

Yes I'm Coming Soon

'Yes, I am coming soon!'

A commentary of Revelation chs 8-22

By
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A commentary on the book of Revelation

From Chapter 8 to the end

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Acknowledgement

Without the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the guidance He showed me, this book would not be possible. Of my own self, I do not possess the wisdom to decipher this great book.

Many are told by pastors that they should not read Revelation because it is too difficult to understand, but if God did not want His children to read this book, then He would not have had it written by John.

God is so serious about this book that John gives a warning at the very end of the book found in chapter 22 verses 18 and 19.

“I give this warning to everyone who is listening to the words of prophecy in this book: should anyone add to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book; should anyone take away from the words in this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and the Holy City, described in this book.”

God’s Holy word is TRUTH, but God in His infinite wisdom recorded His truth in such a way as to hide His truth from those who would misuse His Holy word.

God will reward anyone who is serious about understanding this book and take the time to study it, not just read it.

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Forward

Greetings to everyone who is reading this book. I hope that you find it helpful as you study the book of Revelation. I do not write this book, or any of my other booklets because I have nothing better to do with my life. I write this only because I feel that the Holy Spirit has enlighten me with information and wants this information to be spoken of. It is my firm belief, from my study of the book of Revelation, that the 7 trumpet judgments found in chapters 8 and 9 are still future events to come. I will share with you why I believe this is so as we move through these chapters. In my prior booklet, *The Revelation*, I comment on the whole book of Revelation, covering key points of difference from standard Seventh-day Adventist teaching. In this book, I start off with Revelations Chapter 8 with a very detailed look at Revelation from chapter 8 through the end of the book. This is my attempt to share the light that I feel has been given me by the Holy Spirit. It will be up to you, as you study this book, along with the Holy Spirit, to see if you find this light correct or not. There is nothing radically new here but timing of certain events described in the book of Revelation. No, I do not set any date for the return of Jesus, although I do believe that His return is more than soon, but it is very soon. I hope that I have enticed you enough to get you to continue this study. Take out your bible and study along as you read this book. Hopefully it will cause you to think and ponder as you go along. I ask you not just to read through this book but to use it as a guide as you study the book of Revelation for yourself, maybe for the very first time. You may have been taught a lot of things about Revelation, but have you ever really studied it for yourself, in depth, to see if what you have been taught is true. Before the 7 trumpets begin to sound, the judgment of the living has begun to take place and probation is closing as each individual is judged. Those who are found to be righteous receive the Seal of God. Everyone else accepts the mark of the beast. Of course the only people being judged at this time are those who have claimed to be Christians, and have had their names written in the book of life at one time or another. Those who have never claimed to be a Christian are judged at another time, thus they are the ones who are primarily killed during the 7 trumpets. Let's begin.

One of the first things you will need to know is that the book of Revelation, from chapter 8 and onward, is presented as a play, telling a story about the end of time. The story is constantly moving forward, never backwards. There are some chapters that give narration or explanation of what previous chapters have presented, and I will let you know what these chapters are as we approach them, but generally time and story is moving constantly forward.

One more thing that is important to know, to understand Revelation, is that there is no prophetic time (day for a year principle) in the book of Revelation from chapter 8 and onward, except for chapter 12 which deals with past history that tells us how we got to this point. So every time period mentioned, except for chapter 12, will be literal time.

The last caveat I will mention is that I am a Seventh-day Adventist and proud to be so even though what I will bring you here is somewhat contrary to what the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches.

Revelation 8

Chapter 8 begins a new series of visions that fills in the gap between seals 5 and 6. It brings us greater clarity of what will take place on this earth just before the 2nd coming of Christ, which the 6th seal is describing. Chapter 6 gave us the 7 seals. Chapters 8-11 brings us the 7 trumpet judgments. The 7 trumpets are not the retelling of the Christian era from a political point of view, as you have been led to believe. Verses 3-5 make it clear that the time period in view starting with chapter 8 is the day of atonement for God's living people..

The first verse of chapter 8 closes out the seal visions with the breaking of the 7th seal. Chapter 7 was an interlude chapter that answered the question asked at the end of the sixth seal at the end of chapter 6, "Who will be able to stand?"

"Now when the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for what seemed half an hour. " Rev 8:1

All of heaven has been emptied at the 2nd coming of Christ. There is no activity taking place there. The half an hour is the time it takes for the return of everyone, including Gods righteous people, to heaven.

As the vision of the 7 seals comes to an end, John's attention is drawn to a group of 7 angels.

"Then I looked, and the seven angels that stand in the presence of God were given seven trumpets." Rev 8:2

These 7 angels could be the 7 spirits found before the throne in Rev 1:4

"Then another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and he was given a great quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all God's people upon the golden alter in front of the throne." Rev 8:3

This visual picture that John is describing only happens on the Day of Atonement, where God's people are to afflict their souls (pray to God for deliverance from their sins). The judgment of the dead who had their names written in the Lamb's book of life has finished and now the judgment of the living who have their names written in the Lamb's book of life is about to begin. Read Lev 16 for a description of the earthly day of atonement.

"And from the angels hand the smoke of the incense went up before God with the prayers of His people. Then the angel took the censer, filled it from the alter fire, and threw it down upon the earth; and there was peals of thunder, lightning, and an earthquake. Then the seven angels that held the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. " Rev 8:4,5,6

This marks the beginning of the investigative judgment of Gods living people on the earth. This is the middle of the middle phase of the Day of Atonement service. According to Lev 16, the High Priest has just killed the bullock as a sin offering for himself and he then fills the censer with fire from off the alter before God and drops the incense on the burning coals in the censer and brings it inside the most Holy Place, that the smoke may cover the mercy seat. The priest

then applies the blood of his sin offering. The next sequence is to kill the goat or sin offering for the people and apply the blood to the mercy seat.

“Aaron shall present his bull as a sin-offering, making expiation for himself and his household, and then slaughter the bull as a sin-offering. He shall take a firepan (censer) full of glowing embers from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of powdered fragrant incense, and bring them within the Veil. He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the cloud of incense will hide the cover over the Tokens so that he shall not die. He shall take some of the bull’s blood and sprinkle it with his finger both on the surface of the cover, eastwards, and seven times in front of the cover. He shall then slaughter the people’s goat as a sin-offering, bring its blood within the Veil and do with the blood as he did with the bull’s blood, sprinkling it on the cover and in front of it. He shall make for the sanctuary, the expiation required by the ritual uncleanness of the Israelites and their act of rebellion, that is by all their sins;” Lev 16:11-16

Numbers 16:41-48 sheds a little light on the meaning of the censer and its being thrown down to the earth.

“Next day all the community of the Israelites raised complaints against Moses and Aaron and taxed them with causing the death of some of the LORD’s people. As they gathered against Moses and Aaron, they turned towards the Tent of the Presence and saw that the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared. Moses and Aaron came to the front of the Tent of the Presence, and the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and said, ‘Stand well clear of this community, so that in a single instant I may make an end of them.’ Then they prostrated themselves, and Moses said to Aaron, ‘Take your censer, put fire from the altar in it, set incense on it, and go with it quickly to the assembled community to make expiation for them. Wrath has gone forth already from the presence of the LORD. The plague has begun.’ So Aaron took his censer, as Moses had said, ran into the midst of the assembly and found that the plague had begun among the people. He put incense on the censer and made expiation for the people, standing between the dead and the living, and the plague stopped.” Numbers 16:41-48 Read the whole chapter for greater context.

Actually, this whole episode of Korah and his followers is a microcosm of the rebellion against the Lord in the last days.

The historic Seventh-day Adventist view of the 7 trumpets found in Rev Chapters 8 and 9 is the historical, political and warlike events that occurred during the Christian era. From the book *Daniel and the Revelation* (DR) by Uriah Smith we find this sentence on page 474 in reference to Revelation 8 verse 2:

“This verse introduces a new and distinct series of events. In the seals we have had the history of the church during what is called the Christian era. In the seven trumpets now introduced we have the principal political and warlike events that occur during the same time.” DR p 474

It is my position that the seven trumpets of chapters 8 and 9 have absolutely nothing to do with past history but has everything to do with future events. I will attempt to prove this as we go through these chapters.

I will say this however about the historical view. While the historical view brought forward by Uriah Smith and others was not 100% accurate if applied to the very end of time, which I believe we are in, it did help to bring clarity to those who believed that the 2nd Coming of Jesus was to happen in the fall of 1844. They were of the mindset that if Jesus was to come at that time, then the trumpets had to take place first. This is very understandable and logical. When they discovered that Oct 22, 1844 was not the date of Christ's return but the beginning point of the Day of Atonement that should have caused them to restudy and reconsider their interpretation of the 7 trumpets. God Allowed them to make these mistakes for the purpose of expanding the Gospel message around the world during that time which Revelation Chapter 10 makes clear. But we are living in a different era now and that interpretation will no longer hold water for our times. The 7 trumpets hold a greater truth that needs to be understood as does the rest of the book.

Just prior to the 7 trumpets, the investigative judgment begins on the living people who claim to be followers of Christ. Previously, from 1844, the investigative judgment began with the dead who claimed to be followers of Christ. As the 7 trumpets begin to sound, the people killed are primarily unconverted (none believers) people, but as probation closes on individuals who claim to be followers of Christ, but are found wanting, could be included as well.

Let me say here with respect to the historical view of the 7 trumpets that these teachings did not come from Uriah Smith himself but from Alexander Keith (1781-1880) who was a minister of the Church of Scotland until there was a disruption in the church and he became part of the Free Church of Scotland. As far as I know he was never part of the Seventh-day Adventist movement. If one would compare Daniel 2 or any of Daniel's visions it is pretty obvious that these prophecies are historical events. Even if we did not have the interpretation from God in those very chapters, it is reasonable to assume that they are talking about kingdoms conquering kingdoms. When one looks at the seven trumpets in Rev 8 and 9 however, you do not get the feeling that these are political and warlike events. For example what does Alexander Keith or Uriah Smith say the 1st trumpet represents?

Trumpet 1

“The first blew his trumpet; and there came hail and fire mingled with blood, and this was hurled upon the earth. A third of the earth was burnt, a third of the trees were burnt, all the green grass was burnt.” Rev 8:7

The following is what Uriah Smith says that this means:

“The subject of the seven trumpets is resumed. These trumpets occupy the rest of this chapter and all of Revelation 9. The blowing of the trumpets by the seven angels comes as a complement to the prophecy of Daniel 2 and 7, beginning with the breaking up of the old Roman Empire into its ten divisions. In the first four trumpets, we have a description of the special events which marked Rome's fall.” *DR p475*

“The first sore and heavy judgment which fell on Western Rome in its downward course, was the war with the Goths under Alaric, who opened the way for later inroads. The death of Theodosius the Roman emperor, occurred in January, A.D. 395, and before the end of the winter the Goths under Alaric were in arms against the empire.

The first invasion under Alaric ravaged the Eastern Empire. He captured the famous cities and enslaved many of the inhabitants. Thrace, Macedonia, Attica, and the Peloponnesus, were conquered, but he did not reach the city of Rome. Later, the Gothic chieftain crossed the Alps and Apennines and appeared before the walls of the Eternal City, which fell a prey to the fury of the barbarians in A.D. 410.

"Hail and fire mingled with blood!" were cast upon the earth. The terrible effects of this Gothic invasion are represented as "hail," from the northern origin of the invaders; "fire," from the destruction by flame of both city and country; and "blood," from the terrible slaughter of the citizens of the empire by the bold and intrepid warriors.

The First Trumpet.--The blast of the first trumpet has its location about the close of the fourth century and onward, and refers to these desolating invasions of the Roman Empire under the Goths." DR p476

Does verse 7 sound like anything Uriah Smith or Alexander Keith would imply that it does, or does verse 7 sound like a plague as would be found in the exodus experience found in the book of Exodus? In fact the bible itself calls these events found in the six trumpets, plagues in Rev 9:20. At the end of the 6th trumpet it says this:

"The rest of mankind who survived these plagues still did not adjure the gods their hands had fashioned, nor cease their worship of devils and of idols made from gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk." Rev 9:20

The book of Revelation was written especially for the people living at the end of time and what would be happening to them. Rehashing historical events that took place more than 1600 years ago would not make any sense. Even if the trumpets were a complement to Daniel 2 and 7, why make them more obscure than the Daniel prophecies?

Let's continue with the trumpets.

Trumpet 2

"The second angel blew his trumpet; and what looked like a great blazing mountain was hurled into the sea. A third of the sea was turned to blood, a third of the living creatures in it died, and a third of the ships on it floundered." Rev 8:9

Trumpet 3

"The third angel blew his trumpet; and a great star shot from the sky, flaming like a torch; and it fell on a third of the rivers and springs. The name of the star was Wormwood; and a third of the waters turned to wormwood, and men in great numbers died of the water because it had been poisoned." Rev 8:10,11

Trumpet 4

"The fourth angel blow his trumpet; and a third part of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that the third part went dark and a third of the light of the day failed, and of the night." Rev 8:12

What do all four of these trumpets have in common, other than they all happen to a third part? They all have to do with the two heavens around the earth. The first trumpet begins in the

earth's atmosphere. Trumpets 2-4 begin in outer space. The reading of these plagues should send you back to Luke 21:25-28,32

“Portents will appear in sun, moon, and stars. On earth nations will stand helpless, not knowing which way to turn from the roar and surge of the sea; men will faint with terror at the thought of all that is coming upon the world; for the celestial powers will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When all this begins to happen, stand upright and hold your head high, because your liberation is near.” Luke 21:25-28

These verses sound like a very good description of the very literal trumpet events of 1-4. If the celestial powers were shaken and it caused so much damage to the earth, don't you think that men would faint with terror, not knowing which way to turn? It makes sense to me.

There is one more thing though that really brings this home.

“I tell you this, the present generation will live to see it all.” Luke 21:32

Jesus, speaking of these end time events and His 2nd coming, found in Matt 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, will all be seen by that last generation. Let us suppose for a minute that these signs found in Luke 21, Matt 24 and Mark 13 are the Lisbon Earthquake of 1755, the Dark Day of 1780 and the Falling of the Stars of 1833, which Seventh-day Adventist believe. Is anyone who saw those events still living? Obviously not. They did not live to see the 2nd coming of Jesus. It is even doubtful that very many, if any, lived during the time of all three of these events. The span of these 3 events was 78 years. Life expectancy was less than that during that time. So these events in Luke 21, Matt 24, and Mark 13 cannot be in reference to the Lisbon Earthquake, the Dark Day or the Falling of the Stars just mentioned. Jesus' narrative in the 3 chapters mentioned says that there will be a time of trouble such has never been and never will be again. Then there will be signs in the sun, moon, and the stars and then the 2nd coming of Jesus. What Jesus was referring to was the events of the 6th seal found in Rev. 6:12-17. The Seventh-day Adventist church believes that the first part of the 6th seal was fulfilled by these 3 events in 1755, 1780, and 1833, and that the 1260 years of papal reign that ended in 1798 was the time of trouble. See The Great Controversy pages 304-308, but scripture itself bears witness that the events in the sun, moon, and stars of the 6th seal are all seen by those who witness the 2nd coming of Jesus.

The trumpet judgments found in Rev 8 and 9 make up the time of trouble mentioned by Jesus that would happen prior to the signs in the sun, moon, and stars. If Rev 8 and 9 are in reference to the breaking up of the Roman Empire, as the church would have you believe, certainly none of those people lived to see the 2nd coming of Christ. But if the events in Rev 8 and 9 are literal events that happen just prior to the 2nd coming of Christ, then the people who witness the literal events of Rev 8 and 9 would be living to witness the 2nd coming. I hope that makes sense to you. One more thing, if the church believes that the 6th seal is literal and not figurative, then it should believe the 7 trumpets are literal as well, for they are all speaking of the same time period. According to my estimation, the first 6 trumpets take place between the 5th and 6th seal.

Here are other related scripture found in the Old Testament.

“The day of the Lord is coming indeed, that cruel day of wrath and fury, to make the land a desolation and exterminate its wicked people. The stars of heaven in their constellations shall give no light, the sun shall be darkened at its rising, and the moon refuse to shine. I will bring disaster upon the world and their due punishment upon the wicked. I will check the pride of the haughty and bring low the arrogance of ruthless men. I will make men scarcer than fine gold, rarer than gold of Ophir. **Then** the heavens shall shudder, and the earth shall be shaken from its place at the fury of the Lord of Host, on the day of His anger. Isa 13:9-13

After the 4th trumpet sounded and the events took place, we have this statement:

“Then I looked, and I heard an eagle calling with a loud cry as it flew in mid-heaven: ‘Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth when the trumpets sound which the three last angels must now blow!’” Rev 8:13

What comes to mind when you read the above verse? To me it means ‘if you think the first 4 judgments were bad just wait until you see the last 3.’ If you want to see what the historical view of the Seventh-day Adventist church is, then go to http://www.champs-of-truth.com/books/dr/rev_chapter_ix.htm

Revelation 9

Trumpet 5

“Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet; and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth, and the star was given the key of the shaft of the abyss. With this he opened the shaft of the abyss; and from the shaft smoke rose like smoke from a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft. Then over the earth, out of the smoke, came locusts, and they were given the power that earthly scorpions have. They were told to do no injury to the grass or to any plant or tree, but only to those men who had not received the seal of God on their foreheads. These they were allowed to torment for five months, with the torment like a scorpion's sting; but they were not allowed to kill them. During that time these men will seek death, but they will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them...in their tails lay their power to plague mankind for five months. They had for their king the angel of the abyss, whose name, in Hebrew, is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon, or the Destroyer. The first woe has now passed. But there are still two more to come.” Rev 9:1-6, 11, 12

The Star that had fallen from heaven is Satan. Luke 10:18, Rev 12:7-9 Satan is allowed to open up the abyss with the key given to him, symbolically speaking. It is not mentioned here, but in Rev 17 it says that the beast of Rev 11 came up out of the abyss, so the beast of Rev 11 comes up out of the abyss after it is unlocked by Satan during the 5th Trumpet.

Events that happen during the 5th Trumpet:

1. Abyss unlocked
2. Beast of Rev 11 & 13 comes out of the abyss
3. The 3 angel's messages continue to be preached under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit during this great tribulation period.
4. People either accept the mark of the beast or receive the seal of God.
5. Those who do not receive the seal of God are tormented for 5 months.

Verse 4 above talks about “the seal of God” on people who are alive. Beginning in 1844, the judgment of the dead who have their names written in the book of life started. We do not know when the judgment of the living who have their names written in the book of life will begin, but it will begin near the end of time as chapter 7 implies. With that said, if the judgment of the living has not started yet, then no one alive has the seal of God yet. Verse 4 implies that some live people have received the seal of God so this would place the 5th trumpet sometime in the future. This is so clear yet everyone overlooks it.

Verse 5 speaks of a time period of torment of 5 months. This presents a problem for those who believe that a day in prophecy always equals a year. In this case the 5 months would equal 150 years, 30 days X 5 months. This is one of the major reasons why Seventh-day Adventist believe that the trumpets have already taken place in the past. I have already shown that this trumpet can only be in the future because of the seal of God process. The judgment or sealing process of the living has not started yet. Let's assume for sake of argument that I am right and the 5th trumpet is still in the future. How are we to deal with the 5 months? Are they a literal 5 months or are they really 150 years. If they are indeed 150 years, then if the 5th trumpet was to take place today, the 2nd coming of Christ would be more than 150 years away.

The real problem with the 150 years is what verse 6 actually says. Let's read verse 6 again.

“During that time (5 months) these men will seek death, but they will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.” Rev 9:6

If in fact this 5 months was really 150 years, then these men would find death, because no one lives to be 150 years old. Eventually they would all die of old age. This verse is very clear. These people will not die during this time. That leaves us with the 5 months as literal 5 months. As I stated at the beginning of this book, the day for a year principal does not apply to the book of Revelation. If it does, then this planet has another 1260 plus years of torment and misery until Christ returns. That would be the 42 months of Revelation 11 and 13. We will talk more about this later.

Trumpet 6

“The sixth angel then blew his trumpet; and I heard a voice coming from between the horns of the golden alter that stood in the presence of God. It said to the sixth angel, who held the trumpet: ‘Release the four angels held bound over the great river Euphrates!’ So the four angels were let loose, to kill a third of mankind. They had been held ready for this moment, for this very year and month, day and hour. And their squadrons of cavalry, whose count I heard, numbered two hundred million.” Rev 9:13-16

Once again we see the golden alter that stood before God, and a voice coming from between the horns. We saw earlier, just prior to the first trumpet, the Day of Atonement moving from the dead believers to the living believers. Now just after the blowing of the sixth trumpet we hear the declaration that the Day of Atonement has finished by a command being issued.

The sixth trumpet takes place after all of God's people have been sealed but before the 2nd Coming of Christ.

The people killed were some of those whose probation had closed and did not respond to the 3 angels messages. This verse also tells me two things.

1. God knows exactly when things are going to happen, because He knows all things.
2. Because of number 1, we cannot hasten the coming of Jesus. He knows what we are going to do and when we are going to do it.

Rev 9:17 thru 19 describes the events of the sixth trumpet in great detail. Whether or not this event is literal as described or not, only time will tell. Suffice it to say, as with the other trumpets, this will be future as well.

“The rest of mankind who survived these plagues still did not abjure the gods their hands had fashioned, nor cease their worship of devils and of idols made from gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their sorcery, their fornication, or their robberies.” Rev 9:20-21

The first 5 trumpet judgments (the time of trouble or great tribulation) were employed to turn people around, to smell the coffee, to turn to God in true repentance, but it had little effect. As it has been during the life of this world, most men and women are blind to the truth, no matter how hard it smacks them upside the head.

Revelation 10

After the sixth trumpet has sounded and that judgment has been completed, we come to a short interlude chapter of sorts to give us some vital information to prepare the reader for the information to follow. Let us begin now with chapter 10.

“Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was wrapped in cloud, with the rainbow round his head; his face shone like the sun and his legs were like pillars of fire. In his hand he held a little scroll unrolled. His right foot he planted on the sea, and his left on the land. “ Rev 10:1,2

These two verses tell us a couple of things. First, the symbol of the rainbow takes us back to the flood where Noah preaches before the flood came to destroy the earth and everything on it. Second, with the angel planting his feet on the sea and the earth, we know this is a worldwide message.

“Then he gave a great shout, like the roar of a lion; and when he shouted, the seven thunders spoke. I was about to write down what the seven thunders had said; but I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Seal up what the seven thunders have said; do not write it down.’ “ Rev 10:3,4

There is nothing I can say here other than something was said by the seven thunders that God Does not want us to know.

“Then the angel that I saw standing on the sea and the land raised his right hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and earth and the sea and everything in them: ‘There shall be no more delay; but when the time comes for the seventh angel to sound his trumpet, the hidden purpose of God will have been fulfilled, as he promised to his servants the prophets.’” Rev 10:5-7

It is pretty clear here that what this angel is saying can be trustworthy as he swears on Jesus Himself. What the angel is saying here is that what transpires between the 1st and 6th trumpet inclusive will bring to a close the plan of salvation. What God has been doing, ever since sin entered this world, His efforts to save mankind has been a mystery to man. Even though He has disclosed this information to the prophets, it has not been understood fully. Satan has been pretty successful in blinding mankind’s eyes to the reality of God and his plan of salvation for them. We can compare verse 7 to Col 1: 24-27 we get a glimpse of the hidden purpose of God.

