

The Book of Revelations

Commentary by

Fr. Gregory Bishay

+Revelations+

About the Writer

The book of Revelations was written by St. John the son of Zebedee. St. John was one of the four disciples who was called by Jesus while he was mending his fishing net (Mark 1:20).

St. John followed Jesus in most of his service, and was one of the few apostles who accompanied Jesus in key events during his life on earth. These include: the raising of Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:37), the Transfiguration (Math 17:1), in the garden of Gethsemane (Math 26:37). Jesus also entrusted him with his mother, St. Mary, while He was on the cross (John 19:26-27). After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to St. John in three main instances:

- After witnessing the empty tomb (John 20:2)
- Eight days after the resurrection (John 20:26)
- At the Sea of Tiberias (Jon 21:2)

Emperor **Domitian** had him arrested and tortured, but he was unhurt, and was therefore exiled to the Isle of Patmos in 95 AD where he wrote the book of Revelations.

Why does St. John mention his own name in the book?

St. John did not mention his name in the Gospel of St. John, also in his epistles he would call himself *the elder*, hence, due to his humility concealing his identity. In Revelations he mentions his name in 1:1, 4, 9, in 21:2, and in 22:8. Why?

The reason for that is that history supports the Gospel and the Epistles, while the Book of Revelations is a prophetic book dealing with future events. The writing of the name of St. John gives the believers trust in the authenticity of these revelations, since St. John is one of Christ's [prominent] disciples. Notice also that there is no other called John among the disciples

It is a Book of Blessings

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

"...blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." (Rev. 14:13)

"Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walks naked and they see his shame." (Rev. 16:15)

"Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" (Rev. 19:9)

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection." (Rev. 20:6)

"Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (Rev. 22:7)

"Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14)

Main Headlines

1 - Resemblance of Jesus Christ and Daniel (Dan. 10:5,6)

2 - The seven messages, written to the angels of the Seven Churches. These spiritual messages are meant to strengthen the Church as well as give the people warnings. (Ch. 2,3)

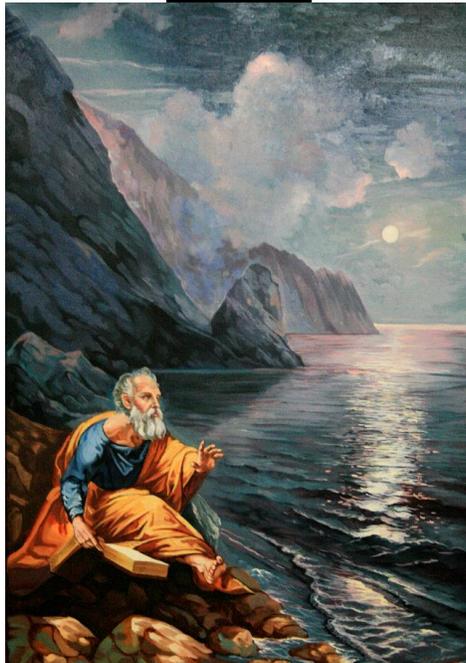
3 - A door standing open in heaven and the heavenly throne. (Ch. 4)

4 - The sealed scroll is opened by the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Ch. 5)

5 - The seven seals are open. (Ch. 6), followed by seven trumpets for warning, followed by seven bowls of final alerts, these 3 consecutive events are interleaved with the following themes:

- a) The servants of God are sealed by the Holy Spirit and given special protection from judgments. (Ch. 7)
 - b) Angel came down from heaven with an open little book in his hand. (Ch.10)
 - c) The vicious conflict between the witnesses and the beast, or Christ and the powers of evil. (Ch. 11)
 - d) The woman clothed with the sun (Ch. 12)
 - e) The beasts coming out of the water and the earth. (Ch.13)
 - f) The Lamb standing on Mount Zion (Ch. 14:1-7)
 - g) A warning to all those who worship the beast, and also the sickle of harvest (Ch. 14:9-12) (Ch. 14: 14-20)
- 6 - The Great Harlot and the result of all infidelity against the Lord. (Ch. 17, 18), The wedding banquet of the Lamb (Ch. 19). The Millennial Age and the final judgment (Ch. 20)
- 7 - Heavenly Jerusalem and the pure river of water of life. (Ch. 21,22)
- FINALLY; “Surely I am coming quickly.” (Ch. 22)

+Chapter 1+



1. “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,...”

Revelation: means To unveil, reveal something that is hidden and is shown to man by God, These revelations can be in the form of **Type I:** A dream: Joseph’s Dream (Genesis 41: 25-32), King Nabuchznaser’s dream (Daniel 2:31-45)

Type II: In a spiritual acquisition to God (Genesis 22:14)

Isaiah’s vision (Isaiah 6)

Type III: Or a sort of conversation with God, such as God talking with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and so on...

The Revelation to St. John was of the second type because he said “*I was in the spirit on the day of the Lord*” Rev 1:10

Christ

This term literally means *anointed*; An Anointment is only for priests (Moses, Aaron), Kings (David), and prophets (Elisha). “*Therefore, God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness more than your*

companions.” (Psalm 45:7), at the same time as he calls him “God” in verse 6 “Your Throne of God is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom”

This anointment did not happen with *oil* but with the Holy Spirit that abided on Christ in the form of a dove at his Baptism by St. John the Baptist (Luke 3:22)

Christ according to the mystery of Incarnation is anointed as a

King: He is king with a kingdom, it has rules, and he leads his people to this kingdom

Priest: Jesus Christ was the Priest and the Sacrifice on the Cross.

Prophet: told us about our final abiding with him, told us that in the world we shall have tribulations, gave the laws of perfection, he foretold of destruction of the temple (Matt 24:2), his telling about crucifixion and resurrection (Matt 20:18), about the standing of His disciples in front of governors and magistrates (Matt 10: 18), His second coming (Matt 24, Mark 13).

Note: The knowledge of Christ of the future is due to his nature as God, while for the prophets they know the future because God gave them the prophetic (foretelling) words.

God gave Him to show His servants signifies that God revealed this to Christ (this is a term that is seen according to Christ in the flesh, in his humanity) so that he can deliver it to His children. Math 11:27 – “All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

things which must shortly take place – God reveals events, but not the time of these events. We, as believers, can never know the exact time of a specific event. For example, Christ told his disciples in Acts 1:6,7 “”, also in Thessalonica, St. Paul reprimanded the people for leaving their work in anticipation for the Second Coming. Also, see Mark 13:32.

by His angel to His servant John – see Heb 1:14 “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” The role of angels is to minister for those who will inherit salvation.

2. “...who bore witness to the word of God (Logos), and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.”

to all things that he saw St. John was with Christ in His ministry for three days, he was one of the three disciples that Christ took with him to the Transfiguration (Matt 17), and to the garden of Gethsemane, so St. John is an eye-witness of all Christ’s life on earth. This is portrayed in “And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.” (John 19:35), and also in St. John’s Epistle “(1Jn 1:2)(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternallife, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)”

3. “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

A blessing is promised to those who **read** and hear this prophecy since they prepare themselves to accept suffering for the sake of Christ, and who do what they read, because faith and works are inseparable. Neglecting reading the word of God leads to perishing (Matt 22:29)

To those who **hear**, since by this they are motivated to spiritual vigil and readiness

To those who **keep** it always in their mind and hence stay protected from the temptations of this passing world.

“time” in “**time is near**” refers to the time when all is fulfilled, the time of judgment

4. “John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,...”

The seven churches will be talked about in Verse 11.

a. **Grace to you and peace from Him**, this is the customary greeting that the Apostles used in their epistles [see Rom 1:7, 1 Co 1:3, 2 Co 1:2, 1 Pe 1:2]. **Grace** refers to the gifts of God that came to us in Christ. While **peace** is the internal calmness, so one feels the joy of life even in the middle of chastisements or tribulations.

- b. **who is and who was:** Christ testified about this in John 8:58. **who is to come** in His Second Coming. In summary; “(Heb 13:8) *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*”
- c. **seven Spirits:** The number seven signifies fullness, completeness. They are the seven archangels who are **before His throne** ready to be sent to serve His children.

5(a). “...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.”

Jesus Christ is the only faithful witness to God, and the biggest proof of that is the Crucifixion.
the faithful witness was made a little lower than angel in His incarnation and becoming Man.
 You crowned him with glory and honor when He became *the firstborn from the dead*,
 He was set over the works of God’s hands as a ruler over the kings of the earth

5(b). **To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (Eph 5:25,26)

6. **And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”**

We are kings because:

We are children of the King of Kings

We have the Royal Crown of Baptism

This is what made the apostles and the martyrs not care about any earthly king or authority.

We are priests because:

We offer sacrifices through our confession (Heb 1:15)

We offer thanks and praise through prayer to God (Ps 50:2)

We share and do good to others (Heb 13:16)

We have a broken spirit and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17)

Also because God is our portion (Deut 10:9)

Calling us priests in this verse does not make us all in the Office of Priesthood in the church.

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

coming with clouds In Ps 104:3 it says “Who makes the clouds His chariot”. Also in Ex. 14:24, and finally Christ promised in Matt 24:30

In the book of Acts: “So as He ascended in a cloud He will be coming back in a similar fashion on the clouds, as the angels told the disciples at His Ascension” (Acts 1:11)

every eye will see Him and **will mourn** those are the ones who crucify the Son of God again Heb 6:6, and they cry for the time of their Judgment has come.

Every eye will see him, and that is why Christ warned us against anyone who says Christ is here or Christ is there.

8. **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This signifies the eternity of God. He is the origin (Jude 1:3) and destiny of all things Rev 21:5.

9. **“I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”**

I, John, both your brother This the brotherhood we all have together through Baptism. For we have the same mother (the Church) and we pray together “Our Father...” Also it shows the utmost humility from the great disciple St. John.

companion in the tribulation it is expected that all Christians will go through tribulations. Christ said “In the world you shall have tribulations” (Matt 16:32)

and kingdom as if St. John is reminding the Bishops of the Churches that they are going to be partners in the reward because they are partners in the tribulations.

and patience of Jesus Christ which makes us eligible to that kingdom. He attributed the patience to Christ because His grace is what grants us the ability to be patient; Heb 10:26. and Romans 15:5.

Patmos is an Island near Turkey where Romans put all criminals.

for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ That is the crime of St. John. We are alone far from friends and family in solitude then we meet Christ.

St. John accepted tribulations for the sake of Christ so he deserved to see the Revelations from Christ.

The blind man met Christ after they cast him out of the synagogue John 9:35.

True Christian Believers keep a fact in their minds; Rom 8:18.

10. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet..."

Spirit of the Lord means St. John was probably in a state of worship as he received this revelation. This is similar to St. Paul's expression in 2 Cor 12:2.

Lord's Day that is Sunday.

a loud voice, as of a trumpet describes the mighty appearance of the Lord.

11. Saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Christ introduces himself and identifies Himself with God the Father

12. Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands..."

seven refers to the completion or fullness or perfection. We see it in:

- Gen 4:15 with Cain
- To express the fullness of God's wrath on the inhabitants of the earth, He said Gen 7:4
- Jacob offered to work for 7 years to marry Rachel. Gen 29:18
- Namaan The Syrian gained healing after bathing 7 times in the Jordan river (1 Ki 5:12)
- To express the full occupation of prophet David with prayers, he says "seven times in the day I praise you for your righteous judgments" Ps 119:16
- For the full humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar, it is said the God exiled him for seven times eating grass like beasts (Dan 4:25)
- To express the full hope in the Lord, it is said that "the righteous falls seven times and rises again" (Pro 24:16)

seven golden lampstands.

seven: refers to the perfect existence of the church in the world

golden as a symbol of the purity, beauty, richness, and royalty. It is always tested and suffer tribulations which makes her gold purer.

lampstands The church is represented as a lampstand as a guide to the lost, to the light of Christ that is the source of light from her.



13. And in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.”

in the midst of the seven lampstands In Chapter 2 verse 1, Christ is walking in the midst of the seven lampstands to alert us to the continuous care of Christ to his church.

One like the Son of Man This reminds us of the prophecy of Daniel 7:13,14 to whom all the nations will worship. This term was used 85 times in the New Testament; Christ is reminding us that:

- He is the Seed of Eve that crushes the head of the serpent.
- He is a full Human (except in sinning) with its perfection in love, humility, compassion, and meekness.

clothed with a garment down to the feet to remind us of His Incarnation (the soul or spirit does not have a feet or a body). In the vision of Daniel 7:9 His attire was as white as snow.

about the chest with a golden band as the priests did according to the orders of God in Ex 28:4. This is a symbol of stability of God’s eternal Kingdom and rule.

14(a). His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;”

The white hair signifies eternity (old days) and wisdom. Daniel also saw him as thus (Dan 7:9)

14(b). His eyes like a flame of fire His eyes signify all-knowledge of everything in the heart and thoughts of man.

They are like fire: giving light to the saints, but fearful to the sinners. In other words, your spiritual condition dictates how you perceive God; Fearful or Light-giving. [St. Victorinus]

15. And his feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;”

His feet of brass signify permanence and stability. Another contemplation on this the redness of the feet is that it refers to the excessive “walking” of our Lord to serve every soul. Christ walked to heal people, to raise the dead, and finally while carrying a heavy burden of the Cross up the path to the Golgotha.

His voice signifies authority and teaching of the Gospel. The wolves cannot come close to the sheep as long as the Shepherd with his strong voice is near.

16. “He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.”

