have suffered the loss of all *things*, and consider *them* dung, in order that I may gain Christ

Php 3:9 and may be found in him, not having my righteousness *which is* from the law, but *which is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness from Yahweh on the basis of faith,

Php 3:10 so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death,

Php 3:11 if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (*hear the humility in this...*)

We are all called to testify of the power of the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua, to be his witnesses. Witnesses—that word, in Greek, is martyr. Day by day we practice dying to self. When a demon or a person or your own mind reminds you of your sinful past or your sinful heart/actions—thank him for reminding you of the truth—I'm not perfect. I will never be good enough! Then turn to Yahweh and cry out, "Be merciful to me, a sinner!"

Mat 16:21-23 Peter takes Yeshua aside and rebukes Him. "Yahweh forbid that You die! There's no way you are going to die! Not on my watch!" Peter didn't understand the wisdom of the cross.

Mat 16:23 But Yeshua turned around *and* said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a cause for stumbling to me, because you are not intent on the things of God, but the things of people!"

This is harsh! He loves Peter and Peter loves Him. Peter is his disciple, student, friend. Those kinds of words hurt more when someone you love says them to you. When Yeshua called the Pharisees a brood of snakes, the Pharisees were angry because they were humiliated in front of the people. Not because there was any relationship or love for Yeshua. He says to one of his closest friends..."Peter, you are a stumbling block to Me. You are not setting your mind on Yahweh's interests, but on the things concerning people!" Yeshua never withheld the truth from others because He was afraid He'd hurt their feelings or that they would get mad or be triggered or reject Him. He loved them too much to leave them in their soulish condition.

We are a stumbling block to Yahweh if we put the concerns of this life before the Yahweh's plans and purposes for my life and the lives of others.

Our mission is the same today.

1. We are to live a life of martyrdom.
2. We are also called to stand with Israel.
3. And we're called to be purified, to be tested.

People often ask how can Yahweh allow his bride to suffer and be martyred. The truth is Christians have been martyred throughout history. They are being martyred today. They have suffered greatly for the sake of the gospel. Look at the suffering and martyrdom of the 11 apostles. Look at Yahweh's own Son and how He suffered greatly! People say Yahweh won't allow his bride to go through the tribulation because He won't allow her to suffer. He allowed the Jews to suffer in the wilderness. The truth is this is happening on the earth right now...Christians are suffering greatly and dying for their faith right now.

REVELATION CHAPTER 12

The church and Israel become the object of satan's wrath. Do we have a martyr mentality in the sense that you follow a persecuted, slain lamb? The real defining question is: Do you rejoice when you suffer pain for the cause of Christ?

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

1Pe 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on *rejoicing*, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

Rejoicing: to be full of cheer, to be calm, happy and well off, to be glad. Does that describe and define you?

Luk 16:10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

Paul describes normal Christian life:

2Co 4:7-11 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

If we are Christ followers, it is only to be expected that we will be afflicted, we will be perplexed, persecuted, struck down...we are dying to self, according to our human existence.

At the end of the age, the Lord will give the people up to the wrath of satan so that we will become like Christ, that we will rejoice when we suffer for Him. Yahweh will allow intense suffering, which will make us like Him. There's nowhere in the bible that says to stand up so people don't get persecuted.

Rev 12 A great war breaks out and conflict. Vs 4- Satan stands before the woman which is Israel...the child which is Yeshua...this is Gen 49 (Jacob calls his 12 sons to his dying bed and reviews their lives and proclaims their future—a foreshadowing of the final judgment and it's Ps 2)

The woman/Israel is taken into the wilderness. Satan hates Israel and the Messiah. Israel flees...this is all over scriptures Jer. 31, Hosea 2, Matt 24. Many in Israel will flee into the wilderness and others will go into exile when this satanic invasion begins. Vs 7...Satan is thrown down...to the earth...his angels with him...

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Rev 12:12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time."

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.

For 3.5 years, Satan will persecute Israel. But Yahweh will help her supernaturally.

Rev 12:17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Yeshua.

Who is the offspring of Israel? Vs 17: Those who keep the commandments and who hold to the testimony of Yeshua. Vs 11 tells us: They overcome by the word of their testimony. Satan hates them because they are sharing the testimony of Yeshua. Rev 19:10 tells us that the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Yeshua.

Rev 13, the beast is granted authority to overcome the saints. The church/Israel will be overcome by him, but Satan will also be overcome by our testimony. Rev. 12 is clear—we will be overcome and we will also overcome by the testimony of Yeshua.

The testimony of Yeshua is the spirit of prophecy and His testimony about the end of the age revolve around Israel and Jerusalem. Matt 24 says they will hate us because of His name. The central conflict at the end of the age will be around Jerusalem/Israel.

Who does Satan go after in the beginning of chapter 12? The Woman and the child. Look at the end vs 13...Satan goes after the rest of her offspring. Who are her offspring? Those who follow the testimony of Yeshua. The main point won't be because you are a Christian..They might not like Christians, but they will kill you because of your stand with Israel.

HISTORY: Nero put Christians on stakes and lighted his roads with burning Christians. The emperor before Nero exiled all the Jews out of Rome. Nero said the Christians can come back. In 64 AD, there was a great fire. Nero blamed it on the Christians. Most of the Christians were Jews. AD 64 was the beginnings of the Jewish revolt. In 64-67, Paul and Peter were killed. The great fire erupted in 64AD. Almost half of Rome burned down. In 45 a revolt was put down. But Nero came home and blamed the Christians. In 66 AD, the protest that started in AD 45 started bubbling up again in Israel. Rome ruled Israel and they started provoking the wrath of the Jewish population. It turned into riots in the streets. The emperor said to go shut it down. The governor in Syria got Arab legions and marched on the Galilee and put it down in Tiberias. But eruptions broke out in Jerusalem among the Jews to take back their rights and their land and to get rid of the Roman occupation. The expression cloak and dagger came from this: the Jewish rebels would hide swords under their cloaks and walked among the crowd and they would stab Roman soldiers and then hide among the crowd. The Romans marched on Jerusalem and marched on the walls, but they weren't able to occupy the city. The rebels were too strong. Sept 66 AD they drew back and traveled through a city outside Jerusalem through a valley. The rebels followed and 6000 Roman soldiers were killed. (The War of the Jews by Josephus 66-68 AD) Jews for the first time leveled a devastating blow to the Roman empire so the Romans retaliated and it ended up with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple and the expulsion of the Jews from Israel for 2,000 years. Because of the persecution that broke out in AD 60's, it's probably likely that Paul and Peter were executed at the same time the Jews were standing up for Jerusalem. The Christians were turning the world upside down through sharing the good news (Acts 17). But the rebels fought with swords etc....which may have been one of the reasons Peter and Paul were executed. The Romans wanted to stop this rebellion.

At the end of the age, we will see the same thing happen—a rage against Israel, Jewish occupation. Christians will stand with them. Satan is mad now, but he will become furious then. And he will seek to devour her and those who keep the testimony of Yeshua....

There will be a lot of people who lose their lives, but there will be no eternal rewards because of what motivates them. Paul said in 1Co 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. You can give it all, but make sure when you take a stand, it's for love, the testimony of Yeshua, Christ in us the hope of glory, us being transformed and us being a broken vessel where Christ can be seen and manifested by those who persecute us.

Zion and Babylon

Rev 12:14 The woman is carried into the wilderness on the wings of an eagle...Someone living in the US might view this as America because of the bald eagle. But that isn't how first century Jews would view this. Their mind would go to Exodus when Yahweh said, Remember how I led you on eagles wings out of Egypt. The Lord is the eagle who will give them protection.

The story of 2 different women. The harlot Babylon and the woman gives birth to the male child. She is Israel/the church/one new man. The stars are clearly used to refer to children of Israel. Yahweh told Abraham Your descendants will be like the stars. Chapter 21 The woman who gave birth reappears. First, she flees into wilderness and she is still in unbelief. Many will flee into wilderness. Some will be taken prisoner; many will be killed. But there has to be a remnant to look on the One they pierced.

Rev 21:9-10 The wife of the lamb...the church says we're the bride. To ignore the story that's been told, that Yahweh made covenant with Israel at Mt Sinai, and He betrothed himself to the Jews as a husband and Israel is his bride. The 70 elders, Moses, Nadab, Abihu are invited halfway up Mt Sinai where they eat the betrothal meal on a sapphire sea and see Yahweh (Ex. 24:10). That event is the historic foreshadow of the marriage supper of the Lamb when Yeshua will consummate the covenant he made with Israel at Mt Sinai and they will forever be his.

Isa 25:6 declares that Yahweh will destroy Babylon. Isaiah then says that Yahweh will prepare a feast on Mt. Zion for *all peoples*—not just Israel.

The plan that Gentiles would be part of this and will be brought into the kingdom of Yahweh along with the Jews is throughout the OT. There's one bride (Jew and Gentile as one new man) and one bridegroom. There's not 2 weddings or 2 brides.

Now let's look at the harlot.

Rev 17:1 Come I will show the judgment of the great harlot. Same language in Rev 21:9: Come, I will show you the bride.

In chptr 17, it's the harlot. On one hand, she's a queen, clothed as royalty, rich. But she's the opposite of clean. She's filthy. The harlot in Revelation wants to be a prostitute. She's chosen it. She's a murderer. She has a cup in her hand that's filled with the filth of her fornication mixed with the blood of the saints and she's drinking it and gives it to others to drink....

Let's look at Israel's story. There are reasons why some Christians says Israel is the harlot. In OT there are places the Lord calls her a harlot—Hosea etc.. But not just Israel. Ninevah is called a harlot. Tyre is called a harlot city. The majority of times, Yahweh refers to Israel as a harlot, but that doesn't mean Israel is the harlot in Rev.

Isa 1:1 Isaiah has a vision of Judah and Jerusalem.

Isa 1:21 How the faithful city has become a harlot, She *who* was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, But now murderers.

Jerusalem and Judah is a harlot and murderous. Vs 25 I will turn my hand against her...he is disciplining her as his children...that's different from judgment. I will purify her as gold. Even though you've been a harlot, I will restore her and you will be called the city of righteousness...with justice and righteousness. Isaiah says to rejoice for her, be glad for Jerusalem... the glory of the nations will stream to Jerusalem. In the age of the Messiah, the nations will go to Jerusalem.

Isa 1:27 Zion will be redeemed with justice And her repentant ones with righteousness.

Isa 1:28 But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, And those who forsake the LORD will come to an end.

Ezek. 16: begins with the word of the Lord...tell Jerusalem how unfaithful she's been. Yahweh found Israel abandoned, an orphan. He took her in and loved her and adorned her. Lavished her with His extravagant love.

Eze 16:14 "Then your fame went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you," declares the Lord GOD.

Eze 16:15 "But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be *willing*.

Vs 60-63 Yahweh says: despite all of your unfaithfulness, I will remember your youth...I will remember that I betrothed myself to you at Mt Sinai. You will remember and be ashamed. I will forgive Israel and make a new everlasting covenant with her.

Hosea is the story of the Lord's unceasing persistence and grace. Yahweh will redeem Israel. Hosea is a picture of the Lord.

Hos 2:14 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness And speak kindly to her.

Hos 2:15 "Then I will give her her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

Hos 2:16 "It will come about in that day," declares the LORD, "That you will call Me Ishi (Husband) And will no longer call Me Baali (Master).

Hos 2:17 "For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more.

Hos 2:18 "In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety.

Hos 2:19 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion,

Hos 2:20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.

Hos 2:21 "It will come about in that day that I will respond," declares the LORD. "I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth,

Hos 2:22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel.

Hos 2:23 "I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, '*You are my God!*'"

Hosea, I want you to marry a harlot and I want you to love her and have children with her. But she will be unfaithful and will return to harlotry. Vs 14-17 Therefore, I will lead her into wilderness. In the last days, because of Israel's unfaithful, I will allure her and lead her into the wilderness.

That's what Rev 12:14 says...that 2 wings of an eagle were given to the woman (Israel) so she could fly into the wilderness. Joel 2:32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

What are the days of her youth? When the Lord betrothed himself to her as her husband. The Jews responded at Mt Sinai: "All He says, we will do." In the last days, after I lead you into the desert, in that day you will call me My husband...and I will remove the names of the gods from your mouth...Yahweh will show her mercy just as Hosea showed Gomer mercy and loved her and took her back after her harlotry. When Yeshua returns, we see one new man: Israel and the church together on Mt Zion ruling with the King.

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, Eph 2:15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,

We see the same story repeated in Rev. Israel was the former harlot who is redeemed from idolatry and saved. But there's a very different end for the Babylonian harlot. Israel will be restored. But the Babylonian system will be destroyed. (Rev 18). This evil system will cease to exist and will be a place of desolation forever (19:3).

Rev 13 The Antichrist

Moses introduces the antichrist and the scriptures progressively reveal him.

1. The antichrist is a very significant subject in scripture
2. Based on that, we need to understand why he's being raised up and why he's a central figure in end
3. So we know how to respond to his appearance that we might remain faithful and obedient.

Hitler was an antichrist. He wasn't the final antichrist. The one who is to come will far surpass Hitler. And when he comes on the scene, Matt 24, Yeshua said he will be the sign that tells us we are living in the last days.

Rev 13:1-10: The 2 main things the antichrist will target to be destroyed is your perseverance (*patience, persistence in doing something that is difficult or painful*), and faith.

The Second Beast Rev 13:11-18

The beast is granted authority. Satan isn't raising him up, Yahweh is. This is because of Yahweh's will, not against it. If He's granting authority to this beast to make war, to kill the saints, to do signs and wonders, to deceive the nations, to impose his own legislation...why is Yahweh enabling him, granting him authority? Deut. 13 helps answer those questions.

Deu 12:32 "Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

Deu 13:1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,

Deu 13:2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,'

The false prophet will use signs and wonders to put pressure on the nations so they will worship the beast. Because Yahweh is testing them...

Deu 13:3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deu 13:4 "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

Deu 13:5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

Yahweh commands them to purge the evil from their midst. Vs 4 commands the Jews to follow Yahweh and keep his commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him and cling to Him. Yahweh did this to test His people, to make us into one who will obey Him, disregard the false signs and wonders and lay down our lives even unto death.

Pharaoh's magicians did signs and wonders and so did Moses. They will cause people to wonder and bow down. Like they did with Hitler. There was a deep allegiance and worship of Hitler. He didn't perform a sign or wonder. Imagine what will happen when a man arises on the world stage and operates in demonic lying signs and wonders.

2 Thess 2. Paul is writing to the church in Thessalonica. This is a new community of believers. They had asked Paul questions about the last days. He responds that he already told them all about it when he was with them. Heb. 9 says Yeshua came once for sin, but He's coming again for revenge, to bring all things together unto Him.

2Th 2:1-2 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Yeshua, the Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

2Th 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come (*that day*) unless the apostasy (*turning away*) comes first, and the man of lawlessness (*antichrist*) is revealed, the son of destruction,

2Th 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of Yahweh, displaying himself as being Deity (*theos*).

2Th 2:5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

Yeshua will not come back until the rebellion comes first (the falling away) and the antichrist is revealed. Paul is referring to Deut 13 that says the false prophet will arise to lead the people into rebellion. If you had any question about pretribulation rapture, Paul and Deut 13 are clear that it will not happen until the Deut 13, 2 Thess. rebellion comes.

2 Thess 2:4 We are Yahweh's temple. The antichrist will be worshipped by most of the world. The Old and New testament states that the day of the Lord won't come until the temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt and a sacrificial system is operating. In Daniel chapters 9-12 says the sacrifices will cease. Moses says Yahweh raises up the antichrist to test his people. Paul says the day of the Lord won't come until Yahweh raises up a man who will come to Jerusalem and takes a seat in the temple and he will cause sacrifices to cease and the people of the nations will worship him.

2Th 2:6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.

Someone is restraining the antichrist from being revealed. Who doesn't want the revealing of the antichrist the most? Revelation says in several places there will be a war that breaks out in heaven and the dragon is kicked out along with his angels. Daniel 12 says there will be an angelic conflict that breaks out in the unseen realms and when it happens there will be a great war on the earth.

What we see here in Rev 12 is Satan being forcibly evicted from his place of authority and influence in heaven and cast to the earth. Who is restraining the revealing of the antichrist? Satan. Some churches teach that the church is restraining the antichrist. They teach that once the church is raptured then the antichrist is revealed. But this contradicts 2 Thess 2. The church will face the antichrist. If you don't die first, you will see the antichrist, which happens clearly at the 3.5 year mark.

Satan comes down in wrath because right now he enjoys a measure of freedom under Yahweh's sovereign rulership, but that all changes when he is cast out of heaven. Yahweh will force the demonic powers out of their positions of influence and authority and He will force them onto a global stage that will accomplish:

1. the ultimate destruction of the gods/powers of the air
2. the testing of the saints to purify us and make us ready for his coming
3. the testing of the nations of the earth and the separation of the sheep and goats. Goats will follow antichrist and the sheep will follow Yahweh

2Th 2:8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; (*The coming of the antichrist is by the activity of satan with all power and signs and false wonders...*)

2Th 2:9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

2Th 2:10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

Same language of Deut 13 and Rev 13.

2Th 2:11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

2Th 2:12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Yahweh raised the antichrist up to test the nations in order to separate them like wheat and chaff. Not just those who bowed their knee to Yeshua, but those who have not yet bowed to the Messiah. Yahweh raised the antichrist up and grants him

authority to operate with lying signs and wonders to deceive the nations. Preterism teaches that all of these events have already happened. That the antichrist was Nero or Hitler. The problem with this is Paul says Yeshua will kill the son of perdition, the antichrist.

Yahweh will raise him up and use him to test the nations and the church. And the redeemed will come out radiant, shining, pure, resolute, ready for his appearing. The testing is a prerequisite for the final testing of church and of Israel before the return of the Lord himself:

Begin.....

THE BEAST

Read Rev. 13

What does scripture say the Messiah will do when he returns?
Why would Yeshua come back to defend one group of people?

He made promises to Israel, His chosen people who are called to be a blessing to all nations of the earth. Ultimately, Yeshua's mission is for everyone, but there's an undeniable, unique promise that remains toward Israel.

(Homework: read Dan. 2, 7, 8 & 11) How do they relate to Rev 13? They form a more complete story when all put together.

Daniel 2:31-35 King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a massive metal statue. The majority of scholars interpret the statue as the head of gold is Babylon—(Nebuchadnezzar is the king of Babylon). But the bible says Nebuchadnezzar is the head of gold, not Babylon. You have the king and his kingdom and the bible describes them as one and the same. The statue describes a series of kingdoms that will replace/follow King Nebuchadnezzar. *- represents the kingdoms till the end of time*

The majority of Scholars teach that:

1. Head—Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon *- Cyrus*
2. Chest and arms of silver—Medo-Persia and Greece *Belly/Thigh-Bronze Alexander the Great*
3. Legs—Rome
4. Feet—are made of a mixture of iron and clay—a last days Roman empire? *(I'm not convinced that it's the roman empire...maybe it is. But I'm not sure.) - a symbol of the antichrist's kingdom*

Another possibility as to the feet, which represent the antichrist—perhaps, it's the Islamic kingdom of Syria—a combining of Muslim nations. In the 3rd century, the church leaders declared the antichrist would emerge from Syria. Not from the Roman empire.

Which matches bible prophecy the most—The Roman empire or the middle eastern Islamic kingdom of Syria? When Yeshua returns, He will destroy the feet—the antichrist and his kingdom. So, we can ask ourselves—What nations get destroyed when Yeshua returns? It's clear in scriptures—Yeshua will destroy Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece all at the same time, which I believe is the feet of clay.

Dan 2:40 "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

Dan 2:41 "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

2 Clear Statements in that passage:

1. When the 4th kingdom rises, it will crush all the other kingdoms
2. It will be a divided kingdom

We can use this criteria and ask ourselves:

Did the Roman empire crush Babylon, medo-Persia and Greece? *No*

Did Islamic kingdom crush Babylon, Medo Persia and Greece? *Yes (Cyrus)*

If the Roman empire was fully revived and Yeshua returned and destroyed it, would Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece be destroyed all at the same time?

Nebuchadnezzar was the ruler of Babylon/Mesopotamia/Middle east. What kingdom came and replaced his? The Medo-Persian empire—it conquered the whole Middle east. Then, Alexandria the Great conquered it, which is the Greek empire. The next was the Roman empire and everything shifted to the west and into Europe. But the Roman empire wasn't able to completely conquer Babylon. Rome isn't a middle eastern empire that reached into the Middle east. The Roman empire extended down into Babylon and reached the ruins of Babylon. When Alexandria died, the Romans withdrew and it returned to the Persians. For a very brief time, the Romans came into Babylon, but pulled back. The Roman empire could never go

further than the Euphrates—it was too much. So, who conquered and crushed this region? The Roman empire or the Islamic empire?

Islam crushed and conquered all the others. The final kingdom, the 4th kingdom (the feet) is described as being a kingdom that will be revived. Rome wasn't successful in conquering the middle east. Rome would come and when they crushed people they built roads and structures etc. They spoke Greek. Islam enforced Arabic culture. The crushing force of Islam spread throughout the Middle east and today they speak Arabic. During Yeshua's day, Rome ruled Israel and they allowed the Jews to worship in the temple. But Islam, when it spread out, it didn't build roads. It destroyed the cities and took men and women as slaves. It matches this description of crushing and destroying.

Dan 7:1 -7

Daniel 7 is a vision with 4 Beasts or 4 Kingdoms:

1. Babylon is the lion with wings of an eagle
2. Medo Persia is the bear
3. Greece is the 4 headed leopard with 4 bird wings
4. A dreadful, terrifying and extremely strong beast with large iron teeth arises. It devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet. It was different from all the other beasts and out of him comes 10 horns.

Those horns are the feet of iron and clay in Dan 2. The 4 kingdoms correlate to the 4 segments of the metallic statue.

Dan 7:8 "While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.

This little horn is the antichrist. Out of the beast's kingdom will come 10 kings.

Dan 7:23 -28

Dan 8:9-12 (This is the same beast/antichrist in Dan 7.)

2Th 2:1 -4 Paul is almost quoting Dan 11. The antichrist is saying that he's superior to the God of Israel. He mocks Yahweh,

John 16:2 the day is coming when people will kill you because they do not know the Father or the Son. Because they don't know the Father and the Son, they deny them (*deny: refuse to admit the truth or existence of the truth*).

If you deny the Son, you don't have the Father. Israel is in that predicament now. They've denied Yeshua. In Dan. 11, the antichrist shows no regard for Yahweh. He denies Him.

THE KINDNESS OF YAHWEH:

Luk 22:61 -62

Mar 16:7

Joh 21:11-17

Daniel 11 the antichrist shows no regard for Yahweh.

Rev 12 a great red dragon...it's a serpent. Has 7 heads and 10 horns and 7 crowns. That's describing Satan.

Rev 13:1-3 the dragon...the beast came out of the sea (a sea of people/the nations).

The Beast is a mirror image of Satan. In Rev 17, it calls the beast a scarlet beast just like his father, Satan. He is described to be like a leopard, have the feet of a bear and the mouth of lion.

The key to understanding this beast is to recognize the same thing we saw in Dan 2 & 7—and that is that this is the final kingdom of the antichrist who has the feet of iron and clay. He has 10 horns and comes up out of the 4th beast, which is a combination of a leopard, bear and lion.

If we want to understand the beast, we must read Dan 7, Rev 13 & 17. The beast is a combination of a bear, leopard and lion and is scarlet (Rev 17:3).

Rev 13: 5-8

The antichrist was given a mouth, a voice, a platform (saw this in Dan 7, 8 and 11). There are 2 ways to blaspheme Yahweh:

1. proclaiming yourself to be god.
2. to speak out against God.

The Antichrist doesn't claim to be Yahweh but He speaks against him, against his tabernacle and against those living in heaven. The antichrist has his own god.

Vs 7 It was given to him to make war...repeating what was said in Daniel 7 & 11. The antichrist will have a massive domain.

The beast in Rev 17:7-11 Kings and kingdoms go together. We saw that with king Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon. The Beast which was and is not is going to come is also the 8th king. For a short time...Yahweh will give the beast permission/power to rule on the earth.

So let's look at the traditional view:

The 7 heads/kingdoms:

1. Egypt tried destroyed Israel
2. Syria tried to destroy the northern kingdom of Israel
3. Babylonian kingdom tried to destroy the southern kingdom of Israel
4. Medo persian kingdom/Hamon Tried to Destroy Israel by killing all the Jews.
5. Greece tried to destroy Israel

5 kingdoms had tried to destroy the Jews by the time the book of Revelation was written.

6. Rome tried to destroy Israel.
7. has not yet come—I believe that's the Islamic kingdom. The focus will be on the antichrist. Daniel 2 describes legs of iron—it's one kingdom with 2 different segments. I believe it will be a revived kingdom of Islam. The nations around Israel. There will be other nations involved, possibly. But the prophets describe the nations around Israel and Islam at the end of the age conquering Israel...Dan 2, 7, 8 and 11 and Rev 12 & 13 are telling the same story.

Review of Rev 12-14

(Rev 12: woman gives birth to a male child)

(Rev 13: 2 beasts arrive—one is a political figure and the other a religious leader)

Rev 14

trumpets

If we were to follow the ~~timeline~~, chapters 12-14 would come between the 6th & 7th bowls. I believe 12-14 occur before the 7 bowls of wrath are poured out. I believe the 6 seals and 6 trumpets are over at this point. Evil powers will gain a tighter grip on society than they ever had before...yet, their hold will be broken soon.

In this section, we see 3 people who form an alliance to rule the world. One is Satan—the great dragon, the ancient serpent (12:9). The other 2 are human in origin and nature, but are also beasts. One is the antichrist (1 John 2:18; 2 Thess 2:3). The other is the false prophet (Rev 16:13; 19:20; 20:10). Together, they form a kind of unholy trinity and mock the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Satan is introduced into the story for the first time since he was mentioned in the letters to the 7 churches in Rev 2 and 3. Seals and trumpets have already been released onto the earth, while Satan has been in heaven (Eph 6:12; Job 1:6-7), Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Job 1:6-7 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

Satan will be hurled down to the earth.

Rev 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Later, Satan will again be defeated and locked up for 1,000 years. then released for the final battle. Yeshua will defeat him and he will be thrown in the abyss (20:9-10).

The other major figure in chapter 12 is the pregnant woman. She gives birth to a male child who is snatched up to heaven. This child will rule the nations with an iron scepter.

Rev 19:15 (in fulfillment of Ps 2:9) says Yeshua will rule the nations with an iron scepter. But it is also promised to his faithful followers in Rev 2:27.

The woman is then preserved alive in the desert for 1,260 day (12:6). I see this woman as the end-times church/the remnant...in the wilderness. I believe her child represents those who are martyred. They will return to the earth to rule one day with Christ (20:4). They obey Yahweh's commandments and hold to the testimony of Yeshua (12:17; 1:9; 14:12).

The 2 beasts arrive on the scene in chapter 13. The first is a political leader. He is the antichrist. He will be a counterfeit. He is called a man of lawlessness in 2 Thess 2:3-4. He will refuse to acknowledge any law greater than his own and will claim that he is god and demand to be worshipped.

The first beast is promoted by the second beast, a religious colleague with supernatural power who focuses the world to worship the antichrist. His miracles will deceive the nations as he commands fire to fall down from the sky and images of the dictator to speak. His appearance will be like a lamb, a young sheep with only 2 horns.

The antichrist's area of domination will be in the economic markets. Everyone will be offered a mark on their hand or forehead in order to buy or sell. And the only way to get this mark is to worship the beast. As a result, many Jews and Christians will be excluded from being able to buy or sell.

THE FATAL HEAD WOUND OF THE BEAST

Rev 13 The First Beast

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

Rev 13:3 *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast;

Rev 13:4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

The primary interpretation is the view that the antichrist, the man, Satan's human puppet will be killed. And he will be resurrected from the dead. He will imitate Christ. The whole earth will be amazed and worship him. Other interpretations: One of the heads of the beast...the head isn't literal, but symbolic of the empire that the antichrist is ruling. The empire will die and will be revived. Or it could be both.

To understand: Rev 17:8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, (*it existed but it no longer exists*) and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction (*he was and he's not, but he's coming back. John is seeing this in the first century. Is it in John's day or is he looking into the future?*) And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. (*Rev 13 says all the earth will worship Satan and the beast. The word worship here can mean to bow down before*).

Rev 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom. (*Pay attention and use wisdom here*) The seven heads are seven mountains (*mts often refer to kingdoms in bible*) on which the woman sits,

Rev 17:10 and they are seven kings (*kings/kingdoms go together*); five have fallen in the past.

What were the 5 kingdoms that tried to wipe out Israel and had fallen?

1. Egypt
2. Assyria carried away the northern kingdom,
3. Babylon conquered the southern kingdom,
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greece.

Vs 10 and they are seven kings (*kings/kingdoms go together*); five have fallen in the past (*this had already happened*). One is, (*which kingdom during the time of John sought to destroy Israel? The Roman empire*), the other has not yet come (*there's one more that is to come*); and when he comes (*now it's 'he' and not 'it'*), he must remain a little while.

Vs 10 focuses on the person ruling the kingdom, the antichrist. Another indicator of what John is talking about is found in Isa 26 says, "Come, my people, hide yourself in inner rooms for a little while. The serpent is cast down in wrath because his time is short..."

This is the final 3.5 years. It's just a short time. In the big picture, it's nothing.

Rev 17:11 "The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth (*after Rome there is something to come that has 2 segments or 2 parts and it's one of the 7*) and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. (*He comes out of the abyss and will go back to the abyss*)

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

Daniel Interprets the Dream

Dan 2:31 "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

Dan 2:32 "The head of that statue *was made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

Dan 2:33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

Dan 2:34 "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

Dan 2:35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed **all at the same time** and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Head is Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon

Next is Medo-Persia,

Greece...they ruled Babylon

Last—the Islamic kingdom—it's Syria—Muslim nations.

Dan 2:36 "This *was* the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.

Dan 2:37 "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

Dan 2:38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold (*Daniel didn't say the kingdom is the head...but Nebuchadnezzar is.*)

Dan 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

Dan 7:23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

The 4th beast will be the 4th kingdom on the earth. The 4th beast, the antichrist, will devour the whole earth...tread it down and crush it. That could be the whole middle east or beyond or every nation on the earth. In the same way, in Dan 2, the legs and feet of iron and clay are seen as the 4th kingdom. Dan 2:33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

One is made of just iron, but the other is iron and clay. 4th and 5th go together. The feet aren't called the 5th kingdom. They are clearly separate...yes a 5th but not. One kingdom with 2 segments. This is exactly the same as Dan 2. The statue is portrayed as one image, but there is a separation between each kingdom.

Dan 7:24 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise (*the empire of the antichrist*); and another will arise after them, and he (*the antichrist*) will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

In Dan 7, you have the beast itself, which is the 4th kingdom, but the 10 horns that come up out of the beast represent the last days kingdom of the antichrist.

Dan 7:25 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

Dan 7:1 -8

2Th 2:8 -10 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

Satan can't do real miracles. That's why I don't believe the antichrist will die and then be resurrected.. Only Yahweh can raise the dead. This is a symbol of Pharaoh and his magicians. The protection from deception is to love the truth...

