

COMING
WORLD EVENTS
UNVEILED



A Study of the Book of Revelation

Timothy Tow

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As it is said that "opinion is worth a thousand words," I am a thousand times indebted to Paul Lee for his kind permission to use illustrations from his latest work, "Historical Guide to Bible Prophecy." Amen.

To
IVY



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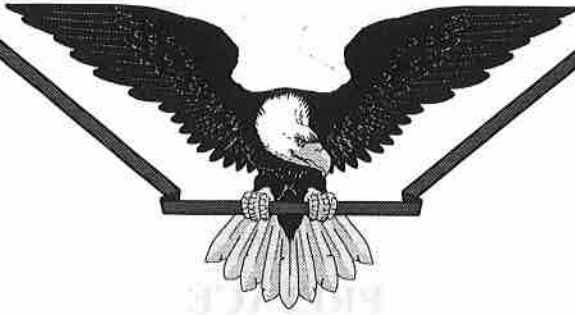
PREFACE

There is a triple blessing pronounced on all who read, who hear, and who keep the words of prophecy of the Book of Revelation. In teaching this book I have received a fourth blessing — in the souls saved, and disciples won for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The pages of this Book were first mimeographed and distributed serially as lecture notes to the evening class of Far Eastern Bible College. After the completion of the course, these same pages were carefully gone over and further improved before taking this shape.

In the words of C.T. Hsu, "Jesus is coming real soon," this book is sent forth with the prayer that Christians will be aroused and non-Christians drawn into His kingdom. If you believe what is revealed herein, you will not set your affection on things on the earth but on things above (Colossians 3:2). And if by reading this book you are "real" blessed, why not introduce it to others - to both Christian and non-Christian friends? "By all means save some" (I Corinthians 9:22). This will add a fifth blessing. Maranatha!

Timothy Tow



PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

Prepare to meet thy God -
The King of Kings is come!
Behold He comes with flaming Sword
To judge the world.
Behold He comes with flaming Sword
In righteousness to judge the world.

Prepare to meet thy God -
He comes to save His own!
Behold the Son of God our Lord
Sits on the throne.
From heaven He comes, the Son of God
In clouds of heaven to save His own.

Prepare to meet thy God -
All knees before Him bow!
The King of Kings, the Lord of Lords
Will save you now.
Repent! Believe! Give Christ your heart -
Before His throne all knees shall bow.

(To the tune of: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*)

CHAPTER I

Introduction

This last book of the Bible, which is the last to be written, is God's revelation to His people of the last things. It remains a riddle to those outside Christ but to us who are born again, we can see it plainly as a whole (John 3:3). If there are things hard to understand we must humbly acknowledge our human limitations. "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing..." (Proverbs 25:2). "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). One thing we can never know is the day and hour of His Return (Mark 13:32).

Nevertheless, *Revelation* (Greek, *apocalypse*, *Unveiling*) as the word implies, is an opened book, not a closed book. It is by the unveiling of coming world events that will inevitably take place that we must be quickened to "set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2), "that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4). The second coming of Christ is our Blessed Hope.

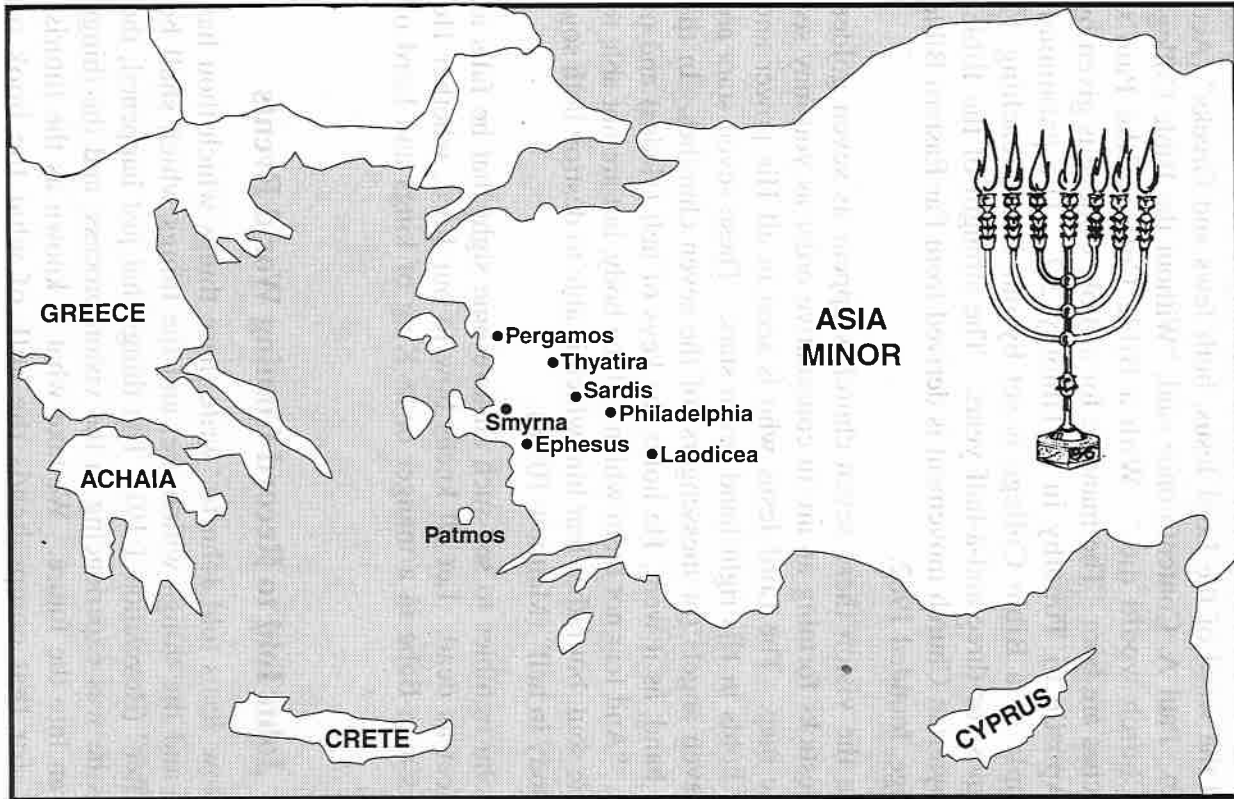
Three Benedictions to You!

Because the book is penned by John the Apostle it is titled *The Revelation of St John the Divine*. The Greater Author who guided John's pen of course is God, so the introductory verse to the book states it is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him." The purpose of this revelation is "to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass" (Revelation 1:1). "Shortly" is how the coming world events appear to God. "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (II Peter 3:8). Two thousand years are a mere two days to the Omniscient in the divine economy. Now, a blessing is pronounced on him who reads and hears the words of prophecy in this book, and to him who "keeps those things that are written therein" (Revelation 1:3). The blessing of light showing us through a dark and dangerous future till we arrive on the peaceful shores above.

The Seven Churches of Asia

This book is addressed by John to the seven churches of Asia (Minor) with benediction from the omniscient Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Revelation 1:4). It is addressed to the members of these seven churches who are made kings and priests (I Peter 2:9) by His own blood. It is to verify His coming again to earth by His visible appearance in clouds of heaven. Let not any Jehovah Witness tell you He has already come but is in the upper regions, invisible. This is a sly trick of Satan. It is through visions given to John on Patmos, a prison island off the coast of Ephesus, that this book is written.

Of the seven churches named, except for Ephesus and Laodicea (Colossians 4:16) hitherto familiar to us, the five churches in between are new churches. No doubt they are



The Seven Churches of Asia

established through Paul's ministry in Ephesus where he taught a Bible school for two years, "so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 19:10). Paul A. Contento once said, "Without the Bible College the Church would die." With a Bible College like Paul's, Churches are born. The mandate for a Bible College is given by the Apostle to Timothy in II Timothy 2:2. The paramount example of a Bible College is set by our Lord, teaching 12 disciples for three-and-a-half years. The strength of the Bible-Presbyterian Church movement is derived from Far Eastern Bible College, founded 1962.

In the vision these seven churches appear as seven golden candlesticks forming an arc in consecutive order as you may see on the map. The Lord Jesus who is seen in all His power and glory holds in His right hand seven stars. These seven stars are the seven angels (or messengers) of the seven churches. In the other hand, as it were, He holds the keys of hell (Hades) and of death. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

John trembles to see such an awesome sight that he falls at His feet as dead. Let all knees bow to our Lord, whether He comes as a Babe in a manger or as King of kings and Lord of lords.

John Told to Record Coming World Events

Now Jesus told John to "write these things which thou has seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter" (Revelation 1:19). The things that just happened, the things he was experiencing in the vision-process, and the things that ran into the future. We take what is known as the futurist view, for that comprehends the bulk of what the book of

Revelation is all about. What a blessing to be warned of dreadful things to come and be assured of His protection and care through the tribulations to come. But as each of the messages given to the seven churches announced, "He that hath an ear to hear let him hear," every reader of Revelation must individually repent from his sins and seek the Saviour anew. Amen.



John Writing Revelation

CHAPTER II

Message to Ephesus and to Us

Of the seven churches in the Province of Asia, Ephesus, where Paul spent the longest time in all of his travels, may be called the Mother Church. She was most instructed by the Apostle who spent two years in the school of Tyrannus “so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 19:10). Being well founded in doctrine, she had tried them who claimed apostolic authority but found them liars. They also “hate the deeds of the Nicolaitanes which I also hate” (Revelation 2:6). The Nicolaitanes were a sect that arose in the early Church, probably after Nicolas, one of the seven deacons chosen by the people (Acts 6:5). Whatever his practices these countered the traditions of the Apostles (II Thessalonians 3:6) so they were condemned. Watch out for Nicolaitanes that would infiltrate your church. “Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:30). “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake” (II Corinthians 4:5).

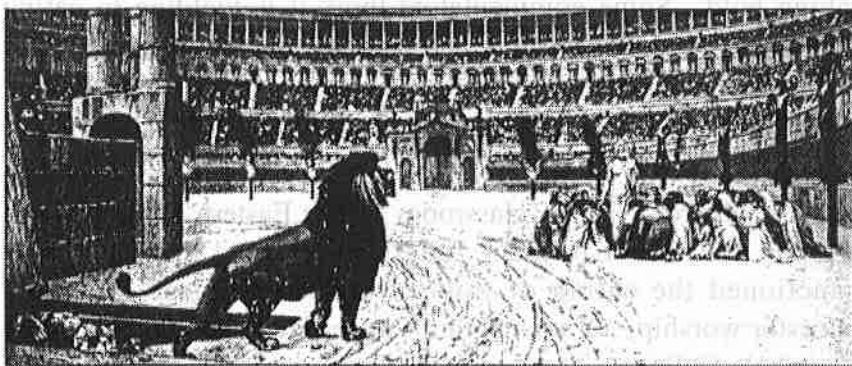
Despite all the good points mentioned, Ephesus has failed miserably in that she has left her first love. Notice the word “left”, not “lost”, as it is often misquoted. What God wants of us in serving Him is not so much routine performance as consuming

zeal, best expressed in that first love between a newly married couple. The Church is the bride of Christ, and that which thrills the Groom most is the warm, loving response of His spouse. What every fundamental Church needs is not so much the sound doctrine (which she has), as spontaneous devotion to the Master. How much do you love the Lord Jesus?

Message to Smyrna and to Us

Smyrna is a church that has undergone persecution and is pronounced to suffer further persecution. In spite of all this she stands firm without flinching for her Lord. Jesus commends her for going through tribulation and poverty, and in God's eyes she is rich, for she has spurned those who claim Jewish superiority but are indeed of the synagogue of Satan. She would suffer tribulation "ten days" — as through the ten Anti-Christian Roman Emperors beginning from Nero — and she is exhorted to remain faithful unto death. She will then wear the crown of life.

Smyrna is any Church that suffers for Jesus Christ. Smyrna represents the Chinese Church under the murderous Manchus in the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. The missionary community in North China alone suffered martyrdom in yielding 185 beheaded,



Smyrna

including children, both Protestants and Roman Catholics. Smyrna was tenfold persecuted under Mao's Cultural Revolution in the sixties. Smyrna is every persecuted Church in every nation of every age. Christians living in complacent circumstances as in Singapore must be prepared to go through the experiences of Smyrna, for we are living in evil days. For example, the Bible School Life Church built for Rev Djunaidi in West Kalimantan was suddenly attacked by Terrorists in November 1993 and set on fire, which spread to neighbouring squatters, leaving several hundred homeless. But as the Chinese saying goes, "Sterling gold fears no fire." (真金不怕火)

Message to Pergamos and to Us

The Church of Pergamos stood in the midst of a cluster of temples devoted to Zeus or Jupiter, Athene, Apollo and Aesculapius, whose emblem was a serpent. Though she remained faithful to the Lord, suffering martyrdom in Antipas, who according to tradition was her bishop, she succumbed to the Doctrine of Balaam. Balaam's evil design which caused Israel to sin by intermarrying with the Moabites and eating idol food (Numbers 25). And while the deeds of the Nicolaitanes were infiltrating the Church of Ephesus, here we see their doctrine taking hold. Some commentators think it is yielding to eating meats sacrificed to idols under persecution and rationalising it as a thing of indifference. Mingling themselves with orgies of idolatrous feasts, they brought contamination into the Church.

We must ever be on guard against corrupt practices seeping into the Church. In the classroom of Far Eastern Bible College we had one of our brilliant American-returned graduates who sanctioned the eating of food offered to Chinese idols and ancestor worship. Of course this was rejected and condemned by the whole College. The Apostolic decree issued from Jerusalem,

“that ye abstain from meats offered to idols ...” binds the Christian Church to this day (Acts 15:29).

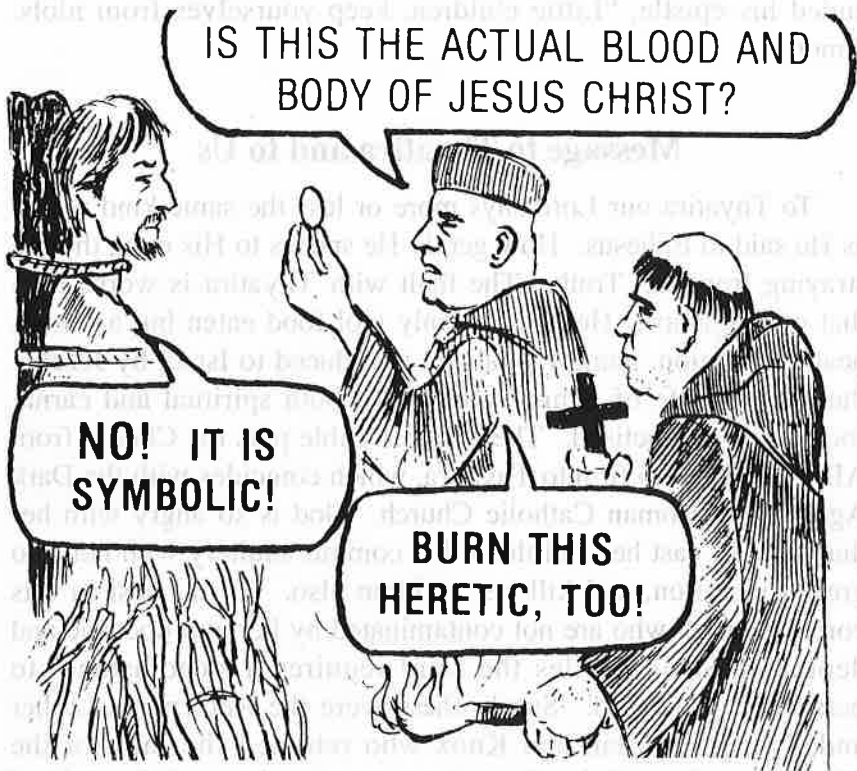
To him that overcometh will the Lord give to eat of the hidden Manna, which is Christ Himself, the Bread of Life. And a white stone with a new name engraved therein may signify the acquittal of an accused person after a trial. How good to be innocent of the idolatrous and compromising practices that affected the Church of Pergamos. In I John 5:21 the Apostle ended his epistle, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

Message to Thyatira and to Us

To Thyatira our Lord says more or less the same kind words as He said to Ephesus. How gently He speaks to His own, though straying from the Truth. The fault with Thyatira is worse than that of Pergamos. Here is not only idol food eaten but a hostile heathen religion, namely Baalism, introduced to Israel by Jezebel the wicked wife of King Ahab. Thus both spiritual and carnal fornication is practised. The Scofield Bible puts the Church from AD 500 - 1500 to fit into Thyatira, which coincides with the Dark Ages of the Roman Catholic Church. God is so angry with her that He will cast her and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, and kill her children also. To the rest in this corrupt church who are not contaminated by her evil doctrine and depths of Satan's wiles the Lord requires a steadfastness to persevere to the end. Surely these were the Reformers, Luther and Zwingli, Calvin and Knox who returned the faith of the Church to that of the Apostles. At the time of the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians under the judgment of a righteous God, there were those who sighed and cried against the abominations that were practised in Judah. These obtained mercy from the Lord who “set a mark on their foreheads” so that they

were spared from the massacre that fell on the City (Ezekiel 9:41). "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee" (Psalm 91:7).

In every corrupt church there are, by God's grace, remnants of the faithful. Can you say that of yourself, coming from an apostate church? The remedy in fact is to separate from them (II Corinthians 6:14-18).



**Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee
a crown of life. (Rev 2:10)**

CHAPTER III

Message to Sardis and to Us

Sardis has a name that she lives, but actually she is dead. Though no heathen practices within her are mentioned so that her doctrine can be counted orthodox, there is such an expression called "dead orthodoxy" and Sardis answers to it.

Sardis is like a flickering lamp running out of oil. So she is called to strengthen the things that remain, that are ready "for I have not found thy works perfect." Not only has she left her first love, she is on the verge of extinction herself.

Yet there is a remnant, by God's grace, in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, who have not backslidden into sin. These shall be received into the Lord's company of a holy walk, for "they are worthy." How good to maintain our integrity and to be thus honoured. Faith must be proven by good works. We are saved by grace, but we must walk by faith, trust and obey. Then we will be assured of our salvation. We are saved not by a complacent faith but by a consuming faith. "Faith without works is dead."

Message to Philadelphia and to Us

While Smyrna, representing the churches under persecution, is the Church fully commended by our Lord, Philadelphia is that which represents the churches not under specific persecution. She is commended for her faithfulness and loyalty to the Lord and patience in following in His Word: her reward is a door of opportunity in His Service opened by the key of David, the true Steward of God who is Jesus, that no man can shut... (Read Isaiah 22:20-22).

God will also make those who are Jews, the exclusive Judaising party in the Church, which to God is the synagogue of Satan, come to *kowtow* before Philadelphia. Truth must subdue error. God will also preserve the Philadelphians from the hour of temptation as our Lord has promised to give the disciples wisdom to confound their persecutors (Matthew 10:20). Philadelphia though not under immediate persecution is prepared for the worst to come. Every true servant of God must be prepared for any eventuality. Now while salvation is freely given, reward in service can be given only to overcomers. "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:26,27).

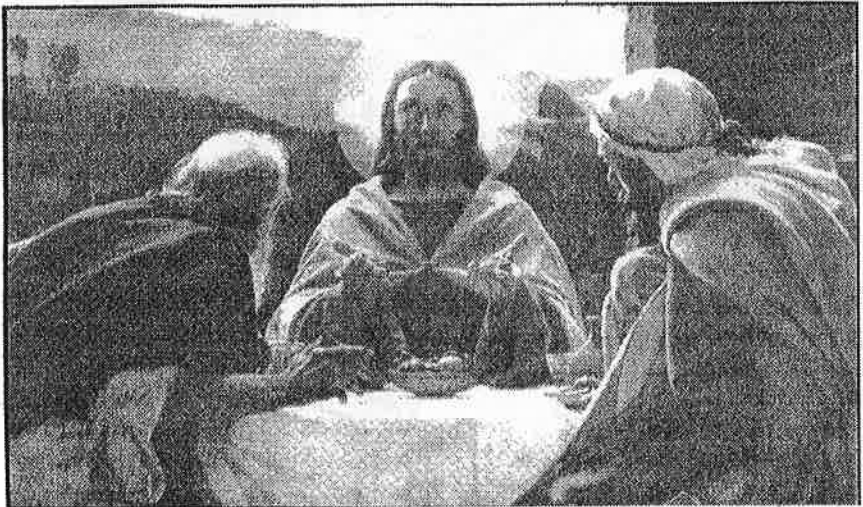
Those who are tested in the Lord's service will become pillars in the Church and remain in place. The Name of God and the name of the City of God, the new Jerusalem and the new name of Christ will be written on their foreheads. They will reflect the likeness of God and bear the tokens of their heavenly citizenship.