Christ is the sun and around him are the seven stars. As the book itself mentions the Seven Stars are the seven bishops of the seven churches. Why are they called stars?

Stars enlighten the darkness of the night, and the bishops enlighten in front of the believers; *“They are the ones who divide the word in truth”* (St. Basil liturgy)

No one can snatch us of His Hands (John 10:28)

Right hand signifies: power and strength (Ex. 15:6), Source of grace (Ps 16:21), Helping (Ps 18:35), Victory (Ps 20:6), Dignity (Ps 110:1), (Ps 110:5), (Heb 1:3), and Guidance (Ps 139:10)

sharp two-edged sword is the Bible with its *two* Testaments, word of God. It is clear in Heb 4:12.

like the sun shining in its strength He is the light of the world (John 8:12). In Malachi 4:2 *“He is the Sun of Righteousness and healing is in its wings.”* He is Light of Light, a True God of a True of God.

17. ***“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead, But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.”***

I fell at His feet as dead from being of His countenance, similar to Daniel 10:9 when he heard the Man’s voice in his vision. And also in Dan 10:17.

His right hand the same hand that carried the stars is the one that pet his back and Christ told him ***Do not be afraid.***

God comforts us, He assures us not to be afraid: Ge 15:1, Ge 26:24, Josh 8:1, Jer 1:8, Dan 10:12, Christ to the Jairus Mark 5:26, To us Luke 12:32, Christ to St. Paul Acts 18:9

I am the First and the Last explained in verse 8 commentary.

18. ***“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”***

I am He who lives (with His Divinity), *and was dead* (according to the Flesh on the Cross), *and behold, I am alive forevermore* (The Resurrection)

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death I have the ability to forgive sins and deliver from Hades and Death. Christ with His authority on Hades also acquired all the righteous souls from thereof Ep 4:9

19. ***“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”***

Write which you have seen in this vision, and the things which are this refers to the messages to bishops of the seven churches, and the things which will take place after this which are all the visions that will portray the future of the world.

20. ***“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands; The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”***

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches These are the Bishops of the churches. Why is the term angel used?

As the angel is pure so ought the bishop be in his words and deeds

As the angel is always in the presence of God, so must the bishop be.

As the angel is dignified, so must the church honor the bishop.

+Chapter 2+

In spite of these messages being sent to the Bishops of the seven churches, they are useful for all servants and to every member of the church. They are seven different advices from God to every believer, so let “everyone examine himself” to detect our shortcomings and fix them.

Ephesus: (means “Beloved”)

Timothy was the Bishop of Ephesus at the time, He was the Bishop since the year 57 AD and stayed in the office till 109 AD. However, it is not believed that the book was written to Timothy because he was praised in several instances (in the book of Acts and by St. Paul).

Acts 16:2, St. Paul in Rom 16:21, in 1 Cor 4:17, Phil 2:20, 1 Ti 1:2, 1 Ti 6:11, 2 Ti 3:10

Therefore, It is more likely that the words are directed to the church of Timothy and not directly to him.

1. To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:”

Holding seven stars (see Rev 1:16)

Walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands (see Rev 1:13)

2. “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;”

your works, your labor, your patience

your works the prayers, the liturgies, the multiple virtues

your labor spiritual struggle in service and spreading the Gospel

your patience perseverance against the persecutions, the evil people, and all the resistance from the heretics.

Spiritual zeal for the church makes you unable to ***bear those who are evil.***

The fake apostles pretend they follow Christ – 2 Cor 11:13 “*For such are false apostles, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.*”

3. “and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.” (2 Thess 3:13) (Heb 12:3) (Gal 6:9)

The Ephesian church had persevered in orthodox faith and moral uprightness for a time, and then slowly relaxed.

4. “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

May be the church slowed down in standing up to the heretics.

The person may leave the first love:

When tribulations stack against him,

When he does the wills of the flesh (Rom 7:21),

When he does not ignite the love of God in his heart with prayers.

Servants should not lose hope when their service is not met with success.

5. “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”

Christ is reminding them to search their hearts diligently to find where they had fallen from. A

statement of encouragement and warning at the same time, telling them to go back to their “first love.” For God wants all to repent 2 Pet 3:9

6. “But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

“the Nicolaitans” are the followers of Nicolas, one of the original seven deacons in Acts 6:5.

He started a *heretical thinking* that if we sin and repent, this will manifest the love of God. St. Paul referred to it when he said in Rom 3:8: and also in Rom 5:20.

Therefore the people who followed them fell into immorality.

which I also hate God hates the sin, but loves the people and always invites them to repent.

7(a). “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The “ear” that “hear” is the spiritual ear that is sensitive to Christ’s words, but very dull and sluggish with unholy words. As Christ said to his disciples “Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear”

7(b). To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

To overcome means to remain faithful to Christ until the end, in spite of all obstacles.
 The tree of life, the same tree which the Bible started with in Genesis (Ge 3: 23), is also the tree that is spoken about in the last chapter of the Bible in Revelations 22:2.
 To eat from the tree of life is to receive eternal life. The fruit of the tree is the spiritual food in 1 Cor 10:3.
 Tree of life is also an allusion to the Cross which carried our Savior on it.
 Christians now are eating from the Tree of Life already by receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion.

Smyrna: means (“Bitter”) - the persecuted

8. “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, “These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life.”

the angel of the church is St. Polycarp who believed in 83 AD, due to his righteousness he was ordained a bishop on Smyrna. He was martyred in year 169 AD.

the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life He was dead in the Flesh, but He rose from the death because He is God.

Probably Christ introduced Himself in this way to encourage that bishop who was under persecution that death has no power on him.

9. “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

Poverty (but you are rich) reflects 2 Cor 6:11 (“...as poor, yet making many rich...”) and James 2:5 (“...Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”).

True richness comes from one’s satisfaction with what he has; and true poverty is the characteristic of those who are never satisfied.

and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not those who are persecuting Christ. A true Jew is one who has understood the Scriptures and hence believed in the Messiah. *but are a synagogue of Satan* because the devil is the one who moves the unbelieving Jews who persecute Christians.

10(a). “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. ...”

10(b). Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested,

St. Polycarp indeed got martyred by being thrown in fire, but it did not affect, but rather incense came out of his body, so one of the pagans stepped in and cut the saint’s neck, and his blood extinguished the fire.

The devil moves the people to persecute Christians, but we need to remember the promise of Christ; “even the very hairs of your head are counted.” (Matt 10:10)

10(c). and you will have tribulation ten days.

The ten days may represent the ten phases of Roman persecution, and the Lord called them days to show the believers that they will pass.

Daniel offered to be tested with the three holy youth (in terms of the fasting food) for also 10 days (Dan 1:12).

God tested the Egyptians with 10 plagues

The ten virgin in Matt 25 represent all mankind as do the ten servants in Luke 19.

For the money of man, God used the parable of the lady with 10 dinarii. (Luke 15),

10(d). Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

In the New Testament three types of crowns are mentioned:

- *Crown for the patient ones* on tribulations and is called Crown of Life here and also in James 1:12 “Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”
- *Crown for those who struggle* for the growth of faith and is called Crown of Righteousness 2Ti 4:7,8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,”

- *Crown for those who persevere in service and is called Crown of Glory as in 1Pe 5:4 “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away.”*

11. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

Three main points spoken to this Church: 1-The devil will cause us pain. 2-The pain is limited only this world. 3-The second coming will bring peace and comfort

Pergamos: means “Companion” - it is a compromising church

12. “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:”

13. I know you works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

That city was called Satan’s throne because of the excessive persecutions to Christians that occurred in this city (Pergamos was the first city in Asia to build a temple dedicated to the worship of a living emperor.)

My faithful martyr The excessive persecutions appeared in killing the bishop “Antipas”¹.

Carpos became the bishop after Antipas and to whom this letter is sent.

14. “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.”

I have a few things against you, it is rare that the life of any saint to be free from any shortcoming. Especially those who are servants of God, the Lord is purifying them from any shortcoming, to make them perfect.

Balaam, the Israelite prophet, represents any corrupt teachers who encouraged immorality, idolatrous feasting, and infidelity against the Lord. (The full story is in the book of Numbers chapters 22-25). The moral of the story of Balaam², is that “the love of money is the source of all evil”:

15. “Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

16. “Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”

The sword is the two-edged sword in His mouth, which sends messages of terror to some and joy to others. It is the just judgment of God.

Repent is a calling to the angel of the church to fight these wrong teachings in his church, it is not a calling for his personal sins. What supports this is that the Lord said later “*I will fight them...*” and not *I will fight you*.

All the Bishops and the priests unceasingly work on fighting heresies that corrupt the minds of the believers.

¹ His gives his account as follows: He was openly preaching in Pergamos, his diocese, and compelled Satan to be cast out of many souls there; Hence the governor was enraged with his success and dragged him to the temple of Diana (which is in Ephesus) to worship there. But Antipas mocked the hand-made goddess and confessed openly the Lord Jesus Christ, so the governor put him in a large pot and boiled him in the water, Antipas suffered the torture and gave up his soul, this was in the year 93 AD.

² Balaam was a prophet in Israel, and Balak was a king who wanted to defeat the Israelites, so Balak paid money to Balaam to curse the Israelites. Whenever Balaam is about to curse the Israelites, God would put in his mouth words of blessing to Israel, and Balak would tell the king that he cannot speak except with what God puts in his mouth. Instead of repenting from his acts, Balaam was a lover of money, so to keep the money of Balak he had to devise a way to get the people of Israel cursed; so he advised Balak to infuse Moabites women among the Israelites pushing them to commit adultery, which was guaranteed to get them under the wrath of God.

17. *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”*

The Manna:

The Manna is the food that God brought to the children of Israel in the wilderness, on their Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land, this came in **Exodus 16:21**.

This continued for the forty years till they came to view the edge of the promised land, then, Moses took a portion of it and put it in a pot, which is then put in the Ark of Covenant. It is called the Urn (pot) of Manna, and it is kept as a memorial for the continuous care of God to his people.

The Manna continued till the Israelites entered the promised land; **Jos 5:10-12**

Christ is the Manna which came down from Heaven: In the Gospel of St. John Chapter 6 Christ told the Jews that His Father, not Moses, is the One who gave them the Manna from heaven. *Joh 6:32 Then Jesus said to them, Verily, verily, I say to you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.*

Also, the Lord repeats:

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man shall eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

In The Lord Mystical supper with the disciples on Thursday, we attend to the Lord Jesus Christ saying: *Luk 22:19-20 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave to them, saying, This is my Body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my Blood, which is shed for you.*

We see clearly that the Hidden Manna is the Lord Himself; “hidden” in the sense that:

1. He is given as a Mystical way in the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist.
2. His *internally* works in the believer after Communion, for He promises that the one who partakes of Him, abides in Him, and Him in the person *Joh 6:56 He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him.*
3. Also, that Christ is not available to be taken by everybody, but to those only who received the Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation.

Eating from the hidden Manna is having a continuous relationship with the Lord, that will continue in Eternity.

The White Stone:

The white stone upon which a new name is inscribed indicates a new identity with Christ, a *relationship* with Him that no one else knows, it is a personal love feeling between the Christ and person. For the person is victorious against all the wiles of the devil and has kept a firm relationship with God. God develops a unique relationship with every person.

Thyatira: means “Theatrical” (A outwardly relationship with no depth)

18. *“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:”*

Revise the explanation offered for Revelations 1:14, 15

19. *“I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”*

Works: your worship. **Love:** that is evident in your love to others who are around you. **Service:** To return those who have gone astray. **Faith:** revealed in fully believing the promises of God. **Patience:** that is evident in your bearing with the evil that surrounds in contentment and thanksgiving.

The last are more than the first is in contrast to the Church of Ephesus who has left his first love.

20. “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.”

The woman in this church had a strong power of in preaching and convincing the people with the Nicolaitans teachings, which allows sexual immorality, and eating what is offered to the idols. She was called Jezebel similar to the wife of Ahab, who was bold in evil:

1. Introduced the worship of the idol Baal of her people (she was Phoenician) to the Israelites, hence pulling them away from the worship of God.
2. She sought out the prophet Elijah to kill him
3. She was a murderer that arranged the murder of the prophets, and later on the murder of Naboth the Jezreelite, through false witnesses against him, in order to snatch his land for her husband Ahab.

21. “And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.”

God gives everyone an opportunity to repent and return, for He does not wish the death of a sinner, but rather that he returns and lives.

22. “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.”

God returns from any harsh action upon the person’s repentance. God converted the bed of sin (for Jezebel was an adulteress) into a bed of sickness. Repentance is the remedy to the most difficult problems. [Short Prayer: Lord grant me a repenting heart the swiftly comes back to you, and let me repeat “*Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.*” (Micah 7:8)]

23. “I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”

Her children are the followers, those who accept the teaching of the false prophetess. Hence they fell into heretical ideas that led them into sexual immorality.

Hence, God says, that I will come and punish with death (eternal) all those who follow into the false teachings, and move away from the teachings of the church.

God can see what is in the heart and the mind; the emotions and the beliefs.

24. “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.”

have this doctrine: The doctrine that Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, teaches and causing people to fall. The people who follow these false doctrines, which call to sexual immorality, are told to have known **the depth of Satan**. Let us flee quickly from following immoral doctrines or practices.

Remember:

“Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.” Heb 13:25

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.” 2 Thess 2:15. The term “word” means the Oral Tradition given by the Apostles to their apostles and kept by the Tradition of the church, till we have it pure till today.

