

For Bible Students

A Primer and Guide for

the Study of

REVELATION

CHAPTER 1

GETTING STARTED

The study of the book of Revelation is often approached with fear or hesitation by brethren. Many simply choose not to approach it at all. But this attitude is neither correct nor spiritually healthy. We live at a time in the end of the age when enough information has been made available that Revelation can be understood (at the very least in its basics) by nearly all of the Harvest-time saints. Because it is a very spiritual book, and because its contents can be nothing less than very helpful to the Laodicean church, it should be one important object of study for all who have digested the Harvest message as presented in Studies in the Scriptures. Revelation is the only purely prophetic book in the New Testament writings. Surely this tells us something of its importance to the saints.

The New Albany Ecclesia has prepared a booklet on Revelation for public witnessing. It has also prepared an exhaustive notebook on Revelation — a commentary of over 400 pages which examines Revelation in great detail, verse by verse. But neither of these offerings is designed specifically to help other ecclesias and individuals in their own approach to the study of Revelation. This booklet is specifically designed to do that. Thus, this booklet is more about method than about specific interpretation; but method results in interpretation. Therefore, basic concepts of interpretation will be found in this booklet.

Suggested Order of Study

It is usual to begin the study of a book in the Bible by beginning with verse 1 and progressing from that point. Revelation is, perhaps, best approached differently. We know from his writings that Pastor Russell thought the day would come when Revelation would be clarified. He summed this up in the phrase "Someone else will have to write the Seventh Volume." Bro. Russell was, with a few major exceptions, not ready to commit himself to a detailed interpretation of this great book. Nevertheless, he did lay the foundation for its interpretation — frequently giving us major hints about symbolisms and concepts.

Perhaps the Pastor's most dramatic contribution to the study of Revelation was his enlightened and detailed exposition of Chapter 12. (R 55; R 306; Vol. 3, pp 64-69) Bro. Russell's careful attention to the detail of this chapter opens to us symbolisms, contextual considerations, chronological considerations, historical applications, and the importance of topical comparisons. What he did with Chapter 12, we should do with the entire book. Therefore, a careful study of Chapter 12 is wisely the beginning point for a successful study of Revelation.

Then where? As will soon be detailed, Revelation neatly divides itself into three major sections:

1. Chapters dealing with the Entire Gospel Age
2. Chapters dealing with the Harvest Period only
3. Chapters dealing with the Millennium

It cannot be overstressed how important it is to realize this CONSTRUCTION of Revelation. One major reason we understand the Bible is that Bro. Russell has reduced it to ONE PAGE which we call The Chart of the Ages. If we can view the CONSTRUCTION or ARCHITECTURE of Revelation before we begin the study of its detail, we have the same advantage that The Chart of the Ages provided for us in Bible study. The next chapter of this booklet will deal more with this architectural construction of Revelation.

After studying Chapter 12, Rev. 1:1-8 (the Introduction to the Book of Revelation) is the next logical step. Then, because it is good to get "a taste" of each of Revelation's three major sections, it is probably good to study one unit from each of these sections as the first part of considering the book. Since Chapter 12 is a part of Section 1, the next study (from Section 3) should be Chapter 20:1-10 (because Bro. Russell wrote extensively concerning it). Having thus considered parts of Sections 1 and 3, it would then be advisable to study one of the views of the Harvest Period from Section 2. Some of these are more difficult than others. Probably the first view of the Harvest Period (14:6-20) would be the easiest to consider initially. Less is available in Bro. Russell's writings on this unit, but that will be an increasing problem as study progresses.

With the study of Chapters 12, 20, and 14, there will have been an exposure to each of Revelation's three main sections. Following is a list of what has proved a beneficial sequence for studying the remainder of the book:

1. The Introductions to Seven Churches, Seals & Trumpets
 - a) To the Churches (1:9-20)
 - b) To the Seals (4:1 — 5:14)
 - c) To the Trumpets (8:2-6)
2. The Seven Churches, Seals & Trumpets
 - a) The 6th — 3:7-13;6:12-17;(Ch.7);9:13-21;Ch.10;11:1-14
 - b) The 7th — 3:14-21;8:1;11:15-19
 - c) The 1st — 2:1-7;6:1,2;8:7
 - d) The 2nd — 2:8-11;6:3,4;8:8,9
 - e) The 3rd — 2:12-17;6:5,6;8:10,11
 - f) The 4th — 2:18-29;6:7,8;8:12,13
 - g) The 5th — 3:1-6;6:9-11;9:1-12
- 3 The Throne of Individual Judgment 20:11 — 21:1
- 4 The New Order Summarized 21:2—8
- 5 Two Beasts, an Image, & the Overcomers 13:1 — 14:5
- 6 The Harvest from the Perspective of the Saints 19:11—21
- 7 The Plagues 15:1 —16:21
- 8 Economic Developments against Babylon 18:1 — 19:10
- 9 Political-Social Developments Against Babylon 17:1—18
- 10 The New Government Symbolized 21:9—27
- 11 Food, Water, & Light for Everlasting Life 22:1—5
- 12 Epilogue 22:6—21

Suggested Method of Study

It has frequently been the approach of brethren to consult whatever Bro. Russell has written on a chapter and then to consult the commentaries by various brethren on the same section. While this may have some benefit, it is a less-than-desirable approach. We should all remember and appreciate what we have learned from the 7th Messenger about beneficial study. Study should be CONTEXTUAL — explaining why something is WHERE it is and how it relates to the surrounding text. Study should also be DISPENSATIONAL — showing why a certain context applies to a certain TIME. An example of the importance of this is shown in Rev. 6:14-17. Please read those verses. How many times have we heard them applied to the day in which we live? But notice the CONTEXT (verse 12). These verses apply to the 6th period of the Church, NOT the 7th. They had their fulfillment in the years around the "time of the end" — the years of the French Revolution. CONTEXTUAL and DISPENSATIONAL study is SO important when we want the correct answers!

Additionally, study must be TOPICAL — explaining symbols in a manner consistent with their uses elsewhere.

The CONTEXTUAL and DISPENSATIONAL approaches are made more easy when we see the FRAMEWORK of the book. This is why The Chart of the Ages has simplified Bible study. The architecture (or construction) of Revelation has already been discussed in a very general way. Its specifics will be shown in the next chapter.

The TOPICAL approach to study will reveal great truths to the diligent student. Words or phrases which are used more than once in Revelation should be studied for consistent meaning. This will mean that a study of Rev. 1:1-8 may take us to three other places in Revelation to see (for instance) how "seven spirits" are used. Rev. 5:6 might then send us to IIChron. 16:9 and Zech. 4:10 for further clues. If we have a good definition of the "seven spirits," it will apply in all four places in Revelation. This kind of approach SHOULD BE USED FREQUENTLY to avoid erroneous conclusions. It is better to do "too much" of this kind of comparison than too little.

