

Reading the Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Purpose

This study leads the reader through a reading of the New Testament book of Revelation—the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Often neglected, this is in the text of the New Testament, but not read often.

Interpretations of Revelation have spawned disagreements and division among many Christian groups. I believe that this is so because it tells of the ultimate punishment of Satan. Then again, that is an interpretation of the text.

This study attempts to lead a reading of Revelation without interpreting it.

The Wonder

The Revelation is a wondrous text. Powerful beings rise from the abyss, statues come alive, wars are fought in heaven with beings cast down to earth, fire, meteors, earthquakes, angels flying through the sky, the amazing events crash one after another. This is one of the more amazing texts anyone can read in the Bible and anywhere else.

Intended Audience

This study is for those who (1) have never read Revelation, (2) have read it many years ago and cannot remember much of it, (3) seek a fresh and different look at Revelation, or (4) have enough interest to read Revelation at least one more time.

Some Study Aids

The revelation of Jesus Christ to John takes the form of a vision that is too long for me to keep in my mind all at once. There are many beings doing many things in many places. I provide some study aids along the way.

There are Recaps of events that grow longer as the vision progresses. There are also descriptions of Persons, Places, or Things. I hope these help the reader keep the vision in mind.

I have also compiled an Index at the end of this document. In it, I note the chapter and verse of every occurrence of the important words in this Revelation—at least those items I consider important.

What's in a Name?

In older English translations (the King James being a notable one), this book is called “The Revelation of St John the Divine” and “The Revelation of John.” In almost all English translations after 1970, it is merely called “Revelation.” Almost all English translation from all ages begin with, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ...” Therefore, that is the title that I put on this study.

Translations

Various English translation use various words. This study will quote from:

CSB: The Christian Standard Bible, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.
<https://csbible.com/>

NET: The New English Translation, Copyright © 1996 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C.,
<https://netbible.org/>

The Blessing

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy aloud...” (NET)

Let us read Revelation and claim this blessing.

The Beginning

Chapter 1

Let's pay attention to the first couple of sentences or the first paragraph (1:1-3).

This is the revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave Jesus Christ. That sounds important. How can we neglect to read what Jesus revealed?

Jesus sent an angel to John to repeat to others. This “book” is John's relay of Jesus' words.

This is a prophecy (prediction of the future) of what must soon take place. And let us remember that we are using God's sense of time.

John is writing to the seven churches of Asia. These churches are the original intended audience or recipients. Let us remember that Paul's letter to the church in Rome had as its intended audience the church in Rome. Still, we read Romans and learn from it.

John had been exiled to the island of Patmos because of his preaching the good news that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God (1:9).

A Vision

On a Lord's Day, John had a vision. In this vision (1:20) Jesus stands with seven angels who are assigned to the seven churches of Asia. Jesus dictates what John is to send to these seven churches. This appears as the Son of Man standing next to seven golden lamp stands (representing the churches) and holding seven stars (representing the angels). The Son of Man wears a robe and a golden sash.

Person, Place, or Thing: Appearances and (sometimes)
Explanations

The great majority of this Revelation has John describing a vision he had. John envisions things that "appear like" a lion, a lamb, a candlestick, a flame, a desert, a city, etc. Sometimes John goes at great length to describe what these things do, how they are used, what happens in these places, etc.

After these descriptions, sometimes John writes, "so-and-so is what appeared like such-and-so." For example, Jesus is what appeared like a Lion and Satan is what appeared like a dragon.

I wish John would give the explanation before the story. I would understand it better that way, but that is just me. John's description was guided by God.

Let us note that there were seven churches and seven angels. There are seven specific names of the churches. This is not a general number but a specific number.

Messages to Churches

Chapters 2 and 3

Jesus dictates a message to each of the seven churches. Stop a moment. What a blessing to be one of these churches and have a message from Jesus.

What follows are messages to the churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Each message has commendations, disappointments, and encouragements for the future. These messages are recorded in chapters 2 and 3.

The messages end with,

"Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."—CSB

"The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches."—NET

Here are summaries of the messages to the churches.

Ephesus: You have worked and endured. Sometimes, however, you forget your first love. Remember to do the things you did at first.

Smyrna: You are slandered and afflicted. Be faithful to the point of death.

Pergamum: You hold onto the name of Jesus. There are some among you who are doing terrible things including being sexual immoral. Repent.

Thyatira: You are loving and faithful. Sometimes you tolerate wrong teachings such as sexual immortality. Stop that.

Sardis: You have a good reputation. You do good works, but many of your works are incomplete. Please do better.

Philadelphia: You keep my word and hold onto my name. Hold on to what you have.

Laodicea: I know your works. You think you are something that you are not. You are lukewarm, and I don't like that.

Person, Place, or Thing: Satan

Satan is mentioned about half-a-dozen times directly in Revelation. In the first few instances, Satan is mentioned in letters to four of the seven churches of Asia (Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, and Philadelphia) in chapters 2 and 3. The churches are admonished for following Satan in various ways.

In chapter 12, Satan—in the likeness of a huge red dragon—attempts to kill a child who was about to be born.

Later in chapter 12 is the story of how Satan and angels who followed Satan fought a war in heaven against Michael and other angels. Satan and Satan's angels were defeated and cast down to earth.

In chapter 20, Satan was locked in the abyss for a thousand years. After the thousand years, Satan is released, deceives the nations, and brings them to a great battle that ends in swift and decisive defeat. Satan is cast into a lake of fire and sulfur for eternal torment.

A Throne Room in Heaven

Chapter 4

The messages to the churches are finished. John, still having a vision, saw a throne room in heaven.

The throne room was magnificent with colors that were bright and brilliant—difficult to describe.

A throne was in the middle of the throne room with God sitting in that throne (I infer it is God due to what those praising Him say in 4:11).

Around the main throne where twenty-four other thrones with elders sitting in them wearing white robes and golden crowns.

There are seven fiery torches burning before the main throne. These are identified as the seven spirits of God.

