

A Survey Study
Of the book of

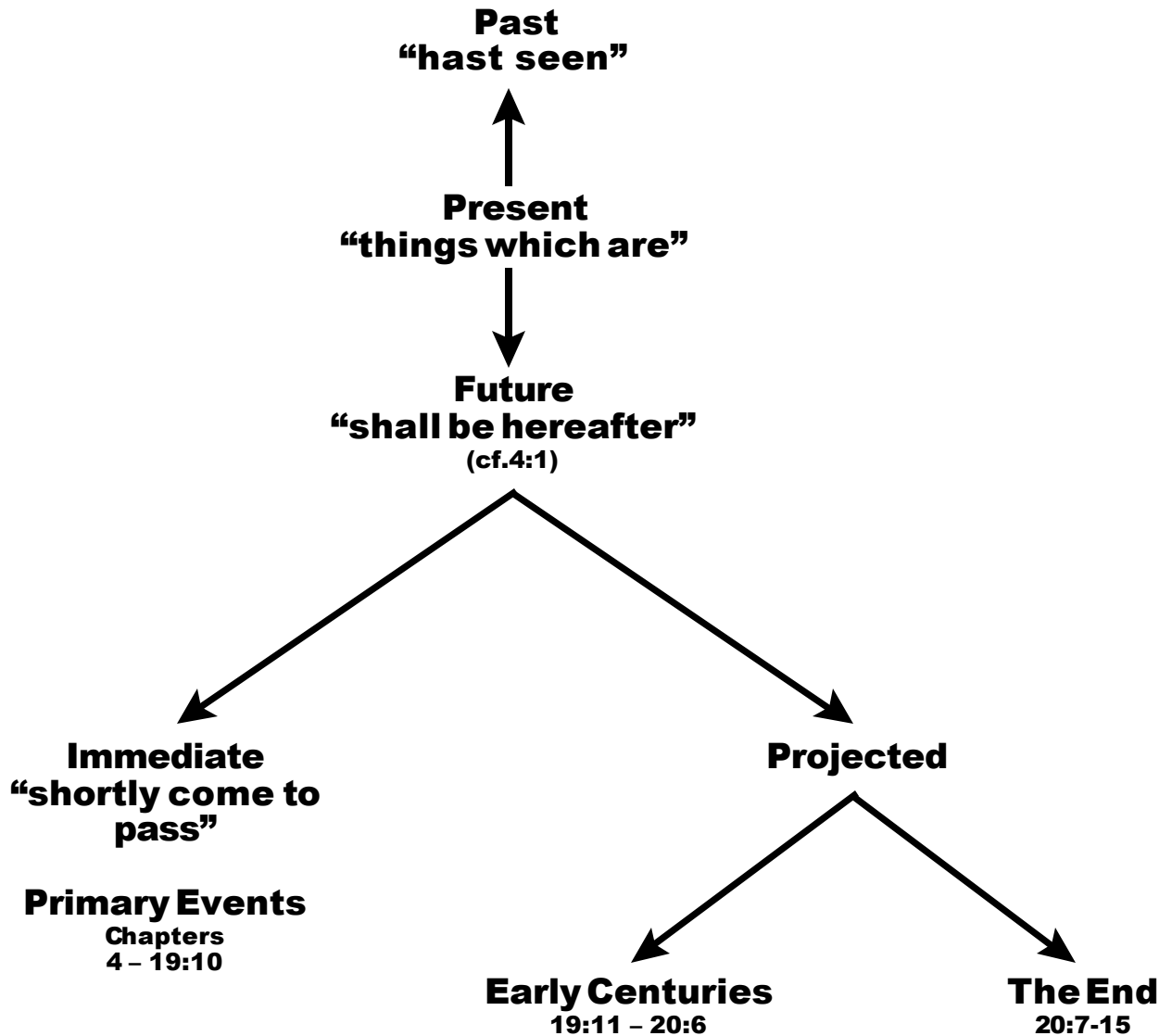
REVELATION

by
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CONTENT

John's Commission

*"Write the things which thou **hast seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which **shall be hereafter**" (1:19)*



Divisions of the Book

Christ Among The Churches Chapters 1-3	The Heavenly Apocalypse Chapters 4-11	The Earthly Apocalypse Chapters 12-20	The New Jerusalem Chapters 21-22
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Clues from the Book Establishing the Specific Events Foretold

Argument #1

A comparison of Revelation 10:7 with Luke 21:22 shows them to be dealing with identically and specifically the same thing.