“It is now my happiness to suffer for you. This is my way of helping to complete, in my poor human flesh, the full tale of Christ’s afflictions still to be endured, for the sake of his body which is the church. I became its servant by virtue of the task assigned to me by God for your benefit: to deliver his message in full; to announce **the secret hidden for long ages and through many generations**, but now disclosed to God’s people, to whom it was his will to make it known—to make known how rich and glorious it is among all nations. The secret is this: Christ in you, the hope of glory to come.” Col 1: 24-27

As we continue on we will see later in chapter 11 that Jesus saves His righteous people by bringing them to heaven and begins His reign as King of Kings, before the 7th trumpet is sounded.

“Then the voice which I heard from heaven was speaking to me again, and it said, ‘Go and take the open scroll in the hand of the angel that stands on the sea and the land.’ So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, ‘Take it, and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, although in your mouth it will taste sweet as honey.’ So I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it did taste sweet as honey; but when I swallowed it my stomach turned sour. Then he said to me, ‘Once again you must utter prophecies over peoples and nations and languages and many kings.’” Rev 10:8-11

As we started chapter 10 we saw the rainbow around the head of this angel that held the little scroll. The rainbow was the symbol that God gave to man that He would not destroy the earth again by water. This symbol reminds us of how Noah preached to the people around him, that probation was about to close on the world and that they could find salvation and life if they would repent and believe God and enter the ark. The little scroll that the angel held no doubt is the book of Daniel that gave the world the 2300 day prophecy. This reminds us of the time when the sealed books of Daniel 7-12, began to be understood soon after the Pope (the 5th head of the beast) was taken prisoner and died in captivity in 1798. It was from this time that men all around the world began understanding the prophecies of the 2300 days and the 1260 days found in the book of Daniel. They all came to the same conclusion that Christ’s second coming was to take place in the year 1844 so they preached the soon return of the Lord to come in 1844, similarly as Noah had preached.

William Miller, in the United States began studying Daniel’s vision in 1816, and began preaching in 1833 about the soon return of Jesus. “In 1821, Dr. Joseph Wolff, ‘the missionary to the world’, began to proclaim the Lord’s soon coming. Wolff was born in Germany, of Hebrew parentage, his father being a Jewish rabbi” Great Controversy (GC) p357

Wolff preached the soon return of Jesus for 24 years. “Thus he persevered in his labors until the message of the judgment had been carried to a large part of the habitable globe.” GC p361

In 1826 the Advent message began to be preached in England. It was also preach, in this same general time period, in Switzerland and France by Gaussen. In Scandinavia the advent message was also proclaimed, but when the adults proclaiming the message were subject to arrest, the Spirit of God moved among the children to proclaim the message. “Some of them were not more than six or eight years of age; and while their lives testified that they loved the Saviour, and were trying to live in obedience to God’s holy requirements, they ordinarily manifested only the intelligence and ability usually seen in children of that age. When standing before the people however, it was evident that they were moved by an influence beyond their own natural gifts. Tone and manner changed, and with solemn power they gave the warning of judgment, employing the very words of scripture: ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’ They reprov’d the sins of the people. Not only did they condemn immorality and vice, but rebuked worldliness and backsliding, and warning their hearers to make haste to flee from the wrath to come.” GC p 366-367

While the timing of the prophecies were generally interpreted correctly, they had gotten the event wrong. The message of Christ's soon return tasted very sweet in the mouths of those who accepted it whole heartedly, but when Christ did not come as expected, it turned their stomachs sour. Rev. 10:9-10

Of course, God foresaw that this would happen and in the 10th chapter of Revelation, John is told:

'Once again you must utter prophecies over people and nations and languages and many kings.' Rev 10:11

Seventh-day Adventists and other Christian groups have been preaching about the 2nd coming of Christ for over 150 years, in an effort to prepare people for that great event, but there will come a time, when the Holy Spirit will be poured out in abundance and the 3 angel's messages will be preached like never before. When the plague of the 1st trumpet takes place, the out pouring of the Holy Spirit will begin to happen and the three angel's messages will once again begin to be preached around the world in greater abundance by God's remnant people. So before the 7th trumpet sounds God's people around the world will have finished preaching the 2nd and 3rd angels messages.

Revelation 11

This brings us to chapter 11 and the two witnesses which represents the preaching of the three angel's messages, but most specifically the 2nd and 3rd angel's messages. This preaching of the last two of the 3 angel's messages will take place between the blowing of the 5th trumpet and the end of the 6th trumpet.

Chapter 11 is a very important chapter to understand, and to the best of my knowledge no one has understood it correctly. Let me state something plainly here. Chapter 11:1-14 up to the 7th trumpet, chapter 13, and chapter 14:1-13 all deal with the exact same time period. Each tells the same story from a different perspective. I can't stress this strongly enough.

Let's begin to read chapter 11

“I was given a long cane, a kind of measuring-rod, and told: ‘Now go and measure the temple of God, the altar, and the number of the worshippers. But have nothing to do with the outer court of the temple; do not measure that; for it has been given over to the Gentiles, and they will trample the Holy City underfoot for forty-two months. And I have two witnesses, whom I will appoint to prophecy, dressed in sackcloth, all through those twelve hundred and sixty days.’” Rev 11:1-3

This measuring business is speaking of the investigative judgment (Day of Atonement) taking place on those claiming to be Gods people and have their names written in the book of life.

Here we see the separation into two groups the people of earth. The worshippers of God in the temple and the non-worshippers (Gentiles) in the outer court. This theme of separation runs throughout chapter 11, 13, and 14. The investigative judgment taking place is continuing that separation.

We also see that the non-worshippers (Gentiles) trampling the Holy City underfoot forty-two month. Remember that this is a literal 42 months or 3 1/2 years. Remember these 42 months. It will come up again in chapter 13. Both of these refer to the same time period, in the future, from today 08/06/2010. This time period cannot be in reference to the 1260 years found in Daniel that took place during the dark ages nor can it be in reference to the French Revolution, as is commonly taught, as we will soon see. The trampling of the Holy City is the persecution of Gods people during the end of time or time of trouble.

But while the Gentiles are trampling the Holy City for forty-two month, there will be two witnesses who will be appointed by God to prophecy during those forty-two months or twelve hundred and sixty days. Here we see two forces working against each other. It says that these two witnesses will be dressed in sackcloth. The work of these two witnesses during the time of the trumpet judgments will be a trying time (time of trouble), thus dressed in sackcloth. We will soon see that the preaching of these two witnesses will be during a time where it will be against the law or in the opposition of counter forces, making the work very difficult.

But who are these two witnesses?

“These are the two olive-trees and the two lamps that stand in the presence of the Lord of the earth. If anyone seeks to do them harm, fire pours from their mouths and consumes their enemies; and thus shall the man die who seeks to do them harm. These two have the power to shut up the sky, so that no rain may fall during the time of their prophesying; and they have the power to turn water to blood and to strike the earth at will with every kind of plague.” Rev 11:4-6

These two witnesses are none other than the old and new testaments of the bible, which stand as a witness against the wicked (Gentiles). These two witnesses represent the preaching of the three angel’s messages, found in Rev 14, during the 42 months of chapter 11, by God’s righteous people around the world who are counted as being in the temple.

The first mentioning of a 42 month time period in Revelation is in chapter 11.

Let me say here that it is impossible to interpret the book of Revelation without reading the complete book first. When we come to chapter 11 we see mentioned in verse 7 about a beast that comes up from the abyss.

“But when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war upon them and will defeat and kill them.” Rev 11:7

This is the first time a beast is mentioned in Revelation. It speaks of this beast coming up out of the abyss. Earlier in chapter 9, during the 5th trumpet, we see that the abyss is UNLOCKED. So apparently this beast, at one time in the past was locked up in the abyss. That is all we can assume at this point in time, not knowing what the rest of Revelation has to say about this beast. So chapter 11 is linked to chapter 9 and the 5th trumpet by the abyss. This beast cannot be atheistic France during the French Revolution as the Seventh-day Adventist church teaches. This country has no bearing on end time events which Revelation is all about. The only beast that Revelation is primarily concerned with is the 1st beast of Rev 13. This is the only beast that is in conflict with Jesus.

The abyss or bottomless pit as in the KJV, as mentioned in the book of Revelation, refers to a place of incarceration where one cannot escape by his/its own means. Anyone or anything in the abyss can only be let loose by someone who has the key. Jesus himself says that he holds that key.

“Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last, and I am the living one; for I was dead and now I am alive for evermore, and **I hold the keys of Death and Death’s domain.**” Rev 1:17, 18

The first mention of the “bottomless pit” is found in Rev 9:1, where the “star” that had fallen to earth was **given the key** to the bottomless pit. Here we see Jesus, the holder of the key, metaphorically giving the key to the bottomless pit, to Satan, as permission to unlock it. Thus allowing the persecuting power that was alive during the “dark ages” that 1260 year period that was incarcerated to the bottomless pit in 1798, to come back to power in these last days.

This verse, Rev 11:7, is the tie to the 5th trumpet. Let me make something clear. It says in 11:7 “the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war”. This is not Satan. Satan does not come up from the abyss. He falls from heaven to the earth. Satan is given the key to the abyss so he

can unlock it. It is the beast that comes up from the abyss, out of captivity, resurrected if you will.

We can also determine that the time period of chapter 11 takes place sometime after the blowing of the 5th trumpet and during the 6th trumpet because verse 7 is the close of probation when the two witnesses have completed their testimony, and all of God's children have been sealed. This is in reference to Rev 7:1-3

“But when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war upon them and will defeat and kill them.” Rev 11:7

It is important here to understand who was killed. The popular teaching is that the French burned all the bibles and that atheism reigned in France for 3 1/2 years. While certainly this event did happen, it is not the subject of this chapter. If you have been following closely in this study, then you know that chapter 11 is still in the future. It has not happened yet.

I don't think I have mentioned this yet in this book, but the time of trouble spoken of in Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 is in reference to the trumpet judgments 1-6 which includes chapter 11. The Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches that the time of trouble takes place during the seven last plagues, but as we will see later this just cannot be.

Let's look at some of the verses in Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 as they relate to the first 6 trumpets and chapter 11. When we get to chapters 13 and 14 we will see the commonality of all these chapters as we compare verse to verse.

Prior to the trumpet judgments we will continue to see what's talked about in Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

“The time is coming when you will hear the noise of battle near at hand and the news of battle far away; see that you are not alarmed. Such things are bound to happen; but the end is still to come ... there will be famines and earthquakes in many places. With these things the birth-pangs **of the new age** begin.” Matt 24:6-8

Mark 13:7-8 says the same thing.

“And when you hear of wars and insurrections, do not fall into a panic. These things are bound to happen first; but the end does not follow immediately.’ Then he added, ‘Nation will make war upon nation, kingdom upon kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and famines and plagues in many places; in the sky terrors and great portents.’” Luke 21:9-11

Here the “**in the sky terrors and great portents**” is in direct reference to trumpets 1-4

I am sure you are well aware that earthquakes are becoming more frequent and larger in seismic activity and accompanied with tsunamis. This will only intensify as we draw closer to the Lords Coming.

With reference to Rev 11:7 which we read a few pages back:

“And the gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the earth as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.” Matt 24:14

“But before the end the Gospel must be proclaimed to all nations.” Mark 13:11

While these verses apply in general to the spreading of the gospel ever since the ascension of Jesus, these verses are more in reference to the two witnesses of Rev 11 and the 3 angel’s messages of Rev 14 as it relates to the last statement in Revelation 10. I will speak more about the 3 angel’s messages when we get to Chapter 14.

Remember I said that Rev Chapter 11, 13, and 14 are all dealing with the same time period and as such, this time period is the subject, for the most part, of Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21

With reference to Rev 11:7, Matt 24 has this to say:

“You will then be handed over for punishment and execution; and men of **all nations** will hate you for your allegiance to me. Many will fall from their faith; (accept the mark of the beast Rev 13) they will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many; and as lawlessness spreads, men’s love for one another will grow cold. But the man who holds out to the end will be saved.” Matt 24:9-13

Mark 13 says:

“Brother will betray brother to death, and the father his child; children will turn against their parents and send them to their death. All will hate you for your allegiance to me; but the man who holds out to the end will be saved.” Mark 13:12-13

“Even your parents and brothers, your relations and friends, will betray you. Some of you will be put to death and all will hate you for your allegiance to me. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By standing firm you will win true life for yourself.” Luke 21:17-19

At some point during the 42 months all 3 of these sets of verses will take place. Not having one hair of your head lost does not mean that you will not be killed. It just means that you will be restored at the second coming of Jesus if you hold out to the end.

During the 42 months or 3 1/2 literal years that the beast that comes up from the abyss reigns, and after God’s people have completed their testimony, many of God’s people will be killed as Rev 11 and 13 describes.

“For those days will bring distress such as never has been until now since the beginning of the world which God created—and will never be again. If the Lord had not cut short that time of troubles, no living thing could survive. However, for the sake of His own, whom He has chosen, He has cut short the time.” Mark 13:19-20

Once again this time of trouble is in reference to the 6 trumpet judgments.

Continuing on with Rev 11.

“Their corpses will lie in the street of the great city, whose name in allegory is Sodom, or Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three days and a half men from every people and tribe of every language and nation, gazed upon their corpses and refuse them burial. All men on earth gloat over them, make merry, and exchange presents; for these two prophets were a torment to the whole earth.” Rev 11:8-10

After Gods people will have completed their testimony (three angel’s message), they are killed and left lying in the streets all over the world. The fact that people of every tribe, language, and nation gazed upon their bodies infers that this is worldwide. Sodom or Egypt, and where the Lord was crucified only mean where non-believers and wicked people live. The beast and the wicked people of the world will think that they have finally gotten the victory over Christianity, or Sabbath Keepers, that has/have been a thorn in their side for so long. But the victory is short lived, only 3 1/2 days.

At this point in time we need to go back to Rev 6:9-11 which is the 5th seal. Rev 11:7-10 is the fulfillment of this verse.

“When he broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered for God’s word and for the testimony they bore. They gave a great cry: ‘How long, sovereign Lord, holy and true, must it be before thou wilt vindicate us and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?’ Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the tally should be complete of all their brothers in Christ’s service who were killed as they had been.” Rev 6:11

It is at this time, after the 42 month reign of the beast of Rev 11 and 13, that the sixth seal is broken.

“Then I watched as he broke the sixth seal. And there was a violent earthquake; the sun turned black as a funeral pall and the moon all red as blood; the stars in the sky fell to the earth, like figs shaken down by a gale; the sky vanished, as a scroll is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.” Rev 6:12-14

Matt 24 and Mark 13 also speak of these events.

“As soon as the distress of those days has passed, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give her light, the stars will fall from the sky, the celestial powers will be shaken.” Matt 24:29

“But in those days, after that distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give her light; the stars will come falling down from the sky, the celestial powers will be shaken.” Mark 13:24, 25

I think I have already mentioned that these events are not the events that took place in the 1800s.

Continuing on with Rev 11:

“But at the end of three days and a half the breath of life from God came into them; and they stood up on their feet to the terror of all who saw it. Then a loud voice was heard

speaking to them from heaven, which said, 'Come up here!' And they went up to heaven in a cloud, in full view of their enemies." Rev 11:11-12

To make this plain, these two verses in chapter 11 are describing the resurrection and ascension of God's people at the 2nd coming of Christ. You may not think that it says it very clearly but it does say it in so many words. For example: "the breath of life from God came into them and they stood on their feet" That is the resurrection. "A loud voice from heaven was heard speaking to them from heaven which said, 'Come up here!'" This is the call to ascend and "they went up to heaven in a cloud, in full view of their enemies" This is the ascension. The clouds refer to the angels gathering and accompanying Gods people to heaven. These words are very similar to the words of 1 Thes 4:16-17 which is speaking of the 2nd coming of Christ.

"Because at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet-call, the Lord Himself will descend from heaven; first the Christian dead will rise, then we who are left alive shall join them, caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus shall we always be with the Lord." 1 Thes 4:16-17

I hope you saw the similarities. Also when Jesus ascended to heaven in the sight of his disciples, He was caught up in a cloud. See Acts 1:9, 10.
Once again Matt 24, Mark 13 speaks of this in the very same sequence.

"As soon as the distress of those days has passed, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give her light, the stars will fall from the sky, the celestial powers will be shaken. **Then** will appear in heaven the sign that heralds the Son of Man. All the peoples of the world will make lamentation, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory. With a trumpet blast He will send out His angels, and they will gather his chosen from the four winds, from the farthest bounds of heaven on every side." Matt 24:29-31

"But in those days, after that distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give her light; the stars will come falling from the sky, the celestial powers will be shaken. **Then** they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory, and he will send out the angels and gather his chosen from the four winds, from the farthest bounds of earth to the farthest bounds of heaven." Mark 13:24-27

This seems very clear to me and very straight forward. You may want to take some time, right here, and study these verses and compare them together. I need to mention here about the phrase "then we who are left alive" in 1 Thes. 4:17 is only in reference to God's people who were not killed by the beast during those 42 months. It does not mean that God's people are the only ones left alive at this time. This will be made clear a little later.

Once again, let's go back to Rev 6 and finish the 6th seal where this same sequence of events takes place.

"...the stars in the sky fell to the earth, like figs shaken down by a gale; the sky vanished, as a scroll is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. **Then** the kings of the earth, magnates and marshals, the rich and the powerful, and all men, slave and free, hid themselves in caves and mountain crags; and they called out to the mountains and the crags, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One who sits on the

throne and from the vengeance of the Lamb.’ For the great day of their vengeance has come...” Rev 6:14-17

I hope this is all starting to make sense by now, but there is still a lot more to come.
Let us continue on with Rev Chapter 11.

“At that same moment there was a violent earthquake and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake; the rest in terror did homage to the God of heaven. The second woe has now passed. But the third is soon to come.” Rev 11:13:14

As you will recall, the 2nd woe is the 6th trumpet. So Chapter 10 and the first 3 quarters of chapter 11, happen during the 6th and before the 7th trumpet. The 42 month reign of the beast is the 2nd Woe, which also includes the 2nd coming of Christ, not to mention the killing of a third of mankind still left alive after the first 5 trumpets.

Trumpet 7

“Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet; and voices were heard in heaven shouting: ‘The sovereignty of the world has passed to our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever!’ And the twenty-four elders, seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying: ‘We give thee thanks, O Lord God, sovereign over all, who art and who wast, because thou hast taken thy great power into thy hands and entered upon thy reign. The nations raged, but thy day of retribution has come. Now is the time for the dead to be judged; now is the time for recompense to thy servants the prophets, to thy dedicated people, and all who honour thy name, both great and small, the time to destroy those who destroy the earth.’ “ Rev 11:15-18

If we compare these verses with the verses found in Rev. 19:1-8 we will see that they are very similar and I believe that the time periods are roughly the same.

“After this **I heard what sounded like the roar of a vast throng in heaven; and they were shouting: ‘Alleluia! Victory and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgements!** He has condemned the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and has avenged upon her the blood of his servants.’ Then once more they shouted: ‘Alleluia! The smoke goes up from her for ever and ever!’ **And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God as he sat on the throne, and they too cried: ‘Amen! Alleluia!’** Then a voice came from the throne which said: ‘**Praise our God, all you his servants, you that fear him, both great and small!**’ Again I heard what sounded like a vast crown, like the noise of rushing water and deep roars of thunder, and the cried: ‘**Alleluia! The Lord our God, sovereign over all, has entered on his reign!** Exult and shout for joy and do him homage, for the wedding-day of the Lamb has come! His bride has made herself ready, and for her dress she has been given fine linen, clean and shining.’” Rev 19:1-8

Some of this praise in these verses takes place after the 7 last plagues.

Back to Revelation 11, it should be pretty obvious by reading these verses that Jesus has come the 2nd time, received His people and has brought them to heaven and begun His reign as King of Kings prior to the 7th trumpet. Jesus cannot begin His reign until all His people are safe and sound with him in heaven. How could the “sovereignty of the world pass to our Lord and His

Christ” if His people are still held prisoners on earth? Now that Gods people are in heaven, he can now pay back (retribution, recompense) the wicked for what they have done to His people.

Daniel Chapter 7 speaks of Jesus returning to heaven after the second coming to present Himself and His people He just rescued from planet earth.

“I was still watching in visions of the night and I saw one like a man coming with the clouds of heaven; he approached the Ancient in Years and was presented to him. Sovereignty and glory and kingly power were given to him, so that all people and nations of every language should serve him; his sovereignty was to be an everlasting sovereignty which should not pass away, and his kingly power such as should never be impaired.”
Dan 7: 13, 14

There are two statements that we need to deal with in chapter 11 before we move on. They are both found in verse 18.

“Now is the time for the dead to be judged....The time to destroy those who destroy the earth.” Rev 11:18

The dead in question here are not only the literal dead but those people still alive as seen in verse 13. The dead is in reference to all the unrighteous who has ever lived (the unsaved). The time for their judgment & destruction is coming soon as we well see later on. Even though some are alive, they are dead in the eyes of the Lord.

We have one more verse left in Chapter 11. This verse sums up the whole of the 7 last plagues. The 7th trumpet is made up of the 7 last plagues as we will soon see. The 7 last plagues make up the 3rd and last Woe.

“Then God’s temple in heaven was laid open, and within the temple was seen the ark of His covenant. There came flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, and earthquake, and a storm of hail.” Rev 11:19

(For additional evidence that the 7 last plagues come after the 2nd coming, verse 19 has a cross reference to chapter 15:5-8 where the same sequence of events take place. (Read all of 15)).

We need to break down verse 19 into two parts. To understand the first part, you have to have some knowledge of the sanctuary service on earth during the time of the Jews. It was the Most Holy Place were the ark of His covenant was located. The Most Holy place was divided from the Holy place by a curtain. No ordinary man was ever allowed into the Most Holy place prior to Christ’s death. Only the High Priest was allowed in. When Christ died on the cross, the curtain that separated the Most Holy place from the Holy Place was torn from top to bottom.

“Jesus again gave a loud cry, and breathed His last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” Matt 27:50-51

With the curtain being torn from top to bottom (indicating that an angel had torn it and not a man. Obviously it was not torn all the way down.) The Most Holy place was no longer needed

on earth because type had met anti-type with the death of Jesus. So type meets anti-type when we read Rev 11:19 when it says that “God’s temple in heaven is laid open” and John, a mere man sees the Ark of the Covenant. This means that the service of the Most Holy place in heaven has finished and the sanctuary has been cleansed, meaning that all those whose names have been written in the book of life have been judged either for life or for death. And their sins will soon be placed on the head of the scape goat Satan.

Now let’s deal with the 2nd part of verse 19. This verse wraps up in one sentence all of the seven last plagues. Let me show you how.

“There came **flashes of lightning** and **peals of thunder**, an **earthquake**, and a **storm of hail**.” Rev 11:19 last part.

We will compare the above verse with the 7th last plague.

“Then the seventh angel poured his bowl on the air; and out of the sanctuary came a loud voice from the throne, which said, ‘It is over!’ And there followed **flashes of lightning** and **peals of thunder**, and a **violent earthquake**, like none before it in human history, so violent it was...Every Island vanished; there was not a mountain to be seen. **Huge hailstones**, weighting perhaps a hundredweight, fell on men from the sky; and they cursed God for the plague of hail, because that plague was so severe.” Rev 16:17-21

Rev 11:19 the last part is virtually identical to the 7th last plague so it only makes sense that it is a summation of all the 7 last plagues. With that being said, you can see that the 7 last plagues take place after God’s people are safely in heaven and not while they are still on earth as the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches. The 3rd Woe then is the 7 last plagues.

Once again, for additional evidence that the 7 last plagues come after the 2nd coming, verse 19 has a cross reference to chapter 15:5-8 where the same sequence of events take place. (Read all of 15 if you haven’t done so already to find the connection.)