Which Church in the long course of ecclesiastical history answers to Philadelphia? The missionary church in her heyday of pioneering and continuing advance — during the 19th century and the early years of the 20th. But God is no respecter of churches.

Today there is a great missionary movement of irresistible force arising in the Far East headed by the Korean Church. The Bible-Presbyterian Churches of Singapore and Malaysia, after 44 years, have grown to over 140 units, churches and para-church organisations, around the world, to His glory.

Message to Laodicea and to Us

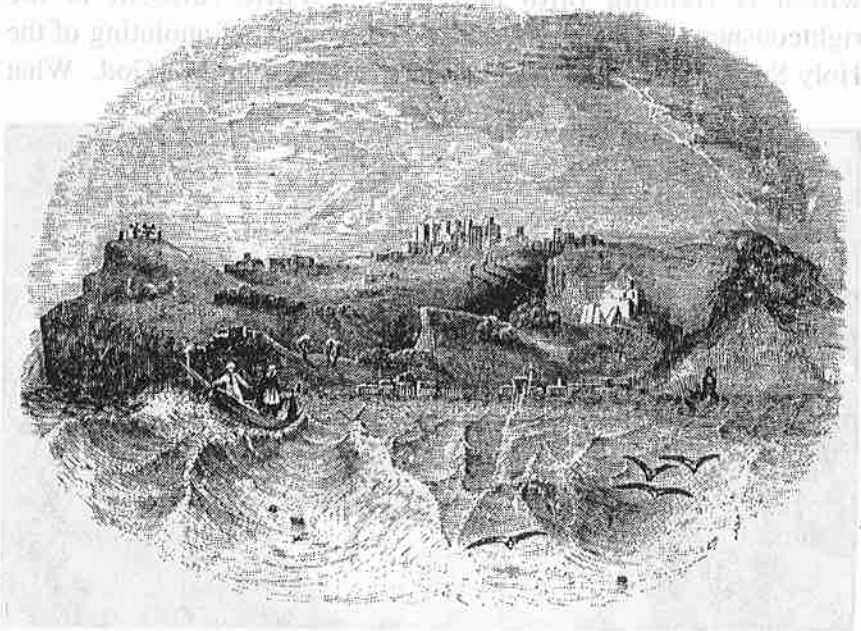
The Church of Laodicea is a lukewarm Church, neither cold nor hot. It cannot please him who drinks from it, and is quickly spued out of the mouth. When a church grows rich materially and feels no need of anything it becomes drowsy and complacent. That is the condition of the modern church. Under the diagnose of the Great Physician, the Laodicean Church is indeed miserable, wretched, and poor, blind and naked. A lukewarm church is a sick church. The medicine she needs is gold "tried out of fire," which is flaming faith and love. White raiment is the righteousness of Christ. Eyesalve is their need of anointing of the Holy Spirit before they could understand the things of God. What



The Emmaus Experience

a self-complacent Church needs is to become zealous again — by repentance. And unless the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, enters the heart how can He restore the patient to spiritual health again? He needs to enter every member's heart. He will commune with the individual listener who by hearing Him at the supper table will be enlivened again. The Laodicean Church needs above all revival. The overcomer will then gain a place with Christ in His throne.

There is yet hope for the slumbering Church of the end-times. Singapore was like that in the thirties. But when God sent Dr John Sung His servant from China, a great Pentecostal revival descended with power and glory on the slumbering Christians. Over 1,500 were soundly converted and filled with joy of the Holy Spirit. From this Revival is born a vigorous church in Singapore today.



Isle of Patmos

CHAPTER IV

With the Church Triumphant in Heaven

(Part I)

As soon as the messages to the Seven Churches were completed, John suddenly saw a door opened in heaven. Then came the voice that first spoke to him loud and clear like a trumpet, "Come up here, and I will shew you things to come." Before he could answer he was spiritually transported into heaven where a throne dominated the scene. Interestingly, like Paul who was caught up to the third heaven, John had a similar experience. Whereas Paul was told not to speak of the words he heard, here we have the full serial recording of all that John heard and saw. For it is God's purpose to reveal His plan of the end-times even to us at this juncture of time and history.

Evidently He who sat on the throne was the Lord God Almighty shining "crystal clear" like jasper (Rev 21:11) and like a sardine stone of a deep red colour. Around the throne was a rainbow which while adding resplendence to the Divine Majesty bespeaks His Might and Faithfulness as a Covenant-keeping God. For deeper understanding of the significance of the rainbow read Genesis 9:9-17 where God promised Noah never to destroy the earth with a global flood.

Round about the throne were twenty-four other thrones upon which sat as many elders. Twenty-four is a representative number

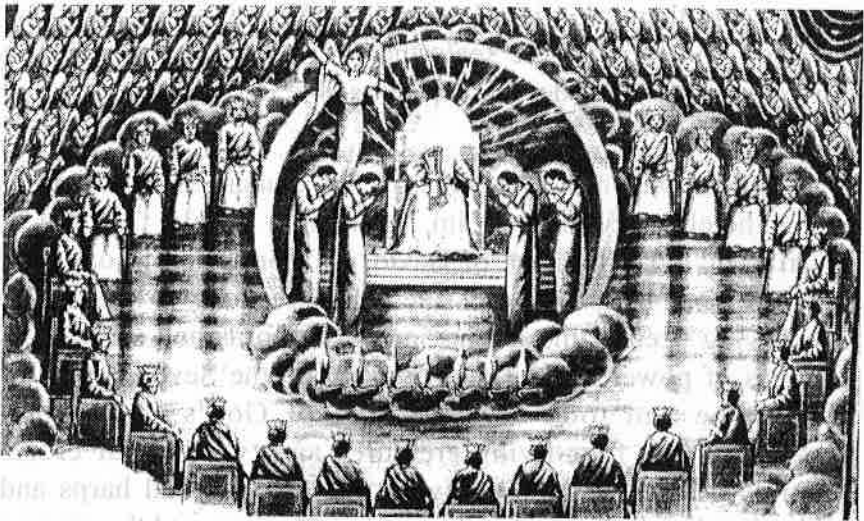
comprising twelve patriarchs for Old Testament saints and twelve apostles for New Testament saints. Compare with what Jesus said to the Twelve, "Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Clothed in white, this signifies the elders are made righteous in Jesus Christ. They wear golden crowns to signify they are a "royal priesthood" (I Peter 2:9). Out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices to utter His awesome power while seven lamps of fire burning before the throne were the Seven Spirits of God. This is the Holy Spirit manifesting as an unquenchable fire consuming all evil.

Before the throne was a sea of crystal glass which is a reflection of the holiness of God. Around the throne stood sentinel four living creatures (beasts), full of eyes front and back. Now the first living creature was like a lion, the second like an ox, the third had a man's face and the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each living creature had six wings which were covered with eyes all around, even under the wings. There is nothing strange about them if you have read Ezekiel Chapter I. These living creatures are called Cherubims in Hebrew, and figures of them are mounted on the Ark of the Covenant. Cherubims were also placed at the east of the Garden of Eden and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:24).

While the twenty four elders represented the Church, these four living creatures represent all of the original creation, joined in one accord, praising God. The one like a lion represents all the wild animals as the lion is king of the beasts. The one like an ox represents all domesticated animals. The one like a flying eagle represents all the birds and fowls of the air, and the one that has the face of a man represents all mankind. These do not cease, day or night to sing praises to the Triune Eternal God:

*“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
Which was, and is, and is to come.”*

Does this not remind you of Isaiah’s vision of the seraphims who sang antiphonally to one another, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory” (Isaiah 6:2,3). Now, when praises are heard from these representing the whole creation, the twenty-four elders, representing the whole church, prostrate before the Almighty sitting on His throne with their crowns offered up. And they respond, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created,” a triple doxology. This is Part One of the heavenly service of the Church Triumphant. Amen.



Worship in Heaven

CHAPTER V

With the Church Triumphant in Heaven

(Part II)

After this John saw in the right hand of God a book (scroll written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals). A strong angel then cried in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to open the seals thereof?" No one, whether in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the book, not even to look at it.

As John was moved to tears in this embarrassing situation, one of the elders comforted him, "Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, to loose the seven seals thereof. "Suddenly a Lamb, like One having been slain, and having seven horns and seven eyes (fullness of power and wisdom) which are the Seven Spirits of God, came and took the book out of God's right hand. Whereupon the four living creatures and twenty-four elders prostrate before the Lamb. Every one of them had harps and golden bowls full of incense, the prayers of saints, and they sung a new song to praise Him for being the One qualified to open the seals, who by His death had delivered them even out of every kindred, and tongue and people and nation. And they are to be kings and priests **to reign on the earth**. This new redemption song was brought to a crescendo in a grand finale by the living

creatures and twenty-four elders surrounded by angels numbering thousands upon thousands, unto ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands in a sevenfold doxology. Then came a response of a fourfold doxology from all that dwelt in heaven, on earth, under the earth and in the sea. This came to a close with the four living creatures and twenty-four elders prostrating again in worship.

CHAPTER VI

Meaning of Opening the Seven Seals

Now the meaning of the book with the seals? Some say it is Christ's title deed to his future Kingdom. Others say it is the Old Testament or the New Testament. We respectfully say it is all of the Book of Revelation whose mysteries hereafter are unveiled for us as each seal is opened, unto the very last which leads us into eternity. By the Spirit of Christ who opens the seals to let us know its secrets, we can decipher the mysteries. We who have His Spirit can show the way unto a brighter future, though "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Amen.



The First Seal

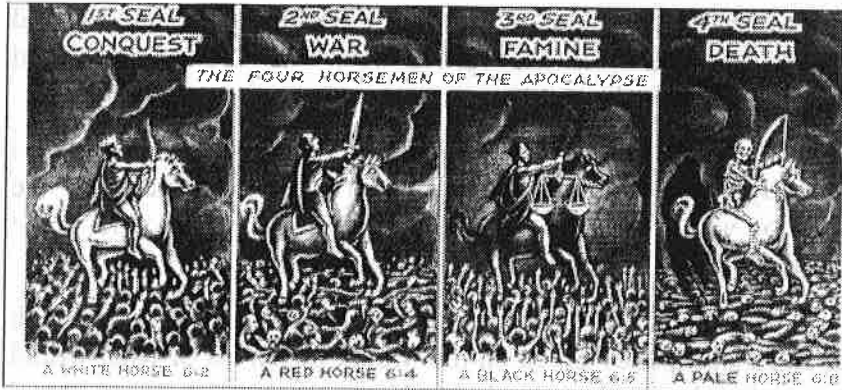
CHAPTER VI

What Are the Four Horsemen?

As to the first riding a white horse there are many who identify him with Antichrist appearing at the beginning of the so-called Tribulation Week. Buswell thinks it is the apostolic church advancing with marvellous speed whereby the Roman world was conquered by the Gospel.

Now if we compare these horsemen with those in Zechariah we will derive quite a different picture from the traditional view, and from Buswell's. Horsemen, riding red, speckled, and white horses appear in Zechariah's first vision (Zechariah 1:8-11). They are heavenly messengers sent out to survey the earth, who return to report an earth "sitting still, at rest" (Zechariah 1:10,11). Then came the Word from the Lord, "I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease" (that is, living in peace). God is going to send war, evidently, upon the Gentile nations that had afflicted Zion. War is God's way of judging them who perpetrate evil and violence and work against His will (Zechariah 1:15). God uses the wrath of man to fulfil His purpose (Psalm 76:10).

In Zechariah's tenth vision (Chapter 6) the prophet sees four chariots come out from between two mountains. The first chariot was hitched to red horses, the second to black, the third to white and the fourth to "gristled and bay" horses. NIV translates "gristled and bay" as "dappled," that is, "marked with spots."



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Who are these riding on horse-chariots of various colours? They are the four spirits of the heavens which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth (Zechariah 6:5). They are sent to survey the earth whether it is in peace or at war, or whatever, and to report back. Scofield admits the four spirits are angels (Luke 1:19; Hebrews 1:14). We say they are military angels inasmuch as Jehovah is the Lord of hosts (armies).

Comparing Scripture with Scripture, we cannot interpret the white horseman of Revelation 6 as the appearance of the Antichrist. Nor is the white horseman according to Buswell the apostolic church. We see it as the angel of peace who brings tranquility wherever he goes. The fact that the white horse rider has a bow but carries no arrows shows he is harmless. Another indication of his peaceful mission is the observation that when the red horseman appears after him, "power was given to him that sat thereon to take **peace** from the earth..." (Revelation 6:4). That settles it. To make the white horseman the Antichrist breaks the pattern of a series. The white horseman is the angel of peace. By God's grace there are periods of peace on earth, for example during the reign of Queen Victoria over the British Empire, and "cold war" peace from end of WWII until now, despite eruptions here and there.

So the red horse means war and bloodshed, that they should kill one another, and there is given unto him who sat on the red horse a great sword.

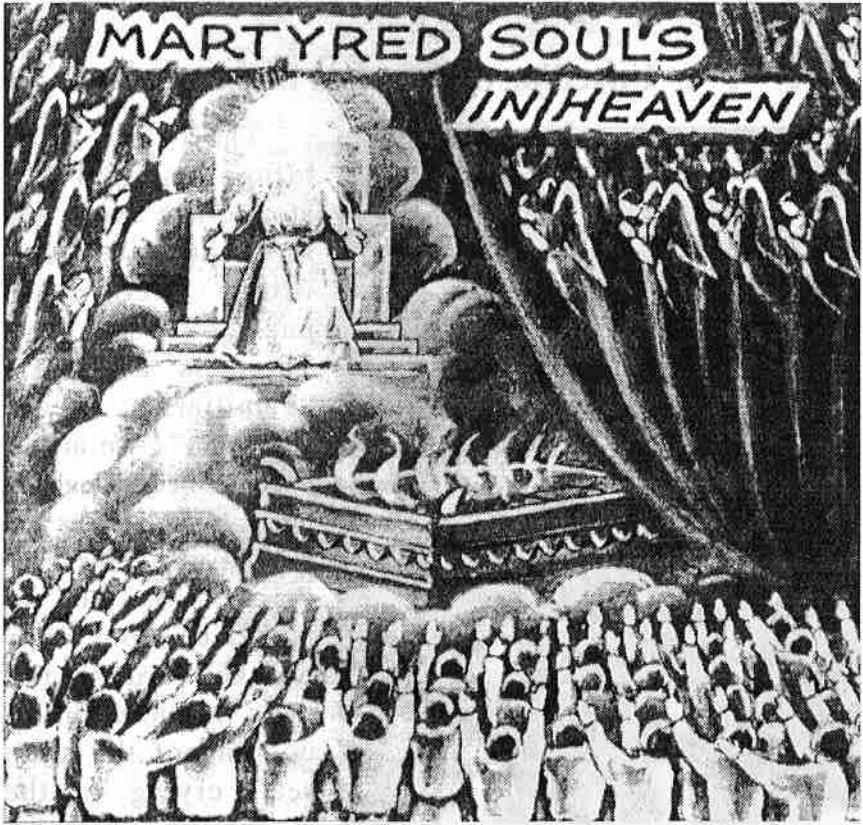
The black horseman that springs out of the third seal evidently is the angel of famine, which logically comes after the angel of war. And the last of the four which is a pale horse signifies death. Death is the result of war and famine.

This vision of the opening of the first four seals tallies with our Lord's prophecy given on the Mount of Olives of what would be enacting during the period after His ascension to heaven. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6-8).

The galloping of the four horsemen of peace, war, pestilence and death would be as seen in a circus, going and bobbing round and round (children love to ride these "playhorses"). So, until the Second Coming of Christ there will be cycles of the same throughout the world. This is not narrowly confined to the last seven years of the so-called Tribulation Week. To be exact, these cycles of peace, war, pestilence and death occur during the time period from Christ's Ascension to Christ's Second Advent.

Martyrs Are Not Christian Bodhisattvas

The fifth seal reveals the souls of martyrs during the same interval, because "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15). Though they were killed for Jesus' sake they did not thereby earn salvation for themselves nor gather extra merits to bestow salvation on others. White robes given them shows that they were saved and cleansed only by the death



Martyred Souls in Heaven

of Christ in their stead. Roman Catholicism which promotes martyrs to be sort of Christian Bodhisattvas make them minor saviours which they are not. They were told to have patience until the predetermined number of deaths for Christians should be fulfilled. Martyrdom comes to the Church, from age to age, with increasing intensity, until the end (Matthew 24:9). If we should be called upon to witness for Christ unto death, “we are (still) unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do” (Luke 17:10).

Unveiling of the Atom Bomb



Nuclear Bomb Explosion

The sixth seal brings us into the atomic age where the scene described is a fitting picture of nuclear destruction. There is a saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt." We are so used to hearing about nuclear bomb blasts and nuclear testings that these seem not to bother us. But those who know tremble like those mentioned in the opening of the sixth seal, crying to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him

that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Revelation 6:16). Are not shelters against nuclear bombs and rockets hidden in mountains and rock caves like those in Sweden and Switzerland? The description of a great earthquake that made the sun become black like sackcloth of hair and the moon to look like blood and the stars to fall like untimely figs blown down in a storm and the sky to roll away like a scroll certainly fits what appears to the eye after a nuclear explosion. God uses the destructions perpetrated by man as His means of judgment. The theology of war should teach us that God uses wicked men to execute his juridical purposes. For example, the employment of

the Assyrian king to bring war to Israel when she had apostatised from serving the living and true God. Thus Isaiah declares, "O Assyria, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against a hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets" (Isaiah 10:5,6).

In the last of the last days of these end-times, the nations of the world will be locked in nuclear combat. One nation will seek to destroy another out of aggression or vengeance. However, in their schemings on the horizontal plane, they are unaware there is the vertical dimension of a sovereign God using them to cancel one another's violence. In the vortex of these struggles they are working out God's higher plan of meting out judgment. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psalm 76:10).

We sincerely believe the sixth seal introduces us to the ushering in of the nuclear age (August 6, 1945). Today 25 nations have made or are in the process of making stockpiles of the Bomb (Time Magazine, June 28, '93). We are teetering on the brink of a nuclear holocaust that Walvoord has predicted will be brought in by the Third World War. Armageddon!

*In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver,
And his idols of gold,
Which they made each one for himself to worship,
To the moles and to the bats;*

*To go into the clefts of the rocks,
And into the tops of the ragged rocks,
For fear of the Lord,
And for the glory of his majesty,
When he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.*

(Isaiah 2:20,21)

CHAPTER VII

War Restrained by Angel from the East

The ushering in of the nuclear age took place on August 6, 1945 when US exploded two Atom Bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing and maiming hundreds of thousands. Now it is 1995, half a century after. This is a long period of grace imposed by a longsuffering Judge when we consider there were only twenty-one years of peace between the First and Second World Wars — 1918-1939.

Peace is enforced in the vision of four angels, standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. “And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea” (Revelation 7:2).

Who is the angel rising from the east restraining the four angels standing on the four corners of the earth holding the four winds? Buswell says, “The angel coming up from the East having the seal of the living God and commanding the four angels who are four military powers not to hurt the earth, might signify a mighty movement of the Spirit of God among Oriental peoples, a movement strong enough to influence world affairs in the interest of peace.” We concur with such a view.