Revelation 10:7

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."

Luke 21:22

"For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

Note Identical Points of Comparison

The Surrounding Context Shows:

1. An Angel from the Throne of God with a book in his hand, holds **universal sway** (10:1-5).
2. There would be **time no longer** (10:6).
3. **The mystery of God**, by the prophets, to be **finished**; accomplished, completed, fulfilled (10:7).
4. **The Temple** is then **measured** (11:1,2).
5. The area outside the Temple and the Holy City is to be **trodden down by the Gentiles** (11:2).
6. The City of **Jerusalem** is **identified** as the city (11:8).
7. The **Prophets who testified were fulfilled** (10:7;11:3-12).

cf. Matt.24; Mk.13; Lk.21:5-36

1. The Gospel of the kingdom would be preached **in all the world** (cf.Matt.24:14; Lk.21:13).
2. Then comes **the end** (Lk.21:9,20; cf.Matt.24:6,13,14).
3. **All things** which are **written** may be **fulfilled**, completed, accomplished, or finished (Lk.21:22).
4. **The Temple** is **surveyed** and its destruction foretold (21:5,6; cf.Matt. 24:1,2).
5. Jerusalem shall be **trodden down of the Gentiles** (Lk.21:24).
6. **Jerusalem** is specifically **identified** (Lk.21:20,24).
7. **All things written fulfilled** (Lk.21:22).

"This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled" (Luke 21:32).

Conclusion:

1. Without question, the events of Lk.21:22 were fulfilled in 70 A.D.
2. But, Jesus said that *"All things written were fulfilled"* at that time.
3. Therefore, the Mystery of God, declared to God's servants the Prophets, were fulfilled in the Destruction of Jerusalem.
4. Therefore, **THE EVENTS SHORTLY TO COME TO PASS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION CONCERNED THE DESOLATION OF ISRAEL AND THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM.**

Argument #2

Comparing the two messages of Jesus concerning the Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets. The message of the book of Revelation is compared to the one spoken during His personal ministry.

The Vengeance of Revelation

1. In the Apocalypse of chapters 4-11, vengeance is called for.

*“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the **souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held**: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, **dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**” (6:9-10).*

These are dead servants of God who have been resting for a while, unto whom white robes are given (v.11). These are Old Testament Saints martyred for their testimony. They anticipate and expect to be avenged.

2. At the close of this apocalypse, vengeance has been given.

*“We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and **the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth?**” (11:17-18).*

3. In the Apocalypse of chapters 12-20, vengeance belongs to the Lord.

*“And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, Which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. **For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy**” (16:5-6).*

*“**Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her**” (18:20).*

4. The reason for the destruction of Babylon the Great was:

*“**And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth**” (18:24).*

Conclusion from These Facts:

1. **A city is destroyed, called Babylon the Great, as Vengeance from God.**
2. The reason was that **in her was found the blood of prophets, saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.**
3. When it was accomplished, **it was to be considered as God’s Avenging of the holy apostles and prophets.**

The Vengeance Promised by Jesus

1. *31 The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. 32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third [day] I shall be perfected. 33 Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the [day] following: **for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem. 34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets,** and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen [doth gather] her brood under [her] wings, and ye would not! 35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until [the time] come when ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Lk.13:31-35).*
2. *45 Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also. 46 And he said, Woe unto you also, [ye] lawyers! For ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers. 47 Woe unto you! **For ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48 Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.** 49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, **I will send them prophets and apostles, and [some] of them they shall slay and persecute: 50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;** 51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation” (Lk.11:45-51).*
3. *29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that **ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.** 33 [Ye] serpents, [ye] generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? 34 Wherefore, behold, **I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and [some] of them ye shall kill and crucify;** and [some] of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute [them] from city to city: 35 **That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.** 36 Verily I say unto you, **All these things shall come upon this generation. 37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets,** and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matt.23:29-39).*

Observations from These Verses

1. Jerusalem, including the Temple, was to be destroyed as Vengeance from God.
2. The Reason was because that in Jerusalem was to be found ALL THE RIGHTEOUS BLOOD SHED UPON THE EARTH.
3. And it would be required of the generation then living as the vengeance of God.