There are four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) standing by the four sides of the main throne. Each creature had six wings and was covered with eyes. Day and night without stopping these four creatures say,

“Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God, the Almighty,
who was, who is, and who is to come.”—CSB

At this, the twenty-four elders bow down, set their crowns on the floor, and say,

“Our Lord and God,
you are worthy to receive
glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will
they exist and were created.”—CSB

Recap

There are many persons, places, and things in this text. Every few chapters are recaps to help the reader keep the vision fresh.

Recap of the Throne Room

Before proceeding, let's stop and note what is in the throne room in heaven at this point—the end of chapter 4. It is about to become quite crowded.

In the throne room, there is:

- Colors, colors, and more colors.
- A main throne with God seated in it.
- Twenty-four other thrones with twenty-four elders for each throne.
- Crowns for each of the twenty-four elders.
- Four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) standing by the four sides of the main throne. Each creature has six wings and is covered by eyes.
- The seven spirits of God (see as seven fiery torches).

Recap of Events

- Jesus appears with seven angels and seven churches. Chapter 1
- Seven messages are sent to the seven churches. Chapters 2 and 3
- The throne room in heaven. Chapter 4

A Lamb and a Scroll

Chapter 5

Things become busy and crowded in the throne room in heaven. This continues the vision of John given to him by Jesus.

God in the main throne is holding a scroll with writing on both sides. The scroll is sealed with seven seals.

A mighty angel asks, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" (CSB)

No one is able. One of the twenty-four elders states, "Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." (CSB)

Person, Place, or Thing: The Lion and Jesus

The "Lion" is generally accepted to be Jesus. In chapter 5, we read "the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David." (CSB). The Lion is the Root of David. In chapter 22, we read "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to attest these things to you for the churches. I am the Root and descendant of David." (CSB) Since the Lion is the Root of David and Jesus is the Root of David, the Lion is Jesus.

This Lion from the tribe of Judah is Jesus (see above).

Person, Place, or Thing: Jesus and the Lamb

Depending on the English translation, the word "Jesus" is given about half-a-dozen times in Revelation. The word "lamb" is given several dozen times. To some, it is obvious that the lamb and Jesus are the same. In chapter 21, the New Jerusalem has twelve foundations on which are written "the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (NET). Jesus had twelve apostles, so it would seem the Lamb is Jesus. Others who have studied the text agree in some cases and disagree in others. If we read other places in the New Testament, we find Jesus called the lamb. In this guide to reading the Revelation, I will use the words I read and will use "the Lamb" far more often than "Jesus."

The Lamb takes the scroll from God.

The four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) and the twenty-four elders each now have harps and the prayers of the saint (seen as golden bowls full of incense. They all fall facedown before Jesus and sing,

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slaughtered,
and you purchased people
for God by your blood
from every tribe and language
and people and nation.
You made them a kingdom

and priests to our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”—CSB

Thousands of thousands of angels appear and sing with the creatures and elders,
“Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered
to receive power and riches
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing!”—CSB

All the creatures in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say,
“Blessing and honor and glory and power
be to the one seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”—CSB

The four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) say, “Amen.”

The twenty-four elders fall and worship.

Recap

Recap of the Throne Room

Things are busy and crowded in the throne room at the end of chapter 5. We now have:

- Colors, colors, and more colors.
- A main throne with God seated in it.
- Twenty-four other thrones with twenty-four elders for each throne.
- Crowns for each of the twenty-four elders.
- Four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) standing by the four sides of the main throne. Each creature has six wings and is covered by eyes.
- The seven spirits of God (see as seven fiery torches).
- A scroll with seven seals and writing on both sides.
- A mighty angel
- Jesus appearing as a Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- Thousands of thousands of singing angels

Recap of Events

- Jesus appears with seven angels and seven churches. Chapter 1
- Seven messages are sent to the seven churches. Chapters 2 and 3
- The throne room in heaven. Chapter 4
- God has a scroll that has seven seals. Chapter 5

Opening Six Seals

Chapter 6

The Lamb opens the first six of the seven seals on the scroll that God held.

When the Lamb opens each of the first four seals, one of the four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) sees a horse and a rider going out into the world. John doesn't reveal which creature described the horses and riders. As the Lamb opens each seal, conditions for mankind on earth become bad and then worse.

The first horse was white. The first rider had a bow and a crown and went out to conquer.

The second horse was red. The second rider had a large sword. This rider removed peace from the earth which allowed all the people to have wars and slaughter one another.

The third horse was black. The third rider carried scales for weighing tiny amounts of food. It seems that there was famine everywhere.

The fourth horse was pale. The fourth rider had a name—death. Hades followed this horse and rider. This horse and rider were given power of a quarter of the earth to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

The Lamb now opens the fifth of seven seals on the scroll that God held. John now sees the altar that covers the souls of those who had died because they testified of the word of God. These souls cried for justice. They were given white robes and told to rest. It seems that more are to be killed for the same reasons as these.

The Lamb opens the sixth of the seven seals on the scroll that God held. Horrific acts of nature happen on earth. Meteors crash onto the earth causing earthquakes and throwing steam and dirt into the air that block the sun. The people of the earth rush to caves for safety.

They cry to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one 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?" (CSB)

Recap

Recap of Earthly Destruction

At this point, John has seen destruction on the earth. This includes:

- Peace is removed and wars take place.
- Famine occurs.
- Death by the sword, famine, plague, and wild animals covers one fourth of the earth.
- Meteors bring earthquakes and throw steam and dirt in the air to block the sun.

The 144,000 Sealed Israelites

Chapter 7

Now what John sees changes. He continues to see the throne room in heaven and now he can also see the earth and things happening on the earth.

First, John sees the earth. There are four angels standing at the four corners of the earth. They stop the wind blowing over the earth and they have the power to hurt the earth. A fifth angel

risers from the east holding the seal of God. This fifth angel tells the other four, “Don’t harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads.” (CSB)

There are 144,000 Israelites to have the seal of God placed on their foreheads. There are 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes.

Person, Place, or Thing: Seal

The word “seal” is used many times in Revelation and with several different meanings. The scroll has seven “seals.” These are like stamps or pieces of wax that hold the scroll closed. Those seals must be removed or opened before the scroll can be unrolled and read. That type of seal is like the “zip” on ZipLoc bags that we press closed to “seal in the freshness.”