By way of illustration we have seen how communist China has played a balancing power game between USA and Soviet Russia. With the dissolution of USSR, USA has become the single super power. Supremacy unchallenged! But, in the recent elections in Russia (end of 1993), a new "Hitler" in Zhirinovskiy has risen. He has threatened to annihilate Germany in WWII. This sends a chill into the spine of those who realise what havoc he can wreak with Russia's nuclear arsenal should he come into power. The fear of Russia is once again sending envoys from the West to the Chinese Court. China is sought after as a balancing power for peace beginning with Nixon. Above all these manoeuvres, however, is the hand of God working out His higher purpose. It is time extended to us who should have repented. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). The desiderative will of God is that "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). In the light of this prophecy let every Church give first priority to evangelism and missions in their agenda. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Sealing of Jewish Christians from the Twelve Tribes

What specific reason is given for this enforcement of peace by restraining the four angels holding the wind? That which is revealed to us is the sealing of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Twelve thousand from each tribe makes a total of one hundred forty and four thousand. In prophetic numerics twelve is the number of representation, so it may stand for a bigger number. Another observation is that the tribe of Dan is left out and Levi,

the priestly tribe is counted in. The tribe of Ephraim is subsumed under the name of Joseph. (To understand this selection of the tribes one must first learn the names of the Twelve Tribes and that Joseph is represented by two sons, viz., Ephraim and Manasseh which increases them to thirteen.) To make the number 12, one tribe must be left out and that tribe, as stated above, is Dan. Why Dan? John Sung says Dan is excluded because she worshipped idols (Judges 18). However, the Scriptures are silent on this point and we must therefore remain silent. This is one of Calvin's hermeneutical principles.

What is the meaning of sealing the foreheads? (Revelation 7:3). According to Ezekiel 9:1-6, it means sealing upon the persons God's protection in the midst of terrible destruction. Thus these 144,000 Israelites (Israelis), who are called "the servants of our God" are specially chosen to accomplish God's purpose during the Great Tribulation to come. Some say they are Jewish evangelists. These are Christian Jews who acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah, therefore they come under God's "particular providence." These are they described in Matthew 10:16-20 who will be given divine utterance as they are brought before Government authorities, and who will confound their accusers. There is an increasing number of Jewish Christians who declare Jesus as their Messiah. Are these not they who make up the 144,000?

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an

ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:10-13)

As to the order of the salvation of the Jews or Israelites, Paul tells us in Romans 11 in a parable that after the Jews rejected Christ, salvation was given to the Gentiles. The rebellious branch of the olive tree was cut off and cast away and in its place was grafted in the Gentiles, represented by the wild olive branch. But when “the fullness of the Gentiles be come in,” that is, when the last Gentile predestined to be saved is counted, then will Israel the castaway olive branch be grafted back. “And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Romans 11:26).

The sealing of the Twelve Tribes of Israel being completed, we must accordingly see the completion of salvation of the Gentiles. Chronologically speaking the Sealing of the Twelve Tribes and the following vision of a great multitude which no man can number, of all nations, and kindreds and people, and tongues” who stood before the throne in heaven must refer to some universal great event that occurs from out of the earth. These myriads of people are clothed with white robes holding palms in their hands which reminds of the Triumphal Entry and the singing of Hosannas. Now when this great multitude praised God and the Lamb for Salvation, all the angels of heaven and the twenty-four elders prostrated before God and echoed with a sevenfold doxology.

Preview of the Rapture

Who is this great multitude that suddenly appears before the throne of God, and from whence have they come? One of the elders gave the answer — that they had come out of Great Tribulation. They come out of hunger and thirst, and from the heat of the shining sun, with tears in their eyes. From this

description these are they who have landed in heaven from going through a great tribulation on earth.

Now, Scripture has much to say about the salvation of our body. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18 is given a vivid description how Christ will come for His church, both dead and living, and snatch them from earth to heaven. This is called the Rapture (not rapture) which means a forceful catching away. Don't you think that Revelation that tells of the things to come will surely have some detailed description of the Event? We humbly submit that as the sealing of the 144,000 is a preview of the salvation of the Israelites, so this vision of a great multitude coming out of Great Tribulation on the earth is a preview of the Rapture. At which point of the Great Tribulation the Rapture will occur we shall find out hereafter! To say that the Church is raptured at Revelation 4:1 does not convince the unbiased student of prophecy at all. That is the view, however, of Pre-Tribulation rapturists which Marvin Rosenthal, a diehard proponent of international standing, has now repudiated. (Read his book, "The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church.") "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Preview of the Rapture

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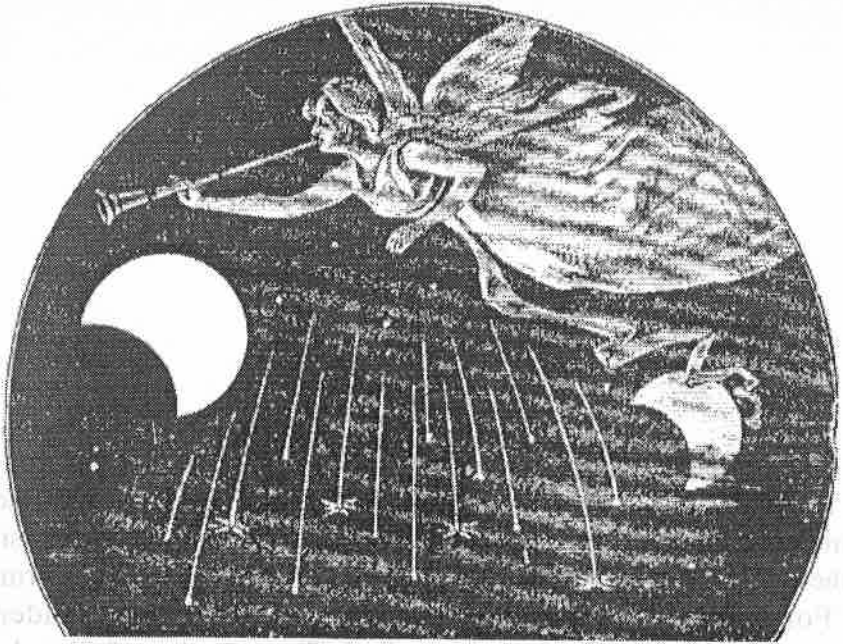
CHAPTER VIII

Trumpet Signifies Warfare

At the opening of the seventh seal which leads us into the midpoint of the Week of seven years before the coming of Christ, there is an half hour silence in heaven. A lull before the storm, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them..." (I Thessalonians 5:3). As Daniel's Week is divided into three-and-a-half years of peace and three-and-a-half years of war, the blowing of the first trumpet should occur at the beginning of the second half of the Week.

Now, the blowing of trumpet signifies warfare — "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain... Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong" (Joel 2:1; 3:9,10). God uses war as a means of judging the sinful earth is what we have observed as "the theology of war."

It is also to be noted that before the blowing of the trumpets another Angel came and stood at the altar having a golden censer. Evidently this Angel is a priestly angel which leads us to conclude he is Jesus Christ the High Priest. It is through Jesus Christ our High Priest that the prayers of the whole Church are received, not through Mary or the Apostles, Martyrs or Saints. Any prayer we



Trumpet Signifies Warfare

utter on earth must be said “in Jesus’ Name”. “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it” (John 14:13,14).

When the prayers of all saints were offered with the incense upon the golden altar which was before the throne there was a smoke that ascended up before God out of the Angel’s hand, which signified Divine acceptance. Now, if we turn back to Revelation 6:9-11 we have a vision of the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held. Here they cried with a loud voice, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” The reply to them was, “Rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

So, when we now enter the scene of the Trumpets, this interlude of the Priestly Angel bringing the prayers of all saints (suffering for Christ on earth) is answer to the cries of the martyrs mentioned in the above paragraph. And what is the answer? The Angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar. I now perceive that the half hour silence in heaven is the solemnity with which the whole heaven breathlessly watched our Lord performing his high priestly duty of offering the prayers of all the saints on earth to His Father. And with the Father's decision and order to action, He casts the fiery contents of the censer into the earth. This triggers God's judgments on the earth as symbolised by the voices, thunderings, lightnings and an earthquake. This is the grand preamble to the trumpet judgments that follow. Are you oppressed and mistreated, exploited and persecuted? There is a Judge in Heaven who sees all and will dispense justice in His good time.

The justice of God to be dispensed in time is illustrated by Jesus' parable of the widow and the unjust judge: "There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded men. And there was a widow in that city and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God nor regard men, yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? (Luke 18:1-7). "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint (Luke 18:1)." The trouble with us today is we hardly pray, so we are at a loss by our own default! "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

The First Four Trumpets

The sounding of the Trumpets that follows after the voices, thunderings, lightnings and earthquake give us a more detailed picture of the judgments meted out. The first four trumpets are an intensification of the first four seal judgments. Whereas in the fourth seal judgment one fourth of the earth was devastated by slaughter, hunger and death, in the trumpets one third became affected.

We see now one third of the earth was destroyed by war, affecting even the vegetation. During the Vietnamese war much of the wooded forests was destroyed.

Secondly we see the sea also polluted by death for one third of ships were destroyed.

Thirdly we see pollution come to rivers and fountains of water. A great star called Wormwood fell down from heaven upon the water sources and made the water bitter. We take this third trumpet judgment figuratively. Water is life, it refers to the life of the people. Wormwood makes life bitter in the sense that under Satanic rule there will be no justice nor righteousness, like life under the Nazi and Communist regimes (Amos 5:7).

In regard to the rebellious Jews who served Baalim but not Jehovah, they were taken into exile by the Babylonians. "Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them" (Jeremiah 9:14-16). Surely this was doubly fulfilled in the extermination of six million Jews by Hitler during WWII. The false visions and messages of the prophets that opposed Jeremiah were also likened to wormwood and water of gall (Jeremiah 23:15). In the last days, the church will be fed with a lot of

wormwood and gall water by false teachers and pastors, instead of the sincere milk of the Word and good strong meat (I Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:14).

Fourthly, we see even the outer space polluted affecting the light of the sun, moon and stars. We believe this is God's answer to audacious man for invading His "backyard". In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the Lord gave man dominion only over the earth, the sea, and the air, that is, the atmosphere. But with the advent of space technology he has sent countless rockets, satellites beyond the atmosphere, going through the stratosphere, ionosphere and "I-don't-know-what-sphere."

God will judge man in the outer space by shaking the cosmic powers. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:25-28).

What an awful time of suffering is still in the offing. The first four trumpets are only the preamble of three more woes to be poured over the earthly dwellers. What they are will be seen hereafter.

CHAPTER IX

The Fifth Trumpet

When the fifth angel blew the trumpet, John saw a star fall from heaven to earth. This fallen star refers to Satan, who in Isaiah 14:12 is addressed, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (Light-bearer), son of the morning!"... Revelation 5:1 qualifies him as one given the key of the bottomless pit. This tallies with verse 11, calling him angel of the bottomless pit whose name in Hebrew is *Abaddon* and *Apollyon* in Greek. Satan is a Destroyer and Killer. Jesus says of the Devil that he was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44).

Out of the bottomless pit or abyss mounted smoke as from a great furnace, darkening the sky. And out of the smoke came forth locusts, paralleling the eighth plague in Egypt (Exodus 10:14). Can any good come out of a witch's brew? These locusts do not kill but torment men five months. (The lingering deaths from nuclear fallout and germ warfare should cast some light.)

The characteristic of these devilish locusts is that they are like winged horses ready for battle (compare Joel 2:4) and when they gallop, the sound of many chariots is heard. These locusts have hair like the hair of woman, a picture of deception and camouflage, but they sting like scorpions with their tails, and bite like lions. They have iron breastplates to protect themselves.

Looking back at the smoke bellowing from the bottomless pit whose angel is the Devil here is a picture of inventors of nuclear bombs with burning mushroom clouds, of wizards of chemical and biological weapons, being inspired of the Evil One.

We need not go into an explanation of every detail of this vicious vision of the locusts, but here is a prophetic description of modern war machines, be they cruise missiles, scud missiles, rockets, warplanes, bombers, fighters, tanks, "Patriots", helicopter gunships, laser guns, nuclear submarines, aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, etc., and every other form of lethal battle craft. This is the first woe announced to the inhabitants of the earth (Revelation 8:13) and this introduces us to the second and third woes (Revelation 9:12).

The Sixth Trumpet

The sixth trumpet blows and John hears a voice calling out of the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, "Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates". The four military powers (four in prophetic numerics may also mean global) which are restrained from action up to this point, are released! Now, when they are let loose it is God's appointment to the hour, day, month and year to kill the third part of men. To everything there is a season ... a time to kill ... a time of war (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). Walwoord says this will be the outbreak of the Third World War, and I cannot conceive of any other, when the contending armies of the world will clash, 200,000,000 strong! If a tiny island-state like Singapore of barely 620 sq km of land area at present has a quarter million trained for battle, multiply this eight hundred times and you have the sum total of these men going to battle.

Now, the description of the locusts under the fifth trumpet is but a preview of more terrible destruction to come. In the vision



The Fourth to Sixth Trumpet

that John sees under the sixth trumpet, it is no more one of smoke, but of fire and brimstone, and jacinth, the colour of a red-orange flame. The searing heat is leaping out of the smoke in red-orange tongues of fire as from a bursting petroleum tank. These ironclad horsemen are to kill one third of the world's population. This means a much greater area of the earth than that affected by WWII will be subjected to the woes of the fifth and sixth trumpets.

Focus on Iraq

The arena of the contending armies will be Iraq, the Euphrates region, the Middle East, so the Gulf War that broke out August 1990 was just the beginning of worse things to come. People living in faraway Australia or South America will not escape, which they did during WWII, for the earth has shrunk

miserably under the range of ICBM's (intercontinental ballistic missiles). While there were but two Atom bombs to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of WWII, at the beginning of WWII that power of destruction will be multiplied a million times. (We are forewarned by frequent newspaper articles to this pent-up holocaust.) But do people today pay heed to this coming judgment of God? [God used Babylon as a destroying wind to conquer nations in Jeremiah's time (Jeremiah 51:10) and He will use warring nations today to cancel one another]. The answer is, NO!

So there is no surprise when John concludes this chapter with these remarks:

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts” (verses 20, 21).

The fact is, as we had observed in WWII, there was little turning to the Lord. The people who were alive gleefully made quick war money and became mushroom millionaires. The idol worshippers waxed the more in their superstitious practices. [Do they provoke me to anger? Saith the Lord: do thy not provoke themselves to the confusion of their faces? (Jeremiah 7:19)] Ethics sank to a new low, with murders, sorceries, sex crimes and stealing from one another (for example, wartime profiteering) being practised, and continuing to be practised. To understand what war is, you who did not go through WWII are recommended to read Lamentations, and Jeremiah, if you will.

CHAPTER X

Christ Stands on Land and Sea to Assure Us

Between the opening of the sixth and seventh seals there was an interlude of two saving acts by the Lord God Almighty, viz. 1) the sealing of the one hundred and forty four thousand of the tribes of the children of Israel; 2) the saving of Gentile Christians of every nation, people and tongue from great tribulation on earth to heaven. This second act we have observed to be a preview of the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). This is to comfort the reader that God will intervene to save His own children in the midst of great danger and destruction. In the deepest despair, Christians can look up to God!

Similarly, we see another two saving acts of God in this second interlude, between the sixth and seventh trumpets, viz. 1) the appearance of "another mighty angel" come down from heaven to earth with a little book to be given to John to eat; 2) the measuring of the Temple to segregate it from Gentile desecration and raising up of two witnesses to prophesy 1260 days against the beastly power (Revelation 11).

Now, who is "another mighty angel" that descends from heaven between the sixth and seventh trumpets sounding out the serial destructions? Surely his appearance brings great comfort to John as well as to us! Various opinions are expressed about this mighty angel, inasmuch as two chief angels are known to us by

name, viz., Michael (*meaning who is like God*) the Archangel and Gabriel (*meaning the hero of God*). Some can only see this angel to be a Christ-like Being. I agree with Dr John Sung that He is none other than the Son of God, Second Person of the Holy Trinity. The whole description of this Personage cannot but convince us He is our Lord Jesus Christ:-

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: (*that is, no more delay*)... (Revelation 10:1-6).

The fact that the description given in Revelation 1 when he first came in power and glory to John in vision is repeated here identifies him to be the Son of God. For who could roar like a lion (the voice of Majesty) and thunder from his mouth seven thunders that are commanded to be sealed? Surely this Angel cannot be either Michael or Gabriel but the Only Begotten Son. Neither Michael nor Gabriel ever exercised such authority. Did not our Lord declare of Himself, "All power (authority) is given unto Me in heaven and in earth...? (Matthew 28:18).



The Mighty Angel

Now while the seven thunders are become a sealed mystery (Calvin's hermeneutics forbids us to delve into it), John reveals that in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he shall begin to sound (the trumpet) the mystery of God should be finished (fulfilled) as he hath declared to the servants of the prophets.

The Mystery of the Last Trumpet

What mystery (Greek, *mysterion*) of the twenty-eight mysteries mentioned in the New Testament will be "finished"? I owe it to Dr Buswell for the understanding of what this mystery is. It is the mystery of the Rapture (Catching up) of Christians at the Second Coming of Christ:

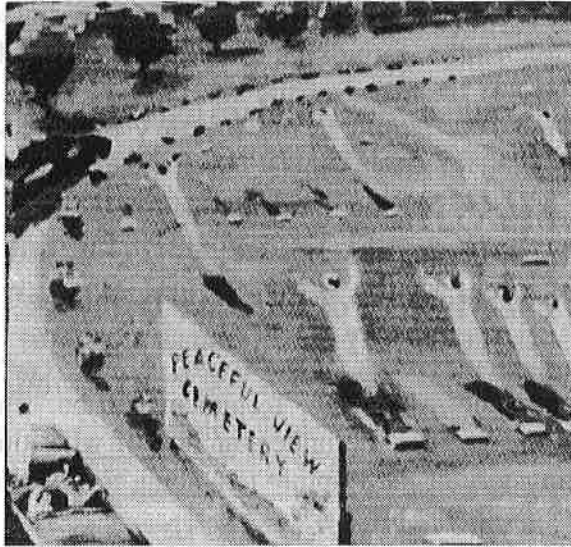
This conclusion is based on I Corinthians 15:51-53:-

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last** trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

Paul says at the sounding of the last trumpet, the mystery of Rapture will be "finished" or "fulfilled". Now what is the last trumpet in Revelation but the seventh trumpet?

The Rapture Occurs at the Last Trumpet, ie. the Seventh Trumpet

Now there are several viewpoints on the Rapture of Christians. Those who take a pre-tribulation view, that is, at the beginning of Daniel's seventieth week, base their argument on Revelation 4:1. Those who take the post-tribulation view, that is, at the end of Daniel's seventieth week, base theirs on Matthew



The Rapture

24:29-31. There is Marvin Rosenthal's "pre-wrath Rapture" that is based on the opening of the sixth seal. We call ours "the last trumpet Rapture". This occurs somewhere after the middle of Daniel's seventieth week, and the last trumpet is the seventh trumpet. But at this juncture of the vision the seventh trumpet is not yet sounded. Watch for its sounding and there you will see that the Rapture occurs!

The Little Book is the Great Commission

Coming back to the "Mighty Angel" with the little book, there was given this command to John, "Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth... Take it and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey" (Revelation 10:8,9). This prophetic riddle is easily solved when we read a similar case in Ezekiel 3. Yet there are diverse opinions

expressed on what the little book is and what are its contents. We have no difficulty in seeing the little book to be our Lord's Great Commission to the disciples, to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This is reiterated in Revelation 10:11, "Thou must prophesy (preach) again before many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

And this is the particular message to us who live in the end of the end-times, "Accelerate the Gospel, put the "go" in the Gospel!" There is no other power that can save this perishing world. The U.N. is helpless. The U.S. is no better. Only God! "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a testimony unto all nations and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). Today, there is plenty of talk on missions, and exciting preparations are made to go on mission trips. This is like the sweet honey taste in the mouth. But "it shall make your belly bitter" is experienced when one goes into the field, to live and work amongst primitive people and sin-hardened crowds. "To talk is easy, to do is hard."

It is thrilling to have the mysteries of Revelation unveiled for us to see, but we are unwilling to go through the tribulations that are foretold to us. Nevertheless, it is required of everyone of us in the messages to the seven churches to be an "overcomer." For example, in the letter to Philadelphia, "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God..." (Revelation 3:12). Paul reinforces our argument, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: If we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (II Timothy 2:12,13).

The above exposition on the Angel come down from heaven to stand on sea and land is that we are assured of our Lord's protection, and encouraged to go on preaching the Gospel to the very end. The next and second act of God's salvation is followed up in the next chapter, viz., Revelation Eleven.

CHAPTER XI

What is the Meaning of Measuring the Inner Temple?