Compared to the Observations from Revelation

1. A city is destroyed, called Babylon the Great, as Vengeance from God.
2. The reason was that in her was found the blood of prophets, saints, and OF ALL THAT WERE SLAIN UPON THE EARTH.
3. When it was accomplished, it was to be considered as God's Avenging of the holy apostles and prophets.

Conclusions

THE ESSENTIALS ARE IDENTICAL, AND THEREFORE BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS, UPON WHOM GOD AVENGED THE BLOOD OF ALL THAT WERE SLAIN UPON THE EARTH, IS JERUSALEM, AND CANNOT POSSIBLY BE ANY OTHER.

To seek to make Babylon the Great literal Babylon, Rome, the Apostate Church, Moscow, or any other city, is to force a contradiction in scripture. If ALL the righteous blood shed on the earth was to be required of Israel and Jerusalem, there could be none left to be required of any other. The case then is closed. There are no alternatives without contradiction. The conclusion, therefore, based upon these infallible, unimpeachable, irrefutable, conclusive arguments is, that the events that were shortly to come to pass center around the desolation of the nation of Israel, the destruction of Jerusalem, and events to follow.

Argument #3

A comparison of Revelation 7:14 with Matthew 24:21 reveals periods of tribulation that are identical. Note the comparison:

*“These are they who have come out of **the great tribulation**”* (Rev.7:14, NIV. The KJV omits the definite article *“the”* which is found in the oldest manuscripts).

*“For then shall be **great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be**”* (Matt.24:21).

One is observed as *“**the great tribulation**”* (Rev.7:14) and the other as *“**great tribulation**”* such as never had been or ever would be. **If the tribulation period that preceded the destruction of Jerusalem was to be the greatest that ever was or ever would be, “the great tribulation” of Revelation 7:14 MUST of necessity be the same period of tribulation or it is not “the great tribulation”** (cf.Dan.12:1). To assign *“the great tribulation”* to another period of time is to again force a contradiction in scripture. Since there can be no question about the application of the *“great tribulation”* of Matthew 24:21, because it was to be fulfilled during the generation living when Jesus spoke the words (Matt.24:34), *“the great tribulation”* of the Apocalypse MUST be the tribulation period that preceded the destruction of Jerusalem. Again, there are no alternatives. The events that were shortly to come to pass center around the desolation of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem.

Conclusion:

By identifying the *“things which must shortly come to pass”* with the desolation of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem we have established three things:

1. **We have established that the book was written sometime prior to 70 A.D.** The most probable date is 65-66 A.D.
2. **We have established the correct method of interpretation to be used in understanding its application.** It is preterist and early historical. Preterist because it must be interpreted with the people of John's day in view and historical because the events foretold can be seen as fulfilled in the history of the times following.
3. **We have established what constitutes the subject matter of this great book and thus removed the need for speculation.** It is no longer needful to speculate concerning the application of the signs and symbols. They must be applied or interpreted in view of the desolation of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem which at that time were *“shortly to come to pass.”*

It is the triumph of faith and patience to be able to look at the book of Revelation with confidence that we **CAN** understand its message. Understanding is indeed the reward of this glorious work (1:3).