2Th 2:11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, (Yahweh will send delusion to those who allow themselves to be deluded. It may appear that he dies, but it may simply just appear that way. Paul or Yeshua neither mention that there will be a fake resurrection...we don't know)

2Th 2:12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Now back to Rev 13:1-4

One of its heads appeared as though slaughtered to death...this empire appears to be slain and comes back to life...Dan 2 & Dan 7 and its legs of iron and a later revived empire of iron and clay.

Rev 13 describes Dan 2 & 7. A revival of this empire---multiple nations coming together. Turkey has a massive military. Iran too. Pakistan has nuclear warheads. If they were to come together...

This mortal head wound and resurrection may be referring to the last days revival of the empire. But it could be a literal, fake resurrection. It's possible that it may be both.

Same thing in Rev 17 those who dwell on the earth...they will be amazed and wonder when they see this mighty army revived...some will be in fear and trembling. Rev 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is going to come up from the abyss, and he is going to destruction. And those who live on the earth, whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will be astonished *when they* see the beast that was, and is not, and will be present.

I believe there will be a revival of the Islamic empire. In 1923, the Islamic leader felt like Islam was holding the nation back so, after 1300 years, he "beheaded/cut-off/ended" the office of the Ottoman empire and created the Republic of Turkey. The president of Turkey has been in power a long time, but presently there's a cry for the revival of Turkish nationalism and of Islam. I suspect this is the kingdom that will be revived....the final kingdom that will be ruled by the antichrist. 10 kings will come under the authority of the antichrist.

Rev 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

What John is telling us that there is a design for an end time suffering, devastation, and testing that's required for Yahweh's purpose at the end of the age.

The Second Beast

Rev 13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.

Rev 13:12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

Rev 13:13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

Rev 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

Rev 13:15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Rev 13:16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

Rev 13:17 and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Dan 11 describes the antichrist attacking Egypt, Jerusalem, Saudi Arabia and other countries. They are at war with him. Everyone else loves him and even worships him. People will join him to save their lives while others will fight against him. We will face the global dynamics that are a result of his rulership.

Yahweh's priorities never change. His priority has always been and always will be this one thing: love him with all your heart, mind and heart....1st commandment. The tribulation is designed by Yahweh to prepare and make us a covenant partner for the Son and his Father. It will prepare a bride for the Son. The kingdom of heaven is this—Yahweh's preparing a bride and a kingdom.

What's the priority of your life today? The First commandment...How does that look in your everyday life? How should we live every day in light of the possibility that the antichrist could rule in your lifetime?

1Pe 4:7 Now the end of all *things* draws near. Therefore (in light of that), **be** (not do) self-controlled and sober-minded for *your* prayers.

1Pe 4:8 Above all, keep your love for one another constant, because love covers a large number of sins.

1Pe 4:9 *Be* hospitable to one another without complaining.

1Pe 4:10 Just as each one has received a gift, *use* it for serving one another, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, *let it be* as the oracles of God; if anyone serves, *let it be* as by the strength that God provides, so that in all *things* God will be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Be sober minded....if you are drunk or high on a substance...your mind is disconnected with reality. Peter tells us to be sober-minded. Be aware of reality, aware of what is truth and what is fiction. Peter says be self-controlled and sober minded—the point is are you living in reality or have you embraced a distorted reality? True prayers are relational in nature. They are based on your relationship between you and your Maker. Fight for a tender heart. Don't let your love grow cold. Get to know Yahweh...face to face. That's the point of prayer.

1Thess 5:17, Paul said pray without ceasing... In other words, your life is to be prayer.

1Peter 4:8 Keep loving. Love covers a multitude of sins. Keep loving Yahweh and keep loving others. Keep the flame of love burning. Cover a multitude of sins with your love. You can endure suffering, rejection, slander, loss, betrayal, if you have love ruling and reigning in your heart. Is the flame of love burning so brightly in you that you love those who hurt you?

Vs 9 show hospitality without grumbling. The end is at hand...what do we do? Peter says open up your home. Peter says when the antichrist comes on the scene, we are to open our homes and be hospitable. And do it without grumbling. You will lose your reward if you complain.

All good gifts come from the Father. Peter goes on to say that we are to use the gifts we've been given to serve one another. We are to be good stewards of Yahweh's grace. We serve by the strength that Yahweh supplies so that he will be glorified.

We are to: I Peter 4 tells us what it looks like to live in light of the antichrist:

Self-controlled

Sober minded (live in reality)

Make prayer my life

Love one another constantly

Cover sins with love

Be hospitable without complaining

Use your Yahweh-given gifts to serve one another

Speak the words of Yahweh

Serve not in your own strength but in the strength Yahweh gives so that He is glorified!

The Second Beast

Rev 13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; *(first we saw the dragon sitting on the seashore chapter 12. Then out of the sea comes a 10 horned beast. The beast reflects the dragon. Then we have another beast that comes up out of the earth. Dan 7 beasts are empires, but in Rev, yes it's an empire but it zeroes in on the leader of the empire. So this beast is sometimes the empire and sometimes the leader. Another beast...is this another empire? No. This is a person) and he had two horns like a lamb (ram) and he spoke as a dragon (Satan, the serpent).*

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war with the one who is seated on the horse and with his army. *(Yeshua and his army. Somehow the beast believes he can make war against Yeshua and win.)*

Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs before him, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who had worshiped his image. *(the beast and false prophet are taken captive. The false prophet is a person).* The two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur.

Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed by the sword of the one who is seated on the horse—the sword that comes out of his mouth—and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

John sees this individual and he appears as a ram *(Yeshua is the ram that was slain)*. In 5:6, how does it describe Yeshua? John sees someone who looks like a slaughtered ram, yet he's standing and alive before the throne. He was slaughtered, but he's alive. He had 7 horns, 7 eyes....Yeshua is portrayed as a ram with horns. The false prophet is also disguised as a ram with 2 horns. Inwardly, he has the mouth of the dragon. He's speaking on behalf of Satan.

Yeshua warned in Matt 7:15...

Mat 7:15 "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inside are ravenous wolves.

Yeshua warns all Christians to be on guard against false prophets. Outwardly, the antichrist and false prophet appear to be a lamb, but that's not what they are. Inwardly, they are wolves.

There are 3 figures in Rev 12 & 13:

Dragon—Satan who is filled with jealousy. He wants to sit on Yahweh's throne. He wants to be worshiped.

Beast—parallels the Son

False prophet—represents the H Sp.

A false Trinity. His deceptions are candy coated. Here's something that will make you sick and kill you, but he covers it with sugar.

Now vs 12 describes the false prophet's ministry at the end of the age:

Rev 13:12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. *(he functions on behalf of the first beast. He compels the earth to worship the first beast. In the Greek, the word worship means in a broad sense to bow down before, to serve. All who live in the earth will serve, bow down to the beast).* And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

Rev 13:13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. (*pretty significant signs... great deceptive signs*)

Rev 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, (*Yahweh allows him to perform the false signs/miracles*) telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

The fatal head wound—is this the antichrist or is it the empire or both? This term seems to be saying the individual will suffer a fatal head wound. Imitating Christ's death and resurrection. As we compare the first and second beast, the antichrist beast is more of political military leader while the false prophet seems to be the religious leader. It's possible that the antichrist will also be religious too. The false prophet will force the people to take the mark and bow down before antichrist.

The antichrist may outwardly embrace Islam or he could be a combination of many religions. Possibly the antichrist is a mid-eastern Muslim leader. The false prophet may be a Jewish leader or Christian leader. Or Both may be Muslim. We need to be open to different possibilities so we aren't taken by surprise. Islam has the belief that Yeshua (Jesus) will come back in the last days and will point to the real Messiah who is to come.

Mat 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and will deceive many,

Mat 24:24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear, and will produce great signs and wonders in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, as there will be false teachers among you also, who will bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, *thus* bringing on themselves swift destruction.

1Jn 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits *to determine* if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

The false prophet could be Jewish. In the first century, there were Jews who believed that in the last days there will be a leader who rises up within Israel who would assist the antichrist. This was commonly taught and believed in Israel in the early church. Scriptures really emphasize the false prophet as doing signs and wonders, setting up the mark of the beast and the image of the beast and deceiving the world.

2 Thess 2:1-12

Joh 7:16 -17 So Yeshua answered them and said, "My teaching is not mine, but *is* from the one who sent me. If anyone wants to do his will, he will know about my teaching, whether it is from Yahweh or I am speaking from myself.

Yeshua says a person's ability to identify with truth is contingent on whether he/she is willing to do His will. What are we called to say yes to?

Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

We are called to suffer. The question is: will we follow Yeshua until the end? That's what matters. Not about being perfect. We are to be like little children, if we are to enter into the kingdom of heaven. .It's more like being a baby. Dirty diapers. Take care of me, feed me, hug me, entertain me. Meet all my needs on demand! Then we grow up and we learn to go to the bathroom by ourselves, we learn to feed ourselves, etc. We keep learning and growing and becoming more responsible. All along that journey, we make a lot of messes—at every age. The messes aren't the problem. Not really. The problem is we expect ourselves to be perfect and likeable and our own hero.

Being a Christian is so much better than being a drug addict or thief or famous—your life will be much better, but that's not what following Yeshua is really about. It's about embracing the cross every day, laying down your life and following Yeshua day after day, year after year. Following Yeshua is really hard because it's meant to be to the end. A lot of people can make a quick run, but not a lot of people can run a marathon. Following Yeshua is a marathon. It means being able to suffer and follow Yeshua for a very long time even when it's difficult and you want to quit and you want to stop and rest.

What does it mean to follow Yeshua? How do we avoid being deceived? How do we know the will of the Father?

Luk 14:25 Now large crowds were going along with him, and he turned around *and* said to them,

Luk 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and furthermore, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Luk 14:27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate (discern, understand) the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Rev. 14:9 And another third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 he himself also will drink of the wine of the anger of Yahweh that has been mixed full strength in the cup of his wrath, and will be tortured with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Everyone who takes the mark is linked with worshipping the beast. Everyone who does that will be tormented day and night. The mark will be voluntary. There will be intense suffering connected to not taking it. The exodus is the key to understanding the end-times. But the end-times will be far greater deliverance and redemption than the first exodus was.

Exo 13:3 And Moses said to the people, "Remember this day when you went out from Egypt, from a house of slaves, because with strength of hand Yahweh brought you out from here, and *food with yeast* will not be eaten.

The entire world is in slavery to the harlot Babylon. Only Yahweh can deliver us.

Rev 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality." (*the nations are drinking evil wine*)

Rev 14:9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 19:2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."

Exo 13:5 And when Yahweh brings you to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites—which he swore to your ancestors to give to you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you will perform this service in this month.

Exo 13:6 Seven days you will eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day *will be* a feast for Yahweh. (*marriage supper*).

Exo 13:7 Unleavened bread will be eaten the seven days; *food with yeast* will not be seen for you; and yeast will not be seen for you in all your territory. (*yeast is a symbol of sin*)

Exo 13:8 And you shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'This *is* because of what Yahweh did for me when I came out from Egypt.'

Why do we eat the unleavened bread and drink the fruit of the vine every shabbat? To remember. To teach the children. Yeshua celebrated Passover the night of His arrest. 1Co 11:23 -26 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Yahweh instructed the Jews to remember.

Exo 13:9 And it will be as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes so that the law of Yahweh will be in your mouth, that with a strong hand Yahweh brought you out from Egypt.

The Jews wrote scripture in tiny print and placed it into a small box which they tied onto their hands and on their foreheads to constantly remind themselves that Yahweh delivered them from slavery. This was a command. Yahweh marks his people and commands them to remember. So does Satan—the mark of the beast is Satan copying what Yahweh commanded. The story of the Exodus of the Jews out of slavery is a picture of what is to come. America is in slavery. Many in this room are in slavery in areas of their lives.

Exo 2:23 Now it came about in *the course of* those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of *their* bondage rose up to God.

Exo 2:24 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Exo 2:25 God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice *of them*.

Yeshua in the garden of Gethsemane.

Luk 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Moses is a prophetic picture of the ministry of Yeshua to deliver His people from captivity.

Exo 3:7-8 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. "So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

Yahweh is coming to deliver us from the Antichrist because He has seen the affliction of His people in slavery (*His part*) and has heard their cries (*our part*). Yahweh is aware of our sufferings. He is aware because he has seen and He has heard our cries.

Exo 3:9 "Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

Our methods, our way will never bring forth Yahweh's kingdom! Simon Peter discovered that when he tried to defend Yeshua against the soldiers by using a little knife and cutting off the ear of one of the men. Yahweh has a plan to deliver us! Just as he had a plan to deliver the Jews from Pharaoh, who claimed to be a god. Yahweh will send His Son back to this earth to deliver us from the gods and He will lead us out of slavery.

Exo 3:10 "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses, as a broken man, tells Yahweh all the reasons He's chosen the wrong guy for the job.

- They won't listen to me and, if they do, they won't believe that you've appeared to me. Ex 4:1
- I've never been very good with public speaking. I'm slow in that area, Yahweh. Yahweh responds, "Didn't I make your mouth! I will be with your mouth and I will teach you what you are to say! (*It's not about you, Moses!*) Ex 4:10
- Moses tries again—send someone else, Yahweh! (*he's a slave to his past, to his weaknesses*) Ex 4:13
- Exo 4:14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses.

Heb 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Exodus 5 Moses and Aaron tell Pharaoh to let Yahweh's people go. The result is they had to produce the same amount of bricks with no one providing the straw. The people are angry with Moses:

Exo 6:4 "I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned.

Exo 6:5 "Furthermore I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

Are you responding to your difficult situation, to your sin by crying out to the only One who can deliver you? Are you weeping in prayer over your sin that has you in bondage? Or are you hoping someone else will do your part for you—groan and weep and cry out for deliverance! Have you spent time before Him—intimate time. If you haven't spent alone time with him crying out for deliverance for yourself, your friends, family, your enemies—I seriously doubt it will happen for you. Yahweh won't enable us to be passive or complacent or apathetic—He calls those things being lukewarm and He says He hates that kind of response so much that He will vomit you out of His mouth!

Yeshua will return to deliver us from this world when the Spirit and the bride cry out for Him to come back!

Yahweh forces the god of Egypt to release His chosen people through great trouble—the 10 plagues. As He poured out His wrath on the gods and the people who worshiped Pharaoh, He kept the Jews in Goshen protected from them. In the same way, the book of Revelation is clear that Yahweh will protect His people on the earth. That doesn't mean they won't suffer. The Jews suffered in Egypt. Some were slaves in the houses of the Egyptians and suffered through the 10 plagues:

1. Nile river turns to blood for 7 days
2. Frog invasion
3. Gnat invasion
4. Fly invasion
5. Plague kills all the livestock in Egypt but none of those belonging to the Jews died
6. Boils on man and beast

7. Thunder, hail, rain and fire rained down on Egypt unlike any other time in their history (the Jews were warned to bring their livestock inside and for the people to be in their homes)
8. Locusts covered the earth, eating any vegetation the hail didn't destroy and will be in their houses, etc.
9. Thick darkness that could be felt for 3 days (all the Jews had light in their dwellings)
10. The death of the firstborn (the Jews were warned and told to apply the blood of a perfect ram on the doorposts)

In the midst of the last plague, Yahweh instructs Moses to have each family kill a perfect ram (1 year old male) and apply the blood to the doorposts of each house. They are instructed to ask for gold and silver from the Egyptians. Why? The tabernacle—so that He might dwell with them after they sin. Yahweh gives them favor with the Egyptians.

Yahweh Promises Deliverance

Exo 6:4 "I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned.

Exo 6:5 "Furthermore I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

Exo 6:6 "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the Yhvh (*Jehovah—the proper name of the Elohim of Israel*), and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

Exo 6:7 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your Elohim; and you shall know that I am Yhvh, your Elohim, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Exo 6:8 'I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you *for a possession*; I am Yhvh.'"

Yahweh supernaturally delivers the Jews from the hand of the Egyptian gods. He proves that He alone is the true Elohim. He leads them through the Red Sea (a type of passing through the blood of Yeshua which brings salvation). He leads them to Mt Sinai where He manifests His presence to approximately 2-3 million Jews! At Mt. Sinai, Yahweh enters into a bridal covenant with the Jews.

Exo 34:10 Then God said, "Behold, I am going to make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth nor among any of the nations; and all the people among whom you live will see the working of the LORD, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to perform with you.

Exo 34:14 —for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—

Session 21

America and Israel entered into a covenant with Yahweh. (Deut 8) Yahweh warns the nation that breaks covenant with Yahweh will suffer destruction.

AMERICA'S COVENANT WITH YAHWEH:

The Virginia Covenant established in 1607 near present day Virginia Beach, was memorialized by Pastor Robert Hunt who erected a large wooden cross brought from England sharing words:

"We do hereby dedicate this Land, and ourselves, to reach the People within these shores with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to raise up Godly generations after us, and with these generations take the Kingdom of God to all the earth. May this Covenant of Dedication remain to all generations, as long as this earth remains, and may this Land, along with England, be Evangelist to the World. May all who see this Cross, remember what we have done here, and may those who come here to inhabit join us in this Covenant and in this most noble work that the Holy Scriptures may be fulfilled."

In 1620, the Mayflower Compact was established in Plymouth Massachusetts, in the name of God, by the grace of God, for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian religion, in the Presence of God.

And then in 1776, the Declaration of Independence stated in tremendous boldness and humility that "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude (moral thinking and behavior, righteousness) of our intentions" -inviting and invoking God into the shaping of individuals and the nation.

The Founding Fathers understood the importance and power of a covenant along these with the inevitable blessings for obeying and upholding it. They likely also understood the consequences for disobeying and rejecting that sacred covenant.

By 1789 in his First Inaugural address, George Washington again evoked the name of God stating, "It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to the Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations. No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States." And since that time, every state constitution as our nation grew from 13 colonies to 50 states mentions God at least once and averages four references to our creator.

He then leads them to the Promised land. They send out 12 spies to see what the land is like. 10 spies give a negative report. 2 give a faith filled report.

Yahweh leads them through the wilderness for 40 years. He then leads them to the edge of the promised land:

Num 32:10 "So Yhvh's anger burned in that day, and He swore, saying,

Num 32:11 'None of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob; for they did not follow Me fully,

Num 32:12 except Caleb and Joshua, for they have followed Yhvh fully.'

Num 32:13 "So Yhvh's anger burned against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until the entire generation of those who had done evil in the sight of Yhvh was destroyed.

Because of their sin—their lack of faith in the One who had demonstrated many times His faithfulness! They never entered the promised land. Have you ever considered that lack of believing in Yahweh's power to deliver you is sin? Yahweh provided food and water for 2-3 million people for 40 years! In a desert! Their clothing and shoes did not wear out after 40 years of rocky desert terrain! Yahweh kept them alive! Supernaturally! Every day, they saw with their own eyes His presence covering them in a cloud. At night, they were covered and kept warm by His presence in a pillar of fire! That wasn't just a big cloud or a big fire. That was Yahweh Himself!!!! When the snakes bit them, Yahweh told Moses to make a bronze snake on a cross and everyone who looked at it was healed! So many miracles! But so little faith! They stood at the edge of a beautiful land. Slaves. Being offered a land flowing with milk and honey! But they remained slaves at heart. What areas is your heart responding like a slave? Yahweh will personally lead you out of Babylon. But it takes a heart that is in agony over its condition. A heart that cries out for deliverance. Desperation. A heart that is willing to believe. A heart that sees and believes Yahweh is bigger than the giants. If your heart is lukewarm. Tell Him. Cry out until He fills you with His fire and His passion and His faith. If your heart is angry, cry out until He delivers you. If your heart is dead, cry out until He gives you His life.

Yahweh is going to be sending plagues to our nation and to the world. He will protect His people. We will still suffer. He will require obedience. Just like the Jews in Egypt. If they had not obeyed his instructions, they would've suffered and died just like the Egyptians. That will be true for us. He will deliver us from this Babylonian system. He will protect us in the wilderness (Rev 12). In the midst of our journey out of slavery into the Promised Land, the antichrist will arise. He will do everything possible to cause us to believe that the giants in the land are bigger than our Yahweh! why? So we won't believe. So we will be discouraged—lack courage. Doubt and unbelief is the result of Deception! Be aware of his tactics now. Learn now. Because Yahweh is leading us through the wilderness. He wants to lead each one of us into eternity with Himself. That's your promised land. He will remove the giants from the Promised Land—Satan and his angels will be kicked out of the throne room, out of the 3rd heaven forever!

Unlike the unfaithful Jews, Yahweh will thoroughly remove the giants. The wilderness is our fiery furnace. It's the tribulation. And the wilderness is going to end with the Great tribulation! Yeshua said, Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

The wilderness is where we learn that Yahweh has overcome the world! It's where we learn we NEED Him! It's where we learn His is always with us! It's where we come face to face with the truth that we are lost without Him! We learn to trust. We learn to obey. We learn that He is enough. And He alone can save us! But most importantly it's where we see Yahweh for who He is! It's where we fall in love with Him! It's where we see Him work signs, wonders and miracles in our lives. And we come to know Him as He truly is!

CHAPTER 14

Chapter 14, together with 15:2-4, show the final reward of the persecuted church who are faithful to Yahweh and the final punishment of the 2 beasts, Satan and those who follow them. 14-15:4 ends with the saints' victory over the beast and the praise of Yahweh's glory (15:2-4).

Yahweh is glorified because He is the One who has judged the beast and empowered the church to overcome and defeat him. Therefore, everything in Rev. 12:1-15:4 is to be seen as moving history toward the end result of Yahweh being glorified!

READ CHAPTER 14 – 15:1-5

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. (see Rev 22)

Mt Zion: Psa 125:1 Those who trust in the LORD Are as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.

Isa 4:2 -6

Isa 24:23 T

Heb 12:18 -22

Mt. Zion refers to the end-time city where Yahweh dwells. It is the city of Yahweh, it is the heavenly Jerusalem. He will rule and reign over the earth from Mount Zion. He will be a refuge and a protection to His church. His glory will cover Mt Zion as a cloud by day and a fire by night.

We see 144,000 who have *not* been deceived or worshipped the beast. They have the Lamb's name on their foreheads. Instead of speaking arrogant lies, they are known for their integrity of speech and purity. It doesn't say whether these people are in heaven or on the earth, but the context makes me believe they are in heaven because of the songs of praise from the living creatures and elders (14:3; 4:4-11), songs which only the redeemed can 'learn', much less sing.

We first see 144,000 in Rev 7:3

Rev 7:3-4 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel (12,000 from each tribe).

Rev 7 is referring to Jews on earth, in Rev 14 it refers to Christians in heaven. Rev 7, it was made up from 12 tribes, in Rev 14 the text doesn't say. The 144,000 in Rev 14 kept themselves pure. They had one goal—to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They never lied. They were blameless! They were purchased as first fruits to Yahweh and to the Lamb!

1Co 15:20-24

The rest of the chapter describes a procession of angels bringing various messages from Yahweh.

THE SEVEN ANGELS:

1. the first angel has an eternal gospel to preach to those living on the earth. The angel says with a loud voice in Rev 14:7 "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

It's good news to the righteous because they are about to be vindicated. Babylon is going to fall. Yahweh is going to step into history and judge the wicked. He's going to put an end to the chaos. In verse 8, we see the second angel whose message is, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

Isa 21:9 "Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground."

This is a judgment passage. Babylon is Babel. Babel is where Yahweh confused their languages. Several places in scripture, tells us that the gods (*Elohim*) and their images (*idols*) will be judged. The wicked are going to be judged. Babylon, the

whole system—the One World End-times economic, religious system is going to be judged and it's going to be completely destroyed.

THE SEVEN ANGELS cont'd:

2. The second angel announces the fall of Babylon. We will read more in chapters 16-17.
Rev 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."
3. The third angel warns believers of the terrible, eternal consequences of giving into the pressures of the final one world system.

Rev 14:9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

The language used is the same language used to describe hell: unceasing torment. In other words, those who take the mark of the beast will share the same fate as those to whom they have surrendered and worshipped. The fact that Christians could find themselves in hell is stressed in vs. 12 by a call reminding them to endure patiently (14:12, which repeats 13:10).

14:12 & 13:10 Both scriptures recognize that some saints will pay for their loyalty with their lives.

Rev 13:10 If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

For them, a special blessing is given:

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

The blessing is twofold: they can now rest from their suffering and, since a record of their loyalty has been kept, they can look forward to a reward. Even those who die of natural causes at that time will enjoy this blessing.

Rev 14:14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

4. The fourth angel (vs. 15) shouts to someone 'like a son of man sitting on the clouds' telling him it's time for the harvest. (Rev 14:15 is a reference to Dan 7:13)

Dan 7:13 -14 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

Who is the son of man?

Mar 14:61 But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?"

Mar 14:62 And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

Other passages that speak of the coming of the Son of man on the clouds it is *always* Yeshua: Matt 24:30; Mk 13:26; Lk 21:27; Matt 26:64; Mk 14:62. The Son of man everywhere else, when it comes to the descriptions of returning in judgment, it is *always* Yeshua. There's Old Testament precedent for Yahweh being referred to as an angel. This angel isn't commanding Yeshua, but instead He's basically saying, "Now is the time for the harvest."

The Son of man is told by the angel that it's time for the harvest. Which harvest? Whether this is to gather the tares for burning or the wheat for storing is not clear: Matt 13:24-30 & Mat 13:36-43

Rev 14:16 Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

This passage is drawn from Joel 3. If you go up to verse 11, this is the showdown of Armageddon, when Jerusalem is surrounded by the nations:

Joel 3:11-16

5. The fifth angel (vs. 17) simply appears with a sickle in his hand.
Rev 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.
6. The sixth angel (vs 18) directs the angel with the sharp sickle to gather the ripe grapes...
Rev 14:18 Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."
Rev 14:19 So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.
Rev 14:20 And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of (approximately) two hundred miles.

The grapes are to be trampled in the great winepress of Yahweh's wrath, which is outside the city. Based on the massive pool of blood, this is a mass slaughter of humans. Perhaps this is the battle of Armageddon where the vultures clean up the corpses? (19:17-21)

7. Seventh angel: Rev 14:18-20 This is very clearly the Day of the Lord language. And it also helps us answer the question, Is the sickle a harvest of redemption, or is it judgment of the wicked? It's pretty clearly judgment of the wicked. Joel 3:13 is an important passage for this.

Isaiah 63:1-4

Isaiah describes the One who treads the wine press. This is Yeshua—the One who has the sharp sickle. When He returns, all of the scriptures describe Him as a divine warrior bringing judgment and justice and making war against his enemies.

Verses 17-20: We see a reference to an angel having authority over fire. What's that? According to Jewish tradition, various angels had authority over various aspects of the world, including the four winds (Rev 7:1). The abyss (Rev 9:11), and the waters (Rev 16:5).

CHAPTER 15:1-4

These 7 angels are followed by 7 more in chapter 15 who act rather than speak about the wrath of Yahweh. They carry 7 bowls of wrath to pour on the earth. And when they pour them out, a song of triumph erupts from the martyrs in heaven. (15:2-4) This song of triumph points to the song of triumph when the Egyptian army was drowned in the Red Sea. The song points to the justice and righteousness of Yahweh, expressed in great and marvelous deeds which vindicate his holiness by punishing his oppressors. Judgment will surely come.

It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to exactly know when everything will play out. The timing of these events are difficult to understand. Yahweh didn't tell us. So, what does that mean? Simply this: the order of events is not the primary point in the end-time events. Revelation is far more concerned with what will happen than with when it will happen.

Rev 14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of Yahweh and their faith in Yeshua.

This is a call for endurance by those who keep the commandments, those who obey and those who keep their faith in Yeshua. A simple message: keep obeying and keep having faith in Him.

The Reformation. The early church preached a particular message. It was a Jewish message that started in Jerusalem and spread throughout the Roman empire. In the beginning, the main message was that Yeshua came, died, rose again and he's coming again. A couple hundred years later it went through an evolution. Constantine was a big part of that because he institutionalized the church. Before that, the church was a living organism, a community of believers.

Then Martin Luther rediscovered certain elements of the gospel that had been lost. Luther discovered justification by faith and it became the central message. That's true. Faith does save us, but one thing that was negative about the Reformation was that it turned the church away from the future orientation of the gospel. Luther said we all have access through faith. We don't need a catholic priest. But the reformation was very anti-Jewish. It was terrible and brought great suffering to the Jews. The main message of the reformation was to focus on what Yeshua did in the past.

The gospel, in its fullness, is to point at what Yeshua did and then point to what is coming. We are to look forward. Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "in order that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow after them."

Yahweh's saying, "I know how difficult it's going to be for you to stay faithful. I understand. Therefore, I'm going to bless you. In other words—it's going to be worth it! Your deeds will follow you and you will be blessed.

As we carry the message of endurance, stay faithful and obey, in the midst of torture and suffering and starvation, how do we remain faithful?

Yeshua's death won't be the primary motivation of our obedience and endurance. It's part of the gospel, but it's only part. The NT proclaims Yeshua came and is coming again!

In the end, if we are in prison, if we are starving, if we are dying, what will matter most is what is ahead of us. It will be the reason why we will be able to refuse the mark of the beast—if we refuse, we will gain eternal life with Yeshua in paradise forever!

The Reformation separated the church from Israel. We are not separate. Jew and Gentile have been grafted into the Olive tree with the Jews (Rom 11:17). The Reformation did damage: it defined obedience as things you should do because of what Yeshua has done for you. It defined Faith as: we believe because we have faith in what Yeshua has done. That's not what the NT lays out for us.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patient endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of Yahweh and the faith in Yeshua.

You need endurance so that you would have obedience and faith. Your faith rests on something else—not in the past, not in your works. It's in both the past and the future.

2 Basic Gospel Messages in the church today: Imperative & Emotional

Imperative Gospel message (vital and crucial commands):

1. We need a Savior.
2. If you repent and believe and obey His commands then you will be saved.

The problem with this is that obedience isn't what makes you right, it isn't what redeems and justifies you before Yahweh. That happened in the past, on the cross. Some people have the attitude and even teach that Yeshua paid for all of your sins so it doesn't matter if you obey or not. Paul is very clear that we shouldn't sin because grace will cover us. I sinned. He died. If I want to be saved, I have to accept His gift. We should maintain our relationship with Yahweh, not to earn it, but because of what He did in the past. Sound correct?

Emotional Gospel message:

1. You have value.

2. Yahweh loves you.
3. Yeshua died because He loves you.
4. You can have a relationship with him because He loves you.
5. Regardless of how you live your life, you will spend eternity with Him because He is love.

There are elements of these messages that are right and good. But they both are focused on what Yeshua did in the past. We say ok, we believe that message, but is it strong enough for me to stop sinning?

Most of the preaching in America is focused on what Yeshua did in the past. Do this and don't do that because of what He did 2000 years ago on the cross. The NT books don't teach us to look back, but to look forward to what is to come.

Let's define faith based on the NT: If you look at the imperatives (*every crucial, or vital statement, or command*) in the NT and ask what the context says as to why you are to do the imperative, you will discover that almost every command is clearly pointing to His return and His reward for us (*in the future*).

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Mar 10:28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."

Mar 10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,

Mar 10:30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age (*present*), houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. (*future reward*)"

Acts 3:19-20 "Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away (*present tense*), in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that Yahweh may send Yeshua, (*future reward*) the Christ appointed for you."