The second saving act in the interlude between the sounding of the sixth trumpet and the seventh is extended in Revelation 11:1-14. The scene now shifts from John being commissioned to preach the Gospel to “many peoples, and nations and tongues, and kings” to Israel again.

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Commenting on the above passage of Scripture Dr Buswell says,

There is here a very clear reference to the words of Christ as recorded in Luke 21:24, “Jerusalem will be trodden under foot of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” I think there can be no doubt that John understood the voice which spoke in his vision as specifically alluding to this particular prophecy of Christ.

The forty-two months seem to apply to a period of time during which the worshippers in the temple and at the

altar are not interfered with, a time when the outer court is given to the Gentiles and the city is under Gentile domination. This would fit exactly with the first half of Daniel's seventieth seven. It describes a situation essentially the same as that which prevailed at the time of Christ. There was then the "Court of the Gentiles," and the city was under Gentile domination, but Roman policy did not interfere with the temple or the altar of the worshippers except under extraordinary circumstances.

In Daniel 9:27 it is stated that the "prince that shall come" makes a covenant with the multitude for a "seven", but in the midst of the seven he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, "and for the over-spreading of abomination he shall make it desolate..." The sacrifice and the oblation are to cease in the midst of the "seven." It seems certain that the sacrifice and oblation are to be offered and worship is unmolested during the first half of the seven. This seems to be exactly the picture of Revelation 11:1,2.

Now my humble commentary on Buswell's commentary on Revelation 11:1,2. Dr Buswell is taking a literal interpretation of the passage, like many others, that the Jews by this time would have rebuilt their temple. At present the ancient Temple site is occupied by the Mosque of Omar, if not "on target," at least near enough to create a politically and ecclesiastically explosive situation.

Our view, as expressed in "*Prophescope* on Israel," is that for a Temple of the Jews to be built on the site now occupied by the Mosque of Omar before Christ returns would be an impossibility in the light of mutual intransigence between Jews and Arabs over the site. Moreover, there is no mandate in all Bible prophecy for a third temple to be built except the Millennial Temple of Ezekiel 40-48. That being the case, we must take Revelation 11:1,2 on a spiritual dimension.



Wailing Wall and Dome of Rock

The measuring of the Temple and the altar with the worshippers therein to the exclusion of the court without which is given to the Gentiles seems to mean God's assured protection of the devout Jews who have now become Christians from persecution of the Gentile power. And this during the three-and-a-half years of Daniel's seventieth week. An analogy may again be drawn from Ezekiel's vision of Jerusalem in the last days of Babylonian destruction. In Ezekiel 9 is recorded how six men each carrying a slaughter weapon were commanded to slay all the living in the city, both old and young. But before this extermination was to be carried out, another man clothed with linen equipped with a writer's inkhorn was ordered "to set a mark on the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof" (Ezekiel 9:2-4). Those who are devoted to the Lord are "the apple of His eye, and hidden under the shadow of His wings" (Psalm 17:8). "Because thou hast made the Lord which is my refuge even the Most High thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Psalm 91:9,10).

As Elijah and Moses Appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration...

Now, while Jerusalem in the last days (of three-and-a-half years) will be under Gentile domination, the Antichrist World Dictator holding sway, God will send His two witnesses to testify to the power of the living and true God. Some identify them to be Elijah and Enoch, but others Elijah and Moses. One reason I would vote for Moses is the plagues he brought down on Egypt are mentioned as in his power to enact again. Besides, it was Moses and Elijah who appeared together at the Mount of Transfiguration, not Enoch. Moses representing the dead in Christ and Elijah the living in Christ in the Rapture. By the miracles that they did, many would believe in their message.

Their message must be the immediate coming of Jesus for His saints. But those who did not believe suffered from the plagues rained down during the blowing of the six trumpets.

Now, it is God's purpose to let them flourish only for a short season, and then be killed by the Beast that ascendeth from the bottomless pit, who is the Antichrist. Their bodies will lie in the city plaza of Jerusalem and all over the world by T.V. will men see their dead bodies displayed for three days and a half. During this display all who dwell upon the earth will make merry and send gifts one to another because these two prophets had tormented them by their miracles of punishment. But suddenly they stood up alive and great fear fell on all who saw them. Then called a loud voice from heaven, "Come up hither," whereupon they rose up and were carried into the air by a cloud. This is the Rapture's head start! All the people stood dumbfounded.

Then the City was shaken by a terrible earthquake that tore down a tenth part of its construction. Seven thousand people were crushed to death by this big Quake. All the rest of the people glorified God as they trembled with fear. This is the second woe, and the third woe follows quickly.

The Seventh Trumpet Ushers the Rapture

Hard on the heels of the earthquake the seventh angel blew the trumpet, to which echoed a chorus of voices from heaven, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." Dr Buswell sees an exact synchronisation of events: When the two witnesses were caught up to heaven, at the same moment, were opened all the graves of Christians who were also caught up, followed by those who were alive — the two witnesses up and gone with the headstart, followed by myriads around the world, both the resurrected dead and the transformed living ones in a



The Two Witnesses

grand get-together in space! All up in the twinkling of an eye by God's A-power, Ascension power! (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). All this we had previewed in Revelation 7:9-17.

“Now is identified the moment toward which we look when we use the words of the Lord’s prayer, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Now has come the moment when the Heavenly Son of Man takes possession. “There was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14). The Rapture of Christians signals the fall of the entire world-system.

After Rapture, the Bema (Judgment Seat) of Christ

Now, when the Rapture takes place, what will be going on in heaven? The twenty-four elders are seen to fall on their faces to give worship to God Almighty. They chanted, "We give 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 shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:17,18). (This is where II Corinthians 5:10,11 comes in! "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." Reader, don't forget there is a judgment of works for Christians before we are given our rewards or not, and appointed to our respected posts in the Divine Government of a thousand years of golden rule.)

And while we all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to be judged for our works (the judgment on three servants given the talents to trade) destruction comes on those who are waging war on earth (God-sent punishments on men's evil deeds).

Looking up from the earth, we see the Temple of God opened, and there was seen in the Temple the ark of His testament, and there were lightnings, and voices and thunderings and earthquake, and a great hail" (Revelation 11:19). Now, the ark of His testament would be carried by priests at the forefront when Israel went to battle. Is the appearance of the ark at this point amidst lightnings and thunders the signal to a final showdown with the Satanic forces now reigning on earth? From trumpet judgments to vial (or bowl) total judgments! This we shall soon see.

CHAPTER XII

After the Rapture, What?

With the Rapture of the Church occurring at the blowing of the last trumpet (I Corinthians 15:52) which coincides with Revelation 11:15-19 where the seventh trumpet goes into action, ... “and the dead, that they should be judged (before the judgment seat of Christ, II Corinthians 5:10) and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets and unto the saints and them that fear thy name, small and great (Revelation 11:18), the prophetic spot light now shifts to Israel, God’s restored Witness to the world. This transition is reflected in a parable in Romans 11 of unbelieving Israel being broken off from the Olive Tree and the believing Gentiles, an wild olive branch, grafted in their stead, and of the day when Israel will be grafted back again. “For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? (Romans 11:24).

When will the broken branch of Israel be grafted back again to the olive tree? Answer: When the last Gentile Christian will make up the determined number of the Saved (only God knows), and they will by then be raptured, when Israel will be restored to God’s continuing Witness on earth. “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery ... that blindness in part

is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Romans 11:25,26).

This will be a short period of three-and-a-half years when Israel will come under persecution as never before. The Jews who suffered six million exterminated by Hitler in a genocide by gas chambers and ovens can understand what we say. A permanent record of their sufferings preserved in Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, is an eye opener to the Bible expositor on this chapter.

Who is the Woman, Church or Israel?

Now this leads us to the interpretation of the woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars (Revelation 12:1). In prophetic language, woman or wife in the Old Testament represents Israel with God as her husband (Isaiah 54). In New Testament language woman or bride represents the Church with Christ as the bridegroom. So, there are two schools of interpretation. Some think this woman is the Church. Others think it is Israel.

I believe the woman of Chapter XII is Israel inasmuch as in Joseph’s dream of Israel’s future, he saw the sun, moon and eleven stars making obeisance to him. Joseph became prime minister of Egypt, an adumbration of Israel in days to come to play the role of the premier nation of the world. That is, when Jesus of the stock of Abraham and David’s greater son, will rule the world for a thousand years in what is called the golden millennium.

Now, who is the Child? Inasmuch as Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, who is of Israel, this Child must be our Saviour, for



The Sun-Clad Woman

He is One “to rule all nations with a rod of iron” (Revelation 12:5).

Who is the red dragon? Not as some say, Mao Tse Tung, father of Red China. The Dragon is also called “that old serpent,

which is the Devil, and Satan” (Revelation 20:1). Red does not signify communism in Scripture but Bloodshed, and is not Satan called a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44)? The great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns upon his heads shows how powerful and successfully clever he is in working out his schemings through the nations.

That he tried to devour the Child harks back to his trying to kill the baby Jesus through King Herod after the wisemen were led of God from revealing to him the place of Mary’s abode. That the Child was caught up unto God and to His throne is a picture of His preservation during the thirty-three years of ministry on earth till the day of His death, resurrection and Ascension.

War in Heaven Over Israel

Now, leaping across the centuries to the last years of this age, when Israel will come in full view and will be involved with all the hostile nations surrounding her, we are given to understand spiritual forces are also simultaneously clashing in conflict. There is war in the heavenly regions between Michael the Archangel and his angels against the dragon and his angels, demons unnumbered! This is astral-theology!

Satan being cast down to earth with his angels in defeat, his false propaganda of character assassination against the brethren being exposed by those Jews who are Christian believers, is a spent force before the holy presence of God. Remember how he had accused Job (Job 1).

Seeing that he has but only three-and-a-half years left before final defeat, like the Japanese invasion of the Pacific had reached high tide and ebbing was setting in, Satan went all out, like the Kamikazes, to persecute Israel. In this respect it is not only those in Eretz Israel (Land of Israel) but also those dispersed still in

many foreign lands. For example, a million Jews were expected to return to Israel when Gorbachev "opened the gate," but because Israel is fully saturated with Olim (Returnees) the flight of Jews back has slowed down. Today, as a new Hitler is rising in Russia in the person of Zhirinovsky, a new chill is coming down the spine not only of Western leaders, but also of Russian and other Eastern European Jews.

A Vision of Jewish Returnees by the Planeloads?

That to the woman were given two wings that she might fly to the wilderness seems to be a new exodus of Jews by planeloads back to Israel, the Holy Land of their fathers. The Wilderness, indeed, is a cryptic name of the Promised Land as used by Moses in his demand to Pharaoh, "Let us go, we pray thee, three days journey into the desert (wilderness), and sacrifice unto the Lord our God" (Exodus 5:3). In Exodus 5:1, the word "wilderness" is used.

When the Jews were gathered back in their Homeland the Serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood, but the earth helped the woman and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

The prophet Isaiah has this to say of God's protection over His people "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isaiah 43:2). We believe, in times of utmost testings, God will break through from heaven to save His people. As He caused the Red Sea to divide and allow Israel to go over dry land so will He cause the earth to swallow the flood that Satan will send to drown His people.

Natural Rock Caves in the Southern Desert

What is Satan's flood but death and destruction, but we know Israel is a land of rock caves in the Negev (the southern desert) which stretches all the way into the Land of Edom, all the way beyond the Dead Sea region. Daniel 11:41 confirms this, "... these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon." (Edom, Moab and Ammon form the Land of Jordan today). These are good hiding places from floods of hail and fire.

In the final battles of Armageddon leading up to Jerusalem and into the Judean hills, Zechariah calls, "Ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark. But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light" (Zechariah 14:5-7). "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God" (Zechariah 13:8,9).

Satan, knowing that his time of judgment is now come pursues all the more "to make war" with the remnant of the woman's seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ — these are the believing Jews! We shall see more of them in the next chapter but one.

CHAPTER XIII

Is This Not the Rising of the European Union?

Identification of this seven-headed, ten-horned beast wearing ten crowns on its horns and displaying on its heads the name of blasphemy is easy if we compare it with Daniel 7 and Revelation 17:3, 7-14. For further identification Revelation Chapter 13:2 reveals this beast is like a leopard, its feet are of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. He received great power and authority and a throne from the Dragon.

This beast or super political power holding sway over the world cannot be fulfilled by any Oriental power, by Japan, China, or India, but by the Western conglomerate of nations. If we turn backwards to Daniel's prophecy we will see in the fourth beast empire also having ten horns. The interpretation given to Daniel was that the ten-horned beast would be the final world power that should flourish during the last three-and-a-half years before Jesus comes. He will be Anti-God and against the servants of the most High. He will think of changing the times and laws. But He will be judged in the end and be destroyed.

The present European Community of twelve nations (European Union) seems to answer to this prophecy. America can be a part in view of her being an extension of the European peoples in the New World. A great Dictator, full of charisma and devilish cunning will arise out of this European Union or rather

the Nato nations. He will be another Napoleon or Hitler, but far superior to either in that he is directly energised by Satan.

In Revelation 17:12 the ten horns which are ten kings have not yet received power (they have no crowns on their horns). But they will receive power when the beast “goeth into perdition (destruction)”, and with one mind shall give their power and strength to the beast. In contrast, the ten-horned beast of Chapter 13 has crowns on all their horns, which means they are now in full power and cooperation with the beast, supporting him in all his wicked ways.

In the fullness of his power, however, the beast who is also called Antichrist, Man of Sin (II Thessalonians 2:3) is assassinated! “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death...” (Revelation 13:3). During the Second World War, at the latter part of the War, Hitler was almost killed in an assassination attempt, but he survived, unscathed. In the case of the Antichrist, he is wounded with a deadly wound. Nevertheless he recovered. Propaganda would play him up as actually dead, and a State Funeral was being arranged. In the process of lying in state, he got up all of a sudden, imitating Christ’s Resurrection. Satan also has power to heal, to do miracles to scare the credulous into submission. The prestige of the Antichrist rises to a new high. “And all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the Dragon which gave power unto the beast, saying, ‘Who is like unto the beast? And who is able to make war with him?’ ”

Anti-Christ and Anti-God

During the three-and-a-half years in power he blasphemed against God, against His tabernacle, and even them that dwelt in heaven. He demanded to be worshipped. “Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come

a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God (II Thessalonians 2:3,4). He persecuted the saints, remnants of believing Jews and Gentiles, after the Rapture had taken place, but they refused to bow to his demands, except those whose names were not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Though persecuted unto death, God's remnant people persevered, knowing judgment was near for the persecutors. At the height of his power, Antichrist's decrees reached to all kindreds and tongues and nations.

The Antichrist's Minister of Propaganda

As to another beast which comes out of the earth (or Land=Israel) he has two horns like a Lamb, and he speaks like a Dragon. He exercises all the power of the first beast and causes the people of the world to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed. This is the false prophet, the third member after the dragon and the beast, which makes up the Unholy Satanic Trinity.

The false prophet exercises magical powers to bring down fire from heaven, imitating Elijah. Thus he deceives the people by his miraculous powers. To further subject the people to the power of the beast, the false prophet requires that they should put up an image to the beast. The Antichrist's personality cult is nothing new for we can see this demand of worship in the gigantic portraits of Mao Tse Tung in China even to this day. According to Chinese custom the people must bow three times to Mao's portrait in State functions. How does the false prophet make the first beast's image come to life? I think it is showing him on the T.V. by satellite telecast to every part of the world. That every T.V. programme must first telecast the Antichrist and all must bow to

him on the screen in public functions, is a mandate to obey upon pain of death. During the Second War World many devout Korean Christians refused to bow to the Emperor of Japan in his Imperial Palace. These were sent to prison to serve long sentences. The film, "If I Perish I Perish" showing the heroic resistance to idol worship by Miss Ahn, a young Korean woman, is well-known. Incidentally I had personally met her when she studied for a short season at Faith Seminary, USA when I was student there, 1948.

Not only will the Antichrist control the world in religion, he will monopolise their economic life. He will put identification marks in their right hand and on their foreheads. We need not go into electronic control of the individual in the near future. That one has to carry an Identification Card with one's photo and a seal on it in Singapore is quite revealing!

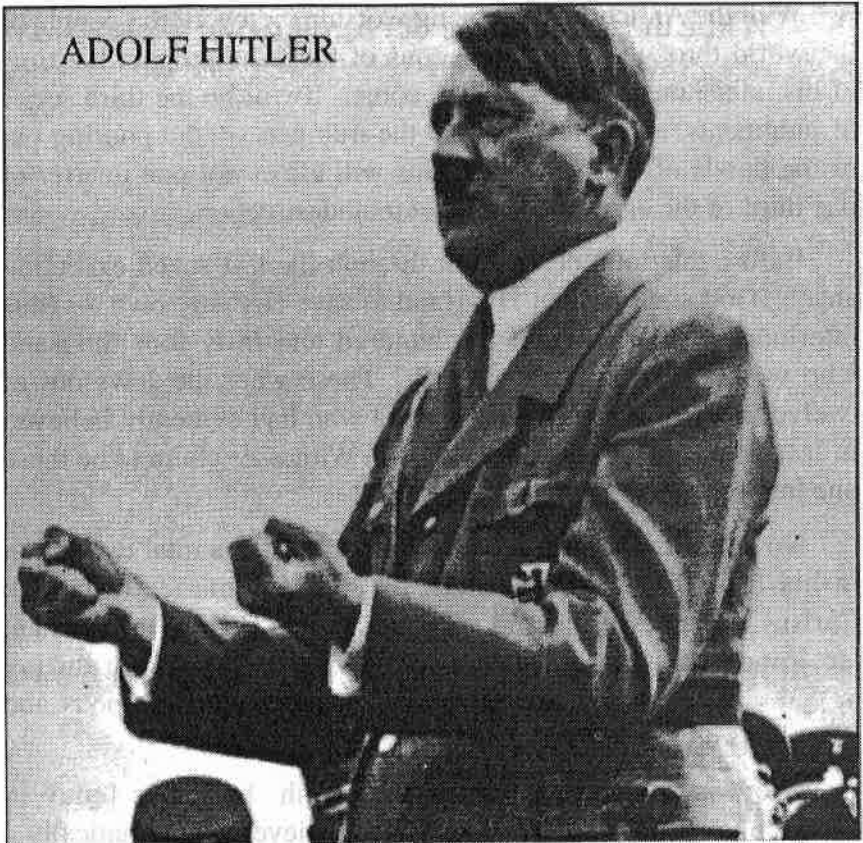
The Mystery of 666

The beast also has a number. It is 666. Many attempts have been made in history to identify some great personage as having this number. During the Second World War I remember how some theologian cooked up 666 to fit Hitler. Using this chart you will see how HITLER is become the Beast:

A = 100	K = 110	H = 107
B = 101	L = 111	I = 108
C = 102	M = 112	T = 119
D = 103	N = 113	L = 111
E = 104	O = 114	E = 104
F = 105	P = 115	R = 117
G = 106	Q = 116	<u>666</u>
H = 107	R = 117	
I = 108	S = 118	
J = 109	T = 119	

Indeed, he was a beast, but not having the honour of the real Beast to be personally judged at our Saviour's coming. The Antichrist will be ten times cleverer than Hitler.

As Antichrist has not yet appeared in power, it is futile to find if he fits the number. 666 has a cryptic meaning. It is the triple number of man at his best or worst. Nebuchadnezzar's image measured sixty and six. "Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was three score cubits (or sixty cubits) and the breadth thereof six cubits". Herein is also wisdom!



ADOLF HITLER

Adolf Hitler

CHAPTER XIV

The Hundred and Forty-four Thousand

With the Antichrist now being worshipped by all the people of the world through the machinations of the false prophet the time of his punishment from above is come. It will be the third series of judgments, after the seals and the trumpets — the pouring out of the bowls of God's wrath. This will affect not one quarter or one third of the earth and sea but a total destruction.

Before this total destruction through the last seven executing angels, God stretches out His Hand to save His very own — (this interlude of the saving of the hundred and forty-four thousand who were sealed in Revelation 7. These were the Jews out of twelve tribes of the children of Israel who had evidently believed in Jesus the Messiah. But the Jehovah Witnesses claim to be these one hundred and forty four thousand!)

Now that a Jew has become a Christian, it is a total revolution in his life. Every Jewish believer will automatically preach Christ. Richard Wurmbrand a Romanian Jew became a Christian. He joined the Church, even the Underground Church during WWII. He is a very learned man, has written many books and pamphlets on Jesus his Saviour.