This is not my only proof however. As we continue on with our study you will see it just as clear as you see it here. That is of course if you are studying with an open mind and not letting any prejudice get in your way.

This brings us to the close of chapter 11.

Revelation 12

Chapter 12 is an interlude chapter of sorts but is placed here for a specific purpose. The main vision is placed on hold as John is given additional information. The information in this chapter is placed here, not just to give us some history, although it does that, but to give us some information about the beast that was just spoken of in chapter 11 and to help set up chapter 13. Chapter 12 speaks of the past and the future. Chapter 12 speaks about 3 consecutive time periods and who the players are in each period. These periods are, lineal. I will try to point out these time periods as we go along. Chapter 12 starts out in the time period of just before the birth of Jesus on Earth.

“Next appeared a great portent in heaven, a woman robed with the sun, beneath her feet the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant, and in the anguish of her labour she cried out to be delivered.” Rev 12:1-2

Here we see a woman as a symbol of God’s faithful people. This woman is robed in the sun which is a symbol of Christ’s righteousness. She has a crown of twelve stars which is a symbol of the twelve tribes of Israel. All during the history of the children of Israel, God’s righteous people, those who have been true to His covenant have been crying out for their deliverer, their Saviour, and so it says that she, in the anguish of her labour, cries out to be delivered. It says that she is pregnant, which is a symbol of the nearness of the 1st coming of Jesus Christ, the one who would be their deliverer.

Next is introduced a great red dragon with seven heads and 10 horns. On its heads are 7 diadems or crowns. The 10 horns have no crowns.

“Then a second portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns; on his heads were seven diadems, and with his tail he swept down a third of the stars in the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when her child was born he might devour it.” Rev 12:3-4

This dragon represents two powers. The first is Satan, first and foremost, as we will soon see. It says here that with his tail, the dragon, swept down a third of the stars from the sky. It has long been held that these stars represent the angels of heaven, which were seduced and deceived during Lucifer’s rebellion against God in heaven. Being flung to earth means that these angels became Satan’s minions here on earth doing his bidding. You can read Isa 14:12-14 and Ezk 28:11-19 for details of why Lucifer (Satan) rebelled against God.

The red dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns also represents the major pagan nations of the world, as found in Daniel chapter 2 and chapter 7. From Babylon to Babylon again (spiritual) at the end of time. This particular phase of the red dragon is pagan Rome. It is clear that it is pagan Rome for two reasons.

1. Because it was pagan Rome that was in power when Christ was born and king Herod tried to have Him (baby Jesus) killed. Matt 2:13,16
2. Because the ten horns do not have crowns yet, only the 7 heads have crowns. Rome has not been divided into separate kingdoms yet. (see Daniel 7)

It was during the rule of pagan Rome that Satan tried to destroy the man child (Jesus). This dragon or beast, as it is called in Rev 13, is the 2nd time a beast is mentioned in the book of Revelation. This version of the beast is the same power as the 4th beast of Daniel Chapter 7 which had 10 horns. You will recognize this dragon/beast when we get to Chapter 13.

You will notice that time is compressed and not every detail is given but if you know your bible well enough you can fill in the missing parts. I am assuming that you know about the life of Jesus.

“She gave birth to a male child, who is destined to rule all nations with an iron rod. But her child was snatched up to God and his throne; “ Rev 12:5

Here is described the birth of Jesus through the nation of Israel by Mary. It says here that Jesus is to rule all nations with an iron rod, and this is what the nation of Israel had expected their Messiah to do when He arrived. Because He did not fulfill their expectations they rejected Him. But after Jesus fulfilled His purpose of bringing the sacrificial system to an end by being the sacrifice, and after living a perfectly obedient life to bring the means of salvation to all of mankind He was snatched up to God and His throne. Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, Acts 1:9-11. The ruling with an iron rod is still future. This section, Rev 12:1-5 is the end of the first time period.

In the next time period we see the transition of the woman from the nation of Israel to the church of Christ with the 12 star crown representing the 12 apostles. This time period begins in 538 AD.

“And the woman herself fled into the wilds, where she had a place prepared for her by God, there to be sustained for twelve hundred and sixty days.” Rev 12:6

After Christ returned to heaven, the Christian church began to grow as a result of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. There was greater understanding of the plan of salvation. The transition from the first time period of Rev 12 to the second time period of Rev 12 took about 500 years. It was during this transition period that Satan took a different approach. It was the idea that if you can't beat them, join them approach. Defeat from within. This work was slow and gradual for about 500 years. The transition from pagan Rome to papal Rome (The 4th head to the 5th head of the dragon). Paul talks about this deception in his second letter to the Thessalonians, about the little horn of Daniel 7.

“That day (The second coming of Christ) cannot come before the final rebellion against God, when wickedness will be revealed in human form, the man doomed to perdition. He is the Enemy. He rises in his pride against every god, so called, every object of men's worship, and even takes his seat in the temple of God claiming to be a god himself. You cannot but remember that I told you this while I was with you; you must now be aware of the restraining hand which ensures that he shall be revealed only at the proper time. For already the secret power of wickedness is at work, secret only for the present until the Restraint disappears from the scene. And then he will be revealed, that wicked man whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth, and annihilate by the radiance of his coming. But the coming of that wicked man is the work of Satan.” 2 Thes 2:3-9

This time period of twelve hundred and sixty days in Rev 12:6, is in reference to the beast power found in Daniel 7:25 in the time of papal Rome. It speaks of the time when the dragon persecuted the church (woman), God's faithful people, for twelve hundred and sixty days, or in reality, 1260 years, ending in 1798 with the capture and imprisonment of the pope (beast, 5th head).

The next section of verses, 7-9, tells us who this dragon really is in its essence.

“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels waged war upon the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought, but they had not the strength to win, and no foothold was left them in heaven. So the great dragon was thrown down, that serpent of old that led the whole world astray, whose name is Satan or the Devil — thrown down to the earth, and his angels with him.” Rev 12:7-9

So here we see that the dragon represents Satan in the first sense. He is the power behind the beast powers. These verses have been commonly used to describe the war between Christ & Lucifer in heaven after Lucifer's rebellion in heaven, but after much consideration, I believe this particular war took place at a much later time. Could it be that this war in heaven took place after Christ returned to heaven after His resurrection, after Christ assured Satan's defeat, by his perfect life, death, and resurrection? The words used about the dragon or Satan seems to suggest this later war time. For you see, at the time of his initial rebellion, Satan had not led the whole world astray. It also keeps the story line moving forward and not backwards.

Jesus makes a statement found in the book of John that seems to affirm this idea.

“‘Father glorify thy name.’ A voice sounded from heaven: ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing by said it was thunder, while others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus replied, ‘This voice spoke for your sake, not mine. Now is the hour of judgment for this world; **now shall the prince of this world be driven out**. And I shall draw all men to myself, when I am lifted up from the earth.’ This he said to indicate the kind of death he was to die.” John 12:28-33

The King James Version states verse 31 this way:

“Now is the judgment of this world: **now shall the prince of this world be cast out**.” John 12:31 KJV

“And the **great dragon was cast out**, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: **he was cast out** into the earth, and **his angels were cast out** with him.” Rev 12:9 KJV

The description of the dragon given in verse 9 makes it pretty clear that this expulsion from heaven took place after Satan deceived the whole world and not before.

“So the great dragon was thrown down, that serpent of old, that led the whole world astray, whose name is Satan, or the Devil — thrown down to the earth, and his angels with him.” Rev 12:9

Up until Christ proved that man could keep God's law, Satan had hope of proving God wrong and was sort of on probation as it were. This is not to suggest that Satan had full access to

heaven during the history of this world up to this point. I think what this verse is really saying is that Satan, after Christ had completed His mission, was a defeated Foe with no chance of recovery. At this point even the angels in heaven saw the true nature of Satan and fully rejected his accusations against God. The casting out of Satan is mostly metaphorical and not literal.

This now brings us to verses 10-12. These verses bring us back to the flow of time right after chapter 11 and the 6th trumpet. There is a break in the telling of the history as the celebration that started in chapter 11 continues sort of interrupting this vision.

“Then I heard a voice in heaven proclaiming aloud: ‘This is the hour of victory (salvation) for our God, the hour of his sovereignty and power, when His Christ comes to His rightful rule! For the accuser of our brothers is overthrown (cast down), who day and night accused them before our God. (See Job Chapter 1) By the sacrifice of the Lamb they have conquered him, and by the testimony which they uttered: for they did not hold their lives too dear to lay them down. Rejoice then, you heavens and you that dwell in them! But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, knowing that his time is short!’” Rev 12:10-12

These verses compare to Rev 11:15

“Then the 7th angel blew his trumpet; and voices were heard in heaven shouting: ‘The sovereignty of the world has passed to our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever!’” Rev 11:15

This voice that John hears is more likely a human and not an angel. Probably one of the 24 elders as mentioned in Rev 11:16, 17 as they praise God. These verses in Rev 12 are just an extension of this praise. As we have stated back in Chapter 11, all of Gods people at this time are safely in heaven. Their time of judgment before the throne has come and gone. During their judgment process, Satan was their accuser trying to get a conviction. But he was unsuccessful on those who are in heaven. However he was successful for those claiming to be Christians who were left on earth. Now that the investigative judgment of all those who had their names written in the Lambs book of life at one time or another has been completed, the accuser, Satan, has been cast down back to earth for the last time. Gods righteous people who are now in heaven are there because they put their trust in “the sacrifice of the Lamb and they conquered Satan by the testimony which they uttered.” These verses are in particular reference to those living during the last 3 1/2 years of Chapter 11. For it says: “for they did not hold their lives to dear to lay them down.” As opposed to those Christians who gave in to the beast and obeyed it in order to save their lives and thus received the mark of the beast.

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Matt 16:25, 27 KJV

This over throwing or casting down of the accuser in these verses of Rev 12:10, 12 are not referring to the throwing down in verse 9. Verse 11 makes this really clear. The investigative judgment has been completed, there is no one left to accuse, and the righteous are in heaven. Satan has nowhere left to go but back down to earth for the last time.

The voice that John hears then says: “Rejoice then, you heavens and you that dwell in them!” Notice that the word heaven is plural. The person is not referring to heaven where God is, but to the various worlds that are in the heavens where there is life. These beings have been watching this world called earth and have been eager for God to set things right, so he says REJOICE for Christ is now ready to rule with an rod of iron. Then the voice says: “But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, knowing that his time is short!” Rev 12:12

During the 6th trumpet time period, after the last case of the righteous living has been tried, and probation closes, and God’s people are taken to heaven, Satan no longer has access to heaven and returns to earth knowing that it will be only a matter of a short time before Christ comes to inflict the first death on those remaining on earth. This WOE that is mentioned in verse 12 is no doubt in reference to the 3 and last woe of the 7 trumpets.

As we proceed to the next section of chapter 12 we find ourselves back in the narrative of Rev 12:5 sort of recapping where we had left off at verse 6 before we were interrupted by the celebration of Christ’s victory.

“When the dragon found that he had been thrown down to the earth, he went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male child.” Rev 12:13

You can see here that this is just a recap and is not in reference in any way to the “overthrown” mentioned in verse 10. We have already discussed that the nation of Israel was the woman who gave birth to the male child and how that woman transitioned into the church after the death and resurrection of Christ.

With Satan’s defeat assured and no longer having access to Jesus to try and trip Him up, it makes sense that Satan would come back down to the earth to pursue Christ’s church and harass them, since he no longer had access to Christ.

“But the woman was given two great eagle’s wings, to fly to the place in the wilds where for three years and a half she was to be sustained, out of reach of the serpent.” Rev 12:14

This verse is identical to verse 6, just stated in a different way, and the time period is the same. Once again this is just a recap of what was being shown John before the interruption by the celebration.

I think I have mentioned this before but Revelation chapter 12 is the only chapter in Revelation where time prophecy, where a day equals a year, takes place. This is only because this time period is in reference to Daniel Chapter 7 verse 25 where the day for a year was still in effect. So the three and a half years would be 1260 years from 538 AD to 1798 AD. The serpent here is in reference to Satan, the dragon, and the beast of Daniel 7 which is the papacy.

This next time period covers from the mid to last part of the 1260 years to our present time.

“From the mouth of the serpent spewed a flood of water after the woman to sweep her away with its spate. But the earth came to her rescue and opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon spewed from his mouth.” Rev 12:15-16

During those 1260 years the papacy tried everything to reign in the heretics who wanted to

follow the bible instead of the traditions of the church. Many, many people were burned at the stake or killed by other means. But the truth of God's word could not be stopped. Near the end of the 1260 years Christians who wanted to live in accordance to God's word, started coming to America, "the earth", as mentioned in verse 16. The earth, or America, became a refuge for these Christians where religious freedom was taking hold. The woman in these verses represents God's true church or remnant people.

Even though there were 10 kingdoms (really only 7 if you remember) during the papal reign of 1260 years, the pope still wore the crown. He had authority over the kings, thus the 7 heads have the crowns. Chapter 12 then compresses time and moves to the future from 1798 in verse 17. In its fullest sense, it is even future from today, 08/06/2010.

"At this the dragon grew furious with the woman, and went off to wage war on the rest of her offspring, that is, on those who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony to Jesus." Rev 12:17

This verse is in reference to verse 11. Gods people overcome Satan by their testimony, which ties into chapters 13 and 14.

If you will notice here, Rev 11:7 and Rev 12:17 have something in common. The beast in both cases is **waging war** on them. I think this is pretty significant and tells me that these two time periods are the same (42 months).

It should be clear here that verse 17 of Rev 12 has fast forwarded to the future when the papal power has resurrected as stated in chapters 11 and 13.

As time went by during those 1260 days, even up to 1844 and beyond, more and more light was discovered by God's people. At the end of time it is only those who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony of Jesus or witness and proclaim the truth (three angel's messages) to those who are deceived , that Satan is waging war with.

"He took his stand on the sea-shore." Rev 12:18

Who took his stand on the sea-shore? And where is that sea-shore? And when? The correct answer to the first question is the dragon. The context suggests that very clearly. But what sea-shore? The context would suggest the sea-shore of Europe looking toward the west toward the earth or Americas.

This closes chapter 12 and leads us right into chapter 13, right were chapter 12 verse 17 leaves off.

Chapter 12 was mostly a history lesson from ages past but gave us valuable information to help us understand this book. As we move into chapter thirteen, Revelation begins to repeat and enlarge the message of chapter 11. The story line that is being told is on hold.

Revelation 13

This brings us to chapter 13. Chapter 12 has told us who the beast of Rev 11 is in so many words by associating the dragon/beast with the beast of Daniel 7 by using the phrases twelve hundred and sixty days and three years and a half. But this beast is now in a different time period. The time period of Rev 12:17. Chapter 12 just tells us how we got to this point, by following the story from the birth of Christ, to the expulsion from heaven of Satan and his angels after the ascension of Christ, to the persecution of the church during the dark ages, and then the persecution of the church again in the last days, which chapter 11 and 13 describes.

The flow of the story of the end of time that Revelation is telling, from chapter 8, is still on hold from the end of chapter 11, as more detail is provided of the time period of the 42 months of Rev 11, that time period between the resurrection of the papal beast during the 5th trumpet to the end of the 6th trumpet time period. I stated earlier that Revelation 12:17 pointed to the future, when the dragon or the beast will wage war on those who keep the commandments of God. Chapter 13 verse 1 takes us into that future, giving us additional details of what happens during the 42 months' time period of chapter 11 from the perspective of the beast. All of chapter 13 takes place in the future. None of it is history other than history repeating itself. In verse 1 & 2 we see a splitting up of the dragon and the beast. In Revelation 12 they were one and the same, but now they are two.

“Then out of the sea I saw a beast rising. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten diadems, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like a bear's and its mouth like a lion's mouth. The dragon conferred upon it his power and rule, and great authority.” Rev 13:1, 2

These verses tell us that this beast is a continuation of the beasts that John saw in Revelation chapter 12. The added description of the leopard, bear, and lion would also link it to the beasts of Daniel Chapter 7. But notice the reverse order of the animals. This would indicate that the beast itself was the fourth beast of Daniel 7 since that beast is not mentioned. Looking back in time the Leopard was Greece, the bear was Media and Persia, the lion was Babylon. So if we are looking back in time that would make the current beast Rome. More specifically Post Papal Rome, post 1798, for the 10 horns now have the crowns. With the sovereignty of Papal Rome taken away in 1798, all authority goes back to the 10 kings. The significance of this point will be made clear a little later. These 10 kings need a little bit of clarification. These are not the 10 kings during the reign of the little horn power. Remember that the little horn uprooted 3 of these kings. As we will find out later in chapter 17, these 10 kings do not have a kingdom yet as of 2010. But in chapter 13 they do.

This beast is rising up out of the sea, meaning it is still part of Europe. The beast still has 7 heads and 10 horns, as in Revelation 12, but this time the 10 horns have crowns, but the 7 heads only have blasphemous names, no crowns. This would indicate that the kings or 10 horns have all the authority, and not the 7 heads, during this time period. The blasphemous names indicate that these powers are claiming to be God or take the prerogative of God. Chapter 17:12, 13 explains the 10 horns.

“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet begun to reign, but who for one hour are to share with the beast the exercise of royal authority; for they have but a single purpose among them and will confer their power and authority upon the beast.” Rev 17:12,13

When the beast power of Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 came to an end in 1798, and consigned to the bottomless pit (abyss), the seven heads lost their crowns (sovereignty), and authority went back to the kings of the European nations, the 10 horns of the beast of Rev 13, although these 10 kings are yet future.

This distinction between the beast in Rev 12 (heads have crowns) and 13 (The horns have crowns) clearly indicates that the beast of Rev 13 is not referring to the time period of the past beast of Daniel’s prophecies. It is definitely the same power but in a different time period. The 8th head of the beast as we will soon see. Thus the 42 months spoken of in verse 5 is not the same time period as Daniels chapter 7 vision (1260 days/years).

It is important here that you understand Rev 13 verse 3.

“One of its heads appeared to have received a death-blow; but the mortal wound was healed.” Rev 13:3

This verse is telling us that one of the heads of the beast received a death blow, sometime in the past (1798 when the pope was taken captive and died and papal persecution ended), and that during the time period that chapter 13 is describing, this power has come back to life. At this point we have to determine when this death blow took place. Although I told you 1798, I need to give you some evidence. We can go to two different places, and we will, but the main place would be Daniel chapter 7:20-25.

“I desired to know what the fourth beast meant...I desired to also know about the 10 horns on its head and the other horn which sprang up...As I still watched, that horn was waging war with the saints and overcoming them until the Ancient of Days came. Then judgement was given in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints gained possession of the kingly power. He gave me this answer: ‘The fourth beast signifies a fourth kingdom which shall appear upon the earth. It shall differ from the other kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth, tread it down and crush it. The ten horns signify the appearance of ten kings in this kingdom, after whom another king shall arise, differing from his predecessors; and he shall bring low three kings. He shall hurl defiance at the Most High and shall wear down the saints of the Most High. He shall plan to alter the customary times and law; and the saints shall be delivered into his power for a time and times and half a time. Then the court shall sit, and he shall be deprived of his sovereignty, so that in the end it may be destroyed and abolished. The kingly power, sovereignty, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High. Their kingly power is an everlasting power and all sovereignties shall serve them and obey them.’” Dan 7:19-27

Here we are given an interpretation of the 4th beast to rule the world, a dreadful beast. Its description is very similar to the beast of Revelation 13 in that it had 10 horns. These verses, if you look real close, are describing two different time periods. Verses 25 and 26 are in reference to the beast during the 1260 years of the dark ages.

“The little horn, that came up among the 10, shall hurl defiance at the Most High and shall wear down the saints of the Most High. He shall plan to alter the customary times and law; and the saints shall be delivered into his power for a time and times and half a time, then the court shall sit, and he shall be deprived of his sovereignty.” Dan 7:25, 26

This time and times and half a time equals 1260 years. It was during this time that the papacy changed the 7th day Sabbath to the 1st day of the week, and modified the 10 commandments by doing away with the 2nd commandment (graven images) and split the 10th commandment into two. Not only that but he messed with God’s Holy/Feast days found in Lev 23. He did away with them and substituted pagan holidays in their stead. This was also the time of great persecution of God’s true people.

“Waging war with the saints and wearing down the saints of the Most High” Dan 7:21, 25.

At the end of the 1260 years, the probation of the little horn, the Papacy, came to an end.

“Then the court shall sit, and he shall be deprived of his sovereignty, so that in the end it may be destroyed and abolished” Dan 7:26

It is at this time that the beast was placed into the bottomless pit (abyss).

Dan 7:11 is in reference to the beast of Rev 13 where Daniel see the destruction of the beast as depicted by John in Rev 19:20. Thus we have reference to the two phases, 5th and 8th heads of the beast of Rev 13 in Daniel 7.

“Then because of the proud words that the horn was speaking, I went on watching until the beast was killed and its carcass destroyed: it was given to the flames.” Dan 7:11

Daniel chapter 7 is broken down into two time periods with regards to the little horn of the 4th beast, which represents papal Rome. The first time period is the 1260 years of its first reign, Dan 7:8-9, and then its destruction by being thrown into the flames after its last reign after the 2nd coming of Jesus, Dan 7:11. At the end of its first reign of 1260 literal years, the beast was placed into the bottomless pit or abyss, (deprived of his sovereignty, Dan 7:26). After its resurrection and reign of 42 literal months during the last days, it is thrown into the flames. Dan 7:11 and Dan 7:26 last part.

This is not a study of the book of Daniel, but suffice it to say, this power, the little horn or the 5th head of the beast of Rev 13, began with the supremacy of the papacy in 538 AD and terminated in 1798, a duration of 1260 years. At that time the pope was made captive by the French army, and the **persecuting** papal power received its deadly wound (death-blow), and the predicted reign of this beast of 1260 years was fulfilled, and was sent to the abyss. This beast, the one that is seen thrown into the flames by Daniel, is the same beast that is seen once again making war with the saints near the end of time, right before the 2nd coming of Jesus in Rev 11 and Rev 13. This is the 8th head which I will talk about a little later. To make it clear, the description and comments about the beast of Revelation 13 from verse 3 and onward is speaking about the 8th head only, which chapter 17 makes clear.

The other place in scripture we will go, which is more important to our study, is back to Rev 12, which ties in perfectly to chapter 13 and Daniel 7. The two verses that we will look at are 6 and 14 which are both speaking of the same event. Verse 6 says:

“and the woman herself fled into the wilds, where she had a place prepared for her by God, there to be sustained for twelve hundred and sixty days.” Rev 12:6

Verse 13 & 14 says:

“ When the dragon found that he had been thrown down to the earth, he went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male child (Jesus). But the woman was given two great eagles wings, to fly to the place in the wilds where for three years and a half she was to be sustained, out of reach of the serpent.” Rev 12:13, 14

Both of these time periods, 1260 days and 3 1/2 years, based on the context of chapter 12, are in reference to the time of the dark ages, or the 1st reign of the papacy mentioned in Daniel Chapter 7. The time, times and half a time.

It is chapter 12 that links Daniel 7 and Revelation 13. It does so by telling us when the 5th head in chapter 13 of Revelation received its death-blow.

Once again it is important to make the distinction that verses in chapter 13 about the first beast are not in reference to the beast of the dark ages (5th head), but to that beast in its resurrected state (8th head), which takes us back to the 5th trumpet where the abyss is unlocked, to Revelation chapter 11:7 where it says:

“But when the two witnesses have completed their testimony, the beast that **comes up from the abyss** will wage war upon them and will defeat and kill them.” Rev 11:7

This beast of Rev 11 and the 1st beast of Revelation chapter 13 are one and the same, which makes the time period of both chapters 11 and 13 one and the same. The time periods of both chapter 11 and chapter 13 are 42 months (Rev 11:2-3, Rev 13:5). Revelation Chapter 13 verses 7 & 8 are definitely speaking of an end time power, with the phrase:

“...over every tribe and people, language and nation.”