Heb 12:2 fixing our eyes on Yeshua (*looking forward*), the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him (*future reward*) endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Eph 1:3 Blessed is Yahweh and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Eph 1:4 just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, *that we should be holy and blameless before him in love, (the imperative—before the foundation of the world, Yahweh chose us to be in Him and that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love)*

Eph 1:5 having predestined us to adoption through Yeshua the Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of his grace that he bestowed on us in the beloved,

Eph 1:7 in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace, (*the cross*)

Eph 1:8 that he caused to abound to us in all wisdom and insight,

Eph 1:9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in him,

Eph 1:10 for the administration of the fullness of times, to bring together all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, (*future reward*) in him

Eph 1:11 in whom also we were chosen, having been predestined according to the purpose of the One who works all *things* according to the counsel of his will,

Eph 1:12 *that we who hoped beforehand in Christ should be for the praise of his glory,*

Eph 1:13 in whom also you, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation (*the cross*), in whom also when you believed you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 1:14 who is the down payment of our inheritance (*the Holy Spirit is a down payment of a future inheritance—life with Yeshua, the Father and H. Spirit*), until the redemption of the possession, (*future reward*) to the praise of his glory.

What does the NT says about faith and obedience?

Heb 11:6 And without faith (*imperative*) it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to Yahweh must believe (*imperative*) that He is and *that He is a rewarder* of those who seek (*imperative*) *Him*. (*a rewarder—future promise*)

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, having been warned about things not yet seen, out of reverence constructed an ark (*obedience,*

imperative) for the deliverance of his family (*future reward*), by which he pronounced sentence on the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (*Noah built the ark because of future deliverance for his family*)

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, *when he was called* (*imperative*), obeyed to go out to a place that he was going to receive for an inheritance, and he went out, not knowing where he was going. (*Abraham obeyed Yahweh and left his family and home because of a promised inheritance—future reward*).

Heb 11:9 By faith he lived in the land of promise as a stranger, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the fellow heirs of the same promise. (*future reward*)

Heb 11:10 For he was expecting the city that has foundations (*future reward*), whose architect and builder *is* Yahweh. (*He set his gaze on the future promise of life with Yahweh not on the past encounter he had with Yahweh*).

Heb 11:11 By faith also, with Sarah, he received the ability to procreate even past the normal age, because he regarded the one who had promised to be faithful. (*a promised child—future reward*)

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith without receiving the promises, but seeing them from a distance (*future reward*) and welcoming *them*, and admitting that they were strangers and temporary residents on the earth. (*they kept their eyes on the promised eternal life in a city built by Yahweh*).

According to the writer of Hebrews, faith is a future oriented reality not a historical reality. The foundation of our faith is the cross, but it isn't the future motivation. The heroes in Heb. 11 were looking forward to something and to Someone. The NT repeatedly connects faith to a future promise and reality. Heb. 11 says you can't please Yahweh without faith. If you want to please Him, you have to draw near to Him and believe that He rewards those who draw near to Him—rewards are future, not past. Past tense experiences are weak motivations for present tense obedience. Future hope and promises and faith and rewards are a strong motivation for daily obedience.

Here's what faith is: In the future, Yahweh will reward those who believe and obey Him, those who lay down their lives for Him.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of Yahweh has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Tit 2:12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age (*imperatives*),

Tit 2:13 looking for (*future*) the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great Yahweh and Savior, Yeshua, (*future reward*)

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us (*future reward*) from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession (*future reward*), zealous for good deeds.

In the present, we are to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and live sensibly, righteously and godly in this present age... How do we do that? By understanding what he did in the past? Vs 13 says...the motivation that will enable us to deny this world is this: We are to look ahead for the appearing of the glory of our great Yahweh and Savior! It's the longing for His return that purifies us and is what will motivate us to endure great tribulations.

2Th 1:5 *This is* a plain indication of Yahweh's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of Yahweh, for which indeed you are suffering.

2Th 1:6 For after all it is *only* just for Yahweh to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

2Th 1:7 and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted (*future reward*) and to us as well when the Lord Yeshua will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (*future reward*)

2Th 1:8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know Yahweh and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Yeshua.

2Th 1:9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2Th 1:10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day (*future reward*), and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

1Pe 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed (*future reward*),

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (*imperative*)

1Pe 5:3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

1Pe 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory (*future reward*).

Most of us have received the message that our sins are dealt with so we are surely going to heaven. But this wasn't the message Paul preached or the other apostles. That doesn't motivate obedience and faith when tragedy strikes. The cross is just beginning of the message. The main emphasis of the early church was not what happened, but what will happen. They taught what happened on the cross, but that was so they could preach what was going to happen.

Is the cross the entirety of the gospel message? Or is it part of it?

What if faith is not only about believing who Yeshua is, but it includes His future return... What if faith is also about the future plans Yeshua has for Jerusalem? What if the NT defines obedience as something you do because of what is coming and its rewards? What if faith is oriented toward future realities more than historical? What if faith sheds light on the future in order to motivate us to remain faithful?

We have to turn our gaze to the One who is coming. All of heaven adores what happened on the cross and we love it and appreciate it and believe it, but there is so much more to the story than what happened 2,000 years ago.

HOMEWORK: Go through NT and choose 5 commands (*imperatives*) and look at what the context of the command is and see if future rewards are connected to the commands.

2Ti 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (*imperatives*).

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. (*his eyes are on the future enabling Paul to finish his race*).

REVELATION 14

There are 2 types of communicating in Revelation: One is a parenthetical—it gives clarity to the text. Another is Chronological, which is consecutive order of events.

There are 3 Chronological judgment events:

- 7 seals that are opened—it's global
- 7 trumpet that are sounded—they escalate in intensity. By the time the 6th and 7th trumpets blast, it's super intense
- 7 bowls of wrath are poured out around the time of the 6th & 7th trump

Rev 14 & 15 are parenthetical chapters.

We see 3 distinct sections in chapter 14:

- 1st part: vs 1-5 describes the first-fruits: 144,000 and the prophetic message of this group of people
- 2nd part: vs 6-13 are 4 prophetic messages declared by angels (if they are saying it, the church will be too). The angels are doing the will of Yahweh himself. These 4 messages come straight from Yahweh before the bowls are poured out.
- 3rd part: vs. 14-20 describes the impact the messages have on the earth and in heaven.

1st PART: The Lamb and the 144,000

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the sound that I heard *was* like harpists playing on their harps.

Rev 14:3 And they were singing *something* like a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders, and no one was able to learn the song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who had been bought from the earth. (*a new song that only the 144,000 can learn and sing*)

Rev 14:4 These are those who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were bought from humanity *as* first fruits to God and to the Lamb,

Rev 14:5 and in their mouth a lie was not found; they are blameless.

Who are the 144,000? They are the Firstfruits of a huge harvest at the end of the age.

Chapter 14:1: does this mean Yeshua will literally stand on Mt Zion with 144,000 people and sing? I don't believe it's wise to apply literal interpretation to a passage if the context isn't clear to do so. For ex: we can't symbolize the book of Chronicles—it's clear what the two books are about. But if you read Song of Solomon and only read it as literal love letter from Solomon to his bride then you will miss the messages that are proclaimed in it. The bible is clear that marriage is a picture of the kind of intimate relationship Yahweh longs for. Because that's true, we can take Sg Sol as both a real song Solomon wrote about his bride and also see the message of Christ and His bride.

14:3 says they are singing a new song...and no one can learn this song. Is this is literal or symbolic? We don't know.

Vs 4 says the 144,000 haven't been defiled by women and are virgins. If we take a literal stand, this verse doesn't make sense. Heb 13:4 tells us the marriage bed is to be undefiled...in other words, it is pure. Marriage was created by Yahweh in the garden. In the same way, Rev. describes a woman riding on a dragon. Is this literal? No. These images are given in order to communicate a clear meaning. Ask what is Yahweh communicating through the images and texts.

What we can see clearly is:

1. This is the first fruits of the great harvest.
 2. It takes place on Mt Zion in Jerusalem.
 3. There will be a first fruits harvest of people who will be unique messengers. They will be blameless. Fully given over and devoted to the Lamb. They will follow him wherever he goes. In this context, they are in Jerusalem with Yeshua.
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SECTION 2 The Messages of the Three Angels

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel flying directly overhead, having an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who reside on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and language and people, *(this is massive! An angel proclaiming the gospel to all the nations...everyone hears the gospel!*

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The gospel will be preached to everyone living on the earth not just through people, but also by angels!

Rev 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear Yahweh and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship the one who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and the springs of water!" *(part of the message we and the angels will proclaim at the end of the age is—fear him and worship him!)*

Rev 14:8 And another second angel followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who caused all the nations to drink from the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality." *(Babylon is fallen. This is happening right before the bowls of wrath are poured out in full. This will be one of the messages from the angels and us at the end of the age. Babylon is going to fall, is falling and has fallen—the 3 stages of the prophetic messages.)*

Rev 14:9 And another third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 he himself also will drink of the wine of the anger of God that has been mixed full strength in the cup of his wrath, and will be tortured with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torture went up forever and ever, and those who worshiped the beast and his image did not have rest day and night, along with anyone who received the mark of his name.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patient endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith in Jesus.

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "in order that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow after them.

- The first message is both angel and humans proclaiming the gospel.
 - The second message is Babylon is fallen.
 - Third message is the consequences of taking the mark will be eternal torment.
 - The fourth angelic message is: we need endurance because it's going to be very difficult.
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SECTION 3

Rev 14:14 And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud was seated *one* like a son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle (*what you cut wheat with to harvest*).

Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to the one seated on the cloud, "Send out your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe!"

Rev 14:16 And the one seated on the cloud swung his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Does this mean Yeshua will float on a cloud and swing a sickle over the earth? It means when the prophetic message is released it will bring about a 2-fold result: there will be a harvest of souls (*Firstfruits*) who will lay down their lives for the gospel and there will be those who reject it. This is the wheat and tares parable in Matt 13:24-30.

Rev 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple *that is* in heaven; he also had a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:18 And another angel who had authority over the fire *went out* from the altar, and he called out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Send out your sharp sickle and harvest the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are at their prime!"

Rev 14:19 And the angel swung his sickle into the earth and harvested the vine of the earth, and threw *the grapes* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:20 And the winepress was stomped outside the city, and blood went out from the winepress up to the bridles of the horses, about one thousand six hundred stadia (*approx. 180-200 miles surrounding Jerusalem. Neck deep in blood.*)

What's the meaning?

#1 Yahweh will raise up a company of first-fruit believers who love him and follow him and they will proclaim the gospel message to the world alongside angels.

#2 Yeshua is identified with Mt Zion because he is the son of David, the king who will sit on a throne in Jerusalem and rule the nations.

#3 There will be angelic messengers who help prepare the nations for the twofold harvest. One harvest will be executed by Yeshua, which is a harvest of souls for His kingdom. The second harvest will be executed by angels who harvest "grapes", not literally, but they harvest people and take them outside the city where they are crushed. (Isa 63 says that when Yeshua comes he will tread the nations of the earth like one who walks on grapes. Isaiah describes a battle outside of Jerusalem that will result in incredible bloodshed. But out of that will come the greatest harvest the earth has ever known).

This chapter tells us what the gospel message is at the end of human history. This is what we will declare:

- fear Yahweh and worship Him,
- His judgments are coming.
- Babylon will arise, but it will fall and be burnt.
- Don't follow the antichrist, don't take the mark no matter what.
- Follow the Lamb wherever He goes.
- Be pure, wholly-devoted to Yahweh

Rev 14 is very clear about the message. You can't be neutral. You will serve either Yahweh or Satan.

It's very probable we are in the beginning of the season that begins the tribulation. The northern border of Israel is where everything happens right before Yeshua's return. It will be the eye of the storm.

Exek 38:1-6 Ezekiel describes the antichrist who leads an assault on the land of Israel; he starts in northern Israel. He describes all the nations that will be involved, which are middle eastern and north African nations.

Eze 38:7-8 Be ready, and prepare yourselves, you and all of your assembly, the assembling around you, and you must be for them as a guard. After many days you will be mustered; in the last years you will come to a restored land from *the* sword, gathered from many peoples on the mountains of Israel which were as permanent ruins *but* from peoples it was brought out, and they will dwell in safety, all of them.

The context here is the Jews have returned to Israel from war. They are living in the land after a long period of time where the land was desolate. They are living safe in the mountains.

Eze 38:9 And you will advance like a storm; you will come, *and* you will be like a cloud covering the land, and all of your troops and many nations *along* with you."

Eze 38:10 "Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "And then on that day, things will come up on your mind, and you will devise evil plans. (the antichrist will devise an evil scheme)

Eze 38:11 And you will say, 'I will go up against a land of open country (*unwalled villages*); I will come *to* the *people* being at rest in safety, all of them dwelling without a wall and crossbars and without doors,

Eze 38:12 to loot, and to plunder, to assail inhabited ruins and *a* people gathered together from *various* peoples *and* *who* are acquiring livestock and goods *and* dwelling at the center of the world.

Presently, Israel's not in a place of safety and security. There's been conflict with neighbors and with Arab population living in Israel. Israel has not dwelt in peace since 1948. What little security they do have is based on the skills of Israel to defend themselves. There are gates and fences and walls all over Israel right now. This means the time period Ezekiel is describing is different from present time. Ezekiel describes a time of peace where there are no gates, walls or doors.

Ezek 38 & 39 are clear that Gog and Magog invade before Yeshua's 2nd return. Ezekiel is describing a significant event when the walls and gates come down, a time of peace and safety in Israel and security goes down. That means something has to happen before the time of Jacob's trouble, the final 3.5 years. The time of Jacob's trouble happens in a time of significant security and peace.

Eze 38:13 Sheba and Dedan and traders of Tarshish and all its strong lions, they *will* ask you, 'To loot are you coming? To plunder *have* you summoned your assembly, to take away silver and gold, to take livestock and goods, to loot great amounts of loot?'"

Eze 38:14 "Therefore prophesy, son of man, and you must say to Gog (the Antichrist), 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "Will you not realize on that day when my people Israel are dwelling in safety,

Eze 38:15 and *so* you will come from your place, from *the* remote areas of *the* north, you and many people with you, horsemen all of them, a great crowd and a vast army,

Eze 38:16 and you will advance against my people Israel like a cloud covering the land; it will be in the last days, and I will bring you against my land, so that the nations know me, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes, O Gog!"

Eze 39:1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and you must say, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "Look! I *am* against you Gog, the head leader of Meshech and Tubal,

Eze 39:2 and I will turn you around, and I will drag you along, and I will bring you up from *the* remote areas of *the* north, and I will bring you against the mountains of Israel...

Ezek. 38 & 39: We see 4 Phases:

Season 1: Jews are outside of Israel, which is a wasteland. A Season of Exile. Up to 1940's. Israel becomes a nation in 1948.

Season 2: 1967 Israel reclaims the Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula. From then to now has been and is ongoing conflict.

Season 3: The next phase is the Jews dwelling securely with their walls—a time of peace, safety and security.

Season 4: The last phase is the shattering of that peace which will happen before Jacob's trouble (Tribulation)

What happens next is the war that sets the context for season 3 of peace, safety and security. That will cause the nations of the world to believe that there is peace in the middle east. The NT builds off of Ezek 38 & 39. Yeshua and his apostles describe a season of going from peace to violence and calamity. Jer 30 & Matt 24 Describe a time of peace and safety, but suddenly destruction comes...Rev. says the same thing. They will be celebrating the peace and suddenly destruction will come fast and very hard and without the people being ready for it.

Ezekiel describes the harlot Babylon is in a relationship with Israel. The nations of the earth will drink from the cup of the harlot. The nations and Israel will be in an alliance with the harlot because that partnership is bringing incredible wealth. This won't be just a season of peace for Israel, but incredible wealth and finances. What we see now in Middle East are a lot of nations that are struggling terribly. But that will change. Wealth will come to them. How will Israel get from where they are today living in walled buildings to unwalled buildings? There will come a time where the people say We don't need walls or gates. We will see this. They will have peace with their neighbors.

The Abraham Accord is bringing together some Arab nations with Israel now. That's great. But not all—Iran, Syria, Yeman are not doing so—for those nations, it's a death penalty for anyone to do business with Israel. But Saudia Arabia is moving slowly toward opening up to Israel. This is just the beginning of peace.

Possibly scenario for the next move: Right now, the Israeli army is saying the next big war will be between Israel and Iran (with Lebanon and Syria) on primarily the northern border of Israel. The main threat today is the Iran regime. They have nuclear and non-nuclear weapons. Plus, they have 100's of thousands of missiles on the northern border. Israel's Iron Dome intercepts missiles and rockets. But if they were to fire missiles every day, non-stop the Iron Dome will be depleted and unable to stop them. Israel is saying that the next conflict will be brutal from the Iranian side. So, Israel will respond very quickly and violently. Israel will target Iran and its leaders. It will happen very fast. This big war that wipes out Iran, will set the context for the peace that Paul and Yeshua described. The peace will be deceptive. If you eliminate Iran, Israel will be massively relieved.

Iran is the nation that creates their sense of lack of peace and safety. Israel isn't concerned about other nations at this time. Right now it's Iran mainly...with Lebanon and Syria. One day, most likely Turkey will be the main enemy of Israel. If Iran is gone, Israel will live in peace and safety with no need for walls. This war will be a significant blessing to Israel. Russia is being weakened because of the war in Ukraine. Russia is aligned with the Iranians, Syria and Lebanon against Israel. Russia has been a key mediator and player in all of this. But their influence is lessening.

The weakening of the USA is going to contribute to this next war/conflict. I believe it will set the stage for the final age of peace which sets the stage for the Great tribulation. Might not be, but it sure looks like it might be that scenario. It will reshape the world. It would bring new economic and military alliances throughout the earth. That is going to be the landscape and context in which the little horn, the antichrist, the man of sin will emerge. It's very probable we are living in the beginning of the season that begins the tribulation.

READ Revelation 15

Revelation 15 and 16 deal with the 7 bowl judgments poured out against all those who follow the Beast. These 2 chapters contain several images drawn from the Old Testament that describe the victory of Yeshua and the Father over the Beast and the chaos system of Babylon. The purpose of the judgments is to cleanse the earth of chaos, preparing it to once again be sacred space.

Revelation 15 opens with 7 angels, who are going to unleash 7 plagues (bowls of wrath--judgments). And we see these 7 angels later, in chapter 16. (That's when we're going to get the actual bowl judgments spilled out.) We also see a reference to them in 17 because chapters 17 and 18 deal with the fall of Babylon.

Rev. 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, *which are* the last, because in them the wrath of Yahweh is finished.

Rev 15:2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of Yahweh.

Rev 15:3 And they *sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of Yahweh, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord Yahweh, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!

Rev 15:4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

The 7 angels carry 7 bowls of wrath (*plagues*) to pour on the earth. And when they pour them out, a song of triumph erupts from the martyrs in heaven. (15:2-4). This song of triumph reminds us of the song of triumph when the Egyptian army was drowned in the Red Sea. The song points to Yahweh's great and marvelous deeds!

The sea of glass. Exo 24:9-10 Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself.

Babylon is the primary threat as the OT comes to a close and Babylon (and the beast and prophet) is the primary threat at the end of the NT. There are other OT references to the sea and the crystal language, the sea of glass, that kind of thing. Ezekiel 1:22 is probably the most clear: "Now *the* likeness above the heads of the living creatures *was* an expanse like the outward appearance of awesome ice spread out above their heads upward."

This is the crystal platform for Yahweh's throne. It's important that we recognize that the context for Revelation 15 is still part of the Divine Council meeting that we saw in Revelation 4 and 5.

Rev 4:5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Rev 4:6 and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

Eze 1:26 Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, *was* a figure with the appearance of a man.

Eze 1:27 Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and *there was* a radiance around Him.

Eze 1:28 As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw *it*, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

In Ezekiel 1, we have the same image of Yahweh's throne—the wheels and the fire, and then you get the firmament, again with the cherubim and all of this. And we've seen all of these elements in Ezekiel 1 in the book of Revelation (Rev 4 and 5 being most prominent).

Dan 7:9 "I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took *His* seat; His vesture *was* like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne *was* ablaze with flames, Its wheels *were* a burning fire.

Dan 7:10 "A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, and the books were opened.

Dan 7:11 "Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.

Dan 7:12 "As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

If we look at what he said there, Daniel is describing the Divine Council gathering in Yahweh's throne room, specifically 7:10, which is involved in the judgment of the beast, whose body was given to be burnt with fire (Daniel 7:11). The point for Rev 15 is that you have Yahweh's throne resting on top of the sea of glass. Yahweh knows where history is going. He's in control of it all. All these things are clear in Rev 15 as we lead up to the final set of 7 judgments (the bowl judgments) and the collapse—the defeat—of the beast and his empire.

Rev 15:5 After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened,

Rev 15:6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean *and* bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes.

Rev 15:7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

Rev 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Look at how the angels are dressed. It is obviously drawn from Levitical priestly garments. We see that from Ezek 9:2-3; Ezek 9:11; Ezek 10:2; Dan. 10:5; Dan. 12:6-7. "Bowls" were used in the Old Testament inside the Tabernacle and the Temple.

"The word *phialē*, usually translated "bowl" must be understood as an object used in a priestly service. This was not a cereal bowl! These priestly bowls are mentioned 12 times in Revelation (5:8; 15:7; 16:1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17; 17:1; 21:9). Most of them are going to be in passages that have the heavenly tabernacle, the throne of Yahweh, the Divine Council throne room, in view. The bowls are priestly objects. If you look at the OT, the bowls there were probably used to carry out the ashes and fat of sacrifices from sacred space. If that's the case, the symbolism would likely be that the earth is about to be purified by removing

defilement. The earth's going to be sanctified. It's going to be made ready for the reoccupation of the Messiah. Because what follows is the decimation of the beast (antichrist).

The next image we see is the sanctuary filling with smoke. This brings us to the end of chapter 15. And that reinforces this Levitical priest idea for these other vessels—these other instruments. Yahweh's presence in the temple is highlighted as it is, "filled with the smoke of Yahweh's glory and from his power," (as in Exod. 40:34–35; 1 Kings 8:10–11; 2 Chron. 5:13; Isa. 6:1, 4).

Ezek. 10:2–4, where an angelic being "clothed in linen" standing close to the 4 cherubim in the heavenly temple, and "the temple was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD." Ezek. 10 in context is an introduction to an announcement of judgment, which is very much what the similar vision in Rev. 15 is.

What we are seeing in Rev. 15 plus Ezekiel 10 and other passages is the judgment context. We see the purification of not the heavenly Tabernacle, but the earth—the idea being conveyed by the priestly garments, the bowls, ritual service. The earth is being prepared for the reoccupation of the Messiah. In other words, it's being prepared to once again become holy. They're removing defilement, destroy the beast, and move on from there. Rev 16 is where the seven bowls are described. The context for all this is the Divine Council meeting that began in Revelation 4 and 5. Read Revelation 16 The Seven Bowls of Yahweh's Wrath

Rev 16:1-7, which describes the first bowl. The first trumpet and the first bowl judgment target the earth and those effected are those who have the mark of the beast. We see this same thing with the Egyptian plague of boils. (Exodus 9:9–11). The Egyptians are the ones that got the plague of boils not the Jews. And at the end of history, those being afflicted are the ones that take the mark of the beast. Those who take the idolatrous mark of the beast are now marked with boils in Yahweh's judgment.

The 2nd and 3rd bowls take us back to the Nile turning to blood, the 1st Egyptian plague (Ex. 7:14-25). The 2nd bowl is a parallel with the 2nd trumpet (Rev 8:8–9). The 2nd trumpet struck the sea and 1/3 of the sea became blood, and 1/3 of the living creatures in the sea died. Likewise, the 2nd bowl strikes the sea and "there came about blood as of a dead person, and every living thing died, the things in the sea."

Ex. 7:17–21, where Yahweh, through Moses, turns the Nile into blood and the fish in it die. Therefore, the 2nd trumpet and the 2nd bowl have to do with the same kind of judgment. The primary difference is the trumpet's partial (1/3 of sea turns to blood & 1/3 fish die) effect and the bowl's total effect. Just as the kingdom of Babylon was the object of the 2nd trumpet's judgment, so will the kingdom of Babylon throughout the world...together with that of the beast, be the object of the 2nd bowl's afflictions. The 7 bowls are generally linked to the judgment of Babylon, as implied from the connection of Rev. 14:8, 10 and 15:7.

Rev 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

Rev 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

The connection between this exodus imagery and Babylon is very clear. The "sea" (*thalassa*) is figurative for ungodly humanity. That word is used as ungodly humanity in Revelation, 24 times (*with the exception of Rev. 18:17, 19, 21*). Clearly the "many waters" of 17:1 & 15 are a pic of unbelievers on the earth.

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things;

Rev 16:6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."

Deu 32:43 Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to Him, all gods, for He avenges the blood of His children and takes vengeance on His adversaries. He repays those who hate Him and cleanses His people's land." (The ESV version matches the Dead Sea Scrolls concerning Deut 32)

Vs 43 starts out where the ones who are going to be rejoicing are the members of the heavenly host who are loyal to Yahweh. And then the gods of the nations are commanded to bow down to Yahweh. DEUT 32 is about these first 3 bowls of wrath. It's the judgment of the nations—this isn't just a country—it's the people who are following and worshipping the beast—they are all the people who are NOT following Yahweh! All of this chaos and war and persecution will be a precursor to the return of Yeshua. And this is the time when the gods will be destroyed.

Nov 9, 2022 Handout for Rev. class

2 Thess 2

Terry Bennett: Oct 5, 2022 (Yom Kippur) Gabriel appears to Terry and blows a shofar and says, "The first seal has been broken. It is time. The time is at hand."

Gabriel says Europe will be strengthened. Russia and America will be weakened. The Asian nations will form an alliance and be strengthened. Watch Israel because great turmoil will come to Israel and Russia. What begins with peace will end in utter destruction. When they are saying peace, peace sudden destruction comes upon them.

The next day...headlines: Oct 6th Europe's Leaders Gather in Prague. Russia isn't Invited.

Gabriel tells Terry to keep his eyes on these 4 nations: Greece will want another Alexander the great, France will want another Napoleon, Italy will want another emperor, Spain will want another queen.

When he said France, the face of a man that Gabriel showed Terry in 2001 appeared. He recognized him as Emmanuel Macron, the president of France.

The scene changed and Terry watched as the pope declares Emmanuel Macron to be God on earth. When the pope said that, millions of Catholics rose up and, as a result, the blood-letting began.

The Scene changed and Terry saw a motorcade...black cars and one white...the car was coming into Jerusalem and the Jews were throwing branches in front of this motorcade and crying out: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

This French leader was in the motorcade. He refers to himself directly as Napoleon and Jupiter. When Terry saw him, he didn't see him at the age he was then, but at the age he is now. He's 44.

Mat 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

Mat 23:38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

Mat 23:39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

The next verse: Matt 24:1 Yeshua leaves the temple, and He prophesies the destruction of the temple...then describes the end of the Age.

Oct 6th, the next day, Terry sees headlines in Europe: 44 Nations are Brought Together...the article says the gathering is the brainchild of Emmanuel Macron. The next day they meet in Prague, but Russia isn't invited. Emmanuel and Boris Johnson, using the Latin language, called for the revived Roman empire. Calling for a Europe that has its own military combined.

Oct 7th headlines: Macron takes Center Stage in Europe.

Emmanuel means "god with us".

Webster's dictionary: ma·cron... a written or printed mark.

The Lord says to Terry, "The nations had been weighed in the balance and had been found lacking." That's Dan. 5

Dan. 5 Belshazzar, the king, threw a big feast for 1000 of his nobles. When he tasted the wine, he ordered the servants to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father, Nebuchadnezzar, had brought out of the temple in Jerusalem.

Dan 5:3 and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

Dan 5:4 They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

Dan 5:5 Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.

Dan 5:6 Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.

Dan 5:11 "There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination,

insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners.

Dan 5:12 "This was because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation."

The king calls for Daniel and offers him a gold necklace, clothed in purple and will be promoted to the 3rd highest position in his kingdom. Daniel said you can keep your gifts, give them to someone else. He interprets: this very night your kingdom will be taken from you. That date was Oct., 539BC...somewhere near Yom Kippur. Daniel is a type of what the bride of Christ will look like in the days ahead!

The first 4 seals will be broken in fairly quick succession. War is coming. The Ukraine is the breadbasket of Europe. To control Ukraine is to control much of the food supply. When Gabriel told Terry the 1st seal had been opened, he said, "This is the end of Yahweh's beginning. And now is the beginning of the end." Now, is the time for us to be serious about the condition of our hearts. This is a time when the Lord is moving among His people to search for any form of rebellion, in ways we seek to satisfy our souls rather than to be possessed of the Lord. The truth is that the testing of our faith will be more precious than gold. Terry said: This season will demand that we are rewired and that we take our place on the wall. The Lord will build us into families to be His priesthood and His holy nation. Mal. 3 they shall be mine. All of us are called to be his.

Years ago the Lord said if there are cities of refuge then there are cities of destruction in your nation. Get out of Miami. Atlanta, New York city, Boston, Chicago, St Louis, Memphis, New Orleans, Madison WIS, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, LA, Wash DC, I would get out. Rev 16...cities will come under judgment.

THE RIDER ON A WHITE HORSE: Rev 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and in order that he might conquer.

Greek word for bow is "toxin". First comes the system then the antichrist will arise to a place of prominence, to a dictatorship. The antichrist, the rider on the white horse will bring the systems that already exist and bring them under one power, one government. A system of absolute control so you can't buy or sell unless you've taken the mark of allegiance to that beast. We think it's a mark on the forehead or hand...that may be true, but more than that it's allegiance to the system that's the mark. It's the mark of allegiance. It will be said to be so wonderful! It's all right there at your fingertips. All these systems are working together and you don't have to worry. But the little horn is behind it all the time. The world won't see an antichrist in this white horse—not yet. He comes in deception. Deceiving the nations. Emmanuel Macron's own father said that he is a master of seduction.

Rev 6:3 And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come!"

Rev 6:4 And another horse came out, fiery red, and it was granted to the one seated on it to take peace from the earth, and that they would slaughter one another, and a large sword was given to him.

Rev 6:5 And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and the one seated on it had a balance scale in his hand.

Rev 6:6 And I heard *something* like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not damage the olive oil and the wine!"

Rev 6:7 And when he opened the fourth seal, I heard a voice from the fourth living creature saying, "Come!"

Rev 6:8 And I looked, and behold, a pale green horse, and the one seated on it was named Death, and Hades followed after him. And authority was granted to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword and by famine and by pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Malachi 3 & 4...the day will come burning like a furnace...there will be a distinction made between the righteous and the wicked. We will see an apostolic, prophetic vessel on the earth unlike any vessel that's ever lived. John the Baptist preached a plumbline message—undiluted truth straight from God. Not an interpretation. Not what the people wanted to hear. What makes the bride ready? One thing is to get rid of the effects of false beliefs.

Feb 2 dream: "September. It's September. The old must end so the new can come!" It ended in Sept and the new has come. It's not coming—it's NOW! The Now has come—(3 Time frames in Yahweh: Wait. Now. Too late.)

Rev 12 speaks about these 4 things: Salvation, power, the kingdom and authority have come. In all of human history, there's never been anything like what this. The release of Yahweh through His priesthood. This vessel/the bride won't be moving in prophetic gifts or teaching gifts or preaching...but Yahweh will be moving through us! It won't be gifts. It will be by the Spirit, says Yahweh! Not by might, not by power...but by My Spirit, says Yahweh. We will be possessed by Yahweh Himself! And the antichrist will be possessed by Satan. We will stand until the end when Yahweh destroys His enemies!