The Heavenly Apocalypse

- I. In **The Heavenly Apocalypse** the development of events takes place in this order:
 - A. **The old testament throne scene** (4:1-11).
 1. In this scene, God rules and reigns in all His majesty and glory prior to the advent of Christ.
 - B. **The new testament throne scene** (5:1-14).
 1. The picture changes as the Lamb makes His appearance at the right hand of God to receive the completely approved (sealed) book from God, while all of heaven and earth give Him praise.
 - C. **The opening of the first six seals** (6:1-17).
 1. Emphasis begins to be placed upon those things which confirm God's approval of the divine message received by the Son.
 - D. **The interlude between the sixth and seventh seals** (7:1-17).
 1. We are privileged to see a picture of the redeemed of earth up to and including the great tribulation that preceded the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - E. **The opening of the seventh and final seal** (8:1-5).
 1. Here we are introduced to the magnitude and seriousness of the events God decreed.
 2. All of heaven stands in silent awe as the final seal upon God's word is opened.
 - F. **The sounding of the first six trumpets** (8:6-9:21).
 1. Our eyes observe the chronological development of the desolation of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem as it was directed by the throne of God.
 - G. **The interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets** (10:1-11:14).
 1. Here we are privileged to observe the fulfillment of the Word of God.
 2. The predictions of both Old and New Testaments, regarding the destruction of the Israelite nation, the final end of their city (Jerusalem) and the destruction of their temple, are seen as completed.
 - H. **The sounding of the seventh trumpet** (11:15-19).
 1. The end comes.
 2. God is vindicated as His servants are avenged and He reigns supremely.
- II. By the accomplishment of these events, God put the final seal of divine approval upon His word declaring that it is indeed from Him. Let us rejoice for God has spoken in these last days through His Son (Heb.1:1).

The Earthly Apocalypse

- I. **The Earthly Apocalypse** goes beyond the limits of the preceding one.
 - A. It gets to the root of the problem.
 - B. Once the end of Israel and Jerusalem is clearly set forth, this Apocalypse portrays the expanded conflict that develops in the years following, even giving a brief summation of events to transpire unto the end of time.

- II. The development of events foretold in this Apocalypse follow this order:
 - A. **The underlying conflict** (12:1-17).
 1. In this scene, the conflict between good and evil, righteousness and sin, Christ and Satan is viewed as the real problem.
 2. We are permitted to visualize the conflict developing before our eyes into its full fury.
 - B. **The emerging of satan's helpers in the conflict** (13:1-18).
 1. Satan employs powerful means in an effort to defeat the Savior and the saved.
 - C. **The beginning and spread of Christianity** (14:1-3), and **The reaping of the harvests** (14:14-20).
 1. In these two sections, Christianity is surveyed to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - D. **The seven last plagues, or bowls of wrath** (15:1-16:21).
 1. Like the seven trumpeting angels, the seven last plagues carry us through various stages in the development of the conflict resulting in the destruction of Jerusalem.
 2. The city is viewed as destroyed by the wrath of God (Ch.14), and this section follows with the development of the events which precede it.
 - E. **The judgement upon the great whore** (17:1-18:24).
 1. The events described in this section had already taken place in the Apocalypse, but here we are permitted to take a closer look.
 - F. **The victorious Christ conquers all foes and reigns supremely to the end** (19:1-20:15).
 1. Once the **great harlot** is punished and the heavens rejoice, we are permitted to see the continuing conflict that develops in chapters 12 and 13.
 2. Satan and his helpers battle against Christ and His followers.
 3. Christ and His armies are victorious over Satan.
 4. Satan's helpers are conquered and destroyed.
 5. Satan is bound for a 1,000 years while Christ and His saints reign victoriously unto the end.