We will see this phrase used again shortly,

“...and all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written on the book of life of the Lamb.” Rev 13:7, 8

All the people of the whole earth did not worship the papal beast during the dark ages, as the people of the Americas, American Indians, are an example. It was to the Americas that people went to escape the papal power.

With Revelation chapter 11 & 13 linked with the 42 months (literal not prophetic) and “**the beast that comes up out of the abyss**” Rev 11:7 and “**whose mortal wound was healed**” Rev 13:3, we now need to speak about the two witnesses of Revelation Chapter 11 and what they represent. I have spoken about this already but will re-visit it here. We learned at the end of

chapter 10 that once again there will come a time when God's people will "utter prophecies over people and nations and languages, and many kings". Rev 10:11

I believe this is in reference to the out pouring of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit. With that said the two witnesses, are the symbolism of this out pouring. What will be the purpose of this out pouring of the Holy Spirit at the end of time? To prepare the people of the world to make their final decision for or against God. Revelation chapter 11 says that these two witnesses are "dressed in sackcloth" meaning their witness will be done in very trying and turbulent times, which once again ties into chapter 13 and the first 5 trumpet judgments of chapters 8 & 9. What is the basic premise of Revelation chapter 13? It is the return of a persecuting church power backed by the state. It is the persecution and killing of God's true people. It is a decision making time where a person has to decide whether or not to go along with this persecuting power (receiving the mark of the beast) or standing for God (receiving the seal of God). So if Revelation chapter 11 and 13 are talking about the same time period, then the later rain of the Holy Spirit will be poured out and two opposing forces will be working against each other in very real and tangible ways. I hope you are getting the logic that I am applying to the book of Revelation. You may not see it at first reading of this book but go back over it with the Bible in your hand and study what I am trying to teach you.

"One of its heads appeared to have received a death-blow; but the mortal wound was healed. The whole world went after the beast in wondering admiration." Rev 13:3

I will speak more about the timing of this beast whose deadly wound is healed when we get to chapter 17 but suffice for now to say that the wound has not been healed yet as of 04/04/2011.

After the deadly wound is healed, or after the beast ascends out of the abyss, the Bible says that the whole world went after the beast.

"Men worshipped the dragon because he had conferred his authority upon the beast; they worshipped the beast also, and chanted, 'Who is like the Beast? Who can fight against it?'" Rev 13:4

What this is basically saying is by worshipping or following after the beast, the papal system (pope), the people are really worshipping the dragon which represents Satan. Satan uses the beast to gain worship. The people are praising and admiring the beast.

"The beast was allowed to mouth bombast and blasphemy, and was given the right to reign for forty-two months." Rev 13:5

Here the beast is making unjustified claims as to its excellence and claiming the prerogative of God or even claiming to be God. Once again this beast is allowed to reign for forty-two months. The same 42 months as the beast of chapter 11. This beast in chapter 13 is the same beast that came up from the abyss in chapter 11. Chapter 13 is just giving the reader more information about the beast that they read about in chapter 11.

The identifying marks are:

1. Forty-two month reign.
2. The beast that came up from the abyss and whose deadly wound was healed.

These clearly link these two chapters together as the same time period. If you are honest with yourself and the text, this time period cannot be in the past. It has to be in the future. The next several verses in chapter 13 makes this clear.

“It opened its mouth in blasphemy against God, reviling his name and his heavenly dwelling.” Rev 13:6

Once again this beast is speaking blasphemy and abusing the name of God and God’s tabernacle. The beast abuses God’s tabernacle by claiming to be able to forgive sin. By doing so, it causes people not to go to God Himself and to His tabernacle to have their sins forgiven. As a result their sins are NOT forgiven and are still upon their record books in heaven where they will be counted against them on their judgment day.

“It was also allowed to wage war on God’s people and to defeat them, and was granted authority over every tribe and people, language and nation.” Rev 13:7

This verse once again ties chapter 13 with chapter 11 with this waging of war on God’s people. The wording in both 11:7 and 13:7 are almost identical. These are not two separate and unrelated events, they are the same. The question is, why is the beast waging war with the saints or God’s people? What are they doing that would cause the ire of the beast? The answer can be found in chapter 14 when we get there.

This verse also says that the beast was granted authority over every tribe and people, language and nations. This is clearly speaking of some future time and not the time of the dark ages in the past. This beast will have power over the whole world and not just Europe. Something will cause the leaders of the world, those who have the crowns (Rev 13:1), to give authority to this beast. Verse 7 says that the beast was granted authority over everyone. This authority is given by the leaders of the world. What caused them to do this? The trumpet judgments found in chapters 8 and 9.

“All on earth will worship it, except those whose names the Lamb that was slain keeps in his roll of the living, written there since the world was made.” Rev 13:8

First of all, this verse should read, All on earth will worship it, except those whose names the Lamb, that was slain since the world was made, keeps in his roll of the living.

This is the third time that worship is emphasized with regards to the beast. It should be obvious that only God deserves worship, and the fact that the people are giving the beast worship proves that their names are not written in the book of life. This whole controversy between God and Satan is about worship which is clear from these verses.

What is this roll of the living? Only people who claim to have accepted Jesus as their saviour get their names written in the roll of the living. People who never accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour do not have their names written in the roll of the living. Notice that the text says that only those who the Lamb keeps in the roll of the living do not worship the beast. This would indicate that some names were on the roll of the living but were removed at some point in time. This is done during the investigative judgment process, prior to the 2nd coming of Jesus, of all whose names are written in the book of the living. Those whose names are kept on the roll of the living will inherit eternal life. So this will mean that there will be some who claim to be

Christians who will worship the beast even though warned against doing so. See Rev 14 later.

“Hear, you who have ears to hear! Whoever is to be made prisoner, a prisoner he shall be. Whoever takes the sword to kill, by the sword he is bound to be killed. This is where the fortitude and faithfulness of God’s people have their place.” Rev 13:9, 10

These two verses can be a little difficult to make sense of but I think the book of Revelation tells us what it means.

Jesus/God uses this phrase “Hear, you who have ears to hear” several time in the bible. This is to call special attention to what just preceded this statement or what is to follow. So it is important to understand what is being told here.

The two subjects are, being made a prisoner and being killed by the sword. If we can answer a couple of questions then the interpretation will be simpler. Who is waging war on God’s people?

By the context of this chapter it is the beast. The beast though is not “personally” waging this war. It is the people who are worshiping the beast who are actually waging this war on a personal basis on behalf of the beast. It is the beast who took the people of the earth prisoners by deceiving them. It is the people who are killing God’s people literally, symbolized by the sword. So, since the beast causes God’s people to become prisoners, the beast must become a prisoner. Since the people are killing the people by the sword, they must be killed with the sword. This is exactly what happens as we read in Rev 19:20, 21

“The beast was taken **prisoner**, and so was the false prophet who had worked miracles in its presence and deluded those that had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image...The rest were **killed with the sword** which went out of the Rider’s mouth” Rev 19:20,21

This will be discussed more when we get to chapter 19.

The last part of Rev 13:10 says:

“This is where the fortitude and faithfulness of God’s people have their place.”

The fortitude and faithfulness of God’s people, in the face of being taken prisoner and being killed, will be tested during this time. It will be a very trying time for God’s people. Even though God will allow the vast majority of them to be killed during this time, God has not forsaken them. If they faithfully proclaim the 3 angel’s messages, even in the face of death and imprisonment, God will give them shiny white robes. There will be many of God’s people still in Babylon that need to be called out. It will be those who know the truth of God’s word that are called to call them out. This will be the hardest test that God’s people, who know the truth, will ever have to face. If they give in to the beast they will be lost forever, but if they remain faithful to God, even though they die, they will inherit eternal life.

“Then I saw another beast, which came up out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb’s, but spoke like a dragon.” Rev 13:11

Suffice it to say that the standard SDA teaching about this beast applies, so this is the United States of America.

“It wielded all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship this first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed.” Rev 13:12

The United States will be the main power that will enforce the authority of the first beast that it has been given. The United States will cause ALL the inhabitants of the world to worship this first beast whose mortal wound had been healed. It was the 5th head of this beast that received the mortal wound. The 4th head was Rome; the 5th head was papal Rome. It will be the persecuting power of papal Rome that will once again come back to life during this time.

“It worked great miracles, even making fire come down from heaven to earth before men’s eyes. By the miracles it was allowed to perform in the presence of the beast it deluded the inhabitants of the earth, and made them erect an image in honor of the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived.” Rev 13:13, 14

Fire coming down from heaven, in the Old Testament, was proof of God’s favor on a sacrifice offering. Making fire come down from heaven then, whether literal or symbolic, simply means they counterfeit God’s approval and deceive. Suffice it to say that these two beasts work in tandem to accomplish the goal of destroying God’s people.

Paul has some remarks on this subject found in 2 Thes. 2:9-12

“But the coming of that wicked man is the work of Satan. It will be attended by all the powerful signs and miracles of the Lie, and all the deception that sinfulness can impose on those doomed to destruction. Destroyed they shall be, because they did not open their minds to love of the truth, so as to find salvation. Therefore God puts them under a delusion, which works upon them to believe the lie, so that they may all be brought to judgement, all who do not believe the truth but make sinfulness their deliberate choice.”
2 Thes. 2:9-12

“It was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that it could speak, and could cause all who would not worship the image to be put to death.” Rev 13:15

The verses of 14 and 15 have reference to Daniel 3 where Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and ordered everyone to worship this golden image or be thrown into the blazing furnace. Whether or not the image erected in Rev 13 is a literal image or symbolic has little importance. The whole idea of all these verses has to do with worship of something or someone other than the God of heaven. This is forced worship. You either worship the beast or his image or you die. These verses tell us just how desperate Satan is in drawing all people away from God.

“Moreover, it caused everyone, great and small, rich and poor, slave and free, to be branded with a mark on his right hand or forehead, and no one was allowed to buy or sell unless he bore this beast’s mark, either name or number.” Rev 13:16,17

This mark is not a literal mark that one can see, just as the seal of God cannot be seen. The mark of the beast and the seal of God is really a mental choice that a person makes as to who he or she

will follow or be loyal to. The person who receives the seal of God chooses to believe God's word and follows Him by being obedient, receiving the Holy Spirit, and having their lives transformed which brings glory to God. Those who receive the mark of the beast on their forehead choose to believe the beast and continue to follow after him. Those who receive the mark of the beast on their right hand will be those who do not necessarily believe the beast, but go along with his dictates in order to avoid punishment by the beast.

“Here is the key; and anyone who has intelligence may work out the number of the beast. The number represents a man's name, and the numerical value of its letters is six hundred and sixty-six.” Rev 13:18

So the beast is really only a man and the value of his name or title is 666. The beast is the position of the pope. The title of the pope in Latin is Vicarius Filii Dei. When you add up the letters of this title, based on the Roman Numerals, you come up with:

V = 5	F = 0	D = 500	
I = 1	I = 1	E = 0	
C = 100	L = 50	I = 1	
A = 0	I = 1		
R = 0	I = 1		
I = 1			
U = 5 (V and U have the same value)			
<u>S = 0</u>			
112	+ <u>53</u>	+ <u>501</u>	= 666

This number, along with other identifying characteristics given in Revelation, and there is no denying that the position of the pope (papal system) is the beast.

Ezekiel 28 is a very interesting chapter that has reference to the book of Revelation. Ezekiel 28 is in reference to the beast/papacy (verses 1-10), Satan (verses 11-19) Vatican City (verses 20-23) and the New Jerusalem (verses 24-26). Go read that chapter and see if that seems right to you.

With reference to the beast/papacy, verses 6 through 8 are in clear reference to the demise of the papacy in 1798, and where the 5th head/papacy is after 1798.

“Therefore these are the words of the Lord God: Because you try to think the thoughts of a god I will bring strangers against you, the most ruthless of nations, who will draw their swords against your fine wisdom and lay your pride in the dust, sending you down to the pit to die a death of disgrace on the high seas.” Ezk 28:6-8

The high seas being the people of Europe where the beast comes out of originally.

The pit mentions in verse 8 is the pit (abyss) that the beast of Rev 11 comes out of.

Revelation 14

(Story is still on hold)

As I mentioned earlier, chapter 14 also is dealing with the literal time period of the 42 months of chapter 11 and 13 and beyond, giving us some details from the perspective of God's people and what they will be doing during this time. Chapter 14 repeats and enlarges what we read in Chapter 11, even the 7th trumpet.

“Then I looked, and on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him were a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. I heard a sound from heaven like the noise of rushing water and the deep roar of thunder; it was the sound of harpers playing on their harps. There before the throne, and the four living creatures and the elders, they were singing a new song. That song no one could learn except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who alone from the whole world had been ransomed. These are men who did not defile themselves with women, for they have kept themselves chaste, and they follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been ransomed as the firstfruits of humanity for God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their lips; they are faultless.” Rev 14:1-5

For the meaning of Rev 14:1-5 see my booklet on the 144,000 for an in-depth study. This book can be purchased on Amazon as a kindle book. But as a quick note, these people are seen in heaven before the 2nd coming of Christ, which takes place a little later in this chapter. These people were resurrected with Christ and were taken to heaven with Him, as a down payment on the future resurrection at the end of time. These people are the true firstfruits as described at the beginning of chapter 7.

The Three Angels Message

This now brings us to the 3 angel's messages and how it ties into this very same time period of the 42 months we spoke of in chapters 11 and 13.

First Angels Message

“Then I saw an angel flying in mid-heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those on earth, to every nation and tribe, language and people. He cried in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and pay him homage (give him glory) for the hour of his judgement has come! Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the water-springs!’” Rev 14:6,7

The first of the angel's messages delivers a message that brings distinction between the beast and the God of heaven. According to chapter 13 the whole world went after the beast in wondering admiration, giving it homage as it were. Espousing the theory of evolution. But the message that will be given during this time by God's witnesses will be about who we owe our allegiance to, God, the creator, the maker of the heavens and the earth. The one who is about to bring judgment on the living people of this earth. The judgment of the dead is wrapping up that started in Oct of 1844, and the judgment of the living is about to begin. This message begins to be preached in earnest by the power of the Holy Spirit at the onset of the 1st trumpet judgment.

Joel makes a comment on this exact time period during the last days and the Holy Spirit being poured out.

“Thereafter the day shall come when I will pour out my spirit on all mankind; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy your old men shall dream dreams and your young men see visions; I will pour out my spirit in those days even upon slaves and slave-girls. I will show portents in the sky and on earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who invokes the Lord by name shall be saved: for when the Lord gives the word there shall yet be survivors on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem a remnant whom the Lord will call.” Joel 2:28-32

“The roar of multitudes, multitudes, in the Valley of Decision! The day of the Lord is at hand in the Valley of Decision; sun and moon are darkened and the stars forbear to shine. The Lord roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; heaven and earth shudder, but the Lord is a refuge for his people and the defense of Israel.” Joel 3:14-16

The preaching of the 3 angel’s message during this end time, brings people to the “Valley of Decision”, worship God or worship the beast.

Notice the activity upon the earth in both of Joel’s comments. The Holy Spirit will be poured out at the onset of these cataclysmic events that take place during the trumpet judgments. And the purpose of it all is to bring people to make a final decision about who they will worship.

Second Angels Message

“Then another angel, a second, followed, and he cried, ‘Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all nations drink the fierce wine of her fornication!’” Rev 14:8

This message brings the accusations against Babylon which we will see later as riding the scarlet colored beast. Babylon is seen as fallen, its power taken away. The whole world is said to have been taken in by its teaching (wine) because of its illicit relationship (fornication) with the beast. (This portion of Babylon falls just before the beast is given “all authority”. See 17:16. This is where the system falls. The beast abandons the Catholic Church.)

These two messages are meant to wake up the people of the world to the reality of the situation. To cause them to come out of their drunken stupor and place their trust in God. God is still compassionate at this time and their fate is not yet sealed, but time is very short.

Third Angels Message

“Yet a third angel followed, crying out loud, ‘Whoever worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or hand, he shall drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured undiluted into the cup of his vengeance. He shall be tormented in sulphurous flames before the holy angels and before the Lamb. The smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever and there will be no respite day or night for those who worship the beast and its image or receive the mark of its name.’” Rev 14:9, 10, 11

This is God’s final warning to the people of the earth; there will be such a manifestation of Holiness among God’s remnant people as they share these three messages around the world that

they will be left without excuse.

In these verses you can see how it ties into the 42 months of chapter 13 when it speaks of receiving the mark of the beast. It is only during these 42 months that any person can receive the mark of the beast. While God loves and cares for everyone, He cannot let sin and wickedness go unchallenged any more. He has to restore the universe back to a peaceful place.

For people to be asked to make a choice, there has to be more than one option, otherwise the person really doesn't have a choice. What is the one option that is available in Revelation chapter 13? Whether or not the person will follow the beast and accept his mark. Where does any other option come in? It does not mention it in so many words in chapter 13 but it does so by the true people of God all around the world who the beast was allowed to wage war on. This war was not being waged on Christians who were hiding themselves inside their homes or fleeing to the mountains, but on God's true children who were standing up for and proclaiming the 3 angels messages found in Revelation 14. With the out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon God's true children, they will be speaking boldly for God and in opposition to the beast's agenda. Like Peter on the day of Pentecost, they will be speaking the truth of God, the Gospel of the 1st angel's message. They will be speaking of the fall of Babylon which just recently happened or will be happening, found in the 2nd angel's message. They will be speaking out boldly to the people about the consequences of following the beast and accepting his mark, found in the 3rd angel's message. At no greater time in the history of this world will these messages be more relevant, than during the trumpet judgements. The first Angel's message will be preached during the first 4 trumpets, the 2nd angels message will be preached just before the 42 month time period. And the 3rd angel's message will be preached during these 3 1/2 years (42 months). The last phase of the time of trouble, following close behind the 5th trumpet.

“This is where the fortitude of God's people has its place — in keeping God's command and remaining loyal to Jesus.” Rev 14:12

This verse has reference to Rev 13:10 which ties these two chapters together.

“This is where the fortitude and faithfulness of God's people have their place.” Rev 13:10

Those who have been keeping the commandments of God and have remained loyal to Jesus are the ones who will come out on top. Yes, they may die during this time, but they will live again to inherit eternal life.

As we read in chapter 11 and 13, the beast will seem to have gained the victory by overcoming God's people.

“But when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war upon them and will defeat and kill them” Rev 11:7.

“It [the beast] was also allowed to wage war on God's people and to defeat them and was granted authority over every tribe and people, language and nation” Rev 13:7.

Don't be fooled into believing that God's righteous people will not be killed during this time. These two verses are very clear. All may not die, but a good majority will.

But this victory, by the beast, is short lived. As stated in Revelation 11, the victory celebration of the people who followed the beast only lasts 3 1/2 days, while the dead and dying bodies of God's children are lying in the streets.

“For three days and a half, men from every people and tribe, of every language and nation, gaze upon their corpses and refused them burial.” (This is obviously not the results of the French Revolution. That was only one nation, one people.) “All men on earth gloated over them, make marry, and exchange presents: for these two prophets [The old and new testaments as preached by God's people] were a torment to the whole earth.” Rev 11:9-10.

You can see that this is a worldwide event. God's remnant people all over the world will be presenting the 3 angel's messages to a dying world in a hope to save some out of the hands of the beast. After the 3 1/2 days, at the end of the 3 1/2 years or 42 months of this beasts reign, the second coming of Christ appears. Revelation chapter 11 & 14 agree on this point.

“But at the end of the three days and a half, the breath of life from God came into them and they stood up on their feet to the terror of all who saw it. Then a loud voice was heard speaking to them from heaven, which said, ‘come up here!’ and they went up to heaven in a cloud, in full view of their enemies.” Rev 11:11-12.

After giving the 3rd angels message it says:

“Moreover I heard a voice from heaven, saying, ‘write this: Happy are the dead who die in the faith of Christ! Hence forth they may rest from their labors; for they take with them the records of their deeds’” Rev 14:13.

This verse tells us that most, if not all, of God's people will be killed by the end of the 42 months. The very next verse in chapter 14 starts the description of the 2nd coming of Christ.

The Second Coming of Christ

“Then as I looked, there appeared a white cloud, and on the cloud sat one like the son of man. He had on his head a crown of gold and in his hand a sharp sickle. Another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud: ‘Stretch out your sickle and reap, for harvest time has come, and earth's crop is over-ripe.’ So he who sat on the cloud put his sickle to the earth and it's harvest was reaped.” Rev 14:14-16.

This is the harvest of the righteous. Both the righteous dead and living.

“For this we tell you as the Lord's word: we who are left alive until the Lord comes shall not forestall those who have died; because at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet-call, the Lord himself will descend from heaven; first the Christian dead will rise, then we who are left alive shall join them, caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thes. 4:15-18

Just prior to the death of the two witnesses (God's remnant people who were preaching the old and new testaments), probation will have closed, the judgment of those whose names were

written in the Lambs Book of Life will have finished, and ALL of God's people whose names still remain in the Lambs Book of Life will have been sealed, including any who chose to come out of Babylon.

The end of probation is when Seventh-day Adventists believe that the time of Jacobs trouble begins and lasts all the way to the end of the 7 last plagues. See *The Great Controversy* chapter 39 "The time of trouble". As I have stated before, the time of Jacobs's trouble takes place during the 6 trumpet judgments. It does not extend into the 7 last plagues.

"The second woe has now passed. But the third is soon to come." Rev. 11:14

The release of the 4 angels and the 2nd Coming of Christ in chapter 11 closes the events of the 6th trumpet, the 2nd woe.

The seventh trumpet is then blown to usher in the seven last plagues and the judgment and final destruction of the wicked. Rev 11:15-19

Anybody with an honest mind who is able to think logically should be able to discern that chapter 11 has absolutely nothing to do with the French revolution. The fact that Rev 11:15 has a voice from heaven SHOUTING:

'The sovereignty of the world has passed to our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever!' Rev 11:15

Should tell anyone clearly that this chapter has nothing to do with the French revolution. Certainly, Christ did not enter His reign forever and ever at the end of the French revolution. Clearly chapter 11 happens at the very end of time.

Rev 11:18 ties in perfectly to Rev 14:17-19

"The nations raged, but thy day of retribution has come. Now is the time for the dead to be judged; now is the time for recompense to thy servants the prophets, to thy dedicated people, and all who honor thy name, both great and small, the time to destroy those who destroy the earth." Rev 11:18

The rest of chapter 14 from Rev 14:17 show Rev 11:19 from a different angle or point of view. Even the meaning of the 7 last plagues. The story is still on hold as John is now shown an expanded view of Rev. 11:19.

"Then God's temple in heaven was laid open, and within the temple was seen the ark of his covenant. There came flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a storm of hail." Rev 11:19

This verse is the condensed version of the 7 last plagues as I will discuss later, which is the subject of the rest of chapter 14.

"Then another angel came out of the heavenly temple and he also had a sharp sickle. Then from the altar came yet another, the angel who has authority over fire, and he shouted to the one with the sharp sickle: 'stretch out your sickle, and gather in earth's

grape harvest, for its clusters are ripe.’ So the angel put his sickle to the earth and gathered in its grapes, and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath” Rev 14:17-19.

Once again Joel comments on this time period of the harvest of the wicked after the 2nd coming of Christ.