PRAY: REV 10:8-11

Rev 10:8 And the voice that I had heard from heaven *was* speaking with me again and saying, "Go, take the opened scroll in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

Rev 10:9 And I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll, and he said to me, "Take and eat it up, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

Rev 10:10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it up, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth, and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

Rev 10:11 And they said to me, "It is necessary for you to prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

WE ARE TO DEVOUR HIS WORD. HIS TRUTH. THE TRUTH WILL BE SWEET IN OUR MOUTHS BUT BITTER ONCE WE DIGEST IT. THE TRUTH IS...HE IS COMING BURNING LIKE A FURNACE.'

His rebukes are His kindness to me. It's his love! If Yahweh has to tell us something several times, it means you don't believe the Lord. Can I believe Yahweh can talk to me even if it's not confirmed? Even if no one else is saying it? Even if no one else believes me? That's the test Yahweh is bringing to His bride/ vessel. Most of the world and the church will be mocking us. My hope is that we might stand. And not run and hide. But stand up. It's going to take faith to stand. It's going to take the Lord in us to help us stand. This will require the patient endurance of the saints. He will keep us. He is enough for us. We're going to see the power of God! The word of the Lord coming with power and authority. Daniel's 70th week—the final 7 years. We've come into that. There's no stopping this.

God's going to judge them. In Dan 2, Yahweh is going to come and destroy them with the breath of his mouth....That's not us taking them over, but Yahweh taking them out. It will happen in the darkest times of human history, but his light shines through them. The false church system in Rev 17 has a spiritual, governmental and economic system. Yahweh has given the antichrist power to take down those who have that power and take it over himself. It doesn't come to the church. There's no such thing as things getting better. Yahweh's going to take them down and destroy them. Yahweh is bringing down the darkness, not us.

HOMEWORK: Read these passages and pray them. Memorize at least one.

ENDURANCE:

Luk 8:15 But the *seed* on the good soil—these are the ones who, *after* hearing the word, hold fast to *it* with a noble and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

Luk 21:19 By your patient endurance you will gain your lives.

Rom 5:3-4 And not only *this*, but we also boast in our afflictions, *because we* know that affliction produces patient endurance, and patient endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope,

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we await *it* eagerly with patient endurance.

Rom 15:4-5 For whatever was written beforehand was written for our instruction, in order that through patient endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope. Now may the God of patient endurance and of encouragement grant you to be in agreement with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

2Co 1:6 But if we are afflicted, *it is* for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, *it is* for your comfort that is at work in the patient endurance of the same sufferings that we also suffer.

2Co 6:4 but commending ourselves as servants of God in every *way*, in much endurance, in afflictions, in distresses, in difficulties,

2Co 12:12 Indeed, the signs of an apostle have been done among you with all patient endurance, both signs and wonders and deeds of power.

2Th 1:4 so that we ourselves boast in you in the churches of God about your patient endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring,

2Th 3:5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts toward the love of God and toward the patient endurance of Christ.

1Ti 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee from these *things*, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patient endurance, gentleness.

2Ti 3:10 But you have faithfully followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

Tit 2:2 Older men are to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, *and* in endurance.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, in order that *after you* have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Heb 12:1 Therefore, *since* we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, putting aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, let us run with patient endurance the race that has been set before us,

Jas 1:3-4 *because you* know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

Jas 5:10-11 Brothers, take *as an* example of perseverance and endurance the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider blessed those who have endured. You have heard about the patient endurance of Job, and you saw the outcome from the Lord, that the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

2Pe 1:6 and with knowledge, self-control, and with self-control, patient endurance, and with patient endurance, godliness,

Rev 2:2-3 'I know your works, and your labor and patient endurance, and that you are not able to tolerate evil, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you found them *to be* false. And you have patient endurance, and have endured *many things* because of my name, and have not become weary.

Rev 2:19 'I know your works, and your love, and faith, and service, and patient endurance—and your last works *are* greater than the first.

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept the word of my patient endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to put to the test those who live on the earth.

Rev 13:10 If anyone *is going* into captivity, into captivity he goes. If anyone *is* to be killed by the sword, by the sword he *is* to be killed. Here is the patient endurance and the faith of the saints.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patient endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith in Jesus.

STAND: HOMEWORK: Read these passages and pray them. Memorize at least one.

Luk 21:28 But *when* these *things* begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near!"

Luk 21:36 But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these *things that* are going to happen, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Rom 5:1 -2 Therefore, *because we* have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have *obtained* access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Rom 11:19 -20 Then you will say, "Branches were broken off in order that I could be grafted in." Well said! They were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand firm because of faith. Do not think arrogant *thoughts*, but be afraid.

Rom 14:4 Who are you, who passes judgment on the domestic slave belonging to someone else? To his own master he stands or falls, and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Rom 14:10 But why do you judge your brother? Or also, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

1Co 10:12 Therefore, the one who thinks that he stands must watch out lest he fall.

1Co 15:1 Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I proclaimed to you, which you have also received, in which you also stand,

1Co 16:13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act courageously, be strong.

2Co 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy, because by faith you stand firm.

Gal 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Eph 6:13-14 Because of this, take up the full armor of God, in order that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand. Stand therefore, girding your waist with truth, and putting on the breastplate of righteousness,

Php 4:1 So then, my beloved and greatly desired brothers, my joy and crown, thus stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, greets you, a slave of Christ always struggling on behalf of you in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

1Th 3:8 because now we live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

2Th 2:15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions which you were taught, whether by *spoken* word or by letter from us.

1Pe 5:12 Through Silvanus, the faithful brother (as I consider *him*), I have written to you briefly to encourage *you* and to attest that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

Jud 1:24 Now to the one who is able to protect you from stumbling and make *you* to stand before his glory blameless with exultation,

Rev 6:16 -17 And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Rev 12 The Woman and the Dragon

Rev 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun and *with* the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars,

Rev 12:2 and who was pregnant and was crying out *because she* was having birth pains, and was in torment to give birth.

Who is this woman? She is clothed with the sun....The moon is under her feet...She wears a crown that has 12 stars...

Jdg 5:31 So may all your enemies perish, O Yahweh, but those who love him are like the rising sun at its brightest."

The Great Day of the Lord

Mal 4:1 "For look! The day *is* about to come, burning like an oven, and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The coming day will consume them," says Yahweh of hosts. "It will not leave behind for them root or branch.

Mal 4:2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, with healing in its wings, and you will go out and leap like fattened calves.

Mal 4:3 You will trample down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I *am* going to act," says Yahweh of hosts.

Mal 4:4 "Remember the instruction of my servant Moses, which I commanded him at Horeb to all Israel, the rules and regulations.

Mal 4:5 Look! I *am* going to send to you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of Yahweh!

Mal 4:6 And he will bring back *the* hearts of *the* fathers to *the* sons, and the hearts of *the* sons to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land *with* a ban."

Mat 13:41 The Son of Man will send out his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all the causes of sin and those who do lawless deeds,

Mat 13:42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

Mat 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear (Rev 2 & 3)

So, who is this woman? She wears a 12 starred crown which is a victor's crown—Yeshua is the victor. The apostolic government of Yahweh is on her head. Christ himself is her head. Christ is the head of the church (Eph 5:23). She has an apostolic government on her head—Yeshua Himself. The victor crown which is an overcoming crown. The Lord has overcome the enemy in the bride—her flesh, her soul and the dragon. She's in a beautiful place with the Lord. This woman is adorned with the sun—Yeshua is shining down on her—He is covering her. He has given her His light. She is clothed with the robe of righteousness. This woman represents what the church was meant to be. This is the church, a remnant at the end of the age. Christ has overcome her, through her and among her. The moon is under her feet. What does the moon represent? The moon is a false light...it is merely a ball of matter with no light. She has overcome what appears to be light, but isn't. Deception. It's false, lifeless. It's under her feet. The moon in Rev 12 is the enemy—the moon is under her feet.

1Co 15:25 For it is necessary for him to reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

^{Eph 1:22; Heb 2:8}
This woman looks like Yeshua. She is pregnant. She is having birth pains. She is crying out because she is in torment. Her relationship with Yeshua produces a male child who will shepherd all the nations with a rod of iron. She is like Hannah. Yahweh shut up Hannah's womb because He wanted her to have a son, but not just any son. He gave her a son that would be set apart for His purposes. A son who would have a specific mission.

1Sa 1:10 She *was* deeply troubled, so she prayed to Yahweh and wept bitterly.

1Sa 1:11 She made a vow and said: "O Yahweh of hosts, if you will look with compassion on the misery of your female servant, and will remember me, and not forget your female servant, and will give to your female servant a male child then I will give him to Yahweh all the days of his life, and a razor will never pass over his head."

Hannah couldn't get pregnant until she wanted what Yahweh wanted. The woman in Rev 12 is the right vessel for Yahweh to bring forth the male-child who will be born for a specific purpose like Samuel—to hear and proclaim the word of Yahweh. The male-child is going to come out of the woman, the bridal church. The relationship between the church and Yeshua produces an army of believers who have a specific call/ministry/mandate to go into the nations and stand and proclaim the truth. I believe the 2 witnesses are part of this army.

Rev 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven, and behold, a great fiery red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven royal headbands.

Rev 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars from heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, in order that whenever she gave birth to her child he could devour *it*.

Rev 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is going to shepherd (*some translations: rule*) all the nations with an iron rod, and her child was snatched away to God and to his throne.

That male child/vessel must be made ready. We can't make this happen, we can't do this in our own strength, according to religion. He won't just be given spiritual gifts. This vessel will operate out of the Holy Spirit. The dragon sees that this male child is going to be a problem. But it's more than that. Satan understands the hour and he knows that the woman's appearance is the certainty of a male child being born and he's waiting to devour that child. The woman's appearance is clear to Satan. He knows he has to stop this male child, this apostolic deliverer. The dragon takes his stand. She gives birth to a son.

Who is this male child? What do we know about him?

- He will shepherd, rule all the nations with an iron rod
- He will be snatched away to heaven
- He doesn't die...he shepherds the nations. So, what happens to him?

SNATCHED AWAY: to seize, catch up, snatch away This isn't describing death.

2Co 12:2 I know a man in Christ fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or outside the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven,

2Co 12:4 that he was caught up to paradise and heard words not to be spoken, which *it is* not permitted for a person to speak.

This male child will shepherd/rule the nations with an iron rod. Where else in scripture do we read this phrase: about ruling (shepherding) the nations with an iron rod?

Rev 2:26 And the one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, I will give him authority over the nations,

Rev 2:27 and "he will shepherd them with an iron rod; he will break *them* in pieces like jars made of clay,"

Who is promised to shepherd the nations with a scepter of iron? The one who conquers & keeps His works until the end.

Mat 10:22 and you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end—this one will be saved.

Mat 24:13 But the one who endures to the end—this person will be saved.

Mar 13:13 And you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end—this one will be saved.

This end-times church (bride) will give birth to a male child, to a vessel, an army, a people who is destined to shepherd/rule the nations with a scepter of iron. The male child comes out of the bride of Christ and has a distinct purpose. This army will be birthed according to that purpose just as Samuel and David and Joseph and Isaac were birthed according to divine purpose. A specific vessel for a specific purpose.

Rev 6:2 The rider on the white horse goes forth overcoming and to overcome. There will be some believers who will stand and Christ in them will overcome the one who is trying to overcome them. And others will overcome by being martyred. But the truth is: Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

In every way, the woman and the man-child overcome the dragon. Rom 8:22 says the whole creation has been groaning and longing for this. The promise in Rev 12 is to the woman—the bride and the male child will rule and reign with Christ. Rom 8:19 For the eagerly expecting creation awaits eagerly the revelation of the sons of Yahweh.

The child is snatched up to Yahweh and his throne Rev 14...standing on Mt Zion

Rev 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to Yahweh and to His throne.

This male-child are those who are one with Him, the sealed of Israel (Rev 7:1-8), and the elect of all nations (Rev 14:1),

Rev 7:3 saying, "Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the slaves of Yahweh on their foreheads."

Instead of the mark of the beast on the forehead, these receive the seal of Yahweh on their foreheads. This is a divine commissioning. It's a full measure of Christ in the vessel. Who does the male-child represent? Christ. Christ is the spirit of prophecy. It's all pointing to the Lord. Flesh and blood can't inherit the kingdom of Yahweh. They were pointing to someone beyond themselves. And the man-child is possessed by the Lord.

Eph 4:11 And he himself gave some *as* apostles and some *as* prophets and some *as* evangelists and some *as* pastors and teachers

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 until we all reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of Yahweh, to a mature man, to a measure of the maturity of the fullness of Christ,

This vessel will be a mature people possessed of the Lord who will move in Apostolic power and governmental authority. Yeshua is in them in fullness! He is living His life through them. As a result, they have come of the full measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ—both the woman and the male-child.

I believe the 2 witnesses are part of this man-child. They preach in Jerusalem for 3.5 years moving in power and great signs. Rev 11:11 And after the three and a half days, the breath of life from Yahweh entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here," and they went up into heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

The difference in the woman and the male-child is in the mission. The male child has a specific mission and the woman has a specific mission. The male-child must fulfill the ministry of apostolic divine authority. The divine authority to fulfill the apostolic ministry is not in the woman. It is ministry of divine apostolic authority that is specific to the male-child that we need to understand. It's very distinct how it is manifested—unlike anything we've ever seen or heard about.

Rev 14 is the divine commissioning where 144,000 stand on mt. Zion (I believe this is the male-child) and Rev 7, 144,000 is also the man child. This is all about the full measure of Christ in this vessel. The male-child isn't one person—It's made up of the nations. I don't believe it's literally 144,000, but it's the fullness of the measure of the Son. Who is in the male-child, who's possessing the male-child? Yeshua. Flesh and blood can't inherit the kingdom of Yahweh. These 2 groups aren't about Jew and Gentile...not about 12,000 of the 12 sons of Jacob. It's about the fact that Yeshua is living in them, He's possessing them. In so doing, they are walking in the fullness of the apostolic.

Eph 4:11 And he himself gave some *as* apostles and some *as* prophets and some *as* evangelists and some *as* pastors and teachers

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 until we all reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to a measure of the maturity of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14 so that we may no longer be infants, tossed about by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching, by the trickery of people, by craftiness with reference to the scheming of deceit.

He has chosen this apostolic army to represent Him in that hour. He will catch them up to his presence and commission them and appoint them to the ministry of divine authority. He will be in them as that and through them as that. Apostolic governmental, apostolic power. Yahweh on earth living His life through His sons and daughters! Christ is in them in that measure. They are possessed by the Son. He has chosen them to divinely represent Himself. Apostolic governmental, power, a master builder, but more than that. We have to stop looking at our flesh. Where we were born. Our past. Our failures. Our successes. It's not about us! It's about the Holy Spirit working in us to establish Christ in us. The key is Christ...not you.

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before Yahweh day and night.

Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him (*Satan*) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (*They loved Christ more than their own lives. They were willing to die.*)

Rev 12:12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time."

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the man-child.

Rev 12:14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she **was* nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Rev 12:15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

Rev 12:16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

Rev 12:17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children (*she gives birth to more than one man-child—it's an army of apostolic divine prophetic men and women*), who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Yeshua.

The kingdom is even now Christ's, but it is hidden, even as He is. One day, it will be manifested. For a long time David was the anointed king of Israel, but Saul sat on the throne until the hour came when the tribes of Israel made David their chosen king.

Rev 12:5 the woman gave birth to a man child who rules with a scepter of iron.

And the woman fled into an uninhabited region where she has a place that has been prepared for her. Wedding imagery. She is taken to the bridal chamber that was prepared by Yahweh in order to provide for her. The ketubah is the marriage covenant where the bridegroom promises to prepare a place for his bride to be. He tells her that he will return for her. She's going to the place prepared for her by Yahweh. It's on this earth. It's a place of refuge. He will provide food and shelter for her for 3.5 years.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; but if not, I would have told you, because I am going away to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also.

The woman's readiness and the man-child's birthed triggers a war in heaven. Michael and his angels fight the dragon. Satan can't win. Gen 3:5 promises that Yeshua is going to crush his head. The war in heaven ends with Satan and his angels being cast down to the earth. Satan is cast out of heaven, which is part of the crushing of his head.

Rev 12:14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

What are the 2 wings?

Isa 40:28 Have you not known, or have you not heard? Yahweh *is* the God of eternity, *the* creator of the ends of the earth! He is not faint, and he does not grow weary! There is no searching his understanding.

Isa 40:29 He gives power to the weary, and he increases power for the powerless.

Isa 40:30 Even young people will be faint and grow weary, and *the* young will stumble, exhausted.

Isa 40:31 But those who wait for Yahweh shall renew *their* strength. They shall go up *with* wings like eagles; they shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and not be faint.

Psa 91 is full of metaphors—the lion with its roar and strength and authority; the snake with its stealthy, slimy approach through the grass; the attacks at night; the devastating plague; the fowler's snare; the eagle's wing; the tent. This Psalm is filled with the truth of Yahweh's power, love, and presence as a loving Father who is waiting and longing to be called upon.

Rev 12, Satan unleashes a flood of accusations. Because he was kicked out of heaven, he no longer can accuse believers. But he accuses the woman on earth.

Satan spews accusations out of his mouth trying to sweep her away by this flood of slander, lies, accusations. But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon unleashed against her. Psalm 2 is clear that at the end of the age, Yahweh will conquer the accusations of the dragon. The dragon hates the fact that the woman is fully possessed by Yahweh. The woman will be hated by those who are deceived. Those who understand, help the woman.

When the dragon sees that he can't take her out, he's angry with the woman and goes off to war with the rest of her children...those who keep Yahweh's commandments and does not love their lives unto death. The safe place is where the judgments of Yahweh can't touch her. A place like Goshen in Egypt. The judgments of Yahweh are not aimed at the church or the man-child. The judgments are destined for the antichrist and his followers.

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these *things* the wrath of Yahweh is coming on the sons of disobedience.

1Th 1:10b Yeshua, the one who delivers us from the coming wrath.

1Th 5:9 because God did not appoint us for wrath, but for the obtaining of salvation through our Lord, Yeshua, the Christ,

Exo 11:7 'But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not *even* bark, whether against man or beast, that you may understand how the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.'

I'm not saying that we won't suffer. But I am saying that Yahweh's judgment and wrath will not be poured out on us, the woman or her offspring. The woman (church/bride) will be attacked but Yahweh provides her a way of escape like He did for the Jews in Egypt. The dragon wants to destroy her, but can't so he goes after those who are called to go into the nations under the control of the antichrist. The woman's children/offspring aren't necessarily in that relational safe place that the woman is. When Yahweh calls the man-child there will be those who won't accept his invitation. Everyone chooses for themselves

whether or not they want to be part of the bride or not and when Yahweh calls the man-child there will be some who won't accept it.

There's a beast that comes up out of the sea. Rev 11 gives us an example of this man-child as we look at the witnesses. The man-child vessel will be apostolic prophetic witnesses to the lost.

Rev 11:1 And a measuring rod similar in appearance to a staff (*a staff is a surveyor's tool*) was given to me, saying, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship in it.

Rev 11:2 And leave out the courtyard outside of the temple, and do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city *for* forty two months.

Rev 11:3 And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy *for* one thousand two hundred sixty days, dressed in sackcloth."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Yahweh tells John to measure the temple & the altar—the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. This is the measurement of Christ.

Eph 4:11 And he himself gave some *as* apostles and some *as* prophets and some *as* evangelists and some *as* pastors and teachers

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 until we all reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to a measure of the maturity of the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 so that we may no longer be infants, tossed about by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching, by the trickery of people, by craftiness with reference to the scheming of deceit.

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow into him *with reference to all things*, who is the head, Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined together and held together by every supporting ligament, according to the working by measure of each single part, the growth of the body makes for the building up of itself in love.

The church won't bow to the dragon because of the relationship we have with the Lord in the holy of holies. The cross is in the outer court. For those in an outer court relationship, the fullness of the measurement of Christ won't be in them. The woman and the man-child is not in the outer court; they have moved into the holy of holies, which is the bridal chamber, so to speak. It's a marriage, an intimate relationship with Yeshua that brings forth a man child. The outer court is not intimacy with Christ. It's salvation. In order for the woman to birth the man-child, it will require a relationship with the Lord where people have chosen to enter in. We've all been invited to salvation, but some will not accept His free gift. In the same way, not all who are invited to bridal partnership will accept His invitation.

Mat 22:14 For many are called but few *are* chosen.

We are as near to the Lord as we want to be!

Jas 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners, and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded!

We are invited into the most Holy Place. Yeshua ripped the veil so we can all come to His Father. If we're in outer court, that's because that's where we choose to be.

Rev 11:2 "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread underfoot the holy city for forty-two months.

The outer court was given to the nations—Gentiles are symbolic of the heathen. But we are a royal priesthood and holy nation. At the end of the age, it will be clear there's a people who have lost their own identity and have truly become a new creation. They are a Royal priesthood and a holy nation, a possession of the Lord.

Rev 11:3 "And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Divine authority. They will be called to a ministry of divine, apostolic, prophetic authority which is the same Spirit and power that enabled Elijah, Moses and John the baptist to do what they did. No matter what we believe as to who they are. What matters is who is coming through them. Yahweh is the apostle, prophet, pastor teacher, evangelist. He will be in the man-child in full measurement and He is shining. I'm not saying the two witnesses aren't Elijah and Moses. I'm saying it's not about the human—it's about Yahweh possessing a people.

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

For 3.5 years the 2 witnesses will prophesy. Yeshua's ministry was 3.5 years. This will be unlike anything ever seen. This is Eph 4! The 2 witnesses are clothed in sackcloth. There's mourning. Death is coming. These are the 2 olive trees and 2 lampstands who have taken their stand before the Lord of the earth.

Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.

Rev 11:6 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying (3.5 years); and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

They are possessed by the Lord himself. Greater than Moses, Samuel, King David, Enoch. He sends the 2 witnesses to the city crying out repent or perish—that is their message. Yahweh's nature is to be long suffering. If they will not receive the Lamb and His message of forgiveness and they try to kill the 2 witnesses, then they will be killed.

Rev 11:7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

The final chapter of human history kicks in at the end of their ministry. After 3.5 years, the beast will make war with them...but not until their testimony is finished. Yeshua couldn't be killed until he finished the work Yahweh gave him. I believe there are other witnesses in other places—the 144,000.

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Modern day Jerusalem is called Sodom and Egypt by Yahweh! What will Jerusalem be guilty of at the end of the age?

What was the sin of Sodom?

Gen 19 homosexuality

Ezek 16:49 -50 "Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw *it*."

Sin of Egypt? Idolatry—worshipping other gods

Num 33:4 while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn whom the LORD had struck down among them. The LORD had also executed judgments on their gods.

Rev 11:9 Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.

Rev 11:10 And those who dwell on the earth *will* rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Rev 11:11 But after the three and a half days, (they are dead dead) the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them.

Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud (great) voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud (the cloud of witnesses), and their enemies watched them.

Rev 11:13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city (Jerusalem) fell (huge destruction); seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Terrified, they gave glory to the Elohim of heaven! That is a description of the man-child's unique mission. Man-child must fulfill Christ's ministry of divine authority for 3.5 years. The woman is taken to a safe place for 3.5 years. The man-child is taken to the areas where the judgment and wrath of Yahweh is coming and they're the instruments of its coming.

Mal 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger (*the man-child*), and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

Mal 3:17 "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him." (*I will protect them as a father protects his own son—the man-child*)

Mal 3:18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

The Man-child is in need of protection. They will die quickly if Yahweh allows his judgments and wrath to come on them. So they are sealed and protected by Yahweh.

SHORT REVIEW:

REV 12 The woman and the dragon. Gives birth to a man-child who is caught up into the throne room. This is a John the Baptist company of people. Perhaps the 144,000 in Rev 7 (Jews) and the 144,000 in Rev 14 (the nations)? The dragon and his army are kicked out of heaven to the earth. He tries to attack the woman (the bride) but is unsuccessful. Yahweh has prepared a place for her in the wilderness. Sends the wings of an eagle to help her escape. The earth opens its mouth and swallows the flood. The dragon realizes it can't destroy the bride so it goes after her other children.

REV 13 the beast comes up out of the sea. The dragon (satan) gives his authority to the beast. The people worship satan and the antichrist. A second beast (the false prophet) comes up out of the earth. He had horns like a lamb but spoke like the dragon. He deceives the earth to worship the antichrist. Makes a statute of the antichrist that he gives breath so that it speaks. Kills those who refuse to worship the statute of the beast. The number of the beast is 666---man, man, man.

REV 14 the 144,000 bought from the nations sing a new song before the throne that no one can sing/learn.

Rev 14:4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

3 angels are sent to the earth: 1st angel spreads the gospel across the earth. 2nd declares Babylon is fallen. 3rd warns the consequences of taking the mark of the beast—which is all about allegiance/worship of the beast. This is followed by one like the son of man wearing a golden crown gathers a harvest on the earth. An angel gathers the clusters of grape from the earth and throws them in a winepress that was outside of the city and blood came out—up to the bridle of a horse for a distance of 200 miles.

REV 15 Seven angels are given 7 bowls of wrath to pour out on the earth.

REV 16: 7 BOWLS OF WRATH are poured out:

1. Malignant sores on those who have the mark
2. The sea becomes blood and all sea animals die
3. Springs of water become blood (the angel of waters worships Yahweh declaring that his judgments are righteous)
4. The sun scorches men with fire
5. The throne of the beasts and his kingdom is darkened which causes them to gnaw their tongues due to the intense pain this causes. How does darkness cause pain? (It sounds like they lose their minds). This reminds us of the plague of darkness in Egypt which was the 9th plague (Ex 10:21-29). It also reminds me of the 4th trumpet in Rev 8:12 where the sun, moon and stars are partially destroyed. This is common description of the day of the LORD: Isa 13:10; Joel 2:10; 3:15; Amos 8:9; Habakkuk 3:11. "Darkness is a symbol of judgment" –1 Sam 2:9; Amos 5:20; Joel 2:2; Zeph 1:15. This is a taste of the final judgment when unbelievers will be "cast into the outer darkness," where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"
6. The river Euphrates is dried up to prepare a way for the kings of the east who will try to make war against Yeshua and his people (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30).
7. The 7th bowl is poured out on the air. Lightning and peals of thunder. A great earthquake splits Jerusalem in 3 parts. The cup of wrath is poured on Babylon. Every island flees and every mountain disappears. Huge hailstones weighing about 100 lbs each fall on men. They blaspheme Yahweh because of the hailstones.

Rev 16:12-16

We see the River Euphrates mentioned as drying up today. What's east of Israel? Babylon. It's the Medes and the Persians, the Babylonians.

Rev 16:17-21

There are 3 sets of judgments consisting of 7 judgments—the first layer of seven (7 seals), the second layer of seven (7 trumpets)... Here we're in the third layer of seven (7 bowls of wrath).

THE SEVEN SEALS:

The First Seal (Rev 6:2) *"And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer."* This first seal introduces the antichrist onto the scene as a rider of a white horse. This rider wears a crown and will deceive many with talks of peace, but he will wage war against the saints.

The Second Seal (Rev. 6:4) *"And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword."* Despite the promises of peace from the antichrist, war will break out after this seal breaks. A red rider on a horse takes peace from the earth. As a result, people slay each other.

The Third Seal (Rev 6:5) *"When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come!' And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand."* A rider on a black horse will spread famine throughout the earth, which causes starvation on the earth.

The Fourth Seal (Rev 6:7-8) *"When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, 'Come!' And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth."* Death, riding on a pale horse, wipes out one-fourth of the earth's population.

The Fifth Seal (Rev 6:9) *"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne."* Those martyred will ask Yahweh how long until He judges the earth. They are told to wait a little while longer and given a white robe.

The Sixth Seal (Rev 6:12-14) *"When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place."* Catastrophic natural events take place from an earthquake, the sun turns black, the moon turns blood-red, and mountains and islands disappear.

The Seventh Seal (Rev 8:1) *"When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour."* Silence fills heaven. Reminiscent of the Sabbath day (7th day) of rest Yahweh took on the 7th day after creation, a brief pause occurs before the following judgments.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

The First Trumpet (Rev 8:7) *"The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up."* Hail, fire, and blood will rain down on the earth and wipe out one-third of all plant life.

The Second Trumpet (Rev 8:8) *"The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood."* A burning mountain falls into the sea, turns one-third of the ocean to blood, and one-third of all sea life dies.

The Third Trumpet (Rev 8:10) *"The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water."* A star called wormwood poisons one-third of all the fresh water supply.

The Fourth Trumpet (Rev 8:12) *"The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night."* One-third of the moon, stars, and sun darkens.

The Fifth Trumpet (Rev 9:3-11) *"Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. And in those days people*

will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them. In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon." Supernatural evil locusts with human faces, long hair, lion's teeth, and the power of a scorpion sting plague and sting nonbelievers for five months. Those who are stung will wish for death.

The Sixth Trumpet (Rev 9:12-18) "The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come. Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths." Four fallen angels are released and wipe out people from sulfur and fire pouring out of their mouths. They manage to wipe out one-third of mankind.

The Seventh Trumpet (Rev 11:15) "Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." Another break from the plagues, and onto the seven bowls of judgment, 24 elders in heaven declare it's time to destroy those who destroy the earth. The temple in heaven opens, featuring the Ark of the Covenant.

REV 16: SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH:

1. Malignant sores on those who have the mark
2. The sea becomes blood and all sea animals die
3. Springs of water become blood (the angel of waters worships Yahweh declaring that his judgments are righteous)
4. The sun scorches men with fire
5. The throne of the beasts and his kingdom is darkened which causes them to gnaw their tongues due to the intense pain this causes. How does darkness cause pain? (It sounds like they lose their minds). This reminds us of the plague of darkness in Egypt which was the 9th plague (Ex 10:21-29). It also reminds me of the 4th trumpet in Rev 8:12 where the sun, moon and stars are partially destroyed. This is common description of the day of the LORD: Isa 13:10; Joel 2:10; 3:15; Amos 8:9; Habakkuk 3:11. "Darkness is a symbol of judgment" –1 Sam 2:9; Amos 5:20; Joel 2:2; Zeph 1:15. This is a taste of the final judgment when unbelievers will be "cast into the outer darkness," where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"
6. The river Euphrates is dried up to prepare a way for the kings of the east who will try to make war against Yeshua and his people (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30).
7. The 7th bowls is poured out on the air. Lightning and peals of thunder. A great earthquake splits Jerusalem in 3 parts. The cup of wrath is poured on Babylon. Every island flees and every mountain disappears. Huge hailstones weighing about 100 lbs each fall on men. They blaspheme Yahweh because of the hailstones. This reminds us of the hail plague in Egypt.

Rev 16:12 The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

Rev 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

Rev 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before Yahweh, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

The kings of the east are the ones who are going to meet at the place which is called Har-Magedon. The Hebrew word: Har-Magedon means: Har means mountain. Megiddo is a valley; it's not a mountain.

Rev 19:11-21 tells us very clearly that when Yeshua returns, he will do so to end the conflict of Har-Magedon. and defeat the beast, the antichrist. According to Rev 16:16, this event occurs at Har-Magedon.

Zech 12:9 -11 "And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. 11 In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

The final conflict occurs at Jerusalem, not Megiddo. Megiddo is referenced only to compare the awful mourning that will result in His coming to Jerusalem. Not only does Zech 12 place the final battle where the nations see the risen, pierced Christ at Jerusalem, but verse 11 tells us clearly that Megiddo is a plain, not a mountain! Yeshua returns to a mountain! Har-Magedon is Jerusalem. Har-Magedon is a reference to the *Har-Moad*, which is the place where the Divine Council, the sons of GOD met.

