

Text

Notes

REVELATION

NIV

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- 1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,
- 2** who testifies to everything he saw — that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- 3** Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.
- 4** John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits [1] before his throne,
- 5** and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead,* and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
- 6** and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.
- 7** Look, he is coming with the clouds,† and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;†† and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.
- 8** “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”
- 9** I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- 10** On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
- 11** which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”
- 12** I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,**

Gk. of 1.3: *Blessed the one reading and those hearing the words of the prophecy and **keeping** the things having been written in it, for the time is near.*

[1] v.4 See commentary for discussion of *the seven spirits.*

* Cf. Col 1.15,18.

† Dan 7.13; Mat 24.30; 26.64.

†† Isa 53.5; Zec 12.10.

** Individual lamp stands vs. menorah (Robertson). See Mat 5.15.



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[2] v.13 Daniel 7:13

* High girding as High Priest (Jos. Ant. 3.7.2). NT usage of ζωνη points to belt or girdle rather than breastplate (cf. Mat 3.4).

[3] v.20 Or *messengers*

[4] v.1 Or *messenger*; also in verses 8, 12 and 18

- 13 and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” [2] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.*
- 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.
- 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.
- 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.
- 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.
- 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.
- 19 “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.
- 20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels [3] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

2 “To the angel [4] of **the church in Ephesus** write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:

- 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.
- 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.
- 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.
- 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.
- 6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.



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- 8 “To the angel of **the church in Smyrna** write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.
- 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
- 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.
- 12 “To the angel of **the church in Pergamum** write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.
- 13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.
- 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites[†] to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.
- 15 Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
- 17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.
- 18 “To the angel of **the church in Thyatira** write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.
- 19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.
- 20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

[†] Lit.: *the sons of Israel*



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[5] v.27 Psalm 2:9

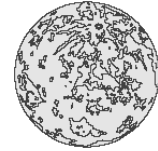
[6] v.1 Or *messenger*; also in verses 7 and 14

[7] v.1 See commentary for discussion of *the seven spirits*.

- 21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.
- 22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.
- 23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.
- 24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you):
- 25 Only hold on to what you have until I come.
- 26 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—
- 27 ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’ [5]— just as I have received authority from my Father.
- 28 I will also give him the morning star.
- 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

3 “To the angel [6] of **the church in Sardis** write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits [7] of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

- 2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.
- 3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.
- 4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.
- 5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.
- 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



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- 7 “To the angel of **the church in Philadelphia** write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.
- 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.
- 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.
- 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.
- 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
- 12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.
- 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- 14 “To the angel of **the church in Laodicea** write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.
- 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!
- 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
- 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.
- 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.
- 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.



Notes

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* Gk.: *and Behold!*
There...

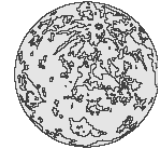
† Gk.: *lampas* = torches
(Robertson). Cf. 8.10.

[8] v.5 See commentary
for discussion of *the*
seven spirits.

- 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.
- 21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.
- 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

4 After this I looked, and* there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

- 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.
- 3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne.
- 4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.
- 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps† were blazing. These are the seven spirits [8] of God.
- 6 Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.
- 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.
- 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”
- 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,



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10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy[†] to break the seals and open the scroll?”

3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits [9] of God sent out into all the earth.

7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had^{††} a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men^{†††} for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

† Gk.: ἀξίος (*aksios*) = worthy, deserving, entitled, authorized.

[9] v.6 See commentary for discussion of *the seven spirits*.

†† The Gk. participle ἔχοντες (*echontes* = having) is masculine in gender and refers only to the elders as *having* harps and bowls, not to the Living Creatures (terms for which are neuter). Whether the Creatures sing is not definite; attention seems to have moved to the harp-playing elders.

††† *Men* does not appear in the Gk. text, but *us* does in the vast majority of mss. Translators have chosen the poorly supported variant reading to avoid difficulty with the 3rd-person pronouns (*them, they*) in v. 10.



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“Though all offerings cease in the future, the offering of praise alone shall not cease; though all prayers cease, thanksgiving alone shall not cease.” —Rabbi Pinchas and R. Jochanan on Ps. 100.2 (quoted in Moffat, p. 387).

[10] v.6, Greek *a choenix* (probably about a liter)

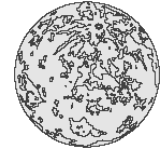
[11] v.6, Greek *a denarius*

[12] v.6, Greek *a denarius*

† Greek, *χλωρος* (*chloros* = green, yellowish green). Cf. Mar 6.39; Rev 8.7; 9.4.