Identifying Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots

Rome's Character	Babylon's Characteristics	Jerusalem's Character
Rome ruled over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations (13:7).	Babylon sat upon many waters (17:4) which are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues (17:15).	Spiritually, Jerusalem ruled over the Jews scattered' into all the nations of the world (Acts 2:5-11; cf. Jos., Ant., 14,7,2).
Rome would have qualified as guilty of this as political, economic and religious fornication (cf. Jer.51:7; Isa.23:17).	The Kings of the earth committed fornication with Babylon, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication (14:8; 17:2; 18:3).	Jerusalem was accused of this kind of fornication from of old (cf. 2 Chron.21:11; Ezek.16:15,26,29).
Rome does not fit the picture, because Rome was the beast upon which this Harlot sat.	Babylon sat upon the beast and was carried by the beast (17:3,7). The woman is not the beast but was carried or supported by the beast.	Jerusalem was not the beast or any part of the beast. Judaism was aloft from the Empire, refused to accept a position with the Empire, and was tolerated and protected by the Empire.
It is possible, I suppose, to characterize Rome with these words.	Babylon was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, and a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication (17:4; 18:16).	Jerusalem was described in similar terms in the scriptures (cf. Jer. 4:30; Ezek. 16:1-63).
Rome could never be described as the MOTHER of Harlots. When John wrote, Rome was the youngest of political harlots and remained so for hundreds of years. She might be identified as the DAUGHTER of Harlots but never as the MOTHER of Harlots.	Babylon's forehead is inscribed: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARTLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (17:5).	The nation of Israel with Jerusalem as the capital is the oldest political, economic and religious harlot identified in the scriptures (cf. Ezek. 16, esp. vs. 43; Jer. 3:1-3).
Rome through the sovereignty of her kings ruled over the kings of the earth (17:9-16).	Babylon is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth (17:18).	Jerusalem, through the majesty of her position as the religious headquarters of Judaism throughout the world, ruled with a dominion superior to that of the kings of earth.
There is no satisfactory explanation of this with respect to Rome.	Babylon is divided into three parts (16:19).	Jerusalem was divided into three parts both geographically and politically.
<p style="text-align: center;">ROME AS PERSECUTOR</p> <p>Blood found in Rome: Martyrs of Jesus No prophet could perish Rome (Lk.13:33).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BABYLON AS PERSECUTOR</p> <p>Blood found in Babylon: Saints, martyrs of Jesus, prophets and ALL that were slain upon earth (17:6, 18:24).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JERUSALEM AS PERSECUTOR</p> <p>Blood found in Jerusalem: The blood of all of them. Jerusalem held responsible for deaths of apostles, prophets, and ALL the righteous blood shed upon the earth (Matt. 23:34-39; Lk. 11:46-52; 13:34-35).</p>

Rome's Character	Babylon's Characteristics	Jerusalem's Character
While this may in some sense be said of Rome, commentators are slow to pinpoint when and by whom it was so inhabited.	Babylon became the habitation of devils, the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hateful bird (18:2).	Josephus leaves no doubt about the character of the inhabitants of Jerusalem just before it was destroyed (Jos., Wars,4,6,3; 5,10,5).
There is no recorded call or reason for a call to God's people to come out of Rome. Rome has not as yet suffered destruction for her sins.	God's people are called to come out of her lest they be partakers of her sins and her plagues (18:4).	Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and gave instructions for them to leave lest they suffer because of her sins (Matt.24:15-22; Mk,13:14-20; Lk.21:20-24).
As Babylon of old could have cried this, so Rome also could be pictured as crying this (Isa.47:8).	Babylon said in her heart, "I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow (18:7).	Jerusalem also could have cried this in her heart (cf. Isa.54:4; Lam.1:1). Israel was married to Jehovah.
<p style="text-align: center;">ROME'S DESTRUCTION???</p> <p>When, where, how, and by whom was Rome destroyed? Rome was captured and conquered, but not destroyed. Rome is called the Eternal City because it has a continual existence of more than 2000 years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BABYLON' S DESTRUCTION</p> <p>The ten horns of the beast were to hate the whore, make her desolate, naked, eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. Death, mourning, famine, and utter burning were the result (17:16; 18:8). Babylon was totally destroyed (18:21; 19:3).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JERUSALEM' S DESTRUCTION</p> <p>The kings of the provinces joined Vespasian and Titus in the Roman war against the Jews, and Jerusalem was made totally desolate, naked, her citizens cast to beasts; death, mourning famine and total destruction the results.</p>
The city of Rome to this day has not been rewarded once much less twice.	Babylon was to be rewarded double according to her works (18:6).	Jerusalem was destroyed twice for her sins. In 586 B.C. and in 70 A.D.
Since these were to be avenged on Jerusalem, there were none left to avenge on Rome.	The heaven, saints, apostles, and prophets were avenged on Babylon with her destruction (18:20; 19:2).	Jesus said God would avenge these on Jerusalem (Matt.23:34-39; Lk.11;46-52; 13:34-35).