It is important to keep a record of each topical study for future reference. Occasionally it will be necessary to adjust a definition slightly when subsequent contexts are understood more clearly.

Other factors will enter into study. The first six churches, seals, and trumpets will require some knowledge of HISTORY. If this knowledge is not known by any in the study group, it will become necessary to seek help. This is when commentaries by other brethren can become useful. Whenever our studies come to an impasse, we can often find clues in the writings of these brethren. IF, however, we have studied as before outlined, we will be better able to judge which of the commentaries is the most likely correct. Thus there is no need to become bogged down in comparing Bro. X's notes to those of Bros. Y, Z, A, and B unless we are unable to go farther on our own.

Translations

With a book of such intricate symbolism, the accuracy of the text is most important. The New American Standard is probably the best commonly available translation for consistency of translation and accuracy of text. However, it is definitely not perfect. Read its marginal alternatives. Compare it to the other scholarly translations (like the Marshall Diaglott, the Concordant Literal Translation, etc.). Remember that VERY FINE translators of the 19th century (like Rotherham and Wilson's Diaglott) DID NOT HAVE ACCESS to modern discoveries of ancient manuscripts. They may, therefore, include spurious or inaccurate words, or may even leave out words which should be a part of the text.

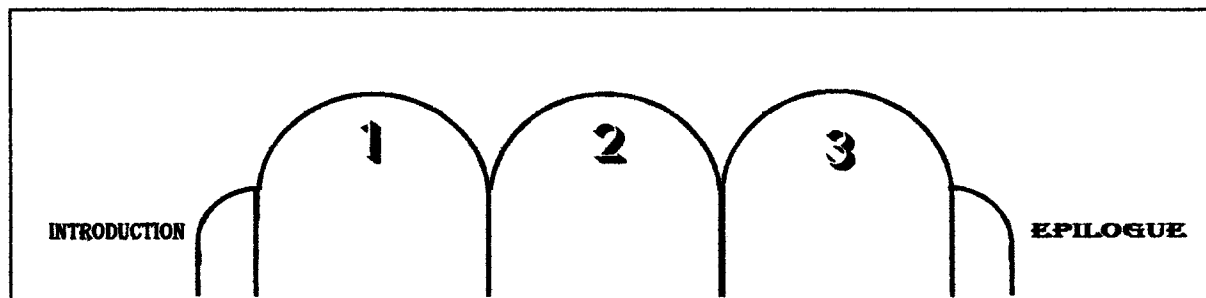
While it seems difficult, if not impossible, to check every word, it is a good idea to check final conclusions on any section by carefully reading a scholarly translation to see if it might change the conclusions arrived at in the study. If it does, adjustments to our understanding should be made.



CHAPTER 2

THE ARCHITECTURE (OR CONSTRUCTION) OF REVELATION

Now the joys begin! To see the structure of Revelation is to see more than most theologians throughout history have been privileged to see. The next few pages of this booklet can be the key to a very large measure of understanding of Revelation. Even though Revelation is a very complicated prophecy, its basic simplicity is at once encouraging and enlightening.



The little diagram above demonstrates Revelation's simple symmetry. At the beginning (1:1-8) is a small section that serves as an introduction to the entire prophecy. At the end (22:6-21) is another small section that serves as an epilogue to the entire prophecy. Between are three sections — we will call them Sections 1 through 3 — which serve to detail in advance all of the history since the ending of the Jewish Age.

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|-----------|---|
| Section 1 | (1:9 - 14:5) gives five views of the entire Gospel Age (including the Harvest) |
| Section 2 | (14:6 - 19:21) gives five views focusing exclusively on the Harvest Period. |
| Section 3 | (20:1 - 22:5) gives five views of the Millennium — (all having AT LEAST SOME CONNECTION to the Gospel Age Harvest). |

Even if we were to go no further, it is clear that understanding this much is an invaluable aid in a study of Revelation. Interpretations begin to fall into place when the periods of time in which they function are realized. A closer look is warranted:

A Closer Look At Section 1

Section 1, five views of the Gospel Age (including the Harvest), is divided as follows:

Introduction to the Seven Churches (1:9—20)

The Seven Churches (2:1 — 3:22)

Introduction to the Seven Seals (4:1 —5:14) The

Seven Seals (6:1 — 8:1)

Introduction to the Seven Trumpets (8:2—6)

The Seven Trumpets (8:7 — 11:14)

The Woman, Dragon, and False Michael (12:1 — 13:1) Two
Beasts, an Image, and the Overcomers

(13:1 — 14:5)

This would be a good time to mark your Bibles so that each of the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets is clearly visible to your eye as you look through Revelation. The following chart is provided so that you can make these markings.

Number	Church	Seal	Trumpet
1.	Ephesus 2:1	White Horse 6:1	8:7
2.	Smyrna 2:8	Red Horse 6:3	8:8
3.	Pergamos 2:12	Black Horse 6:5	8:10
4.	Thyatira 2:18	Pale Horse 6:7	8:12
5.	Sardis 3:1	Souls Under Altar 6:9	9:1
6.	Philadelphia 3:7	Earthquake 6:12	9:13
7.	Laodicea 3:14	Silence 8:1	11:15

Because the architecture is important, so also is SEEING it. Marking your book clearly helps to find things and to see relationships.

It is a good idea to READ each of the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets MANY TIMES. The purpose for this is NOT study or understanding, but merely familiarity. The more familiar we become with the words of this prophecy, the more sensitive we will be to subtleties when we try to interpret the words. We recommend reading the first church, first seal, and first trumpet together. Then do likewise with all the others in the sequence.

An Interesting Observation

Notice that the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets (each of which takes us through the Gospel Age in seven successive steps,) HAVE INTRODUCTIONS. This is true also of the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES of Chapter 16. (Chapter 15 serves as their introduction.) No other part of Revelation has this kind of introduction (save the introduction to the whole book in 1:1-8). ONLY the four series of seven parts each have this peculiarity (Churches, Seals, Trumpets, Plagues). Why is this?

It is likely that the Lord wanted to UNIFY each series so that we understand that the parts of these series do not stand alone. In each case, one part affects the next, and it is the TOTALITY of each series which gives us the story of the Gospel Age or the Gospel Age Harvest. The introductions give us vital lessons applicable to all parts of the series.

Also, when we study the three introductions to the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets, we find the evidences we need to show us that one series DOES NOT FOLLOW another series historically. Rather, the first church, first seal, and first trumpet are all simultaneous (and so on through the series). This might well escape our attention without a study of the introductions.