So, at the end of time, the forces of evil—the forces of the antichrist, the primary world leader and all his forces, the hordes that are associated with the east (Babylon)...are going to march on Jerusalem, which is Yahweh's holy mountain, the place of His Divine council. And that is where the final confrontation happens. And this final battle is going to determine once and for all time, to every person alive and those dead, to every angel and demon the answer to the question: Who is the Most High Elohim?

PSALM 89:5 The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. 6 For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? 7 In the council of the holy ones (the Divine council, the sons of ELOHIM), Yahweh is greatly feared; He is more awesome than all who surround Him.

Zec 14:3 Then Yahweh will go forth and fight against those nations, like when he fights on a day of battle.

Zec 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on *the* east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in half, from east to west, *by* a very great valley; and half of the mountain will withdraw toward the north, and the other half toward the south.

Zec 14:5 And you will flee *by* the valley of my mountains, because the valley of *the* mountains will reach to Azal, and you will flee like you fled from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. And Yahweh my ELOHIM will come, *and* all *the* holy ones with him.

The Rider on a White Horse

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it was called "Faithful" and "True," and with justice he judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 Now his eyes *were* a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many royal headbands having a name written that no one except he himself knows.

Rev 19:13 And *he was* dressed in an outer garment dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of GOD.

Rev 19:14 And the armies *that are* in heaven, dressed in clean, white fine linen, were following him on white horses.

Rev 19:15 And out of his mouth came a sharp sword, so that with it he could strike the nations. And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the wine of the furious wrath of GOD, the All-Powerful.

Rev 19:16 And he has a name written on his outer garment and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

At the tower of Babel, Yahweh disinherited the nations of the earth as His co-ruling family, which was what He had wanted in Eden. Instead, He chose Abram to be that family. The disinherited nations were put under the authority of lesser gods, sons of ELOHIM. When they became corrupt, they were sentenced to mortality (Psa 82:6-8)

PSALM 82:1-8 A Psalm of Asaph. God [*elohim*] has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods [*elohim*]. He holds judgment: 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6 I said, "You are gods [*elohim*], sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men [*adam*] you shall die, and fall like any prince." 8 Arise, O God [*elohim*], judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

The OT is basically a record of the long war between Yahweh and the gods ([*'elohim*]), and between Yahweh's children and the nations, to re-establish the original plan of Eden. The victory at Har-Magedon of Yahweh over the Beast (antichrist) who directed the nations against Yahweh's holy city is the event that removes the fallen gods/elohim from their thrones. It is the day of Yahweh, the time when all that is wicked is judged and when those who believe and overcome replace the disloyal sons of Yahweh. The kingdom of Yahweh on the earth is then ready for a full transformation under a new divine council whose members include glorified believers called the sons of GOD/ELOHIM!

Mat 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Luk 20:36 for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 17 The Great Prostitute and the Beast. This harlot is a world-wide economic system called Babylon. Today, the city of Babylon itself is not a big deal anymore. There is no Babylonian Empire—not yet. This system is the Deut 32 rebellion in its fullness.

PSALM 82:1 A Psalm of Asaph. God [*'elohim*] has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods [*'elohim*] He holds judgment: 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men [*'adam*] you shall die, and fall like any prince." 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

So, it shouldn't surprise us that the judgments that are (whether it's the seals, trumpets or the bowls) on the nations.

They're judgments on the people who have aligned themselves with the harlot Babylon. And ultimately, the gods of those nations are going to lose total control. They're going to be destroyed. They will no longer govern the nations. Remember, as you read the book of Revelation and you see these judgments being played out, another element of this that's being described is the final death of the gods. This is when the judgment of Psalm 82 comes to pass. And these chapters (17-18) are leading up to and deal with the fall of Babylon and the death of its gods. It's a battle for the seat of divine authority. This is the ultimate conflict between the Deut. 32 Babel system and Yahweh himself. And so when we read through the book of Revelation, if we understand what the Deut 32 worldview is, it's easy to see that this battle is between the Babel/Babylonian one-world system and Yahweh reclaiming the earth. Revelation 17 and 18 are setting the stage for the ultimate conflict over who is the Most High. Who is the Most High? Is it going to be the beast and that system? Or is it going to be Yahweh?

Rev 17:1 -3 The Great Prostitute and the Beast

Blasphemous names are spiritual competitors. They're the names of the gods and the other nations and they're in the wilderness. This is about spiritual adultery, for spiritual unfaithfulness, for worshiping other gods.

This is the Deut 32 worldview: It's the gods of the world that are going to fight against the GOD/ELOHIM of Israel and his church. It's the final judgment of the gods. Revelation contrasts two cities, Jerusalem and Babylon, as a bride and prostitute respectively (17:5; 21:2). This woman is the Babylonian one-world economic, religious, political system. In Ezekiel 28, the seat of the gods, we see the Divine Council. But the other thing in Ezekiel 28 are the gemstones, which represent economic wealth and prosperity and how this is used to bring other nations under the power and influence of Tyre in that chapter.

That idea of using wealth to entice other nations into relationships and ultimately into idolatrous relationships is going to be part of what's happening here in Rev 17 & 18. It's going to be part of the description of this massive world system. And ultimately, it's going to emerge as the Babel world system, because Babylon is the last power standing that actually

succeeds in destroying the people of Yahweh. It's going to be Babylon and that ties back very obviously to the Deut 32 worldview.

The Babylonian harlot system is seduction. It's idolatry. It's spiritual unfaithfulness. And ultimately, it's the Deuteronomy 32 rebellion. The Babylonian harlot is a deliberate contrast with the new Jerusalem as the bride.

Israel gets seduced by the Babylonian harlot, which is Deut 32 is the first time we read that Israel actually got seduced to worship other gods. So, Israel gets seduced by the gods of the nations. The gods come after Yahweh's children to make them disloyal. And so Israel *becomes* what Babylon already *is*—*unfaithful, a harlot*. They're not the one that is going to go out and seducing other nations. She's not the harlot (like some commentators claim).

The harlot of Rev 17 is not a victim. She is the instigator of chaos. Any nation or person who cooperates with the Babel system is committing spiritual idolatry. But the great harlot is Babylon. She's the engine of chaos, the engine of anti-Eden, the one propelling the ruining of all nations, and especially targeting the people of Yahweh to turn against him as sort of the final end game of the Deut 32 rebellion.

Rev 17:1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,

Rev 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality."

Rev 17:3 And he carried me away into the wilderness in the Spirit, and I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

We see the great prostitute seated on many *waters*...How can the woman be on many waters and also be in a wilderness where she's sitting? Many waters. We don't live in the seas. We don't live in the waters. They're unpredictable. Humans can't live there. It's chaotic. It's exactly what Eden wasn't.

Deserts are places where you die. They don't have enough food or water. They're terrible. You suffer there. Well, that's the opposite of Eden. All of these things go together. Because they're all ways to describe the Deut 32 worldview—(the rebellion at the tower of Babel), which caused all the nations of the world to come under the dominion of gods who hate Yahweh and his people.

The description of the beast in Rev 17 upon which the prostitute rides is from Daniel 7. If we look at Daniel 7, the fourth beast is the one whose description is prophesied there in Daniel 7 that bears a resemblance to Revelation 17. The fourth beast of Daniel 7 is the one who persecutes faithful Israelites and Jews. The fourth kingdom is very obviously Rome. It's not Jerusalem. The fourth kingdom gets destroyed by the kingdom made without hands—the kingdom of Yahweh.

When do we see the kingdom of Yahweh come to the earth? That would be during the time of Yeshua, which of course is during the time of the Roman empire. Again, all these things fit, even though it gets confusing when you're looking at individual pieces.

Rev 17:15 And he said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and crowds and nations and languages.

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns that you saw and the beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked, and they will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

Rev 17:17 For God put into their hearts to carry out his purpose and to make a unanimous decision and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

Rev 17:18 And the woman that you saw is the great city that has sovereignty over the kings of the earth.

Where do we get those? Deuteronomy 32 and the Tower of Babel incident.

Revelation 17 in Relation to the Fallen sons of Yahweh

This harlot is a world-wide economic system called Babylon. This Babylon system is the result of the Deut 32 rebellion. Deut. 32:7-12

The Judgment of the gods: Psalm 82:1-8

The seals, trumpets and the bowls of wrath are against the people who align themselves with the beast and the harlot Babylon. The tribulation will end with the judgment of the gods and they will die like a human. As we read the book of Revelation, we see these judgments being played out, but another thing that's being described is the final death of the gods. This is when the judgment of Psalm 82 will be fulfilled. Rev. 17-18 lead up to and deal with the fall of Babylon (the fall of Babel and the death of its gods). That battle is going to take place at Har-Magedon in Jerusalem. It will show every living being who is the one true Elohim! This is the ultimate conflict between the Deut. 32 Babylonian system and Yahweh himself.

Rev 17:1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,

Rev 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality."

Rev 17:3 And he carried me away into the wilderness in the Spirit, and I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

The blasphemous names are the names of the gods and the nations who worship them. And they're in the wilderness. This is about spiritual adultery. This is the Deut 32 worldview. It's the gods of the world that are going to fight against the ELOHIM of Israel and His people.

The book of Revelation contrasts two cities, Jerusalem and Babylon; Jerusalem as a bride and Babylon as a prostitute (17:5; 21:2). This woman is the Babylonian one-world economic, religious, political system.

Ezekiel 28 describes the Divine Council, the seat of the gods. We see the Prince of Tyre. I believe this is a human ruler (a type of the antichrist) and I believe it's also Lucifer. We see Eden, the mountain of Yahweh and the garden of Yahweh in Ezek 28. We see gemstones (*9 of the 12 are found in the breastplate of the High Priest*). The antichrist will take his place as a High Priest and a king. These gemstones represent using wealth to entice other nations into relationships and ultimately into idolatrous relationships.

That is what is happening here in Rev 17 & 18. This will be part of the description of this massive world system. And ultimately, it's going to emerge as the Babylonian world system. Babylon is the last power standing that actually succeeds in physically and spiritually destroying the people of Yahweh. The Babylonian harlot system is seduction. It's idolatry. It's spiritual unfaithfulness. And ultimately, it's the Deut. 32 rebellion that happened at the tower of Babel.

The Babylonian harlot is a deliberate contrast with the new Jerusalem as the bride. In Revelation, the point of reference is to a specific city. It's not to a country; it's not to a region. It's a specific city (and system) that seduces others by means of idolatry and injustice. Deut 32:7-18

So Israel gets seduced by the gods of the nations. Israel is not the harlot (like some commentators claim). The gods of the nations come after the Jews to make them disloyal. And so Israel becomes what Babylon already is. There isn't any passage in the OT where Israel goes out and makes the other nations idolaters. Babel started it...Babylon is Babel. (Gen 10 & 11)

The harlot of Rev 17 is not a victim. She's the instigator of chaos, the one pursuing the ruining of all the nations, and especially targeting Yahweh's people (*both Jew and Christian*) to turn against Him as the final end game of the Deut 32 rebellion. Any nation or person who cooperates with the Babel system is committing spiritual idolatry.

Rev 17: 1-3, the great prostitute is seated on many *waters*...How can the woman be seated on many waters and also be seated on a scarlet beast in the wilderness? We don't live in the sea. We don't live in the waters. They are dark and scary. They're unpredictable. There's no oxygen there. Humans can't live there. It's chaotic. It's exactly what Eden wasn't.

John's talking about waters. He's talking about deserts. He's talking about prostitution. He's talking about a beast that comes from the waters and it's got all these heads, which are nations and crowns. Deserts are places where you die. They don't have enough food or water. They're terrible. You suffer there. That's the opposite of Eden. This is what Satan and the antichrist offer the world. Because of the love of money, the nations surrender to their deception.

All of these things go together. Because they're all ways to describe the Deut 32 worldview, the rebellion at the tower of Babel which caused Yahweh to "disown" the nations. He divided their languages, which caused the people to scatter like Yahweh told them to do originally. This created the various nations. Yahweh assigned gods/sons of Yahweh to oversee the nations. Those gods rebelled and turned the nations against Yahweh (Psa 82).

Rev 17:15 The prostitute is the great city that has rulership over the kings of the earth! The gods of Deut 32 & Ps 82 and the Tower of Babel rebellion brought this Babylonian one-world economic, religious, governmental system.

In the midst of it all, we're being invited into communion with Yahweh. a relationship like Yeshua has always had with the Father. John 14: the Father and I will make our home inside of you.... In other words, you won't have your own relationship with Me. He says, I'm bringing you into the relationship that I've had with My Father forever! That's what John 17 is all about.

Rev 17:3; 12-14

Dan. 7:4-7 describes the source of the 7 heads. Dan. 7:7-24 describes the source of the 10 horns.

Dan. 7 identifies the 10 horns with kings, and Rev. 17:12 does the same.

The kings' reign with the beast will last for a short time referred to as "one hour." The time period is parallel to Dan. 4, where it refers to the time during which Yahweh caused King Nebuchadnezzar to lose his mind and become like a beast and eat grass. But Rev 17:13-14 tells us that Yahweh is Sovereign even over the authority of ungodly kings who partner with the beast and goes to war against Yeshua. The phrase "one hour" is repeated in Rev 18 with reference to the time in which "Babylon the Great" is judged by Yahweh (18:10, 17, 19)

Rev 17:18 And the woman that you saw is the great city that has sovereignty over the kings of the earth.

The woman in vs 18 can't be Jerusalem, but it fits Babylon and Rome very well. At no time in history has Jerusalem ever had dominion over the kings of the earth. We can say that about Babylon. You can say that about Rome. Again, it's very clear that the beast the woman is riding on is Babylon.

Yahweh's enemy is the Deut 32 & Psa 82 thing—the nations of the world who align themselves with the gods/the beast, who control the nations and has seduced the nations of the world into worshipping him. Rev 15-18 are setting the stage for Armageddon. And Armageddon is about the nations aligned against Yahweh and his people at Jerusalem, just like Rev 20 describes. Yahweh is angry with the gods because He assigned them to watch over the nations and teach them His ways. But they rebelled. And Yahweh warned the Jews not to worship other gods in Deut 4:19-20 & 17:2-3. The host of heaven are called *elohim* (gods), and these gods have been assigned to the nations.

Yahweh chose Abram (Deut 4:19-20) to be his own, and He has judged—the other nations. Deut 32:8 "When the Most High divided up the nations, he divided them up according to the sons of Yahweh. Israel is Yahweh's own portion." Yahweh makes Abram a promise in Gen 12. The "star" language—it's not just quantity. It refers to a quality. It's the language of glorification. He said that the nations that He "divorced", wouldn't be forgotten. Yahweh told Eve that one day there would be a son born in her lineage who will undo the effects of the disaster that Adam & Eve caused in the Garden of Eden. He told Abram that one of his descendants would be the means through which all of the other nations will be brought back into His family. Yahweh made a way for any citizen of another nation to join Israel. But to do so they must abandon the other gods. They must confess that Yahweh is the Elohim of all Elohim and they will worship no other god. They will trust no other. There are Gentiles who converted to Judaism.

In Psalm 82, the nations set about trying to seduce Yahweh's people into abandoning Him. They tempt them to idolatry. The gods enslave the nations and make them dependent on them. They create so much chaos and fear that the people become paralyzed and don't even consider leaving them, because the gods will retaliate. They'll destroy them. Satan and the gods rule over the nations in a fear-based, power-based, abuse-based, chaos-based system. That is what they've done and what Satan will do through the Babylonian end-times system, and this is why Yahweh is angry with the gods.

REVELATION 18 3 Major sections:

1. an announcement of Babylon's coming destruction is followed by a command to believers to flee 18:1-8,
2. 3 funeral dirges are pronounced by the 3 groups most affected—the kings, the merchants and sea traders 18:9-19.
3. The heavens and the saints are called to rejoice over her downfall 18:20-24

Rev. 18:1 After these things I saw another angel descending from heaven, who had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. (*in contrast, the anti-Christ, false prophet are never spoken of as having glory*).

Rev 18:2 And he cried out with a powerful voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and it has become a dwelling place of demons and a haunt of every unclean spirit and a haunt of every unclean bird and a haunt of every unclean and detested animal. (*this angel repeats the cry in Rev 14:8 "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great!" This is also fulfillment of Isa 21:9 that adds, "all the images of the gods lie shattered." Including the idol of the antichrist in Rev 13:14-15*).

Rev 18:3 For all the nations have drunk from the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the power of her sensuality." (*We see the merchants—the people who have become rich through sin and power. They will use their wealth to victimize and enslave others. Now we see the economic element of Babylon.*)

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out from her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins, and so that you will not receive her plagues, (*Believers cannot partner with that system. In any way.*)

Rev 18:5 because her sins have reached up to heaven, and Yahweh has remembered her crimes.

Rev 18:6 Pay back to her as she herself also paid out, and pay back double according to her deeds; in the cup that she mixed, mix double for her. (*do to her as she has done to others. Double speaks of the severity of her deeds and judgments*).

Rev 18:7 As much as she glorified herself and lived in luxury, give to her so much torment and mourning, because in her heart she said, 'I sit as a queen, and am not a widow, and I will never see mourning!' (*First, she has glorified herself rather than Yahweh. Second, she is characterized by "sensuous luxury", which speaks of her sensuous living and lavish luxury. Rome has always been known for both. I sit as a queen—not a widow: what a contrast: a harlot claiming to be a queen. We see the entitlement and the desire to exploit the rest of the world in order to achieve extravagant wealth.*)

Rev 18:8 Because of this her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine—and she will be burned up with fire, because the Lord Yahweh who passes judgment on her is powerful!" (*her plagues—not Yahweh's plagues. She has brought the plagues on herself and they will overtake her like a swift flood—in one day! Isa 47:9 states the same.*)

SECOND SECTION:

These 3 funeral songs are given by the 3 groups who have profited the most from this world-wide system: the kings who gain power and wealth; the merchants who shared the worldwide markets she created; and the sailors who carried her cargo over all the world. They have now lost all that she has provided, so their sorrow is not for Babylon but for their personal loss.

Rev 18:9 And the kings of the earth will weep and mourn over her, those who committed sexual immorality and lived sensually with her, (*those who benefited from her evil system*), when they see the smoke of her burning,

Rev 18:10 standing far off because of the fear of her torment, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon the powerful city, because in one hour your judgment has come!"

Rev 18:11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any more— (*all the merchants care about are themselves*)

Rev 18:12 cargo of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple cloth and silk and scarlet cloth and all kinds of scented wood and all kinds of ivory goods and all kinds of goods of precious wood and bronze and iron and marble

Rev 18:13 and cinnamon and amomum and incense and ointment and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine wheat flour and wheat and domesticated animals and sheep and horses and carriages and slaves and human lives. (*they are selling people—trafficking & human lives*)

Rev 18:14 "And the fruit your soul desires has departed from you, and all the luxury and the splendor has perished from you, and they will never find them anymore."

Rev 18:15 The merchants of these *things*, who became rich from them, will stand far off, weeping and mourning because of the fear of her torment,

Rev 18:16 saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, dressed in fine linen and purple cloth and scarlet cloth, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,

Rev 18:17 because in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!" And every shipmaster and every seafarer and sailors and all those who labor on the sea stood far off

Rev 18:18 and began to cry out *when they* saw the smoke of her burning, saying, "Who is like the great city?"

Rev 18:19 And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, in which all those who had ships on the sea became rich from her prosperity, because in one hour she has been laid waste!"

THIRD SECTION: note the contrast between the weeping of the ungodly and the rejoicing of the saints. The rejoicing takes place because Yahweh has judged sin and justice is being served.

Rev 18:20 Rejoice over her, heaven and the saints and the apostles and the prophets, because Yahweh has pronounced your judgment on her!" *(The heaven are the celestial beings in this book, the angels, elders, living creatures and saints. The prophets are probably not the OT prophets (if so, we would expect the order to be reversed: prophets then apostles.) The command is for everyone in heaven & the godly on earth to rejoice—don't judge Yahweh for judging the world the joy is not over the souls who are lost. But over the vindication of Yahweh's people and the honor of His name: Matt 6:9.)*

Rev 18:21 And one powerful angel picked up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "In this way Babylon the great city will be thrown down with violence, and will never be found again! *(Yahweh is the one who destroys Babylon through this powerful angel. For the final time, a powerful angel executes Yahweh's judgment on the earth. he picks up a boulder the size of a huge millstone—most likely weighing several tones. In a prophetic act, as in Rev 10:8,10; 11:1-2))*

Rev 18:22 And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute players and trumpeters will never be heard in you again! And every craftsman of every trade will never be found in you again! And the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again!

Rev 18:23 And the light of a lamp will never shine in you again! And the sound of a bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again! For your merchants were the most important people of the earth, because with your sorcery they deceived all the nations. *(the deception will involve black magic—sorcery)*

Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints and all those who had been slaughtered on the earth. *(This one world system will kill Christians and others. The word: slaughtered reminds us of 6:9 and the cries of the slaughtered souls under the altar crying out to Yahweh.)*

The heart of Babylonian culture is: I can do whatever I want, and my rights trump everyone else's. Sound familiar? Pleasure seeking societies always self-destruct. It's important that we heed the warning of 18:4: come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins! In the final days of this age, Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. It will happen in 2 stages: civil war (17:16) and the total destruction at the return of Christ 19:11-21. Babylon has been judged 18:20, and her punishment is just (16:16; 19:19-20).

The reasons for the terrible judgment on Babylon are presented again in 18:23b-24. There are 5 primary sins listed:

1. Idolatry
2. Immorality
3. Economic dictatorship
4. Sorcery
5. Murder

Rev 18:12 -13

The cargo: gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of ivory goods, all kinds of goods of precious wood and bronze and iron and marble.

Spices: cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense

Food: wine, olive oil, fine wheat flour, wheat

Animals: domesticated animals, sheep, horses

Objects: carriages, slaves and human lives. *(they are selling people)*

Jer. 50-51. They describe the destruction of Babylon as being during the time of the “day of the Lord.” Rev 18 says that when Yahweh destroys Babylon, no part of it will ever be used to build another city. The old Babylon was destroyed, but parts of it have been used to rebuild other cities.

“Babylon will suddenly fall and be broken,” (Jer 51:8).

“Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians’ pride, will be overthrown by Yahweh like Sodom and Gomorrah (Isa 13:19).

Once rebuilt, Babylon will be the seat of Satan, the governmental, religious and economic headquarters of the world during the tribulation.

Rev 18:4 -5 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Rev 18:16 -19 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; 17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, 18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?' 19 And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'

In one hour, she’s been destroyed! The kings, merchants and sailors stand off as the city is destroyed, weeping (Rev 18:9-17).

Rev 18:20 -21 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because Yahweh has pronounced judgment for you against her." Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.

Rev 18:8 "For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

Isa 13 & Jer 50-51 say her destruction will be permanent. Rev 18:21 says that she will not be found any longer....

Rev 18:22 "And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer;

Rev 18:23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

Rev 18:24 "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."

Because she slaughtered the people of Yahweh, she will be destroyed never to rise again. this marks the final destruction of the most harmful religious and governmental system in the history of mankind. It is also the destruction of the most influential city ever built. From the first Babel, Babylon has been a capital of Satan’s attack against Yahweh and the human race.

Just as Yahweh chose Jerusalem to be His headquarters to win the souls of people, Satan chose Babylon as his capital to destroy them. He moved his headquarters to Pergamum and then to Rome, where I believe it is today. During the second half of the tribulation, I believe, he will move it again to Babylon.

Once Babylon is destroyed, Yeshua will come and set up his kingdom in Jerusalem. Satan will be bound and unable to tempt the human race for 1,000 years. the Anti-Christ and the false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire alive. After 1,000 years, Satan will be released one last time to deceive the last generation of human beings and then forever he will be thrown into the lake of fire. This will end the conflict of the ages between Yahweh, Satan, and the gods for human souls. The great tragedy is the millions of souls that Satan has deceived through the ages. Rev. 18:4-5

Yahweh calls His people out of the city of Babylon before her destruction. This is at the end of the tribulation. This reminds me of Yahweh’s mercy when He sent 2 angels to bring Lot and his family out of Sodom before He destroyed Sodom. Those who participate in the sins of the Babylonian system—politically, economically or religious system—will be judged.

Homework: Read Isa 24-26

Babylon becomes the world economic center because it will be the dominant world empire. Thomas Jefferson said, “The more that the government gives you, the more it can take away.” If you come under the Babylonian system, then you will be dependent on it, it will control and strangle you. Once you submit to it, you give it the power to crush you, to control you and manipulate you. In order to get free from it, you will suffer greatly because that system won’t allow it. That’s what cults are about. They won’t allow you to leave. You have to give them all of our money, possessions etc. Babylon is described this way.

This goes back to Psalm 82 and Yahweh rebuking the gods for perverting the nations. This is the kind of abuse that Yahweh never intended to be part of this life. Yahweh is against all use of threats or force, any abusive power used by people over other people and also any use of threats or force, abusive power exercised by gods or demons. That is why the nations are described this way, both in Psalm 82 and Rev., and other passages. This is why the nations are described as evil, controlling, conquering nations. The gods of those nations are ruling over those nations.

In chapter 19, we see the battle of Armageddon where the beast will be locked up for 1,000 years. The antichrist and false prophet will be thrown alive into the lake of fire—forever. Rev 17-19 is an important part of the judgment of the gods that must happen before Yahweh reclaims the earth and His people. It’s all because of the promise of the Father to His Son: if He will die on a cross then the Father will give Him a bride—He will give him the nations. This is the inheritance of the Messiah—His inheritance is His people, His bride. At that time, the earth will be cleansed of the chaos that Satan and the gods brought to earth.

The earth will be made ready again (*garden of Eden was the first sacred space*) to be a sacred space for the true Elohim and His Son. The earth must be made ready. It must be made fit for the re-occupation of the true King, in a new Eden, with His own family, with the sons of Yahweh and that’s us!

We will rule and reign with Him as sons. At the end of the age, it’s ultimately about the gods getting what they deserve and the beast/Satan getting what it deserves. It’s about the annihilation of chaos. Chaos must be annihilated. It must be eliminated in totality. Shalom must fill the earth in order for the earth to be a place for the Prince of Shalom—Yeshua! When the Lord returns and sets up His throne (chapter 19), He’s going to be occupying a new Eden. And in this case, the new Eden is global—the whole world. Every nation. Every square inch of the planet has to be readied and cleansed—to be sacred space.

As I said before, I believe the key here is the Deut. 32 worldview (*Moses last message to the Jews—Yahweh assigned gods to the nations, chose Abram for himself but the Jews worshipped the gods instead but there is a day coming when Yahweh will judge His people and the gods*).

Overview: The destruction of Babylon described in Rev 17 & 18 will rid the world of the major evils that have plagued the human race for most of its history.

I personally believe chapter 17 & 18 are 2 distinct events. Not one and the same. The reasons for that are:

1. Rev 18 begins with “After this...” This indicates the events in 18 won’t happen until after the events in Rev 17.
2. “I saw another angel coming down from heaven (18:1).” This is a different angel from the one in chapter 17. Throughout Rev, when an angel fulfills his responsibility, we see a judgment take place on the earth. This angel has “great authority” and lights up the earth with his glory.
3. 17:16 says the harlot will be destroyed by the kings of the earth. But the Babylon of chapter 18 is destroyed by the judgments of Yahweh.
4. The kings who destroy Babylon in 17 rejoice. In the Babylon of chapter 18, the kings and merchants weep for her (18:9-15).
5. Rev 13 describes the Antichrist and false prophet as doing away with all religions so they can force the worship of the Antichrist’s image.

I believe that Rev 17 describes the destruction of the anti-Christ’s one world religious system and Rev 18 describes the destruction of “Satan’s Seat”, which is the commercial and governmental city of Babylon. I believe this most likely happens very near or at the end of the 7 year Tribulation period. Rev 18 describes a literal destruction of a commercial city. It will be the governmental capital of the world during the Tribulation.

Is it Rome, New York? I believe we should take the scriptures literally unless the passage indicates otherwise. Therefore, I believe the ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt. As a matter of fact, that is in the works right now. Saddam Hussein has spent over \$One billion to rebuild new Babylon. The main reason for believing that Babylon must be rebuilt is because of Isa 13-14 &

REVELATION 19 Rejoicing in Heaven

Rev 19:6-10

Matt 26:26-29, he never mentions the food. Gen 18. Abraham shares a meal with Yahweh in human form—and two angels. Ex 24:9-11 is pretty clear. This is when Moses and Aaron and Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders of Israel go up into Mount Sinai and they have a meal with Yahweh. It says clearly they saw the Yahweh of Israel and they ate and drank with him.

Yeshua is Yahweh in the flesh. He fed the 4,000 and the 5,000, the Last Supper, the incident on the road to Emmaus, where Yeshua breaks bread with the two disciples there, and all of a sudden their eyes are opened and they know who this is. You have the post-resurrection meal in the upper room in Luke 24. You have Yeshua by the seashore in John 21 when He eats some fish with them. Of course, the Lord's Table (communion), but we know from early Christian writings that the Lord's Table was usually part of a feast. In 1 Cor 11:17, that's pretty clear because one of the issues is that the Corinthians are using the occasion to get drunk. They're eating too much. They don't distribute the food among the poor. What they are eating is more than a communion wafer and a tiny sip of the fruit of the vine. There was actually a meal in association with remembering the Lord through this sort of re-enactment of the Last Supper. All of it ended in a celebration.

This is not the same thing as the "supper of Yahweh" in Rev 19:17 where the angel calls the birds to come eat the dead bodies of the followers of the beast. That is called the supper of Yahweh. The Lord's supper is the opposite of that because the marriage supper is very clearly a celebration. The supper of Yahweh is about an actual battle and actual consumption of human bodies. In Rev 19:17, when the Lord returns and the forces of the beast are defeated and destroyed, you have this supper, which is the consumption of the forces of chaos. And it happens before the marriage supper of the Lamb. It's mentioned in Rev 19. We don't have a strict chronological order here. We see that even in Rev 19 because the beast and his forces are spoken of as being destroyed, but they're not destroyed yet. That's going to happen later in the chapter, when the Lord comes back on the white horse and you have the end battle of Armageddon. Here in Rev 19) you have the consumption of chaos forces, which precedes the marriage supper. One is a judgment on the forces of evil and chaos. And the other is a celebration with the righteous, with the Lord.

Psalms 74 is the passage that talks about Leviathan, the great sea beast, the symbol of chaos. It ties in the defeat of Leviathan, the death and the destruction of Leviathan in conjunction with passing through the Red Sea during the exodus of the Jews out of Egypt. And it says that Leviathan was given to them as food. You can go back and read the Exodus account again and you won't ever read that they ate Leviathan. That's metaphorical language describing the forces of the gods of Egypt and to Pharaoh and his army, because that was the major chaos enemy at that time. And here in Rev, the major chaos enemy is Babel—Babylon.

The most explicit description of an end-times banquet in the OT is in Isaiah. In the midst of a series of descriptions of the coming day of the Lord (Isaiah 24–27), Isaiah speaks of a future banquet for Israel and the nations. It is the result of Yahweh bringing an end to suffering and to death.

Isa 25:8 He will destroy death forever, and the Lord Yahweh will wipe off *the* tears from all faces, and he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken.