- 12 In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”
- 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”
- 14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- 6** I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!”
- 2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.
- 3 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”
- 4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.
- 5 When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.
- 6 Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “A quart [10] of wheat for a day’s wages, [11] and three quarts of barley for a day’s wages, [12] and do not damage the oil and the wine!”
- 7 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”
- 8 I looked, and there before me was a pale† horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.
- 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.
- 10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”



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- 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.
- 12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,
- 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.
- 14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.
- 15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.
- 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"
- 17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

7 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.

- 2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea:
- 3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."
- 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.[†]
- 5 From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000,
- 6 from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,
- 7 from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,
- 8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

[†] Lit.: *tribes of the sons of Israel*



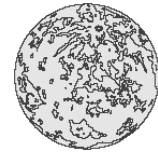
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- 9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
- 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
- 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
- 12 saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”
- 13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”
- 14 I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- 15 Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.
- 16 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.
- 17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

- 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.
- 3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.
- 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.
- 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.
- 6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.



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- 7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.
- 8 The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood,
- 9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.
- 10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—
- 11 the name of the star is Wormwood. [13] A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.
- 12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.
- 13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

Angel 1

Angel 2

Angel 3

[13] v.11 That is, *Bitterness*

Angel 4

- 9 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.
- 2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.
- 3 And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.
- 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
- 5 They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man.
- 6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Angel 5



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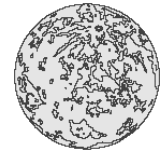
Text

[14] v.11 Abaddon and Apollyon mean *Destroyer*.

Angel 6

[15] v.13 That is, *projections*

- 7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.
- 8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.
- 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.
- 10 They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.
- 11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. [14]
- 12 The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.
- 13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns [15] of the golden altar that is before God.
- 14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.
- 16 The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.
- 17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.
- 18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.
- 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.
- 20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk.
- 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.



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10 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.

- 2 He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,
- 3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.
- 4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."
- 5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.
- 6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay!
- 7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."
- 8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."
- 9 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey."
- 10 I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.
- 11 Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

11 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshippers there.

- 2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.
- 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

The Mighty Angel

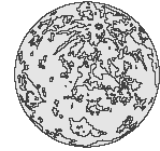


Notes

Text

Angel 7

- 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.
- 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.
- 6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.
- 7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.
- 8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.
- 9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.
- 10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.
- 11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.
- 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.
- 13 At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.
- 14 The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.
- 15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."
- 16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,
- 17 saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.



Text

Notes

- 18 The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great— and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”
- 19 Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

12 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

- 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.
- 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.
- 4 His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.
- 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.
- 6 The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.
- 7 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.
- 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.
- 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.
- 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

Cf. the ten crowns in 13.1.

v. 5: the word translated *rule* is the verb *to shepherd*, as in Acts 20.28.

Different forms of the same Greek word, βάλλω, (*ballo*), as in v. 13. The verb is active in v. 4, passive in the other places.



Notes

Text

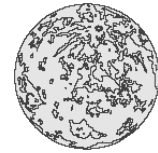
[16] v.1 Some late manuscripts *And I*

42 months

- 11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.
- 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”
- 13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.
- 14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach.
- 15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.
- 16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.
- 17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

13 And the dragon [16] stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

- 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.
- 3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.
- 4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?”
- 5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.
- 6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.



Text

Notes

- 7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.
- 8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. [17]
- 9 He who has an ear, let him hear.
- 10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed [18] with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.
- 11 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.
- 12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.
- 13 And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.
- 14 Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.
- 15 He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.
- 16 He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead,
- 17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.
- 18 This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

- [17] v.8 Or *written from the creation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain*
- [18] v.10 Some manuscripts *anyone kills*

666

14 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

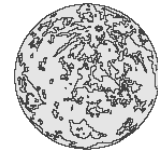


Notes

Text

- 2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.
- 3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.
- 4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.
- 5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.
- 6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.
- 7 He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”
- 8 A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”
- 9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,
- 10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.
- 11 And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.”
- 12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.
- 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”
- 14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one “like a son of man” [19] with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

[19] v.14 Daniel 7:13



Text

Notes

- 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” †
- 16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.
- 17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.
- 18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.”
- 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.
- 20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. [20]

† *ripe* is lit. “dried up” as in Rev 16.12.

[20] v.20 That is, about 180 miles (about 300 kilometers)

15 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed.

- 2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God
- 3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.
- 4 Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”
- 5 After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.
- 6 Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.
- 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.
- 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.



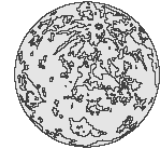
Notes

Text

16 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

- 2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.
- 3 The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.
- 4 The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.
- 5 Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged;
- 6 for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”
- 7 And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”
- 8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire.
- 9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.
- 10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony
- 11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.
- 12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.
- 13 Then I saw three evil [21] spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.
- 14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.
- 15 “Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

[21] v.13 Greek *unclean*



Text

Notes

- 16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.
- 17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"
- 18 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.
- 19 The great city split into three parts,* and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.
- 20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.
- 21 From the sky huge hailstones** of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

17 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.