Hear St. Paul urging the Ephesians:

Eph 4:14 “... that we may no longer be infants, being tossed as by waves, and being carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in regard to deceitful scheming.”

25. “But hold fast what you have till I come.”

“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end...”

26. “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations:”

Let us overcome

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...” 2 Peter 1:19.

Jesus Christ is our morning star (Rev 22:16), the true Light which enlightens all who come into the world.

27. “He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels— as I also have received from My Father;”

These verses came in Psalm 2: Psa 2:8-9 *Ask of Me, and I will give the nations as Your inheritance; and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

These verses of the Psalms explains why it mentions here the phrase *as I also have received from My Father.* Which clearly shows that the Judgment is given to be in the hands of the Son from the Father. In the Gospel of St. John; Joh 5:22 *“For the Father judges no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son”*

Those who follow Christ will, in turn, not be judged but will be able to judge nations, *to him I will give power over the nations—*

God will give the power of judgment to holy people in every generation; so as to judge the people of their generation, for these holy people lived in the identical circumstances of people in their generation but did not fall in sin.

Mat 19:28 And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you, You who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you also will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

28. “and I will give him the morning star.”

The Morning Star, the Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, that removes the darkness of

1 – Sin: which is a separation from God who is the source of light.

2 – Despair: that makes the person feel there is no solution to the darkness the surrounds them. By the Resurrection we belief that the death on the Cross is not the end of the story.

3 – Unbelief: that leads the mind into different doctrines which destroys the person; the Resurrection is the core of our belief, If Christ is not resurrected then our faith is nonsense.

29. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

+Chapter 3+

Sardis: means “remnant” (a little amount left over)

Sardis is a Turkish city known for its wealth and its strong walls that protect it. The word Sardis means the “saved” or “remnant”, referring to those who are saved from persecution and pain. The angel of this Church is St. Milton, the bishop of Sardis around A.D. 190. This letter differs from the first four in that it does not begin with any praise, but rather with rebuke.

1. “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”

The spiritual struggle sometimes starts off very strong and full of zeal, but slowly cools down through time unless we truly persevere.

You may be alive in the church projects, or attending the church, while you are dead in rebuking the sinners, in attending to the sheep, and also in your personal spiritual life.

2. “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

Be watchful is a soft way where the Lord is waking up the sleeping servant, so that he can be to his salvation, and that of the church members.

and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die in your service you lost attention to those who are about to die. This allowed for Satan to go in and trick them.

for I have not found your works perfect before God: Your personal life is not perfect. Your pastoral life is lacking. The spiritual life of your flock is weak

3. “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

you have received the faith and the priesthood,

and heard the instruction and the teachings of the church;

hold fast and repent stay away from the previous deeds that you were doing, because I will come upon you as a thief in the middle of the night. St Paul used the same terms in 1 Thess 5:2. “*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night*”.

4. “You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

You have a few names I know these few people by name because of their purity, chastity, and their refusal to follow youthful lusts (*who have not defiled their garments*)

walk with Me in white the procession full of joy which the victorious will follow the Lord in. It is portrayed in Chapter 7 verse 9, and in Chapter 19 also. Their white clothes are their purity, chastity, and their virtues; in Chapter 19 the saints are wearing white linen, which are their virtues. *Rev 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

5. “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

The name of those who overcome temptations will be written forever in the Book of Life, the record which keeps the names of those who will live together with the Lord.

We get baptized and then have the Holy Spirit sealed in us in the Sacrament of Chrismation, then we become citizens of Heaven, and our name is written in the Book of Life.

Then we grow in life and decide with our deeds whether we want our names to stay in the Book or erased. We are the ones who decide to keep this citizenship or get it revoked.

6. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Philadelphia: means “brotherly love”

Philadelphia is a city close to Sardis, but smaller and newer. The word Philadelphia has two roots: Phil, which means lover, and Adelfos which means brotherly love. This Church was known for its brotherly love. The angel of this Church at the time is St. Kozranos. The goal of this letter is a message of comfort, encouragement, and hope

7. “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’;”

Holy that term is used to call Christ in Luke 1:35 when the angel announced to St. Mary Christ conception, The devil called him by that name in Mark 1:24, St. Peter used it to describe Christ to the Jews in *Acts 3:14*

“you denied the Holy and righteous”. David had prophesied *“You will not let your Holy one see corruption” (Acts 13:35)*. Daniel called Him the *Holiest of the Holy Ones (Dan 9:24)*

Who is True His words are true (John 17:17), His judgment is true (John 8:16). His ways are true (Rev 15:3).

He testifies to the Truth (John 18:37)

In John 8:32 *“You will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free”* in 36 *“If the Son frees you, then truly you are free”*, in these two verses Christ uses that the Truth will set you free, and in verse 36 that He will set them free; the He is the Truth.

He who has the key of David The key of David is a prophecy from Isaiah. *“The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open.”*

Isaiah 22:22

8. “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

I opened a door for you in the service, and all your opponents (non-believers and heretics) will not be able to shut it. In this verse we see the qualities of a successful servant:

1. **Has a little strength:** does not give up and does not rely on his own abilities
2. **Kept my word:** you were always holding on to the teachings of the Scriptures
3. **Have not denied My name:** you were never afraid to stand up for your Christianity.

9. *Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.*

who say they are Jews and are not: Here the term “Jews” means the Jews who believe in Christ, since it was God’s intention is that all the Jews would believe in Him. Also St. Anthony used to call his children “New Israel”. So “Jews” here refers to the Jews who believed that Jesus Christ is the Messiah.

worship before your feet

Rom 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

10. *“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

Because you have kept My command to persevere: the command is “*You are not of the world but I have chosen you of the world, therefore the world will hate you.*” (John 15:19)

I also will keep you from the hour of trial: the trial that the Roman empire will wage against the Christians, and it is an assurance to all of us when we go into tribulations.

11. *“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

Hold fast what you have: Let us keep our names engraved in the Book of Life by our Baptism and holding on to our heavenly citizenship. *Heb 2:1 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

your crown: *1Ti 2:4 “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”*

God has foreknowledge, but foreknowledge is an *attribute* of God that cannot be taken out of Him. This is similar to the fact that God is Truth; He cannot lie, whereas the devil is a liar and he does not say the truth.

God is humble, He cannot be proud. But the devil cannot be humble.

So the foreknowledge of God, which is part of being God, does not preclude that His full work and energy is going to guide all to the Kingdom of Heaven.

So why not all people choose to go to Heaven? Because we have *free-will* to choose whom to follow; God or the devil. God is inviting and the devil is inviting, and we choose whom to follow.

Children of God should work and earn money but they should not be focused on money, for the *“love of money is the root of all evil, which when people want will deviate from the faith, and stab themselves with many tribulations”*

In conclusion, do not lose YOUR Crown.

Deu 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

Deu 30:19 (19) I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

12. *“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 I will write on him My new name.*

I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God: The believers are all a building, a Holy Temple for the Lord;

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Do not forget that Christ is using the term “**My God**” because He took our humanity, so He is addressing the Father as we would, not because He is inferior to the Father (the Arian Heresy).

and he shall go out no more: 1Th 4:17 "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

I will write on him the name...the name of the city...New Jerusalem...My new name: In the New Testament, we have a new relationship already with God, through His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We are living in the full relationship with God as He abides in as the Holy Spirit, and He dwells in us through the Communion.

In Eternity then we shall have total enjoyment of the New life in Christ, where we can see Him "face to face and not dimly as in a mirror", and the New abiding with the Lord will be revealed, which is called New Jerusalem.

13. *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

Laodicea: means "Rule of the People"

This is a city in Syria, near the City of Colosse. It was a wealthy city known for its market of shells and make-up. The laodiceans are lukewarm in spiritual fervor and good works; their lack of commitment is revolting to the Lord.

14. *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*

15. *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.*

16. *"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

The Amen: Means the Truthful; truthful in all his sayings and promises.

Faithful and True Witness: It may seem that the angel of this church doubted these two attributes of God, and hence he weakened and became lukewarm towards God. So the Lord is reminding that angel now with those two main attributes of God "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away" (Lk 12:33)

the Beginning of the creation of God: in the Greek text the original word is "Arch" which means "the president" of the new creation in God, in a similar sayings:

- *"looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Heb 12:2)*
- *Eph 1:22 "And He has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,"*
- *Act 3:15 "And you killed the Prince of Life, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses."*
- The same expression is used by St. Paul in *Col 1:18-19*
(18) *And He is the Head of the body, the church, who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead, that He may be pre-eminent in all things.*
(19) *For it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell.*

I will vomit you out of My mouth: to set you away from my protection and care, and be out of my flock.

Lukewarm,

A cold person is someone who is active in evil because he has not tasted the love of God, or is not a Christian. The hot person is someone whose heart is flaming with love for the Lord. Therefore the lukewarm person is someone who is always changing and does not have a steady path.

17. *"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' this is what you think of yourself, that you are financially rich, and got to the feeling of power and self-sufficiency, But I have a different opinion of you...

you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked:

- Notice that this is the opposite of what Christ told the angel of the church of Smyrna “*I know your works and tribulation and poverty (but you are rich)...*” (Rev 2:9). His poverty in *money* was considered *richness* in faith in the Lord.
- Your feeling of self-sufficiency proves to me that you are blind, and void of any righteousness to cover you, i.e. naked.

Although the Lord mentions His stern opinion of this angel, He gives the remedy to remove his ailments. Our Loving God is the only one who can say His opinion of you, but never leaves you alone if you ask for His help to fix yourself.

So let us here Christ’s council to this angel:

18. “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

God is not ordering us to do something, rather he counsels us gently, and it is up to us to decide. How can we buy if we are poor? God’s gifts are free to all.

Gold Gold here is what will give this angel true richness. i.e. the angel claimed that he is *rich*. The true richness which is called here **Gold** signifies faith, God’s word, purity, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and Jesus Christ himself.

white garments...clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; white garments are the covering that the angel needs to have to cover his nakedness. His feeling of being *wealthy* and not needing anyone or anything left him naked from all the grace of God.

Nakedness is what Adam and Eve attained when they fell after following the deception of the devil.

and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see since the Lord described him as being *blind*, He is giving him a solution to the blindness. The solution is the Word of God, which opens the knowledge and the understanding.

19. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

This is a statement full of tenderness and mercy.

God chastens whom He loves in order to:

1. To keep the person humble like St. Paul 2 Cor 12:7
2. To purify the person from iniquities, like the palsied man John 5:14
3. To show His glory such as the blind man John 9:3 and Lazarus John 11:15
4. To free the person from Judgment with the world 1 Cor 11:23
5. To test the person’s sonship to God. Heb 12:7

20. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

The Lord knocks on the doors of our hearts in different ways, if someone opens to me i.e. heeds my warnings, my love, and my interest in him, then I will definitely go in and dine with him.

The Lord went in the house of Zacchaeus because he opened for Christ when He offered to go into Zacchaeus’ house.

If you can overcome the challenges (and Christ will be in lock-step with you, you will not be alone), look at the reward:

21. “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

We sit on the Throne, with Christ, because we became one with Christ. Christ is the only eligible one to sit on the Throne with the Father (at the right hand of the Father, meaning at the *Power* with the Father, since the Father has no left or right hand)

22. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

A Summary of the Rewards

From each letter to the seven churches, we find a special reward to those who overcome:

I will give to eat from the tree of life

He shall not be hurt by the second death

I will give some of the hidden manna to eat

I will give him power over the nations and give him the morning star.

I will clothe him in white garments and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life.

I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God

I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.

+Chapter 4+



In this Chapter: The Open Heaven as shown to St. John

- The God who is full in Holiness provides His Mercy and His Justice v 3
- He is surrounded by the church represented in the crowned 24 priests v 4
- From the Throne comes out the promises and the warnings to mankind v 5
- In front of Him Seven Archangels carrying out His Will v 5
- In front of the throne is full clarity and peace v 6

- In the middle of the Throne and around it are the four incorporeal creatures praising God and offering the honor, glory, and thanksgiving. v 7,8

- Then the twenty four priests kneel down confessing the righteousness of God in receiving the honor, glory, and thanksgiving. v 10,11

1. *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”*

The door open in heaven is symbolic of the idea that no matter what tribulations or difficult times we face, we will always find the door of heaven open for us. This must always give us hope.

Several people have seen the heaven “open”:

Jacob when he escaped from his brother Esau (Gen 28:12)

Ezekiel when in captivity (Ezek 1:1)

Daniel when in captivity (Dan 7:13-14)

St. Stephen the Martyr (Acts 7:54-58)

St. John is asked to “Come up”, indicating that we must be above the earth in order to take part in heaven and see the glory, we must detach ourselves from earthly pleasures.

2. *Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.*

I was in the Spirit: St. John was in a state of trance which resulted in from “being in the Spirit”. Isaiah the prophet also describes (Isaiah 6:1)

a throne set in heaven: there is a throne because it is the seat of a King, in fact the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19:16); Daniel the prophet describes Him (Da 4:25), and also the Psalmist (Ps 103:19)

He is a King who created, who provides for, who redeemed, who adopted us.

One sat on the throne: Sitting on the throne indicates a permanent and stable reign that comes from the infinite Wisdom and Power which extend over the Heavens and the Earth. For we read in Romans 11: 23,24

3. *And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.*

The rainbow is a symbol of the rainbow after Noah, when God promised that He will never send another flood like that against the Earth.