There is a growing number of Jewish believers today in every country, not only in Israel. Each believer is automatically a witness in his or her own way to salvation in Jesus the rejected

Messiah. Now, when the Antichrist begins to persecute the Jews in the last days he will not only concentrate on Israel but wherever Jews are found. Those Jews who cooperate with the Antichrist will be judged by the Lamb but those whom God had sealed because they were believers would be saved to the very last one. "And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day" (John 6:39). One hundred and forty-four thousand exact, no less.

Jewish Christians Also in the Same Rapture

And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him an hundred and forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand which were redeemed **from the earth**. This is the Rapture of the Jewish Christian Army, also called Evangelists by some commentators. Mount Zion in this context is "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and (to) an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrew 12:22). They who went through the Great Tribulation of the last days are also saved in their bodies like the Gentile Christians, in the same Rapture described in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. God loves His very own and will "not suffer us to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. This does not mean that celibacy is better than the

married state. These are chaste in the sense of their utter devotion to the Saviour, unsoiled by this faithless and perverse generation (Luke 9:41). They are called first fruits just as Paul calls the saints of Israel firstfruits in Romans 11:16. That God will have special mercy on the Jews in the last days is heralded by many comforting words in the Old Prophets. Suffice it to quote from Isaiah, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (Isaiah 60:1-3).

While the earth is covered with the darkness of Antichrist's reign, three angels come into action against him.

God Broadcasts His Word Through Angels

The first angel, flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel preached unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and the earth, and the sea and the fountains of water. If today's astronomers can supposedly receive messages from outer space, this angelic message to the world is nothing strange, inasmuch as the First Coming of our Lord was announced by angels to the shepherds in word and in song. Signs and wonders will be used by God in the last days of the end, inasmuch as they were used to save Israel out of Egypt.

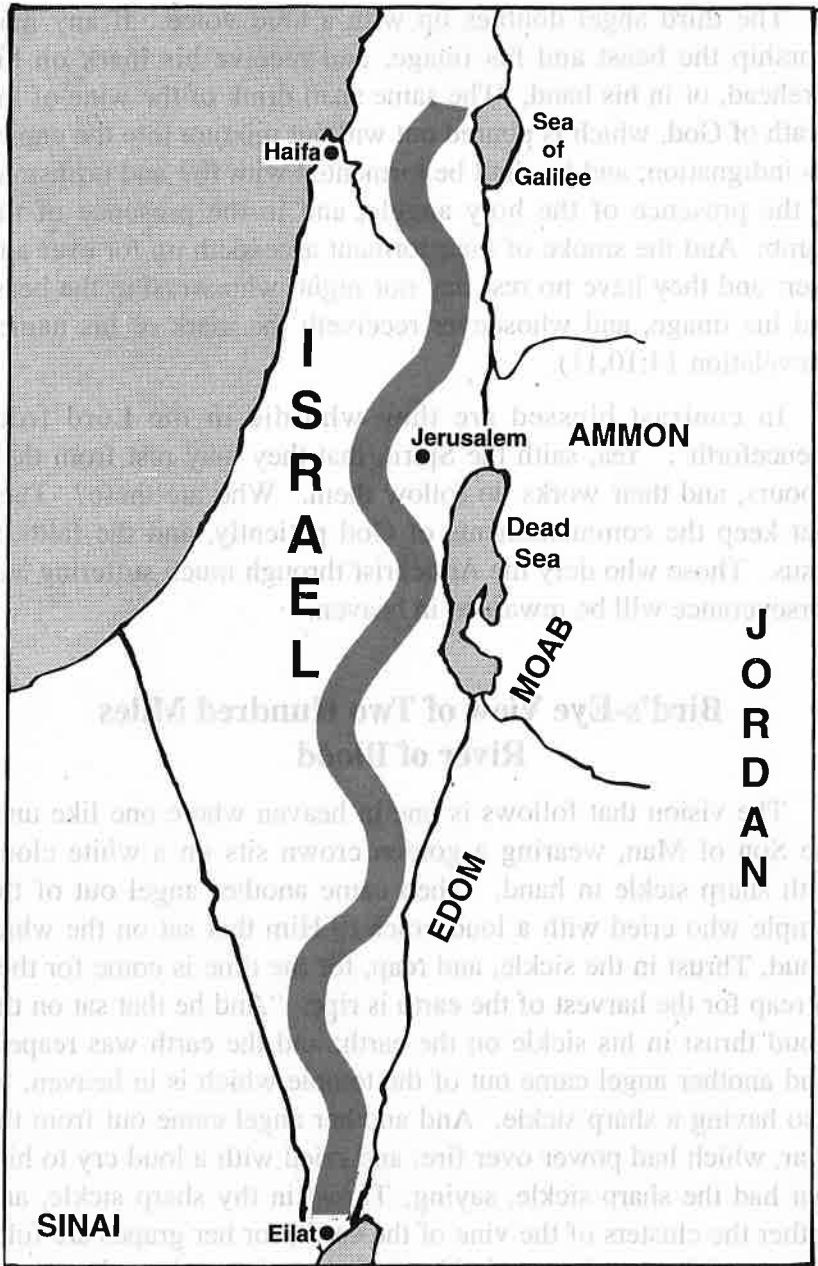
The second angel logically follows up with a death knell, saying Babylon is fallen, is fallen. This is another profile of the Antichrist system, that great city, because she made all nations drink the wine of wrath of her fornication.

The third angel doubles up with a loud voice. If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark on his forehead, or in his hand, "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:10,11).

In contrast blessed are they who die in the Lord from "henceforth". Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them. Who are these? They that keep the commandments of God patiently, and the faith of Jesus. Those who defy the Antichrist through much suffering and perseverance will be rewarded in heaven.

Bird's-Eye View of Two Hundred Miles River of Blood

The vision that follows is one in heaven where one like unto the Son of Man, wearing a golden crown sits on a white cloud with sharp sickle in hand. Then came another angel out of the temple who cried with a loud voice to Him that sat on the white cloud, Thrust in the sickle, and reap, for the time is come for thee to reap for the harvest of the earth is ripe. "And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered



Two Hundred Miles River of Blood

the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs” (Revelation 14:16-20).

The vision of reaping the grapes of God’s wrath and having them trampled in the winepress outside the city of Jerusalem so that blood flowed from the winepress, reaching to the horse bridles for a stretch of one thousand and six hundred furlongs = 200 miles is a picture of total bloody carnage along the whole length of the land of Israel. From the battlefield of Armageddon in the north near Haifa to the southern desert, even to Eilat on the Red Sea. This 200-mile river of blood rises as high as touches the mouth of a horse (about five feet above the ground). A preview of the final hour of the bloody Battle of Armageddon. Another lesson on the theology war: that it is God who uses the wrath of men to execute His Divine purposes according to His counsel, to His own glory. Amen.

Year Hour of God's Wrath (Total Destruction Has Come)

Chapter XV describes the worldwide lining up of the angels in the hour of God's wrath for year hour. The wrath of God is called "the last plagues," which reminds of those

CHAPTER XV

The opening of the first four seals revealed the cycles of events, of peace, war, famine and death that must take place during the course of history from Christ's Ascension to Christ's Return. The fifth seal gave us a glimpse of martyrs for the Christian faith during that period, but there would be the required numbers that must be fulfilled in the years of Tribulation ahead. The sixth seal ushered in the age of nuclear destruction.

When the seventh seal was opened out popped seven angels with trumpets, which signal the beginning of the prophetic wars and destruction that would affect one third of the earth and seas. This we believe will occur during the second three-and-a-half years of Daniel's seventieth week. The blowing of the seventh trumpet coincides with the last trumpet of I Corinthians 15:52. This is where the Rapture of the Church takes place. This clears the deck for God's total judgment on this rebellious earth. That leads us to the third series of sevens — vials or bowls of wrath. The orderly execution of God's judgment by pouring bowls of wrath is given in Chapter XVI, the next chapter.

Zero Hour of God's Wrath (Total Destruction Has Come)

Chapter XV therefore is the awesome lining up of the seven angels of the bowls of God's wrath for zero hour. The wrath of God is called "the last plagues", which reminds of those

unleashed against Pharaoh by the hand of Moses. We are now introduced to a sea of glass mingled with fire. This sea of glass is the same as appeared in the beginning, “a sea of glass like unto crystal” (Revelation 4:6) that speaks of the holiness and purity of God. Now that it is mingled with fire we see the manifestation of His Majesty’s righteous indignation against all evil, ripe for punishment. Suddenly we are drawn to the sight of “them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his mark, and over the number of his name,” standing on the sea of glass. These, with the harps of God in action, sang the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb; saying, “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest” (Revelation 15:3,4).

Jewish Christian Martyrs

Who are these harpists singing on the sea of glass mingled with fire? These are martyrs under the Antichrist, put to death for not giving him worship, etc. If I am not wrong, these are Christian Jews (Israelis), for they not only sing the song of the Lamb but also of **Moses**.

After this the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven is opened — for action. Orders go out from the throne of God! “And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles” (Revelation 15: 6). These angels, above those trumpet angels, are seen to be specially clad in the armour of Christ’s righteousness (white linen) and having their breasts girded with golden girdles (also His righteousness).

A lesson for us, servants of His on earth, are we not to have our loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness ... yea, even the helmet of salvation ...? in our warfare with Satan? (Ephesians 6:14-17).

No Chance of Escape

One of the four living creatures then gave to the seven angels seven golden vials (bowls) full of the wrath of God. "And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (Revelation 15:7,8). This is Zero Hour in the execution of God's wrathful judgment on men and women of this rebellious earth. Total, thorough, punishment, giving no chance of escape. In contrast, the trumpet judgments were warnings to repentance, which these wrath judgments are not. The time of repentance is gone forever! Like Noah's Ark, the door of salvation is shut!

"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh" (Proverbs 1:24-26).

CHAPTER XVI

“Celestial Disasters and Man-made Tribulations”

I believe the vials or bowls of total judgments, as they are poured on earth, reflect a very brief period of the second three-and-a-half years of Daniel's seventieth week. As for the trumpet judgments these might take three years of conventional warfare. The vial or bowl judgments might last for only six months, for these massive destructions, by biological, chemical and nuclear warheads, cannot last too long. “Flee from the wrath to come!” (Matthew 3:7). By God's grace, born again Christians have already been raptured before this at the blowing of the last (seventh) trumpet!

As the Chinese saying goes, “*Tien tsai ren huo*”(天灾人祸), “Celestial disasters and man-made tribulations”, divine wrath is simultaneously poured upon earth's warring nations. By way of illustration, 1994 ushered in the worst fire disaster in Australia's 200 years history. Then came the worst earthquake to Los Angeles for a century and a half, followed by America's coldest winter also for more than a century, when the thermometer plunged 40° below zero Celsius. In the coming vial disasters, greater calamities are in store for this sinful earth. “The powers of the heavens shall be shaken” (Matthew 24:29).

Nuclear and Chemical Warfare

Now, the first vial or bowl. “And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image” (Revelation 16:2). The word *noisome* means *disgusting to sight or smell*. Are these the sores from chemical and biological warfare, as waged by the Iraqis against Iranians and Kurds, even before the Gulf War? Are we so soon to forget them?

As to vials or bowls No. 2 and 3, where blood flows in totality on sea and land, do they not reflect total carnage under mass nuclear destruction?

Heat Wave Increased Manifold

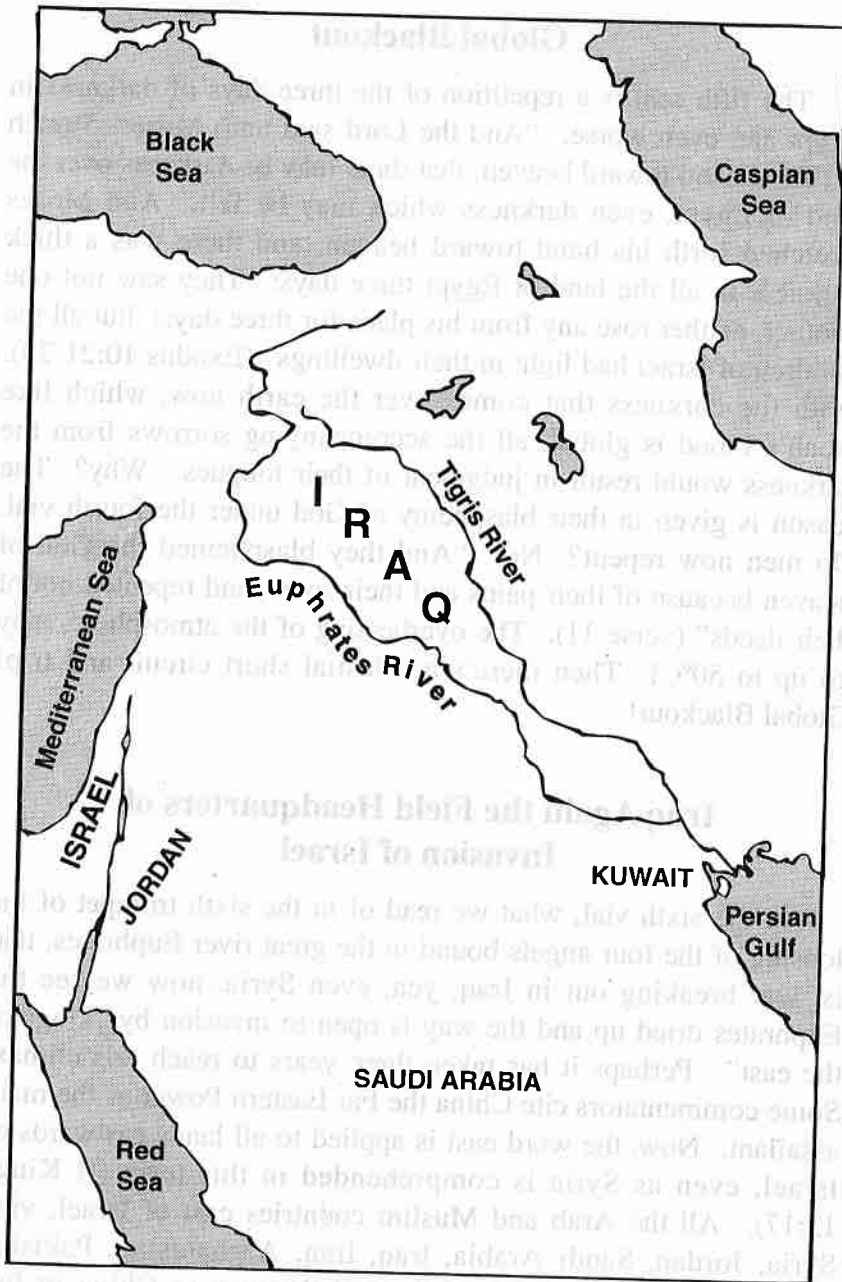
“The fourth angel poured out his vial on the sun, and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give Him glory. As the snow in January 1994 wrapped up USA in the coldest winter for over a century, cannot God send a heat wave that causes forests to burst out in flames, like that which destroyed Australia’s eastern seaboard along a seven hundred mile front? This can be multiplied worldwide, to reach even the Siberian tundras in the far north! All air-conditioning systems can only churn out hot air and refrigerators would become ovens. A global heat-wave that could extend to both the Arctic and Antarctic! Imagine the consequences!

Global Blackout

The fifth seal is a repetition of the three days of darkness in Egypt and even worse. “And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings” (Exodus 10:21-23). With the darkness that comes over the earth now, which like Noah’s Flood is global, all the accompanying sorrows from the darkness would result in judgment of their tongues. Why? The reason is given in their blasphemy of God under the fourth vial. Do men now repent? No! “And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds” (verse 11). The overheating of the atmosphere, may go up to 50°C! Then there’s a celestial short circuit and trip! Global Blackout!

Iraq Again the Field Headquarters of Invasion of Israel

In the sixth vial, what we read of in the sixth trumpet of the loosing of the four angels bound in the great river Euphrates, that is, war breaking out in Iraq, yea, even Syria, now we see the Euphrates dried up and the way is open to invasion by “kings of the east”. Perhaps it has taken three years to reach this climax. Some commentators cite China the Far Eastern Power as the main assailant. Now, the word east is applied to all lands eastwards of Israel, even as Syria is comprehended in this term (II Kings 13:17). All the Arab and Muslim countries east of Israel, viz., Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan (having the Bomb) — extending all the way to China in full



Iraq and the Euphrates River

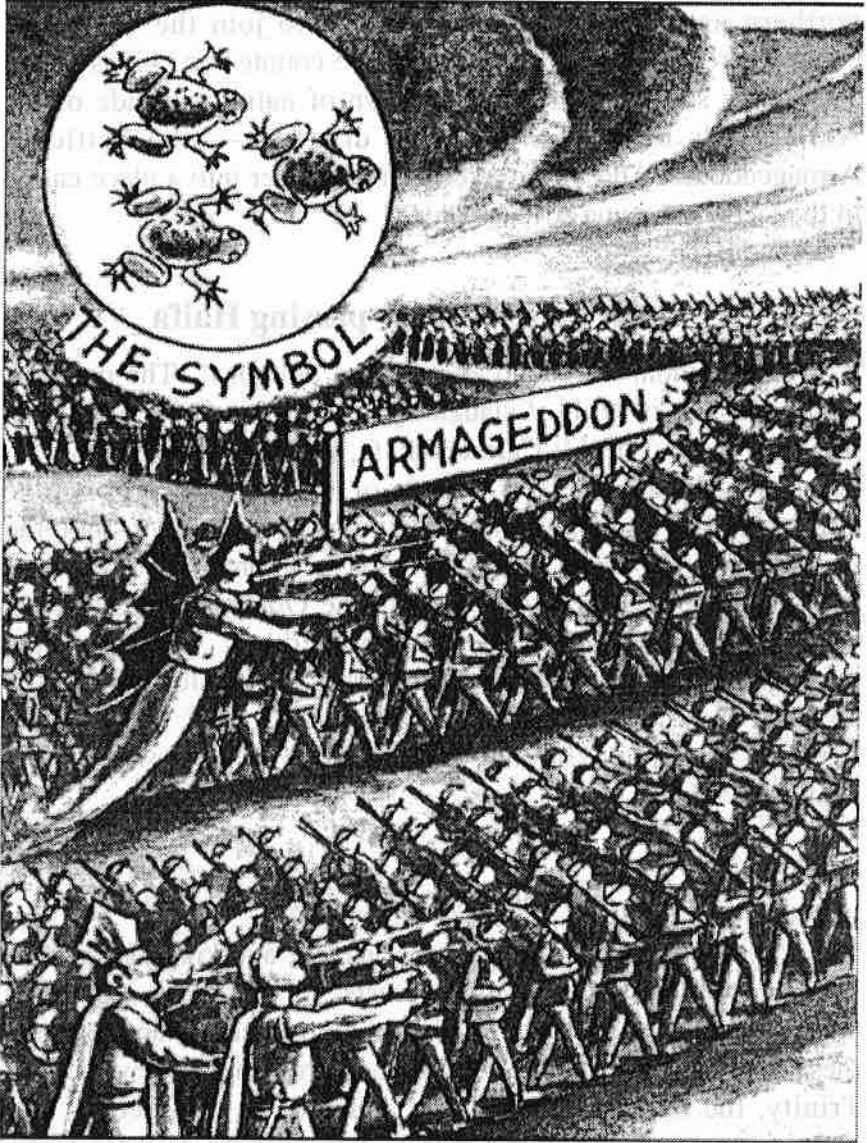
alliance can be a menacing force against little Israel now under the aegis of the End-time World Dictator. Even Russia and the northern nations, if they swoop down to join the Orientals, coming through the Euphrates would be counted as “kings of the east”. We see here a final showdown of nations outside of the Antichrist’s orbit in what is so dreaded — the battle of Armageddon. “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Via Armageddon, By-passing Haifa

Armageddon, the sound of it echoes ominous! The meaning of the Hebrew is “Hill of slaughter”. It is a broad plain you can see as you stand on Mt Carmel, Haifa, looking across eastwards, the plain of Esdraelon. It is the way of warring nations from time immemorial. Pharaoh Nechoh rode through this plain to fight the Assyrian king (II Kings 23:29). Napoleon’s forces used this war-path in his attack on Egypt. So will the Oriental forces coming down against Israel meet at Armageddon. In this case Armageddon is the last stop before assault on Jerusalem, the target of end-time nations. Even in the recent Gulf War between Kuwait, USA plus UN and Iraq, no scud missile was spared against the Holy City.