Another type of “seal” in Revelation is mentioned here with the 144,000 Israelites having the “seal” of God on their foreheads. Later in chapter 13 is the mark of the beast. That was similar to the seal of the 144,000. This use of “seal” is like a stamp of approval or a stamp signifying ownership. We don’t use rubber stamps much anymore, but people would press an object into ink and then press that object onto something. This left a mark or sign. A common stamp in America was the USDA stamp of approval placed on packages of meat in the grocery store. That meant USDA inspectors approved the handling of the meat.

John turns back to the throne room in heaven. John now sees a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. This vast multitude had lived through the great tribulation. Their robes are white because they had washed them in the blood of the Lamb.

The vast multitude cries,

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”—CSB

The angels in the throne room, the twenty-four elders, and the four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) worship God saying,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and strength
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”—CSB

Recap

Recap of the Throne Room

The crowd in the throne room becomes greater. It seems that the throne room can expand or that it doesn't have barriers such as walls and a ceiling. At the end of chapter 7, we now have:

- Colors, colors, and more colors.
- A main throne with God seated in it.
- Twenty-four other thrones with twenty-four elders for each throne.
- Crowns for each of the twenty-four elders.
- Four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) standing by the four sides of the main throne. Each creature has six wings and is covered by eyes.
- The seven spirits of God (see as seven fiery torches).
- A scroll with seven seals and writing on both sides.
- A mighty angel.
- Jesus appearing as a Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- Thousands of thousands of singing angels
- An altar that covers the souls of those who had died because they testified of the word of God.
- A vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. This vast multitude had lived through the great tribulation.

Recap of Events

- Jesus appears with seven angels and seven churches. Chapter 1
- Seven messages are sent to the seven churches. Chapters 2 and 3
- The throne room in heaven. Chapter 4
- God has a scroll that has seven seals. Chapter 5
- The seven seals are opened. Chapter 6 has 1 through 6
- The 144,000 sealed Chapter 7

Opening the Seventh Seal

Chapters 8 and 9

The Lamb opens the seventh of the seven seals on the scroll that God held. There is a pause of half an hour. Seven new angels appear with each holding one of seven trumpets. An eighth angel appears standing before the altar. This eighth angel holds a golden incense burner. The eighth angel burns incense with the smoke rising with the prayers of the saints going to God.

John's vision again swings to the earth. The eighth angel takes fire from the altar, fills the incense burner, and hurls the fire to the earth. The fire arrives at the earth as thunder, lightning, and an earthquake.

The Seven Trumpets (Six of Seven Sound)

John sees the first six angels blow the first six of seven trumpets. As each angel blows its trumpet, some bad happens on the earth. This reads through the rest of chapter 8 and all of chapter 9.

The first of seven angels blows the first of seven trumpets. Hail, fire, and blood fall to the earth burning a third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the green grass.

The second of seven angels blows the second of seven trumpets. A great mountain ablaze with fire (reads like a meteor) falls into the sea turning a third of the sea to blood. This kills a third of the creatures in the sea and destroys a third of the ships in the sea.

The third of seven angels blows the third of seven trumpets. A great, blazing star named Wormwood falls from heaven and lands on a third of the rivers and springs of water. The waters became bitter, and many people died from the poisoned water.

The fourth of seven angels blows the fourth of seven trumpets. A third of the sun, moon, and stars go dark. A third of the day and a third of the night lose their light

And we have a pause. Things are bad, but they will become worse. John hears an eagle flying overhead crying about three Woes that are to come, "Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that the three angels are about to sound!" (CSB)

The fifth of seven angels blows the fifth of seven trumpets. This is the first of three woes. John is given a vision of the abyss and what comes from the abyss. A star falls from heaven to earth. The fifth angel receives a key to the shaft of the abyss.

Person, Place, or Thing: Abyss

The abyss is mentioned throughout the last two thirds of Revelation.

It is a place that is below as beings ascend from the abyss and descend into the abyss.

The abyss can be locked shut from the outside as several places mention an angel having a key that unlocks the abyss for beings to go into and out of it.

In chapter 9, smoke and locusts come up from the abyss. Also rising is the angel of the abyss whose name is Abaddon or Apollyon.

In chapter 11, a beast rises from the abyss and kills the two witnesses who prophesied for 1,260 days.

In chapter 17, a beast comes out of the abyss and will soon be destroyed.

Chapter 20 has the last mention of the abyss. An angel chains Satan in the abyss for a thousand years.

Smoke comes from the shaft and out of the smoke come locusts. The locusts appear like battle horses with golden crowns. They had human faces and women's hair with teeth like lions. Their chests were like iron breastplates. They sounded like galloping horses pulling chariots. They had tails with the stingers of scorpions.

The locusts had a king who is the angel of the abyss whose Hebrew name is Abaddon (Apollyon in Greek).

The locust had power to injure but could not injure the earth. Instead, the locusts could harm anyone who did not have the seal of God on them. Recall 144,000 Israelites that had the seal of God on them. The locust could not kill any of these people but could harm them. This harm lasted for five months.

The sixth of seven angels blows the sixth of seven trumpets. This is the second of three woes. John hears a voice coming from the altar that is in the throne room of heaven. The voice says, "Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates." (CSB)

Four angels who were bound at the Euphrates River are released to hurt mankind. With these four angels come an army of two-hundred million mounted troops. These troops rode horses with red, blue, and yellow breastplates. The horses' tails were like snakes with heads that could bite people. The horses' heads were like the heads of lions that spewed three things: (1) fire, (2) smoke, and (3) sulfur. These three things killed a third of the human race.

The rest of mankind witnessed this invasion, but did not repent of their idolatrous lives. In addition, "...they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts."—CSB

Recap

Recap of the Throne Room

In the throne room in heaven, we now have:

- Colors, colors, and more colors.
- A main throne with God seated in it.
- Twenty-four other thrones with twenty-four elders for each throne.
- Crowns for each of the twenty-four elders.
- Four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) standing by the four sides of the main throne. Each creature has six wings and is covered by eyes.
- The seven spirits of God (see as seven fiery torches).
- A scroll with seven seals and writing on both sides.
- A mighty angel.
- Jesus appearing as a Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- Thousands of thousands of singing angels
- An altar that covers the souls of those who had died because they testified of the word of God.