Is death gone or is it not? Is death eternal punishment or annihilation?

At the marriage supper, Yahweh will take away "the disgrace of his people" and give them His robe of righteousness.

Isa 25:9 And one will say, on that day, "Look! This *is* our Elohim! We have waited for him and he saved us! This *is* Yahweh; we waited for him! Let us be glad, and let us rejoice in his salvation."

Isa 24:21-23. This is the beginning of the "little apocalypse" in Isa 24.

We see two sides of the same coin. The Day of the Lord, which is Yahweh judging supernatural, spiritual beings (*the sons of Elohim*) and his human enemies.

Isa 24:21 And this shall happen on that day: Yahweh will punish the host of heaven in heaven (*that's the judgment of the supernatural beings, the sons of God (Elohim)*), and the kings of the earth on the earth.

Isa 24:22 And they will be gathered *in* a gathering, *like* a prisoner in a pit. And they will be shut in a prison and be punished after many days.

Isa 24:23 And the full moon will be ashamed and the sun will be ashamed, for Yahweh of hosts will rule on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before his elders *in* glory.

Isa 25:6 And on this mountain (*this is Mt. Zion*), Yahweh of hosts will make for all peoples (*not just Israel, but all peoples*) a rich feast, a feast of aged wines, fat filled with marrow, filtered aged wine.

Isa 25:7 And on this mountain he will destroy the face of the shroud, the shroud over all peoples, and the woven covering over all nations.

Isa 25:8 He will destroy death forever, and the Lord Yahweh will wipe off *the* tears from all faces, and he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken.

This very clearly includes the pagan Gentile nations in the salvation vision along with the Jews. It's very clear this is an end-times banquet for *all* peoples on Mount Zion ... in Jerusalem" (Isa 24:23). This end-times banquet will be an international banquet, which will include believers from the tribes of Israel and the Gentile nations. The feast will be "for all peoples" and will result in the "veil" that is cast over all the "nations" or "Gentiles" (*goyim*) to be lifted." The end-times banquet specifically involves the death of death. In other words, the death of death equals everlasting life. This is stated in Isa 25:8 and in Rev 20:14.

Isa 25:8 He will destroy death forever, and the Lord Yahweh will wipe off *the* tears from all faces, and he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken.

Rev 20:14 And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire.

Let's look at Leviathan who is the great sea beast—he is the symbol of chaos in the sea. Behemoth is the symbol of chaos on the land. We see this in Psalms 74:12-17. This is a reference back to both the Jews Exodus from Egypt and creation.

In vs14, when the Israelites go through the waters of the sea on dry land, the idea that Leviathan was given to them as food is not literal. It's a reference to chaos being consumed—chaos being defeated. Verse 14 says that it's the animals that eat Leviathan. Leviathan has been destroyed. Chaos has been conquered and destroyed, just like it was at the Exodus. It's just like Rev 19:17, where you have this great banquet of Yahweh marking the defeat of the beast. Leviathan had multiple heads. The beast in Rev. has multiple heads. Leviathan is part of the Daniel 7 imagery. The symbols in Rev. are the same symbols used in the OT. The main point is we have a victory over chaos here.

Ps 74 talks about the Jews being delivered from Egypt, which will bring about a new creation. The 12 Tribes will be made new. They're on their way to Mount Sinai to receive the Law, their constitution, their covenant. Yahweh is going to tabernacle among them! Yahweh is doing something new. Think about this analogy: When the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea—what happened to their dead bodies? The birds, the fish and the animals ate their bodies. Revelation is drawing the same conclusion: "Remember when Egypt was defeated, and the birds and the animals ate their dead bodies?" It will happen again when Yahweh defeats His enemies—When He defeats all that is opposed to Yahweh and His people, the anti-Eden forces of chaos in the world. The birds of the air will consume their dead bodies! I believe this is both literal and spiritual consumption. In Exodus, we see the conquest of chaos and the emergence of a new creation. That is exactly what we see in the book of Revelation. The beast, chaos, is conquered at the end of time. And what's going to emerge out of all of it? The bride of Christ living in her promised land, the new Eden.

Matt 8:11-12 "I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."

The point here is that just because you have Jewish blood doesn't mean you're going to be at the marriage banquet. In order to be at that banquet, you must embrace Israel's messiah, who is Yeshua. The wedding—illustrates the oneness and intimacy and longing that the King of kings has for us. Marriage was often used to describe the intimate relationship Yahweh longed to have the Jews (Hosea 2:1-23; Isaiah 54:4-8). In Eph., we're told it's a symbol for the relationship between Christ and His Church. Adultery is a common biblical symbol of spiritual disloyalty. In this world, we have loyal believers versus disloyal unbelievers at odds against each other.

The *full* and *final* consummation is Rev 21:2-9. Before the full and final consummation there must be:

1. the overthrow of the beast, antichrist & false prophet, (which happens at Yeshua's coming),
2. the imprisonment of Satan for 1,000 years,
3. the millennial reign,
4. the loosing of Satan and his last overthrow,
5. and the general judgment (not the great white throne judgment which happens at the end of the thousand years).

The Church, the heavenly Bride, (*soon after the destruction of the harlot Babylon*), is transfigured at the Lord's coming, and joins with Him in His triumph over the beast. The heavenly Bridegroom and Bride: compare Mt 22:2; 2 Co 11:2. Perfect union with Him personally, and participation in His holiness; joy, glory, and kingdom, are included in this symbol of "marriage". (*also Song of Solomon*).

Besides the *heavenly* Bride, which is the transfigured, translated, and risen Church, reigning *over* the earth with Christ, there is also the *earthly* bride, Israel, in the flesh, never yet *divorced*, though for a time separated, from her divine husband, who shall then be reunited to the Lord. We, as a church, make up the bride. This term is never used in context to an individual. The harlot divides her affections among many lovers: the bride gives hers exclusively to Christ.

Isaiah 54:5–55:5, is the theme of a divine marriage.

In Isa. 54:5, we see Yahweh is described as our Maker and our Husband

Isa. 55:1–2, an invitation to a joyful feast with an abundance of food

Isa. 54:6–17, vindication for the righteous

Isa. 55:5, the pilgrimage of the nations to Mt Zion.

We see all the elements in Isa 54 & 55 of this end-times scenario described in the book of Rev. We have the restoration of life on the earth even better than the garden of Eden. We have an abundance of food. The nations are included. The Jews and Gentiles have come to the true Yahweh—all of these are things that the whole book of Revelation has been leading up to. Rev. chapters 14-18, basically says, "If you align yourselves with the beast, you're going to be destroyed. If you take the name of the beast, if you take the number, which is the name—you're going to be destroyed. But if you don't, and if you remain faithful, if you overcome then you're going to have a place at the marriage supper of the Lamb. All of this was foreshadowed and prophesied in the OT. John is seeing what Isaiah and other OT prophets saw.

In Rev 19, we see the taking back of the nations and the judgment of the gods and their followers. Deut 32, Psalm 82, the judgment of the nations and their gods who rule over them, the principalities and powers, and the nations being brought back to Yahweh. We are moving to the fullness of the Gentiles. Rom 11:25-27

Revelation 19, Part 2

Homework: The bride has prepared herself. What does this mean? This actually builds on Rev 7:14, "They have washed their robes and made them white." Yeshua purchased his followers with his blood (Rev 1:5; 5:9) and He expects us to put that into practice and live faithfully for him (2:10; 13:10; 14:12). He purifies us and then we live pure lives (14:4 they remained "virgins" meaning pure).

Ezek 16:8-14 describes this. Yahweh prepares Israel. He nurtures her and takes care of her as she matures. He provides her with what is best. Yahweh prepares her with wedding jewelry and garments to be his bride, and it describes the imagery of Yahweh and the bride preparing for her wedding day. Sadly, Israel was unfaithful.

Rev 19:8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Yeshua's wedding day arrives, Yahweh gives the bride her wedding attire. The Bride's garments are "bright and clean/pure", symbolizing the bride's spiritual purity and victory (the meaning of white, pure garments in Rev). She is dressed like the armies of heaven in 19:14 that wear "fine linen, white and clean".

Isa 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Isa 61:11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

These garments are defined as "the righteous acts of Yahweh's holy people." There could well be a double meaning here—the righteous works of Yahweh on behalf of his people, such as redeeming, strengthening and vindicating them, followed by their righteous deeds in response for all He has done. The victory of the saints takes place as they overcome their temptations, trials, and the actions of the gods against them.

We see the harlot in 17:4 dressed in obscene grandeur and self-righteous glory. While the bride of Christ is simply dressed in fine linen, which is those righteous deeds she did while living on the earth for the glory of Yahweh. Fine linen was also the garments the priests were commanded to wear. We see here the parallel of priesthood with being the bride. The two are one in the same. A priest and a bride are the same to Yahweh.

Revelation 19, Part 2 Armageddon in Hebrew is Har-Magedon (Rev 16:16). We learned that this term refers not to Megiddo, but to a final end-time conflict in Jerusalem.

Revelation 19:11-16. The Rider on a White Horse

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it was called "Faithful" and "True," and with justice he judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 Now his eyes *were* a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many royal headbands having a name written that no one except he himself knows.

Rev 19:13 And *he was* dressed in an outer garment dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of Yahweh.

Rev 19:14 And the armies *that are* in heaven, dressed in clean, white fine linen, were following him on white horses.

Rev 19:15 And out of his mouth came a sharp sword, so that with it he could strike the nations. And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the wine of the furious wrath of Yahweh, the All-Powerful.

Rev 19:16 And he has a name written on his outer garment and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Throughout the book of Rev, Yeshua is presented as a conquering Ram and a Divine Warrior (1:14-16; 5:6; 6:16; 11:15; 14:14; 17:14) and this imagery is clearly seen here in 11:16. The return of Yeshua is seen from the perspective of the conquering King coming to rapture His church, destroy his enemies and establish his eternal reign on earth.

There are 2 pictures given that describe these events:

1. In 4:1; 11:19; 15:5, where the temple is opened, John sees "heaven standing open," which means Yahweh is about to act in this world in a very decisive way. The early church built on this truth (Mk1:10; John 1:51; Acts 7:56; 10:11; 2 Cor. 12:1-2 and Ezek 1:1).
2. The second is the appearance of the Rider on the white horse, building on the ancient tradition that the conquering king rode a white horse into battle, signifying his invincibility. The antichrist rides a white horse in Rev 6:2 bringing war to this world. But the Rider on the white horse here in Rev 19 will bring the war that ends all wars.

Now, let's look at the 7 descriptions of this Rider:

1. He is called 'faithful and true' building on his character as a 'faithful witness' in 1:5; 3:14 and as true to his calling and purposes in 3:7, 14; 19:11. The final war is mandated because Christ is faithful to his divine destiny and true in His judgments (16:7; 19:22, "true and just are your judgments"). His words are also 'faithful and true' in 21:5; 22:6.
2. As the Warrior Messiah, 'He judges and makes war in justice/righteousness,' (Psa 7:11; 50:6; 96:13; Isa 11:4). The Trinity will make war against the forces of evil, both spiritual and human (2:16,26; 6:16; 17:14; 19:14-16).
3. As Judge and Divine Warrior, his eyes are 'like a blazing fire,' (1:14; 2:18; Dan 10:6). This represents Yeshua's perfect vision that sees and discerns all and the fiery judgments.
4. As royal Messiah, He has many crowns and this is the royal crown (*diadems*) rather than the victor's wreath (*stephanos*) found in other passages in NT. The word diadem only occurs in 2 other passages in NT: Rev 12:3; 13:1, contrasting the pretentious 'crowns' of the dragon and beast with the true crowns of Yeshua. The false trinity again is guilty of the great imitation, for they are mere pretenders trying to claim a crown that can never be theirs. Yeshua wears many crowns because He is King of kings (19:16), and his rule is absolute and eternal.
5. He has a 'name written on him that no one knows but he himself,' building on 2:17 where the victorious saints are promised 'a new name written that no one knows.' Isa 62:2 tells Israel, "You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow (Isa 65:15), and Yeshua tells the church in Philadelphia, "I will write on them the name of my Elohim...and My new name," (Rev 3:12). This is most likely a name that is hidden until the end of the Age. At His second coming, we will learn the new name of Christ and then we will be given our new name, Rev 2:17.
6. As Christ rides the white horse, he is 'dressed in a robe dipped in blood.' The blood could be His blood (1:5; 5:9; 7:14; 12:11) or it could be the blood of martyrs sacrificed for Him (6:10; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2). But the context here is military, so this is probably the blood of His enemies. The image goes back to Isa 63:3 where it is combined with the winepress image of the wrath of Yahweh (see Rev 14:10). The point is that Yahweh decrees that the terrible crimes of the people and gods must be answered with divine punishment.
7. His name is called, 'The word of God', paralleling the famous passage in John 1:1-18 and also found in Rev 1:2, 9; 6:9; 17:17; 20:4. Again, many scholars say that this phrase is best translated as I Am that I Am.

On the basis of His character, Yeshua performs 4 works in 19:11-16. They are both judicial (He judges) and military (He makes war). He must be true to his character as Judge and Warrior Messiah.

1. The armies of heaven follow after Him riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen. These are the hosts of heaven—angels (Josh 5:13-15:2; 2 Kgs 6:17; Psa 103:20-21; Zech 14:5) and saints (Rev 17:14). They ride white horses, which is remarkable because in the ancient world only the conquering king did so. They wear white fine linen like the bride.
2. In 19:15, there comes from His mouth the sharp sword mentioned in 1:16; 2:12, 16. This is the forces of evil and the symbol of might and authority over life and death. Here it signifies Yeshua's proclamation of judgment and the execution of that judgment in the destruction of the nations.
3. Then the Warrior Messiah will 'rule them with an iron scepter,' referring to Psa 2:9 and Rev 2:26-27 to depict the image of the shepherd's club that will 'shatter the nations like pottery.' This is not Christ governing the nations (with a royal scepter) but the conquering King destroying the nations (with a shepherd's club).
4. Finally, He will 'tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of Yahweh Almighty,' combining the great winepress of 14:19-20 with the cup of Yahweh's furious wrath of 14:10 and 16:19. The shedding of their blood is just payment for their slaughter of the saints (Rev 6:10; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2) and is carried out by Yahweh. Yeshua is sovereign overall and he is now proving this by destroying the world of evil and the cosmic forces over it. The Warrior Messiah is Yahweh Himself.

Rev 19:17-18 And I saw one angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come! Assemble for the great banquet of Yahweh, in order that you may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of military tribunes, and the flesh of the powerful, and the flesh of horses and those seated on them, and the flesh of all *people*, both free and slave, and small and great!"

Now the vision switches from the returning Christ to the armies gathered against Him. As Christ descends from heaven with his army, we see 'an angel standing in the sun.' Like Yeshua in 1:16, the mighty angel in 10:1 and the woman in 12:1, this angel is radiant with the glory of Yahweh. The message is gruesome and powerful as he declares the outcome of the battle before it even happens. The birds, vultures, hawks, etc are invited to gather together for the great supper of Yahweh.

There are 2 messianic banquets: the wedding feast with the Lamb for the saints and the terrible feast of the sinners by the birds. The believers will partake of the greatest banquet in history, and the unbelievers will become the greatest banquet predators have ever seen. We see this in Ezek 39:17-20 where the birds and wild animals are invited to feast on Gog. In Ezekiel, it took place after the battle was won, while here the invitation occurs before the battle even begins.

Eze 39:17 "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble

and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood.

Eze 39:18 "You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as *though they were* rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

Eze 39:19 "So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

Eze 39:20 "You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war," declares the Lord GOD.

Are there other passages that describe the battle of Armageddon? Zech 14. The Coming Day of the Lord

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war with the one who is seated on the horse and with his army.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs before him, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who had worshiped his image. The two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur.

Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed by the sword of the one who is seated on the horse—the *sword* that comes out of his mouth—and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

The false trinity began preparing for this battle in the 6th bowl of 16:13-16, sending out demonic spirits to call the nations to war. Now the kings and their armies who responded (they all did) are 'gathered together to wage war,' so the scene is set for battle. There will be no more atheists because the world will recognize the truth about the second coming. The beast will tell them that the conflict between Yahweh and Satan is real, but will convince them that the combined might of the world's armies under his leadership cannot lose. So they are waiting for Christ and his army, thinking their victory is a sure thing. There are many passages that describe the final war in the OT (Isa 31:4; 59:17-20; 63:1-5; Ezek 38-39; Dan 12:1-3; Joel 3:9-16; Zech 12:3-9; 14:2-9) and in the NT (Lk 17:30; 21:27-36; 1 Thess 5:1-3; 2 Thess 2:8).

The armies of the antichrist are waiting in 19:19 but when the sword of judgment comes from the Lord's mouth (19:15), the battle is instantly over and all the evil forces are dead on the battlefield. In 19:20, the beast and the false prophet are captured. The armies of Christ seemingly take no part in the fighting because there is no fighting. It is over before it even begins. The part the saints play in shattering the nations (according to 2:26-27) is apparently to accompany the Warrior Messiah as he single-handedly decimates the enemy. The counterfeit miracles of the false prophet had deceived the sinful world and led them first to take the mark of the beast and then to worship his image. They had led the world in rebellion against Yahweh and then to commit final apostasy and idolatry. After the utter defeat, the verdict is made and the sentence carried out (19:20-21). As the dragon was thrown down to the earth (12:9), the beast and false prophet are thrown in the 'lake of fire that burns with sulfur'. It is important to realize that they are thrown in alive, indicating conscious punishment. The destiny of sinners, who are also thrown in the lake of fire in 20:14-15, is not soul sleep or annihilation but eternal, conscious torment in the lake of fire. The idea of a lake of fire occurs only in Rev in scripture. After the fate of the beast and false prophet, the destruction of the armies in 19:21 has been fulfilled. Every member of the army of the antichrist is killed, and the promise made to the martyrs in 6:11 has been fulfilled.

The feast promised to the scavenger birds in 19:17-18 is now here. All the birds that come are able to gorge themselves on the flesh. This is a further example of the law of retribution. In 11:7-10, the beast slays the two witnesses and then refuses them burial. Now the Lord shows them the same indignity and degradation. The ultimate humiliation in the ancient world was to be denied burial. Yahweh is turning on their own heads what they have done to the martyrs. Rev 19 shows us that there are only 2 kinds of people in the world; those who follow Christ and those who reject Christ. Both will participate in great banquet: believers will feast at the wedding supper of the Lamb, and the unbelievers will be the feast. The event that will end world history is the battle of Armageddon, but there will be no battle; every soldier of the beast's army will be destroyed as Christ comes to exercise judgment and vindicate his people.

The second coming of Christ, the event Christians have been waiting for over 2,000 years, will finally take place when he comes as the Divine Warrior, the conquering King, to destroy the enemies of Yahweh. Evil is doomed, and those who turn from Yahweh to embrace wickedness will face the divine wrath.

As we look ahead at the end of human history, we must realize that there is no issue more serious than this: to decide whether we want to follow Christ or take our chances with the ways of the fallen world. If we believe that the end of world history will happen this way, then the choice is clear!

The demonic powers are forbidden by Yahweh to harm those with the seal of Yahweh on their forehead. What is most important about this seal is that it provides the protection of the believers' faith and salvation from the intense sufferings and persecutions that they will go through by Satan, his demonic army and the human armies. The seal enables Yahweh's people to respond in faith when they are persecuted. Their suffering will become the very instruments by which they are strengthened in their faith. This is all preparation for Armageddon. It's all preparation for the final conflict—the final judgment of human and supernatural evil, the final reversal of chaos.

Yahweh clearly states that those who endure to the end will be saved. Those who overcome will judge the nations—if you are faithful to the end, you will rule the nations with a rod of iron. Remain loyal, no matter what happens. Yeshua is encouraging us to keep our eyes on the prize set before us.

2Co 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

2Co 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
2Co 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Babylon and Egypt are presented as much the same in the bible. Egypt enslaved Yahweh's people and sought to destroy them when they attempted to escape. Babylon, at the end of the age, will do the same thing. As the end of history draws near, the Babylonian system (political, religious, economic) becomes the #1 enemy of Christianity and of Israel. In John's day, at the time he's writing the book of Rev, Rome was the primary chaos agent against Israel. When John wrote Rev, everybody living at the time would immediately understand that Babylon is Rome! There are threads that link the 3 different sets of judgments together.

Rev 16:12-16 describes the demonic element of the Babylon chaos system.

Rev 16:12 And the sixth poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, in order that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are the spirits of demons performing signs that go out to the kings of the whole inhabited world, to gather them for the battle of the great day of God the All-Powerful. (Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who is on the alert and who keeps his clothing, so that he does not walk around naked and they see his shamefulness!) And he gathered them to the place called in Hebrew Armageddon (*har-magedon*).

These seals, trumpets & bowls tell the same basic storyline:

1. who the enemy is,
2. the persecution of believers,
3. Yahweh pouring out his wrath on the earth—specifically on those who take the mark.
4. The reaction from them is anger. "We're going to confront Yahweh at Zion. We're going to put an end to this. We're not going to let Yahweh have his way—his plan. We're going to gather together against Yahweh & Zion. And we are going to stop him. That's what we're going to do." That's Armageddon.
5. Rev 19, they are defeated dramatically by the return of Yeshua & His believers.
6. Followed by the final judgments and the new Eden on earth.

We've seen in this summary that the seal judgments set up the trumpet judgments, which lead to the bowl judgments.

7 SEALS:

1. White horse: rider has a bow and a crown to conquer
2. Red horse: given a great sword, takes peace from the earth, men would slay one another
3. Black horse: rider is given scales, inflation
4. Ashen horse: rider named Death, authority over 1/4th of the earth to kill with sword, famine, pestilence, wild beasts
5. Martyrs underneath the altar crying out for Yahweh to judge and avenge their deaths
6. Great earthquake, sun becomes black, moon becomes like blood, stars fall to the earth, sky splits apart like a scroll, every mountain and island are moved out of their places, men hide in caves crying out for the mountains to fall on them so they would be hid from the presence of Him who sits on the throne & from His wrath
7. Silence in heaven for about 30 minutes, an angel throws fire from the altar to the earth which causes thunders, lightning and an earthquake.

7 TRUMPETS:

1. Hail and fire, mixed with blood are thrown to earth and 1/3 of the earth is burned
2. A great mountain burning with fire is thrown into the sea and a 1/3 of the sea becomes blood, 1/3 of sea creatures die, 1/3 of ships are destroyed
3. A great star called Wormwood falls from heaven like a burning torch & causes 1/3 of the rivers and springs to become bitter
4. 1/3 of the sun & moon & stars become dark
5. A star falls to the earth & the key of the bottomless pit is given to him. As a result of the pit being opened, smoke ascends which darkens the sun and the air. Out of the smoke comes scorpions who are told not to harm the grass or any green thing, but to sting only those with the mark of the beast are to be torments for 5 months.
6. 4 angels bound at the Euphrates river are released to kill 1/3 of mankind. The army is 200 million. Those who were not killed did not repent
7. Voice in heaven: The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever! Followed by flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

7 BOWLS OF WRATH:

1. Malignant sores on those with the mark
2. The sea becomes blood and every living thing in the sea dies
3. Rivers and springs become blood
4. The sun scorches men with fierce heat (and they don't repent)
5. Bowl is poured out on the throne of the beast; his kingdom becomes dark and the people gnaw their tongues because of the pain and they blaspheme Yahweh
6. Bowl is poured on Euphrates and its water dries up so the kings from the east could walk through to Har mō'ed
7. Bowl is poured out on the air and a loud voice from the throne says "It is done." A earthquake occurs that is greater than any earthquake ever known to man. Jerusalem is split in 3 parts and all the cities of the nations fall. Babylon is destroyed. Huge hailstones about 100 lbs each rains down on men; they blaspheme.

In the 3 sets of 7 judgments, we see what appears to be possibly repeats or overlapping judgments.

Gog and Magog are referenced in Rev 20:8.

Rev 20:7-10 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

We see elements of the battle of *Har mō'ed* in Ezek 38 and 39. *Har mō'ed* leads us to the OT passages containing the phrase *yarkētē šāpôn* (in English that's "the heights of the north").

Isa 14:13-14 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

We know that the Anti-Christ possessed by Satan will sit on the throne in Jerusalem, which is "in the recesses of the north". Psa 48:1-2 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion in the far north, the city of the great King.

These 2 passages describe that *Har mō'ed* is Mount Zion in Jerusalem. We're dealing with spiritual geography because Zion is not located in the north of Israel. It's in the south. It's called "the heights of the north" in Psa 48 & Isa 14.

"Heights of the north", the *yarkētē šāpôn*, is also called the *har mō'ed* in Canaanite literature, which was Baal's mountain. Isa 14, the king of Babylon says, "I will be like the Most High. I will be above the stars of God. I will sit as ruler at the mount of assembly, the heights of the north." The heights of the north, in Canaanite religion was referring to a specific mountain far from Jerusalem, which is either Mt Hermon or Jebel-al-Aqra, which was known to be the seat of the power of the gods. Psa 48 is actually Yahweh saying, "I'm sorry, but the real cosmic center is not this place. And I'm going to take it captive. It belongs to Me." Paul quotes Psa 68 in Eph 4 saying that Yahweh will "lead captivity captive."

These descriptions of the birds eating the flesh and the brief mention about the nations that are gathered against the Lord at Jerusalem (at Har Magedon—*har mō 'ed*—... these little phrases don't seem to mean so much, the birds, the deception, and of course, this ends with the lake of fire. If the battle of *har mō 'ed* is the final battle for Jerusalem, then where in the OT do we see such a battle described?

Ezek 38-39 Gog and Magog. Gog and Magog are described in Rev 20. Rev 16 through Rev 20, describes various elements of Gog/Magog. John is describing the same conflict three or four times in Rev 16-20. This conflict ends with the defeat of the beast, which John describes in Chapters 17, 18, 19 & 20. We have followers of the beast getting the mark. We have the beast chaos system persecuting Christians. We have them eventually gathering against Jerusalem (and the Lord) for one final battle to essentially stop the plan of Yahweh from happening. We have the return of Christ, the destruction of the beast and his system, and then we see the final resurrection followed by the judgment and the kingdom return to earth. John recycles those series of events three or four, maybe five times in these chapters. They are not necessarily to be read as a linear chronology of separate events.

To fully understand that, let's look back from Rev 6 forward. For example, the Seal Judgments. The first 4 of the 7 seal judgments are in Rev 6. And they're very general. They follow the description of Yeshua that He gave to His disciples, that those who follow Him will be persecuted.

Mk 13:3-13 sounds remarkably like the first 4 seal judgments of Rev 6. For example, look Mark 13:3. This is Yeshua on the Mount of Olives speaking.

Signs of the Close of the Age

Mar 13:3 And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

Mar 13:4 "Tell us, when will these *things* happen, and what *will be* the sign when all these *things* are about to be accomplished?"

Mar 13:5 So Yeshua began to say to them, "Watch out that no one deceives you!

Mar 13:6 Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am *he*,' and they will deceive many.

Mar 13:7 And when you hear about wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must happen, but the end *is* not yet.

Mar 13:8 For nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in *various* places. There will be famines. These *things are* the beginning of birth pains.

Mar 13:9 "But you, watch out for yourselves! They will hand you over to councils and you will be beaten in the synagogues and will have to stand before governors and kings because of me, for a witness to them.

Every one of those events you'll find in Rev 6, going forward. Every one of them. And then we read Mark 13: 10

Mar 13:10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all the nations (*Gentiles*).

Here we see the linking of the return of the Lord to the fullness of the Gentiles.

Mar 13:11 And when they arrest you *and* hand you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you should say, but whatever is given to you at that hour, say this. For you are not the ones who are speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Mar 13:12 And brother will hand over brother to death, and a father *his* child, and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

Mar 13:13 And you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end—this one will be saved. Doesn't that sound like the book of Revelation? "He that overcomes to the end will be saved."

Mar 13:14 "But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be" (let the one who reads understand), "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains!"

Now Yeshua tells them about the abomination of desolation....The point is that we can go back to the Gospels and read what Jesus said would happen and we find it in the book of Revelation. The seal judgments begin the first of these three cycles of judgments—seals, trumpets and bowls of wrath. The opening of the 5th seal (Rev 6:9) causes a response from those who were martyred and are under the altar. As a result, Yahweh begins to take revenge against the persecution of His followers.

The 6th seal (Rev 6:12) is the end of the skies as we know it. And the 7th seal...that is in Rev 8. That was silence in heaven and there's a lot of Mt. Sinai imagery in this passage. I wonder if this silence happens because those who see what's about

to come are shocked by what's going to happen when Yahweh unleashes His wrath at the Day of the Lord. We have the first 6 seal judgments and then there is silence in heaven. The next judgments are the 7 Trumpets. There are numerous parallels to the Egyptian plagues, as we've already noticed. If you compare the first 4 seal judgments to the first 4 trumpets judgments, there's repetition. There's similarities. The seals and the trumpets judgments are Yahweh's punishment of those who are persecuting and martyring his sons and daughters. The followers of the beast take the "mark." And eventually everything leads up to a final battle, which is Armageddon. In the case of the trumpets, the first 4 trumpets are general plagues. The 5th trumpet is the release of the Watchers in Rev 9. And this gives us the spiritual chaos element of the end of days, as opposed to just human destruction—human persecution of Christians. Now we see there's a supernatural enemy behind it.

In later chapters, this 5th spiritual, supernatural chaos event will be filled by the beast himself, the harlot of Babylon, the whole Babylon system. The 6th trumpet is the drying up of the Euphrates river. Again, it's not about China. It's a massive army from "Babylon." They are the world chaos enemy, as we've said before...everything points to Babylon, which is expected, because of the rebellion back at the Tower of Babel is where Yahweh disinherits the nations because they align themselves with other gods against the true, uncreated Elohim. Again, Deut. 32.

The massive army from "Babylon" gathers against the people of Yahweh, preparing to overtake Zion. And this is Armageddon (*har-magedon*)—the battle that occurs at the Mount of Assembly, Yahweh's mountain, which is Zion. The 7th trumpet announces the coming kingdom of Yahweh. After Armageddon, that's what happens next. We're going to have the general resurrection—the righteous resurrected to life, the unrighteous to death. And the kingdom returns to the earth in fullness.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel blew the trumpet, and there was a loud voice in heaven saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."

Again, the trumpets repeat a cycle that we saw with the seals. With the seals and trumpets, there's a same general flow of events. And they are very much like the Egyptian plagues, imagery from Mt. Sinai, from Babel. The assembling of the army of the beast against the Lord and His followers happens before Armageddon. Yeshua's followers will be made up of both Jews and Gentiles. They're both being targeted. John frequently applies OT Israel language to the Church.

For ex: Exo 19:6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." In Rev 1:6, Rev 5:10, and Rev 20:6, John refers to the Church as the kingdom of priests, which is the one new man—Jew and Gentiles.

There's judgment on the earth. And it's going to be aimed specifically at those who align themselves with the beast. Believers are "sealed" and protected, which we see in the Exodus event. And not all of the end-times judgments have Egyptian plague parallels. But certainly there's supernatural protection from evil spirits. In other words, the protection and sealing that goes on at the end of days is really about keeping believers loyal to the Lord—helping them to not surrender the faith, helping them to overcome. It isn't a guarantee against physical harm. Rather, it's supernatural assistance to overcome, to remain faithful, to keep believing.