It is important for each individual to be convinced in his own mind regarding the histories and lessons of these Churches, Seals, and Trumpets. However, as an aid and stimulus to thought, the following chart is given as a logical summary of these three series of seven parts each.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHURCHS, SEALS, & TRUMPETS

Dates	Events	Angels	Church	Seal	Trumpet	Observations
33	Church Established					
67	Paul's Death / Nero's Persecution	Paul ?-67	I Ephesus			
70	Fall of Jerusalem		.....		
100	Last Apostle Dies	John 2?-100?	II Smyrna			
303	Diocletian's persecution		---Rev.2:10			
313	Edict of Milan		.....		
325	Nicean Council	Arius 252-336	III Pergamos			
539	1260 Days Begin					-Dan.7:25; 12:7
711-32	Islamic Advancement in Europe					
754	Papal States (until 1870)					
800	Charlemagne Crowned			---Rev. 2:21		
962	Holy Roman Empire (-1860)					} 360
1054	E. & W. Churches divide					
1160	Waldenses proclaimed heretics		.....		
1334-1354	Black Death			---Rev. 2:23		
1371	Bull against Wycliffe		.....			} 360
1378-1418	Great Schism	Wycliffe	V		Rev. 9:5,10	
1453	Fall of E. Rome/ Vatican built	1324-1384	Sardis			
1492	End of Islam in Europe					
1518	95 Theses			---Rev. 6:11		} 150
1521	Diet of Worms		.....		
1648	Peace of Westphalia	Luther 1483-1546	VI Philadelphia			} 360
1789	French Revolution			---Rev. 6:12	---Rev. 11:13	
1799	End of 1260 days				---Rev. 10:6	
1874	Parousia		■---Rev. 3:20		---Rev. 11:15	
1878	First Resurrection (Rev. 14:8, 13)	Russell 1852-1916	---VII--- Laodicea			---Dan. 7:25, 12:7
			.....	Rev. 8:1		---Dan. 12:12
?			.....			---I Thess 4:16

How Do Churches, Seals, and Trumpets Differ?

Since these three views of the Gospel Age seem similar in that each view is divided into seven parts, it is only natural to ask WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE of each series? Why go through the seven periods of the age three times?

1. The messages to the "angels" of the seven churches are for the purpose of explaining prevailing weaknesses and conditions during each stage of the church. Thus the brethren of each period can be instructed as to what is to be overcome and what is necessary in order to accomplish the overcoming.
2. The descriptions found as each seal is opened is for the purpose of showing how the historical events of the period will have affected the church.
3. The objective of the trumpet sequence is just the opposite of the seals. The trumpet descriptions show how the seasonal religious truths are to affect surrounding society.

The Other Two Pictures

The two final views of the Gospel Age found in Chapters 12 and 13 are unlike the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets in that they do not divide the age into seven periods.

Chapter 12 (which really ends after the first statement of 13:1) is given specifically to show us how the cooperation between apostate Christianity (the "manchild") and the civil power (the dragon and serpent) will jointly be used to persecute the saints.

Chapter 13 (which really continues through 14:5) is given specifically to show how apostate Christianity would divide into Orthodox and Protestant factions — ALL of whom would be in opposition to the truths promulgated by the Overcomers.

An Aside About Chapter Divisions

There is nothing sacred about chapter or verse divisions. Usually the translators who supplied them did an acceptable job considering how very little they understood. However, sometimes the existing chapter or verse divisions greatly obscure the construction of the book. (The parenthetical remarks above about Chapters 12 and 13 are examples.) Following is a chart that, we believe, much more accurately divides the Revelation prophecy.

New Numbering:

Old Numbering:

Part I: THE GOSPEL AGE Part I: THE GOSPEL AGE Part I: THE GOSPEL AGE

Chapter 1	Introduction to the Book	(1:1—8)
Chapter 2	Introduction to the 7 Churches	(1:9—20)
Chapter 3	The 7 Churches	(2 & 3)
Chapter 4	Introduction to the 7 Seals	(4 & 5)
Chapter 5	The 7 Seals	(6:1 — 8:1)
Chapter 6	Introduction to the 7 Trumpets	(8:2— 6)
Chapter 7	The 7 Trumpets	(8:7 — 11:19)
Chapter 8	The Woman, Manchild, and Dragon	(12:1 — 13:1 thru "And he stood on the sand of the sea.")

PART I: THE GOSPEL AGE (cont'd)		
Chapter 9	Two Beasts, an Image, and the Overcomers	(13:1 from "And I saw a beast..." thru 14:5)
PART II: THE HARVEST		
Chapter 10	The Lord & Six Angels	(14:6-20)
Chapter 11	Introduction to the 7 Plagues	
Chapter 12	The 7 Plagues	
Chapter 13	The Judgment of the Great Harlot	
Chapter 14	The Fall & Destruction of Babylon	
	Rejoicing & the Marriage of the Lamb	(19:1-10)
Chapter 15	The Destruction of the Beast and the False Prophet	(19:11-21)
PART III: THE MILLENNIUM AND BEYOND		
Chapter 16	The Binding & Destruction of the Dragon, and the Millennial Judgment	(20:1 – 21:1)
Chapter 17	The New Jerusalem	(21:2 – 22:5)
Chapter 18	Concluding Thoughts	(22:6 – 21)

A Closer Look At Section 2

Like Section 1, Section 2 also divides into five views of the period under examination — in this case the Harvest. How fortunate we are that the Lord has blessed us with a section focusing on our own end-of-the-age day. This second section of Revelation (14:6 - 19:21) is entirely about the late 19th and the 20th centuries.

Why are there five views? Besides the fact that our Master Architect chose to make Revelation a very balanced work of prophetic art, He has given us five overviews of the Harvest period SO THAT OUR OBSERVATIONS OF PROPHECY (being fulfilled all around us) can have enough perspectives to keep us from exaggerating or misinterpreting any one of them. We so much need a BALANCE of viewpoint as we live through this tumultuous century!

All five views of the Harvest have in common that

- they begin about the time of the Lord's return in the 1870's, and
- they trace events through this century to the total destruction of Babylon.