- A vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. This vast multitude had lived through the great tribulation.
- Seven angels each holding one of seven trumpets.
- An eighth angel with a golden incense burner.

Recap of Earthly Destruction

We reach the end of chapter 9. Here are the destructions brought by the first six of seven trumpet blasts.

- A third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the green grass are burned.
- A third of the sea has turned to blood killing a third of the sea creatures and destroying a third of the ships.
- A third of rivers and springs of water are bitter with many people dying from the poisoned water.
- A third of the sun, moon, and stars go dark. A third of the day and night lose their light.
- Five months of harm to all people who do not have the seal of God.
- A third of the human race dead by the two-hundred million mounted troops.

Recap of Events

- Jesus appears with seven angels and seven churches. Chapter 1
- Seven messages are sent to the seven churches. Chapters 2 and 3
- The throne room in heaven. Chapter 4
- God has a scroll that has seven seals. Chapter 5
- The seven seals are opened. Chapter 6 has 1 through 6
- The 144,000 sealed Chapter 7
- The seventh seal causes seven trumpets to sound. Chapter 8 has one through four and Chapter 9 has five and six.
- Locusts and their king rise from the abyss. Chapter 9

A Mighty Angel

Chapter 10

John sees a mighty angel come down from heaven to earth. This is a giant angel who stands with its right foot in the ocean and its left foot on land. The angel is so large that the clouds wrap around its body and a rainbow is over its head. Its legs are like fire. The angel's voice is like a roaring lion that thunders.

At the same time, John hears a voice from heaven saying, "Don't write what the angel says."

The angel tells John that the seventh trumpet is about to sound. The angel raises its right hand up.

The angel holds a small open scroll in its hand. The voice from heaven tells John to take the scroll from the angel. As John does so, the angel says, “Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.”

John did what the angel said—it was sweet in John’s mouth but bitter in his stomach.

Two Unusual Witnesses

Chapter 11

John is given a reed to measure things. John is told about nations and two witnesses and a period of three-and-a-half years (42 months or 1,260 days)

John is told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those who worship there. But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Don’t measure it, because it is given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. I will grant my two witnesses the authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.”

These two witnesses stand like olive trees and lamp stands before God. Then people attack the witness, fire comes from their mouth to destroy the attackers. The two witnesses have the power to bring drought, plagues, and turn water to blood.

After three-and-a-half-years of prophesying, a beast rises from the abyss and kills the two witnesses. Their bodies lie in the main street of Jerusalem where everyone can see them. No one touches the bodies for three-and-a-half days. There is great celebration over their deaths because the witnesses had brought drought, plagues, and turned water to blood.

Person, Place, or Thing: Beast

Depending on the English translation, the word “beast” is used over 40 times in Revelation. There appear to be three different beasts. As described below, there is good reason to believe that there are only two beasts.

In chapter 18, “beast” is mentioned in a general sense as a despicable and unclean animal that haunts an abandoned city.

Beast from the Abyss

Here in chapter 11, a beast rises from the abyss and kills the two witnesses. There is a good possibility that the beast from the abyss is also the beast out of the sea described next. In chapter 17, a beast has seven heads and ten horns like the beast out of the sea. The beast of chapter 17 also “is about to come up from the abyss.” (CSB) Hence, in a circuitous description, this is one beast.

Beast out of the sea

This beast is introduced in chapter 13 and also appears in chapters 14, 15, 17, 19, and 20.

In chapter 13, a beast comes up out of the sea. It has seven heads and ten horns. This beast receives power from the dragon or Satan. One of the heads of this beast appears to have a lethal wound but recovers. This leads to the world being amazed and following the beast. In addition, the world worships Satan because the source of this beast's power is Satan. This beast goes to war against the saints and conquers them. A little later in chapter 13, the beast out of the earth makes an image of the beast out of the sea. The "image of the beast" is mentioned several times.

In chapter 14, an angel warns people not to worship this beast and the image of the beast.

In chapter 15, this beast and its image are mentioned as being conquered. The conquerors are by a sea of glass and holding harps given to them by God. They sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb

In chapter 16, there are seven angels pouring out the bowls of God's wrath. The fifth angel pours God's wrath on the throne of the beast and brings great pain to the followers of the beast. When the sixth angel pours God's wrath, this beast sends out unclean spirits of demons to call people to a great battle against God.

In chapter 17, this beast is scarlet and has a woman sitting on it. This is the beast out of the sea as it also has seven heads and ten horns. This beast is about to come out of the abyss, so it is likely that it is also the beast of the abyss.

In chapter 19, the beast gathers the kings of the earth and their armies to fight the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The armies with the beast are defeated, and the beast is captured and put in the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

In chapter 20, this beast is mentioned in passing as Satan is put into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur with the beast. There they all are tormented continually forever.

Beast out of the earth

This beast is introduced in chapter 13 and also appears in chapters 16, 19, and 20. This beast is also called the false prophet.

In chapter 13, the beast comes out of the earth. This beast has two horns like a lamb. Its role is to be an assistant or promoter of the beast out of the sea. The beast out of the earth builds an image of the beast out of the sea. This image of the first beast has the power to speak and to kill those who do not worship the first

beast. The beast out of the earth also puts a mark on the right hand or the forehead of people. Without the mark, a person cannot buy or sell. This mark is the name or mark of the beast out of the sea, and it is 666.

In chapter 16, the beast out of the earth is called the false prophet. The false prophet sends out unclean spirits of demons to call people to a great battle against God.

In chapter 19, the false prophet is with the beast out of the sea, the kings of the earth, and their armies to fight the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The armies are defeated, and the false prophet is captured and put in the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

In chapter 20, this false prophet is mentioned in passing as Satan is put into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur with the false prophet and the beast out of the sea. There they all are tormented continually forever.

After these three-and-a-half days, the breath of God enters the dead bodies and the two witnesses come to life. They rise into heaven. People are astounded and praise God. At the same time, there is a great earthquake that kills seven thousand people.

This is the end of the second woe.

The Seventh Trumpet Sounds

Now comes the third of three woes and the last of the seven trumpets sound.