- 2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."
- 3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.
- 4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.
- 5 This title was written on her forehead:
 MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT
 THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES
 AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
- 6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

"It is done!"

* Cf. Zec 14.2 where half the city is exiled.

** Cf. Isaiah 32.18-20.

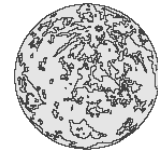


Notes

Text

- 7 Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.
- 8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.
- 9 “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.
- 10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.
- 11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.
- 12 “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.
- 13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.
- 14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”
- 15 Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.
- 16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.
- 17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God’s words are fulfilled.
- 18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

18 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.



Text

Notes

- 2 With a mighty voice he shouted: “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil [22] spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.
- 3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”
- 4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
- 5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.
- 6 Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.
- 7 Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.’
- 8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.
- 9 “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her.
- 10 Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!’
- 11 “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more—
- 12 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;
- 13 cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.
- 14 “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’

[22] v.2 Greek *unclean*

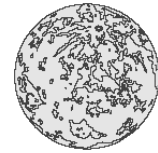


Notes

Text

- 15 The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn
- 16 and cry out: “Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!
- 17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’ “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.
- 18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’
- 19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!
- 20 Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.”
- 21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.
- 22 The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.
- 23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.
- 24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.”

- 19** After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
- 2 for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”
- 3 And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”



Text

Notes

- 4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"
- 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"
- 6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)
- 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."
- 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
- 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.
- 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.
- 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.
- 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." [23] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.
- 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,

"...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

[23] v.15 Psalm 2.9



Notes

Text

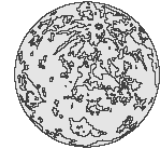
Daniel 7.11

Isaiah 31.8; 66.16

- 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.”
- 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.
- 20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.
- 21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.

- 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.
- 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.
- 4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
- 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.
- 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.
- 7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison



Text

Notes

- 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.
- 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.
- 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
- 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.
- 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.
- 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.
- 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.
- 15 If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

- 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
- 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”
- 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”



Notes

Text

"It is done!"

† "They are accomplished."
(NAB) Cf. John 19.30.

† cf. Hebrews 11.10

[24] v.16 That is, *about 1,400 miles* (about 2,200 kilo-meters)

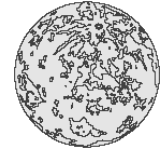
[25] v.17 That is, *about 200 feet* (about 65 meters)

[26] v.17 Or *high*

†† cf. Isaiah 54.11

[27] v.20 The precise identification of some of these precious stones is uncertain.

- 6 He said to me: "It is done.[†] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.
- 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.
- 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."
- 9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
- 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.
- 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.
- 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.
- 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations,[†] and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls.
- 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia [24] in length, and as wide and high as it is long.
- 17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits [25] thick, [26] by man's measurement, which the angel was using.
- 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.
- 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire,^{††} the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,
- 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. [27]



Text

Notes

- 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl.[†] The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.
- 22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.
- 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.
- 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.
- 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.
- 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

[†] cf. Isaiah 54.12

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

- 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.
- 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.
- 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.
- 6 The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."
- 7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."
- 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.



Notes

Text

† cf. Isaiah 55.7

[28] v.16 The Greek is plural.

- 9 But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!”
- 10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.
- 11 Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile;† let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”
- 12 “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.
- 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
- 14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.
- 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
- 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you [28] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”
- 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.
- 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.
- 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.
- 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

The Olivet Apocalypse

The Teaching of Jesus About His Second Coming
Given to His Disciples on the Mount of Olives

Matthew 24

1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately.

“Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ [1],’ and will deceive many.

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, **but the end is still to come.**

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Mark 13

1 As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”

2 “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately,

4 “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?”

5 Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you.

6 Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.

7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, **but the end is still to come.**

8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines.

These are the beginning of birth pains.

Luke 21

1 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.

2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. [14]

3 “I tell you the truth,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

5 Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said,

6 “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

7 “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

8 He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived.

For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them.

9 When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, **but the end will not come right away.**”

10 Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

11 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events [15] and great signs from heaven.

9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.
 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,
 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.
 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,
 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.
 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
 15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘**the abomination that causes desolation,**’ [2] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—
 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
 17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.
 18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.
 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!
 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

9 “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.
 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.
 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.
 12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

13 All men will hate you because of me,

but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

14 “When you see ‘**the abomination that causes desolation**’ [8] standing where it [9] does not belong—let the reader understand—

then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

15 Let no one on the roof of his house go down or enter the house to take anything out.

16 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

18 Pray that this will not take place in winter,

12 “But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.