Croak, Croak, Croak

Why should nation fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom? Not only for self-interests, for power and national aggrandisement, but also in bitter hatred against one another. All these motivations of man’s wicked heart are generated by the Evil Trinity, the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. Their nefarious propaganda to stir men to fight is seen as three frogs, unclean loud-croaking reptiles leaping out of their mouths. Paul says, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times



Battle of Armageddon

some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Timothy 4:1). John says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1). Even now, we are being bombarded by a tirade of false propaganda on every front of livelihood, not only in politics, but also in economics and religion, etc. etc.

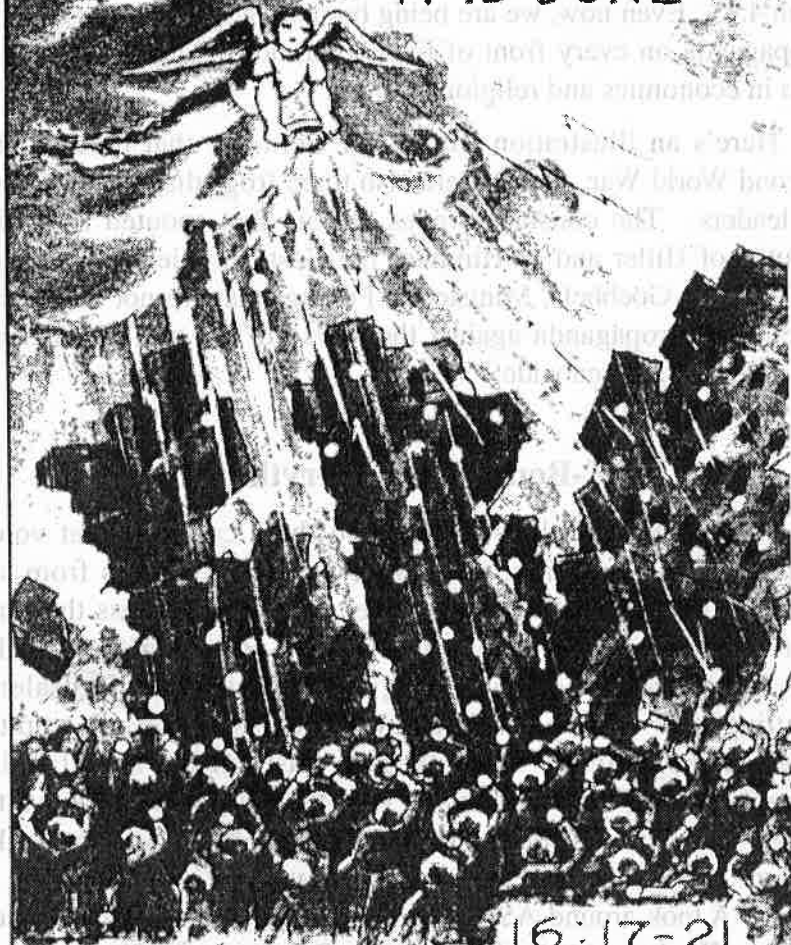
Here's an illustration from Nazi Germany that brought the Second World War. There were also three frogs that leaped out of its leaders. The constant tirades of hate that spouted from the mouths of Hitler and of Himmler the Gestapo chief and most of all from Dr Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda, are not forgotten! Their foul propaganda against the Jews got six million of them gassed in a total genocide.

E-Bomb Ends Everything

When the seventh vial is poured there came a great voice from the temple, saying, "It is done." As six plagues from six vials are still resisted by wicked men, God has to press the final button of punishment. This triggers the E-Bomb, an Earthquake that brings down not only the great city which is Jerusalem, splitting it in three parts, but also the cities, surely the capital cities of the nations. From West to East, all the superficially glittering cities, but filled inside with the filth of homosexuality, drugs, murders, fornication, abortion, cheating, etc. etc. like Sodom and Gomorrha, are brought down by God's E-power in heaps. A look around ASEAN will see Bangkok, Manila, Brunei, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur all flattened. Beware, ugly Singaporeans also! "And great Babylon is come into remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fullness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone

THE SEVENTH VIAL

"IT IS DONE"



16:17-21

CONSUMMATION OF THE VIAL
JUDGMENTS - WHILE MEN STILL
BLASPHEME GOD.

The Seventh Vial

about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" (verses 20,21).

In the super earthquakes, blocks of masonry can be easily thrown skywards for them to fall on men scattered in the open. Blocks of masonry from skyscrapers crashing and splashing downwards are even worse. Volcanoes can erupt sending sheets of lava to crash on fleeing men. But they still resist God to the end. Someone blamed God for being so cruel to have caused such a great earthquake to Los Angeles January 1994. But what saith the Scriptures? "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18).

In all these judgments whether they be from trumpet or vial, we see the theology of war in operation as well as the theology of God's direct judgment through natural disasters. But not theology of the head, rather theology of the heart. "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom" (Psalm 51:6). Amen.

A Mysterious Beast

First, let us consider the beast. Is he not the same as that first beast appearing in Chapter 17? He is the wonder of them that dwell on earth whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. In Chapter 17 we see the earth itself worshipping him. This beast that was and is not and yet

CHAPTER XVII

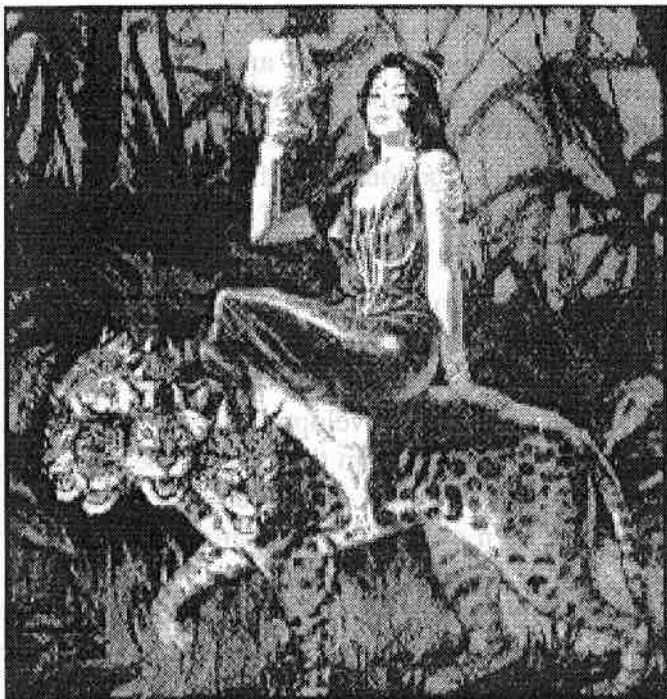
Mother Harlot and the Beast

This Mother of Harlots, called Mystery Babylon the Great, also called the great whore, is a woman arrayed in purple and scarlet decked with gold, precious stones and pearls riding a scarlet seven-headed, ten-horned beast full of names of blasphemy. This woman has committed fornication with the kings of the earth and made the people of the world drunk with the wine of her fornication. She held a gold cup in her hand filled with the abominations and filthiness of her fornication. (Shameless, today's unwed mothers and prostitutes are also riding high.)

What made the Seer wonder was the sight of her becoming drunk with the blood of the saints and of the martyrs of Jesus. The angel said to John, "Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carried her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns" (verse 7).

A Mysterious Beast

First, let us consider the beast. Is he not the same as that first beast appearing in Chapter 13? He is the wonder of them that dwell on earth whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. In Chapter 13 we see the earth dwellers worshipping him. This beast that was, and is not and yet



Harlot on Beast

is (verse 8) is described more specifically in verse 11 as “the beast that was and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seventh, and goeth into perdition.” This is a mystery of mysteries!

But, we have a clue to unravel this mystery. The clue to the beast that was and is not, even he is the eighth and is of the seventh and goeth to perdition is found in an earlier description. In chapter 13 his form was like unto a leopard, and his feet were the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion. These characteristics of three fiercest wild beasts are traced to Daniel’s prophecy in Chapter 7. Here they are easily identified to be the empires of Greece, Persia and Babylon. That being the case, the five fallen kings of ancient empires that had passed away at the time of John’s writing, evidently comprised Greece, Persia, Babylon as we have just noted. If we study Old Testament history

of other world empires that afflicted God's people, there were two more, viz., Assyria (Isaiah 37:23) and Egypt (Exodus 20:2). Thus, the one that is reigning in John's time, is Rome. The seventh that is not yet come, but when he comes will continue a short space (verse 10) is undoubtedly the Revived Roman Empire, now taking shape as the European Community, yea, European Union.

Now, what puzzles us is that there is an eighth beast who comes out of the seventh and he will go to destruction! If we turn back to Daniel Chapter 7:7,8 we will see that the ten-horned beast in Revelation has a further development revealed by Daniel. A little horn suddenly sprouts from the head of the ten-horned beast who, when he comes up, plucks off three of the ten horns by the roots. This little horn now becomes a "big" horn, with eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things. This is the Antichrist who will take over leadership. Revelation 17:12,13 explains in different words how the Antichrist comes to dominate the ten horns. In the beginning of the formation of the ten-kingdom Revived Roman Empire, we see this as the No. 7 in the succession of world empires. When the Antichrist appears at the final stage of the European Union, he will take full control with the support of the ten kings. This ultimate development makes him the No. 8, because, after all, he is one that comes out of the seventh. It is the Antichrist, the leader of this last world empire at Christ's coming, who will be personally punished. That is why he is said to go into perdition. Like Hitler who killed himself under God's judgment, and like Tojo, Warmonger of Japan who was hanged for his war crimes, the Antichrist will meet this ignominious end. According to Revelation 19:20 he will be cast alive with the false prophet into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The seven heads of the beast are also related to seven mountains, which fixes the seat of Government to be Rome, the well-known city of seven hills. The present European Union of

twelve nations was first organised in Rome (1957). They are Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain. Has USA a place in the EU, being leader of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)?

As the European Union is a godless union of the old Roman nations, and will be taken over by the Satan-energised Antichrist it will “make war with the Lamb”, but he will be totally subdued. The arm of flesh is consumed in its confrontation with the Spirit.

Mother of Prostitutes

We have taken much trouble to identify the beast in its final (or eighth) form, but we have no difficulty at all in discovering the identity of the Woman. In Scripture language, God’s people are likened to the wife of Jehovah in the Old Testament (Isaiah 54:5). In the New Testament the Church is a chaste virgin, the Bride of Christ (II Corinthians 11:2). In Revelation, she is called the wife of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

Now who can the woman be, the whore with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication but the unfaithful, apostate Church? The symptoms of infidelity to Christ are seen in some of the seven churches of Asia to which Christ has an admonition through John’s pen. To leave the first love as in Ephesus, to hold the doctrine of Balaam as in Pergamos, to allow that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce God’s servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols as in Thyatira, shows how easily corruption enters the Church. Let us examine our own Church to detect if any of these early blemishes have surfaced, and let us come together to get rid of these defects — in repentance!

By the time we come to the last days before Jesus returns we see before us a thoroughly corrupt Church. All commentators

from the Reformers agree it is the Roman Church inasmuch as it is located on the City of Seven Hills. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, a picture of politics entering the Church and the Church making use of politics. The description of the woman being arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls can fit no other Church on earth than the Roman Church. What chills the spine of the true Church of Jesus Christ is the vision of this Church being drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. Has not the Roman Church, in all her domain during the time of the 16th Century Reformation put to death countless thousands of true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ? The Spanish Inquisition (1215) is another chapter of her nefarious deeds. Those of you who have seen "Flame in the Wind," a movie from Bob Jones University, showing how Carlos a young candidate for the priesthood was nearly burned at the stake for being involved with possession of a Bible, will know what "Inquisition" means. Several of his friends were burned because they possessed a Bible or had trafficked in Bible dissemination.

The short reign of Bloody Mary of England (1555-58) saw 288 burned at the stake because they were Protestants. The State Church of Great Britain under Mary is a daughter harlot whose mother lives in Rome.

A youngest daughter of the Mother of Harlots, who more blatantly prostitutes herself to the kings of this earth is the Ecumenical Movement organised since 1948 as the World Council of Churches. The word Christian is not there because her ultimate aim is to unite all religions inasmuch as the word *Ecumenical* means all of the inhabited earth. At the last World Assembly in Canberra, Australia (1991), this so-called Christian Assembly went through the religious rite of purification of the Australian aborigines while in the Vancouver Assembly the rites of Red Indians were observed by the sacrifice of an animal and the heads



Vatican

Rome of the scarlet woman of Revelation XVII). Yea, Revelation 17:18 clearly states "And the woman which thou sawest is the great city (Vatican City indeed) which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

Lesson from Apostate Jerusalem

When Jerusalem became as Sodom (Revelation 11:8) and Gomorrah (Isaiah 1:9) did God spare her? She was completely overthrown by Nebuchadnezzar under God's righteous judgment. When the Harlot Church goes far beyond apostate Jerusalem in her wickedness, she is righteously judged through the attack upon her by the Scarlet beast she rode. "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked and shall eat her flesh and burn her with fire." Political power having made use of religious power until she is not needed will cast her aside like a menstruous pad (Isa 30:22)! Righteous judgment for the Mother of Harlots! Amen.

of several religions such as Buddhism, Islam and Judaism joined in the Conference. Is the Ecumenical Movement and its organisation the WCC a chaste virgin to Christ or a harlot? The Mother of Harlots is surnamed Mystery Babylon the Great, and Babylon is Rome, as Chambers Dictionary defines: *Babylonian: Romish, popish (from the identification with*

CHAPTER XVIII

“Potato, Potato”

At a congress of the International Council of Christian Churches held in the sixties, Pastor Guiton of France was speaking on the rise of the European Economic Community (shortened to E.C., European Community and now E.U., European Union). “Potato, potato,” he exclaimed, “the Antichrist kingdom will use every kind of power to advance itself. Not only political, military and ecclesiastical power as recorded in Revelation 17, but also economic power, through trade and commerce.” In the light of his striking remark, “Potato, potato,” his way of putting it vividly across to us the use of economic power, it awakened us to the importance of a new form of power to conquer the world.

The importance of economic power was never realised before as now, when in the scramble for earning a living, overseas outreach is emphasised to be an urgent task, even by Mr Lee Kuan Yew, for tiny Singapore. In the light of this observation on the vital role economic power is playing in the strengthening of a nation, we see what economic power is amassed by the endtime Babylonian power.

To attain this economic power in the end-times, all scruples of morality will be discarded. Let’s learn a lesson from the Olympic games. What was once a noble exercise in the true sporting spirit

of fairness and chivalry is totally commercialised today. In order to win, the clandestine use of drugs is unashamedly practised. A million dollars is offered by some nations to their gold medallists. The philosophy of winning by cheating is, "Take a chance. So long as you're not caught, you are innocent." That is the same spirit in international trading. How the Antichrist Kingdom will achieve economic supremacy depends on how it will overtake others by every cunning and scheming.

Economic Babylon Destroyed

While Ecclesiastical Babylon, the Apostate Church of Rome, is destroyed by the scarlet beast she is riding because the Antichrist will at last demand all worship to centre in himself (II Thess 2:4), Economic Babylon will be destroyed by God directly and immediately in nuclear exchanges in the last resort. In a nuclear war no one wins, everyone loses. Why do I mention nuclear exchanges? Let's read Revelation 18:9 together, "And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning." And fearing the deadly fallout of nuclear blasts, they are seen, "standing afar off for the fear of her torment" (verse 10). Another hint of swift destruction is seen in the lamentation, "Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come."

Now, when it was announced by the angel having great power, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen..." (Revelation 18:2) as if to reconfirm our earlier announcement in Chapter 14:8, it may be asked why Babylon's fall is doubly mentioned. For emphasis in effective speech is one reason. Nevertheless, I see in this effective speech a literal double falling down. As seen in Revelation 18:2 together with verse 9, Babylon is destroyed by nuclear blast — that is the first "fallen." As seen in the seventh

vial judgment (Revelation 16:19) Babylon is simultaneously destroyed by a great earthquake that strikes at all the capital cities of the nations. There is the super destruction by man's hand, and a supernatural destruction of God's Hand.

Inasmuch as under the sixth trumpet judgment, men repented not, when economic Babylon is forever wiped out in the final punishment of this wicked earth; the merchants, the tycoons and the kings, the shipmasters and sailors, all wail for her — all these standing afar off as they looked on “the smoke of her burning” (verse 18). When the greatest fire for 200 years swept through seven hundred miles of Australia's eastern seaboard, 1993 hundreds of millionaire mansions were reduced to ashes. How the rich and powerful now wept for the disappearance of their riches and luxuries. That's how the world also felt for that greatest earthquake in 150 years that broke Los Angeles' back. Sorry, sorry, for the homes of Hollywood stars! In the light of commercial Babylon's total annihilation, the greatest power on earth, even now, realises her utter helplessness when twenty other powers, though not in the Big League, are also able to hurl back nuclear warheads with long range rockets. Hence the United States' nervous attention on North Korea's making of a nuclear bomb, and Japan's readiness to make hers in self defence.

From the viewpoint of the heavenly hosts the total destruction of Babylon is an act of God's righteous judgment on the total sinfulness of men. The great millstone cast into the sea to dramatise the total sinking of the Antichrist power is taken from Jeremiah 50:63, in the judgment of ancient Babylon. Babylon is the whole wicked world-power-system that must be broken up before Christ's Kingdom on earth for a thousand years will be established, which will soon come into view!

According to Nebuchadnezzar's forgotten vision revealed by Daniel the scenario of Revelation 18 is described thus: “Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the

image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:34,35).



Babylon is Fallen!

CHAPTER XIX

Alas or Alleluia?

In the previous chapter we saw how when commercial Babylon was toppled, and her plagues came in one day, death, and mourning and famine, she was utterly burned with fire in a nuclear holocaust (Revelation 18:8). The kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her and lament her, when they shall see the smoke (mushroom cloud) of her burning. Standing afar off for the fear of her torment (nuclear fallout), they cried, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come. The merchants who are made rich by her, also mourn, alas, alas. And every shipmaster and all the company in ships and sailors and as many as traded by sea, stood afar off, and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning. This is the human view of Babylon fallen, fallen.

Conversely, in heaven, this is what John saw and heard: "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four

beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth” (Revelation 19:1-6).

Two Sides of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Our observation: While the cry of ‘alas’ is uttered six times on earth by those who love the world but reject the Lord God Almighty, in heaven is resounded for the first time the Hebrew shout of praise Alleluia four times. Alleluia is the Greek form of the Hebrew “Hallelujah” which means “Praise ye the Lord.” Why does the heavenly host chant Alleluia while the earth cry ‘alas’? The answer is given in verse 2 “For true and righteous are his judgments, for he has judged the great whore which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and has avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.” The latter part of this chorus “and has avenged the blood of his servants” harks back to Revelation 17 where Ecclesiastical Babylon is seen “drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (verse 6).

Now that Babylon is fallen, is fallen, Victory of the saints who were persecuted on earth is celebrated in heaven. The marriage of the Lamb takes place and His wife has made herself ready by being arrayed in fine linen clean and white — the righteousness of saints. This is another view of the Rapture which had its preview in Revelation 7:9-17.

Before the Marriage takes place, we must deduce from II Corinthians 5:10,11 the judgment of Christians as to their works before the BEMA (Greek for judgment seat of Christ). The judgment of works of Christians is often left out in the doctrine of

Grace. Though all Christians are saved by the blood of Christ, there are different degrees of rewards, from zenith to zero rewards, when their works are tested by “fire.” There is no clearer statement on the judgment of works than Paul’s teaching in I Corinthians 3:9-15:

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Why Seven Times “Overcomers”?

Let us not beguile ourselves that every Christian after the Rapture will be reigning with Christ. It is only the “overcomers,” mentioned seven times in the messages to the seven churches, those who have built on the foundation of Christ, “gold, silver and precious stones” (I Corinthians 3:12) who qualify. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward” (I Corinthians 3:14). This truth is reflected in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The five-talent and two-talent men having traded and gained for the Lord a hundred per cent each are well commended. Both received the same reward, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord” (verses 21,23).