The five Harvest views are summarized on the following chart:

PICTURE NUMBER:	CONTENTS OF PICTURE:	INCLUSIVE VERSES:	PICTURE BEGINS EARLY IN HARVEST AS:	PICTURE SHOWS DESTRUCTION SYMBOLIZED AS:
1.	<u>THE HARVEST WORK'S</u> relationship to the decline and fall of Babylon.	14:6-20	(14:6) The eternal Gospel preached since 1874 (14:8) The casting off of Babylon in 1878	14:20 Treading the grapes
2.	<u>HISTORICAL EVENTS</u> which weaken the apostasy throughout the harvest.	15:1 -- 16:21	(15:5) New Covenant understood since 1874 (15:8) Sleeping Saints raised in 1878	16:19 Divided Babylon drinks of the fierce wrath
3.	<u>THE POLITICAL EVENTS</u> which destroy Babylon.	17:1-18	(17:1) The "angel" explains the judgment of the apostasy (1874) and points out its date (1878)	17:16 The horns & beast eat her and burn her flesh
4.	<u>THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS</u> which contribute to her decline and fall. (Picture includes the subsequent rejoicing.)	18:1 -- 19:10	(18:1) Jesus' return in 1874 (18:2, 4) Announcement of judgment in 1878	18:21 Millstone cast into the sea with violence
5.	<u>THE SPIRITUAL VIEW</u> of the harvest period.	19:11-21	(19:11) Understanding of Divine Plan revealed in 1874 (19:14) Sleeping Saints glorified in 1878	19:20 Beast & False Prophet thrown alive into lake of fire

A Closer Look At Section 3

The third five-part section of Revelation concentrates on the Millennial Age and its characteristics. The five parts can be summarized as follows:

1. The Millennium and the "Dragon" (20:1-10)
2. The Throne of Individual Judgment (20:11 — 21:1)
3. The New Order Summarized (21:2-8)
4. The New Order's Government: The Bride, The New Jerusalem (21:9-27)
5. Food, Water, and Light for Everlasting Life (22:1-5)

An Aside Regarding Follow-Through

Look at Revelation 19:20. Now look at 20:10. Now look at 16:13. It is clear in Chapter 16 that three entities (Dragon, Beast, and False Prophet) conspire at the end of the age. Chapter 19 accounts for the destruction of two of them — the religious two. But the Dragon is ignored in Chapter 19 because he is dealt with in Chapter 20.

Whenever we study a symbol, it is wise to trace it entirely through the book of Revelation. In the case here mentioned, the religious opponents of the Kingdom are destroyed in Section 2, but the civil opponent (the Dragon) is handled in Section 3 where it is bound only to be destroyed a thousand years later — eventually joining in the "lake of fire" the other two with which it conspired in Chapter 16. Plainly, much would be lost in interpretation without following these symbols to their conclusion.

Another Aside With A Special Interpretative Secret

Throughout the book of Revelation there is an expression (sometimes slightly modified) which the Apostle John uses to help us see how Revelation divides itself:

"And I saw..."
"And I heard..."
"And I looked..."
etc.

These are the "magic markers" built into Revelation for our understanding. (CAUTION: a few of these — especially in the King James — are SPURIOUS!)

These "magic marker" expressions always mean that a NEW PERSPECTIVE is occurring. Sometimes it means we will jump forward or backward in time. Sometimes it means we are still looking at the same thing, but from a different angle.

(We suggested earlier, as one example, that the vision of Chapter 14 really begins with verse 6. Note that verse 6 has this magic marker, "And I saw..." While these words don't always warrant a new chapter, they DO always warrant a new viewpoint.)



The chart on the next page attempts to put all of the architecture of Revelation on one page. Keeping this wonderful structure in mind as you study will gain for you rich rewards.

The Construction-Layout of the Book of Revelation

TEXTS:		INTRODUCTION:
1:1-8	INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHECY	
1:9-20	INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES	1
2:1—3:22	THE SEVEN CHURCHES	
4:1—5:14	INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN SEALS	2
5:1—8:1	THE SEVEN SEALS	
8:2-6	INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN TRUMPETS	3
8:7—11:14	THE SEVEN TRUMPETS	
12:1—13:1	THE WOMAN, DRAGON, AND FALSE MICHAEL	4
13:1—14:5	TWO BEASTS, AN IMAGE, AND THE OVERCOMERS	5
14:6-20	HARVESTING AND THE CASTING OFF OF BABYLON FROM FAVOR	1
15:1-8	INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES	2
16:1-21	SEVEN PLAGUING EVENTS AGAINST BABYLON	
17:1-18	POLITICAL-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AGAINST BABYLON	3
18:1—19:10	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AGAINST BABYLON	4
19:11-21	THE HARVEST FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE SAINTS	5
20:1-10	THE MILLENNIUM AND THE "DRAGON"	1
20:11—21:1	THE THRONE OF INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENT	2
21:2-8	THE NEW ORDER SUMMARIZED	3
21:9-27	THE NEW ORDER'S GOVERNMENT: THE BRIDE, THE NEW JERUSALEM	4
22:1-5	FOOD, WATER, AND LIGHT FOR EVERLASTING LIFE	5
22:6-21	CLOSING REMARKS FROM AN ANGEL, JESUS, AND JOHN	

5 Views of the ENTIRE GOSPEL AGE

5 Views of the HARVEST PERIOD

5 Views of the MILLENNIAL AGE

EPILOGUE

CHAPTER 3

SOME LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This chapter will deal with a miscellany of items which can be helpful or important in an attempt to interpret Revelation.

John & Us

The Apostle John represents the church in the flesh throughout the Gospel Age and its Harvest. Keeping this in mind will open many doors of understanding. Look at 10:8-10 as an example. In this prophecy John represents the brethren at the time of the Miller Movement when Daniel (the "little book") was beginning to be understood. Jumping to conclusions about the prophetic chronology of Daniel, the brethren suffered chronological indigestion. Note 10:11, though. John (meaning us in the Harvest) would again have to prophesy about the same material — but the second time with the CORRECT answers!

Trumpets and Plagues

It is revealing to notice that the seven Trumpets are aimed at the same recipients as the seven Plagues. The first of each series is aimed at the earth (8:7; 16:2). The second is aimed at the sea (8:8; 16:3) — and so on through the entire series.

This observation reveals much. Since the trumpet messages represent how the world responded during the age to the truths expounded by the messengers who blew the trumpets, the implication is strong that, because the world did not get the messages, the plagues would be needed at the end of the age to be poured out on the same entities — to FORCE the world to get the messages. The plagues apparently symbolize the dramatic events of the 20th Century that have forced the slow crumbling of the Christian world. These plagues have been knocking out the props from under Babylon. Her total collapse will be inescapable.

Reading this comparison of Trumpets and Plagues, we can discern several likelihoods:

The "angels" who blew the trumpets were the seven men who were the seven "angels" to the seven churches. Since the angels who deliver the plagues are GLORIFIED (see 15:5,6), it is a reasonable assumption that they are the same individuals who previously blew the trumpets. Thus Wycliffe (who blew the 5th Trumpet) has had the honor of being in charge of pouring out the 5th Plague. This is a wonderful justice. God allows the work of these saints to accomplish what could not be accomplished while they were yet human.