Emerald is a red stone, a color symbolic of the blood of Jesus Christ and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

4. *Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.*

24 thrones each for a priest. They are 24 because they represent the 12 tribes of the old testament (12 sons of Jacob) and the 12 apostles of the new testament. They are the foundation of the people of God through the ages.

The 24 priests were sitting, indicating stability.

White robes symbolic of purity and joy and crowns indicating victory.

Gold represents wealth, and these elders were wealthy in spiritual knowledge and faith, and wealthy because they will inherit God’s kingdom.

5. *And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

Lightning represents God’s promises to His children, because after lightning comes rain and God’s promises bring blessings (rain).

Thunder represents warnings from God.

Voices represent God’s strength and might (Psalm 29:4 – The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.)

The seven Spirits of God are seven Archangels.

6. *Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.*

The sea of glass represents baptism and the crystal indicates the purity we obtain from baptism.

Full of eyes indicates the four living creatures are full of knowledge about the past (eyes in the back) and the future (eyes in the front).

7. *The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.*

The Lion represents victory over death, courage, and bravery, The Calf represents Jesus Christ on the Cross, patience and sacrifice, The Man represents the birth of the Son of Man, knowledge and wisdom, and The Eagles represents the ascension of Christ to heaven, flying like an eagle.

Another interpretation is that the four living creatures each represent one of the gospel writers:

- Mathew (Son of Man) because he talked about Christ as Son of Man
- Mark (Lion) began his gospel with a voice of a Lion
- Luke (Calf) talked the most about sacrifices
- John (Eagle) spoke the most about divinity and what is above.
-

8. *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”*

With two wings they cover they face because they are unworthy to see God, which represents humility during prayer

With two they cover their feet indicating respect, With two wings they fly, symbolic of lifting our hands during prayer, the flying is the movement of our souls during prayer when it is lifted up above the passions of the earth.

9. *Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,*

Give glory to God the father who sent us His Only Son
Give honor to God the Son who took the place of a servant
Give thanks to God the Holy Spirit for His guidance

10. *The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:*

11. *“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For you have created all things, And by your will they exist and were created.”*

+Chapter 5+

In this Chapter

- 1 – The Sealed Scroll; v 1
- 2 – No one is able to open its seals; v 2-5
- 3 – When Christ took the Scroll, the 4 incorporeal creatures, and the 24 presbyters fall down and worship, singing the praise of Thanksgiving to whom acquired them with His blood
- 4 – The angels, the incorporeal creatures, and the presbyters all participate in the praising



The Lamb opening the seals, slaughtered but standing

The Seals

1. And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

who sat on the throne: see Rev 4:2

sealed with seven seals

1 – refers to hidden events from the human mind, but is known only to God. The number 7 represents perfection and therefore if it is sealed with seven seals it indicates its importance and its utmost secrecy.

2 – May refer to seven stages of the church history, and the opening of each seal reveals a period of the church history.

Seven also represents seven phases that the Church will go through, and with each seal that is opened we get a clear idea of period of time in the history of the Church between its birth and the Second coming.

2. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”

Who has the power to reveal the unknown (the sealed things), and the times and periods that “Father has kept in His authority” (Acts 1:7)?

3. And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

Of all the angels and all their awesome ranks no one was able to open the scroll.

4. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

St. John wept because he was faced with a sealed scroll, and a cry of one of the presbyters to find someone worthy to open it, but there is none. It hurt him to see that no one was worthy to even look at the scroll.

Would not a person weep if he finds himself in front of a difficult critical situation with no solution?

This is the state of the humanity before the coming of its Savior; lost and going astray in sin, and not able to pull itself into righteousness. For the devil the prince of this world was not defeated.

5. *But one of the presbyters said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”*

We see here the tender hearts of the saints in heaven, who will comfort us when they see us troubled. Jesus Christ is described as the Lion because of his strength (in defeating Satan and snatching the spoil, the faithful, from his hands), glory, honor, reign (He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords). He is from the root of David, which means that Christ according to the flesh is from the genealogy of David.

6. *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

Jesus Christ is a Lion in his power and might, and is a Lamb in his humility and sacrifice on the Cross, He is the true Passover Lamb; “For our Passover is Christ” (1 Cor xx:xx).
The Lamb: St. John the Baptist called Him “*Behold the Lamb of God who carries the sin of the world*” (John 1:39); He is revealed as a Lamb for the following reasons:

- The meekness of the lamb
- The submission to the slaughter
- The purity of the lamb

He is a Lion in power and authority, but a lamb in meekness and humility.
He is a Lion in defeating Satan, but a lamb in carrying the sin of the world, and being slaughtered (through the Cross) for us, with His Will and Authority alone.

stood a Lamb as though it had been slain

Although the Lamb is slaughtered, He is standing and will never die; this refers to the power of Christ on the Cross and also to His Resurrection. Hence He is always standing. “*I am alive forever and ever*” (Rev 1:18)

- Standing because he is alive
- Standing to intercede with His redemptive capacity for the sinners who come to Him in repentance and confession (Rom 8:24)
- Standing in front of the father with His wounds
- Standing to distribute His gifts to all humanity
- Standing ready to come at any time for judgement

having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the Spirits of God sent out into all the earth

A horn is a symbol of power, so seven horns refers to the Lamb being in perfect strength³ despite the fact of standing slaughtered. The number of perfection, seven, is the number of horns so that no one would err and think that the Lamb is weak on account of it being slain. For the slaying of the Lamb refers to the Cross, but the Lord is still (Omnipotent) powerful on the Cross. Therefore the Lord Jesus Christ called his hour of the Cross to be the time of “glory” in John 12 when He called “Father, glorify Your Son”

³ The use of “horn” to show power comes in Zech 1: 21: “ Then said I, What come these to do? And he spoke, saying, These *are* the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to frighten them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up *their* horn over the land of Judah to scatter it.” In this verse the horn refers to the power of the Gentiles against the people of God.

Also the church gives the same teaching by praying “Thok teti gom...” in the Holy Week, including Good Friday.

Seven eyes means He is perfect in knowledge and wisdom in everything.

The seven Spirits of God can be interpreted as:

1. the seven angels that intercede on our behalf, for the angels are “fiery spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation”. They bring prayers and reports to the Lord, as we read in Zechariah 1:11 “*These are they whom the LORD hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth. Zec 1:11 And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.*”
2. Or it can be a pointer to the “perfect” work of the Holy Spirit, since 7 refers to perfection. The Holy Spirit does perfect work of Faith among the believers.

7. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

8. Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Fell down

When the Lamb took the scroll, everyone worshipped him, indicating the Divinity of Christ. The worship here is to the Lamb proving that He is our Savior, for when St. John tried to worship the angel in Rev 22:8 he was prevented by the angel⁴. On the other hand the man born blind worshipped at the feet of Christ up Christ revealing to him that He is the Son of God.

Each of them have a harp to praise and sing to God.

The Intercession:

The golden bowls full of incense here are a strong indication of intercession, because the prayers of the saints aren’t going directly to God but through the twenty-four elders.

9. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Jesus Christ redeemed us, His church, with His blood, so He is worthy. The ones singing this song are the twenty-four priests, for Christ was not slain for the angels but rather for the faithful who are represented in and by the twenty-four priests.

10. “And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

We are kings of ourselves, taking care that we do not lead ourselves to sin, but rather we are “led by the Spirit” (Romans). We are also priests, not as the ordained priest, but as *temples* of the Holy Spirit, we are priests, i.e. sanctified and dedicated to the Lord.

We shall reign on the earth in two aspects:

1. First, In the sense that we have control over the earth, i.e. over the lusts of the earth, and those of the body, so we are not under the dominion of the devil. He has no room in our hearts. As St. Paul mentioned in 2 Cor 6:10 “*As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*”
2. Second, we shall reign on the *new earth* (Rev 21:24)

So the First meaning refers to the reigning of the church on earth, while the Second meaning refers to the permanent reign of the believers in eternity.

⁴ Rev 22:9 *Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

11. Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

The angels' job is to praise and encourage all to praise

12. Saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

The Loud voice refers to the joy that fills the heart, and the zeal in praising and glorification; and how burning is the Love to God in the heart.

Seven characteristics, and the number Seven represents perfection or completion (i.e. lacking nothing):

Power, because He the Creator

Riches, because He is the donor of every gift

Wisdom, because His perfect planning

Strength, because He executes His Will

Honor, for He is God

Glory, for He is magnified by all the Creation

Blessing, for He is the One whom we worship and bless Him with our words and actions

We pray a doxology of these words during the Holy Pascha Week (Thok Te ti Gom...)

To put it all together: Christ, our Lord, is the Creator (Power), who gives us all the *gifts* freely (Riches), and gives life to the whole world, and the one who in full *wisdom* plans everything (Wisdom), who with *strength* executes His judgment (Strength), who is fearful and worthy of all *honor, glorified* in all His plans, and is *blessed* by all His creation.

13. And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

In heaven: the angels, *on the earth* of all the human creation, *and under the earth* even the devils, *such as are in the sea, and all that are in them* all the sea creatures.

The Angels praise God as we see in Isaiah 6:3 *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

All the creation blesses God, but the devils know Him and confess that He is God, but are afraid of Him. They are not praising Him.

In St. Mark Gospel 1:24 we hear the unclean spirit *Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.*

Christ accepted praise from the elders, the church, and the entire creation.

14. Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four presbyters fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever."

Amen; means approval and substantiation; for the four living creatures are joining in the praising offered to God.

The twenty-four presbyters join the angels, the creation, and the four living creatures in the heavenly praises.

As representative of the church of the Old and the New Testament, they are captivated by the Love of Christ, so they mingled the praising with worshipping, and falling down to the ground.

We see here images from the worship in the liturgy:

1 – The worship through singing praises that offer glory to God

2 – The follow up on the praising by the word "Amen" to accept and approve the words of worship offered to the Lord

3 – The kneeling to the ground to show humility and submission to the Lord in our worship and singing

+Chapter 6+

This chapter can be broken into the following parts:

1. The first seal opened: a white horse and the one on it is victorious v 1,2
2. The second seal is opened: a red horse and the one sitting on it removes peace from the earth v 3, 4
3. The third seal is opened: a black horse comes out, and the one on it has a balance in his hands v 5, 6
4. The fourth seal is opened: a pale (or green) horse comes out and the one sitting on it has death as his name and Hades follows him. V 7, 8
5. The fifth seal, which talks about the souls of the martyrs under the altar seeking that God avenge their blood, v 9 - 11
6. The sixth seal, with great earthquake which reveals the anger of God, and the change in nature. v 12-17



1. Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

The first living creature has the form of a lion, hence his voice was like thunder, as an alert to all the events “**Come and see.**” Means, “I shall reveal to you and you judge for yourself; similar to what Philip told Nathaniel, inviting him to see Christ in John 1:46.

2(a). And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow;

The white color represents peace, purity, and holiness.

Christ came on a white horse to spread peace on Earth: 1 - peace between us and Him, Rom 5:1

2 - between us and others, Psalm 16:7

3 - and between us and our own consciences. Acts 24:16

Christianity, founded by Christ, spread by the holy disciples and apostles, ended slavery to idolatry, sin, love of money, and evil. The white horse, with the victorious rider, represent the victory of the Church throughout the ages Matthew 16:18.

The bow represents the spiritual piercing of the Word of God the mightily enters us, as Heb 4:12. The listeners to St. Peter on the day of Pentecost were *pierced* in their hearts; Acts 2: 37

Why a horse? Because it is a war: against paganism, against sin, against the world, against the ego, materialism, and immorality.

Why a bow? It is our weapon against sin, it is the word of God, which Christ and the Apostles, that puts peace, and attacks Satan. Ephesians 6: 17

2(b). and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

He (Christ or the Apostles) is/are always conquering (Matt 16:18)

He came out conquering: 1 – from the tomb breaking the sting of death and the brass gates of Hades

2 – through the preaching of His disciples; Ps 19:4

3 – through the faithful followers; “*and this is our victory that has overcome the world - our faith*” (1 John 5: 4)

He shall conquer forever, “*To him was given all authority in heaven and on earth*” (Matt 28:18)

This is the Kingdom which will never be defeated and will last forever, Daniel 2: 44
"He reigns on the house of Jacob forever and to His Kingdom there shall be no end"(Luke 1:33)

3. When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

4. Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Satan is sitting on this red horse, representing all those who persecuted God's church and His people, a severe persecution that peaks at the shedding their blood.

A great sword represents the length of time of this persecution, until the reign of Emperor Constantine, and the edict of Milan, in year 312AD, to end the law that being a Christian is a crime punishable by death.

And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, by persecuting the Christians, but Satan was not able to take away the peace from their heart. Stories of martyrs are full of displays of peace and joy that they enjoyed as they were being killed for the sake of Christ. They were singing as they were being directed to be thrown to the lions!! Do we have that love??

But persecution to Christianity did not and will not end, Satan will take different forms to fight against God by fighting his children, hence the world, which is the kingdom of Satan, will never accept what "true" Christianity stands for; as Christ says in John 15:18

5. When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

Black represents darkness, so the black horse represents the time of heresies and false teachings.

When satan failed in defeating the church from the outside through persecution, he resorted to instigating human wisdom in reading the Scriptures, and twisting the thought into crookedness of understanding the word of God, and creating erroneous teachings. Remember St. Paul saying (1 Cor 2 : 4)

had a pair of scales in his hand.

In Summary, The scale is trying to imply truth and judgment, when in fact satan brings with him famine and hunger.