13 This will result in your being witnesses to them.

14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves.

15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

17 All men will hate you because of me.

18 But not a hair of your head will perish.

19 By standing firm you will gain life.

20 “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its **desolation** is near. [16]

21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city.

22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.

23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

21 For **then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.**

22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

23 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.

25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the desert,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.

27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

29 **“Immediately after the distress of those days** “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ [3]

30 “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it [4] is near, right at the door.

34 I tell you the truth, this generation [5] will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

19 because **those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.**

20 If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.

21 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ [10]!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it.

22 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect—if that were possible.

23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

17.23 Men will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

24 “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ [11]

26 “At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

30 I tell you the truth, this generation [12] will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people.

24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

26 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. [17]

30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.

31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 “I tell you the truth, this generation [18] will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
 36 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, [6] but only the Father.
 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.
 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;
 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.
 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.
 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
 32 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
 Luke 17.26 “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.
 17.27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.
 Luke 17.28 “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.
 Luke 17.30 “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. ...34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.”
 Luke 17.37 “Where, Lord?” they asked.
 He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.”

33 Be on guard! Be alert [12]! You do not know when that time will come.
 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.
 35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back— whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.
 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.
 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.
 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.
 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?

46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. [7]

47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’

49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.

50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives,
38 and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

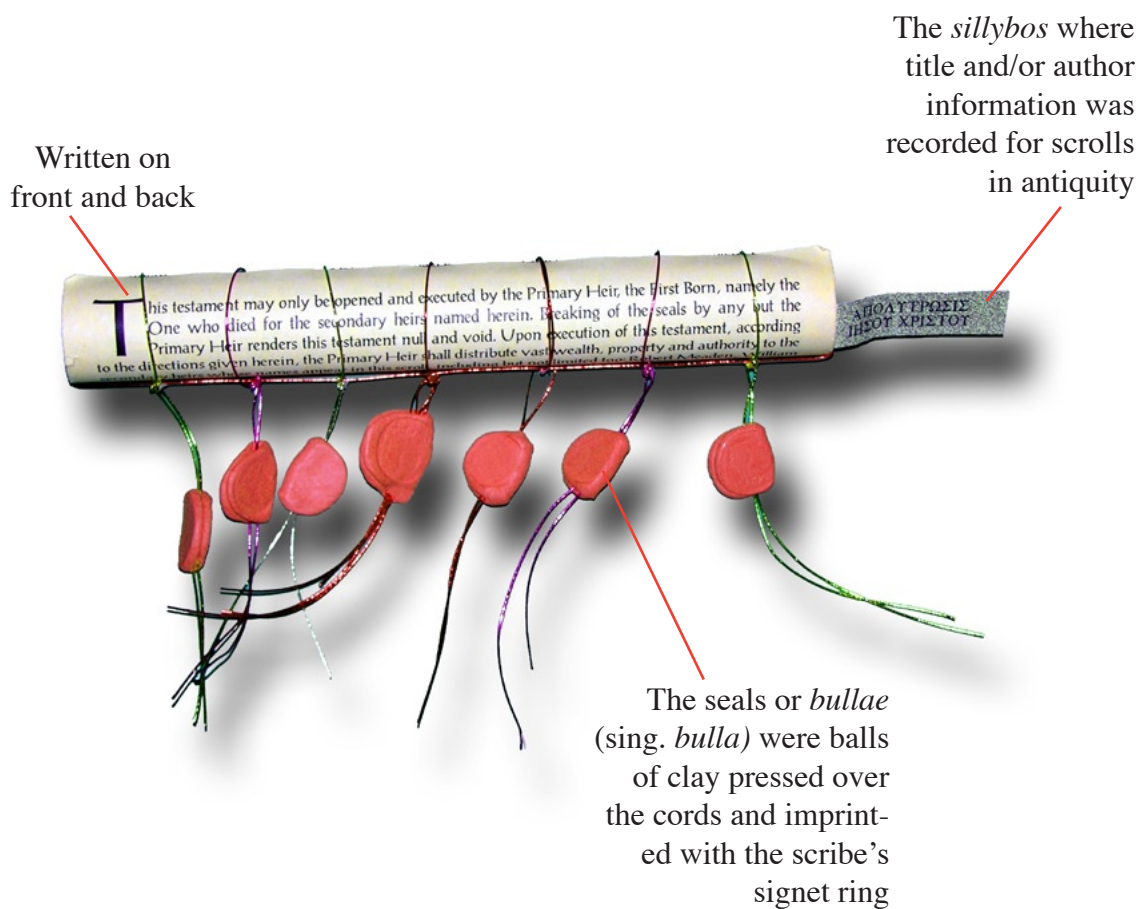
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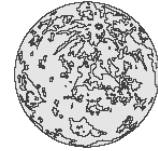
[1] v. 5 Or *Messiah*; also in verse 23
 [2] v. 15 Daniel 9.27; 11.31; 12.11
 [3] v. 29 Isaiah 13.10; 34.4
 [4] v. 33 Or *he*
 [5] v. 34 Or *race*
 [6] v. 36 Some manuscripts do not have *nor the Son*.
 [7] vv. 45 and 46 describe the believer's end-time agenda!