This conclusion is substantiated by 17:1. If we can identify the "angel" of 17:1, we should be able to identify the other six "angels which had the seven vials." The "Angel" of 17:1 talks with the John class and explains MANY DETAILS to him all the way from 17:1 to Chapter 22. This angel is a MAN. (19:10; 21:17; 22:9) The conclusion of careful study is inescapable. This angel is Bro. Russell. Since ONE of the plague-pouring angels is the 7th Messenger to the church, the remaining six are, by best logic, the other messengers to the church, but now glorified.

The Sixth Church Anticipates the Seventh

The world, at least since the French Revolution, has been a busy place. So much has been going on politically, socially, scientifically, that it might have been difficult to discern clearly the change from the sixth to the seventh period of church history. Indeed, we have the Lord's word for it that the destruction of Babylon IN ONE MAJOR SENSE began in the French Revolution (11:13). The remaining part of her destruction was postponed until the Laodicean period with which we normally associate it. This concept is a major key in the interpretation of parts of Revelation. For instance, the prophecy of Chapter 7 CLEARLY represents things which

have their fulfillment in the 7th period of the church. Yet, Chapter 7's prophecy is a continuation of events of the 6th Seal (6:12) inserted before the description of the 7th Seal (8:1). (8:1, by the way, should be the LAST VERSE of Chapter 7.)

The point is this: MANY seeds were planted in the Philadelphia period which sprout more significantly during Laodicea. Chapter 7's first four verses are, in essence, saying:

"The trouble which began in France (6:12-17) and which destroyed one-tenth of the Babylonish "city" (11:13) MUST STOP before it spreads and destroys the rest of Babylon TOO EARLY. HOLD BACK this final trouble because I must have a 7th stage of the church in order to finish my bride of 144,000 saints."

The Revelator THEN uses the occasion to give information about the bride and the Great Company PARENTHETICALLY — showing what WILL BE THE RESULT of holding these winds back. Then (8:1) he describes the seventh seal.

This 7th chapter COULD BE very confusing and seem not to fit the architecture of Revelation as already described. But understanding how many times the 6th church anticipates the 7th takes all of the mystery and confusion away. Here are several examples of places where this anticipation occurs:

1. 3:10 mentions the "Hour of Temptation." This passage is part of the Philadelphia description, but it is ABOUT Laodicea — as are the following:
2. 3:10 is about Jesus' return.
3. 10:6, 7 says that Daniel's 1260 days are FULFILLED, **BM** there is still time for a seventh trumpet.
4. 10:10,11 shows the disappointments of Adventism but FORETELLS the prophesying of Laodicea.
5. 11:13 leaves us asking when the other 9/10ths is to fall, thus looking toward Laodicea.
6. 6:14-17 quotes from Joel 2:10 and Isaiah 34 which are PRIMARILY about Laodicea. The lesson is: These final things BEGAN during the 6th church even though their culmination comes in the 7th.

Daniel 12 does much the same thing. After explaining the 1260 and the 1290 days, it anticipates (without explanation) the 1335 days which begin the new period of church history.

This way of anticipating the next period seems only to be used for the transition from the 6th to the 7th Churches, Seals, and Trumpets. The other periods do not seem to have this unique peculiarity.

Names

Proper names in Revelation are full of meaning. They should be translated whenever possible. 2:6 and 2:15 are only one example of the necessity of this approach. Because Revelation is a book of symbols, looking in history for someone named Nicholas and his followers is NOT the way to interpret these verses. When we learn that this name means "one who lords it over others," we can understand what the Ephesus Church hated and what the Pergamos Church failed to resist.. We see why the great apostate church rose rapidly to power as the brethren allowed the usurpation of authority by the bishops. It is also interesting to learn that Nicholas is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name Balaam (2:14). The rich blessings which come from translating proper names should never be forfeited by oversight.

Angels

As your study unfolds, it is important to realize that "angels" can be human beings, events, actual angels, or Jesus himself. The word means messenger. Any being, any event that serves to make a point is rightly an "angel." A few examples:

1. 1:1 and 22:16 are actual but unnamed angels.
 2. 2:1 and 2:8, etc., are men in Chapters 2 and 3, but the same individuals are glorified saints in 15:6, Chapter 16, and 17:1.
 3. Angels in 12:7 are worldly men. Those with Michael (the Antichrist) are nominal Christians; those with the dragon are pagans. They are all messengers (angels) of error.
 4. The angel who instructs John personally in 17:1,7; 19:9,10; 21:9; 22:8 and various other places is Bro. Russell — sometimes before, sometimes after his glorification.
 5. The MIGHTY ANGELS (there are only three such delineations in Revelation — 5:2, 10:1, and 18:21) each represent times of revolutionary trouble. The first represents the time of trouble at the end of the Jewish Age; the second represents the time of the French Revolution — the "Time of the End;" and the third represents Armageddon — the final or winepress trouble at the end of the Harvest.
 6. In 8:3 and 20:1, the angel is Jesus.
 7. In Chapter 14, angels represent many differing things:
 - a) The angel of verse 6 represents the harvesting message.
 - b) The angel of verse 8 represents the judgment message.
 - c) The angel of verse 9 represents the plaguing angel; or he might be called the warning message; or perhaps, in Old Testament terms, he might be called the destroying angel.
 - d) The angel of verse 15 is the chronology message.
 - e) The angel of verse 17 is the Great Company class yet in the flesh once the church is complete.
 - f) The angel of verse 18 is the church glorified.
1. Clearly, "angel" must be interpreted by context.

Symbols

Revelation 1:1 clearly states (KJV) that the text was "SIGNIFIED." Quite literally and accurately this means that it was put into signs or symbols. Relatively little in Revelation means what it says. It is all portrayed in a picture language.

ONE CAVEAT: It has sometimes been the mistake of brethren to think that Revelation's own interpretations of its symbols are LITERAL. They are not. Revelation interprets or EQUATES its symbols with OTHER SYMBOLS. Thus, for examples:

1. When 11:8 interprets the "great city" (Babylon) as "Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified," it does not give a literal explanation. Babylon is NOT literally Sodom nor Egypt. Nor was Jesus literally crucified in any one of these places.
2. When 17:15 "interprets" the waters of 17:1 as being "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues," it is interpreting "waters" by equating them to another symbol. "Peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" is a Revelation symbol for the sea- class of humanity. Thus, again, the interpretation is not literal. Since the woman sits on "many waters" (17:1), and also on a "beast" (17:3), as well as on the "peoples...and tongues," ALL of these symbols equal THE RESTLESS CLASSES OF HUMANITY.

3. When 12:9 and 20:2 both refer to the four-named entity called "the great dragon,...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan," many have erred in thinking the Revelator was giving a LITERAL interpretation of the symbol of the "dragon," thus assuming that the Dragon is a symbol for the LITERAL DEVIL. This is not correct. The Revelator does here as he does above and as elsewhere — he interprets ONE SYMBOL WITH ANOTHER. The Dragon, Serpent, Devil, and Satan are ALL symbols of the civil power.

