

ἀποκάλυψις

ἀποκάλυψις

1. Laying bare, making naked
 2. A disclosure of truth or instruction
 - a. concerning things before unknown
 - b. used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all
 3. manifestation, appearance
- ❖ *VERY popular form of writing in Jewish and Christian communities from 200BC-200AD*

Revelation

- Universally accepted by the early church
- Widely circulated – 7 Churches of Asia & beyond
- Quoted early and often by the church fathers
- Included in the Muratorian Canon (170AD)
- John was generally accepted as the author

Revelation

“For it was sent, not long ago, but almost in our generation, near the end of Domitian’s reign” (Irenaeus, 180AD)

“A certain man among us, whose name was John, one of the apostles of Christ, prophesied in a revelation made to him, that those who believed in our Christ would spend a thousand years in Jerusalem” (Justin Martyr, 130AD)

And MANY others ...

4 Views of Revelation

The “preterist” view - The book refers to events that were fulfilled in the first century AD, or shortly thereafter. It was written primarily to encourage the original readers. Therefore, this view holds that, the book must be interpreted through the eyes of its first century recipients in order to be understood correctly.

4 Views of Revelation

The “**historicist**” view - The book provides a panoramic view of the future of the church. This view believes that the symbols in the book can be identified with specific events in church history. The “beast” in chapter 13 is generally identified as the papacy and its downfall is brought about by the Protestant Reformation. The book therefore, begins at Pentecost and ends with the second coming of Jesus Christ. As such it would encourage Christians no matter when they lived.

4 Views of Revelation

The “idealist” view - The book does not deal with any specific historical situation. Instead, it is simply enforcing the principle that good will ultimately triumph over evil. The symbols in the book are understood to represent forces or tendencies in history and are thus fulfilled again and again as history repeats itself. Some of the symbols can represent recurring spiritual themes. For example, in Rev 13, the first Beast represents any secular power which opposes the church, while the second Beast represents corrupt religion. As such the book is applicable to any age.

4 Views of Revelation

The “futurist” view - Apart from the first few chapters, the book depicts events which immediately precede the second coming of Christ. Therefore most of the book has yet to be fulfilled (or are currently being fulfilled), and its value is primarily for Christians who will be living at the time Jesus returns.

How to interpret Revelation

- It is a series of visions – visualize it
- Don't assume it flows chronologically
- Let the signs interpret themselves
- Move from simple to complex
- Don't over interpret (Occam's razor)
- Remember the original audience
- Be faithful to the historical context
- 'I don't know' is sometimes the best answer

Revelation

Book Outline

Chapter 1-5 – Intro, State of the early churches

Chapter 6-20a – “*What must soon take place*”

Chapter 20b-22 – Second coming, final judgment

Revelation

Class Outline

Chapter 1-5 – Intro, State of the early churches

Chapter 12-13 – Dragon & his allies (the two Beasts)

Chapter 17-20a – Fall of “*Babylon the Great*”

– BREAK –

Chapter 6, 8-9, 15-16 – 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls

Chapter 7, 10-11, 14 – 144,000, Multitude, 2 witnesses

Chapter 20b-22 – Second coming, final judgment

Revelation 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, who testifies to everything he saw – that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 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.

Revelation 1

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. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, 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."

Revelation 1

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 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.

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. 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.”

Revelation 1

“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. 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 of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1

- God – Jesus – Angel – John – 7 Churches of Asia
- Blessed are those who read, hear, & take heart
- It will 'soon take place' & the 'time is near'
- John is exiled on the island of Patmos
- 'Brother & companion in suffering & endurance'
- 'The Lord's Day' = Sunday
- Letter specifically addresses the 7 Churches
- Really COOL image of Jesus
- Death & Hades = the abode of the dead, resting place
- 7 Stars = Seven Angels of the churches
- 7 Lampstands = Seven churches