[8] v. 14 Daniel 9.27; 11.31; 12.11
 [9] v. 14 Or *he*; also in verse 29
 [10] v. 21 Or *Messiah*
 [11] v. 25 Isaiah 13.10; 34.4
 [12] v. 30 Or *race*
 [13] v. 33 Some manuscripts *alert and pray*

[14] v. 2 Greek *two lepta*
 [15] v.11 φόβητέρα, “terrors” (cf. Isa 19.17)
 [16] v. 20 Cf. Dan 12.7
 [17] v. 29 Cf. Zec 3.10; Mic 4.4
 [18] v. 32 Or *race*

One Conception Of The Scroll With Seven Seals





2 Thessalonians 2.1-10

1st line = Greek text; 2nd line = MG transliteration; 3rd line = translation

2Ths 2.1 Ἐρωτῶμεν δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, ὑπὲρ τῆς
 Erotomen de ymas, adelphi, yper tys
 We-ask also you, brothers, regarding the

παρουσίας τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ἡμῶν
 parousias tou kyriou ymon Iysou Christou keh ymon
 advent of-the Lord our Jesus Christ and our

ἐπισυναγωγῆς ἐπ' αὐτὸν
 episyntagogs ep' ahfton
 gathering¹ to Him

2Th 2.2 εἰς τὸ μὴ ταχέως σαλευθῆναι ὑμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ
 is to my tacheos salevthyneh ymas apo tou
 unto the not quickly to-be-shaken you from the

νοὸς μηδὲ θροεῖσθαι, μήτε διὰ πνεύματος μήτε
 noos myde throistheh, myteh dia pnevmatos myteh
 understanding² nor to-be-frightened, neither by a-spirit³ nor

διὰ λόγου μήτε δι' ἐπιστολῆς ὡς δι' ἡμῶν, ὡς
 dia logou myte di' epistolys os di' ymon, os
 by a-word nor by epistle as[-if] from us, as[-if]

ὅτι ἐνέστηκεν ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ κυρίου·
 oti enestyken y ymera tou kyriou;
 “ Has-come the day of-the Lord”;

2Th 2.3 μὴ τις ὑμᾶς ἐξαπατήσῃ κατὰ μηδένα τρόπον.
 my tis ymas exapatysy kata mydena tropon
 not anyone you let-deceive by no means

ὅτι ἐὰν μὴ ἔλθῃ ἡ ἀποστασία πρῶτον καὶ ἀποκαλυφθῇ
 oti ean my elthy y apostasia proton keh apocalyphthy
 because if not may-come the apostasy first and is-unveiled

ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἀνομίας, ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας,
 o anthropos tys anomias, o ios tys apolias,
 the man of-the lawlessness the son of-the destruction⁴

NIV Text

2Th 2.1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

2Th 2.2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed

by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying

that the day of the Lord has already come.

2Th 2.3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way,

for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed,

the man doomed to destruction.

NIV Text

2Th 2.4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything

that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple,

proclaiming himself to be God.

2Th 2.5 Don't you remember that when I was with you

I used to tell you these things?

2Th 2.6 And now you know what is holding him back,

so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

2Th 2.7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work;

but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is [taken] out of the [way].

1st line = Greek text; 2nd line = MG transliteration; 3rd line = translation

2Th 2.4 ὁ ἀντικείμενος καὶ ὑπεραιρόμενος ἐπὶ πάντα
o antikimenos keh ypereromenos epi panta
the-one opposing and exalting above all

λεγόμενον θεὸν ἢ σέβασμα, ὥστε αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν ναὸν
legomenon theon y sebasma, oste ahfton is ton naon
called God or worshiped, so-as himself into the temple

τοῦ θεοῦ καθίσει ἀποδεικνύντα ἑαυτὸν ὅτι ἔστιν θεός.
tou theou kathiseh apodiknunta eahfton oti estin theos
of-the God to-sit⁵ proclaiming himself that he-is God

2Th 2.5 Οὐ μνημονεύετε ὅτι ἔτι ὦν πρὸς ὑμᾶς
Ou mnemonevete oti eti ohn pros ymas
Not you-remember that yet being with you

ταῦτα ἔλεγον ὑμῖν;
tahfta elegon ymin;
these-things I-was-saying to-you?