10 Major Lessons to Gain from the Book of Revelation

- ① The Throne of God is in control.**
- ② God uses the instruments of men to accomplish HIS purposes.**
- ③ The scheme of redemption, from beginning to end, is portrayed in pictorial form.**
- ④ God keeps His promises.**
- ⑤ The promises of God to build a New Jerusalem are fulfilled.**
- ⑥ The people of God are always victorious.**
- ⑦ The enemies of the Lamb always suffer defeat.**
- ⑧ The church on earth is local, physical and imperfect.**
- ⑨ The church universal is spiritual and perfect.**
- ⑩ The Tree of Life is once again available – being available to those in the New Jerusalem.**

The Heavenly Apocalypse



Chapters 4-11

The Throne of God		The Seven Seals										Chapters 6-11					
4:1-11	5:1-14	1 st Six Seals						7:1-17	Seventh Seal							Chapters 8-11	
		6:1,2	6:3,4	6:5,6	6:7,8	6:9-11	6:12-17		The Seven Trumpeting Angels								7 th TA
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th		1 st Six Trumpeting Angels								
		W H I T E	R E D	B L A C K	P A L E	S O U L S	G R E A T		Interlude	8:7	8:8,9	8:10,11	8:12,13	9:1-12	9:13-21	10:1-11:14	11:15-19
Old	New					Between	S I L E N C E	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Interlude	7 th		
Testament	Testament					•	I N	Hail,	Mt.	Great	a	Star	Angels	Mighty	The		
Throne	Throne					144,000	H E A V E N	&	On	Star	of	Falls	bound	Angel	Deed		
Scene	Scene					Sealed		Fire,	Fire	Falls	Sun	•	in	•	is		
						•		mg	cast	upon	Moon	Bottom	Euph.	Temple	Done		
						The		Blood	into	Rivers	&	less	Loosed	Measured	•		
						Innumerable			Sea		Stars	pit		•	God		
						Multitude					Smitten	is		City	Reigns		
												opened		Destroyed			

The Earthly Apocalypse



Chapters 12-20

12:1-17 The Underlying Conflict Between Christ and Satan Over Sin Is Developed	The Foes in this Conflict Introduced		14:14-16 The Reaping of the Good Harvest	The 7 Last Plagues or Bowls of Wrath		Judgment Upon Babylon the Great		19:1-10 Victory Celebration Over Babylon's Fall and The Lamb's Marriage	20:1-3 Satan is Bound for 1,000 Years				
	13:1-18 Satan's Helpers Introduced	14:1-13 The Lamb With 144,000 Introduced		15:1-8 Victorious Saints Rejoice as the Seven Angels With The Seven Bowls of Wrath Are Sent From God		17:1 – 18:24				17:1-18 Babylon Introduced and Identified	18:1-24 The Fall of Babylon the Great	19:11-21 The Lamb is Victorious • Satan's Helpers are Destroyed	20:4-6 Dead Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years
	• The Roman Empire • The Pagan Religions That Served The Empire	• Christianity's Three Messages • The Gospel – The Fall of Babylon – Warning Against Worshiping The Empire	14:17-20 The Reaping of the Vine of the Earth	16:1,2 1 st Bowl • Earth	16:1-18 Babylon Introduced and Identified	18:1-24 The Fall of Babylon the Great	19:11-21 The Lamb is Victorious • Satan's Helpers are Destroyed	20:7,8 Satan is Loosed					
				16:3 2 nd Bowl • Sea					20:9,10 Satan is Destroyed				
				16:4-7 3 rd Bowl • Rivers									
				16:8,9 4 th Bowl • Sun									
				16:10,11 5 th Bowl • Rome									
				16:12-16 6 th Bowl • Euphrates									
				16:17-21 7 th Bowl • Air									