Numbers can also have symbolic meaning. Seven, for instance, is a spiritually complete number. But it seems that in nearly every usage, numbers ARE QUITE LITERAL — even if they have the added symbolic significance. Hence, the seven churches represent the ONE, SPIRITUALLY COMPLETE CHURCH. But there are, in fact, SEVEN actual stages in the development of that church. Thus the number is both literal and symbolic. It is the words to which the numbers are attached that are usually the symbols. Thus, "FORTY TWO MONTHS" (11:3) is actually 42 — but NOT actually months. It is 42 months of years — 1260 years (42 x 30 days per month = 1260). One obvious EXCEPTION to this rule exists. When Chapter 20 says a thousand years, it literally means a thousand years. There is a good reason for this exception which you should search for as you study. ANY EXCEPTION to a rule should always have a good Scriptural explanation. Otherwise we can bend interpretations by our own wills — something we never want to do.

The topical approach to the meaning of symbols is the wisest and least fallible. Chapter 4 of this booklet is a basic glossary of Revelation symbols supplied here as a stimulus to further study.

The Major Players

The book of Revelation has many actors on stage, all of whom must be identified. This will be the task of careful study. Following, however, are some brief descriptions of a few of these players to aid in beginning your study.

MICHAEL (12:7) Remember that this is a book of symbols. Michael is NOT Michael the Archangel (= Jesus). Michael is his counterfeit, the MAN OF SIN, the Papacy. (Compare IIThess. 2:3,4.) Even the word "God" may not always refer to THE GOD. In 16:11 it is quite possible that "the God of heaven" refers to the Papacy just as "Michael" does in 12:7.

DRAGON This character always refers to purely CIVIL power. Sometimes his name changes to "devil" or to "serpent." (Compare 12:15 and 16.) Sometimes his name changes to "Satan" (20:7). But all of these changes are accounted for in 12:9 and 20:2 which show us the four names by which the civil power is symbolized.

WOMEN Scripturally a woman, if she is a virgin, represents spirit-begotten saints — the church of Christ (including the Great Company). If she is a harlot, she represents the apostate church — counterfeits. If she is a good woman with children, she represents a covenant. Whenever a part of the apostate church is masculine, the reference is to the head of that church (Papacy) --the counterfeit of the church's true head, Christ.

BEASTS Revelation has several of these. They will be enumerated shortly. First it is important to define beasts as a whole: they are A LARGE GROUP OF MEN (thus governments or institutions) WITH UNHOLY CHARACTERISTICS.

Next it is important to consider:

PARTS OF BEASTS. Revelation not only has beasts, but it specifies PARTS of those beasts. HEADS, because heads THINK, represent large, overall philosophies — the way the beast thinks. Thus historically, when a large government or institution changes the way it functions, Revelation symbolizes this as a change of heads. HORNS, because they are the enforcing implements on the heads of animals, represent POWERS. Since heads are large "umbrella" governments or institutions, the lesser governments which support them, which carry out their wills, (out of desire or out of expediency) are represented by horns.

Beasts also, of course, have BODIES. This symbolism is often overlooked. Bro. Russell recognized that those under subjection to the heads constitute the body of the beast. Thus, it is the PEOPLE in general who have been under the control of these governments who constitute the body of the beast. 17:1 and 3 acknowledge this. These verses show that the woman sits on a beast which is ALSO "many waters" (peoples). The 15th verse explains the matter also. The key, then, is to realize when a prophecy is concerned with a head, a horn, or the body of the beast, and when it is about the entire animal. In 17:16 we read that "the ten horns which thou sawest AND the beast, these shall hate the harlot." It is NOT the entire beast referred to here, but ONLY the body of the beast. Thus, as we learn from other places (like 18:21), it is the PEOPLE (the "sea"— the body of the beast) which eventually have a great part in Babylon's destruction.

Specific Beasts

We have already looked at the dragon of Chapter 12. It is not called a beast, but it is one in every important way. The Revelator wants us to recognize this by showing us that this dragon, just like the beasts of Chapters 13 and 17, has heads and horns. As the matter of fact, all three of these characters have the same number of heads and horns. This is so that we realize that all three are related — even though they are NOT EXACTLY THE SAME.

THE CHAPTER 12 CREATURE

The Dragon of Chapter 12 is the Roman Empire out of which grew the eventual "Holy Roman Empire" — a mixture of church and state. Chapter 12 keeps the Roman Church (under "Michael" — its Papal head) SEPARATE so that we can see the RELATIONSHIP of Churchianity to the state.

THE PRIMARY CREATURE OF CHAPTER 13

The 10-horned beast of Chapter 13, on the other hand, INCORPORATES church and state into one big beast — the combination of "Michael" and the "Dragon" from Chapter 12. This is because Chapter 13 wants us to see how the "Holy Roman Empire" would function historically as rival apostate churches appear.

THE CHAPTER 17 CREATURE

The 10-horned beast of Chapter 17 provides a picture to show us how things will come apart — "the JUDGMENT of the harlot who sits...upon a scarlet colored beast" (17:1,3). Therefore, this chapter is still dealing with the "Holy Roman Empire" (and its predecessors and derivatives) but is specifically to show us what was to happen to EACH PART of the arrangement — heads, horns, body, rider. The woman who rides this beast is REALLY A PART of this beast back in Chapter 13. But she is now, instead, shown as a rider so that we can see how the arrangement WILL TURN ON ITSELF and DEVOUR its own religious part! (17:16)

Thus seen, these three major characters are not quite so confusing. They are all the same, but are viewed three different ways to make three different points.

A TWO-HORNED BEAST is mentioned in Chapter 13. This creature is clearly a CHALLENGE to its older 10-HORNED counterpart. History suggests strongly that the English-Irish church-state arrangement fulfills this symbol.

AN "IMAGE OF THE BEAST" also is found in Chapter 13. The suggestion is that England's successful challenge to Rome stimulated the rise of Protestantism. A very careful study of this chapter along with 19:20, 20:10, 16:2 and 13, indicates that this image eventually is absorbed with the two-horned beast into an entity known as THE FALSE PROPHET.

Other Players

The FOUR LIVING ONES, the FOUR AND TWENTY ELDERS, the SEVEN SPIRITS, the SEVEN ANGELS, the GREAT MULTITUDES (Yes — there are more than one!) — these are all symbolisms which demand careful topical study. Such prayerful and careful study will be richly rewarded with understanding. May the Lord's rich blessing attend you in these blessed searches.