2Th 2.6 καὶ νῦν τὸ κατέχον⁶ οἴδατε εἰς τὸ
keh nyn to katechon idate is to
and now the restraining-one you-know unto the

ἀποκαλυφθῆναι αὐτὸν⁷ ἐν τῷ ἑαυτοῦ καιρῷ.
apokalphthynesh ahfton en toh eahfton keroh.
to-be-unveiled him in the his-own time.

2Th 2.7 τὸ γὰρ **μυστήριον** ἤδη ἐνεργεῖται τῆς ἀνομίας·
to gar mysteryrion ydy energiteh tys anomias;
the for mystery already is-working of-the lawlessness

μόνον ὁ κατέχων⁸ ἄρτι ἕως ἐκ μέσου⁹ γένηται¹⁰.
monon o katechon arti eos ek mesou genytech.
only the restraining-one¹¹ now until _____

Note on pronunciation: Whenever the letters "i" or "y" appear in the **transliteration**, they are intended to be pronounced like the "i" in *machine* or the "Y" in *Ypres* (= long "e" as in *keep*). Every "a" in the transliteration should be pronounced as in *bah*.

2 Thessalonians 2.1-10 (Cont.)

1st line = Greek text; 2nd line = MG transliteration; 3rd line = translation

2Ths. 2.8 καὶ τότε ἀποκαλυφθήσεται ὁ ἄνομος, ὃν ὁ
keh tote apokalyphthyseteḥ o anomos, on
and then¹² shall-be-unveiled the lawless [one], whom

κύριος [Ἰησοῦς] ἀνελεῖ τῷ πνεύματι τοῦ στόματος αὐτοῦ,
o kyrios [Iysous] aneli toḥ pnevmati tou stomatos ahftou
the Lord Jesus will-destroy by-the breath of-the mouth his

καὶ καταργήσει τῇ ἐπιφανείᾳ τῆς παρουσίας αὐτοῦ,
keh katargysi ty epiphania tys parousias ahftou,
and abolish by-the appearance of-the advent His,

2Ths. 2.9 οὗ ἐστὶν ἡ παρουσία κατ' ἐνέργειαν τοῦ σατανᾶ
ou estin y parousia kat energian tou satana
whose is the advent according-to working of-the Satan

ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει καὶ σημείοις καὶ τέρασιν ψεύδους
en pasy dynami keh symiis keh terasin psevdous
in all power and signs and wonders of-falsehood

2Ths. 2.10 καὶ ἐν πάσῃ ἀπάτῃ ἀδικίας τοῖς ἀπολλυμένοις,
keh en pasy apaty adikias tis apollymenis
and in all deception of evil to-the [ones] perishing

ἀνθ' ὧν τὴν ἀγάπην τῆς ἀληθείας οὐκ ἐδέξαντο εἰς τὸ
anth on tyn agapyn tys alythias ouk edeksanto is to
because the love of-the truth not they-received the

σωθῆναι αὐτούς.
sothyneh ahftous.
to-be-saved them.

NIV Text

2Ths. 2.8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom

the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth

and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

2Ths. 2. 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan

displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

2Ths. 2. 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

They perish because they refused to love the truth and

so be saved.

Note on pronunciation: Whenever the letters “i” or “y” appear in the **transliteration**, they are intended to be pronounced like the “i” in *machine* or the “Y” in *Ypres* (= long “e” as in *keep*). Every “a” in the transliteration should be pronounced as in *bah*.