Loud voices from heaven say,

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom
of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign forever and ever.”—CSB

The twenty-four Elders in heaven fall face down and say,

“We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty,
who is and who was,
because you have taken your great power
and have begun to reign.
The nations were angry,
but your wrath has come.
The time has come
for the dead to be judged
and to give the reward
to your servants the prophets,
to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great,
and the time has come to destroy
those who destroy the earth.”—CSB

It is time to reward the servants of God and punish those who destroy the earth or God's creation.

John now sees inside the Temple of God in Heaven. He sees the Ark of the Covenant, which has not been seen for many centuries. And there are lightning and thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.

Recap

Recap of the Throne Room

In the throne room in heaven, we now have:

- Colors, colors, and more colors.
- A main throne with God seated in it.
- Twenty-four other thrones with twenty-four elders for each throne.
- Crowns for each of the twenty-four elders.
- Four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) standing by the four sides of the main throne. Each creature has six wings and is covered by eyes.
- The seven spirits of God (see as seven fiery torches).
- A scroll with seven seals and writing on both sides.
- A mighty angel.
- Jesus appearing as a Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- Thousands of thousands of singing angels
- An altar that covers the souls of those who had died because they testified of the word of God.
- A vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. This vast multitude had lived through the great tribulation.
- Seven angels each holding one of seven trumpets.
- An eighth angel with a golden incense burner.
- The Temple of God
- The Ark of the Covenant

Recap of Earthly Destruction

We reach the end of chapter 9. Here are the destructions brought by the first six of seven trumpet blasts.

- A third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the green grass are burned.
- A third of the sea has turned to blood killing a third of the sea creatures and destroying a third of the ships.
- A third of rivers and springs of water are bitter with many people dying from the poisoned water.
- A third of the sun, moon, and stars go dark. A third of the day and night lose their light.
- Five months of harm to all people who do not have the seal of God.

- A third of the human race dead by the two-hundred million mounted troops.
- Drought, plagues, and water turned to blood.
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and severe hail.

Recap of Events

- Jesus appears with seven angels and seven churches. Chapter 1
- Seven messages are sent to the seven churches. Chapters 2 and 3
- The throne room in heaven. Chapter 4
- God has a scroll that has seven seals. Chapter 5
- The seven seals are opened. Chapter 6 has 1 through 6
- The 144,000 sealed Chapter 7
- The seventh seal causes seven trumpets to sound. Chapter 8 has one through four and Chapter 9 has five and six.
- Locusts and their king rise from the abyss. Chapter 9
- A mighty angel stands with one foot in the ocean and one on land and gives a scroll to John. Chapter 10
- There are two witnesses who prophesy, are killed, rise from the dead, and ascend to heaven. Chapter 11
- The 7th trumpet sounds. Chapter 11

The Woman, Her Son, and Satan

Chapter 12

In heaven, John sees a pregnant woman. The pregnant woman is clothed with the sun, has the moon at her feet, and wears a crown with twelve stars.

Facing the pregnant woman is Satan in the form of a fiery red dragon. The dragon has ten horns and seven heads with a crown on each of the seven heads. Satan's tail sweeps a third of the stars down to earth. Satan waits for the pregnant woman to give birth so that Satan can devour the child.

The pregnant woman gives birth to a son who will rule with a rod of iron. Before Satan can devour the newborn son, God intervenes and takes the son to the main throne in the throne room.

The new mother flees to earth to the wilderness where God has prepared a place of refuge for her. She stays there 1,260 days (three-and-a-half years).

John sees a war in heaven. Michael (an angel) and his angels fight Satan and his angels. Satan and his angels lose the war and are thrown down to earth.

A loud voice in heaven says,

"The salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ
have now come,

because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them
 before our God day and night,
 has been thrown down.
 They conquered him
 by the blood of the Lamb
 and by the word of their testimony;
 for they did not love their lives
 to the point of death.
 Therefore rejoice, you heavens,
 and you who dwell in them!
 Woe to the earth and the sea,
 because the devil has come down to you
 with great fury,
 because he knows his time is short.”—CSB

Satan is called “the accuser.” Be happy in heaven because Satan is gone from heaven. Be fearful on earth because Satan is now on earth.

Down on earth is the woman and her offspring (“those who keep the commands of God and hold firmly to the testimony about Jesus.”—CSB). Satan attacks her, but she flies on the wings of an eagle to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. That is a place of safety for three-and-a-half years. Satan spews a flood to sweep away the woman, but the earth swallows that flood and protects the woman. Defeated again, Satan is furious and now goes to make war against the woman’s offspring.

Two Beasts

Chapter 13

Satan (the dragon) stands on the beach at the sea.

Person, Place, or Thing: Dragon

In chapters 12 and 13, Satan appears as a dragon. This is the story of Satan attempting in vain to kill a child who is about to be born. Next is the story of Satan as the dragon fighting and losing a battle in heaven against Michael and angels. The defeated dragon and angels following the dragon are cast out of and down to earth.

In chapter 13, the dragon (Satan) gives power to the beast that comes up out of the sea. The dragon is worshipped by the whole world because of its amazing power.

Later in chapter 13, another beast comes up out of the earth and speaks like dragon. It is not clear that this points to Satan as dragon or merely to the beast speaking a language common to a dragon.

In chapter 16, the dragon is again mentioned along with the two beasts of chapter 13. Unclean spirits of demons come from the mouth of the dragon and the two beasts to gather the nations for a great battle.

In chapter 20 is the last mention of the dragon (Satan). The dragon is put in the abyss for a thousand years.

A beast comes out of the sea. This beast has ten horns with crowns on them and seven heads with blasphemous names. One of the heads of the beast has suffered a serious wound that is miraculously healed.

Satan gives this beast its power, a throne, and authority over the earth. The beast rules the earth and blasphemes God for three-and-a-half-years. During this time, the beast fights against the saints that are on the earth and is defeating them. The saints need great faithfulness to endure this time.

Another beast arrives—this one coming up out of the earth. This second beast acts as an assistant or promoter of the beast out of the sea. The second beast speaks like a dragon. Its job is to have those on the earth worship the first beast. Later, in chapters 16, 19, and 20, this beast from the earth is called the “false prophet” because of its role as an assistant or promoter.