CHAPTER 4A

GLOSSARY OF SYMBOLS

This final chapter is an attempt to give a brief, workable definition to many of Revelation's symbolic terms. Often the definitions will have to be adjusted slightly for specific contexts; but this is the joy of study. Some terms are used both literally and symbolically. (Note: some of these words come from the KJV or NAS; their corresponding translations will have the same meanings.)

AIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The powers of spiritual control; demons
ALMIGHTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yahweh
ALPHA & OMEGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The glorified Jesus as the first and last word on all questions — first to his church, then to the world
ALTAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The condition of full dedication to God UNDER THE ALTAR indicates a completed sacrifice OUT FROM THE ALTAR indicates action after glorification
AMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used as a noun to represent Jesus; otherwise means "thus it is."
ANGELS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anything (animate or inanimate) which delivers a message
ANTIPAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Against the Father; i.e., anti-Papacy; Arius
ARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Covenant arrangement
ARMAGEDDON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of ripeness for destruction
ASIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of being bogged down. (Word means "muddy".)
BABYLON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily the Roman Church; extends to "daughter" and sister denominations; the <u>condition</u> of confusion.
BARLEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Christian truths common to all Christianity
BEAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large group of men (institution or government) with unholy characteristics. Symbol includes the people under their domination.
BEASTS (FOUR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better translated "living ones." These represent God's basic attributes: wisdom, justice, love, and power.
BED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A place of affliction, though sometimes "comfortable affliction."
BEHEADED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having given up personal will in favor of God's will
BELLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects of having taken in and assimilated information
BIRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhabitants of Babylon as a great tree. These probably constitute tares — counterfeits — even as a dove represents the TRUE work of the Holy Spirit. UNCLEAN BIRDS refer to those in Babylon (perhaps including demons) who are malefactors — there for profit or for pushing personal ideologies and agendas.
BITTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult or painful
BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devoid of light (truth)
BLOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life or its value; can mean death, as in blood spilled; can mean deadly or distasteful as an extension of spilled blood.
BOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plan with its information, (hence, the Bible) or a record. LITTLE BOOK refers to the book of Daniel.
BOOK OF LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The record of those found worthy of life (in either Gospel or Messianic Ages).
BOTTOMLESS PIT (OR ABYSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of powerlessness or dormancy.
BREASTPLATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defensive armor; faith
BRIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Christ — the 144,000.
BRIDEGROOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus
BRIDLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A controlling element
BRIMSTONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadly poison (added to symbol of fire to show no way of escape)
BURNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disillusioned or destroyed in profession; destroyed literally (totally consumed in destruction)

CALF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice (because the calf was the principal animal sacrificed to satisfy justice)
CAMP OF THE SAINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Messianic earthly government consisting of the faithful pre- Christ ancients
CANDLESTICKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEVEN: representing the seven stages of the church as light- bearers.
CHAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connection of truths used to render error powerless
CHARIOTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized efforts
CITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A government (religious or secular)
CLOTHING/CLOTHED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status; ones standing before God; a representation of one's commission or authority
CLOUDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obscurity or trouble due to Divine Presence
COME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This does not always refer to advent; it often symbolizes the taking of a specific action such as taking last saint beyond veil, delivering a punishment, etc.
COURT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The condition of the unconsecrated who claim a relationship to God (rightly or nominally)
CROWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority (when from Greek "diadema"); Victory (when from Greek "stephanos")
CUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences
DARKNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erroneous and superstitious teachings
DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A non-specific period of time with certain characteristics; when chronological, equals one year
DAY AND NIGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In perpetuity
DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of previous belief or condition Having sacrificed earthly life-rights Loss of spiritual life Condition of being alive but not having received eternal life TO KILL WITH DEATH is probably literal
DENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secret societies; hiding places; conditions of subterfuge
DEVIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil power
DEVOUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorb, appropriate
DOGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gentiles; ultimately anyone refusing to acknowledge Israel's place in God's plan
DOOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity; proximity
DRAGON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil power or Pagan Rome
DRAGON, SERPENT, DEVIL, SATAN (AS A 4- PART NAME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil power (under control of personal devil)
DUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mourning
DWELL ON THE EARTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having strong ties to earthly or worldly interests (i.e., the establishment and its avid supporters)
EAGLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wisdom The Bible (written wisdom)
EARTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society; the established way of doing things
EARTHQUAKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revolution
EAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorb, appropriate; come into harmony with
EGYPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of Western, Christian world
ELDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Testament prophecies
EPHESUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First or Desirable
EUPHRATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who support Babylon
EYES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foresight; wisdom
FACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favor or displeasure depending on contextual evidence

FALSE PROPHET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combination of Protestant and Church of England influences
FAMINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of truth
FIG/FIG TREE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel
FIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Righteous judgment and its destructive power
FIRSTFRUITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products of the Gospel Age (i.e., the Church and Great Company)
FLOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great amount of truths
FOREHEAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sum total of character
FORNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Christian dabbling in affairs of this earth, thus unfaithful to Jesus, the espoused Bridegroom
FOUNTAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church (true or false) as a source of religious truths
FOUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The component parts – universality
FOWLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontents (see BIRDS)
FROGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclean and boastful with a pretension of wisdom
FURNACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heated experiences for proving or judging
GARMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification; symbols of status (see CLOTHES)
GIRDLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbol of service or servitude
GLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purity, transparency, calmness
GOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position of highest authority (including its counterfeit)
GOG & MAGOG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolizes a rebellious civil power at the end of both Gospel and Millennial Ages; condition of challenge to God's established authority
GOLD(EN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of Divine things (or their counterfeit)
GOSPEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The totality of God's Word including its judgment message
GRAPES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evil fruitage
GRASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanity in general or a specific segment of it. When GREEN is specified, right-heartedness or justification is implied.
GREAT MULTITUDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians who will receive a heavenly reward but not be a part of the 144,000 in the body of Christ • Any other unified large group on earth or in heaven
GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alive in spirit (in the sense of having inclinations toward righteousness or of being justified –as under the Jewish Law)
HAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard truths
HAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venerableness due to age or spiritual wisdom
HAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works, cooperation, responsibility
HARP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonious set of teachings
HARVEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End period of the Gospel Age and beginning of Millennium; results of prior activities
HEAD(S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolic of ideas and philosophies; various forms of governmental administration or philosophy; Empires
HEAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects from enlightenment
HEAVEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The religious world or its leadership
HELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition of oblivion when men die, but from which there will be a release
HORNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powers; lesser governments than heads which are empire-sized
HORSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctrine – as in the power of an idea to move men from one place (condition) to another
HORSEMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Followers or promoters of doctrines
HUNGER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of spiritual food and the desire for it
IMAGE OF THE BEAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestant cooperation
INCENSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers; sacrifices; the merit behind both
IRON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength
ISLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small nation or republic
ISRAEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people of God (i.e., the true Church and those who typify it)
JERUSALEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Millennial Divine government by the true Church glorified

JEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians
JEZEBEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman Church in collusion with the powers of the state
JOHN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church in the flesh throughout the age
KEYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to control access
KILLED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discredited • Having lost prior belief or status
KINGS OF THE EARTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men of great political influence (including beyond Christendom) Probably the church who will shine as the sun
KINGS OF THE EAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly Islam
LAKE OF FIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second death — perpetual extinction
LAMB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus
LAODICEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgment of or by the people
LEAVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professions
LEFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position of disfavor
LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification; spiritual vitality
LIGHTNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright, but confusing, flashes of truth
LINEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The righteousness of saints (or its counterfeit)
LION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power; Jesus
LITTLE BOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The book of Daniel
LIVING SOUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit-begotten Christians
LOCUSTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devouring force as a plague to false Christianity
LORD'S DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millennial Age
LUKEWARM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither loving righteousness nor hating iniquity sufficiently
MAN (FACE OF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love
MANCHILD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man of Sin; Papacy
MANNA (HIDDEN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immortality
MARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indication of agreement or sympathy or cooperation
MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The uniting of Christ and His Church in the spirit realm
MEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians, nominal or true
MERCHANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalists
MICHAEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "One Who as God" = Papacy
MILLSTONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A place which prepares spiritual food
MONTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 years
MOON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Testament Writing (as a reflection of the Gospel Sun); Jewish Law
MORNING STAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus
MOUNTAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Kingdom
MOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message
MURDERERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character assassins
NAKED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either without justification or ill-clothed (compromised justification)
NAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character; reputation
NATIONS, KINDREDS, PEOPLE & TONGUES (4- NAME ENTITY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "sea" class; people without strong roots or commitments to the present order of things
NEW JERUSALEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See JERUSALEM
NICOLAITANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who lord it over others; power usurpers
ODORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers
OIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Spirit
OLIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Spirit
OLIVE TREES (TWO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old and New Testament writings (as functions of the Holy Spirit)
PALMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbols of Great Company and salvation

PARADISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden; God's planting — the fruitage of both phases of the Abrahamic promise
PATMOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A symbol of separation
PEARLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character developed through trials
PENNY (DENARIUS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A day's wages
PERGAMOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthly elevation
PHILADELPHIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brotherly love
PILLAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalwart
PIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See BOTTOMLESS
PLACES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places represent conditions
PLAGUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truths forced on Christianity to weaken it (see VIALS)
POLISHED BRASS (BURNISHED BRONZE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human perfection
PRIEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mediator between God and men
PRISON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death or restraint
PROPHET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A teacher
PROPHETS (TWO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old and New Testament writings (as Teachers)
PURPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royalty (real or assumed)
RAIMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See CLOTHES or GARMENTS
RAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessings of truth
RAINBOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenant
RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sin
REED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard of measurement for judgment
RIGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position of favor
RIVER(S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who support something; source of refreshment
ROCKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable institutions
ROD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong rule; a standard of measurement
SACKCLOTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mourning or humiliation
SAILORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workmen
SAND OF THE SEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those ultimately of the earthly seed of Abraham (the earthly Kingdom)
SARDIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That which remains
SAT/SIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled
SATAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil government (under the influence of the personal devil); can also refer to Papacy in its cooperation with civil power
SCORPIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tormentings
SEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restless humanity without strong ties to the social or religious order of things
SEA OF GLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reference to the laver of the temple representing pure water of God's truth for cleansing purposes
SEAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events which reveal once they occur; also a guarantee
SEAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throne — center of power
SECOND DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extinction from which there is no redemption
SEVEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spiritually complete number
SHIPMASTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businessman
SHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commerce
SICKLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truths to do a separating work
SMOKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance; obscurating; evidence
SMYRNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitter
SODOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of Babylon showing both moral lack and disregard for the individual
SONG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise coming from harmonious truths
SORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A perpetual threatening problem
SOUL(S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saints who have died and await awakening (see LIVING SOUL)

SPIRITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachings. SEVEN SPIRITS = the functions of the Holy Spirit throughout the seven stages of church history
STARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers (true or false)
STINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painful irritations due to unwanted truths
STRONG ANGEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of three times of severe revolutionary trouble
SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gospel (Improperly received can burn)
SUP (DINE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat the final meal of the day
SWORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible; any cutting message
SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apostate Church; The religious power beginning to seek the favor of Rome.
TABERNACLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwelling place, i.e. presence. Also God's plan pictured by a building
TAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last part; a lying prophet (Isa. 9:15)
TALENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sum total of the Gospel
TEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappointments
TEMPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's plan including the Church itself
TEMPLE OF THE TABERNACLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most holy, therefore, glorified condition or the truths represented by the New Covenant (Ark).
TEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A symbol of completion in reference to earthly or civil things
THIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quietly secretive and unexpected
THIRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This term is probably literal. It shows that one out of three existing entities is affected.
THIRST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craving for truth which leads to life
THRONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of rulership including judgment
THUNDER(INGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of lightning; i.e., resulting activities or philosophies or controversies
THYATIRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweet perfume of sacrifice
TIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A period of certain characteristics; chronologically 360 years
TORMENTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vexed to the point of great discomfort. This word is used not for the RECIPIENT, but in relationship to the giver. Thus, something tormented, if it is extinct, feels nothing; but all who refer to it, refer to it in disgust.
TREE OF LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise of continued existence on any plane
TREE(S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important individuals or small nations or institutions who are stalwarts
TRIBES OF ISRAEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divisions of the glorified church
TRUMPET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important and timely message heard beyond those for whom it is intended
VIALS (BOWLS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms (historic events) to deliver plaguing truths
VINE OF THE EARTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babylon as the counterfeit of Jesus' true vine. This is the fruitage of Satan's planting
VIRGINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True church or great multitude; undefiled by illicit cooperation with the world and its ways
WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A struggle or persecution
WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truth
WATERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoples/truths
WHEAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep spiritual truths
WHITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pure or justified
WHORE (HARLOT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A church which has compromised itself with politics and worldly involvement
WILDERNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of separation (in mind and attitude) from accepted standards of doctrine and practice
WIND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War
WINDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powers of demonic interference
WINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel (pure or polluted); doctrine; experiences coming out of teachings

WINEPRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final trouble of the Harvest which squeezes life out of false Christianity
WITNESSES (TWO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old and New Testament writings (as TESTIFIERS in advance of God's purposes)
WOMAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church (true or false); covenant
WORMWOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arius, as poisonous and bitter to the apostasy
WRITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To publish (dispense; spread; record; think about)