Ezek 38 & 39 Gog & Magog

- Ezek 38 Yahweh is against Gog, the head leader. He will turn him around and place hooks in his cheeks
- Yahweh will bring Gog's army out fully armed, a great crowd with shields & swords
- Nations are with this army.
- In the last years, Gog will come to a restored land where the people dwell in safety, all of them.
- Gog will advance like a storm, covering the land
- Jerusalem is living in safety and Gog devises a plan to loot and plunder, to assail those living in the center of the world.
- Yahweh will bring them against Israel in the last days
- Yahweh declares, 'My rage will come up in my anger. And in my passion, *in* the fire of my wrath, I spoke *that* certainly on that day *a* great earthquake will be on the land of Israel. And the fish of the sea and the birds of the heaven and the animals of the field and all of the creeping things that creep on the earth and all of the humans who *are* on the surface of the earth will shake at my presence; and the mountains will be demolished, and the steep mountain sides will fall, and every wall on the earth will fall. And I will call against him in all of my mountains a sword,' declares the Lord Yahweh, 'And the sword of each *person* will be against his brother. And I will execute justice with him with a plague and with blood and torrents of rain, and hailstones; fire and sulfur I will cause to fall on him and on his troops and on many peoples who *are* with him.
- "I will exalt myself, and I will show myself holy, and I will make myself known before *the* eyes of many nations, and they will know that I *am* Yahweh.' "
- Ezek 39 'Thus says Yahweh: "Look! I *am* against you Gog,
- I will bring you against the mountains of Israel,
- On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all of your troops, and *the* peoples who *are* with you, to birds of prey, birds of every wing, and animals of the field I will give you as food.
- And I will send fire against Magog and among *the people* inhabiting the coastlands in safety, and they will know that I *am* Yahweh.
- and I will not let the name of my holiness be profaned anymore, and the nations will know that I *am* Yahweh, *the* holy one in Israel.
- And they will not carry trees from the field, and they will not chop wood from the forests, for with the weapons they will light a fire;
- "And then on that day I will give to Gog a grave there in Israel, The Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea, and it will block the travelers and Gog and all of his hordes they will bury there, and they will call *it* the Valley of Hamon-Gog.
- "And you, son of man, thus says the Lord Yahweh: 'Say to all kinds of birds and animals of the field, "Be gathered, come be gathered from everywhere to my sacrifice that I *am* sacrificing for you, a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, and you will eat flesh, and you will drink blood. Flesh of warriors you will eat, and the blood of leaders of the land you will drink; rams, young rams and goats, bulls, *and* the fattened animals of Bashan—all of them! And you will eat fat until you are satiated, and you will drink blood until you are drunk
- And the house of Israel will know that I *am* Yahweh their Elohim from that day and beyond, and the nations will know that because of their guilt the house of Israel went into exile, because they acted unfaithfully against me,

Zech 14:1-21 Zechariah's Vision:

- Yahweh will gather the nations against Jerusalem to battle
- The city will be captured then Yahweh will go out and fight against those nations
- On that day, He will stand on the Mt of Olives, which will be split in half
- Yahweh will come with all the holy ones.
- No light. Precious things melt. There will be continuous day—no day or night
- Living waters will flow out from Jerusalem (Yeshua is the living water—he will rule and reign from Jerusalem)
- Yahweh will be king over all the earth
- The land will be transformed into a desert plateau
- And Jerusalem will dwell in security
- Those that fight against Jerusalem will be struck with a plague while standing on their feet. Flesh, eyes, tongue will rot instantly. This will also happen to the animals.
- The wealth of all the nations will be collected
- Every survivor from all those nations coming against Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship *the* king, Yahweh of hosts, and celebrate the Feast of Booths.
- Whatever nations that do not go up to Jerusalem to worship (at the Feast of Booths) the King, Yahweh of hosts, it will not rain on them.

Har-Magedon:

Rev 16:12 The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

Rev 16:13 And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs;

Rev 16:14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of Yahweh, the Almighty.

Rev 16:15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")

Rev 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

Rev 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of Yahweh,

Rev 19:18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

The Defeat of Satan: Gog and Magog

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

Rev 20:8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

Rev 20:9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Rev 16:13-14 describes the involvement of evil spirits in gathering these armies: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

The armies gathered at Armageddon will include:

- The beast's army (Revelation 16:13-14; 19:19). The beast's forces will primarily come from Europe.
- Kings from the east with vast armies (Revelation 16:12). This likely represents a conglomerate of Asian powers.
- All nations, including mighty men of war (Joel 3:9-11).

POSSIBLE SCENARIO: When war breaks out in heaven, Satan and his fallen angels will be defeated by Michael and his angels. Satan will be cast to the earth and will be extremely angry, knowing he has only a little time left as the ruler of the earth (Rev 12:7-8, 12).

Satan will use signs and lying wonders to deceive humanity (2 Thess 2:9). Ten leaders in Europe will unite for a brief time to give authority to the beast. The world will marvel at the revived empire. Adoration and praise will be given to the beast, as the darkest chapter in history begins, called the Great Tribulation—last 3.5 years. The beast's rule will last 42 months—3½ years—before the gathering at Armageddon (Rev 13:5-7).

Yahweh's rescue plan will work to eventually separate man from the devil's evil influences. Without Yahweh's intervention, all human life would be lost (Matt 24:21-22). Seven trumpets will unleash massive changes on earth to show humanity that we need Yahweh.

- The first three trumpets will start to take away the elements needed for life.
- The fourth trumpet will bring partial darkness.

- Armies of the beast are unleashed as the fifth trumpet sounds. The fifth trumpet will unlock the bottomless pit, releasing armies like locusts led by Abaddon or Apollyon (Hebrew and Greek words meaning Destruction and Destroyer) (Rev 9:1-11). The torment they inflict will last five months.
- Armies from the east are released as the sixth trumpet sounds. Then the sixth trumpet will unleash four angels bound at the Euphrates River (Rev 9:14-17), preparing the way for an army of 200 million that will kill 1/3 of mankind.
- Yahweh clears the road to Armageddon. Despite the destruction, mankind will still not turn to Yahweh. Man will continue to sin and worship false gods, including demons (verse 20).
- The seventh trumpet will be followed by an announcement that the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ (Rev 11:15). Rather than being happy, the deceived people of the earth will mourn and people will be influenced to fight against Yahweh.

BOWLS OF WRATH:

- Yahweh's judgment will continue to be unleashed with the seven last bowls of wrath. These include sores on the followers of the beast, the sea and fresh water being turned to blood, scorching heat and total darkness. Still men will refuse to repent and will blaspheme Yahweh (Rev 16:11).
- The sixth bowl will dry the River Euphrates to prepare a way for the kings of the east to come to Armageddon, the battle will actually be at Jerusalem.
- The trumpet blast will be a call to war from Yahweh to all the nations (Joel 2:1; 3:9-12). A great multitude will travel south about a 1½-hour drive (82 miles) from Armageddon to Jerusalem. The armies will enter the Valley of Decision (verse 14). The Valley of Decision is between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives. The valley is also known as the Valley of Jehoshaphat or Kidron Valley (verse 12) on the east side of the Old City of Jerusalem.
- The armies that gathered at Armageddon—including kings, captains, mighty men and people, small and great—will fight at Jerusalem (Rev 19:17-19). And Yeshua will fight (Zech 14:3; Rev 19:11-19). And Michael, the great angelic prince who watches over Yahweh's people (Dan 12:1). And the armies of heaven (Rev 19:14). And the resurrected saints (Psa 149:5-9). And the people of Judah will fight at Jerusalem (Zech 14:14).

What happens in the battle?

- All eyes will turn to the sky to witness the Son of Man returning in power and great glory (Matt 24:30).
- The Lord will come to fight the nations (Zech 14:3).
- Christ will descend from heaven (1 Thess 4:16) and land on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:9-11) with the resurrected saints (Matt 24:31; Zech 14:5; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Jude 1:14).
- The flesh of the human armies of Armageddon will suddenly begin to dissolve while they stand on their feet, leaving a valley of corpses (Zech 14:12; Rev 19:21).
- The beast and false prophet will be captured and thrown "into the lake of fire burning with brimstone," where they will be burned up (Rev 19:20).
- Those who will come to Armageddon will be filled with a strong delusion and will believe Satan's lie. They will not love the truth (2 Thess 2:9-11) and instead will end up fighting Yahweh.

Included in the passage about Armageddon, there is a warning: "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame" (Rev 16:15).

Commentators propose a number of options regarding timing of Armageddon. These include:

1. Just prior to the Rapture of the church and onset of the seven-year Tribulation
2. Between the Rapture and the Tribulation
3. Around the middle of the Tribulation
4. Just prior to the Second Coming
5. Between the Second Coming and the beginning of the Millennium
6. At the end of the Millennium

WHICH NATIONS INVADE ISRAEL? The key content is Ezek 38 and 39. Not all agree on the identity of Gog and Magog, but most agree that Gog is a title for the ruler of Magog, not a personal name. Magog occurs in the Old Testament on four occasions (Gen 10:2; 1 Chron 1:5; Ezek 38:2; 39:6). It identifies a descendant of Japheth in the table of nations, which scholars trace to the ancient Scythians. These tribes lived in the region north of the Black Sea and some consider their territory stretched from Ukraine to Siberia. Further, Ezekiel describes Gog as "the prince of Rosh" (Ezek 38:2).

Two other participants are named in this group, Meshech and Tubal, both of which are included in the table of nations in Gen 10. Scholars agree that Meshech refers to the location of modern Turkey, southeast of the Black Sea. Tubal is always grouped with

Meshech and his descendants also occupy modern Turkey. Modern Turkey is increasingly dominated by Islam. It seems that Turkey also participates in this invasion of Israel, joining with the Russian contingent. Added to these are “Persia, Cush, and Put” (Ezek 38:5), as well as “Gomer and all his hordes” and “Beth-togarmah” (38:6). Persia is clearly modern Iran, another Islamic nation, whose name was changed to Iran in recent times. Cush and Put are more difficult to identify, as is Beth-togarmah. Scholars consider Cush is the nation of northern Sudan, an Islamic one, and Put is Libya, another Islamic (mainly Sunni) nation, and possibly includes Algeria and Tunisia.

WHEN WILL THE NATIONS INVADE ISRAEL? “After many days,” “In the latter years” (38:8), and “In the latter days” (v. 16). These point to the end of Yahweh’s dealings (Isa 2:2; Dan 10:14). The battle clearly happens in the future.

The second describes the people of Israel as “gathered from many peoples” and “from the nations” (Ezek 38:8, 12). This cannot be a return that happened in the past, such as when the Jews returned from Babylon or Medo-Persia, because they did not come from multiple nations. This describes the present return of Jewish people to Israel—they came from the nations.

The third describes these returned Jews as “dwelling securely” in the land (Ezek 38:8, 11, 14) and without the need of protection such as “unwalled villages” and “without walls, and having no bars or gates” (v. 11). The people are described as “the quiet people” or at rest (v. 11), which suggests they are unconcerned about external threats and have no fear of attack. This description is applied to all the people, not just a segment of them.

Some scholars consider Israel’s present condition to be secure and at rest because of its military might, being confident in its capacity to defeat any enemy. If this is true, this would mean the battle of Gog and Magog could precede the Tribulation. Others say Israel is not presently at rest, even though they have a significant degree of security, because the nation is on constant alert against an attack from its enemies. They believe additional protection is necessary to bring the nation to true rest. They believe the covenant the antichrist makes with Israel (Dan 9:27) provides this additional protection. That covenant will be broken at the 3.5 year mark. Israel only enjoys that protection for the first 3.5 years. This means the battle of Gog and Magog could occur in the first half of the Tribulation, probably near the midpoint.

Some other commentators suggest the timing is after the tribulation and before the Millennium, which will provide the best degree of rest and security, but it does not fit the eventual outcome of deliverance by Yahweh, which is the spiritual renewal of the nation. Israel’s repentance occurs at the return of Yeshua at the end of the Tribulation (Zech.12).

This leaves two options as the only possibilities:

- The battle of Gog and Magog is prior to the Tribulation,
- or it is in the first half of the Tribulation, probably near the breaking of the covenant by the Antichrist.

The second option seems best for a number of reasons but still has difficulties. It best fits the description of security and rest as characteristic of Israel prior to the battle occurring. Plus, a battle that removes Russia and the other nations would leave a power vacuum that the Antichrist could use to rise to world domination at the midpoint of the Tribulation (Revelation 13). In addition, this battle would provide the antichrist a good excuse for breaking the covenant with Israel in order to pursue his real agenda. The major difficulty with this timetable is dealing with the description of burying the dead for seven months and burning the weapons for seven years (Ezek 39:9, 12).

What motivates the nations to invade Israel? Ezek 38:12-13 tells us the answer is spoils of war in the form of material gain, which involves “silver and gold” and “livestock and goods.” Israel was previously “a continual waste” (v. 8) and “waste places” (v. 12), but it has become a prosperous location of great wealth. Modern Israel has become quite rich—with natural resources, technology, and abundant agriculture. Israel’s enemies desire to possess riches by annihilating its citizens.

Finally, the most significant element of this battle is Yahweh’s part in it. Even though these 10 nations rise up against Israel, Ezekiel states that Yahweh is using the situation for His purpose. Yahweh says, “I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out” (v. 4). Yahweh’s purpose is ultimately this: “They will know that I am the LORD” (vv. 23, 39:6–7, 13, 21–22, 28). In other words, Yahweh is sovereign over all—even in this invasion of powerful nations against His people.

SUMMARY: the battle of Gog and Magog is the future invasion of nations, including Russia, Turkey, Iran, Sudan, and Libya (Algeria/Tunisia), against Israel (possibly near the midpoint of the Tribulation), motivated by the material wealth they will get from conquering Israel. The outcome is a devastating defeat for Israel’s enemies because Yahweh Himself fights for them, which reveals to all nations that Yahweh is the Supreme Elohim.

ANOTHER POSSIBLE SCENARIO:

Stage 1: Gathering of the Armies of the Antichrist. The assembling of the armies begins at the same times as the divine judgement of the sixth bowl. At this time the Euphrates River will be dried up, making it faster and easier for the armies of the “kings from the east” to assemble. The armies joining him will be the seven remaining kings out of the ten described in Dan 7:24-27 and Rev 17:12, 13. Their goal will be the final destruction of the Jews. (Rev 16:12-16)

Stage 2: Babylon Destroyed. In this stage, the activity shifts from the gathering of the armies of the Antichrist to the destruction of Babylon. While the Antichrist is with his armies in Armageddon, his capitol will be attacked and destroyed. Although the Antichrist will be a world ruler, he won't be able to stop the rebellion and opposition. He will try, but it will be impossible. (Rev 17-18; Dan. 11:41; Jer. 50-51; Isa 13-14)

Stage 3: Jerusalem Falls Although the Antichrist's capital is destroyed, his armies will not have been lost. The Antichrist and his armies will sweep down to Jerusalem and the city will once again fall into Gentile control. (Zech 12:1-9 & 14:1-2; Micah 4:11-5:1)

Stage 4: The Antichrist Moves South Against the Remnant The battle now shifts into the desert and mountains, probably to the location about 80 miles south of Jerusalem to the area of Bozrah/Petra. After the Antichrist breaks his treaty with Israel, pollutes the newly rebuilt Temple, at the beginning of the second half of the tribulation, he issues a decree to kill the entire Jewish population. One third of the Jews make it safely out of Jerusalem and flee into the desert. (Zech 13:8; Dan 9:27; Isa 33:13-16; Jer 49:13, 14; Micah 2:12; Matt 24:15-31; Rev 12:6, 14)

Stage 5: The Regeneration of Israel Before Christ returns there must be a confession of Israel's national sin and a pleading for the Messiah to return (Matt 21:9). This will come as the armies of the Antichrist are ready to destroy the Jews in the wilderness. Living in the rocks, holes and graves of the Petra/Bozrah area, the nation of Israel confesses repents and receives Yeshua as their Savior with the words of Isa 53:1-9. (Lev 26:40-42; Deut 4:29-31; 36:6-8; Jer 3:11-18; Hosea 5:15; Isa 64; Zech 12:10; Matt 23:37-39; Isaiah 53:1-9; Rom 1:25-27; Joel 2:28-32;)

Stage 6: The Second Coming of Yeshua The prayers of the Jews are answered as Yeshua returns to the earth to defeat the armies of the Antichrist at Petra/Bozrah. At His second coming, Yeshua will battle with the Antichrist's forces without human assistance, with the word of His mouth. According to Jude 14-15 and Revelation 19:11-16, Yeshua will return with an angelic army and with the saints. (Isa 34:1-7; 63:1-6; Hab 3:3; Micah 2:12-13).

Stage 7: The Final Battle In this phase, the Antichrist will be slain by the true Elohim. Beginning at Bozrah and moving back to Jerusalem and the Kidron Valley, Yeshua will miraculously engage and destroy the Antichrist's armies. (Hab 3:13; II Thess 2:8; Joel 3:12, 13; Zech 14:12-15; Rev 14:19, 20)

Stage 8: The Ascent to the Mount of Olives With the destruction of the Antichrist and his army, the battle will be over and Yeshua will stand on the Mount of Olives. When this happens, there will be a number of cataclysmic events that will bring the tribulation to an end. As described in Zechariah and Revelation, the supernatural tragedies that come upon the world at this time, including the greatest earthquake the world has known, correspond to the seventh bowl of wrath. As a result of the earthquake, Jerusalem will split into three areas and the Mount of Olives will split into two parts, creating a valley. In addition to the earthquake there will be a tremendous hailstorm and a blackout with an eclipse or darkening of the sun and moon. After these events, the battle of Armageddon and the tribulation will end. (Zech 14:3-5; Joel 3:14-16; Matt 24:29; Rev 16:17-21).

ANOTHER POSSIBLE SCENARIO:

The Har mō'ed battle of Rev 16:14-16 is at the end of the millennium with Gog-Magog event of Rev 20:7-10. They are one and the same event.

REV 20 The Thousand Years

Armageddon/Gog/Magog is described in Rev 20 again. Satan is bound (vs 2) so he can't deceive the nations until he's released, which happens right before Armageddon/Gog/Magog.

(Vs 7) and when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison...then Armageddon/Gog/Magog happens. Satan is thrown into the lake of fire. Followed by a general resurrection (vs 13). Then we have the great white throne judgment where every human who has ever lived stands before the throne. The dead are judged by their deeds which are recorded in the books. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire, which is the 2nd death. Anyone who was not found written in the book of life is thrown into the lake of fire. (Ezek 38-39, and Psa 48, Isa 14, and a little bit of Zech 14, in Rev 16, 19 and Rev 20). *Home work - read all these chapters & note the similarity*

I believe in a literal coming, a forever kingdom, literally on earth, ruled by a literal messiah.

Rev 20:3 is connected to the same events as his being thrown out of heaven and down to earth in 12:8-9 & 20:11:

Rev 20:3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* above him, in order that he could not deceive the nations again until the thousand years are completed. After these *things* it is necessary *for* him to be released *for* a short time.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Rev 12:8 And they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them *any* longer in heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet also *are*, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and the one who was seated on it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and a place was not found for them.

Satan is removed from his position, which means that "If you are a member of Yeshua's kingdom, Satan can no longer bring any claim against you to Yahweh. He can't accuse you. He can't claim your soul. He's a prosecutor without a case. Yahweh won't hear what he has to say anymore. His authority is gone. Because Yeshua died and rose from the dead, you're not going to end up in Satan's domain in the underworld. Satan is lord of the dead. But, Yeshua brought an end to Satan's authority to kill you. Because the kingdom has come and it's irreversible. Satan's not going to be able to stop it.

We have to let the text interpret the text. In Rev 20:3, Satan's put into the pit so that he could not *deceive* the nations.

Rev 20:3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* above him, in order that he could not deceive the nations again until the thousand years are completed. After these *things* it is necessary *for* him to be released *for* a short time.

The Greek word translated "deceive" here is *planaō*, meaning as "leading astray in a specific way." The specific way Satan does what he does are seen in terms of what Satan does when he is released from his prison. He leads the nations against Zion. If that's what he does when he's permitted, then that is what he was prevented from doing. It's not that Satan can't assault the Church. He does that every day. What he doesn't do is lead the nations against Zion. This means that Satan, when he is permitted by Yahweh to do so, will move the spiritual battle to a new level. He launches a direct assault on Yahweh's throne, Yahweh's plan, Yahweh's city, and Yahweh's people.

This is related to Armageddon. It's related to gathering all the forces of human and cosmic evil against Mount Zion. He gathers and leads the nations and the fallen gods in a final rebellion in an attempt to overthrow the plan of Yahweh and the judgment of the gods of the nations. That is what he was forbidden to do... until Yahweh released him from his prison.

After 1,000 years, the nations (their gods and those loyal to them—the whole supernatural chaos system) are deceived by Satan into trying to do the impossible—stop or overturn the judgment of Psalm 82.

Psa 82 and Isa 14 are connected.

Satan gets all of the forces marshaled against Zion because he still thinks he can be the Most High. Why would Yahweh prevent Satan from doing this in the first place? Perhaps, it's because Yahweh wants to delay the judgment of the nations in favor of redeeming people *from* all those nations. Yahweh delays Armageddon in order for the gospel to be preached in all the world and in order to give the Bride time to prepare herself for the wedding. Yahweh prevents Satan from leading the battle because that desperate act will cause Yahweh to respond by His return when He destroys them all. But Yahweh doesn't want that to happen until His appointed time.

Why? Because Yahweh has an appointed time. The return of Christ and judgment of the nations and the gods are linked to the fullness of the Gentiles and the preparation of His bride. The 1,000 year reign happens then when Satan is set free, and *I believe*, Armageddon happens (Rev 20:6), and what follows Armageddon is a literal messianic rule under Yeshua that last forever—not just 1,000 years. And we will rule with him forever, not just 1,000 years. The nations will be reclaimed. There will be a forever kingdom—a new, global Eden. Yahweh limits Satan in a very specific way. He will not allow him to instigate Armageddon until Yahweh is ready. And what is Yahweh waiting for? He's waiting for the Great Commission and for His bride to prepare herself. The Deut 32 worldview again just helps us understand what really is happening behind the scenes. Yahweh is going to judge Satan and the fallen gods and mankind.

If we go back to the beginning in Revelation 20 on the “angel” talk” in verses 1-3 (the angel in the pit)...

Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and people sat upon them—those to whom authority to judge was given. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Yeshua and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image, nor had they received his mark on their forehead or on their hand. And they came to life and reigned with the Messiah for a thousand years.

From chapters 4-5 of Rev to present, the context is the divine throne room—which is the Divine Council. Are these enthroned judges part of the heavenly council as presented in chapters 4-5, or is this council more than that?

In other words, does the language include believers with whom the throne of Yeshua is shared (based on Dan 7, Rev 3:21, where Yeshua says, “To him that overcomes, I will grant him to sit on my throne with me and rule”)?

This heavenly council has been identified in at least five different ways.

1. They are martyrs who will assist Yahweh in the final judgment (that's one possibility)
2. They are all Yahweh's people assisting Him in the judgment (Luke 22:30; 1 Cor. 6:2; Rev. 2:26–27; 19:14)
3. They are the angelic court of Dan 7 who declare the final judgment against Satan in vindication of the saints whom he oppressed. This would correspond to Dan. 7:9–11, “thrones were set up ... the court sat ... the beast was slain” Ps. 4:4 identifies the court as angelic).
4. The court is composed of angels, but the angels represent believers.
5. The court includes exalted believers along with angels, since the same scene of figures (“elders”) sitting on heavenly thrones in Rev. 4:4 included angels who corporately represent exalted saints (see 4:4 and 11:16). The fact is that the only occurrences of plural “thrones” in the book of Revelation is 20:4, 4:4 and 11:16.

I suggest the thrones here are the Divine Council that includes believers. It makes the most sense when looking at the big picture. Both angel and believer will assist in announcing and carrying out the judgment in Dan 7.

Dan 7:9 "I continued watching until thrones were placed and an Ancient of Days sat; his clothing *was* like white snow and the hair of his head *was* like pure wool and his throne *was* a flame of fire and its wheels *were* burning fire.

Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth and flowed from his presence; thousands *upon* thousands served him and ten thousand *upon* ten thousand stood before him. The judge sat, and *the* books were opened.

Dan 7:11 "I continued watching then because of the noise of the boastful words of the horn *who was* speaking; I continued watching until the beast was slain and its body was destroyed, and it was given *over* to burning with fire.

Dan 7:12 And *as for* the remainder of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but a prolongation of their life was given to them for a season and a time.

Dan 7:13 "I continued watching in the visions of the night, and look, with the clouds of heaven *one* like a son of man was coming, and he came to the Ancient of Days, and was presented before him.

Dan 7:14 And to him was given dominion and glory and kingship that all the peoples, the nations, and languages *would* serve him; his dominion *is* a dominion without end that will not cease, and his kingdom *is one* that will not be destroyed.

If the thrones are occupied by members of the Divine Council and by us, the sons of Yahweh...if that's the case, and if the reigning being described is this present Church Age, then this is your destiny if you die today, before the Lord's return. That means that you will be part of the Divine Council and its rule, while waiting to return with Christ.

Zech 14:5 And you (*the Jews*) will flee *by* the valley of my mountains, because the valley of *the* mountains will reach to Azal, and you will flee like you fled from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. And Yahweh my Elohim will come, *and all the* holy ones with him.

Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and people sat upon them—those to whom authority to judge was given. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Yeshua and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image, nor had they received his mark on their forehead or on their hand. And they came to life and reigned with the Messiah for a thousand years.

The martyrs will be part of the “sons of Yahweh” who reign with the Messiah at their death and when He returns to rule over earth in a new global Eden.

1,000 years: a thousand years is used in Ps 90:4 and 2 Pet 3:8.

Psa 90:4 For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day just passing by, or like a watch in the night.
2Pe 3:8 But don't forget this one thing, loved ones, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

Some scholars say that 1,000 years is figurative because of those 2 verses. The Church has existed almost 2,000 years *and* the literal, fullness of the kingdom is going to be longer than a thousand years, too. They're both extending beyond the literal meaning.

Rev 20:5-6; 11-12 we see references to the “first resurrection” and the “second death.” The first resurrection are those raised to life to rule and reign on the earth with the Messiah for 1,000 years and beyond. There is a “second death” mentioned, which refers to the final judgment—the final dying or annihilation in the lake of fire.

Rev 20:14-15 actually defines what the second death is. It's the judgment of being thrown into the lake of fire.
Rev 20:14 And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire.
Rev 20:15 And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

After the final judgment, the righteous rule and reign with Christ and everyone else is either dying or they've been annihilated.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.
Rev 20:6 How fortunate and holy is the one who has a share in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no authority, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and the Messiah, and they shall reign with Him for a thousand years.

In verse 9, fire comes down from heaven and consumes the beast and all the bad guys. So that's the culmination of Armageddon. The very next thing that happens is:

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet also *are*, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and the one who was seated on it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and a place was not found for them (*the old earth and old heaven*).

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead—the great and the small—standing before the throne, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the *book* of life, and the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds.

It's like a play. The curtain goes up. The first scene is verse 10, where we see Armageddon/Gog/Magog and the devil is thrown into the lake of fire. And the next scene with the second resurrection—the unrighteous dead who weren't "raptured," (*the first resurrection*). In the second resurrection, the unrighteous are raised from the dead and brought before the great white throne. The books are opened and every person (*saint and sinner*) who has ever lived is judged. Some to eternal life and some to the eternal dying or annihilation and that is the second death, and that's it. And the unrighteous, of course, are judged and experience the second death, which is the final dying or the final annihilation. Death and Hades are thrown into the Lake of fire.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead—the great and the small—standing before the throne, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the *book* of life, and the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead *who were* in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead *who were* in them, and each one was judged according to their deeds.

Rev 20:14 And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire.

Rev 20:15 And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire. Death and Hades are being personified. Yeshua takes the keys from them. Why? Because He rose from the dead and He now dictates who remains in the underworld and who does not. He has taken back the kingdoms of this world from Satan! Death and Hades do not get to rule and reign in hell. And, if you're united to Christ, you escape the realm of the dead. You're going to live with Yahweh forever on the new earth. Death and Hades meet their end in 20:13-14. Not only does Yeshua force Death and Hades to give back the souls of the dead (1:18; 20:13), but Death & Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire. And John says there will be no more "death" (Rev 21:4) John actually says, "There is no more death," which means there is no more need for a realm of the dead (Hades). Yeshua throws Death and Hades into the lake of fire (20:14), symbolizing the end of Death and the realm of the dead. The saints will live forever in the New Jerusalem (Rev 21-22).

Does the death of death mean anything? Is death really done away with (like there is no more death)?

Rev 21:4 And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist *any* longer, and mourning or wailing or pain will not exist *any* longer. The former *things* have passed away."

Is Rev 21:4 only about the glorified believers in a new global Eden? Or does it mean that death no longer exists anywhere? You can't have people still dying forever somewhere in an underworld that doesn't exist and experiencing death when death is no more. So, we have annihilation of death—that means it never happens again. Or perhaps it only applies to people who end up in the glorified Eden? If so, then you could have death existing on the outside...or can you? It's difficult to know exactly what this means.

1Co 15:26 The last enemy to be abolished *is* death.

Heb 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in blood and flesh, he also in like manner shared in these *same things*, in order that through death he could destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

Rev 1:18 and the one who lives, and I was dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of Hades.

Rev 6:8 And I looked, and behold, a pale green horse, and the one seated on it was named Death, and Hades followed after him. And authority was granted to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword and by famine and by pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

THE DAYS OF NOAH

Yeshua said the day of his return would be like the days of Noah and like the days of Lot. Noah represents the church. Noah and his family were lifted above the wrath of Yahweh and saved from the destruction. Noah and the ark are an analogy for the return of Yeshua for his church. Lot and his family being “rescued” by the 2 angels before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is another analogy. The days of Noah and the days of Lot begin before the rapture and end when the ark touches down on Mt Ariat.

Luk 17:26 "And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

Luk 17:27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. (Noah is a type of Yeshua—he spent 100 yrs building the ark—Yeshua has spent 2,000 years preparing a place for us John 14:2).

Luk 17:28 "It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling (*both times Yeshua cleansed the temple, He drove out those who were buying and selling; also the only ones who can buy or sell are those who have taken the mark of the beast, Rev 13:17*), they were planting, they were building;

Luk 17:29 but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone (fire & brimstone is the lake of fire Rev 14:10, 20:10, 21:8) from heaven and destroyed them all.

Luk 17:30 "It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

Yeshua gave 2 analogies: Noah and Lot. Both are about the days before Yeshua’s return for the church/the rapture. Yeshua says that people will be going about their lives as normal without a clue that Yeshua is about to return. But the righteous will be watching for Him (Matt 25:1, 10 virgins). Parallels: in both accounts a disaster comes that destroys them all. “Until the day” and “on the day” are in both stories. He tells us that on the day the church is rescued, fire and brimstone destroys the world. It’s the day every eye sees him. So, when is that? (possibly after the 6th trumpet or 7th?)

Another phrase: eating, drinking and getting married in Noah’s account and economic matters in Lot account. Where is marriage found? Gen 6:1-2 the days of Noah are about the Nephalim. The marriage reference is there to take us back to Gen 6. There were giants on the earth: the word “giant” is the word “hybrid”. Yahweh created man in his image, but genetically altered Nephalim were born. Gen 6:9 says Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations...Noah’s DNA was not corrupted.