“Ply the sickle, for the harvest is ripe; come, tread the grapes, for the press is full and the vats overflow; great is the wickedness of the nations.” Joel 3:13

This harvesting of the wicked does not take place at the same time as the righteous are redeemed at the 2nd coming of Christ, but at a later time as you will see later. You will notice in this event that an angel has the sickle and not Jesus. This angel represents the seven angels of the 7 last plagues.

“The winepress was trodden outside the city, and for two hundred miles around blood flowed from the press to the height of the horses bridles.” Rev 14:20

The description of the blood and how deep and wide it flowed is given in order to suggest the magnitude of how many people will be lost.

This is the end of chapter 14. The story that was put on pause at the end of chapter 11 is still on hold as we move into chapter 15.

Revelation 15

Rev 15:1 explains that the wrath of God, as stated in the latter part of chapter 14, is made up of the 7 last plagues. This is how His wrath is made complete. This Chapter is another expanded view of Rev. 11:19.

“Then I saw another great and astonishing portent in heaven: seven angels with 7 plagues, the last plagues of all, for with them the wrath of God is consummated.” Rev 15:1

I know this is hard for you to take in and believe, because this is not what you have been taught, but I believe I have laid down a logical and detailed account of the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th chapters of Revelation and how they interrelate to one another. It is now up to you to take the time to study for yourself along with this book to see if it is so. If you have an open mind and let the Holy Spirit lead, you will find that it is.

As we move into the 15th chapter of Revelation it is clear that God’s people are in heaven before the seven last plagues begin. This small section of chapter 15 is still expanded information of what we saw and heard in chapter 11. This is additional information about the righteous and where they are. This information is validation of where God’s people are just prior to the 7 last plagues.

“I saw what seemed a sea of glass shot with fire, and beside the sea of glass, holding the harps which God had given them, were those who had won the victory over the beast and its image and the number of its name. They were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God and the song of the Lamb as they chanted:

‘Great and marvelous are thy deeds, O Lord God, sovereign over all; just and true are thy ways, thou king of the ages. Who shall not revere thee, Lord, and do homage to thy name? For thou alone art holy. All nations shall come and worship in thy presence, for thy just dealings stand revealed’” Rev 15:2, 3, 4

I want you to notice here that the people holding the harps are those who won the victory over the beast and its image and the number of its name. Also notice where these people are. Obviously they are in heaven. These are the very same people who during the 42 months spoken of in chapters 11 and 13 put their lives on the line to proclaim God’s last warning messages to the world, and those who came out of Babylon. These are not the 144,000. Chapter 7 shows us two groups of saved people in the sequence that they are saved. Chapter 14 & 15 shows these same two groups in the same sequence.

The very next thing John sees after he sees Gods children in heaven (verses 2-4), is the doors of the Heavenly Sanctuary thrown open and out comes the 7 angels with the 7 last plagues. We saw this same sequence of events in chapter 11 verse 19. Once again the story is on hold as John is now given another expanded view of Chapter 11 verse 19.

“After this, as I looked, the sanctuary of the heavenly Tent of Testimony was thrown open, and out of it came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were robed in fine linen, clean and shining, and had golden girdles round their breasts. Then one of the four

living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives for ever and ever; and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and his power, so that no one could enter it until the seven plagues of the seven angels were complete.” Rev 15:5-8

Verse 7 once again links these 7 last plagues to Rev 14:19.

“Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who live forever and ever;” Rev 15:7.

This expanded view of Rev 11 verse 19 continues on into chapter 16.

Revelation 16

Rev 14:20 is the condensed version of Rev 16 which describes the seven last plagues. Rev 15:8 is an indication that everyone on earth has been judged, for it says that “no one (man) could enter it (the sanctuary) until the seven plagues were completed.” There is no second chance for those left on earth. Their destiny has been determined, and they themselves determined it and not God. They have refused to heed the warning of the 3 angel’s messages presented by God’s people during those 42 months or 3 1/2 years.

Revelation chapter 16 begins the pouring out of the 7 last plagues.

“Then from the sanctuary I heard a loud voice, and it said to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.’” Rev 16:1

These judgments are very severe and very literal. The first judgment was malignant sores on everyone.

“So the first angel went and poured his bowl on the earth; and foul malignant sores appeared on those men that wore the mark of the beast and worshipped its image.” Rev 16:2

Here we see that, as God warned, those that took the mark of the beast and worshiped its image receive the plagues. These are the only people left on earth. The righteous are in heaven.

Judgment 2 and 3 turns all the water sources to blood.

“The second angel poured his bowl on the sea, and it turned to blood like the blood from a corpse; and every living thing in the sea died. The third angel poured his bowl on the rivers and springs, and they turned to blood.” Rev 16:3, 4

Before we come to the 4th plague something very significant is said that backs up what I said about most of Gods children being killed near the end of the 3 1/2 years.

“Then I heard the angel of the waters say ‘Just art thou in these thy judgments, thou Holy One who art and wast; for they shed the blood of thy people and of thy prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink. They have their [just] deserts!’” Rev 16:5, 6.

It is saying that “these” people, those alive at this time, have killed Gods people. This is talking real present tense not in times past. Then verse 7 is the real clincher. I will quote the NEB and the KJV to help make it clear.

“And I heard the Alter Cry, ‘yes, Lord God, sovereign over all, true and just are thy judgments!’” Rev 16:7 NEB

“And I heard another out of the Alter say, ‘Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.’” Rev 16:7 KJV.

The voice from the Alter is in direct reference to Rev 6:9-11 which is the 5th seal.

“When he broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the Alter the souls of those who had been slaughtered for Gods word and for the testimony they bore. They gave a great cry: ‘How long, sovereign Lord, holy and true, must it be before thou wilt vindicate us and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?’ Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the tally should be complete of all their brothers in Christ's service who were to be killed as they had been.” Rev 6:9-11.

The slaughter of God’s people at the end of time is what the saints under the Alter, those killed for their testimony during the dark ages, were told to wait for. At the end of time Gods people will also be killed for their testimony (three angels messages). Those under the Alter finely see, figuratively, God avenge their blood in plagues 2 and 3.

The fourth bowl is poured on the sun and the men of earth were fearfully burned.

“The fourth angel poured his bowl on the sun; and it was allowed to burn men with its flames. They were fearfully burned; but they only cursed the name of God who had the power to inflict such plagues, and they refused to repent or do him homage.” Rev 16:8, 9

“The fifth angel poured his bowl on the throne of the beast and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony, but they only cursed the God of heaven for their sores and pains and would not repent of what they had done.” Rev 16:10, 11.

This is the 2nd phase of the fall of Babylon the Great. We will find out later in chapter 17, that Babylon is made up of two things. The first is the scarlet woman or the Catholic Church and the 2nd is that great city where the throne of the beast is. If you recall, the scarlet woman or church fell just before or at the very beginning of the 42 month reign of the beast that came out of the abyss or bottomless pit.

It seems that these plagues come in a rather fast manner because they are still suffering the pain of their sores and burns.

“The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates; and its water was dried up; to prepare the way for the kings from the east.” Rev 16:12.

This plague is not really a plague but a word picture to take us back in time, mentally, to when Cyrus conquered Babylon in Daniel chapter 5. Cyrus was the man from the east as mentioned in Isa. 41:2.

“I say of Jerusalem, ‘she shall be inhabited once more’ and of the cities of Judah, ‘they shall be rebuilt; all their ruins I will restore.’ I say to the deep waters, ‘Be dried up; I will make your streams run dry.’ I say to Cyrus, ‘you shall be my shepherd to carry out all my purpose, so that Jerusalem may be rebuilt and the foundations of the temple may be laid.’ Thus says the Lord to Cyrus, his anointed, Cyrus whom he has taken by the hand to subdue nations before him and undo the might of kings; before whom gates shall be opened and no doors be shut; I will go before you and level the swelling hills, I will break down gates of bronze and hack through iron bars.” Isa. 44:26-45:2.

Read the account written by Herodotus, the Greek historian at www.bible-prohecy.net/articles/a2pws.htm

This word picture of Rev 16:12 is telling us that once more Babylon will be conquered, Spiritual Babylon this time. Cyrus, who came from the east, was the “Good Guy”. Under this kingdom Gods people were set free to restore Jerusalem, so the “kings from the east” in Rev 16:12 are the “Good Guys”, King Jesus and His army, which prepare the way for the restoration of Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem. We will talk more about this later.

Still in the time of this sixth angel we see something happening with the dragon, the beast and the false prophet as a result of the river Euphrates being dried up.

“Then I saw coming from the mouth of the dragon, the mouth of the beast, and the mouth of the false prophet, three foul spirits like frogs.” Rev 16:13.

Historically Seventh-day Adventists have interpreted this to indicate an influx of spiritualism near the end of time, but this is not what this means. As I have already discussed with you, this time period that we are reading about is after ALL of Gods people are in heaven. Verse 14 tell us exactly what verse 13 means.

“These spirits were devils, with power to work miracles. They were sent out to muster all the kings of the world for the great day of battle of God the Sovereign Lord. So they assembled the kings at the place called in Hebrew Armageddon.” Rev 16:14-16.

Let’s take a short pause here and reflect on this verse and what it means. To do that I want to take you to the Old Testament book of 1 Kings, Chapter 18. This chapter, in a nut shell, is describing what is going on during the last days. Let’s start with verse 17.

“As soon as Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, ‘Is it you, you troubler of Israel?’ ‘It is not I who have troubled Israel,’ he replied, ‘but you and your father’s family, by forsaking the commandments of the Lord and following Baal.’ 1 Kings 18:17, 18

During the last days of this earth, especially during the 42 months, the so called Christian world will be blaming God’s remnant people for troubling the world and causing the catastrophes of the trumpet judgments by being true to God and being loyal to Him and His Sabbath. But who is the true troubler of the world? Those who have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed after Baal (Mark of the Beast).

“‘But now, send and summon all Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel, and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal with them and the four hundred prophets of the goddess Asherah, who are Jezebel’s pensioners.’ So Ahab sent out to all the Israelites and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.” 1 Kings 18:19,20

Rev 16:16 “So they assembled the kings at the place called in Hebrew Armageddon” is the end time version of 1 kings 18:19, 20, the showdown between the God of heaven and the gods of Baal and Asherah. Mount Carmel is in the valley of Migido where the word Armageddon is derived from.

“Elijah stepped forward and said to the people, ‘How long will you sit on the fence? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him’ “. 1 Kings 18:21

This is basically what the 3 angel’s messages is all about. Who is the real God and who are you going to follow, the true or the false? After Elijah proved that the God of heaven was the true God, he killed all the prophets of Baal, and Asherah. The battle of Armageddon is the counter part of this story but on a grander scale.

The miracle that these spirits performed was to bring everyone alive on earth (all are kings) to one point on the globe for this battle we like to call Armageddon. This will be made clear when we get to Rev chapter 19. This could be figurative language for the spirits deceiving everyone to believe victory can be theirs, and everyone stays were they are at, but preparing for battle.

Verse 15 of Rev 16, which says in part, “Behold I come as a thief.” KJV is out of context to what is being discussed and has nothing to do with this time period under discussion. It is thrown in here to remind the reader that Jesus will be coming (2nd coming) when you don’t expect Him, so be ready lest you find yourself in this battle. This will be the 3rd coming of Jesus. We can tell verse 15 has nothing to do with this discussion because the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet are expecting and waiting for Jesus to come. This would be Christ third coming.as I said

“(That is the day when I come as a thief! Happy the man who stays awake and keeps on his clothes, so that he will not have to go naked and ashamed for all to see!!) Rev 16:15
NEB

To understand this verse a little better, we need to reference a couple of verse. The first would be Rev 3:18 which says in part:

“So I advise you to buy from me...white clothes to put on to hide the shame of your nakedness...”

and the other would be all the way back to Genesis 3 where it say this:

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they discovered that they were naked...But the Lord called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He replied, ‘I heard the sound as you were walking in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ Gen 3:7, 9

Nakedness is a symbol of unrighteousness.

This concludes the end of the sixth plague. As all the wicked people, the only people left on earth, are being miraculously gathered at Armageddon, for the great day of battle (Rev 19:11-21), the seventh angel pours his bowl on the air and the 7th plague is administered.

“Then the seventh angel poured his bowl on the air; and out of the sanctuary (of heaven) came a loud voice from the throne, which said ‘It is over!’ and there followed flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, and a violent earthquake, like none before it in human history, so violent it was. The Great City was split in three; the cities of the world fell in ruin; and God did not forget Babylon the great, but made her drink the cup which was filled with the fierce wine of his vengeance. Every island vanished; there was not a

mountain to be seen. (In other words they were flattened.) Huge hail stones, weighing perhaps a hundred weight, fell on men from the sky; and they cursed God for the plague of hail, because that plague was so severe.” Rev 16:17-21.

This is very curious. Verses 18 and 21 sound almost identical to Rev 11:19

“and there followed flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, and a violent earthquake...Huge hail stones weighing perhaps a hundred weight, fell on men from the sky;” Rev 16:18,21

“Then God’s temple in heaven was laid open, and within the temple was seen the ark of his covenant. There came flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a storm of hail.” Rev 11:19

This obviously has to be in reference to the same time period, don’t you think?

With this observation, it is very clear that Rev 11:19 is the condensed version of Rev 15:5 thru 16:21

I also want you to notice, that in both Rev 11:19 and Rev 15:5, the temple in heaven is laid open or was thrown open, indicating that the investigative judgment has been completed, and the seven last plagues are about to be administered.

The seven last plagues make up the 3rd woe, the 7th trumpet judgment.

The seven last plagues have come to their end and people are still alive on the earth, cursing God.

If God’s people were still on earth during these plagues, don’t you find it just a little curious that there is not one single mention of what is happening to them during these plagues? This is further evidence that they are not on earth during this time.

Revelation 17

The end time story that John has been seeing in 3D Surround Sound, is still on hold. John has been shown a lot of information about the beast and his end time doings and now, the angel, one of the actors in the vision, is going to give John some explanation of what he has been seeing. We know this because Rev. 17:1 says

“Then one of the seven angels that held the seven bowls came and spoke to me and said, ‘come, and I will show you the judgment on the great whore, enthroned above the ocean.’” Rev 17:1

The angel is going to put some meat on the bones, so to speak, as he gives John a more detailed account about the beast he saw way back in chapter 13. The angel first starts off with the story of the great whore and what she has done.

“The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and on the wine of her fornication men all over the world have made themselves drunk.” Rev. 17:2

This is in direct reference to the 2nd angel’s message found in Rev 14:8. In other words, the kings (rulers) of the world have had illicit relationships with Babylon, the Catholic Church. Kings and rulers are set up by God, Rom. 13:1, 2, and as such, they owe their allegiance to God, but they have instead aligned themselves with Babylon and against God (fornication). Thus causing the teachings (wine) of the Catholic church to make men drunk (confused, ill-informed about the truth of God’s word) all over the world. Once again the angel opens before John a video where John sees a woman on a scarlet colored beast.

“In the spirit he carried me way into the wilds, and there I saw a woman mounted on a scarlet beast which was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.” Rev. 17:3

This is the same beast as described in Rev 13:1. Then John describes the woman as he saw her.

“The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet and bedizened with gold and jewels and pearls. In her hand she held a gold cup, full of obscenities and the foulness of her fornication; and written on her forehead was a name with a secret meaning: ‘Babylon the great, the mother of whores and of every obscenity on earth.’” Rev 17:4, 5

Babylon represents the Catholic Church.

In verse 6 John says:

“the woman, I saw, was drunk with the blood of Gods people and with the blood of those who had borne their testimony to Jesus.” Rev 17:6

This verse has reference to the dark ages when the Catholic church killed a great number of Gods people, but it is more likely to be a reference to the slaughter of Gods people spoken of in chapter 11:7 and chapter 13:7, at the end of the 3 1/2 year reign of the beast that comes out of the bottomless pit.

“Those who had borne their testimony (martyrs) to Jesus” Rev. 17:6 last half, no doubt is referring to those who participate in the proclamation of the 3 angels message during the 3 1/2 years just mentioned.

The angel is now going to explain to John about the beast that the great whore is riding. This section is very KEY to this whole discussion. I have referred to this section earlier when I was speaking of the beast in chapter 11. This section is in reference to the beast in chapter 11 and chapter 13. Verse 8 of Rev 17 clearly associates the beast of chapter 11 with this description of the beast in this section.

“As I looked at her I was greatly astonished. But the angel said to me, ‘Why are you so astonished? I will tell you the secret of the woman and of the beast she rides, with seven heads and the ten horns. The beast you have seen (chaps. 11,13) is he who once was alive, and is alive no longer, but has yet to ASCEND OUT OF THE ABYSS (BOTTOMLESS PIT) before going to perdition. Those on earth whose names have not been inscribed in the roll of the living ever since the world was made will all be astonished to see the beast; for he once was alive, and is alive no longer, and has still to appear.’” Rev 17:7,8

The angel is making it perfectly clear that the time period under discussion falls between 1798 and when the beast comes out of the bottomless pit.

As I have explained before, this beast represents the resurrected, persecuting papacy (ascends out of the abyss and whose deadly wound is healed).

“Once was alive” represents the papacy during the dark ages prior to 1798. “And is alive no longer”, represents the non-persecuting papacy post 1798 to some future time, although near. “But has yet to ascend out of the abyss” (as of Sept 17, 2010) or “has still to appear” will be the persecuting papacy revived at some future point in time from Sept 17, 2010.

There will be people alive on earth who have never given their hearts to the Lord, and thus their names are not written on the rolls of the living, but they know the history of the papacy and the Catholic Church. These people will be astonished to see this persecuting power come back to life.

You have been taught that the deadly wound of this beast was healed in 1929 when Mussolini gave power back to the papacy. This was NOT the healing of the deadly wound. More than likely this was the emergence of the 7th head of this beast.

It is in the context of the 5th trumpet when the abyss is unlocked, by Satan, and chapter 11 when this beast (persecuting papacy) is revived and kills Gods people for proclaiming the 3 angels messages.

Verse 8 of Rev. 17 continues to say that even the wicked people, and maybe not so wicked, at any rate, those who do not have their names written in the book of life will be astonished to see this beast (persecuting papacy) come back to life.

“Those on earth whose names have not been inscribed in the roll of the living, ever since the world was made, will be astonished to see the beast;” Rev 17:8 last part.

It is the book of life or the roll of the living that has ever been since the world was made, not people's names written in that book since the world was made.

In Rev. 17:9 the angel starts to give a clue, to those who can interpret it, as to the identity of this beast. As we go to this clue I want you to see that the woman (Catholic Church) and the beast (papacy) are two different entities.

“The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.” Rev 17:9
The Seven Hills of Rome, where the papacy resides, represents the 7 heads of the beast. The woman (Catholic Church) sits on the beast or on the seven hills. The woman (Catholic Church) is driven or controlled by the beast (papacy) not the other way around. This is an important distinction. The woman is “used” by the beast to further his agenda, part of which is to receive worship.

The angel continues with the clue:

“The seven heads also represent seven kings, of whom five have already fallen, one is now reigning, and the other has yet to come; and when he does come he is only to last for a little while.” Rev. 17:10

This phrase “has yet to come” is similar to the 10 kings “who have not yet begun to reign” The beast and the 10 kings arrive on the scene at about the same time.

This verse gives us the time period of which the angel is speaking. He says that 5 of the kings (heads) have fallen. Those 5 heads are Babylon, Media and Persia, Greece, pagan Rome, and persecuting papal Rome, with papal Rome's demise in 1798. So from 1798, the angel says that “one is now reigning” (6th head). This would be the papal system that was started back up in 1800 with Pope Pius VII. This papal system did not have any political power however. It remained in this state until 1929 when Mussolini gave political power back to the papacy, but not church / state power has it once had. Making this political papacy possibly the 7th head of the beast. The reinstatement of the papacy's political power does not constitute the “healing of the deadly wound”. The deadly wound was applied to the persecuting papacy, and the healing of the deadly wound can only be the reinstating of the persecuting papacy. The angel says this king (7th head) will only last for a little while. Rev. 17:10 The 1st papacy's (5th head) reign lasted 1260 years. The 2nd papacy (6th head) reign lasted 131 years. The current papacy's (7th head) reign has lasted 81 years. Short in comparison to the 1260 years of the 1st reign.

The angel continues with the clue to the beast by saying:

“As for the beast that once was alive and is alive no longer, he is an eighth—and yet he is one of the seven, and he is going to perdition.” Rev 17:11

This is the beast/head that John saw in Rev. 11:7 and 13:3.

“One of its heads appeared to have received a death blow; but the mortal wound was healed.” Rev 13:3

And this was the head that was in charge during Rev. 13. This is the eighth head spoken of in Rev. 17 verse 11. This is the revival, coming up out of the abyss, of the 5th head of the beast

which was the persecuting papal power.

The angel continues the clue by speaking of the 10 horns:

“The 10 horns you saw are 10 kings who have not yet begun to reign, but who for one hour are to share with the beast the exercise of royal authority;” Rev 17:12

This means the mixing of church and state once again, thereby forming the persecuting church once again. As of 1798 these kings were not reigning. The kingdoms exist but these particular kings (rulers) are not in power yet, as of 1798. They may very well be in power now, but if not, they will be shortly. These will be the rulers at the end of time.

“They have but a single purpose among them and will confer their power and authority upon the beast.” Rev 17:13 See also Rev 13:7

What is that “single purpose” that the 10 kings (rulers) have? The world at this point in time will have suffered 5 of the 7 literal trumpet judgments upon this world. In an effort to avert any more judgments these 10 kings turn to the papacy for help. God’s faithful people will have begun preaching the 3 angels messages, particularly the 1st angel’s message, trying to save any remaining persons willing to listen and believe, during this time of trouble period of the 5 trumpet judgments. They will be blamed for the judgments falling. The beast, in an effort to quell the falling judgments, will turn on Gods faithful people, killing them. Rev 11:7, Rev 13:7 This turning to the papacy, granting him authority, during this time of trouble will release the beast (to become the eighth head) from the bottomless pit.

Continuing on the angel says:

“They (kings & beast) will wage war upon the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them, for He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and His victory will be shared by His followers, called and chosen and faithful.” Rev 17:14

This verse is in reference to Rev 16:14 where all the kings of the world are mustered for the great day of battle of God the sovereign Lord. I will be talking more about this when we get to Rev 19.

The next clue the angel gives John is the general location of where the whore sits. He says,

“The ocean you saw (Rev 17:1) where the whore sat, is an ocean of peoples, and populations, nations, and languages.” Rev 17:15

This is describing Europe where papal Rome came out of.

The angel then refers back to the 10 horns of the beast that John saw, and tells us more clearly what they and the beast will do during that one hour.

”They together with the beast will come to hate the whore; they will strip her naked and leave her desolate, they will batten on her flesh and burn her to ashes. For God has put it into their heads to carry out his purpose, by making common cause and conferring their sovereignty upon the beast until all that God has spoken is fulfilled.” Rev 17:16, 17

During the middle of the 3 angels messages, during the 42 months or 3 1/2 years mentioned in Rev 11 and 13, Babylon will Fall as the 10 kings and the beast from the bottomless pit will turn on her (the Catholic church). The beast will turn on the Catholic Church and expose her unrighteousness (Strips her naked) taking the focus off of himself. At this point in time the beast no longer needs the church. The church will be used as the beast's scape goat. This fulfills the 2nd Angels message.

“The woman you saw is the great city, that holds sway over the kings of the earth” Rev 17:18

This, along with chapter 18, which tells us the results of this one hour alliance of the beast and the 10 kings, that Vatican City will be destroyed.