But if any man build upon the foundation ... wood, hay, stubble (verse 12) ... if any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire (verse 15). This truth is reflected in the slothfulness of the one talent man who made no effort at making profit for His Lord. Instead of trading like the five and two-talent men, he buried His Lord's money in the earth. So he was severely reprimanded, "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (verse 25-30).

In the light of I Corinthians 3 on good works like gold, silver, precious stones and bad works like wood, hay, stubble, we must not interpret the casting into outer darkness to mean a Christian losing his salvation but rather the disgrace a Christian will receive who never served his Lord, but lived a life of carnality. Surely in heaven or earth he is like "a brand plucked out of the fire" (Zechariah 3:2).

Thus if those who have "overcome," who have "traded and gained for their Lord, have "suffered" for his Lord, they will eat at the marriage supper of the Lamb (verse 9). Those who have been adjudged unprofitable servants to stay in the outer darkness are, as it were, downgraded to dish washers, and washers of pots and pans. The overcomers are rejoicing in the banqueting hall, the laggards are in the kitchen and outer kitchen where the light is much dimmed, washing, and scrubbing away, washing and scrubbing away, washing and scrubbing away... Of course these are vivid figures of speech, but they teach there is a difference between those who receive rewards and those saved as by fire,

bruised and empty-handed. May this much neglected doctrine of reward for good works be a warning to us who love the world, are grown rich like Laodicea and have left our first love like Ephesus! While Roman Catholics overstress good works, Protestants understress to our own loss.

Protestants' Triple Neglect of Good Works

If we still remain obstinately oblivious of the need of good works even under grace, let Paul the Apostle of Grace, drum into our ears as he did to Titus three times that we should be "a peculiar people zealous of good works" (Titus 1:16; 2:14; 3:14).

After the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is over, we see heaven opened, and lo, a white horse and he that is Faithful and True riding upon it. In the Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem this same Faithful and True, Jesus the King of kings, is riding an ass. This signifies He must first humble Himself, as a slave (the ass or donkey is a slave animal) and be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8). Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name that is above every other name ... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

Not a Lamb, Rather a Lion

In the Second Coming of Christ, no more does He come as a Lamb but rather as the Lion of the Tribe of Juda. No more need He suffer as when He first came to earth, but as the conquering Prince. Riding on a white horse He comes in a second Triumphal Entry by His own might and power, in a victory march over His enemies. "In righteousness He doth judge and make war" (verse 11).

Further description of His awful Majesty (verses 12-16):

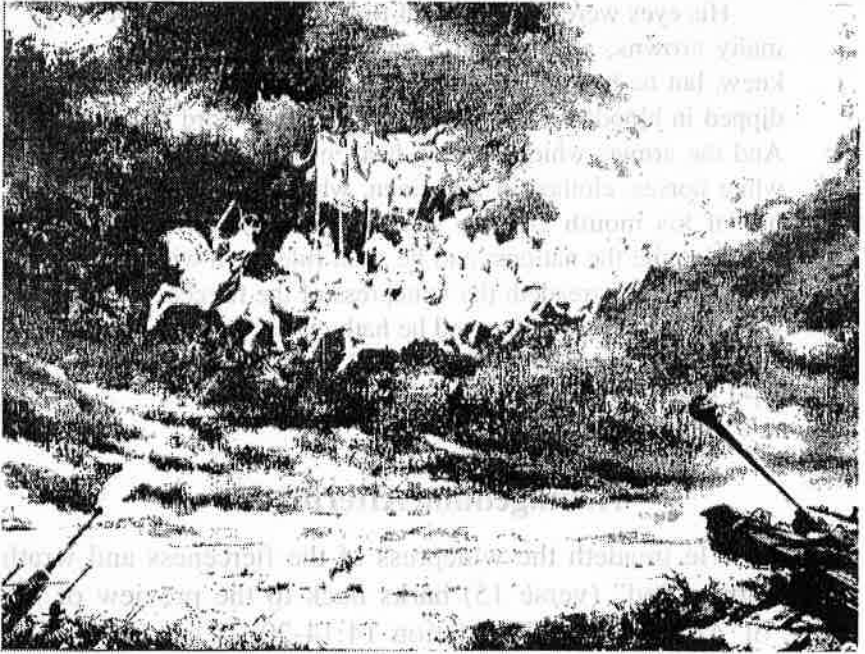
His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Armageddon Aftermath

That "He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (verse 15) harks back to the preview of the Battle of Armageddon, Revelation 14:14-20. That Christ will personally save His own is prophesied in Zechariah 13:8,9; 14:1-4:

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God...

Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in



Christ's Second Coming

that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

In our present perspective John's vision is as follows: "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat

on the horse, and against his army” (Revelation 19:17-19). The Antichrist and his allies rally in a last-ditch stand against Christ and His heavenly hosts, but all to no avail. By a word from His mouth all their weapons of war, whether rocket launches, whether laser guns, tanks and howitzers, “Patriots” or chemical bombs, etc etc were totally paralysed. “And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour” (Zechariah 14:12,13).

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19). Throughout Israel’s checkered history of war after war, in their hour of utter despair, has not Jehovah come to their rescue? The opening of the Red Sea so Israel could escape on dry land, the drowning of Pharaoh and his chariots by the Red Sea closing upon them, the Conquest of Canaan under Joshua, the slaying of 185,000 of the Assyrians in one night in Hezekiel’s reign — these are some of the saving acts of God against Israel’s enemies. In modern times, how Jehovah has preserved the young nation of Israel against great odds from the Arab nations, time after time, is a reminder that God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble. The saving of God’s very own in history’s final Battle will be executed by the Son of God personally coming down to earth from heaven.

WWIII Criminals Sentenced Alive

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20). Like the WWII War Criminals, as mentioned earlier, the Antichrist and his false prophet will be given the death sentence and consigned alive into “a lake of fire burning with brimstone” which is the hell of hells. The rest of the Antichrist armies Christ will kill by uttering one word from His mouth. Those who lie dead in the battlefields around Armageddon will become a feast for vultures and every bird of prey. These birds will be directed specially from many countries by the Spirit of God to clean up the bloody carnage of the war that ends all wars.

The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth (Psalm 46:6-10).

CHAPTER XX

Six Times Stated, “A Thousand Years”

At the end of WWII both Hitler and Dr Goebbels his Minister of Propaganda (false prophet) sent themselves to hell by taking their own lives. At the end of WWII the beast and the false prophet would be “cast alive” into a lake of fire burning with brimstone (Revelation 19:20). This time, the Angel comes down from heaven who has the key of the bottomless pit, ie. Christ, or Michael the Archangel, and with a great chain in His hand, lays hold on the dragon, the old serpent and binds him a thousand years, and casts him into the bottomless pit. He shuts him up and sets a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years be fulfilled, and after that he must be loosed for a little season.

Who to Reign on the Earth with Christ a Thousand Years?

Whereas the No. 2 and No. 3 of the Unholy Trinity are given final judgment, Satan, the No. 1 is kept in another chamber of darkness. Why did he not go with his wicked partners together to the lake of fire? That is God’s Higher Plan for the ages, inasmuch as in the beginning of creation He permitted Adam to sin. Now, before Christ should be reigning a thousand years on earth, the

deceiver of the whole world and the accuser of brethren (Revelation 12:9,10) must be kept out of mischief by being chained and securely kept in custody.

First in the list to reign with Christ are they who were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and His Word, who had not worshipped the beast nor his image nor received his mark on their foreheads nor in their hands. This should include martyrs of every age, which are seen in the opening of the fifth seal (Revelation 6:9-11). These reigned with Christ (on the earth, Revelation 5:10) for a thousand years. These are among those in the first resurrection, not reincarnation! (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). In view of Christ coming before His thousand year reign took place, this second coming is called pre-millennial. The doctrine of amillennialism (that there is no earthly millennium) and post-millennialism (that Christ comes after the earth has enjoyed a thousand years of peace) cannot be sustained in the light of Scripture's plain statement on the thousand years six times (verses 2,3,4,5,6,7). These who reign with Christ have suffered for Christ, even as our Lord has promised the apostles, "Ye are they which have continued with Me in my temptations, and I appoint to you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed me; that ye might eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:28-30).

That this thousand years will not be in heaven but on earth is so numerously predicted by the Old Testament prophets that we can quote but a few passages.

Irrefutable Premillennial Prophecies in the Old Testament

1. With the deceiver of nations under chains so that he cannot instigate them to fight, there shall be no war. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's

house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:2-4). This passage on Christ's peaceful reign on earth is also recorded in Micah, contemporary of Isaiah (Micah 4:1-3). Micah adds, moreover, "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken it" (verse 4).

2. Men will live to a ripe old age with no exception since the curse on this earth will be virtually removed. "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands" (Isaiah 65:20-22).
3. The curse placed on the physical world will also be removed. "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and



Lion and Lamb at Peace

travaieth in pain together until now" (Romans 8:20-22). But Isaiah foresees the coming deliverance during the Millennial Reign, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 65:25).

4. With the earth all at peace, "when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4), the chief occupation of nations shall be worship of the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, the Capital of the Millennial Kingdom. "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the

Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar" (Zechariah 14:16-20).

The Prosperity of Jerusalem in Fulfilment of O.T. Focus on the Holy City

5. As the United Nations Headquarters in New York City shall be no more, and Jerusalem will take its place by virtue of Christ's seat of government being established there, many Old Testament prophecies on His millennial rule must needs focus on the restoration of Jerusalem. Apart from Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1-4 quoted above, here is an extended description of Restored Jerusalem according to Zechariah 8:3-8:

Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and

they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness....

Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you (Zechariah 8:22,23).

That people from the whole world, N.E.S.W. will be led by Jews to come to the Lord in Jerusalem is beginning to be fulfilled in our day is reflected in an increasing number of pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. It used to be Americans and Europeans but now you see them coming from the Far East, Africa and South America. We are informed that 95 to 98% tourists to Israel today are there as pilgrims.

Jerusalem, which was deserted at the end of World War I, 1918, with but a few thousand Jews, is today a flourishing City of half-a-million, while Israel's Jewish population will easily reach five million by AD 2000. Are these not signs that Christ will soon come to take over His inheritance?

The pre-millennial Rapture of our Lord and Saviour is even at the door!

Rebellion Against the Millennial Rule of Christ After the Thousand Years

Now let us leap across the thousand-year span of time to the end of the Millennium: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of

whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them” (Revelation 20:7-9).

Now Magog is the second son of Japheth born after the Flood (Genesis 10:2). It is thought Magog was the progenitor of the ancient Sythians or Tartars, whose descendants predominate modern Russia (Ezekiel 38:2; 39:1). The prophet Ezekiel has two chapters on Magog in which Gog is called the chief prince of Meschech and Tubal. Meschech and Tubal are also descended, after Magog from Japheth.

From Ezekiel 38 and 39 you will notice Gog and Magog are the mortal enemies of Israel, but they are defeated by the Holy One of Israel. In Revelation 20, at the instigation of Satan let loose at the expiration of the thousand years, Gog and Magog become the leading assailants against the beloved city, undoubtedly Jerusalem. But these opponents of God the Almighty are consumed by fire sent down from heaven. If Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38 and 39 are the assailants of Israel before the Second Coming of Christ, then history is repeating itself after the Millennium is over. By way of illustration, Saddam Hussein of the Euphrates invaded Kuwait but his chief enemy was Israel which received not a few of Iraq’s scud missiles. According to Revelation 9 and 16 a greater concentration of forces against Israel will emerge from the Euphrates region, which undoubtedly is Iraq. History, repeating itself again! All by the sovereign will of God.

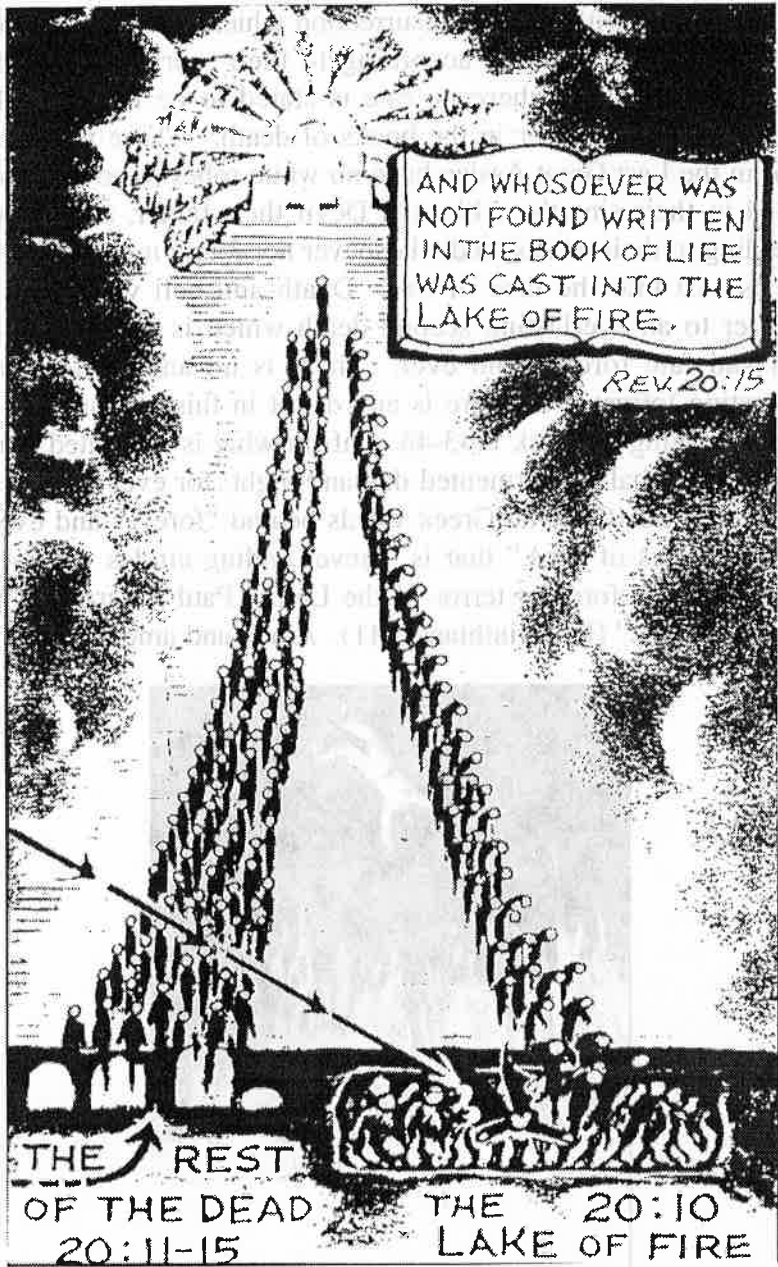
No Annihilationism as Taught by SDAs and Neo-Evangelicals

With Gog and Magog's defeat, the Devil that deceived them is at last consigned to the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10). This is the second death (verse 6) or everlasting death which our Lord thrice declared is hell, where their worm dieth not and the fire shall never be quenched (Mark 9:43-48). The Seventh Day Adventist doctrine of annihilationism or extinction, which is being accepted by Neo-Evangelical theologians today is contrary to Revelation's revelation and in direct opposition to our Lord's warning. The fact that the beast and false prophet are found still tormenting in the lake of fire and brimstone after one thousand years proves there is no annihilation.

Having settled with the Devil, it is revealed to John the vision of a great white throne and the One who sits on it, "from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away".

Is Your Name Found in the Book of Life?

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:12-15).



The Great White Throne Judgment

In contrast with the first resurrection which was for salvation and reward of Christians according to their works, this is the second resurrection where no one is stated to be found in the Book of Life but rather in the books of death. These who now stand in the Last Great Assize have no white robes to cover them. Naked in their sins they, like the Devil their father, are judged according to their works, and whosoever not found in the Book of Life is cast into the lake of fire. Death and hell were cast in together to an everlasting second death which is the sealing of their sad fate forever and ever. There is no annihilation but everlasting torment. If there is any doubt in this matter, let our Lord's warning in Mark 9:43-48 confirm what is reiterated here, again: "And shall be tormented day and night, for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). The Greek words behind "forever and ever" mean "to ages of ages," that is, "never ending circles of time." "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord," Paul reiterates, "we persuade men..." (II Corinthians 5:11). Amen and amen!



Into Everlasting Fire

CHAPTER XXI

Destruction of First Heaven and Earth by Fire

What is the awful truth behind these words in the introductory verse of this semi-final chapter? — “for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” This is a repetition of Revelation 20:11, “from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away: and there was found no place for them.” The passing and fleeing away of the first heaven and the first earth undoubtedly refers to the destruction of this physical world we live in, which consists of the earth, the atmospheric heaven and the sea. This sphere of man’s livelihood which was good and very good (Genesis 1:31) in the beginning before sin contaminated it cannot be inhabited anymore by a new society of sinless perfection after the Great White Throne Judgment. In view of the space (stratosphere and ionosphere) immediately above the earth being also contaminated by the clutter of space junk now orbiting and by man’s audacious landing on the moon, I believe the solar system will be destroyed inasmuch as other planets are also invaded and polluted by puny man’s uncanny machines.

This is generally predicted by the apostle Peter,

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat,

the earth also and the works which are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness (II Peter 3:10-13).

But Peter is merely echoing Isaiah, "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to mind" (Isaiah 65:17). That heaven and earth shall pass away is repeatedly declared by our Lord in his sermons (Matthew 24:35; Mark 12:31; Luke 16:17, 21:33) further confirms Peter's statement and throws light on Revelation 20:11 and 21:1.

Walvoord argues, "Though some scholars have resisted the idea that the present earth will be destroyed, and instead, prefer a renovated earth, the description of the present world being destroyed is so graphic in Scripture that there does not seem to be any just grounds for denying the conclusion."

Walvoord argues further, "Inasmuch as our present earth is like a gigantic clock that is running down and has been the scene of sin and rebellion against God, it is fitting that when the eternal situation is set up that will never run down or be destroyed, a new type earth and heaven will be created. Though the Scriptures do not give many details, it may be assumed that the new heaven and new earth will be in keeping with God's purpose to come for the saints in grace throughout all ages to come" (*Major Bible Prophecies*, Harper Paperback, page 485).

That the burning up of the earth is total is seen in the statement, "and there was no more sea." Now the earth is made up of 75% water as part of its ecology. Human life on earth

cannot go on without this aquatic provision and sustenance on the land he tills. Not only in agriculture, but also in industry and manufacture.

Why No Sea?

In the new ecology of perfected saints with glorified bodies like our Risen Saviour, the former pattern of livelihood is past. Hence there is no need of the sea or ocean any more. The new man who now can enjoy God forever (Shorter Catechism I) is given a new environment where God and man live together. This will be a world of perfect happiness, oblivious to death, sorrow, pain, and weeping. The only water that is needed, figuratively speaking, is the water of life freely provided. That is to say, our happiness in the new earth is constant fellowship with the Lord. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be His God, and he shall be my son" (Revelation 21:7). This emphasis of a Christian living a victorious life and not being merely saved as by fire (I Corinthians 3:15) is the Spirit's eighth reminder to the hearer of Christ's messages to the seven Churches.

By contrast to the unconverted this exhortation of a victorious life to the faithful is followed up with the warning, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (verse 8).

The City of God

Now, inasmuch as the Church building is where a Christian congregation meets to worship God so our new abode with Christ, as His wife, is that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God (verse 10). "Here comes the bride, so

glorious and white!" This "great city" is a cube, 12,000 stadia (furlongs), that is, 1,500 miles on every side. The wall is 144 cubits thick and one cubit, the measure of a man's forearm, is 18 inches. This holy city is like the precious stone of jasper, clear as crystal. What a contrast to a dark Taoist and Buddhist temple or a Roman Catholic Church festooned with images, crucifixes and relics amidst flickering oil lamps in murky darkness!

Any Place for Judas Iscariot?

This City has a high wall with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel appear on these gates. The wall of the City stands on twelve foundations "and in them the names of the twelve apostles". (Judas Iscariot's name cannot be seen there, and in his stead, the apostle Paul, to be sure!)