The second beast builds an image of the first beast. This image of the first beast has the power to speak and to kill those who do not worship the first beast.

The second beast also puts a mark on the right hand or the forehead of people. Without the mark, a person cannot buy or sell. This mark is the beast’s name or number of its name, and it is 666.

Recap

Recap of Earthly Destruction

We reach the end of chapter 13. Here are the destructions brought by the first six of seven trumpet blasts.

- A third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the green grass are burned.
- A third of the sea has turned to blood killing a third of the sea creatures and destroying a third of the ships.
- A third of rivers and springs of water are bitter with many people dying from the poisoned water.
- A third of the sun, moon, and stars go dark. A third of the day and night lose their light.
- Five months of harm to all people who do not have the seal of God.
- A third of the human race dead by the two-hundred million mounted troops.
- Drought, plagues, and water turned to blood.
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and severe hail.
- A third of the stars are thrown down to earth.

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- Before Satan can kill the son, the son is taken to heaven's throne room for safety. Chapter 12
- Michael and his angels win a war against Satan and his angels in heaven. Chapter 12
- Satan's side is cast down to earth. Chapter 12
- On earth, the woman is given refuge from Satan for three-and-a-half years. Chapter 12
- A beast rises from the sea that blasphemes God and fights the saints Chapter 13.
- A second beast rises from the earth to promote the first beast. Chapter 13
- A name or number of the first beast is marked on people who wish to buy and sell (666). Chapter 13

The 144,000

Chapter 14

Contrary to those people who received the mark of the beast, John now sees 144,000 people standing with the Lamb on Mt Zion. These people have the name of the Lamb and God written on their foreheads. These 144,000 sing before the four living creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) and the twenty-four elders in the throne room in heaven.

John next sees three angels flying high overhead so that what they say is heard over all the earth. The angels warn the people on earth about the awful consequences of worshipping the first beast and the image of the first beast.

The first angel says,

“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship the one who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”—CSB

The second angel says,

“It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen. She made all the nations drink the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath.”—CSB

The third angel says,

“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he will also drink the wine of God’s wrath, which is poured full strength into the cup of his anger. He will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb, and the smoke of their torment will go up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or anyone who receives the mark of its name. This calls for endurance from the saints, who keep God’s commands and their faith in Jesus.”—CSB

John sees a man wearing a crown and hold a sickle sitting on a cloud. Three more angels appear. The first angel tells the man, “Use your sickle and reap, for the time to reap has come, since the harvest of the earth is ripe.” (CSB) The man swung the sickle over the earth and harvested it.

The second angel comes from the temple in heaven holding a sickle. The third angel tells the second angel, “Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vineyard of the earth, because its grapes have ripened.” (CSB) The second angel swung his sickle at the earth and gathered the grapes from the vineyard of the earth. The grapes that were harvested were trampled in a winepress. John sees that these grapes are people as their blood flows from the winepress in a chest-high river that flows for 180 miles.

John looks to heaven and sees people who did not worship the first beast and its image and did not take the mark of the first beast (666). These people have harps and praise God by singing,

“Great and awe-inspiring are your works,
 Lord God, the Almighty;
 just and true are your ways,
 King of the nations.
 Lord, who will not fear
 and glorify your name?
 For you alone are holy.
 All the nations will come
 and worship before you
 because your righteous acts have been revealed.”—CSB

Out of the heavenly temple come seven angels dressed in pure linen with gold sashes around their chests. These angels have the seven last plagues that will complete God’s wrath. One of the four leaving creatures gives each of the seven angels a bowl filled with God’s wrath. Smoke fills the temple in heaven. The smoke is so thick that no one can enter until after the seven angels empty these seven bowls of wrath.

The Seven Angels and the Seven Bowls of Wrath

Chapters 15 and 16

One by one, each angel pours out a bowl of the wrath of God. The destruction and suffering are worse than the things that have happened so far in John’s vision.

The first of seven bowls of wrath brought sores to the people who had the mark of the first beast (666) and worshipped the image of the first beast.

The second of seven bowls of wrath turned the sea to blood and killed everything in the sea. Recall that the first beast came out of the sea. This bowl of God's wrath destroyed the home of the first beast.

The third of seven bowls of wrath turned the springs and rivers to blood. The third angel describes the justice of God how God has given those who poured out the blood of the saints to drink blood instead of water,

“You are just,
the Holy One, who is and who was,
because you have passed judgment on these things.
Because they poured out
the blood of the saints and the prophets,
you have given them blood to drink;
they deserve it!—CSB

The fourth of seven bowls of wrath allowed the sun to scorch people with fire.

The fifth of seven bowls of wrath plunged the kingdom of the first beast into darkness.

The sixth of seven bowls of wrath dried the Euphrates River. That removed the river barrier so that kings from the east could quickly travel through the area. At this time Satan (the dragon), the first beast, and the second beast speak with demonic spirits. Those demonic spirits empower these three to convince the kings of the earth to bring their armies to a place called Armageddon (Hebrew).

The seventh of seven bowls of wrath goes into the air. Everyone hears a voice from the throne in heaven saying, “It is done!” (CSB).

John observes thunder and lightning. There is an earthquake so big that a great city is split into three parts and felled the cities of the earth. John describes the result as, “Every island fled, and the mountains disappeared.” (CSB) This seventh bowl of wrath ends with giant hailstones falling from the sky.

Recap

Recap of Earthly Destruction

We reach the end of chapter 16. Here are the destructions brought by the first six of seven trumpet blasts.