Revelation 18

Chapter 18 is a continuation of more details of what John has been shown. It covers from the proclamation of the 2nd Angels message to the end of the 7 last plagues.

“After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven; he came with great authority and the earth was lit up with his splendor. Then in a mighty voice he proclaimed, ‘Fallen, Fallen, is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, for every vile and loathsome bird. For all nations have drunk deep of the fierce wine of her fornication; the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and merchants the world over have grown rich on her bloated wealth.’” Rev 18:1-3

This is the proclamation of the 2nd angels message in Rev 14:8 This is just giving us a more detailed look of this time period. The story line is still on hold as the angel gives John some additional information of what he previously saw. This is describing the fall of the system of the Catholic Church, the whore. Phase 1 of Babylon's fall.

This angel, with its great authority and light represents Gods righteous people faithfully proclaiming the 2nd angels message in a mighty way, with the power of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit, even in the face of great bodily harm to themselves, as they bring light to God's people still in Babylon. This will be a very trying time for God's people as they oppose all earthly authorities in an effort to call out those who are left in Babylon.

“Then I heard another voice from heaven that said: ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins and share in her plagues. For her sins are piled high as heaven, and God has not forgotten her crimes.’” Rev 18:4, 5

This is part of the third angel's message as we move forward in time. God still has people in the Sunday Churches that He needs to call out. These people have been misled and deceived by the beast for many years. If they really trust in God and not in the pope, they will come out. Otherwise they will have to partake of the wrath of God as they were warned.

“The kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and wallowed in her luxury will weep and wail over her, as they see the smoke of her conflagration. They will stand at a distance, for horror at her torment, and will say, ‘Alas, alas for the great city, the mighty city of Babylon! In a single hour your doom has struck!’” Rev 18:9, 10

We moved quickly from the fall of the system to the fall of that great city on which the woman sat, skipping over the details in-between those two separate events. This is describing the 5th and 7th last plagues were the city is destroyed.

“But let heaven exult over her; exult, apostles and prophets and people of God; for in the judgment against her He has vindicated your cause! Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea and said ‘Thus shall Babylon, the great city, be sent hurtling down, never to be seen again!...For the blood of the prophets and of God's people was found in her, the blood of all who had been done to death on earth.’” Rev 18:20, 21, 24

These comments are being delivered to all of God's people who are in heaven at this time during the 7 last plagues. Chapter 19 sort of picks up on these statements and responds with statements of their own.

“Yet a third angel followed, crying out loud, 'whoever worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or hand, he shall drink the wine of Gods wrath, poured undiluted into the cup of His vengeance.’” Rev 14:9-10

Sometime during those 42 months, the beast (pope) will declare himself to be the Christ, performing miracles, deluding the inhabitants of the earth.

“It worked great miracles, even making fire come down from heaven to earth before men's eyes. By the miracles it was allowed to perform in the present of the beast it deluded the inhabitants of the earth.” Rev 13:13

“Jesus began: 'Take care that no one misleads you...As for you, be on your guard...But before the end the Gospel must be proclaimed to all nations...Brother will betray brother to death, and the father his child; children will turn against their parents and send them to their death. All will hate you for your allegiance to me; but the man who holds out to the end will be saved.’” Mark 13:5, 9, 10, 12, 13

“‘But when you see “the abomination of desolation” usurping a place which is not his, then those who are in Judea must take to the hills...for those days will bring distress such as never has been until now since the beginning of the world which God created. And will never be again. If the Lord had not cut short that time of trouble, no living thing could survive. However, for the sake of his own, whom he has chosen, he has cut short the time.’ ‘Then if anyone says to you, “look, here is the Messiah” or, “look, there he is”, do not believe it...imposters will come claiming to be messiahs or prophets, and they will produce signs and wonders to mislead God's chosen, if such a thing were possible. But you be on your guard; I have forewarned you of it all.’” Mark 13:14-23

The distress spoken of here is the 6 trumpet judgments

At the end of the 42 months or 3 1/2 years of this impersonation of Christ, by the beast, the second coming of Jesus takes place.

“But in those days, after the distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give her light; the stars will come falling from the sky, the celestial powers will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory, and He will send out the angels and gather His chosen from the four winds, from the farthest bounds of earth to the farthest bounds of heaven.” Mark 13:24-27

Notice that immediately after the distress of the 6 trumpet judgments; the time of trouble, the 2nd coming of Christ takes place, just as it says in Rev 11 and 14.

“Then I watched as He broke the sixth seal, and there was a violent earthquake; the sun turned black as a funeral pall and the moon all red as blood; the stars in the sky fell to the earth, like figs shaken down by a gale; the sky vanished, as a scroll is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. The kings of the earth, magnates, and

marshals, the rich and the powerful, and all men, slave or free, hid themselves in caves and mountain crags, and called out to the mountains and the crags, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the vengeance of the Lamb.'" Rev 6:12-16

I'm sure you can see the similarities in these two sets of verses. Rev 6:12-16 is the detailed account of Mark 13:24-27.

This brings us to the end of Revelation 18.

Revelation 19

Rev 19 now brings us back to the storyline after the 7th last plague at the end of chapter 16. Once again we are in heaven and the chapter is broken into 3 subjects.

1. Comments of the righteous in heaven about the judgments of the great whore that we saw in chapter 18. Rev 19:1-4
2. The wedding supper of the Lamb. Rev 19:5-10
3. The battle of Armageddon. Rev 19:11-21

“After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a vast throng in heaven; and they were shouting; ‘Alleluia! Victory and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgements! He has condemned the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and has avenged upon her the blood of his servants.’ Then once more they shouted: ‘Alleluia! The smoke goes up from her for ever and ever!’ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God as he sat on the throne, and they cried: ‘Amen! Alleluia!’” Rev 19:1-4

During the time of the 7 last plagues, however long that time may be, it seems that the righteous in heaven knows what is going on and give God the glory for defeating Babylon the Great.

Now that the official judgements have been delivered on the inhabitants of the earth via the 7 last plagues, the wedding supper of the Lamb can now take place in heaven.

“Then a voice came from the throne which said: ‘Praise our God, all you His servants, you that fear Him, both great and small!’ Again I heard what sounded like a vast crowd, like the noise of rushing water and deep roars of thunder, and they cried: ‘Alleluia! The Lord our God, sovereign over all, has entered on His reign! Exult and shout for joy and do him homage, for the wedding-day of the Lamb has come! His bride has made herself ready, and for her dress she has been given fine linen, clean and shining (white).’ Now the fine linen signifies the righteous deeds of Gods people. Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: “Happy are those who are invited to the wedding-supper of the Lamb!”’ And he added, ‘These are the very words of God.’ At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘No, not that! I am but a fellow-servant with you and your brothers who bear their testimony to Jesus. It is God you must worship. Those who bear testimony to Jesus are inspired like the prophets.’” Rev 19:5-10

As verse 6 states, the Lord is now reigning; he has taken the offensive to bring to an end the reign of Satan and sin. This verse is very similar to verse 17 in chapter 11 once again tying these two time periods together.

Once again we see that it is wrong to fall down and worship anyone other than God. The angel said also that those who bore their testimony to Jesus, especially during the 42 months, were inspired by the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that inspired prophets.

With the wedding and the wedding-supper completed, and the righteous people of God safe and sound in heaven, the Lord and His army mount their white horses and proceed to “the great day of battle of God the sovereign Lord.” Rev 16:14 (Armageddon)

As you recall, the sixth of the 7 last plagues dried up the river Euphrates, to prepare the way for the kings from the east (Lord Jesus and His army). The 3 foul spirits have assembled the kings of the earth (that would include every human being still alive on earth) at the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Rev 16:13-16

“Then I saw heaven wide open, and there before me was a white horse; and its rider was Faithful and True, for He is just in judgement and just in war. His eyes flamed like fire, and on His head were many diadems. Written upon Him was a name known to none but Himself, and He was robed in a garment drenched in blood. He was called the Word of God, and the armies of heaven followed Him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and shining (white). From His mouth there went a sharp sword with which to smite the nations; for He it is who shall rule them with an iron rod, and tread the winepress of the wrath and retribution of God the sovereign Lord. And on His robe and on His thigh there was written the name: ’King of kings and Lord of lords’” Rev 19:11-16

The rider of this white horse is none other than Jesus Christ. Verse 13 makes this clear by stating “He was called the Word of God.” The armies that follow Him on white horses could be either the angels of heaven or the saints in heaven. I lean towards the saints of heaven. The phrase “armies of heaven...clothed in fine linen, clean and shining” is similar to that of verse 8 talking about the bride which is made up of all the saints. Also if we look at Jude 1:14 and 15 it tells of Enoch’s prophecy about this event.

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his **saints**, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.’” Jude 1:14, 15 KJV

The Greek word used here for saint is hagios which means, most holy thing or a saint. It is not the Greek word for angel which is aggelos.

A winepress in ancient days was a big vat or tub about 6 or 7 feet across and maybe 2 feet deep. The first step in making wine was to harvest the grapes, put them in the vat, and with several people in the vat they would crush the grapes with their feet to extract the juice from the grapes. The treading of the winepress mentioned in verse 15 is the crushing/killing of the wicked people on earth. They had earlier been thrown into the winepress (Rev 14:18, 19) and now came the time to tread the winepress. Of course this is figurative language that anyone can understand and creates a good word picture. This treading of the winepress in chapter 19 is the fulfillment (time wise) of Rev 14:20. The last step in destroying the last remaining wicked still alive on earth.

“Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and cried aloud to all the birds flying in mid-heaven: ‘Come and gather for God’s great supper, to eat the flesh of kings and commanders and fighting men, the flesh of horses and their riders, the flesh of all men, slave and free, great and small!’” Rev 19:17, 18

This is very easy to understand. All of the wicked people left on earth will soon be destroyed by Jesus and His army, with no one left to bury them, and all the birds of the air will feed on all the human flesh.

“Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies muster to do battle with the Rider and His army. (Armageddon begins) The beast was taken prisoner, and so was the false prophet who had worked miracles in its presence and deluded those that received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire with its sulphurous flames. The rest were killed by the sword which went out of the Rider’s mouth; and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.” Rev 19:19-21

As I stated earlier, this is the fulfillment of Rev. 13:9, 10.

“Hear, you who have ears to hear! Whoever is to be made a prisoner, a prisoner he shall be. Whoever takes the sword to kill, by the sword he is bound to be killed.” Rev. 13:9,10

“I am invoking the sword against all that inhabit the earth. This is the very word of the Lord of Hosts. Prophecy to them and tell them all I have said: The Lord roars from Zion on high and thunders from his holy dwelling-place. Yes, he roars across the heavens, his home; an echo comes back like the shout of men treading grapes. The great noise reaches the ends of the earth and all its inhabitants. For the Lord brings a charge against the nations, he goes to law with all mankind and has handed the wicked over to the sword. This is the very word of the Lord. These are the words of the Lord of Hosts: Ruin spreads from nation to nation; a mighty tempest is blowing up from the ends of the earth. In that day those whom the Lord has slain shall lie like dung on the ground from one end of the earth to the other; no one shall wail for them, they shall not be taken up and buried.” Jer. 25:29-33

“The corpses of men shall fall and lie like dung in the fields, like swathes behind the reaper, but no one shall gather them.” Jer. 9:22

“I saw the earth, and it was without form and void; the heavens, and their light was gone. I saw the mountains, and they reeled; all the hills rocked to and fro. I saw, and there was no man, and the very birds had taken flight. I saw, and the farmland was wilderness, and the towns all razed to the ground, before the Lord in his anger. These are the words of the Lord: The whole land shall be desolate, though I will not make an end of it. Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above turn black. For I have made known my purpose; I will not relent or change my mind.” Jer. 4:23-28

The beast and the false prophet were systems of power more than they were actual humans, thus they are disposed of differently than actual human beings. At this point, at the end of chapter 19, every human left on earth is dead. (This is their first death) As I said earlier, this is the fulfillment of Rev 13:9, 10.

After the battle of Armageddon is over and there are no humans left alive on earth, we move into chapter 20 of Revelation, where we see the Devil or Satan dealt with.

Revelation 20

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hands. He seized the dragon, that serpent of old (Genesis chapter 3), the Devil or Satan, and chained him up for a thousand years; he threw him into the abyss, shutting and sealing it over him, so that he might seduce the nations no more till the thousand years were over. After that he must be let loose for a short while.” Rev 20:1-3

We have talked about this abyss in great detail in the course of this study, but it is here where we get a full understanding of the meaning of the use of the word abyss. The abyss or bottomless pit is not so much a physical place as it is a set of circumstances, where the individual placed in the abyss has no control or ability while in the abyss. When we talked about the beast being in the abyss, the circumstances were such that it could not persecute God’s children, as it once did, after the pope was taken prisoner by the French. Since then, the pope has not had the same power as in the dark ages, so the beast is said to be in the abyss or bottomless pit. With the death of all the humans on earth after the battle of Armageddon, Satan has no one to tempt. Because of those circumstances, he is in the abyss. Satan is symbolically chained in the abyss which means he is not allowed to leave this earth for any reason. These set of circumstances are to last for 1000 years. Verse 2 identifies the one bound for the 1000 years as:

1. The dragon,
2. That serpent of old
3. The devil
4. Or Satan

These are the different titles of Lucifer, the covering cherub, after his fall.

Revelation chapter 20 continues on with what takes place in heaven during the 1000 years that Satan is in the abyss.

“Then I saw thrones, and upon them sat those to whom judgment was committed. I could see the souls of those who had been beheaded for the sake of God’s word and their testimony to Jesus, those who had not worshipped the beast and its image or received its mark on forehead or hand. These came to life again and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (This is the first resurrection) Rev 20:4

This verse seems to suggest that judgment will be given to the humans in heaven to pass final judgment on the wicked. This thousand year reign with Christ will consist of looking at the books of heaven, most particularly the book of records that holds the life story of everyone’s deeds, including those in heaven. Even Paul says that we will judge angels in 1 Cor. 6:3. This verse Rev 20:4, also suggest that the righteous (God’s children) living at the end of time, those who would not worship the beast or his image, those who preached God’s word and bore their testimony to Jesus, those who preached the 3 angel’s messages of Rev 14, were killed. At least most of them which would correlate with 11:7 and 13:7. Continuing on in verse 5,

“Though the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over. (the second resurrection) Rev 20:5

This is just telling us that when Christ comes the 2nd time, He resurrects the righteous only, leaving the wicked dead in and on the ground until after the 1000 years have passed.

“Happy in deed, and one of God’s own people, is the man who shares in the first resurrection! Upon such the second death has no claim; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him for the thousand years.” Rev 20:6

Here again confirmation is given that only God’s people are raised to everlasting life (not subject to the second death) in the first resurrection.

Some churches teach that this 1000 year reign with Christ is on earth, but this is unbiblical. The earth during these 1000 years is desolate and uninhabited by humans. Only Satan and his minions (angels) are on the earth.

It is curious that no one ever applies the day for a year principal to these 1000 years. Why is that? If that principal does not apply to these 1000 years why do they insist that the principal applies to the 42 months and 5 months of Rev 9, 11 and 13?

At the end of the thousand years, after all the records of all the people who have ever lived has been reviewed by God’s people, and have found God’s judgment to be sound and everyone is satisfied, then Satan is let loose.

“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be let loose from his dungeon; and he will come out to seduce the nations in the four quarters of the earth and to muster them for battle, yes, the host of Gog and Magog, countless as the sands of the sea.” Rev 20:7, 8

The bible (Rev 20) does not say how Satan is let loose, but a little deductive reasoning will give us the answer. If the circumstance that put Satan in the abyss was the death of all the wicked people on the earth, then the resurrection of all the wicked people on the earth would free Satan from the abyss. Of course Satan has no power to resurrect anyone, otherwise he would have done so long before the 1000 years were over, and so Jesus/God has done the resurrecting (2nd resurrection). Every wicked person who has ever lived on this earth is now alive, thus it says that they are “countless as the sands of the sea”. It does not say this in these two verses, but it sort of suggests it that Satan tells them that he was the one who brought them back to life when it says that “he seduced the nations”. As a result of this he convinces them that they can have victory and marshals them to the city of Jerusalem.

“So they march over the breadth of the land and laid siege to the camp of God’s people and the city that He loves.” Rev 20:9

The New Jerusalem has not come down out of heaven at this point so they must be converging on the old Jerusalem that might have been restored by God to give them the allusion that the saints are there. Or perhaps, as part of Satan's deceptions, they believe the saints are there and are able to see what they’ve been deceived to believe. In any event, as they lay siege to the city, fire comes down out of heaven and consumes them.

“But fire came down on them from heaven and consumed them; and the devil, their seducer, was flung into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet

had been flung, there to be tormented day and night forever.” Rev 20:10

This lake of fire, which is described as the second death in Rev 20:14, is not a literal place of torment but a figurative place symbolizing total destruction and separation from God. With that separation brings nothingness. Rev 20:11-13 give a brief description of the judgment process of the wicked dead. This judgement most probably takes place prior to the 2nd resurrection in order for the dead to come out of the various burial places. They are no longer in those places after they are thrown in to the lake of fire.

Rev 20:14 states that:

“Death and Hades are flung into the lake of fire” meaning of course that death and the grave will no longer exist. They will never be seen again by anyone. The last thing thrown into the lake of fire are those “whose names were not to be found in the roll of the living.” Rev 20:15

Revelation 21

Rev 20:11 says

“Then I saw a great white throne, and the One who sat upon it: from His presence earth and heaven vanished away, and no place was left for them.” Rev 20:11

This indicates to me that our physical earth and atmosphere are totally destroyed and removed, not one molecule is left. Rev 21:1 picks up right where Rev 20:11 leaves off by saying:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished, and there was no longer any sea.” Rev 21:1

At this point in time all of God’s righteous people are in heaven, all of the wicked people, including Satan and his angels are destroyed and no longer exist. Victory has been won and a new age is about to begin. God recreates a new heaven (atmosphere), and a new earth for His children to live on.

John continues in verse 2 of chapter 21:

“I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, come down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband.” Rev 21:2

Our thousand year reign in heaven has come to an end and our new lives as earthlings are about to begin again, only this time without sin. Hallelujah!

John continues with these words:

“I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne: ‘Now at last God has His dwelling place among men! He will dwell among them and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them.’” Rev 21:3

This is not a message from God Himself, but a message about God, so the messenger is an angel that is ministering to God around the throne. The angel continues to speak in verse 4:

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes; there shall be an end to death and to mourning and crying and pain; for the old order has passed away!’ Rev 21:4

Everything that mankind has been subject to, because of sin, will be done away with. Never more will there be death. Not just for humans but all species, from the tiniest plant to the tallest tree, every living creature will be free from death. And with no more death, there will be no more need for sorrow, no mourning over lost loved ones. No pain in the heart because of what someone did or said. Sin will have been destroyed and that way of life will be no more.

Chapter 21 seems as if the participants have just ended a play, stepped out of a dramatic presentation, still in costume, and telling John how things will be.

“Then he who sat on the throne said ‘Behold! I am making all things new! (And He said to me, ‘write this down: for these words are trustworthy and true. Indeed they are already fulfilled’).” Rev 21:5

In the time that John saw and heard these things, they were not literally fulfilled, but in the mind of Christ, they were. Jesus told John to write everything he saw and heard down, with one exception (Rev 10:3, 4) because everything he saw and heard was trustworthy and true. This was written down to give mankind hope for the future.

Then Jesus said:

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. A draught from the water-springs of life will be my free gift to the thirsty. All this is the victor’s heritage; and I will be his God and he shall be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, and the vile, murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars of every kind, their lot will be the second death, in the lake that burns with sulphurous flames.” Rev 21:6-8

Jesus, not looking at the past or present, but looking to the future when all earthly things will come to their end, describes the outcome of two groups of people. The righteous, who are saved by the blood of Jesus, who are given a drink from the waters of life and called sons and the other group who were not saved, the cowardly, the faithless, and every kind of wickedness, that did not put their hope and faith in Jesus, will find their lot in the Lake of fire.

After John, in vision, sees Jesus create the new heaven and the new earth, he is carried away “in the spirit” to witness the descending of the New Jerusalem down to the new earth.

“Then one of the seven angels that held the seven bowls of the seven last plagues came and spoke to me and said, ‘Come, and I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ So in the spirit he carried me away to a great high mountain, and showed me the holy city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.” Rev 21:9, 10

Here, John is taken in spirit, not in reality, to a great high mountain on the new earth, and he sees the city, New Jerusalem descending from God out of heaven to the new earth, where it will stay forever. The rest of chapter 21 describes this city in all its beauty and fascinations. This is where the righteous have been living during the 1000 years, going over the books to confirm the judgments of God on the righteous and the wicked.

The Holy city “shown with the glory of God, it had the radiance of some priceless jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal, it had a great high wall, with twelve gates, at which were twelve angels; and on the gates were inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three to the north, three to the south, and three to the west. The city wall had twelve foundations-stones, and on them were names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The Angel who spoke with me carried a gold measuring-rod, to measure the city, its walls, and its gates. The city was built as a square, and was as wide as it was long. It measured by his rod twelve thousand furlongs, its length and breadth and height being

equal. Its wall was one hundred and forty-four cubits high, that is, by human measurements, which the angel was using. The wall was built of Jasper, while the city itself was of pure gold, bright as clear glass. The foundations of the city wall were adorned with jewels of every kind, the first of the foundation-stones being jasper, the second lapis lazuli, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth cornelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh turquoise, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate being made from a single pearl. The streets of the city were of pure gold like translucent glass.” Rev 21:11-21

“I saw no temple in the city: for its temple was the sovereign Lord God and the Lamb. And the city had no need of sun or moon to shine upon it; for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. By its light shall the nations walk, and the kings of the earth shall bring into it all their splendor.” Rev 21:22-24

Inside the city of the New Jerusalem, where God and Jesus will dwell, the light of the sun will be over powered by the glory of God and of Jesus. There is no night inside the New Jerusalem. When the sun sets, the glory of God and of Jesus will continue to shine and produce light. The people who dwell therein will act according to the truth of God; the glory of God is His truth. By this, the people (kings) of the earth will bring their glory and upright living into the city.

“The gates of the city shall never be shut by day — and there will be no night.” Rev 21:25

The gates will never be shut because it will always seem as if the sun is always shining. Access to the city will never be denied. There will be day and night outside the city, but in the city of the New Jerusalem, there will be a perpetual light due to the glory of God and Jesus.

“The wealth and splendor of the nations shall be brought into it; but nothing unclean shall enter nor anyone whose ways are false or foul, but only those who are inscribed in the Lamb’s roll of the living.” Rev 21:26, 27

While these two verses seem to suggest that some wicked people may be living outside of the city, this is not the case. All of the wicked were destroyed in the lake of fire. These two verses are simply telling us that only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life, those saved, will be around to enter the city. Sin will not arise a second time.

This concludes chapter 21.

Revelation 22

Chapter 22 continues the description of the city, focusing on the waters of life and the tree of life.

“Then he (the angel) showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, down the middle of the city’s street. On either side of the river stood a tree of life, which yields twelve crops of fruit, one for each month of the year; the leave of the tree serve for the healing of the nations.” Rev 22:1,2

From these verses we see that the earth will still have a yearly and monthly cycle, which means the earth will still rotate around the sun and the moon will still rotate around the earth. We will not be constantly living in the New Jerusalem, but will have our dwelling places outside the city around the world, making frequent visits to the city, probably monthly to partake of the tree of life, and worship God.