In the reference to Lot, buying and selling was highlighted. Lot chose to live in Sodom for economic reasons Gen 13:10-13. Another thing Yeshua is highlighting is to not get trapped in the things of this world...the \$ etc. As Lot and his wife and children were being rescued, she turned around and turned into pillar of salt. Yeshua said, “Remember Lot’s wife”. Remember she looked back. We can’t look back and what we left behind. Luk 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Buying and selling was part of what the people of Sodom were doing right up until their destruction. Plus, the terrible sins they were participating in. Homosexuality was rampant. I wonder if they were practicing the same sins as the days of Noah when the sons of Yahweh had relations with the daughters of men. The men in the town demanded that Lot send the two angels out so they could had relations with them. The same was true in the time of Noah: Gen 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Great violence and wickedness are coming. Are you prepared? Did Noah fight against the violence? No. He obeyed what Yahweh told him to do and that was to build an ark so they would be prepared. We are to prepare for what is coming. Like Noah.

Why did only 8 enter the ark? Noah’s grandfather, Methuselah, died the very year of the flood. Lamech, Noah’s father, died 5 years before the flood. Methuselah’s name means: when he dies, it will come. Violence was rampant while Noah was building the ark. Violence was rampant in Sodom.

Luk 18:8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Luk 17:22 -37

2Pe 3:5 -13 Peter compares the future wrath of Yahweh to the time of the flood. Yahweh is being patient right now because He’s not willing that any should perish, which is what 2Pe 3:9 says.

The ark is a symbol of the time when Yahweh will rescue His people and protect them while He pours out His wrath. Fire will be the destruction instead of water. Only those who refuse to take the mark will be persecuted. Yeshua’s return will fill the skies with lightening and everyone will see him. His return has to happen before the bowls of wrath are poured out. After His return, the unrighteous will experience the wrath of Yahweh—just like the flood, like Sodom.

Rev 21-22 is John's vision of the new Jerusalem and the new earth. John clearly tells us that his vision about the new, forever presence of Yahweh on earth does not include a new temple (Rev 21:22). In the new Jerusalem, there's no temple. Many Christians believe that if a new temple gets built in Jerusalem then it's a fulfillment of biblical prophecy, I personally don't think that. There is no mention of a 3rd physical temple described in Revelation. Something so important would surely be mentioned. Is it not mentioned because it doesn't exist? Rev 21:22 says there's no temple. In OT theology, the temple wasn't just a place you bring sacrifices. Ezekiel tells us it's more than just a place you bring sacrifices.

Ezekiel opens with the throne of Yahweh descending to the earth. This is Ezekiel's "wheels" vision. There's a divine Man (Yahweh in human form) seated on a throne. The throne has wheels and a platform. It's a vision of global sovereign rulership represented by the 4 faces of the cherubim (Rev 4-5). The message is: Yahweh will rule from his temple/throne, and his temple is descending to the earth. He's still in control, even though He has allowed His people to be sent into exile for their idolatry. That doesn't mean Satan has won the battle. It doesn't mean Satan's program is better than Yahweh's. Yahweh's plan is not going to be lost even if His own people reject Him. The 4 faces also represent the four corners of the earth and how Yahweh rules over the whole earth and all the nations—not just Israel, but *all* the nations. The 4 faces also represent Christ: face of a man, face of a lion, bull and eagle.

The heavenly temple is the focus because the earthly temple is about to be destroyed. When the Jewish captives hear this news, the intention is for them to remember Yahweh is still on the throne. In Ezek 2, we have the glory departing. It departs in stages, and that runs through chapter 2 and beyond. Following the description of the heavenly things, the cherubim and the throne, accusations about the rebellion of the Jews and predictions of judgment against their rebellion are described in Ezek 2-8. This justifies Yahweh's withdrawal of His glory from the temple in chapters 9-11.

The process of the withdrawal is gradually carried out through three steps.

1. The first step of the withdrawal of the glory occurs in Ezek 9:3. This shows that when the glory of Yahweh moves from the cherub in the Temple to the threshold of the Temple,
2. Yahweh executes his judgment against the rebellious people through the One called 'the man in linen'.
3. Yahweh also protects the believers by placing a mark on the foreheads of those who were sighing and groaning over all the abominations that were committed (Ezek.9:4). We've see this in Rev, with the mark on the 144,000.

The Man in linen (Yeshua), putting the mark on the foreheads of the believers happens because of the removal of Yahweh's glory from the temple, which brings about the judgment against Israel. Everyone who doesn't have the mark will be judged (Ezek.10:2-9). In 10:18-19, the process of Yahweh's departure is seen. In particular, the phrase, 'the cherubim rose up from earth' in 10:19 clearly represents the departure of the glory of Yahweh from the earthly Temple. The cherubim stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the house and the glory of the Yahweh of Israel was there also. Ezek.11:22-23 describes the final stage of the process of removal. We see that the glory of Yahweh is not completely removed from the city of Jerusalem, but only from the earthly Jerusalem Temple. The glory remains on the mountain east of the city, which leaves the possibility of restoration as well as judgment against the rebellious people. This establishes a pattern for the following chapters until the full detail of the restoration is given in Ezek. 36-48, which is the main temple description in the book.

In Ezek.11:17-20, the promises of restoration:

1. returning/gathering from exile to the land of Israel (11:17)
2. removal of the detestable heart and endowment of a new heart and a new spirit within them (11:18-20a) [that's the new covenant];
3. renewal of the [old] covenant (11:20b). As a result, Yahweh will be the Temple for Israel in the exile, promotes a sense of expectation for restoration.

There's a return of the Israelites to the land of Israel, a new covenant—a new heart—given to those people and a new spirit within them. And then we have a renewal of the relationship between Yahweh and his people, the covenantal relationship that we would expect to be there since the times of Abraham and Moses.

All three of those things happened in the NT before His second coming.

1. On Pentecost, we have the fulfillment of this regathering.
2. We have the Holy Spirit coming.
3. The new covenant is fulfilled at Pentecost.
4. The family of Yahweh is essentially reborn. This new covenant is going to include new people (the Gentiles).

They're all lead to this idea of a new temple—getting the very presence of Yahweh back on earth and in the new Jerusalem. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians. Ezekiel isn't talking about just the temple. He's talking about Yahweh in Jerusalem and ruling the earth. They are looking for a new Jerusalem and a new temple that's as good or better than the old one. And all these things in the prophecy of Ezekiel has to happen before that.

Ezekiel's prophecies are:

1. The establishment of an everlasting covenant by the remembrance and the renewal of Yahweh's covenant with Israel in the past. (We see some of that in [Ezek 16](#)).
2. There's "the gathering of the people" that he refers to in [Ezek 11](#) and [Ezek 20](#).
3. The third example: there's a prophecy of a "peaceful, safe, and bountiful life upon their return to Jerusalem from exile." The returning captives have safety in life; they build houses; they plant vineyards. This is [Ezek 28:25-26](#).
4. The new creation that is described much like a new Eden ([Ezek 12-35](#)). In summary, we see the removal of wild animals from the land; sending rain as Yahweh's blessing; the trees' yielding fruit and the productiveness of the land; acknowledgment of Yahweh; no more plunder for the nations; no more animals of the land to devour them; they live in safety; provision of food with no more hunger in the land; an end to suffering from the insults of the nations; Israel belonging to Yahweh as His sheep in His pasture. And that comes from [Ezek 34:25-30](#).

It sounds a lot like Eden because this is where everything is headed to—a new Eden, where Yahweh dwells with His divine counsel. We have prophecies of the new covenant, national resurrection, national restoration, a new Eden ([Ezek 12-35](#)). In [Ezek 36](#), the national resurrection message is clear. [Ezek 37](#) is the dry bones and leads us to [Ezek 38-39](#).

Points to be made from all of this as it pertains to the book of Ezekiel and what the Israelites (especially those coming out of exile or expecting to come out of exile) would have thought about the temple.

1. First there's a restoration of a new Jerusalem with a temple, which was certainly expected by Israelites. They anticipate getting back what was lost.
2. This new Jerusalem is described like a restored Eden and the whole land is in view—not just a city. This "Eden" is described as: "no more hunger; no more disease, and there's always enough to eat, always enough rain. Even the animals that would kill us aren't going to kill us anymore. There's no nations around us to threaten us."
3. If they rebuilt a temple today in Jerusalem, there are plenty of nations around them that would still want to destroy Israel. In fact, the circumstances of a third temple would make it worse. Having a 3rd temple doesn't really match what Ezekiel is talking about here. The new Jerusalem (city), and the new Eden—the new earth fits the description.
4. Since the new temple/new Jerusalem is described as a new Eden on earth in the OT, this sets the stage for [Rev. 21](#), which describes a new Jerusalem and a new creation, and that city actually *lacks* a temple. [Rev 21: 1-3 & 22](#)

[Rev 21:1](#) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea did not exist *any* longer.

[Rev 21:2](#) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

This happen after chaos has been dealt with in the lake of fire. Sea represents chaos in the bible. There's no more chaos. He's not describing a new temple. He's describing a *new city* (Jerusalem).

[Rev 21:3](#) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God *is* with humanity, and he will take up residence with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them.

John describes the city with the streets of gold like clear glass and all these different gemstones and the splendor of the city and its splendor. [Rev 21:22](#) And I did not see a temple in it, for the Lord God All-Powerful is its temple, and the Lamb.

There's no building there. It's *them*. Notice how [Rev 21](#) starts out—there is no temple because the temple is Yahweh and Yeshua (and His body). [Rev 16-19](#) describe the end of chaos, the return of Yeshua, and the consummation of the new earth. None of it involved building a temple in Jerusalem either before or after those events. [Rev 21-22](#) doesn't either.

The NT, when talking about the "temple", doesn't refer to a building, but to the body of Christ.

You know, this language is deliberate. It's about Yeshua and His body of Christ. He is the cornerstone, which is the first stone you lay when building. Everything else is built off of that stone. We are living stones—we're alive and we're built off of Him, around Him, because of Him.

You know, this language is deliberate. It's about Yeshua and His body of Christ. He is the cornerstone, which is the first stone you lay when building. Everything else is built off of that stone. We are living stones—we're alive and we're built off of Him, around Him, because of Him.

Joh 2:13-22 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated *at their tables*. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME." The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

When John hears Yeshua say this, he isn't thinking about a physical building. His Jewish understanding of temple is so much more than that. John tells us Yeshua wasn't speaking about the literal temple; He was speaking about His body. The body of Christ is the temple. Peter, Paul and John teach that believers are the body of Christ (1 Cor 3; 1 Cor 6; 2 Cor 6).

1 Peter 2:5 describes believers as living stones and Christ as the cornerstone. Yeshua will rule over the new earth. He shares that rulership with us because we are His body/temple. Yeshua is the cornerstone, which is the first stone you lay when building. Everything else is built off of that stone.

We will rule with Him. The 7 letters to the 7 churches are filled with promises to those who overcome the difficult things in this life:

Rev 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

Rev 2:11 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

Rev 2:17 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

Rev 2:26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

Rev 3:5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 3:21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Rev 21:7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Isa 65:16-25 is the clearest passage about the restoration of the New Jerusalem. Isa 66 complements chapter 65.

Isa. 65: 16-25 is divided into two parts:

1. the New Creation and the New Jerusalem (vss. 16-18)
2. Life in the New Jerusalem/the New Creation (vss. 19-25).

When Isaiah begins to hint about getting the temple back, he talks about that idea in connection with the new creation and the new Jerusalem, just like Rev 21-22 does.

Isa 65:16-18 Whoever blesses himself in the land (now they're going back to the land here) shall bless himself by the God of trustworthiness, and the one who swears an oath in the land shall swear by the God of trustworthiness, because the former

troubles are forgotten, and they are hidden from my eyes. (*Yahweh is speaking now*) For look! I *am* about to create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered, and they shall not come to mind. But rejoice and shout in exultation forever and ever *over* what I *am* about to create! For look! I *am* about to create Jerusalem *as a source of* rejoicing, and her people *as a source of* joy.

Isa 65:17 and Rev 21:1 both speak about new heavens and a new earth. Jerusalem will be the center of Yahweh's rule (Jer. 3:17, Ezek. 5:5). Yahweh rules the whole universe, but focuses his rule on Israel. People will see Yahweh's glory in the city. It's clear in Rev, that the new Jerusalem will most likely be the center of the new Creation. The new Jerusalem is the place which reveals Yahweh's sovereignty more gloriously than any place else, though the New Creation itself also reveals it. The restoration of Jerusalem results in the restoration of Yahweh's sovereignty over the world, and the restoration of Yahweh's sovereignty results in the restoration of creation. The new creation/world will be much like the old creation/world, but it will be a renewal of it, much like our body will be renewed without losing its former identity.

Isa 65:16-18: "Because he who is blessed in the earth will be blessed by the God (El) of truth; And he who swears in the earth Will swear by the God (El) of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My sight! For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *for* rejoicing And her people *for* gladness.

Isa 66:22-23 says: "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me," declares the LORD.

Those 2 passages go together with Rev. 21:1-5

Rev 22:1-5 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Isa 65:16-18 makes a contrast between the "former" earth, where the "first affliction" of captivity occurred, and "a new heaven and a new earth," where there will be only enduring "joy and exultation."

Isa 66:22 states that one of the main differences is that "the new heaven and new earth" will remain forever, in contrast to the old heaven and earth, which passed away.

The blessings or conditions described for the new Jerusalem and the new creation are the reverse of the covenantal curses found in Deut 28 & 29. These are the curses and the blessings that have to do with remaining in the land or being expelled from it. In the new Jerusalem, nature will be restored into the original peaceful condition of Eden where wild animals will not prey on the domestic animals (Isa 43:20). This peace in the animal world will provide safety and security for people in the new Jerusalem. This is also the reverse of the curses in Deut. 28:26 (Isa. 13:20-21). The blessings summarized in these Isaiah passages reverse the curses in Deut 28, which is another sign that the Body of Christ is *a* new Israel. It's not *the* new Israel. But the whole Body of Christ is *a* new Israel, which is the bride of Christ.

Rev 21-22 includes the Gentiles and Jews as the Church, a kingdom of priests. There's only *one* people. Isa 66 ends with Gentiles being grafted into the family and worshiping the Lord at Jerusalem. It's another scripture that shows the unity of the people of Yahweh. Eden existed before there was such a thing as a Jew and a Gentile. There is *one* people of Yahweh. There will be no more nations to plague the people of Yahweh—Jew & Gentile. Those who survive will be the believers who follow the risen Christ. They will be happy to be part of a new Jerusalem. They will celebrate Yahweh for doing something new with the old. All of it focuses on Mt. Zion and Jerusalem. None of this is about a literal temple.

Seeing the OT and NT temple language as simply a literal building diminishes the impact of all that the temple is really about. The temple is Yahweh's home...where His sons and daughters abide.

Isa 28:14 -18

The Lord is exposing the lies that the leaders in Jerusalem had been telling the people. The leaders were lying to the people. And they are worshipping other gods and idols. What they had actually done is made a covenant with death.

Yahweh is saying, “So, you’ve aligned yourself with other gods, gods who can’t promise you anything (certainly not eternal life), gods who have lied to you and you’ve believed their lies and you perpetuate their lies and live them out. It’s not going to work. Your covenant with these other gods is about to be over. It’s not going to stand, and you’re going to be overwhelmed by a scourge (*a whip used for punishment*).” Yahweh talks about justice and righteousness. Isa 28:16 “I lay in Zion a stone, a chief cornerstone.”

If you were a Jew after the temple had been destroyed, if you’re reading Isa 28, you would think, “The Lord isn’t going to forsake us entirely. He’s got a foundation cornerstone laid there. We’re going to get the temple back.” But the question is, How does it actually get fulfilled? Was the 3rd temple built and Israel’s covenant with death (the exile) resolved? That didn’t happen. When we look at the NT, where is this verse quoted?

Matt 21:42 Yeshua said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?"

What is the stone Yeshua is talking about? Right before Yeshua tells the parable of the tenants in Mat 21:33-40

In this parable, we see a master who planted a vineyard. And when the season for harvesting the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to his renters to get His fruit. The renters watching over the field rejected the servants (this is the leadership in Jerusalem who worshipped other gods in Isaiah). They beat, stoned, and killed them. The master thought they wouldn’t do that to his son. He sent his son and they killed him. The son *is* this cornerstone that they rejected (vs 42). If you’re a Jew and you know Isa 28, which Yeshua is quoting, and you’ve been thinking that this means we’re going to get the temple back, here’s the question: “Does Isa 28 & Matt 21 refer to a literal rebuilding of the temple or is Yeshua the temple?”

Isa 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone *for* the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed.

Mat 21:42 -45

When the Pharisees and chief priests heard what Yeshua said, they weren’t thinking that He’s talking about a literal temple building. They understand that Yeshua was talking about them. They knew the OT and understood He was referring to the Messiah, the Stone, who is promised to come in Isa 28:16. They didn’t understand that Yeshua was that Cornerstone, the Messiah. That He would die. He would rise again. He would ascend to the Father.

Isa 28:16 has nothing to do with a literal temple. In fact, the temple turns out to be Christ himself and His body. Yeshua is the temple in Isa 28:16. Acts 4:11 is another place where Isa 28 is quoted. The context in Acts 4 is that the apostles are preaching to the elders and rulers of the people after Yahweh healed someone through them, and the leaders are furious.

Act 4:8 -12

If you were a Second Temple Jew and you know Isa 28 and you’re expecting a literal building to come out of that prophecy and you’ve heard about (or maybe seen) what happened on the day of Pentecost when 3,000 Jews accepted Yeshua as their Savior. You’re living in Jerusalem and the followers of Yeshua say that the new covenant has come, you’ve seen the gathering of Jews from all over the world for Pentecost and how they believe and preach that Yeshua is the messiah, and how that’s a reversal of what happened at Babel—

You hear about this miraculous healing, or maybe you witnessed it, and on the day of Pentecost and 3,000 Jews heard them speak in their language and believed that Yeshua is the Son of Yahweh and are saved.

Peter says in Acts 4:11, “You know that cornerstone passage in Isa 28 that we all thought was about rebuilding a temple... By the way, we have a temple. The one that hasn’t been destroyed by the Romans yet. That’s not really the temple. The chief cornerstone—the stone that Isaiah talked about—is Yeshua!”

Jer 30:31 Jeremiah lived during the period of upheaval in both northern Israel and southern Judah. Most of his message contain judgments against sinful Israel. However, the messages of restoration are included within the judgment messages. Which means Yahweh's judgment will eventually lead to restoration and will reverse the curses caused by His judgment.

Jer 30:1 The word came to Jeremiah from Adonai, saying:

Jer 30:2 thus says Adonai, the Elohim of Israel: "Write all the words that I have spoken to you in a scroll.

Jer 30:3 For behold, the days are coming," declares Adonai, "when I will return My people Israel and Judah from exile," declares Adonai. "I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it."

Jer 30:8 'It shall come about on that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves.

Jer 30:9 'But they shall serve the LORD their God/Elohim and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

Jer 30:10 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant,' declares the LORD, 'And do not be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar and your offspring from the land of their captivity. And Jacob will return and will be quiet and at ease, and no one will make him afraid.

Jer 30:11 'For I am with you,' declares the LORD, 'to save you; For I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, Only I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly and will by no means leave you unpunished.'

Yahweh is telling them that Israel will not be done away with permanently. For the Jews, possessing the land and occupying the land suggests the need for a new temple, because the Jews needed a temple if they are going to worship Yahweh. Release from the nations is also stated in this verse—there won't be any nations to harass and bother you. And again, that speaks of a time when the nations are on your side. We're getting a little hint of sort of the kind of stuff we see in Isaiah 65-66. Jer. is prophesying about a time when sin and chaos are judged and restoration comes to Israel. This points to a time when the Jews are brought back into their land, which would require a temple.

Jer 30:18 "Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob And have compassion on his dwelling places; And the city will be rebuilt on its ruin, And the palace will stand on its rightful place.

Now we're talking about a rebuilt city. And we're talking about a palace, which means the king is going to be there. Jer 3 is the other significant passage—it talks of the throne of the Lord. The throne makes us think of the cherubim and the ark of the covenant. And we think of the ark because the ark was the Lord's seat—the mercy seat. Later, it's going to be called the footstool. But we usually think of the ark of the covenant. Jer 3 blends the throne of the Lord as being the new Jerusalem, which sounds like Rev 21.

Jer 3:11-17

Rev. 21: 1-5

Jeremiah 3 tells us that the ark of the covenant (which was in the Most Holy Place in the temple), is gone. By the time we get to the end of the book of Jeremiah, the temple and the ark are gone because of Nebuchadnezzar's invasion.

Jer. 3:16 says, "It (*the ark of the covenant*) shall not be made again."

If the Jews build a new temple literally (a physical building), they're going to need an ark. But not only is it not going to be built again, right from the mouth of Jeremiah:

Jer 3:17 "At that time, they will call Jerusalem 'The Throne of the LORD,' and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the LORD; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart.

It sounds to me like the city is the temple. And that sounds like Rev 21. So again, we have this prophecy about a city that is the temple and a King ruling in Israel on Mt. Zion, and the new creation. Viewed in its totality, this is even a denial that the ark of the covenant's going to be rebuilt. It doesn't say it'll be found either. It says you won't need a temple because the temple is the returning Lord.

Let's look at Zechariah. Zechariah is divided into two sections (chapters 1-9 and 10-14). Zachariah talks a lot about the exile and restoration, which is about a new city and a new temple and people being regathered—all these things that we've seen in these other Prophets.

In Zech 3, the nation is cleansed. Joshua has filthy garments which represents the crimes and the sins of the nation. The filthy garments are taken away and they get changed into new garments. In chapter 3, we read about Israel being cleansed and forgiven. The high priest is restored. His garments are a big deal. He can't minister in a temple unless his clothing is pure and he's clean. So, we have this sort of temple expectation again, because we have a priesthood expectation. And you wouldn't renew the priesthood unless you're going to have a new temple.

Zech. 4:1-9 Zerubbabel started rebuilding the temple; and this verse says that Zerubbabel's hands will finish it. Did they complete the temple?

Zech 4:6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

In other words, "The work will not be completed by his (Zerubbabel's) might, nor by his power..." Zerubbabel is the David figure. He was actually a descendent of David. Only by Yahweh's Spirit will the temple be built and completed. The Temple rebuilding will be accomplished by divine power. On one hand, Zerubbabel is assigned to rebuild the New Temple/Jerusalem. On the other hand, Joshua, the high priest is used to remove the guilt of Israel, which caused the destruction of the first temple and the city of Jerusalem.

We see Zerubbabel (the Davidic king figure) and you've got Joshua (the high priest). We see two figures here: a priest figure and a king figure. But who gets crowned to complete this task in Zech 6:9-13? It's not Zerubbabel. It's the priest.

Zech 6:9-13

The crowning of Joshua is pointing to the coming Branch, who is the Davidic king. The Davidic king will coexist with the high priest, "the peaceful understanding between the two of them" (vs. 13b).

The King/Priest will come and build the New Temple (vss. 12-13). And that's what happens in verses 12-13: "he shall build the temple of the Lord." It is he who will build the temple of the Lord...There will be a priest on the throne. This is a new priesthood. This is Old Testament prophecy. The Jews have returned to their land. They've been cleansed from exile. And there's a new priesthood.

We have a temple that is going to be built by Yahweh's Spirit and a priest who is crowned king, who is referred to as the Branch, whose arrival leads to the completion of a new temple project. It sounds like Yeshua, the returned messiah. Once again we have a reference to the rebuilding of the temple, but it's not referring to a building, but to a Person.

We are shown in both Zech 6 & Rev 21&22, what is coming—the end of judgment, ultimate forgiveness, restoration of the dwelling place of Yahweh with his people, both in terms of a temple and the land—really the world, because there are no more nations to harass Israel. They've all been judged. Chaos is over. Yeshua is the king of the whole world.

All of these things are fulfilled in Rev 21-22 when the new Jerusalem and the new earth become one. We've looked at the 4 Old Testament Prophets with the 4 examples of the Messiah, being the temple. The Old Testament that merges these ideas that have to do with new creation, new priesthood, presence of the messiah, a new earth, and the people of Yahweh as His temple on earth. Prophecies and the content of Rev 21-22 were never supposed to be read as the fulfillment of *one* building project. They are the culmination—the consummation—of Yahweh's entire plan for His body, the one family of Yahweh, and everything else (the end of chaos, all these things).

As we end Rev 21, we see that the point is the Lord's presence fills everything. There is no place that you could go where He is not present. We will see it with our eyes and sense it with our other senses, that there's no place you can go where the presence of Yahweh is not felt, seen, and heard. The new Jerusalem, though described as a city, is really an image, not of a place, but of a people. It is not the final home of the redeemed. It is the redeemed themselves—we are one with Christ. It is "the bride, the wife of the Lamb." Rev 21:9

Rev 22

The opening verse of chapter 22 combines the prophetic pictures of a spring or a river of "living water" flowing out of the new Jerusalem (Zech. 14:8) and its temple (Ezek. 47:1-9)

Zec 14:8 And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

Zec 14:9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one, and His name *the only* one.

Ezek 47:1-9

Rev 22 actually refers all the way back to the garden of Eden in Gen. 2:10, "a river was going forth from Eden." Living water flows from the throne of Yahweh and the Lamb. When we look at the first Eden's river, we read about the "gold, the bdellium and the onyx stone" which were around one of the river's tributaries, which compares to the precious stones surrounding the river in 21:18-21. The point is that Yahweh is going to make the end like the beginning—only better.

In Ezek. 47, the living water flows from the temple, but in Rev 21:22, Yahweh and the Lamb are the temple from which the river flows. This river certainly indicates the presence and shalom of Yahweh that will flow from His rulership. This river also points to the ministry of the H Sp.

Living water is water that moves, as opposed to stagnant water like you see in a pond. The source of life is where Yahweh tabernacles/abides because He is the source of all life. And so it goes back to Eden, gets brought into the new creation in Revelation 21-22. Everything has gone full circle back to Eden, where there will be no more want and no more famine. No more drought. No more disease. No more fear..... In the end, we will live in what Eden was meant to be.

Rev 22:2 in the middle of its street, and on both sides of the river *is* the tree of life, producing twelve fruits—yielding its fruit according to every month—and the leaves of the tree *are* for the healing of the nations.

The phrase, "through the middle of the street of the city; also, on both sides of the river is the tree of life,"

You can't have *one* tree of life on *both* sides of a river. There are other examples of how the word for tree is used to describe a forest or more than one tree. It's the only way they make sense.

Eze 47:12 "By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all *kinds of* trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

It appears there is more than one Tree of Life. The trees of life bears fruit every month. In Ezek 47:12, we don't have 12 kinds of fruit, but we do have fruit every month. And of course, there's 12 months. There the trees miraculously bear 12 different kinds of fruit, one each month.

Ezek 47:12 mentions that the leaves are for healing. Rev 22 adds that the leaves are for the healing of the nations. The fruit will be food, and their leaves will be for healing. Ezekiel is writing to the *captives of Judah*. It's Israel-centered. It's Jew-centered. But when John describes the fruit it in Rev 21, it's not Israel centered. John adds the phrase, "the nations"—"the healing of the nations." He takes a Jewish prophecy and applied it to the whole Church. He's applied it to believers everywhere. Again, *one* people of Yahweh, one source of life, one place where the Lord's going to tabernacle. Again, all of these ideas are just coming through once again in this little section.

Eze 47:12 "By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all *kinds of* trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

We see Isa 66:18-23 in this passage. Remember, in Isaiah, that's where the nations are judged. We have the Day of the Lord; the nations get judged and, of course, their gods are with them. We have the destruction of the gods. The Psalm 82 judgment is finally fulfilled. And the nations are judged. In Isa 66 we see people from the nations who worship the Lord at Jerusalem. We see Gentiles being grafted in to the priesthood. We see the judgment and the blessing, the Day of the Lord, and then the grafting in. The "healing of the nations" is explained by Rev 22:3. First, "there will no longer be any curse." We see this phrase in Zec 14:11: People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

Rev 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; "No longer will there be anything *accursed*."

In the new Eden, in the new city of Jerusalem, in the new earth, there is no longer anything accursed. Accursed is the word *herem* in Zech 14:11. In the new Eden, the *herem* is over, which means the complete, irreversible ending of chaos and defilement. Before the Fall there was no *herem*. There was no chaos to be reversed.

Rev 22:4 they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. (*as opposed to those who took the mark of the beast on their foreheads*)

Rev 22:5 And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Before Yahweh created the sun and the moon, He created light and darkness.

Day 1:

Gen 1:2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Gen 1:3_ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Gen 1:4_ God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Gen 1:5_ God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Day 4:

Gen 1:16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; *He made* the stars also.

Gen 1:17 God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

Gen 1:18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

Gen 1:19 There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Rev 22:6_ And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

Rev 22:7_ "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

Rev 22:8_ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

Rev 22:9_ But he *said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

In verse 8, John attempts to worship the angel who stops him. The same thing happens in Rev 19:10. The angel commands John not to worship him but to "worship Yahweh". The angel says he is a mere "fellow servant" of John and "of your brothers who hold the testimony of Yeshua". Perhaps John thought the angel was Yeshua who is worthy of worship. Whatever his motive, we see the clear command as a warning to Christians, not just against worship of angels in particular, but against idolatry of any form. Only Yahweh is worthy of worship. We saw in chapter 1, in 14:14-20 and Rev 10:1 where Yeshua is seen as an angel. This is known as angelomorphic Christology: the idea that Yahweh sometimes takes the form of a man or an angel, like the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament.

This is a whole category of how Christ can be portrayed. It doesn't mean that Christ is an angel. It means that one particular angel happens to be Yahweh in human form and so he gets interpreted as an angel.

Why does he say, 'Don't worship me. Worship Yahweh,'?"

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.
Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

We see an angel speaking and we see Yeshua speaking in a way that sounds like it's the angel speaking. But the angel tells John not to worship him, but to worship Yahweh. In vs13, it appears as though the angel identifies himself as the Alpha and Omega. If the angel is Yahweh, then why refuse the worship? Maybe it's like Yeshua, when certain people called him "good," he said, "Well, don't call me good. Call Yahweh good. Only Yahweh is good." The idea would be to keep the focus of worship and adoration on the Father. That was part of Yeshua's mission. So maybe.

But I wonder if there is an angel present and Yeshua is also present, which we see in verses 8 and 13. And if that's the case, then it's okay for the angel—the angelic interpreter—to say, "Don't worship me; worship Yahweh," and Yeshua is there and refers to himself as the Alpha and the Omega. And I think verse 16 supports that.

Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The morning star language in Rev.2:28 is messianic—it refers to a divine being who would come from Judah. We know this from two other passages... In Num 24:17, we read the prophecy that "a star will go out from Jacob, and a scepter will rise from Israel." The OT Jews understood Num 24:17 to be about the Messiah. Readers of the book of Rev. would have known the morning star reference was not about a literal star, but about the Messiah. The 4 gospels don't quote Num 24:17 when they write about the star of Bethlehem. The morning star is about royalty. It's about the messiah. In OT, stars were a metaphor for divine beings. Not only does Yeshua say that he is the messianic morning star in Rev 22:16, but he says in Rev 2:28, "I will give him who overcomes the morning star". In other words, he will grant us the authority to rule with him as though we had the morning star.

At the end of the book, we are warned about "adding to" or "taking away" from the revelation." There is really no New Testament book that quotes as much Old Testament in it as the book of Revelation.