The foundations of the City wall are garnished with all kinds of precious stones. The first foundation is jasper. The second sapphire, which like the diamond is sparkling blue. The third is chalcedony, named after Chalcedon in modern-day Turkey, and is an agate stone. This stone having stripes of various colours, is basically sky-blue. The fourth foundation is emerald. The fifth is sardonyx, combining red and white. The sixth stone is sardius, of a reddish tint. The seventh, chrysolite, which according to Pliny is gold in colour and transparent. The eighth foundation, the beryl, is deep sea green. The ninth foundation, topaz, is a transparent yellow-green stone. The tenth foundation, a chrysoprasus, is another kind of green. The eleventh, a jacinth, is reddish orange and the twelfth, which is amethyst is purple. All these colours add up to the beauty of the rainbow so as to enhance the beauty and glory of God.

The twelve gates are twelve big pearls while the street is paved with translucent pure gold. Now, the foundation of

foundations is none other than Jesus Christ as Paul reminds us. To the Corinthian Church the apostle says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Corinthians 3:11-17). By heeding Paul's injunction above, we see that the New Jerusalem, which is built in such jewel-sparkling splendour, abounds with a deep spiritual meaning. And inasmuch as dwellers in the City are perfected saints, do not these precious stones reflect all the Christian virtues and graces that we must exhibit through our Lord Jesus Christ?

Thus Isaiah comforts a restored Israel: "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles (a fiery red precious stone), and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee" (Isaiah 54:11-14).

CHAPTER XXII

The City of God and River of Life

*"There is a river, the streams whereof
Shall make glad the City of God,
The Holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved:
God shall help her, and that right early."*

(Psalm 46:4,5)

This aspiration of the Psalmist becomes a reality as the apostle John is shown a pure river of life, clear as crystal, flowing out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (verse 1).

On either side of the River in the street thereof is the Tree of Life which bears twelve kinds of fruit every month, and the leaves are for the healing of nations. This is to remind the perfected saints of Christ being the true Tree of Life, who also had healed them of their diseases (Psalm 103:3, Isaiah 53:5). (Sickness is the product of sin. A Christian is a healthy person.)

What shall we do in the new earth and new heaven? Just play harps of gold as some Christian songs or choruses tell us? However, these are the words of an English poet, "If all the year were a holiday, to play would be as tedious as to work." There is plenty of worshipful activity in heaven, but we shall have many other things to do also, as we are declared His servants and we shall serve Him (verse 3). How about the heavenly choirs? Will

there be rehearsals and practices? If there be a plucking of the fruits from the Tree of Life, will there be a picnicking by the River and eating those fruits, not because we are hungry, but because we enjoy them together in fellowship. Just as our Lord ate “a broiled fish and an honeycomb” after His resurrection, not because He was hungry, but rather to prove a point (Luke 24:42,43). My teacher Dr Buswell humorously said he would have plenty of work to do in heaven. He would be reading “Calvin’s Institutes of the Christian Religion.”

Worship and Service, Service and Worship

O yes, how we would need an eternity of time just to get acquainted with all the patriarchs and saints both of the Old and New Testaments, and with the heroes of Church History. But our main work is to serve the Lord and to behold His face. As we wait for His beck and call, we are not idle. Milton says, “They also serve who only stand and wait.” O the wonderfulness of that new life in and under God, that becomes newer and happier each day.

*Everyday with Jesus
Is sweeter than the day before
Everyday with Jesus
I love Him more and more
Jesus saves and keeps me,
And He’s the One I’m waiting for
Everyday with Jesus
Is sweeter than the day before.*

Another hymn that will be repeatedly sung in the new heaven and new earth will surely be “*Sweeter as the Years Go By.*”

Remember, we are the bride of Christ. Marital love is the highest joy of human life, yea, that first love between a man and a woman. Sad to say, in a world of sin, such love is often short-

circuited. Sin spoils it, and hence the tears and separations and divorces.

In heaven, there will be no marriages (Luke 20:35). One central theme of life is to be “married” to the Lord. This word cannot be used in the sense of the individual but of the corporate. To love Him with an ever increasing first love. What greater happiness than this?

What is the Greatest Joy?

I have experienced the joys of love at first sight, the joys of a happy home though not without tears. But the greatest joy I have ever imbibed is the joy of salvation newly received from the Lord, of being saved from hell and everlasting punishment. Nevertheless, the greatest in the salvation experience is to worship Him and sing praises to His Name even as Augustine has declared, “Worship is the mother of all virtues”. I speak from my thrilling ecstasies during the Singapore Pentecost, 1935 in the mighty John Sung Revival. That is a foretaste of heaven, of the new life in the new heaven and the new earth.

*Hallelujahs fill the heavens
For the saints have all come home
To Jerusalem! To Jerusalem!*

*Joyfully they shout hosannas
Come and crown Him King of kings
In the New Jerusalem.*

As we are shown all these glories to come, as we are taught the true meaning of life on earth that must be promoted to the heavenlies, so will we hear the Saviour calling out of the Celestial City, “Behold, I come quickly, blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (verse 7). And as the angel spoke to John, “Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand” (verse 10), let us go out to

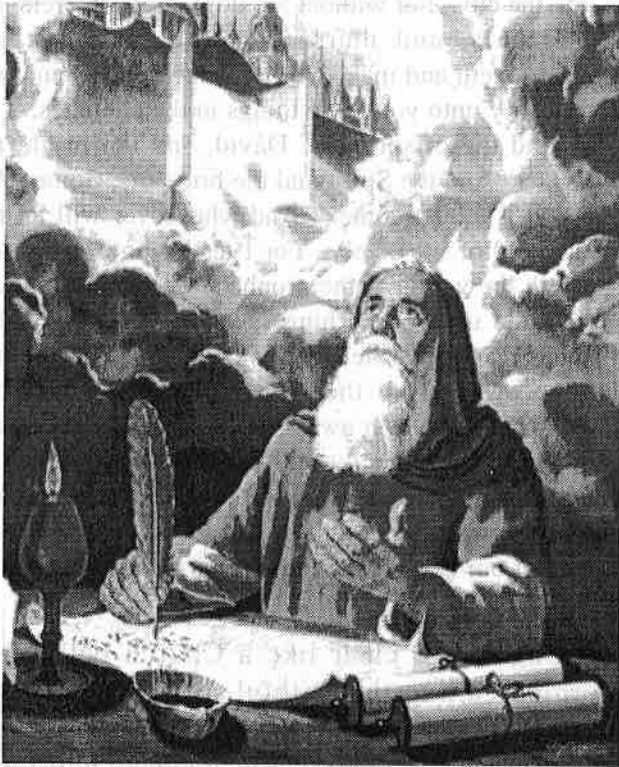
evangelise the lost around and beyond and bring them in before it is too late. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

And the angelic message continues: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (verses 11-21).

This message rings clear like a Church bell on an early Sunday morning calling the faithful to worship. Need I add anything to it? "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat

of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7).

Echo from Isaiah: “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh” (Isaiah 66:22-24). Amen and amen.



The New Jerusalem

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APPENDIX – New Hymns on Christ’s Second Coming

Rejoice – the Lord Is King!

CHARLES WESLEY, 1707-1788

DARWALL

JOHN DARWALL, 1731-1789

1. Re - joi-ce—the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, The God of truth and love;
 3. His king-dom can - not fail - He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
 4. Re - joi-ce in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come

Re - joi-ce, give thanks, and sing And tri-umph ev - er - more:
 When He had purged our stains He took His seat a - bove:
 The keys of death and hell Are to our Je - sus giv'n:
 And take His ser - vants up To their e - ter - nal home:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a-gain I say, re - joi-ce!

Yerushalayim, Messiah Is Come

Swedish folk melody
Arr. by R. J. Hughes

T. Tow

1. Ye - ru - sha - layim, thy sons and daughters love thee! Two thousand years they've
2. Ye - ru - sha - layim, be - hold Christ Je - sus has come To save thy sons, if
3. Ye - ru - sha - layim, be - hold Mes - si - ah shall come To save thy Land, when
4. Ye - ru - sha - layim, God is thy 'ter - nal pe - ace, Ci - ty of Zion, Da -

wandered in ex - ile. Now by God's grace, they're gathered to thee in peace,
they will turn to Him. By death and pain, He has be - come their ran - som.
thou shalt cry to Him. He comes on clouds, with awesome loud trum - pet sound
vid's throne rise a - gain! Ci - ty of Truth, resplendent in His glo - ry

Chorus

By thy embrace, their weeping turns to smile.
Ris - ing a - gain, He has forgiv'n their sin. Ye - ru - sha - layim, let
To judge the earth - peace a mil - len - ni - um.
Till sun shall rise and moon no more shall wane.

peace and freedom ring, To thee Sha - lom! To thee Sha - lom! Ye - ru - sha

layim, lift up thy voice and sing, Messiah is come, Messiah is come!

In the New Jerusalem

T. Tow

Bethel Hymns



- 1 We're a pilgrim band now headed for the glo-ry land a-bove. We are
2 In that land of glo-ry where the saints are gather'd round His Throne. No more
3 We are heading near-er near-er for the land that's now in sight. Will you



travelling thru the wil-der-ness be-low. We've a home that's far a-
sights nor tears nor sor-rows nor des-pair. But an e-ver-last-ing
join us to the Ci-ty bright and fair? Is your name for-e-ver



way be-yond the blue sky and the stars.
song of vic-tory flows from e-very tongue. In the New Je-ru-sa-lem!
writ-ten in the Lamb's book of Life?



Chorus



Hal-le-lu-jahs fill the heavens For the saints have all come home



To Je-ru-sa-lem! To Je-ru-sa-lem!



Joy-ful - ly they shout Ho-sannas Come and crown Him King of Kings!

In the New — — — Je-ru - sa - lem!

The Last Last Hour

S. H. Tow (adapted)

H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

1. The sun-set burns in west-ern sky, U-pon the air a warn-ing cry;
2. The souls that Christ-ians might have won, Now crowd the hour of set-ting sun;
3. For dy-ing souls my bre - thren weep, O tar-dy wor-kers go and reap!
4. Hark, hear His foot-steps on the way! O work, burn out while it is day!

The si - ren wails from tow'r to tow'r, O bre - thren 'tis the last, last hour!
 Pub - lish a - broad His sav - ing name, To ends of earth Christ's pow'r pro - claim!
 For-sake the world and all its fun, The bat - tle must be fought and won!
 Constrained by love, en - dued with pow'r, O bre - thren in this last, last hour!

Song to the New Jerusalem

T. Tow

Stephen C. Foster

1. The summer sun shines o'er new Je - ru - sa - lem: Gold - en days of
 2. The au - tumn show'rs fresh - en new Je - ru - sa - lem, Hap - py feasts are
 3. The spring rains drive win - ter's bi - ting cold a - way: Wheat and bar - ley,
 4. The Sun of Right - eous - ness shines o'er earth's Dark Night: No more war, nor

peace so di - vine. Messiah has come to this war - torn earth from Heav'n
 held o'er the land. We wor - ship Mes - siah the Prince of peace - ful Realm,
 o - live and grain. Ten thou - sand flow'rs in the bal - my bre - zes sway,
 hun - ger nor pain! Christ Je - sus reigns till Right tri - umphs o - ver Might

Chorus

Besto'ing rest to we - a - ry man - kind.
 Who makes ros - es bloom a - cross the sand. Weep no more, O
 While young men and mai - dens praise His name.
 All res - plen - dent in Je - ru - sa - lem.

Is - rael O weep no more to - day We will sing this song to the

new Je - ru - sa - lem To the new Je - ru - sa - lem for aye.

No Night There

John R. Clements

Hart P. Danks



1. In the land of fade-less day Lies the "cit - y four - square,"
2. All the gates of pearl are made, In the "cit - y four - square,"
3. And the gates shall nev - er close To the "cit - y four - square,"
4. There they need no sun - shine bright, In that "cit - y four - square,"



It shall nev - er pass a - way, And there is "no night there."
 All the streets with gold are laid, And there is "no night there."
 There life's crys - tal riv - er flows, And there is "no night there."
 For the Lamb is all the light, And there is "no night there."



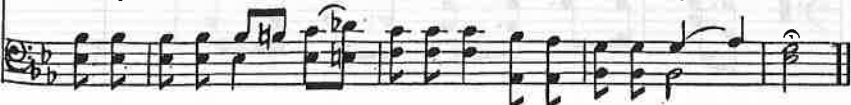
CHORUS



God shall "wipe a-way all tears;" There's no death, no pain, nor fears;
 God shall "wipe a - way all tears;" There's no death, no pain, nor fears;



And they count not time by years, For there is "no night there."
 And they count not time by years, by years, For there is "no night. . . there."



Come O Come Our Lord Jesus

T. Tow

Come O come our Lord Je- sus O come we pray

The first system of music is in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a half note 'Come', followed by quarter notes 'O', 'come', 'our', 'Lord', 'Je-', 'sus', 'O', 'come', 'we', and ends with a half note 'pray'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line of quarter notes and chords in the right hand.

Let all eyes be-hold Him come in clouds of heav'n

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes 'Let', 'all', 'eyes', 'be-', 'hold', 'Him', 'come', 'in', 'clouds', 'of', and ends with a half note 'heav'n'. The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic pattern.

He shall rule a thou- sand years and Sa- tan shall be bound in hell

The third system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes 'He', 'shall', 'rule', 'a', 'thou-', 'sand', 'years', 'and', 'Sa-', 'tan', and ends with a half note 'shall', followed by quarter notes 'be', 'bound', 'in', 'hell'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment.

For our Lord comes from heav'n to His glo- rious reign

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has quarter notes 'For', 'our', 'Lord', 'comes', 'from', 'heav-', 'n', 'to', 'His', 'glo-', 'rious', and ends with a half note 'reign'. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord.

Jesus Christ Is Coming!

T. Tow

Je- sus Christ is co-ming Dawn is draw-ing nigh The dark night is turn-ing now to

The first system of the sheet music features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Je- sus Christ is co-ming Dawn is draw-ing nigh The dark night is turn-ing now to".

day Wake up, wake up Chris- tians, lift the ban- ner high

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "day Wake up, wake up Chris- tians, lift the ban- ner high".

Sound the Gos- pel and the Word dis- play Glo- ry, Glo- ry Christ is com- ing 'gain!

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Sound the Gos- pel and the Word dis- play Glo- ry, Glo- ry Christ is com- ing 'gain!".

Glo- ry, Glo- ry, let all saints pro- claim Ev- er wat- ching pray- ing,

The fourth system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Glo- ry, Glo- ry, let all saints pro- claim Ev- er wat- ching pray- ing,".

faith and hope our song, Lo, He comes from heav'n to save His own.

The fifth system concludes the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "faith and hope our song, Lo, He comes from heav'n to save His own.".

O Jerusalem

T. Tow

O Je-ru-salem Thou Ci-ty bright and
O Je-sus my Lord Thou Ho-ly Son of
Hail thou Prince of Peace come rei-gn ov-er

fair My heart is yearning to be
God Mine eyes have seen Thy sal-va-
us Gov' nors and kings fall on their

1. there tion knees My Lord now has come no more
2. there tion knees Mes-si-ah is come King o'er
From Je-ru-sa-lem Truth and

shall I ling-er O bring me to
Je-ru-sa-lem Be-hold He sits
Grace shall con-quer Till suns shall rise

Je-ru-sa-l-e-m My
en-throned in Zi-o-n Mes-
a thou-sand ye-a-rs From

Lord now has come no more shall I ling-
 si- ah is come King o'er Je- ru- sa-
 Je- ru- sa- lem Truth and Grace shall con-

er O bring me to Je- ru- sa- lem
 lem Be- hold He sits en- throned in Zion
 quer Till suns shall rise a thou- sand years

Days of Toil and Waiting for Jesus

T. Tow

1. With e - ter - ni - ty val - ues in view, Lord, With e - ter - ni - ty's val - ues in view;
2. O the days they are fleeting a - way, Lord, O the days they are fleeting a - way
3. Soon the days of toil will come to end, Lord Soon the days of toil will come to end
4. Lo, I come in great pow - er to save you. Lo I come in great pow - er to save
5. For all pow - er in earth and heav - en, Lord. For all pow - er in earth and heav - en

May I be - gin each day with Je - sus, With e - ter - ni - ty val - ues in view.
 May I burn out each day for Je - sus, O the days they are fleeting a - way.
 May I find a sweet rest in Je - sus, Soon the days of toil will come to end.
 Are you rea - dy to go when I call, Lo, I come in great pow - er to save.
 Is giv'n to You our Ri - sen Sav - iour, E - ven so come Lord Jesus, A - men.

A THOUSAND GOLDEN YEARS

1. Behold the Eastern skies, a New Light's shining through -
The Sun of Righteousness breaks forth from the blue!
The Night of bomb and blood is scattered far and wide.
The Day of Right o'er Might is now born anew!

Chorus for verses 1 and 2:

Jesus the Son of God has come to Earth from Heaven.
He has come with healing in His wings,
In peace shall He reign.
A thousand golden years of salvation and rest.
No more strife among the nations,
In peace shall he reign.

2. Men shall learn war no more, swords and spears disappear.
Swords turned to ploughshares, pruning hooks from spears.
The Earth shall bloom again, the curse shall be removed,
The ox and lion shall thrive, the lamb and the wolf.
3. In that glad Day of peace in New Jerusalem,
The Greater David shall sit on His Throne.
From Earth's end to Earth's end, homage to Him they'll bring,
All glory to the Lamb, God's Lamb that was slain.

Chorus for verse 3

Jesus the Son of God has come to Earth from Heaven,
He has come with Healing in His wings,
In peace shall He reign.
Hallelu, hallelu. Hallelu, hallelu,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah!

(To the tune: Santa Lucia)

Behold, The Son of God is Coming Again!

Santa Lucia

The first system of musical notation for 'Santa Lucia'. It consists of two staves: a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The music is in 3/4 time and begins with a treble clef. The vocal line starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

The second system of musical notation for 'Santa Lucia'. It continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment from the first system. The vocal line has a melodic contour that rises and then falls. The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern.

CHORUS

The first system of the chorus. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to one flat (B-flat major). The melody is characterized by a series of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords.

The second system of the chorus. The vocal line continues with the same eighth-note melody. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with consistent chords and bass notes.

Faded musical notation at the bottom of the page, which appears to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the sheet music. It shows the beginning of a new system with a treble clef and some notes.

Behold, The Son of God is Coming Again!

T. Tow

1. Be - hold, be - hold the Son of God is com - ing a -
 2. A - wake, a - wake, you child - ren of men, a - wake, a -
 3. Be - hold, be - hold, the Son of God is com - ing a -

gain! Be - hold, Be - hold, the Son of God is com -
 wake! A - wake, A - wake, you child - ren of men a -
 gain! Be - hold, Be - hold, the Son of God is com -

ing a - gain! With thousands an - gels and saints With thousand an -
 wake, a - wake! Pre - pare now to meet the Lord, Pre - pare now to
 ing a - gain! With thousands an - gels and saints With thousand an -

gels and saints, He comes, He comes, He comes, in clouds of heav'n To judge the world.
 meet the Lord, He comes, He comes, He comes, in clouds of heav'n To judge the world.
 gels and saints, Be - lieve, Believe, Believe, in Him just now! And you'll be saved.

TO THE NON-CHRISTIAN READER:

There is a well-known Chinese proverb, "In time of peace, consider war" (居安思危). This is a wise saying which military strategists take to heart.

The Bible warns Christians, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thessalonians 5:3,4).

The Bible further foretells what will happen at the end of this age, especially Revelation the last book. (Buy a Bible if you haven't.) While the world seeks peace and prosperity that will give them a better living, God's Word warns us to flee from the terrors to come. That this world will be destroyed by nuclear fire, that the Euphrates Valley now occupied by Iraq will be the springboard for Armageddon, through which the armies of the East will invade the West ending up in Israel, are all revealed in this study.

This should awaken us to the perils brewing just ahead. The recent Gulf War (1990) and Iraq's latest rumblings (1994) are the beginning fulfilment of prophecy and stark reminders!

Our hope is not on earth but in heaven! Only Christians will be saved from the hell of a Third World War by a God-sent airlift into space!

While this study of the Book of Revelation, chapter by chapter, is for "insiders," you who perhaps are not Christian are invited to find out the ominous truth of coming world events. May these events now still a mystery to many be unveiled to you. And may you join us, to be saved from a burning earth, to live with Jesus our Saviour for a thousand years in a golden millennium on earth. Amen.