“Every accursed thing shall disappear. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and His servants shall worship Him; they shall see Him face to face, and bear his name on their foreheads. There shall be no more night [there], nor will they need the light of the lamp or sun [there], for the Lord God will give them light; and they shall reign forever more.” Rev 22:3-5

Every accursed thing that was brought about because of sin will be extinct, never more to raise its ugly head. The throne of God and the Lamb (Jesus) will forever be in the New Jerusalem. The people of the earth, who serve God, will see Him face to face, because they will have been sealed in their foreheads with the name of Jesus. Once again there will be no night in the New Jerusalem because God will forever be present there producing the light by their glory, and the God Head, made up of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, will reign there forever more. This ends the description of the New Jerusalem. Now begins the wrapping up of the visions that John experienced, to bring this book to its conclusion.

“Then he said to me, ‘These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord God who inspires the prophets has sent His angels to show His servants what must shortly happen. And remember, I am coming soon!’ Happy is the man who heeds the words of prophecy contained in this book!” Rev 22:6, 7

These two verses seem to be spoken by Jesus Himself, because of the first person statement of ‘I’m coming soon.’ He is reinforcing to John that everything that he saw and heard is true, and can be trusted to happen.

“It is I John, who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell in worship at the feet of the angel who had shown them to me, but he said to me, ‘No, not that! (No don’t do that!) I am but a fellow-servant with you and your brothers the prophets and those who heed the words of this book. It is God you must worship.’” Rev 22:8, 9

John begins speaking here, and identifies himself as the one who saw and heard all the things in this prophecy. In his excitement, he begins to worship the angel who had shown him these things. The angel of course, knowing that it would be wrong to accept any worship from John, directs John to stand up and worship the one who deserves to be worshipped, and only can be worshipped. Remember that this whole controversy has been about worship, and who is the rightful recipient of worship. The line in verse 9 is the subject of the whole bible. "It is God you must worship."

"Then he (the angel) told me, 'Do not seal up the words of prophecy in this book, for the hour of fulfillment is near. Meanwhile, let the evil-doer go on doing evil and the filthy-minded wallow in his filth, but let the good man persevere in his goodness and the dedicated man be true to his dedication.'" Rev 22:10, 11

The angel here is telling John not to seal up this book of Revelation. The time is too short for the book to be sealed for another time. Remember that Daniel was told to seal up his book. Meanwhile, life will go on. The wicked will continue to be wicked, but the angel encourages the good man who wants to follow Jesus, to persevere and hold on. Don't be persuaded by the wicked around you.

Once again Jesus is speaking

"Yes, I am coming soon, and bringing my recompense with me, to requite everyone according to his deeds! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." "Happy are those who wash their robes clean! They will have the right to the tree of life and will enter by the gates of the city. Outside are dogs, sorcerers and fornicators, murders and idolaters, and all who love and practice deceit. I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the scion and offspring of David, the bright star of dawn." Rev 22:12-16

Here Jesus is summarizing everything and stating the bottom line. He starts off by confirming that He is indeed coming soon, and when He comes He brings rewards and punishment, all cases will have been decided. He affirms who He is, that He has always been, He is and was the first and if need be, he will be the last. He describes how to make it into the gates of the city, by washing your robes in the blood of the Lamb. Everyone else will not be entering the city. Jesus tells John that it was He that sent the angel to John with the testimony to the churches.

"Come!" say the Spirit and the bride. 'Come!' let each hearer reply. Come forward, you who are thirsty; accept the water of life, a free gift to all who desire it. For my part, I give this warning to everyone who is listening to the words of prophecy in this book: should anyone add to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book; should anyone take away from the words in this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and the Holy City, described in this book. He who gives this testimony speaks; 'Yes, I am coming soon!' Amen, come Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all." Rev 22:17-21

Here John wraps up the book of Revelation by encouraging Jesus to come as He said. He encourages anyone and everyone who is thirsty for eternal life with Jesus and God, to accept the water of life offered by Jesus freely. John then gives a stern warning to anyone who would think to add to or take away from this book of Revelation. I take that warning very seriously, and I

pray that I have not added to or taken away anything. I hope I have opened up this book to you in a clear manner and brought to light what has been hidden from you. Not that the hiding was intentional on everyone's part but certainly by some.

John brings the book to a close by emphasizing what Jesus had just said, 'Yes, I am coming soon!' and John desire is for Jesus to come as soon as he can. He has been a prisoner on the island of Patmos and he is desirous to be home with Jesus.

I hope that the grace of the Lord Jesus will be with you and you will be desirous to be home with Jesus also.

If this book was helpful to you, please share it with others, that it might be helpful to them as well.

To get copies of this booklet, Email me at:
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The 144,000

This booklet can be found on Amazon as an E-book. (kindle)

“This is the Revelation given by God to Jesus Christ. It was given to Him so that He might show His servants what must shortly happen.” Rev 1:1

NOTES

NOTES

Understanding the Principle of “The Bottomless Pit” and How It Is the Key to Understanding the Book of Revelation

One of the most important keys to understanding, in a new way, the book of Revelation is how the phrase “Bottomless Pit” or “Abyss” is used and what it means. I am writing this chapter to better explain how the usage of the phrase “bottomless pit” brings clarity and understanding to the book of Revelation.

I will first describe to you how the phrase “bottomless Pit” (KJV) or “abyss” (NEB) is used in the book of Revelation, and then I will begin to explain how it ties several of the chapters together.

What is represented by the term “bottomless pit”? To understand this principle we must go to Rev 20:1-3, 7, and 8. These verses explain how this term is used. I will quote the verse, and then I will explain what these verses mean in a simplified way.

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key of the abyss (bottomless pit) and a great chain in his hands. He seized the dragon, that serpent of old, the Devil or Satan, and chained him up for a thousand years; he threw him into the abyss, shutting and sealing it over him, so that he might seduce the nations no more till the thousand years were over. After that he must be let loose for a short while.”

“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be let loose from his dungeon; and he will come out to seduce the nations in the four quarters of the earth and to muster them for battle,” Rev 20:1-3, 7, 8

Of course the first thing you must realize is the phrase “bottomless pit/abyss” is used as an allegory to describe a physical place that does not actually exist. The bottomless pit is not so much a physical place as it is a set of circumstances where the individual placed in the pit has no control or ability while in the bottomless pit. In the verses just quoted there are two related ideas that have to be understood in order to understand the principle of the “bottomless pit”. The first of these ideas is that a KEY is needed to unlock the bottomless pit. The second idea is that after the individual is placed into the “bottomless pit” it is locked up again so that he or it cannot come out and do as he/it pleases.

Remember that this is just an allegory; there is no physical key or lock. It is just symbolism that paints a picture. I said earlier that the “bottomless pit” is really a set of circumstances where the individual has no control or ability while in the “bottomless pit”. Let’s examine the circumstance of Satan who was put into the bottomless pit in the verses just quoted. First of all we recognize, in this instance, that the “bottomless pit” is the earth. What was the purpose of shutting Satan up in the “bottomless pit”? The answer is found in verse 3.

“...so that he might seduce the nations no more till the thousand years were over...”
Rev 20:3 last part.

If the stated purpose of locking Satan in the bottomless pit/abyss is to prohibit him from seducing the nations, we have to come to the conclusion, that before he was locked up he was seducing the nations. So now we must ask the question, how is Satan unable to seduce the nations no more till the thousand years are over? The simple truth is that there is no human left alive, at this time, on earth. It is only Satan and his angels. Rev 19:11-21, in the previous chapter, describes the last battle between all the unsaved on earth and the LORD and his army, in which every human is killed and left lying on the ground.

“Then I saw heaven wide open, and there before me was a white horse; and its rider’s name was Faithful and True, for he is just in judgement and just in war. His eyes flamed like fire, and on his head were many diadems. Written upon him was a name known to no one but himself, and he was robed in a garment drenched in blood. He was called the word of God, and the armies of heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and shining. From his mouth there went a sharp sword with which to smite the nations; for he it is who shall rule them with an iron rod, and tread the winepress of the wrath and retribution of God the sovereign Lord. And on his robe and on his thigh there was written the name ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and cried aloud to all the birds flying in mid-heaven: ‘Come and gather for God’s great supper, to eat the flesh of kings and commanders and fighting men, the flesh of horses and their riders, the flesh of all men, slave and free, great and small!’ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies mustered to do battle with the Rider and his army. The beast was taken prisoner, and so was the false prophet who had worked miracles in its presence and deluded those that had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire with its sulphurous flames. The rest were killed by the sword which went out of the Rider’s mouth; and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.” Rev 19:11-21

So the circumstance is that Satan cannot deceive, tempt, or seduce anyone anymore because there is no one left alive to seduce. Being tied down with a chain simply means that Satan cannot leave this earth. He is not permitted to do so. In this sense the bottomless pit is locked.

We are not quite done with the meaning or understanding of the term “bottomless pit”. In order for the individual to come out of the “bottomless pit” it has to be unlocked by someone.

After the thousand years are over let’s look and see what happens.

“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be let loose from his dungeon; and he will come out to seduce the nations in the four quarters of the earth and to muster them for battle,” Rev 20:7, 8

Ok, let's examine this passage carefully to see what it is trying to say to us. First of all, after the thousand years are over, Satan is "**let loose**", meaning, the "bottomless pit" is unlocked. Remember that this is just an allegory; there is no physical lock and key. So what would be the circumstances that would free Satan to seduce the nations once more? The answer can be found in Rev 20:5.

"Though the rest of the dead (the unsaved) did not come back to life until the thousand years were over." Rev 20:5

So the circumstance that frees Satan from the "bottomless pit" was God bringing to life again every wicked person who ever lived on earth. That is why it says: "he (Satan) will come out to seduce the nations in the four quarters of the earth and to muster them for battle."

To summarize:

- The "bottomless pit/abyss" is used as an allegory.
- A key is needed to unlock the "bottomless pit/abyss".
- While in the "bottomless pit/abyss" the individual has no control or ability to do as it once did.
- In order to come out of the "bottomless pit/abyss" the individual has to be put into the "bottomless pit/abyss".
- The unlocking of the "bottomless pit/abyss" at the end of the assigned period of time, represents a change of circumstances that allows the individual to do as it once did.

So now that you understand this KEY (bottomless pit/abyss), we will now use this key to unlock the chapters of Revelation that need this key.

The beast That Once Was Alive, and is Alive No Longer, He is an Eighth

The first place we will go to apply this KEY is Rev 17. To understand fully what I will be saying here is predicated on the assumption that you have read and somewhat understood what was written in the rest of this book.

I guess I should say here what this KEY should do for the reader as he/she diligently tries to understand the book of Revelation. This KEY will help you identify the beast of chapter 11 and 13 and the relative time period in which it arises or is released from the bottomless pit/abyss.

Chapter 17 is an interlude chapter, meaning that the prophecy has been placed on hold. This chapter is giving John a little more detail to what he saw in chapters 11, 13 and 14. It does this by presenting to him another vision separate from the main story God is presenting. By showing John this standalone vision, he is showing John how to link together what he has seen in chapters 11, 12, 13 and 14. We know that this is a standalone vision because the pause button has been pushed, and one of the seven angels that poured out one of the seven last plagues, says to John, that he is going to show John some additional information to help clarify a vision/prophecy he has previously witnessed.

“Then one of the seven angels that held the seven bowls came out and spoke to me and said, ‘Come, and I will show you the judgement on the great whore, enthroned above the ocean. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and on the wine of her fornication men all over the world have made themselves drunk.’” Rev 17:1-2

This is the first time that the word “whore” has been mentioned in the book of Revelation, but it is obvious that John has been shown this whore in previous visions; otherwise this angel would not be saying what he just said. So it is up to us to look for this whore in previous chapters of Revelation to determine who it might be. The angel gives us two clues that we can use to find this whore, but only one has any reference to previous chapters. The first clue that is given is that this great whore is enthroned above the ocean (many waters: KJV). We will look at this clue a little later. The second clue that the angel gives that refers to previous chapters is when he says: ‘The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and on the wine of her fornication men all over the world have made themselves drunk.’ Rev 17:2 Where have we read something very similar to this statement? The answer is Rev 14:8, The second angel’s message.

“Then another angel, a second, followed, and he cried, ‘Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all nations drink the fierce wine of her fornication!’” Rev 14:8

So, by linking these two statements, we now know a couple of things. First, we know that the whore is called Babylon. In 17:2 we have “the great whore” and in 14:8 we have “Babylon the Great”. We know that “the great whore” and “Babylon the great” are the same because of the use of the phrase “wine of her fornication” in both verses. Also, in both cases the whole world has drunk this wine. We also know that the “great whore” is not the beast. The great whore is designated as a “her” or “she” while the beast is designated as an “it” or “he” or “his”.

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, **She** who has made all nations drink...” Rev 14:8

“Whoever worships the beast and **its** image...” Rev 14:9 NEB

“If any man worship the beast and **his** image...” Rev 14:9 KJV

So from these associations we know that the angel, in chapter 17, is describing the whore in chapter 14 of the second angel’s message.

As we continue in chapter 17, the angel is going to show John the relationship between the whore (Babylon the great) and the beast.

“in the Spirit he carried me away into the wilds, and there I saw a woman mounted on a scarlet beast which was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet and bedizened with gold and jewels and pearls. In her hand she held a gold cup, full of obscenities and the

foulness of her fornication; and written on her forehead was a name with a secret meaning: 'Babylon the great, the mother of whores and of every obscenity on earth.' The woman, I saw, was drunk with the blood of God's people and with the blood of those who had borne their testimony to Jesus. As I looked at her I was greatly astonished." Rev 17:3-6

Here we have confirmation that we are on the right track. The woman under discussion has a name written on her forehead, "Babylon the Great".

This section of scripture gets just a little tricky but I think you can get it. So here the angel is associating the whore (Babylon) and the beast, meaning they are working together. They are two separate entities. The whore is riding on the back of the beast. Now here is where it gets a little tricky, when the angel describes the beast. He says that it is a scarlet colored beast with seven heads and ten horns. Where did we see such a beast previously? The answer is Revelation 12.

"Then a second portent appeared in heaven; a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns; on his heads were seven diadems, and with his tail he swept down a third of the stars in the sky and flung them to the earth." Rev 12:3,4 first part.

"So the great dragon was thrown down, that serpent of old that led the whole world astray, whose name is Satan, or the Devil – thrown down to the earth, and his angels with him." Rev 12:9

Here we see that the scarlet (red) colored beast mentioned in chapter 17 represents Satan, but there is an additional description of this beast that we have to consider also. John says that the beast he saw, in this vision of chapter 17 had "blasphemous names". We don't see that description of the beast in chapter 12, so where do we see that description about a beast? The answer can be found in chapter 13.

"Then out of the sea I saw a beast rising. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten diadems, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw was like a leopard." Rev 13:2

So it would seem that the angel is merging the two beasts of chapter 12 and 13 together in order to indicate that the beast of chapter 13 is working with the beast of chapter 12, It even says as much in chapter 13.

"The dragon conferred upon it (the leopard beast) his power and rule, and great authority." Rev 13:2 last part.

Here we see that the dragon, or Satan, is using the leopard beast for his own purposes.

To recap a little, the angel of chapter 17 is showing John additional information so that he can link the information show to him in chapter 12, 13, and 14 together. I have told you previously in another chapter of this book, that chapters, 12, 13, and part of 14 are interlude chapters, giving John additional information about the 42 month time period from different perspectives. It is Chapter 17

that really gives us this understanding.

Ok, back to chapter 17 and the great whore. After describing the beast that John saw in chapter 17, he now describes the great whore or Babylon the Great.

“The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet and bedizened with gold and jewels and pearls. In her hand she held a gold cup, full of obscenities and the foulness of her fornication; and written on her forehead was a name with a secret meaning: ‘Babylon the great, the mother of whores and of every obscenity on earth.’ The woman, I saw, was drunk with the blood of God’s people and with the blood of those who had borne their testimony to Jesus.” Rev 17:4-6

I will not expound on this too much, because I have covered it in prior chapters, but based on the description of the clothes that the woman wears, and also by a color that it does not wear, we know that this woman represents the Catholic Church. Why is this woman called a fornicator? Because she has abandoned her true husband, God, for another lover, Satan. She rides on the back of the Scarlet colored beast. This woman has daughters who are also whores. Did the Catholic Church beget daughter after her? Yes. During the protestant reformation her daughters were born. They came out of Babylon but, unfortunately, they did not come all the way out. They still kept some of her laws and traditions, teaching others likewise.

As we discuss chapter 17 verse 6, it once again gets a little tricky to explain, but i think you will understand what I will be saying. While Babylon the great, was riding on the back of the beast, it say in verse six that: “The woman, I saw, was drunk with the blood of God’s people and with the blood of those who had borne their testimony to Jesus.” The 1st part of this verse is talking about the time of the dark ages, when this woman was riding the back of the beast (5th head), and killing Gods people because they wanted to observe the teachings of the Bible and not the traditions and teaching of the Catholic Church. When we get to chapter 13, we will be seeing, and we have already discussed, that Babylon has already fallen and is no longer riding on the beast. Thus it will be the beast itself doing the killing.

In a very few moments we will be looking at the **KEY** that we opened this chapter with. The rest of this chapter will be discussing the beast with just a little bit more information about the whore or Babylon the Great.

“As I looked at her (woman, whore) I was greatly astonished. But the angel said to me, ‘Why are you so astonished? I will tell you the secret of the woman and of the beast she rides, with the seven heads and ten horns.’” Rev 17:7

OK, hold on to your hats, because we are now approaching the most exciting portion of this chapter. I can almost guarantee that you have never heard the explanation that I am about to present. It is not hard to understand, if you fully understand the **KEY** that we discussed at the beginning of this chapter. Here we go!

The angel tells John that he is going to tell John the **SECRET** of the woman and of the beast she rides. This secret has been hidden in plain sight for a very long time. Even now it is mostly hidden

from those who teach the book of Revelation. God, I feel, has opened my eyes to this secret for a while now, and this book, and especially this chapter, is my effort to unlock this secret for anyone who wants to listen and know the secret. But unfortunately, some want to hold on to past understandings taught by the church, and not open their minds to new revealed truth, that is so simple to understand.

Verses 8-13 of chapter 17 are very critical to understand if you want to know the “Secret” the angel is trying to disclose. It is in these verses that an understanding of the key we learned before we began this chapter, will be used to understand what the angel is trying to disclose to John and us. We will be analyzing the verses very closely, breaking them down into their smaller parts in order to fully understand what they mean.

“The beast you have seen is he who once was alive, and is alive no longer, but has yet to ascend out of the abyss (bottomless pit) before going to perdition. Those on earth whose names have not been inscribed in the roll of the living ever since the world was made will all be astonished to see the beast; for he once was live, and is alive no longer, and has yet to appear.” Rev 17:8

Wow! That sounds very confusing doesn't it? It may sound or look confusing but it really isn't.

On the last phrase where it says “and has yet to appear”, the King James Version says “and yet is”. The KJV is probably the better translation as far as the context goes, but the NEB version has its merits as well.

Now let's break this all down so that we can understand it all. Remember that John is shown this vision of chapter 17 to give him more information about chapters 12, 13, and 14 and now I will be including chapter 11 as well. This is the first opportunity in chapter 17 to apply our KEY of the “Bottomless Pit/Abyss”. Let us look at the very first part of verse 8 again.

“The beast you have seen is he who once was alive, and is alive no longer, **but has yet to ascend out of the abyss (bottomless pit) before going to perdition.**” Rev 17:8 First part

By mentioning the bottomless pit/abyss in chapter 17 in relationship to the beast, the angel is pointing John back to chapter 11.

First of all, where did John see a beast ascending out of the abyss/bottomless pit? Answer: Revelation 11 verse 7.

“But when they (the two witnesses) have completed their testimony, **the beast that comes up from the abyss/bottomless pit** will wage war upon them and will defeat and kill them.” Rev 11:7

Here is presented a really important message. What the angel is saying to John is that the ascension of the beast out of the abyss/bottomless pit in chapter 11 is still in the future from his time and even future from our time as well, if I can be so bold. For the angel says “**has yet** to ascend out of the

abyss” or “**and shall** ascend out of the bottomless pit” KJV. This is future tense language.

So here we have the first part of verse 8 describing the beast in chapter 11. Remember what you learned about our KEY. We will be using that KEY in just a moment.

Let’s continue on with verse 8.

“Those on earth whose names have not been inscribed in the roll of the living ever since the world was made will all be astonished to see the beast; **for he once was alive, and is alive no longer, and has still to appear**” or “**and yet is.**” (KJV). Rev 17:8 last part.

Here the angel gives John a slightly different description of the beast. We will see why in a moment.

Once again, where did John see a “beast who once was alive, is alive no longer, and still has to appear”? Or “and yet is”?

Answer: Chapter 13.

Let’s see if we can find anything in chapter 13 that resembles that description of a beast. Ah....there it is...in verse 3.

“One of its heads appeared to have received a death-blow; but the mortal wound was healed.” Rev 13:3 first part.

Now, would it be proper to say that before this head received its death-blow, that it was alive (as in “once was alive”)? Would it be proper to say that after it received its death-blow that it was alive no longer (as in “and is alive no longer”)? Again, would it be proper to say, that after the mortal wound was healed, that it was alive again (as in “and yet is”)? I think you should be able to agree with each of these three statements can you not?

So it is easy to see that the description of the beast given by the angel in chapter 17, is describing the beast of chapter 11 and chapter 13. In short, the beast of chapter 13 is this resurrected, coming up out of the abyss, (healed) beast. I hope that we are all in agreement on this so far, but we are not done yet. Let’s look at the remaining section of chapter 17:8 to see if it can be tied to chapter 13 as well.

“Those on earth whose names have not been inscribed in the roll of the living ever since the world was made **will all be astonished to see the beast**, for he once was alive, and is alive no longer, and has still to appear.” Rev 17:8 last part

Do we have this description of the people in chapter 13. The answer, once again, is yes. Here they are.

“The whole world went after the beast in wondering admiration....All on earth will worship it, except those whose names the Lamb that was slain keeps in his roll of

the living, written there since the world was made.” Rev 13:3 last part, and verse 8.

These people are seeing this beast in its resurrected state in chapter 13. You do see that don't you?

How does one connect this idea of the beast coming out of the bottomless pit to the beast of chapter 13, that the angel of chapter 17 is trying to make? It is really not that hard if you understand the “Bottomless Pit/Abyss” principle.

In chapter 17 verse 8 we have two sets of descriptions, made up of 3 parts, for the same beast. The first set is at the top of the verse and the second set is at the bottom of the verse. The first two descriptions of each sets are virtually the same as you can see below.

“The beast you have seen is **he who once was alive**, and **is alive no longer**, but **has yet to ascend out of the abyss** before going to perdition.”

“he who once was alive”

“Is alive no longer”

“but has yet to ascend out of the abyss”

This describes the
beast of Ch. 11

Second part of verse 8:

“Those on earth whose names have not been inscribed in the roll of the living ever since the world was made will all be astonished to see the beast; for **he once was alive**, and **is alive no longer**, and **has still to appear**.”

“he once was alive”

“is alive no longer”

“has still to appear”

This describes the
beast of Ch. 13

The third description of each set is where they differ in words, but not in meaning.

By putting the two descriptions back to back the angel is connecting Ch. 11 and 13 together.

Here we have to apply one of the 5 rules of the “Bottomless Pit/Abyss” principle. Nothing can come out of the “bottomless pit/abyss” unless it has gone into the “bottomless pit/abyss”. If we apply this rule to the beast of chapter 13 we can make this conclusion. When the beast received its death-blow or was wounded to death, it was placed into the abyss or bottomless pit. If you remember, when you read chapter 13 in this book, you will recall that it was the 5th head of the beast that received the death-blow. The 5th head being Papal Rome. (see Daniel chapter 7). As we apply the KEY to this power, we know that this power was a persecuting power, killing Gods people for their faithfulness to God instead of this power. After this powers reign of 1260 years, from 538 to 1798, this power lost its ability to persecute God's people any longer (death-blow ch 13).