The believer will need to measure the teaching that he listens to, because they are in the middle of other erroneous teachings. St. Peter teaches about the those who twist the word of God given by St. Paul (2 Pet 3:16)

6. And I heard 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 harm the oil and the wine."

Wheat and barley are two different sources for making bread, which is the livelihood of the body. They became extremely expensive, which would lead to a famine, and death. This expression, taken figuratively, means that there is an extreme *spiritual* famine that resulted from the heretical teachings. Our spiritual food, which is the word of God, is lacking.

Oil and Wine represent healing elements which the Good Samaritan has given to the Jewish man that was attacked. The Good Samaritan is the Lord who came to heal the sinners with the work of the Holy Spirit (the Oil) and the Communion (The Wine) that the Christians.

do not harm [them] God has ordered the heresies not to harm the Oil and the Wine, which means that the heresies will be eradicated from the church and will not be able to prevail against it, despite the fact that spiritual correct teachings will be scarce in these periods.

The Church always fights the heresies, and adds creeds to be recited by the faithful, so that they keep the right faith.

7. When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

8(a). So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him.

The pale horse, or pale green in some interpretations, and in the Coptic it means yellow, and it all refers to *lukewarm Christianity*, which may appear the right faith outwardly, but from within it will fall down with the spiritual level of the followers of it. St. Paul says about that (1 Ti 4:1) The one who sits on this horse will lead those who follow him to death.

Hades followed with him which means that those who die by this lukewarmness will have eternal death and will go to Hades.

8(b). And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Forth of the Earth, is not meant literally exactly one forth, but rather that part of the followers which will fall into being lukewarm. The sword, hunger, death, and beasts are all referring to the tools that will kill lukewarm people: The “sword” of temptation and sin, the “hunger” to spirituality, the “death” that comes from being away from the church, and the “beasts” which are the strong sins like fornication and adultery, that will violently attack the lukewarm Christians.

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 testimony which they held.

The altar here is the real sacrifice, the true crucified Christ who is in their midst. The souls of those slain for the word of God: are those who chose to be under the Cross of Christ, so the world rose up against them and killed them.

under the altar is the most honorable place for the souls that love Christ, as Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice on the altar of the Cross, so these martyrs offered themselves as a sacrifice for Christ. So they earned to be remaining under the altar.

In the earthly church also, we put the relics of some of the saints in a crypt, and have an altar above them.

All types of unfair treatments will happen to the Christians, persecution, torture, prison, and death in vicious ways. Hence, after their death, their souls cry to the Just Lord saying, “Where is the Divine Justice?”:



10. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

1. “How long” is a cry for God to support the faithful so that they do not lose hope when they see the evil prevailing, when they see the evil person like a healthy tree (Psalm 37:35). This discouragement is captured in Psalm 37: 2,3. But the Just Lord “will not let the staff of the sinful lay upon the portion of the righteous, so that the righteous do not extend their hand to the evil”
2. This also shows the work of “Intercessions of the saints”, they are not “disconnected” from us on earth.

11. Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

White robe symbol of purity, honor, and joy. The Lord Jesus Christ, when He transfigured on Mount Tabor, His clothes were bright white (Matt 17, Luke 9)

So will everyone who overcomes, will be given to be arrayed in white (Rev 3:5)

them that they should rest a little while longer, rest and wait for the assigned time which the Father has kept by His own Authority (Acts 1:3), which is the time of the Second Coming. They need to rest from the toiling they suffered, and Paradise is the place of true rest, comfort, relief from the burdens of the earth which they carried for the sake of Christ.

until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Their fellow servants are us, whom God is waiting on to finish our good works so that we may have a portion with the saints in heaven. So let us all be determined for the “time is near”.

This idea (of us complementing those who finished) is depicted magnificent by St. Paul in Hebrews 11, where he mentions:

- the giants of faith of the bible (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab the harlot, Gideon, Balak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel.)
- then he mentions the actions that proved the faith (tortured, not acceptance deliverance; that they may obtain a better resurrection, mocking, scourging, imprisonment, stoning, ...Heb 11:33-37)
- and finally that they will not be perfected apart from us, or without us. He says “they they without us should not be made perfect” (Heb 11:40). So their perfection is more magnificent with us being joined with them.

The martyrs are called to have patience until the fullness of their number is complete.

12. I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

The Lord Jesus Christ narrated these events in Matthew 24: “...that 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 heaven will be shaken” – We can take all these events literally, but we can explain the spiritual meaning as follows:

great earthquake Earthquakes happen due to release of pressure of gases in the earth, it is an act of sliding earth formations as an act of pressure relief, here Great Earthquake may be taken to represent instability in church due to accumulation of the “pressure” of false teachings, that gives rise to major events that shake the church.

For example, the prevailing of Communism in Russia, which fought the Christian faith, and damaged most of Eastern Europe. It shook the faith of many, and they turned into atheists. Their faith suffered a “great earthquake.”

sun became black The sun becomes black, means its rays will *not* reach the earth, which means that people will no longer be exposed to enlightened teachings, the earthly pleasure and materialism will hinder the true light from reaching the people. **as sackcloth of hair** may mean that some very faint light may go through the fabric of sackcloth.

the moon became like blood Since the sun is darkened, and the moon’s light is a *reflection* of the sun’s, and The moon represents the church believers, then this means that our faith will be weakened due to the abundance of false teachings.

Another way to look at it is: At the end of times, the virtues in the believers will be dark like blood (will be scarce): For Holiness will be looked at as suffocating our instincts; Forgiveness will be looked at as being without dignity; Charitable deeds will be looked at as encouraging laziness; Mercy will be looked as a license for other people to hurt us; Long suffering will be looked as encouraging chaos and irresponsible behaviors. The devil will be working actively perverting the Gospel of Christ (Gal 1:7)

13. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

And the stars of heaven fell to the earth in a literal scientific sense the earth is one of the smaller stars of heaven, so it is unlikely that the stars will fall to the earth, so in a figurative sense this may point to the fall of bright teachers of the church, fall from focusing on spirituality to focusing on worldly things. Stars have been used throughout the bible to be symbols of the faithful:

1. 1 Cor 15:41
2. Dan 12:30
3. Jude 13

as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind the strong forces of materialism, sexuality, and atheism will shake those fruits that are *weakly attached* to the fig tree.

The sixth seal basically represents the worldly disturbances that accompany the second coming of Christ.



14. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

The sky started to fold on itself, the whole nature above us: the sun, the moon, the stars, and the sky are disintegrating. The earth under us is moving by the great earthquake; nothing is lasting any more. Christ told us that *“heaven and earth will pass away but not one tittle of my words will fall,”* and here they are passing away.

and every mountain and island was moved out of its place this means that there is no place to hide from the coming of the Lord, even on high mountains, or on isolated land like islands. **Mountains** may also refer to those who are of high positions in the world, or those who are full of pride that they feel they are above all. As it mentions by prophet Zechariah (Zech 4:7). In the same sense, **islands** may refer to those who are far from the church and isolating themselves around their own circles and not being part of the Body of Christ, that is the church.

15. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

The face of Jesus Christ, who we say is more beautiful than any human, will come a time when the evildoers will want to hide from it in anyway but they will find nowhere to go.

16. And said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!”

The sight of an angry lion is normal, but the wrath of a lamb is not a common sight. So Christ, whom we see as a humble servant, will also come as the just judge, with great might and power.

17. *“For the great day of His wrath had come, and who is able to stand?”* Malachi 3:2

+Chapter 7+

This chapter is a joyful interlude amidst all the terrible judgments of the previous chapters. Here, the seventh seal is not yet opened, and there is a vision of the faithful Church, when the Lord's faithful are 'sealed' against His wrath. God is telling us not to worry, because we will see His paradise if we follow Him and He will give us white robes to wear. In this chapter we find:

1. Encouragement to the church in its struggle against evil
2. Reward will be given to all those who struggle and triumph against sin.
3. The faithful will be rejoicing with the heavenly people.

1. *After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.*

The four angels are an indication that God has sent angels to protect his children everywhere on earth, no exceptions: north, south, east, and west.

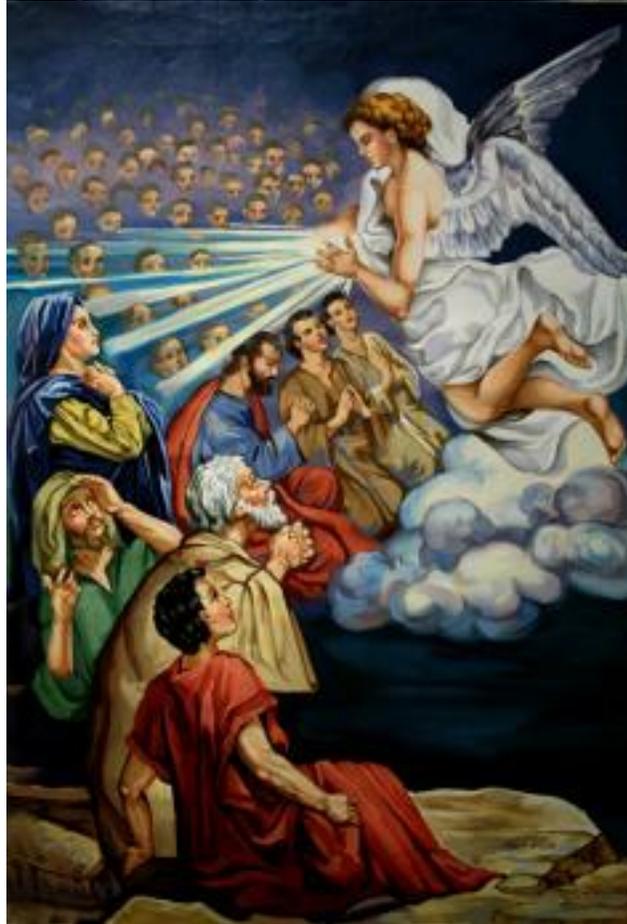
2. *Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,*

3. *Saying, "Do no harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."*

This means that before sending his judgment, God will put a sign on those faithful who have followed him to the end and will protect them from any harm.

The seal we have is the seal of the Holy Spirit through the Mairoon oil.

It is on the forehead because it represents the thoughts of the faithful that are always holy and undefiled.



4. And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

The 144,000 is a number symbolizing the entire faithful Church (12 tribes, 12 Apostles, 1000) – 1000 represents heaven since it is the unit used for heavenly counts (“thousand thousand and ten thousand times ten thousand”).

Israel here means the New Israel, the Church of the New Testament. Israel itself means struggling with God.

5. Of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

The tribe of Judah is stated first because from it came Jesus Christ. Judah means “praising” (Gen 29:35)

Reuben means “looking upon tribulation” (Gen 29:32), and represents all who see the true faith and pure light and who God sees their good works and faith in their tribulations.

Gad means “rejoicing” (Gen 30:11), and represents all those who have patience in their struggle until the end, and rejoice while under tribulations (put Philippians, acts—rejoiced for they were found worthy to be persecuted for his Name’s sake”.

6. Of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

Asher means “happy”, represents all who are joyful despite hardship.

Naphtali means “prevailing wrestlings” (Gen 30:8), “resist Satan and he will flee from you” ().

Manasseh means “forget” (Gen 41:51), and represents those who forget themselves and their desires and fill their lives instead with the presence of God.

The tribe of Manasseh is stated instead of the tribe of Dan because Dan’s tribe left God and worshiped idols (Judges 18). Manasseh is Joseph’s eldest son. He chose him and not Ephraim because Ephraim worshipped idols and fought against the tribe of Judah; The Kingdom of Israel fighting against the Kingdom of Judah.

7. Of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

Simeon means “listener” (Gen 39:33), and represents those who listen to the voice of God in their hearts, as God’s sheep listen only to the voice of their shepherd (John 10)

Levi means “co-joined” (Gen 29:34) represents those who stick to God in all situations

Issachar means “my hire or award”; (*Gen 30:18*) *And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.*”

8. Of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

Zebulun means “dwelling, habitation” (Gen 30:20), and represents those dwell with God and always pray for the heavenly dwelling.

Joseph means “increase” (Gen 30:24), and represents those who increase in their good works and grow in their spiritual life.

Benjamin means “son of the right” (Gen 35:18), and represents those who pray and ask for the right hand of God, and depend on his power and strength.

We may summarize the order of the naming in the following statement:

Those are the ones sealed on their heads, they have the attitude of **thanksgiving (Judah)**, and despite **seeing their affliction (tribulations) (Reuben)** which they suffer in the world, they are always is **joy and happiness (Gad and Asher)** in their **wrestling against the enemy (Nehptali)**, **forgetting (Menasseh)** the mischief of others against them...they are **listening and obedient (Simeon)** to God’s promises...always **co-joined (attached) (Levi)** to Him...

Then they will get their **award (Issachar)**, by **dwelling (Zebulun)** with the Lord, in an **increased (Joseph)** fashion (St.Paul: seeing him face to face), and will abide **on the right hand (the good award)**.