Revelation

Key Concepts – Numbers

7 – Churches, Angels, seals, trumpets, bowls, plagues, lampstands, stars, spirits, horns & eyes (Lamb/ Chapter 4), thunders (voice of/Chapter 10), 7000 people killed (Chapter 11), 7 heads & 7 crowns (Dragon/Chapter 12), 7 heads (Beast from the sea/Chapter 13), 7 Hills & 7 Kings (Chapter 17)

Used 55 times, Completion, Perfection, Fullness

Revelation

Key Concepts – Numbers

3 ½ days – Chapter 11

42 months – Chapter 11 & 13

1260 days – Chapter 11 & 12

Time, times & half a time – Chapter 12

Times of *persecution* or *protection*, short period,
finite period

Revelation

Key Concepts – Numbers

2 – 2 witnesses (Chapter 11), 2 allies of the dragon (Chapter 13)

4 – 4 living creatures, 4 horsemen, 4 Angels & corners & winds (Chapter 7), fourfold description “nation, tribe, people, language” (Chapter 5, 7, 11, 13, 14), Refers to the ENTIRE world, ALL of humanity

12 – 12,000, 144,000, 24, Tribes of Israel, Apostles, Elders, Refers to Israel, the Church, organized religion

Revelation

Key Concepts – Numbers

666 – “It is man’s number”, 6 is one short of perfection or completion, man was created on the sixth day

1000 – Also 12,000, 144,000, 1,000 years the dragon is imprisoned, 1,000 year reign of Christ, Refers to a LARGE amount or a LARGE number

Revelation

Key Concepts – Persecution

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. (Chap 1)

If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for *patient endurance* and faithfulness on the part of the saints. (Chap 13)

Revelation

Key Concepts – Persecution

This calls for *patient endurance* on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. 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.” (Chap 14)

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. (Chap 2)

Revelation

Key Concepts – Persecution

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. (Chap 2)

... 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. 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?” 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. (Chap 6)

Revelation

Key Concepts – SOON

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what *must soon take place* (Chap 1)

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*. (Chap 1)

“How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” 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. (Chap 6)

Revelation 2 & 3

The 7 Churches of Asia:

- 1) Ephesus
- 2) Smyrna
- 3) Pergamum
- 4) Thyatira
- 5) Sardis
- 6) Philadelphia
- 7) Laodicea

Chap 2 & 3 – report card



**THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF
THE BOOK OF REVELATION**
Rev. 2-3

Revelation 4-5

Rev 4 – John in the Throne room of God

Rev 4 – Who is worthy to open the scroll?

Rev 5 – Jesus the lamb is revealed is worthy

Revelation 12

3 themes of Rev 12

1. Satan's failed mission – Satan vs. Jesus
2. The battle in heaven – Satan vs. God
3. Satan's new mission – Satan vs. Church

Satan vs. Jesus

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. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. 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. 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. 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.

Satan vs. Jesus

- Woman – Israel, Israel & Church, God's People
- Dragon –
 - Satan (enemy)
 - Devil (accuser, slanderer)
- 10 Horns, swept 1/3 of the stars – Power
- 7 Heads & Crowns – Authority
- Child – Jesus
- Birth – Crucifixion/Resurrection
 - *“firstborn from the dead”* (Rev 1:5)
 - *“firstborn from among the dead”* (Col 1)
- The child ascends immediately to heaven
- The woman is protected for a time in the desert

Satan vs. Jesus

1. Herod kills the infants (Matt 2)
2. Tempts Jesus in the desert (Matt 4)
3. Tries to kill Jesus (Luke 4, John 7 & 8)
4. “Get behind me Satan” (Matt 16)
5. “Then Satan entered Judas” (Luke 22)
6. The arrest & crucifixion & death

Satan vs. God

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 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.

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. 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. 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.”