“and the saints shall be delivered into his power for a time and times and half a time. **Then the court shall sit, and he shall be deprived of his sovereignty**, so that in the end it may be destroyed and abolished. Daniel 7:25,26

The little horn power was not destroyed and abolished in 1798, it was only placed into the bottomless pit/abyss. But at the end of time, which we are studying in these chapters, this beast power, the little horn power of Daniel 7, will come out of the “**bottomless pit/abyss** (chapter 11), **his deadly wound will be healed**” (chapter 13) before going to perdition. So far so good? I hope so.

I told you earlier that this would lead us to chapter 11. We are not done with chapter 17 yet. We will be coming back to chapter 17 to tie some loose strings together before we close out chapter 17.

Revelation chapter 11 is a very important chapter to understand and with the help of our KEY you will understand it. To my knowledge, and my knowledge is limited, I know of no one who understands this chapter as it should be understood. This chapter is part of the SECRET of the beast, that the angel of chapter 17 is explaining to John. Like I said before, this SECRET is still pretty much hidden from the churches, even the Seventh-day Adventist church, for whatever reason. I’m just thankful to God for giving me this insight into this SECRET. As I continue to unlock this SECRET for you, I hope God gives you the ability to see it also.

What I’m about to share with you here, I have already shared with you in chapter 11 of this book. Perhaps I will be a little clearer this time and maybe add a few more details.

Chapter 11 picks up the main vision again, after the interlude of chapter 10. Chapter 10 explains how Gods people misinterpreted the meaning of the cleansing of the Sanctuary at the end of Daniels 2300 year prophecy and preached the second coming of Jesus and how they were disappointed. They had been premature in their proclaiming the second coming of Jesus so in chapter 10 they are told that once again they must utter prophecies over peoples and nations and languages and many kings. This new proclamation is taking place in chapter 11.

The activities of chapter 11 takes place during the 6th trumpet time period and the first few moments of the 7th trumpet judgment. In a nutshell, chapter 11 describes the preaching of the 2nd and 3rd angel’s message in its proper time period (Rev 14:6,10), the judgment of God’s people whose names are written in the Lambs book of life (Rev 13:8 and 14:6), and the 2nd coming of Christ (Rev 14:14-19). We will also see our KEY phrase “the beast that comes up from the abyss/bottomless pit” one more time.

“I was given a long cane, a kind of measuring-rod, and told: ‘Now go and measure the temple of God, the alter, and the number of the worshippers. But have nothing to do with the outer court of the temple; do not measure that; for it has been given over to the Gentiles, and they will trample the Holy City underfoot for forty-two months.’”
Rev 11:1-2

There is a lot of information here that needs to be understood before we can move on. This measuring business that John is instructed to do, has to do with the transitioning of the investigative

judgment of God from the Christian dead, to the Christian living. This is the final phase of the investigative judgment. The temple of God represents God's living saints, those who have their names written in the Lambs book of life. This measuring or investigative judgment will determine whose name will remain written in that book of life. The Gentiles or wicked, in the outer court, are not judge in this investigative judgment, so John is instructed to have nothing to do with them, don't measure them. At this point we sort of move into another section or a further description of what these Gentiles will be doing during this investigative judgment period. They will be trampling underfoot the Holy City (God People) for forty-two months. I believe this is the first time that this 42 month time period is mentioned in Revelation. This same forty-two month time period is mentioned in Revelation chapter 13.

“The beast was allowed to mouth bombast and blasphemy, and was given the right to reign for forty-two months.” Rev 13:5

Chapter 11 is part of the main vision given to John. This main vision is constantly moving forward, it never moves backwards. In between or inserted into this vision, at pause points in this main vision, are explanations of what John was shown earlier, or additional vision to add some detail to what he had seen before. As I stated earlier, chapters 13, and 14 give additional information to what is shown in chapter 11. They reflect the exact same time period of forty-two months.

If we compare the persecution of God's people in chapter 11 and chapter 13 we see two different entities doing the persecution up to this point. How can we reconcile these differences? In chapter 11 we see the people, Gentiles, doing the persecution. In chapter 13 we see the beast doing the persecution. So which is correct? I'm sure you have already figured it out. The beast is only one entity. He could not persecute God's people on an individual bases. It is the Gentiles, or those who have accepted the mark of the beast, who are truly persecuting God's people at the prompting of the beast.

You might be asking yourself, or really me, how do you know chapter 13 is related or connected to chapter 11? I just mentioned the first connection, which is the forty-two month time period. We will now look at the next section of chapter 11, to see what information that will give us.

“And I have two witnesses, whom I will appoint to prophesy, dressed in sackcloth, all through those twelve hundred and sixty days.’ These are the two olive-trees and the two lamps that stand in the presence of the Lord of the earth. If anyone seeks to do them harm, fire pours from their mouths and consumes their enemies; and thus shall the man die who seeks to do them harm. These two have the power to shut up the sky, so that no rain may fall during the time of their prophesying; and they have the power to turn water to blood and to strike the earth at will with every kind of plague.” Rev 11:3-6

Most bible expositors will tell you that these two witnesses represent the old and new testaments of the bible, and I believe that is correct. However I think the symbolism of these two witnesses here goes a little farther and represents the outpouring of the latter rain and the preaching of the 3 angel's messages at the end of time, just prior to and during this forty-two month time period. During the investigative judgment taking place, the people have to be warned one last time about who they

should be worshipping, 1st angel's message. That Babylon has fallen, 2nd angel's message, and don't follow after the beast and receive his mark, 3rd angel's message. This all takes place in chapters 11, 13 and the middle of 14. Why else do you think that the Gentiles and the beast are persecuting God's people? As this relates to chapter 14, I want to show you in chapter 14 how this is demonstrated. After the 3 angel's messages are presented in verse 6-11 it says this:

“This is where the fortitude of God's people has its place – in keeping God's commands and remaining loyal to Jesus. Moreover, I heard a voice from heaven, saying, ‘Write this: “Happy are the dead who die in the faith of Christ henceforth (from this point on)!”, says the Spirit, “they may rest from their labours; for they take with them the record of their deeds.”’ Rev 14:12-13

During this time of trouble (6 trumpet judgments, persecution) it will take fortitude and determination, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to remain loyal to Jesus and at the same time preach the 3 angel's message. The spirit says that happy are God's people who die during this time, for they take with them the record of their deeds.

The next section of chapter 11 brings our KEY phrase into play and is our next link into chapter 13, and 17.

“But when they (the two witnesses) have completed their testimony, **the beast that comes up from the abyss (bottomless pit)** will wage war upon them and will defeat and kill them.” Rev 11:7

OK, here we have it, the actual coming up out of the “bottomless pit/abyss” of the beast that was talked about in chapter 17. Let me refresh your memory.

“The beast you have seen is he who once was alive, and is alive no longer, but has yet to ascend out of the abyss (bottomless pit) before going to perdition.” Rev 17:8

Let's tie these two verses together and understand what is being said. I have already shown that the beast of chapter 17 is referring to the beast of chapter 13 and chapter 11. Here in verse 7 of chapter 11 we see that the beast has already come up out of the abyss/bottomless pit, but remember that this prophecy is still in the future. When we apply the “bottomless pit” principle (key), that in order to come out of the bottomless pit, the pit has to be unlocked, we have to find where the bottomless pit was unlocked. The other “bottomless pit” principle that we have to apply is that in order to come out of the bottomless pit, the entity has to be placed into the bottomless pit prior.

What I'm about to say now might be a little confusing so pay close attention so you don't miss it. Let's look at the first principle where the bottomless pit has to be unlocked. Where in the book of Revelation do we see the bottomless pit being unlocked? Does anyone know? The answer can be found in Revelation chapter 9. This is the 5th Trumpet judgment or the 1st woe.

“Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet; and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth, and the star was given **the key** of the shaft of the abyss (bottomless pit). **With this he opened the shaft of the abyss** (bottomless pit);” Rev 9:1,2 first part

The question has to be asked, who is this star that had fallen from heaven to earth? It has to be Lucifer/Satan. See Luke 10:18.

“And he said unto them, ‘I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.’” Luke 10:18
KJV

We can also see in verse 1 of chapter 9 that Satan does not possess the key to the abyss/bottomless pit, but is **given the key** by someone else. The person who possesses that key is none other than Jesus Christ.

“I am the first and the last, and I am the living one; for I was dead and now I am alive for evermore, **and I hold the keys of Death and Death’s domain.**” Rev 1:18

So, by Jesus giving the key of the bottomless pit to Satan, Jesus is giving Satan permission to free whatever is in the bottomless pit. This is the only place in the book of Revelation, prior to the 2nd coming of Christ where we see the bottomless pit is unlocked. So we know that the beast of Revelation 11 and 13 has to come out during this time. That would be the 5th Trumpet time period.

This is getting a little more detailed than I really want to get, because I have covered this in the rest of this book, but I do want to give you a time period of when this beast was placed into this bottomless pit, for we have to discuss the “bottomless pit” principle which is, that in order to come out of the bottomless pit, the entity has to be placed into the bottomless pit prior to coming out.

This naturally leads to the question, when did this beast go down into the bottomless pit? We have mentioned this already but perhaps this will be helpful to you. Before I answer that question, we need to talk about this beast and determine who this beast power is. To do that we have to go to the book of Daniel, chapter 7. I’m pretty sure that most of you recall the general detail of this dream that Daniel was given, so I will just hit the highlights here. Daniel, in his dream sees 4 beasts different from each other. The first is the Lion (Kingdom of Babylon), second is the bear (Kingdom of Media and Persia), third is the leopard (Kingdom of Grecia), and the fourth is the non-descript beast or dragon-like beast (Kingdom of Rome). Daniel chapter 8 gives us the names or kingdoms of two of these beasts, and the rest of Daniel’s dream or visions along with secular history, gives us the names of the rest of the kingdoms. That being said, Daniel chapter 7 shows another power (little horn), coming up out of this 4th kingdom, in its divided state, and shall become exceedingly powerful.

“And the saints shall be delivered into his power for a time, and times and half a time. Then the court shall sit, and he shall be deprived of his sovereignty, so that in the end it may be abolished.” Dan 7:25,26

Of course this 5th power according to secular history is the papacy, which was a persecuting power (religious power backed by the state), reigned from 538AD to 1798, when its sovereignty ended. What we need to know now is what is meant by “and he shall be deprived of his sovereignty”. So the answer to our first question about when this beast went into the bottomless pit, the correct answer is in the year 1798. Before I answer the next question of what it means to be deprived of his

sovereignty, we need to look at the beast of Revelation 13, of which these 5 powers just mentioned are a part.

The description of the beast of Revelation chapter 13 is:

“...It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten diadems, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast was like a leopard, but its feet were like a bear’s and its mouth like a lion’s mouth. ...” Rev 13:1,2

The description of this beast has all of the components of the beast powers in Daniel 7. If you notice carefully, the power list is in the reverse order of the power list given in Daniel chapter 7. Why is this important to know? In Daniels vision in chapter 7, Daniel is shown the beast powers from his time looking into the future with each power coming up in order of ascension. In Revelation chapter 13 we are looking at these beast powers from the future looking backwards in time. The added feature of the seven heads, represent the seven powers (beasts) 5 + 2 that we saw in Daniels dream of chapter 7. The plus 2 came a little later, which we will discuss now.

I won’t be going into detail here, because it would talk to long, but the two last powers of the seven heads represent two additional and different phases of the papacy. We are now going to answer the question of what it means to be deprived of his sovereignty. The 5th beast or little horn in Daniels vision is the 5th head of the beast in Revelation chapter 13. The 5th beast of Daniels vision/dream had persecuting power to kill the saints of God because the religious papacy had authority over the secular power all during those 1260 years that it ruled. When the pope was taken prisoner by France, and later died in prison, France striped the papacy of its authority over every secular power in Europe, thus returning to a religious entity only. At this time as it says in Daniel 7:26, “he shall be deprived of his sovereignty”. He could not persecute anyone any more. Thus he was put into the bottomless pit. This is the other principal of the “bottomless pit” KEY. The bottomless pit is not so much a physical place as it is a set of circumstances, where the individual placed in the bottomless pit has no control or ability while in the bottomless pit to do as it once did. When the 5th head or persecuting papacy was put into the bottomless pit, the circumstances where such that it could not persecute God’s children as it once did. Since then, the papacy has not had the same power as in the dark ages or the 1260 years. The papacy still exists to this day, but his power to persecute does not exist. It is only a religious entity. It still has no authority over any secular kingdom or nation. That is why the persecuting papacy is still in the bottomless pit.

If you have read the rest of this book, then you know that I believe that the 7 trumpet are still future events, and not past historical events. I would love to discuss the 5th trumpet in more detail, but it would only bring more confusion than is necessary at this point. I will make a quick statement hear about what you have been taught about the beast of chapter 11. You have been taught that the beast of chapter 11 is France. If you apply the principles of the “Bottomless Pit/Abyss” to this power (France), it does not fit the bill. In order for France to be the beast of chapter 11, France would have to have been placed into the bottomless pit/abyss at some past time period, and it would have to have been recorded in the bible.

We have now applied the “Bottomless Pit/Abyss” principles to this beast of chapter 11 and discovered the relative time period of when this power will come out of the bottomless pit. Chapter

17 has linked chapter 11 and 13 together by the phrase shall ascend out of the bottomless pit. Also the use of the same time period of forty-two months in each chapter shows that these two beasts are the same.

The whole purpose of these verses in chapter 17 is to link chapter 11 and 13 to the same time period. It is undeniable.

There is one thing that we did not mention about the first part of chapter 17:8. Let's look at it again:

“The beast you have seen is he who once was alive, and is alive no longer, but has yet to ascend out of the abyss **before going to perdition.**” Rev 17:8 first part.

Perdition means, everlasting destruction. So what does the end of this verse mean? It means that before this beast power is destroyed forever, it has to ascend out of the bottomless pit. It has to come back to life. The persecuting papacy has to be resurrected as it were.

I want to take you to Daniel chapter 7 for a minute, to show you that it says the exact same thing but only in different phraseology.

“...He (little horn/beast) shall plan to alter the customary times and law; and the saints shall be delivered into his power for a time, and times and half a time. Then the court shall sit, and he shall be deprived of his sovereignty, **so that in the end it may be destroyed and abolished.**” Dan 7:25,26

This last verse is telling us that the little horn, the persecuting papacy, was not destroyed or abolished when it lost its sovereignty. It was only placed into the abyss or bottomless pit until the time of the end where it will come back to life and then finally be destroyed and abolished. Just as Rev 17:8 tells us.

This is the same power that Paul was talking about in his second letter to the Thessalonians. Listen to his words and see if they sound like what we just covered.

“And now, brothers, about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and his gathering of us to himself: I beg you, do not suddenly lose your heads or alarm yourselves, whether at some oracular utterance, or pronouncement, or some letter purporting to come from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way whatever. **That day cannot come before the final rebellion against God, when wickedness will be revealed in human form, the man doomed to perdition.** He is the Enemy. He rises in his pride against every god, so called, every object of men's worship, and even takes his seat in the temple of God claiming to be a god himself.”

“You cannot but remember that I told you this while I was still with you; you must now be aware of the restraining hand which ensures that he shall be **revealed only at the proper time.** For already **the secret power** of wickedness is at work, **secret only**

for the present until the Restrainer disappears from the scene. And then he will be revealed, that wicked man whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth, and annihilate by the radiance of his coming. 2 Thes. 2:1-8

This is clearly talking about the Little Horn Power, the Persecuting Papacy, when it come up out of the abyss/bottomless pit and its deadly wound will be healed at the end of time. Also of the little horn/beasts final destruction (Perdition) as found in Revelation Chapter 19:17-21

Now we can go back to chapter 17 and finish up understanding what the angel is telling John about this beast that will emerge from the bottomless pit /abyss in the last days just prior to the 2nd coming of Christ.

‘But here is the clue for those who can interpret it. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They represent also seven kings, of whom five have already fallen, one is now reigning, and the other has yet to come; and when he does come he is only to last for a little while. Rev 17:9,10

The first part of verse 9 is very interesting. The angel does not seem to be talking to John, but to the people who will be living after the 5th head of the beast has fallen and beyond, meaning everyone who has lived since 1798.

At the time that John received this vision or prophecy, the little horn (5th head) had not even risen yet, let alone fallen. So the angel is really talking to you and me. He really wants us to understand what he is saying about this beast power.

As for the beast that once was alive and is alive no longer, he is an eighth – and yet his is one of the seven, and he is going to perdition. Rev 17:11

This verse is telling us that the beast that John saw in chapter 11 and 13, when it comes up out of the bottomless pit, will become the 8th head of the beast. It was the 5th head who had its sovereignty taken away in 1798 and will become the 8th head at the end of time when it comes out of the bottomless pit and perform the acts as described in chapters 11 and 13. When I say that this beast power had its sovereignty taken away in 1798, I mean that the papacy was disconnected from the state. It no longer had the power to persecute God’s people, and so when this beast rises out to the bottomless pit, it once again is connected to the state having persecuting power once again. The papacy or the mother church as it wants to be called, has always been since 538 AD. Even in 1798 after the pope was taken prisoner, the papacy existed until now. But when this eighth head rises out of the bottomless pit to persecute once more, it will soon thereafter be destroyed and abolished forever (go to perdition).

“Then I saw the **beast** and the kings of the earth and their armies mustered to do battle with the Rider and his army. **The beast was taken prisoner**, and so was the false prophet who had worked miracles in its presence and deluded those that had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were **thrown alive into the lake of fire** with its sulphurous flames.” Rev 19:19,20

Back to chapter 17.

“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet begun to reign, but who for one hour are to share with the beast the exercise of royal authority; for they have but a single purpose among them and will confer their power and authority upon the beast.”
Rev 17:12,13

These two verses tell us exactly how this beast is able to come out of the bottomless pit/abyss. The papacy by itself is not the beast. The papacy is not in the bottomless pit. It is alive and active. What constitutes the beast is the combination of the papacy and the state joining hands. So when we read these two verses, we see that the rulers of this world will at some point give their power and authority to the papacy, letting the beast out of the bottomless pit/abyss, to become the persecuting papacy once again.

Many Seventh-day Adventists today, especially in the United States, are looking for that great Sunday Law to be legislated in the United States that will constitute the mark of the beast. I have no idea what the rest of the Seventh-day Adventist around the world are looking for as far as the Sunday Law is concerned. But let us think for a moment about these two verses and what it means.

As you look at this world and all of its troubles, what would cause every government in the world, (ten kings) to give all of their power and authority to the papacy at the same time? As far as I can see, the world isn't any worse, then during WWII. In fact the world might even be a little better.

We have already stated, that chapter 17 is linking chapters 11 and 13, which describes this beasts end time power from two different perspectives. The long standing interpretation of the 2nd beast in chapter 13 has been the United States of American and I believe that is correct, but these two verses, 12 and 13 of chapter 17 does not single out the United States as the only one to give its power and authority to the beast. It says that all the kingdoms of the world will give the beast their power and authority. The question is why? Also why is the United States singled out in chapter 13?

Do you remember when the bottomless pit/abyss was unlocked? What was happening to this world that has never happened before? This world is in the midst of the seven trumpet judgments. The first four worldwide catastrophes have taken place and then the bottomless pit is unlocked during the 5th trumpet. So I ask you again, why do all the governments of the world give all their power and authority to the beast or the papacy? If he is the representative of Christ on this earth as he claims to be, then it would make since to me that in order to try and save this world from being destroyed by the calamities taking place around the world, this would be their last ditch effort. This is what would bring the Sunday law, the mark of the beast into play. The United States would be the enforcer of this Sunday law around the world as chapter 13 implies.

Verse 13 says that the ten kings have a single purpose among them, as the reason for conferring their power and authority onto the beast. What would be that single purpose? It is what I have just stated. To save the world from destruction. It's purpose is not to kill all of Gods true people around the world. Gods people will be seen as inhibitors to the solution of saving this world, and thus are made war upon.

I believe that the ecumenism taking place today, the returning of the daughters of the mother church, Babylon the great, is a precursor of the seven trumpet judgments.

“They (the beast, false prophet, and the kings of the earth) will wage war upon the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and his victory will be shared by his followers, called and chosen and faithful.” Rev 17:14
See Rev 19:19

If you have read the rest of this book, then you should be aware already that this verse is giving us a preview of what will take place in chapter 19. This will be the battle of Armageddon. Verse 16 of chapter 19 is one of the links to this verse in chapter 17.

“And on his robe and on his thigh there was written the name: ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’” Rev 19:16

As we move on in chapter 17 the angel gives John additional information of what John saw at the beginning of chapter 17.

“Then he said to me, ‘The ocean you saw, where the great whore sat, is an ocean of peoples and populations, nations and languages. As for the ten horns you saw, they together with the beast will come to hate the whore; they will strip her naked and leave her desolate, they will batten on her flesh and burn to ashes.’” Rev 17:15,16

The ocean in chapter 17 is the same as the sea in chapter 13, where the beast came out of. It represents the old world east of the Atlantic ocean.

The next descriptor gives us the reason why the second angel’s message of Rev 14 says that Babylon has fallen. For whatever reason, the beast and the ten kings, turn on Babylon the great and destroys her. Perhaps making her the scape goat after things continue to go wrong. Just a guess. But the real reason come in the next verse. This has something to do with what is says in verses 1 and 2 of chapter 17.

“For God has put it into their heads to carry out his purpose, by making common cause and conferring their sovereignty upon the beast until all that God has spoken is fulfilled. The woman you saw is the great city that holds sway over the kings of the earth.” Rev 17:17,18

God will have his purposes carried out in the end. He is in complete control.

The woman that John saw does not only represent the Mother Church, but it also represents the city which houses the papacy. Vatican City.

That brings to a close chapter 17. I hope this has been enlightening to you and that you have a greater understanding of the bottomless pit principle and how it brings understanding to the book of Revelation.

My last few comments on why I have written this book. Rev chapter 1 verse 3 says this.

“Happy is the man who reads, and happy those who listen to the words of this prophecy and heed what is written in it. For the hour of fulfillment is near.” Rev 1:3

God would not have had the book of Revelations written if he did not want people to understand how this world would end. If it is important to him then it should be important to you as a believer or even if you are not yet a believer.

When I try to share this information with Seventh-day Adventists, most don't even want to read it, but those who do, have a hard time accepting it because it is not what they have been taught down through the years. They tell me it is more important to have your relationship with the Lord correct, then to have a correct understanding of Revelation. And of course it is most important to have the best relationship with God as you can, no doubt about that. But God does not give out truth just for the fun of it. The book of Revelation has a purpose and the better we understand it the better off we will be. I did not ask for this assignment to write this book. I have enjoyed doing it and I learned a lot by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me. The very least a person should do is to study to see if what I have written seems reasonable or not. Pray about it and let the Holy Spirit guide you as you study this information.

I am not a person who has any formal education in the study of the bible. I have no PHD of any kind. I'm just a simple person, who was given a task to do, and I find it hard to believe that God has given me this information just for my own edification.

I hope you take the challenge to read this book if you are reading the last page first, and I hope that you have been stimulated enough to re-read this book as many times as you have to, to fully understand what God wants you to know.

After you have studied this book and found the information in this book to be sound, then I further encourage you to pass it on to someone else who you love or acquire a copy for them.

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you

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