Notes on 2 Thessalonians 2.1-10

1. This appears to be the same “gathering” of the elect described by Jesus in Matthew 24.31.
2. Thanks to Paul’s previous teaching, the Thessalonians already had an “understanding” of the end-time program. Paul urges them not to be shaken from the understanding they had already received of the end-time events.
3. Translators take this reference to a spirit as meaning an oracular spirit, i.e., someone claiming to prophesy by inspiration.
4. The phrase “son of the destruction” is a Hebraism. “Son of” often means “worthy of” or “destined to.” In this case, the Antichrist in view is referred to as the person worthy of and destined to destruction, and not just any destruction, but *the* divine destruction at the end of the age.
5. The Antichrist’s seating of himself in the Temple, whether in person or in the form of his image (See Daniel 7.27 and Revelation 13.14) may well constitute “the abomination of desolation.”
6. This first participle (verbal noun) translated *restrainer* or *restraining one*, is in the neuter gender. This serves to differentiate the restrainer from the *him* (masculine) who will be unveiled, as described in the last half of the verse. Paul does not specifically identify the *restrainer* since he had apparently already explained this phenomenon to the Thessalonians and was now inclined to save parchment space. Nevertheless, we can safely conclude by their contrasting genders that the *restrainer* and the one being restrained are two different entities, as opposed to one entity who is restraining himself. Since the one being restrained is the one who will be unveiled (vv. 3 & 6), i.e. the man of lawlessness, the Antichrist, it is safe to say that the restrainer is God, God’s Spirit or some other divine agent. Had the restrainer been indicated *only* with the neuter gender it would incline us to interpret him as the Spirit (which noun uses the neuter gender in Greek). However, see the next two notes.
7. This pronoun is in the masculine gender and serves to differentiate the *him* who will be unveiled from the *restrainer* (neuter gender) mentioned in the first part of the verse.
8. The pronoun for the *restrainer* in this verse appears in the *masculine* gender! Is the restrainer a male person or a non-gender specific entity like the Holy Spirit? Interpreters have noted that this restrainer seems to be able to manifest himself as both. Perhaps it is best to interpret the Restrainer simply as God who restrains not only through the agency of the Spirit (neuter) but also as the Father and Son (masculine).
9. The Greek phrase *ek mesou* appears six times in the NT: Mat 13.49; Act 17.33; Act 23.10; 1Co 5.2; 2Co 6.17; 2Th 2.7. It always refers to one person emerging, being ejected, or taken out of a larger group. It never refers to a barrier being removed, but always to a single person emerging from the crowd.
10. Note the root of our words *genesis*, *generate*, etc. in the Gk. word *genyteh*. This verb means to be born, to become or to happen (cf. Matthew 10.25; 23.15; 1 Cor. 8.9). Nowhere in the entire Bible, whether the Gk. NT, or the LXX (the Greek translation of the OT used by the apostles) does the word *genyteh* refer to something being removed or taken away. It is the verb of *coming into being*. In his Word Biblical Commentary on 2 Thessalonians, F. F. Bruce argues strongly from contemporary Gk literature that *ek mesou genyteh* speaks of removal, but this usage is simply not supported within the NT. In the NT there is a family of Greek words, the *αἶρω* family, that is normally and consistently used to mean *taken*. The picture presented in this verse, is not of someone being taken away, but of someone *emerging* or *being born out of the midst* of the greater population. Note how Paul likes to combine the ideas of *mystery* and *revelation (unveiling)* in Rom 16.25; 1Co 2.7-10; Eph 3.3-5; and here in 2Th 2.6-8. The context overwhelmingly points to the “mystery of lawlessness” as the entity emerging from the midst, rather than to the “restraining one” as the entity that is “taken away.”

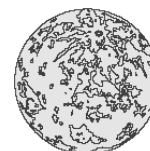
The Latin Vulgate supports my contention in its translation of 2Th 2.7:

*nam mysterium iam operatur iniquitatis
tantum ut qui tenet nunc donec de medio fiat*

Note the word *fiat* = *come into existence*. Likewise, in *Prospects of the Ten Kingdoms* (1873), the prescient eschatology scholar, B. W. Newton translates this verse

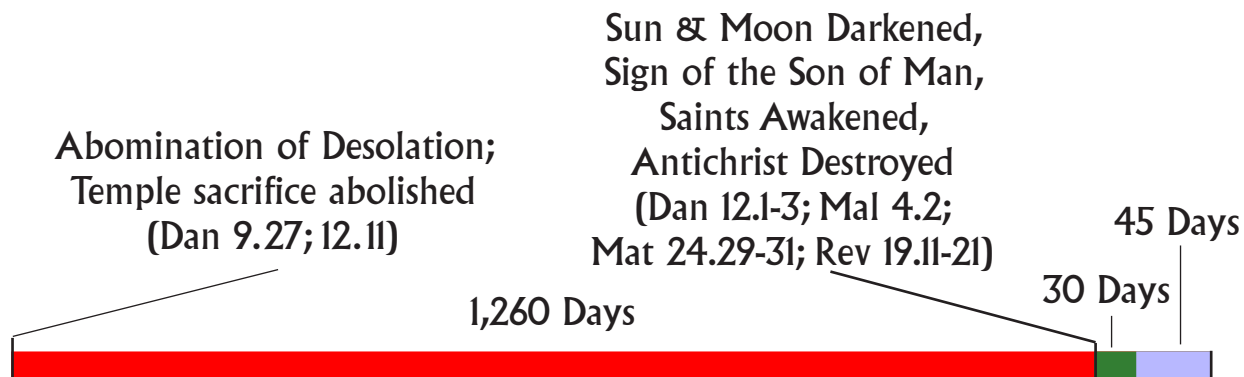
*For the mystery of Lawlessness doth already work (only there is at present one that restraineth)
[and as a mystery it will continue to work] until it become developed out of the midst, ...*

11. The text assumes that the reader will supply a phrase like *continues to restrain* in this spot.
12. I.e., *at that time*. When God no longer restrains him, the Antichrist will emerge from the Mediterranean population, and at that point will have his own little apocalypse. The greater apocalypse will follow when the Lord Jesus will destroy this man of sin.