Note the Following:

- **Judah** comes first, since Christ came from this tribe, He is the Good Shepherd and all the sheep follow (John 10:4) His Leadership.
- **Ephraim** is not mentioned, his father Joseph replaced him. He represents the Kingdom of Israel that separated themselves from Judah under Rehoboam. (Hosea 13:12, 13)
- **Dan** is removed, it is clear why when we read what Jacob said to him in his final blessings to his children (Gen 49: 17, 18).
- The tribe of **Levi**, who did not take any portion of land when it was divided among the tribes in (Joshua 13:33), is now worthy of getting the final award given to those whose portion is the Lord. So, at the time of Jacob Blessing his 12 Children (Gen 49), Joseph was blessed as part of the 12 children. (Menasseh and Ephraim were not part of the 12, they were blessed separately) At the time of dividing the land: Joseph did not take, Levi did not take, but Menasseh and Ephraim took portions. (so still 12) In Revelations 7 compared with Gen 49: Menasseh is in, Dan is out (still 12) In Revelations 7 compared with dividing the land: Joseph and Levi are in, Dan and Ephraim are out. (still 12)

9. After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

White robes represent purity and holiness, similar to the souls that are under the altar. All of those in heaven are in the presence of God wearing white. The white attire is mentioned in the worship in Rev 4:4, and to refer to final comfort in Rev 6:11

Palm branches represent victory and triumph, similar to the triumphant entry of the Lord to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Mark 11:8-10)

If the 144,000 refers to the Jews who fear the Lord in the Old Testament, since they are all from the tribes, then this innumerable multitude is from the gentiles who believed in Christ. It is of no consequence to know their number, but it is important to be counted among them.

10. And crying out with a loud voice, saying "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

crying out with a loud voice, is an expression of their joy and jubilation in their eternal abode in heaven, and their victory over sin. Reminder that our salvation and victory is from our God the Father who revealed His love to us through His Son Jesus Christ (See also Rev 1:16).

11. All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12. Saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Amen: this is a word of approval, that our salvation and victory is not of ourselves but from the one who sits on the throne, who put Satan to be under our feet, gave us the authority to trample upon snakes and scorpions and all the powers of the enemy.

Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. This glorification is identical to the one in Rev 5:12, except that the word "Thanksgiving" here replaces the word "Richness" there; The reason is that in Rev 5:12, it was referring to God's gifts to those who follow him. We may be poor but we make many people rich (2 Cor 6:10). Whereas here we are *thanking* God for His victory through us, that enabled us to be eternally into the Kingdom of Heaven.

13. Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

Like a teacher asking a student, even though he knows the answer. It is a means to make the student look forward to the answer.

**14. And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
the great tribulation**

1 -The severe persecution the Jews did to the Christians, which started by stoning of St. Stephen, and never stopped. 2 - The tribulations that Christians suffered throughout the era of persecutions. 3 - The tribulations, which the believers will be subject to throughout all their life on earth, for "*with many tribulations we inherit the Kingdom of Heaven*". 4 - The tribulations which the believers will be subject to by the Anti-Christ.

washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb This is the justification, by faith in Christ, and by suffering for His sake. The church washes us in Baptism, and gives us white robes, from outside, and also white souls and consciences from inside. We become born from above not from earth. Having access to "above" happened only by the Blood of Christ (the Lamb) that opened for us access to Heaven. The old enmity between heaven and earth is abolished.

15. "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

serve Him day and night in His temple In the Old Testament temple of Solomon, David his father has organized the service in the temple into 24 groups of priests, they groups take turns in serving God around the year, so that the service does not stop day and night. This temple service was a symbol for serving God day and night in Heaven. In the New Testament, His temple is our body, we ought to serve God day and night using our body: in the church during the liturgical services and outside the liturgy by refraining from the sinning by our bodies.

Also the church liturgical service had mid-night praises where overnight vigils are offered to the Lord, followed by liturgies in order to have God inside us after spending the night with Him.

And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them God dwelt among His people in the Old Testament on the cover of the Ark of Covenant, in the area of the Most Holy of the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. God is unlimited by a place, but this is a means where God wanted to show His people that He loves to dwell among them.

In the New Testament, God dwells *inside* us in the form of the Holy Spirit, where we *become* the temple of God (This is achieved via the Mystery of Chrismation with Meiroon, which follows the Mystery of Baptism). Now, since we are the temple, then Christ comes and dwells inside the temple, this occurs in the Mystery of Communion. What a special treatment you and I are getting!!

16. "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

See Isa 49:10

They will not hunger nor thirst for they are tasting the sweetness of the relationship with God, no sun or heat will affect them since they are under the eternal comfort that God provides as a reward to those who labored for Him during their lives on earth.

17. "For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them

Jesus Christ who is sitting on His throne, in full glory, is the Chief Shepherd who is now serving the servants who served Him with their lives. He is fulfilling His promise that He gave in the parable of the honest servants who are waiting for their master to come back from the wedding, upon knocking if they are awake and they open for Him, He as a master will serve. This comes in the Gospel of St. Luke 12:32-46 which is prayed as the bible passage of the third service of the midnight prayers.

So Christ is fulfilling His promise that He Himself will serve those who served him... **...and lead them to living fountains of waters.** This is offered to make up for the heat and the thirst they suffered in the service. Christ promised that if any offers a "cup of cold water" to any of His little brethren (any one in need), that person's reward will by no means be forgotten.

The heavenly life is pictured as one of unending worship, day and night, from which all suffering has disappeared.

We consecrate all life to service and worship of God accompanied by the heavenly hosts.

A message of encouragement and consolation to all Christians who face severe persecution for their faith.

- Chapter 6 ended with opening the 6th Seal
- Chapter 7 came as a relief that the children of God will get their reward, it is a comforting message in the middle of warning messages
 - In Chapter 8, we shall get to opening the 7th Seal

+Chapter 8+

In this Chapter

God is warning the humans against:

- 1 – Hunger as a result of economic crises: v 7
- 2 – The sword in deadly wars: v 8 and 9
- 3 – The bitterness resulting from divisions: v 10, 11
- 4 – The death because of apostasy that is fueled by materialism and immorality: v 12

Chapters 8 through 11 talk about the judgment and the second coming very specifically. Chapter 8 begins with the opening of the seventh seal which contains the first four trumpets. The trumpets are warnings by God to mankind, reminding them to repent before it is too late. Chapter 9 is two main parts: First, it talks about the fifth trumpet which clarifies the thoughts of Satan and how he draws people to evil works, and how this war with Satan will get very tough at the end of times. Second, it talks about the sixth trumpet, which is a vision of the plagues that will come upon mankind. In chapter 10 we see a vision of a small book that is sealed, different from the first scroll that we saw, and represents a vision of two prophets who will appear before the second coming: Elijah and Enoch. In chapter 11, we see a vision of the second coming.

1. When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

The silence is the time during which the angel of God will put the seal on the foreheads of God's people.

It is the silence that precedes any storm, and gives people a chance to repent before the storm hits.

It is a period of time when the heavenly hosts stand feeling regret for those who have not taken their opportunities to repent, due to their pride or due to procrastination. St. Paul is telling us that we shall not have an excuse; Rom 2:1

2. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

The seven angels can:

Michael, Gabriel and Rafael, who appeared in the Holy Bible.

Suriel, Sadakiel, Saratiel, and Ananiel who are mentioned in the Holy Psalmody.

3. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

We see here images of the service in the church, which was symbolized to by the service in the temple.

We see the altar in front of the throne of God, and in the church we have the altar at the east of the church, and the icon in the East is Christ sitting on the throne, with seven angels around the throne, and the 24 presbyters standing around the throne.

The angel offering much incense is an action that we see in the Old Testament on the day of Great Atonement (In Leviticus 16), where the High Priest enters into the Most Holy place with much incense so that it may fill the whole room, to be an offering in front of the Ark of Covenant. The Ark's cover is called the Mercy Seat, and this is where God talks with His people. After the incense, the High Priest enters two more times, the first time with the blood of a ram which he offered as an offering for his own sins, the second time with the blood of a ram which is offered as an atonement of the whole congregation (hence it is called the Great Atonement Day, for it is a day for seeking forgiveness for whole people of Israel, priests and congregation). This day is a symbol of Good Friday.

The High Priest is the Lord Jesus Christ, He entered into the Heaven by His own Blood. This offered an unlimited atonement for all the sins of the world, since the one who offered Himself is the infinite God. His Resurrection then gave us the authority over death. St. Paul explains this Atonement by Christ, as a fulfillment of the rituals of the Old Testament which were just mere symbols and limited, in his epistle to his people the Hebrews, chapter 9: 11 – 12.

He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints

The incense is mixed with the prayers of the saints which are offered to God. We see here the saints interceding for us during the difficult times. In the Liturgy, the priest is going with the censor around the church among the people. The people are singing a song pertaining to the censor as a symbol of St. Mary (such as Tai Shori or ti shori), followed by the song of "Intercessions of

Saints” – starting with St. Mary, and ending with the saints of the day. This is exactly what we see here, the incense offered with the prayers of the saints to God.
This is always a reminder for us that our Divine Liturgy is a worship in heaven.

4. *And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.*

This refers to God accepting our prayers, He receives them as a sweet aroma, but the Lord makes a decision regarding our requests.

5(a). *Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth.*

Throwing the censor to the earth is a clear announcement to the earth regarding the alarming events which will shortly take place on it.

5(b). *And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.*

This is the beginning of the heavenly sounds that will bring about the seven trumpets, they refer to major events that are about to happen. It makes all the people on earth alert to what is about to happen. They will be in a state of fear and awe. They will not be lazy towards the sounds of the trumpets. God is grabbing their attention, for their own benefit, to the trumpets.

6. *So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

The sounding of Trumpets:

1. It is a commandment from God to sound the trumpets as it came in the book of Numbers Chapter 8. It announces God’s commandments, and moving from one place to another, it gives warnings of battles and preparation for wars.
2. It is a fearful alarm to the enemies, as it happened in the book of Joshua in Chapter 6, where the walls of Jericho fell, upon sounding the trumpets.
3. For God’s people it is a sound of jubilation and glories; as it is the case in the feast of Jubilee in Leviticus 25:8-22
4. The sounds of the Trumpets announce transgressions against the Lord *Isaiah 58:1 “Raise your voice as a trumpet, and inform my people with their transgressions”*
5. The sounds of the trumpet is for attracting attention; *Matt 6:2 “when you offer your alms do not sound the trumpet in front of you”*
6. The sound of the trumpet is for the resurrection of the dead; *1 Cor 15:52 “in a moment, in a blink of an eye, the final trumpet will sound and the dead will rise”*



The First Trumpet

7. The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Hail and fire represent the wrath of God, as seen in Ex 9:22-26. Recalls the seventh plague of Egypt. Blood represents revenge, but even in His wrath, God is merciful, this is symbolized that he has only burnt a third of all the green on the earth.

The burnt trees signify the burning of man's food

By burning trees and grass He has struck the food of man and animals, sending famine and desperation to earth to grab their attention to cry to God and repent.

God has one purpose of all of these plagues: in the Old Testament with Pharaoh, and now before the second coming, this goal is that we repent.

The Second Trumpet

8. Then 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.

9. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Recalls the first plague of Egypt

The sea, marine life and maritime are the sources of commerce; the world financially is affected

great mountain burning with fire A mountain means that a man (or men) with strength and power will come into the world; we base this expression on what came in *Jeremiah 51:25* "*Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys all the earth,*" says the Lord. "*And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, and make you a burnt mountain*" burnt mountain means being a man of war.

the sea The sea represents the world because of its vastness, turbulence of its waves (instability), and also its destructive power when it is in a tempest.

third of the sea became blood this refers to wars that will happen in the world, this is not driven by the Lord, by the Lord is permitting it.

third of the living creatures in the sea died this is the death of young people in the wars that will start, if we divide the population into children, youth, and seniors. This means that uncorrectable consequences will ensue from these wars.

third of the ships were destroyed The ships are a symbol of the financial life. Since all commerce at that time is based on shipping. So this verse refers to financial pressures that will happen, and may lead some people into despair, and sadness, and led them to fall to the bottom since they have not asked God to snatch them out of trouble.

The Third Trumpet

10. Then 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 water.

11. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

This judgment affects fresh waters.

The rivers and springs of water are the church teachings:

1. because these teachings are sweet and fresh for the soul.
2. because the church grants life and spiritual growth through its life-giving mysteries

3. because the church came from heaven (as the source of waters of the rivers is from rain), heaven is the abode of God
 - a. The author of the faith that the church provides is the Jesus Christ who is from heaven.
 - b. The unseen guide inside the church is the heavenly teacher, the Holy Spirit.
 - c. The supporting help to the church is from Heaven.
 - d. The final abode of its believers is heaven.

Wormwood is an extremely bitter plant that would make water undrinkable, in this verse it even mentions it to be fatal. This refers to the heretical teaching that may creep into the church teachings, and following these teachings would lead to:

1. The Bitterness of Divisions in the One Body of Christ
2. The Bitterness of deviating from the teachings of love, forgiveness, and self-denial.

This continuous bitterness in the body of the believers who deviated would lead to their spiritual death. For the freshness of the church teachings is replaced with decayed water.

The star falling, from its trajectory, represents anyone who leaves his godly bright path and fall, just like any star that is removed from orbit will fall and be destroyed.

The Fourth Trumpet

12. Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

And a third of the sun was struck The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the Sun of Righteousness “*But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.*” (Malachi 4:2); Hence, striking a third of the sun refers to the obstruction of the *full* reflection of the person of Christ in the believers.

a third of the moon and a third of the stars: means that some of the children of the church will suffer from a weaker love to the Lord.

Also, in a general sense, the brightness of light in the morning is decreasing (1/3 of the sun is struck), and in addition the darkness at night is increasing (1/3 of the moon and the stars are struck). Increase in darkness around the person leads to a feeling of lack of peace, anxiety, sadness; best expressed in Psalm 29 *At night comes sadness, while at day comes joy*

13. And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

The three remaining trumpets are called **Woes**. This shows that they are more severe than the previous four.