Satan vs. God

1. Satan in Heaven
2. Conflict in heaven
3. Satan cast out
4. His time is short
5. At the cross

Satan vs. God

Satan in Heaven

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.” Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” (Job 1)

Satan vs. God

Satan in Heaven

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?” (Zech 1)

Satan vs. God

Conflict in Heaven

- Michael vs. the “Prince of Persia” (Daniel)
- Michael vs. the devil (Jude)
- “Spiritual forces of evil” (Eph 6)

Satan vs. God

Satan cast out

“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” (Luke 10:18)

Satan vs. God

His time is short

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the **prince of this world will be driven out**. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself. (John 12:31-32)

Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world **now stands condemned**. (John 16:7-11)

Satan vs. God

At the cross

“He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Col 2:14-15)

Satan vs. God

At the cross

“... by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Heb 2:14-15)

Satan vs. Church

When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 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. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 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.

Satan vs. Church

- Satan is out of heaven
- Satan stands condemned
- Satan is now attacking the church

Revelation 13

And the dragon 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. 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. 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. 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?"

Beast #1

- Out of the sea (Foreign?)
- Resembles the dragon
- Given GREAT authority by dragon
- Resembles 4 Beasts of Daniel 7
 - Lion, Bear, Leopard
 - 7 Heads, 10 horns
 - Represented empires & rulers
- Men worshiped the Beast

Revelation 13

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. 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. 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.

He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

Beast #1

- Opposed and blasphemed God
- Persecuted the Saints
- Authority over the whole earth
- No escape possible

Revelation 13

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. 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. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. 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. 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. 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, 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. 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.

Beast #2

- Out of the land (Local?)
- Looks like a lamb / Sounds like a dragon
- Given authority by Beast #1
- Forces men to worship Beast #1
- “False Prophet” in later chapters
- Religious / religious persecution

Emperor worship

Augustus – At his death proclaimed '*Divas*' (one like the Gods)

Caligula – Ordered his statue set up in the Temple of Jerusalem

Nero – On coinage referred to as '*Savior of the World*'

Domitian – Addressed as '*Dominus et Deus noster*' (our Lord and God)

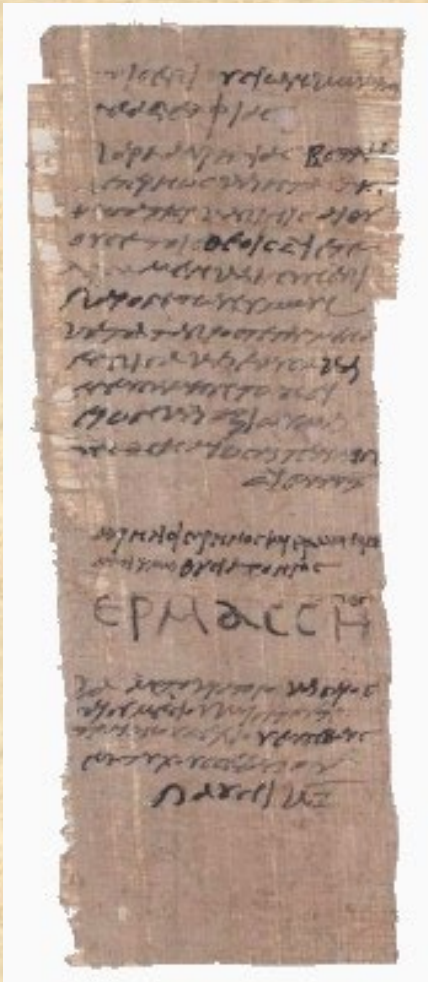
The *libelli* were documents notarized by Roman authorities to certify that someone has offered sacrifice to their idols. These documents were accepted as proof that someone was not a Christian. Many of these *libelli* have been discovered in excavations in Egypt.

To those in charge of the sacrifices of the village Theadelphia, from Aurelia Bellias, daughter of Peteres, and her daughter, Kapinis. We have always been constant in sacrificing to the gods, and now too, in your presence, in accordance with the regulations, I have poured libations and sacrificed and tasted the offerings, and I ask you to certify this for us below. May you continue to prosper.