- Earthquake, sun turns black, moon turns color of blood, stars fall, mountains and islands move from their places *6th seal*
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake *7th seal*
- A third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the green grass are burned. *1st trumpet*
- A third of the sea has turned to blood killing a third of the sea creatures and destroying a third of the ships. *2nd trumpet*

- A third of rivers and springs of water are bitter with many people dying from the poisoned water. *3rd trumpet*
- A third of the sun, moon, and stars go dark. A third of the day and night lose their light. *4th trumpet*
- Five months of harm to all people who do not have the seal of God. *5th trumpet*
- A third of the human race dead by the two-hundred million mounted troops. *6th trumpet*
- Drought, plagues, and water turned to blood. *7th trumpet*
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and severe hail. *7th trumpet*
- A third of the stars are thrown down to earth. *7th trumpet*
- The earth is harvested with the blood flowing for 180 miles. *7th trumpet*
- Sores on those who had the mark of the beast and who worshipped the image of the beast. *1st bowl*
- The sea turns to blood and everything in the sea dies. *2nd bowl*
- The fresh waters turn to blood. *3rd bowl*
- The sun scorches people with fire. *4th bowl*
- The kingdom of the first beast plunges into darkness. *5th bowl*
- Euphrates River dries *6th bowl*
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and severe hail. *7th bowl*

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- Three angels fly overhead warning of the consequences of worshipping the first beast. Chapter 14
- A man on a cloud swings a sickle through the earth. Chapter 14
- An angel swings a sickle through the earth. Chapter 14
- The blood of those harvested by those two sickles flows for 180 miles. Chapter 14
- Those who did not worship the beast and its image sing praise to God in heaven. Chapter 15
- Seven angels pour out seven bowls of God's wrath upon the earth. Chapter 16
- The kings of the earth gather at Armageddon. Chapter 16

The Woman and the Scarlet Beast

Chapter 17

One of the seven angels who has one of the bowls of wrath speaks to John and shows John a vision of a woman riding a scarlet beast. The angel tells John, "The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and those who live on the earth became drunk on the wine of her sexual immorality." (CSB)

John describes what he sees and then he hears what each thing represents:

There is a woman who an amazing sight. She wears gaudy clothing and jewelry and is obviously a prostitute.

The woman represents a great city that has royal power over the earth. That great city was the center of the killing of saints. Eventually, the beast—no friend of the saints—will turn on the city, conquer it, and make it desolate.

The woman rides a scarlet beast that has seven heads and ten horns.

The seven heads represent seven mountains. The seven heads also represent seven kings. Five of the kings are past, the sixth king is present now, and the seventh king has yet to come.

The ten horns represent ten kings waiting for their kingdoms. The beast from the sea will give them kingdoms for one hour. The kings will fight in vain against the Lamb, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The woman is seated on many waters.

The waters represent peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.

Destruction of the Great City and Thanksgiving for That Destruction

Chapter 18

John sees then another “great angel” coming down from heaven to earth. The splendor of this angel illuminated the earth. This great angel announced that, “Babylon the Great has fallen.”

It seems that the description of the woman on the scarlet beast—who represents a great city—continues with more description of the city’s fall.

“The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her,” described that woman and also describes Babylon the Great. Other descriptions of the city (purple, and scarlet, adorned with gold, jewels, and pearls) are the same as those of the woman.

John hears another voice from heaven that continues to describe the destruction of the great city. The city is hit by plagues of death, grief, famine and fire. Those plagues are so great that the city will fall in just one day with some descriptions saying in a single hour.

The kings of the earth mourn the destruction of that great city. Merchants mourn that their trading partner is gone.

The maritime merchants mourn as they see the smoke from the burning city. These cried,
 “Rejoice over her, heaven,
 and you saints, apostles, and prophets,
 because God has pronounced on her the judgment, she passed on you!”—CSB

The doom of Babylon the Great is concluded when a mighty angel throws a large stone into the sea to signifying the ferocity of the city’s fall. The final description is,

“In her was found the blood of prophets and saints,
 and of all those slaughtered on the earth.”—CSB

Truly, this great city was the scene of tremendous slaughter and suffering of saints.

Chapter 19

Praises and thanksgiving flow because of the destruction of the great city. John now hears a multitude in heaven praising God because of the fall of this great city wherein the saints were massacred. In the throne room in heaven, the twenty-four elders and the four creatures (a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man) fall and worship God for this righteous judgement of that great city. Finally, a voice from the throne praises God.

A Wedding is Coming

John hears a vast multitude announcing a coming wedding. The Lamb is to marry. The bride is clothed in the righteous acts of the saints. An angel blesses those who are invited to this wedding—the joining of the Lamb and the church.

King of King and Lord of Lords on a White Horse

John sees the King of King and Lord of Lords riding a white horse. The rider is called Faithful and True and the name of the rider is Word of God. The rider makes war on the nations and rules them with a rod of iron. Armies that were in heaven followed the rider on white horses. The armies wore pure white linen.

The Rider Defeats the Beast

John sees a battle. This is a tremendous battle that is described in just a few sentences and lasts only a few moments. The combatants are this rider—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords—and his armies and the beast of the earth and his armies. During the battle, the beast and the false prophet are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. This false prophet is the second beast of chapter 13 who is an assistant or promoter of the beast of the earth. All the armies of the beast are killed by the words spoken by the rider. Great flocks of birds come and eat the flesh of the dead.

Recap

Recap of Events

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- Three angels fly overhead warning of the consequences of worshipping the first beast. Chapter 14

- A man on a cloud swings a sickle through the earth. Chapter 14
- An angel swings a sickle through the earth. Chapter 14
- The blood of those harvested by those two sickles flows for 180 miles. Chapter 14
- Those who did not worship the beast and its image sing praise to God in heaven. Chapter 15
- Seven angels pour out seven bowls of God's wrath upon the earth. Chapter 16
- The kings of the earth gather at Armageddon. Chapter 16
- The woman riding the scarlet beast. Chapter 17
- The Babylon the Great City, represented by that woman, is destroyed in a single day and a single hour. Chapter 18
- Praises and thanksgiving come for the destruction of that Great City. Chapter 19
- The King of King and Lord of Lords rides a white horse to war and ruling. Chapter 19
- The rider defeats the armies of the beast of the earth. Chapter 19
- The beast and the second beast (false prophet) are captured and imprisoned in the lake of fire Chapter 19

A Great Battle and a Great Judgement

Chapter 20

John sees an angel coming down from heaven to earth. The angel has a key to the abyss. The angel puts the dragon (Satan) into the abyss and seals the door shut imprisoning Satan for a thousand years.

John sees many thrones on earth. Seated on the thrones are those who did not worship the beast or receive the mark of the beast (666). They were killed for not worshipping the beast. They were resurrected from the dead and reign on these thrones with Jesus for a thousand years. This resurrection is called "the first resurrection." All others who died before and were faithful to God were not resurrected in the first resurrection.