+Chapter 9+

In this Chapter:

The fifth trumpet: The sorrows that affect the people v. 1—11

The sixth trumpet: Wars of destruction v. 13—21

1. Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

2. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

The *bottomless pit* is where the evil spirits are captured, and Christ was described by having the keys to Hell and Death (Rev 1:18). *Star fallen from heaven* can be an angel going to release the bottomless pit by permission from the Lord, or he is Satan who is releasing his armies for fighting with the children of God. **Chapter 20** (which offers an overview of the whole book of Revelations) shows that Satan will be released at the end of 1000 years of God reigning on earth. **The smoke** hides the rays of the sun, which are the heresies or corrupt way of thinking that hinder us from the Light of Christ revealed in the Church and its Mysteries. “*People loved darkness more than light, because their deeds were wicked*”

3. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Locusts: it is one of the plagues on Egypt (Ex. 10:12) and they are: *a—many:* they fill the whole earth with their activities, similar to Satan who works everywhere with all his many armies; Job 1:7. *b—the damage they cause:* locusts damage all the crops if they attack a field, so as the devil when he possesses people; he made a victim mute and crazy (Matt 9:28); another victim lives in the tombs and was led into the wilderness (Luke 8:26). *c—God’s power over them:* God in Exodus raised a wind that took all the locusts and plunged them into the Red Sea (Ex 10:19). Similarly, God had swift control on all the evil spirits, he also passed this control to his children; “*God of all Peace, will trample Satan under your feet speedily*” (Rom. 16:20). **Was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power:** these were not normal locusts that attack vegetation, but their goal is to attack people. **to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree:** *grass of the earth,* are the ones who are weak in faith, *any green thing:* are the ones who are strong in faith (Ps. 52:8), *tree:* refers to the saints; “*tree planted near the rivers of water*” (Ps 1:1-3)

5. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

Five months: is a period of God’s wrath on the evil people; notice that five months is the same length of a period of the water covering the earth at the time of Noah (Gen 7:24) **Torment:** The continuous pain that will befall the evil people, it is similar to that pain resulting from someone stung by a scorpion.

6. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

If death is a “rest” condition that people seek and yet they do not get it, then the pain they are going through is unimaginable. Can you imagine that people are begging for death? These are the perilous times that St. Paul is talking to St. Timothy about in (2 Ti 3:1-4)

7. The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

Horses: *a—speed:* they come quickly; *b—boldness and lack of fear;* *c-preparation:* horses are prepared in a certain way to go to war; in terms of external preparation of protective gear. All of these are characteristics of the powers of the devils (locusts). They work fast, they are not afraid of attacking anyone even Christ Himself, and they are always prepared for battle. **On their heads were crowns of something like gold** they deceive people by images of richness, or by what richness can do for a person in terms of happiness. The crowns are of something like gold not true gold.

8. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

The hair of the woman is her glory and her beauty. That is why St. Paul and St. Peter talked regarding the hair of a woman; the former said that it is a glory for hair and has to be covered when she is in the presence of God (1 Cor 11:15), and the latter (St. Peter) warned against focusing on the outside adornment compared to focusing on the internal purity (1 Pet 3:3). So here it means that the devil is trying to *tempt people* by physical attractions. **their teeth were like lions' teeth** which would cut a person to pieces if they catch one. So the bible is trying to tell us that **SIN** is attractive from afar, but once it is clinging to you, it will not leave you till it kills you. Stay away from the teeth of the locusts, this means run quickly away because they move very fast towards you.

9. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

They are strong and swift in their attack. So as SIN it attacks the thoughts quickly and if they thought is not changed they immediately get into the person actions.

10. They had tails like scorpions and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

The tails: can have two meanings: *first:* if one can avoid the teeth but touch the tail, one would still die; in other words: if you avoid sins but you reason by trying them once (which is touching the tail), that can still kill you. May be not immediately, but with time, because you are not the same person anymore after you have done a sin once; Unless you repent strongly. *Second meaning:* it may mean that the *end* of sin which is the *tail of sin* is death. Remember what Soliman said *Proverbs 14:12* "There are ways that appear to the person straight, and at their end is the way of death". Sin, my beloved, appears attractive, but leads to death (the eternal and complete death, where no resurrection will help you) **Five months:** explained before.

11. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon, the angel of the bottomless pit:

This is the devil, he is the prince over all these powers, and uses them to attack all: the Jews and the Gentiles, that is why his name is written in both Hebrew and Greek, so that they all would understand. **Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon:** means the *destroyer*. Satan destroys every good thing.

12. One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

The three last trumpet are called in addition *woes*, because of the severity of the events associated with them.

13. Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

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

15. So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

16. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Horns of the Altar: The Altar is the one mentioned in Chapter 8 v. 3, and it is in front of God, so it refer to our Savior Jesus Christ, who is our intercessor in front of God (Rom 8:24). The Horns of the Altar refer to *the power of God*: Ps. 18:2, Luke 1:69, Amos 6:12,

River Euphrates: which is the Kingdom of Babel (the beginning of Pride as seen in the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11). So God permitted that the protective angels would remove their protection from the evil people who did not repent, and hence they will be destroyed by the devil whom they are following.

17. *And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.*

All are abrasive materials that burn the skin; this is the result of sin: it changes *your complexion*, instead of your skin being whole and healthy, it gets burnings on it, that does not recover except by the power of repentance in confession, where the Holy Spirit is called upon to completely give you the new skin you got in Baptism and Chrismation Mysteries.

18. *By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.*

19. *For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having head; and with them they do harm.*

20. *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.*

The unfortunate result is that the rest of people who saw the end of those who follow evil, how it will destroy them, these rest still did not repent, and continued: to worship demons, to worship materialistic things (gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood). *which can neither see nor hear nor walk* A very obvious statement about things made of these materials, but it shows how deluded the people have become, to the point that God has to mention such an obvious fact.

21. *And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

+Chapter 10+

In this Chapter:

- The angel with the small book warning of the end v 1-7
- St. John eats it and it is sweet in his mouth as honey, then bitten inside v 8-11
- Prophesying about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings. V 11

1. I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head; his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

Some view this angel as the Lord Himself, they rely on the following correlations with other areas of the bible:

- **Clothed with a cloud** see *Num 11:25*, see also *Luke 21:27*
- **Rainbow was on his head** *Rev 4:3*
- **His face like the sun** *Rev 1:16*, also in the Transfiguration the face of Christ became like the sun *Matt 17:2*
- **His feet like pillars of fire** also stated in *Rev 1:15*

On the other hand some claim that this is an angel of the Lord since Archangel Gabriel appeared in an awesome appearance to Daniel, Read *Daniel 10:4-6*

They explain that this angel is **coming from heaven** sent from God,

Clothed in the cloud means that he is carrying a refreshing message from God, as clouds bring rain after drought.

A rainbow on his head meaning that there is another chance for repentance, because the rainbow at the time of Noah was a covenant that God will not demolish the earth with water again.

His face shone like the sun meaning that he is bright because he is in the presence of God.

His feet like pillars of fire this also may correlate with the description of angels as *fiery spirits* as explained in *Heb 1:7*.

2. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

In Chapter 5 St. John saw a scroll that was *sealed* with seven seals, and we explained it as our *subjection to Death* that only our Lord Jesus Christ can solve, and He did with His redemption. But here the scroll is

1. **Small** because the times are near the end
2. **Open** because the disciples have already pointed to the end of times in their epistles. It is already known:
 - False teachers: 2 Pet 2:1-3, 2 Cor
 - Those who live according to their lusts 2 Pet 3:3,4
 - As the times of Noah and Lot Luke 17:26-30
 - The Apostasy 2 Thess 2:3-11
 - Deception 1 Ti 4:1, Perilous times 2 Ti 3:1-5

his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land means that his callings went everywhere in the world.

Also the land may refer to the Jews since the land is stable but still perishing and the Jews had all the prophecies and the promises of a savior in the Old Testament, so they have all the correct foundation, but they would perish if they did not believe in the Messiah. The sea refers to the Gentiles because they have no prior teaching like the Jews, so they lived in immorality and lawlessness, so they had no stable foundation to stand on; as one cannot stand on water.

3. And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

4. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

The lion's roar sends fear into the heart of all the rest of the animals. Also Christ cried in a loud voice on the Cross when He gave up the Spirit, to direct our attention to this moment; His Death on the Cross for our Salvation. History changed from then on. The seven thunders revealed some news that St. John was about to write but the Lord hid these from us.

5. The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

raising the hand is a sign of readiness for a major action that follows, it attracts the attention of the listeners and the viewers to what the speaker is about to do or say.

6. and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, the Lord sworn and will not relent you are the priest forever on the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4). Also the Lord sworn to Abraham (Gen 22:16-18)

7. but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Mystery: This word has been used 1 Cor 2:7.

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

It means that God's ways are revealed only to those are close to him, and meditate on His commandments, to them it will be revealed God's thoughts and paths. God's wisdom is before the foundation of the world, and He wanted us to partake of it, so he created us. But we fell from it, so He came as a Man to still reveal it to us by Himself. This is the mystery of Christianity, of God's incarnation to save us, and his continuous work in the church, which is His Body, after His Ascension. The church being the body of Christ is a mystery, and we live and comprehend that mystery when we abide in the church. We are the body of Christ, and when we stay this way, abiding to God, only then to us will be revealed the mind of Christ.

8. Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

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

Sweet: because it is the word of God that enlightens the way for us against the snares of the devil. This book is the book of Life, "My words are life and spirit". It shows the goal of God as our salvation (1 Ti 2:4)

Bitter: because it reveals also the work of the devil to fight the Kingdom of God, and the perilous times that people will go through and go away from God. (2 Ti 3:1-4)

Another explanation:

The Jews taught their children to read using the following motivational method: they ask them to write a word, and the child should use a cookie dough to make the letters and form the word, if the word is correct the child is rewarded by eating the letters. So it would taste as honey in their mouth.

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

11. And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

prophecy means to instruct them to repent. St. John the Baptist was called a prophet, but even "*greater than a prophet*".

In 1 Cor 14 St. Paul that Prophesying is edifying to the church, whereas speaking in tongues edifies the person who speaks only.

So Prophesying on nations means teaching them the way of Repentance.

St. John Chrysostom explains "If they had known they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory" as St. Paul mentions it about the Jews, by saying that Repentance was the key to make them KNOW the Lord of Glory.

+Chapter 11+

1. Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar and those who worship there."

The reed: a measuring tool.

In proverbs it is stated that God measures our souls "*Pro 16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.*"

Christians must aim to reach to the "stature of Christ" *Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*"

St John measuring the believers: it is the right of the servants of the church to measure the stature of the believers: the dogma (which is referred to by the *altar and temple*) as well as their spiritual lives (*the worship*)

The temple/altar refers to one's dogma; while **the worship** measure the extent to which their personal spiritual life goes. **The reed** is the Cross, which is what we are all measured against. How much do we measure up compared to the Cross and the sacrificing for the sake of Christ.

Measuring can mean protecting those you are measuring, like focusing on them compared to others who are in the outside court.

Another Look at these items

The Temple: In 1 Cor 6:16 we are the altar of God, so the altar refers to the unity of the believers, who are gathered by on one faith, one baptism Eph 4:5, and one teaching Gal 1:8, and 2 Thess 2:15. And since the Lord Christ said to the Pharisees (who serve the Jewish temple) "Behold your House is left for you desolate" we can infer that the Lord is not going to abide in the Jewish temple anymore. Now the Lord is in the Christian temple, the Church.

The altar: a symbol of offering sacrificing oneself. So measuring it can mean measuring how much we sacrifice for the Lord.

Those who worship in it is a symbol of humility and submission to God.

2. "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months."

The court which is outside are unfaithful Christians or the unbelievers (those who lack faith in God.) **given to the Gentiles** in the OT the world was divided into the Jews and the Gentiles (who committed abominations are were delivered to a debased mind Rom 1:28). So here the term represents all peoples who do not have a relationship with God and consequently his house.

42 months means 3 and a half years. In the Book of Revelations, seven signifies perfection and half of it (3.5) signifies incompleteness, or the limited time during which the evil may prevail.

3. "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Two witnesses are Elijah (2 Ki 2:11) and Enoch (Ge 5:24), because they were taken from the earth and didn't die. The sentence of death is put on all people to die once (Heb 9:27)

Enoch represents the time before the Law (Adam till Moses).

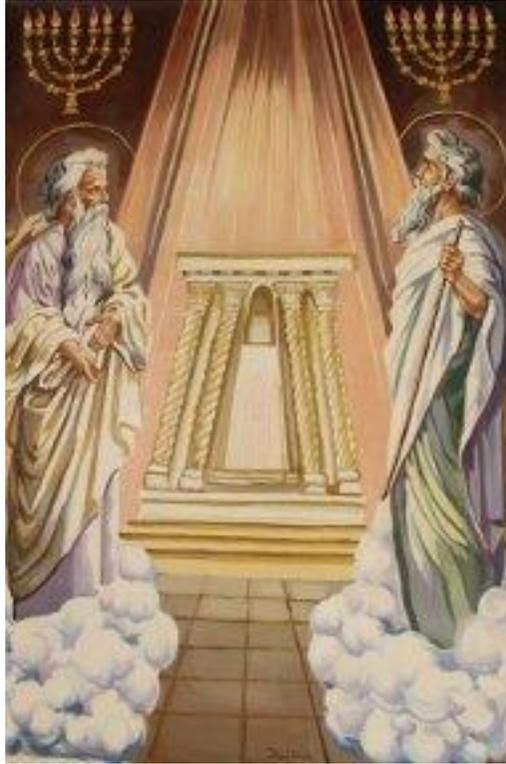
Elijah represents the time of the Law (Moses till Christ)

Another interpretation is that they are Elijah and Moses

one thousand two hundred and sixty days: Comparing this number with 42 months, we find the 42 months = 1278, which is 18 days longer than 1260 days.