The 1,335 Days of Daniel 12.12

From the End of the Daily Sacrifices to the Reign of the Saints



**Abomination of Desolation;
Temple sacrifice abolished
(Dan 9.27; 12.11)**

**Sun & Moon Darkened,
Sign of the Son of Man,
Saints Awakened,
Antichrist Destroyed
(Dan 12.1-3; Mal 4.2;
Mat 24.29-31; Rev 19.11-21)**

- (1) Saints persecuted by the “Little Horn” for “a time, times and half a time” (Dan 7.25; = 1,260 days, Rev 12.6,14).
- (2) Final humbling of Israel over the course of “a time, times and half a time” (Dan 12.7).
- (3) Jerusalem trampled for 42 months (Rev 11.2).
- (4) Israelite Woman nourished in a wilderness for 1,260 days (Rev 12.6; = “a time, times and half a time,” Rev 12.14).
- (5) Antichrist Beast exercises authority for 42 months (Rev 13.5).

**1,150 Days
Israelis reconse-
crate the temple,
provoking
the Beast?
(Dan 8.13-19)**

**Israel & The
Nations Mourn
(Zec 12.10-14;
Mat 24.30;
Rev 1.7)**

**Daniel stands up to
receive his allotted
domain (Dan 12.13;
cf. Luk 19.11-19)**

Notes:

- The Two Witnesses also prophesy for 1,260 days (Rev 11.3), but this probably occurs in the *first* half of the final 7-year week.
- The 3½ years remind us of the tribulation of the saints and the judgments of God under Ahab and Jezebel (Luke 4.25; James 5.17). The reign of Ahab and Jezebel foreshadowed the “Great Tribulation” predicted by Jesus (Matthew 24.21) and Daniel (Dan 12.1). Jesus explicitly taught that the Great Tribulation begins with the appearance of the “abomination of desolation” (Mat 24.15-21) and is *immediately followed* by the appearance of the Son of Man (Mat 24.29-30). We know by comparison with Daniel, therefore, that the Great Tribulation lasts for 3½ years. During this time the “tares” and “bad fish” are gathered out of God’s Kingdom (Mat 13.24-30; 36-43; 47-50).
- We’re not explicitly told the character of the 30 and 45 day periods following the “time, times and half a time,” but 30 days was the length of a mourning period in biblical times (Num 20.29; Deu 34.8; see also Gen 50.2,3). The 45 days will probably be the period of the tribunal of Christ during which we receive our allotted domains (Luk 19.11-19; 2Co 5.10; Rev 2.26-27).



Trumpets & Bowls

Correlations

A Comparison of Revelation 8.7-9.21 & 11.15-19 with Revelation 16

1 Rev. 8:7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon **the earth**. A *third* of the earth was burned up, a *third* of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

2 Rev. 8:8 The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the **sea**. A third of the sea turned into blood, 9 a *third* of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

3 Rev. 8:10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the **rivers and on the springs of water** — 11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A *third* of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

4 Rev. 8:12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of **the sun** was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

Rev. 16:2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on **the land**, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

Rev. 16:3 The second angel poured out his bowl on the **sea**, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and *every* living thing in the sea died.

Rev. 16:4 The third angel poured out his bowl on the **rivers and springs of water, and they became blood**. 5 Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:

“You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged;
6 for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

Rev. 16:7 And I heard the altar respond:
“Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”

Rev. 16:8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on **the sun**, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. 9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

Rev. 9:1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. 2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. **The sun and sky were darkened** by the smoke from the Abyss. 3 And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. 6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Rev. 9:7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. 8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. 10 They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. 11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.

Rev. 16:10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into **darkness**. Men gnawed their tongues in agony 11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

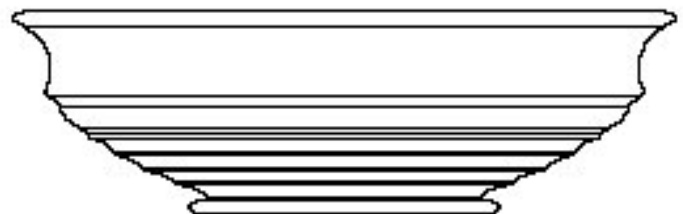


Illustration of an ancient phiale (bowl)

Rev. 9:13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. 14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great **river Euphrates**.” 15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.

Rev. 9:17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. 18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

Rev. 9:20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood —idols that cannot see or hear or walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rev. 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great **river Euphrates**, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. 13 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Rev. 16:15 “Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

Rev. 16:16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Rev. 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

Rev. 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God 17 saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. 18 The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great — and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

Rev. 11:19 Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hail-storm.

Rev. 16:17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. 19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. 21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.



4th Century Golden Phiale (Bowl)

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