At the end of the thousand years, Satan is released from the abyss. Satan gathers an army from the four corners of the earth and surrounds the community of the thrones. In a moment, fire falls from heaven and destroys this army of Satan. Satan is placed in the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet are. They remain there for eternity.

Person, Place, or Thing: the book of life

I want my name written in the book of life.

The book of life is first mentioned in chapter 3 in the letter written to the church in Sardis. Those persons who have not "stained the clothes" will wear white and have their names in the book of life.

In chapter 13, those whose names are not in the book of life will be worshipping the beast that comes up out of the sea.

In chapter 17, those whose names are in the book of life will not worshipping the beast that comes up out of the sea.

In chapter 20, the book of life is opened before the one on the great white throne. “If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, that person was thrown into the lake of fire.” (NET)

Finally, in chapter 21, the new Jerusalem is described. That city is for “only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (NET)

John sees a great white throne with someone sitting on it. Before the throne stand all the dead including those from the sea and from Death and Hades. There are many books that are open before the throne. There is one book mentioned in particular called “the book of life.” The books have records of each of the dead. Each of the dead is judged by their past works. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is now called “the second death.” Any person whose name is not written in the book of life is thrown into the lake of fire.

A New Heaven, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem

Chapter 21

John sees a new heaven and a new earth. He also sees a new Jerusalem come down from heaven to the earth. The new Jerusalem is prepared like a bride for her husband.

John heard a voice from the throne saying that God will now live with mankind in this new situation,

“Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.”—CSB

The one seated on the throne is the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end. This new situation is for those who were not put into the lake of fire or the second death.

Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls of God’s wrath took John to a high mountain where John could look on the new Jerusalem, the bride of the Lamb. The new Jerusalem had twelve gates with an angel at each gate. Each gate had the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The new Jerusalem had twelve foundations, and each foundation had the name of one of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

The angel had a golden measuring rod to measure the new Jerusalem. The city is a cube of length, width, and height of 12,000 stadia or about 1,400 miles. This is a large structure. The description of the city is difficult to picture as it is made of gold so pure that it is clear as glass. It is adorned with jewels and colors and everything imaginable.

The temple of the new Jerusalem are God and the Lamb. God illuminates the new Jerusalem for all time. The kings of the earth will visit the city and bring the glory and honor of the nations. Only those whose names are written in the book of life may enter the new Jerusalem.

(Now in chapter 22 but continuing the description of the new Jerusalem.)

The angel shows John that a river flows through the center of the new Jerusalem. That river flows from God and the Lamb and is “the river of the water of life.” The tree of life sits on each side of the river. The leaves of this tree heal the nations. There is no longer any curse.

God and the Lamb sit on the throne. The servants worship God and the Lamb eternally.

Closing Remarks from John

Chapter 22

John is overwhelmed by what he has seen and heard. He falls to worship the angel who showed him the vision. The angel stops him and says, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you, your brothers the prophets, and those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” (CSB)

Jesus three times tells John, “I am coming soon!”

Jesus reveals himself clearly as the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end and “the Root and descendant of David, the bright morning star.” (CSB)

John cautions the reader to not add or subtract from his description of his vision.

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- Seven messages are sent to the seven churches. Chapters 2 and 3
- The throne room in heaven. Chapter 4
- God has a scroll that has seven seals. Chapter 5
- The seven seals are opened. Chapter 6 has 1 through 6
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- The seventh seal causes seven trumpets to sound. Chapter 8 has one through four and Chapter 9 has five and six.
- Locusts and their king rise from the abyss. Chapter 9
- A mighty angel stands with one foot the in ocean and one on land and gives a scroll to John. Chapter 10
- There are two witnesses who prophecy, are killed, rise from the dead, and ascend to heaven. Chapter 11
- The 7th trumpet sounds. Chapter 11
- Satan appears as a dragon. Chapter 12
- A pregnant woman bears a son who will rule with a rod of iron. Chapter 12
- Before Satan can kill the son, the son is taken to heaven's throne room for safety. Chapter 12
- Michael and his angels win a war against Satan and his angels in heaven. Chapter 12
- Satan's side is cast down to earth. Chapter 12
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- A beast rises from the sea that blasphemes God and fights the saints Chapter 13.
- A second beast rises from the earth to promote the first beast. Chapter 13
- A name or number of the first beast is marked on people who wish to buy and sell (666). Chapter 13
- 144,00 who have the name of The Lamb and God marked on them stand and sing. Chapter 14
- Three angels fly overhead warning of the consequences of worshipping the first beast. Chapter 14
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- An angel swings a sickle through the earth. Chapter 14
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- Those who did not worship the beast and its image sing praise to God in heaven. Chapter 15
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Recap of Earthly Destruction

- Earthquake, sun turns black, moon turns color of blood, stars fall, mountains and islands move from their places *6th seal*
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake *7th seal*
- A third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the green grass are burned. *1st trumpet*
- A third of the sea has turned to blood killing a third of the sea creatures and destroying a third of the ships. *2nd trumpet*
- A third of rivers and springs of water are bitter with many people dying from the poisoned water. *3rd trumpet*
- A third of the sun, moon, and stars go dark. A third of the day and night lose their light. *4th trumpet*
- Five months of harm to all people who do not have the seal of God. *5th trumpet*
- A third of the human race dead by the two-hundred million mounted troops. *6th trumpet*
- Drought, plagues, and water turned to blood. *7th trumpet*
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and severe hail. *7th trumpet*
- A third of the stars are thrown down to earth. *7th trumpet*
- The earth is harvested with the blood flowing for 180 miles. *7th trumpet*
- Sores on those who had the mark of the beast and who worshipped the image of the beast. *1st bowl*
- The sea turns to blood and everything in the sea dies. *2nd bowl*
- The fresh waters turn to blood. *3rd bowl*
- The sun scorches people with fire. *4th bowl*
- The kingdom of the first beast plunges into darkness. *5th bowl*
- Euphrates River dries *6th bowl*
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and severe hail. *7th bowl*
- Babylon the Great city is destroyed. *Chapter 18*

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