These 18 days may be the time span between the death of the 2 witnesses and the death of the AntiChrist.

clothed in sackcloth: a symbol of their humility in front of God. Elijah (2 Ki 1: 8), St. John the Baptist (Matt 3:4)



4. *These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.*

olive trees Olive represents peace and restoration (ex. Noah Ge 8:11) so the two witnesses will come to bring peace. Olive is continually green Ps 52: 8. Olive produces oil which the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Lampstands They are lampstands because they are enlightened with the work of the Holy Spirit, and will guide the people to the path of God. We hope to be a light of the world [Php 2:15](#) *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

5. *“And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.*

6. *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

This verse may offer that the two witnesses are Elijah and Moses because Elijah had power to prevent rain for 3.5 years and Moses made the river into blood during the plagues in Egypt.

In 2 Ki 1:9,10 Elijah sent fire from heaven which consumed the 50-men group, with their leader, which was sent to bring Elijah to the king.

This fire means that these two witnesses have powerful defense to every attack on the bible.

7. *When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.*

After completing their witness, God will allow them to take the crown of martyrdom. Their martyrdom will come through the beast’s persecution.

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

They will come to bring peace, but the world will not accept them. The beast will come out of the pit and kill them and leave them in the streets of Egypt.

Egypt, in the Old Testament, is a symbol of captivity to Satan, because Pharaoh captured the people of God.

Sodom, was a place of spiritual captivity to Lot, living in this city was tormenting his soul. Therefore Sodom and Egypt together point to the full slavery of the person, his spirit is captured (Lot in Sodom) and his body is also captured (Jews in Egypt).

9. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

10. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Those who dwell on earth are those who are bound to earthly needs and pleasures, and who are strangers to the kingdom of heaven. The two prophets tormented these earthly people by always sending them strong warnings that resulted in a painful conscience.

Examples:

- Elijah the prophet warned Ahab that he is destroying the people of God by following the prophets of the idol Baal.
- Also St. Paul with Felix; St. Paul talked to Felix about righteousness, judgement and chastity that Felix asked for St. Paul to be taken away and that he shall listen to him later.

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

Similar to crucifying Christ, the evil people thought that they got rid of Christ, but He rose conquering death and evil powers after three days. Also here, the two witnesses to God were resurrected from the dead, putting to shame all those who killed them and rejoiced.

12. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

This is a revealed heavenly order to wake up all the people, especially the sinners, signifying that the Earth did not accept the Church of God and the witnesses to Christ, but the church and its witnesses became worthy for the Kingdom of Heaven.

their enemies saw them all the evil doers will witness the rapture of the witnesses to heaven, as with the second coming the Lord will come on the clouds and take his elect with him, then the final judgment begins.

As if there will be *two sides*:

- some on the side of God as He is judging (as the Lord promised his disciples that will judge the 12 tribes of Israel, also *Romans 8:1* "There is no condemnation now on those who are in the faith of Christ"),
- while the other side will be those who are being judged.

13. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The great earthquake can be taken literally and symbolically.

A great shake/change in wisdom and intellect of the people of Jerusalem. Many people returned from following the AntiChrist and returned to the true God. The 7000 is a symbolic number like those who would not bow themselves to the idol Baal at the time of Elijah (1 Kings 19:18)

14. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

The **first woe** is in Rev 9:1-12 when the fifth trumpet sounded

The **second woe** begins Rev 9:13 when the sixth trumpet sounded, and is till Rev 11:13.

The **third woe** is the second coming of Christ, He says here **third woe is coming quickly** so as not to forget it because of the events after the second woe.

THE SECOND COMING

15. Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

As soon as last trumpet sounds, the joyful praises started. Christ is coming to take us to the Kingdom of Heaven.

This is an immensely awesome event, so we find all worship in Heaven to the King of Kings who *shall reign forever and ever!* The eternal Kingdom is mentioned in Daniel 7:14. Also archangel Gabriel mentioned to the Virgin Mary that “*His Kingdom will have no end*” (Luke 1:33). This very same verse is mentioned in the Creed in order to answer a heresy that appeared stating that Christ is a power that came out of the Father, fulfilled the salvation and will be *absorbed* back into the Father, so the Church Fathers appended the Creed by the fact that the Kingdom of Christ the Son, will have no end (to refute the *absorption* back into the Father)

16. And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,
They worshipped in thanks to God for this wonderful ending

17. saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because you have taken Your great power and reigned.

These words are directed to the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who is refers to his incarnation in human form on Earth

Who was refers to his eternal existence with the Father

Who is to come refers to Him who will come to Judge at the end.

have taken Your great power and reigned after you have allowed the people, in their freedom, to trample upon You, insult you, and forget you, worshipping the creation more than the Creator.

18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should reward your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

God’s triumph angers the evil people, but this time the Lord will allow them no longer to attack Him, for it is time now for God to *reign* (Read Psalm 2).

the time of the dead, that they should be judged it is time for the resurrection of the dead for judgment. **you should reward your servants the prophets and the saints** a great reward for:

- those who were *servants* (at the feet of Christ). Although Christ said *I will not call you servants but beloved* (John 15:15), yet we know our position as servants; St. Paul calls himself always a “servant of Christ” (Rom 1:1, Ph 1:1, Ti 1:1). Also we may add two reasons for being “servants”: 1— Christ bought us back paying His own Blood as a price, so we are no longer belonging to ourselves but to the One who bought us, 2—with that position (servants) we prove our full obedience to our Lord, and that we work to fulfill the will of our Master Jesus Christ
- and *prophets*; those of the Old and New Testaments and those who called people to repentance (without foretelling the future).
- **Saints:** who lived in holiness in the heart, mind, body, and actions; for “*without holiness no one will see God*” (Heb 12:14)
- **Those who fear Your name:** those who are strict in their lives, who “*act circumspectly*” (St. Paul)
- **small and great** in any age of their lives when they died.

19. Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven the opening of the **temple of God** means the revealing of the church in Heaven (we call it the “victorious church” which is the extension of the church here on earth). The revealing of the Church in Heaven is associated with the Coming of Christ; then he says **the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple** which affirms more the revealing of Christ; since the Ark of Covenant was always hid from the eyes of all the people in the Holiest of Holy section of the Tabernacle. Only the High Priest would go into that part *once a year* (Lev. 16). So no one at all sees the Ark of Covenant, for it is behind the Veil. So this a way of showing the event of the second coming as a depiction of what has never been seen ever before. Obviously, there is no Ark of Covenant in heaven.

Also we can add:

The ark of the covenant represents Jesus Christ. After the crucifixion, the veil of the temple broke in half so that the ark of the covenant, Jesus Christ, was visible to all. With the Second Coming, God will be *seen* by his people forever.

And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

They were associated with God's revelation of the Ten Commandments to Moses, where the mountain was smoking and God had forbidden any living being from touching the Mountain (Exodus 19:16-18)

Great hail refers to God's strong punishment on the evil doers as Isaiah says (Is 28:2)

Important Question

Someone may ask: so if Chapter 11 ends with the Second Coming, what are the chapters that follow Chapter 11 do? Are they events after the Second Coming?

Ans: No, what is coming is NOT after the second coming, it is *another* way where God is showing us, by showing St. John, events that will take place before the second coming.

Similarity between the Book Of John and the Book of Revelations

As a further proof that the writer is the same. Please do the work of extracting the verses listed in the table by yourself

St. John	Book of Revelations
John 21:24	Rev 22:8
John 5:20	Rev 1:1
The term “Logos” John 1:1, John 1:14, 1 John 1:1	The same term; “Logos” Rev 19:13
The only Evangelist the mentioned the act of <i>stabbing Christ with a spear</i> in his side; (Joh 19:34) <i>But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.</i>	He points to that event in Rev 1:7.
The Term “ <i>Lamb of God</i> ” has been used in John 1:29, John 1:36	22 times that term occurred in Revelations.

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2013 Mahragan Al Keraza Coptic Curriculum

English Adults

Please memorize the pronunciation and the meaning of the following Coptic sentences:

Word	Meaning
Οὔνοϩ ἕμο Ἰαρια: ϯβωκι οὔνοϩ ϯμαϫ:	Rejoice O Mary, handmaid and mother
Ἰμοῖν ἵταν ἵνοὔπαρρησια: ϩατεν πενοϩ Ἰηϩ Πϫϩ: χωριϩ νετωβϩ νεμ νεπρεϩβια:	We have no boldness before our Lord Jesus Christ apart from your prayers and intercessions
ϯενεϯϩο ἔροκ ὦ Ὑιοϩ Θεοϩ:	We ask You, O Son of God
Ἡπαρθενοϩ σημερον τον ἵπεροὔσιον τικτι:	Today, the virgin bears Him who is transcendent
αϩϩελι μετα πιμενων λοζολοϩοϩι	Angels, along with shepherds glorify.
Φαι ἔταϩενϩ ἔπωω: ἵνοὔθηϩια εϩωηπ: ϩιϩεν πιϩταϫροϩ	This is He who presented himself on the cross; an acceptable sacrifice
Χριϩτοϩ ἀνεϩτη εκ νεκρων: θανατω θανατον:	Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death
ϩμοὔ ἔπβοιϩ ηηετερϩεβεϩε ἕπβοιϩ Φνοὔϯ ἵτε νεηιοὔϯ	Bless the Lord O you who worship the Lord the God of our fathers

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2013 Mahragan Al Keraza Hymns Curriculum

Adult Level

Divine Liturgy - Rejoice O Mary

This Aspasmos Adam hymn is chanted on the annual days and on the feasts of ST Mary during the liturgy before greet one another, (Aspasmos means greetings or salutation).

+ Rejoice O Mary, handmaid and mother, for the angels praise Him who is on your lap.

+ And the Cherubim worthily worship Him. The Seraphim too, without ceasing.

+ We have no boldness before our Lord Jesus Christ apart from your prayers and intercessions, O our Lady, the lady of us all, the Theotokos.

+ We ask You, O Son of God, to keep the life of our Patriarch, Abba Tawadros, the high priest. Confirm him upon his throne. And his partner in the liturgy our holy righteous Father Abba Serapion the bishop confirm him upon his throne.

Feast of the Nativity - E-Parthenos

To be chanted after the Praxis reading during the Divine liturgy of the Nativity Feast.

+ Ηπαρθενος σημερον τον ὑπερουχιον τικτι:
κε ησητο σπηλεον τω απροσιτω προσασι:
ασσελι μετα πιμενων δοζολοσοισι: υασι δε
μετα αστερος οδιποροισι: δι ημας ταρ
εσηνηθη: πεδιον νεον: οπροεωνων θεος.

Today, the virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

Holy Week - Fai-Etaf-Enf

To be chanted before the praxis reading during the sixth and ninth hours of Great Friday.

+ Φαι ἔταφεν ἐπιψωι: νόθησια εσωμητ: ειχεν
πιςτατρος: θα πορσαι ὑπενσενος.

This is He who presented himself on the cross; an acceptable sacrifice for the salvation of our race.

+ Δωλωλεμ ἔροφ: ηχε Πεφλωτ ἡαταθος:
ὑφνατ ἡτε θαηαροχι ειχεν ττολτοθα.

His good Father inhaled His sweet aroma in the evening on Golgotha.

+ Κσμαρωοτ ἄληθως: νεμ Πεκιωτ ἡαταθος:
νεμ πιΠνευμα εοτ: χε αταωκ ἄκωτ ὑμον.
Ηαι ηαν.

Because of Your mercy we worship You, crying and saying, You are blessed O my Lord Jesus, for You were crucified and saved us.

Feast of the Resurrection - Khristous Anesti (Long)

To be chanted during the divine liturgy of the Resurrection Feast after the Resurrection Reenactment during the procession and the forty days after the Feast.

+ Ἐχριστος ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρων: θαηατω
θαηατον: παθησας κε τις εν τις ὑνημασι ζωην
χαρισαμενος.

"Christ is risen from the dead", trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

+ Δοξα Πατρι κε Υιω κε Δσιω Πνευματι: κε
νην κε ἄι κε ις τος εωνας των εωνων ἄμην.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now, and ever and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

Praises - Ari-Ho-O-Chasf (Long)

To be chanted during the Midnight Praises as the end of the Third Hoose.

+ **Κμογ εἰβοις Ἀνανιας Ἀζαριας Μισαηλ κε
Δαμιαλ: ζωο εἶροϋ ἀριζογὸ βαοϋ ψα νιένεο.**

+ **Κμογ εἰβοις νηετερσεβεςθε ὑποιοις Φνογτ
ἦτε νενιοτ: ζωο εἶροϋ ἀριζογὸ βαοϋ
ψα νιένεο.**

Bless the Lord O Hananiah Azariah
Mishael and Daniel, praise Him and exalt
Him above all forever.

Bless the Lord O you who worship the
Lord the God of our fathers, praise Him
and exalt Him above all forever.