(2nd hand) We, Aurelius Serenus and Aurelius Hermas, saw you sacrificing.

(3rd hand) I, Hermas, certify.

(1st hand) The 1st year of the Emperor Caesar Gaius Messius Quintus Traianus Decius Pius Felix Augustus, Pauni 27.



Beast #2

- Image (Caligula, Nero, Domitian?)
- Receive a mark –
 - Seal of God (chapter 7)
 - Mark of the beast
- Domitian – Offer incense & proclaim him to be Lord in order to receive certificate ...
- 666 – A GREAT mystery!

666

- Gematria – letters represent numbers and vice-versa ...
- First 9 letters – 1-9
- Next 9 letters – 10-90
- Next nine – 100-900
- Nero in Greek – NRWN QSR = 666
- Nero in Latin – NRW QSR = 616

Revelation 13

Together with the dragon the two beasts constitute an unholy trinity of malicious evil. The two beasts represent the power of Rome and the willingness of local religious authorities to cooperate in carrying out the sinister plans of Satan himself. (Mounce, NICNT – the book of Revelation)

Rev 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. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

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. 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. This title was written on her forehead:

MYSTERY ... BABYLON THE GREAT ... THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES ...
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

Rev 17

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. 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. 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.”

“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. 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. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.”

Rev 17

“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. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. 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.”

Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. 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. 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. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

The Woman

- Seated on –
 - Many waters – peoples, multitudes, nations & languages
 - The beast – The first beast of Revelation 13 (Satan's ally)
- Relationships –
 - Closely linked to the Beast of Revelation 13 (seated on)
 - Interacted with Kings of the earth (committed adultery)
 - Impacted the inhabitants of the earth (intoxicated them)
- Beautiful on the outside – rotten on the inside:
 - Woman – dressed in purple and scarlet, glittering with gold ...
 - Cup – in her hand she held a golden cup ...

The Woman

- Written on her forehead –
 - The Saints of God had God's seal (Forehead)
 - The worshipers of the beast had his mark (Forehead)
 - Jesus has His title (Thigh)
- *“Drunk with the blood of the Saints”*
- Love/Hate relationship between Woman & Beast ...
 - Bring her to ruin
 - Leave her naked
 - Eat her flesh
 - Burn her with fire
- *“The great city that rules over the kings of the earth”*

The Beast

- Same as the first beast of Rev 13:
 - 7 heads
 - 10 horns
 - Blasphemous names
- “Once was, now is not, will come back”:
 - Similar to chapter 13 – ‘Fatal wound that was healed’
 - Caligula, Nero, Nero & Domitian, the Empire
 - A little like Jesus (the anti-Jesus)
 - A lot like Satan ‘will be’ (Rev 20)
 - Possibly this was written during a period of peace
 - ‘At the beginning of Domitian’s reign’ (Keener)
 - ‘Domitian is the NEW Nero’ (Keener)

The Beast

- 7 heads
 - 7 Hills
 - 7 Kings
- 7 Hills on which the woman sits:
 - ROME
 - “*Urbs septicollis*” – City of/on seven mountains
 - “*Festival of Septimontium*” – Celebrated every December
 - Latin literature us FULL of references to this fact
- 7 Kings
 - 5 previous ...
 - 1 current ...
 - 1 future “for a little while” ...
 - The beast returns as the 8th king

7 Kings

➤ *Julius Caesar**

1. Augustus

2. Tiberius

3. Caligula

4. Claudius

5. Nero

➤ *Galba**

➤ *Otho**

➤ *Vitellius**

6. Vespasian

7. Titus

8. Domitian

The Beast

- 10 horns:
 - Future Kings
 - Possibly emperors of Rome
 - Possibly Provincial Kings
 - They will aid the beast in persecuting the Christians
- The Beast and the 10 horns:
 - Will eventually destroy the woman
 - Have been empowered by God
 - Will be defeated and crushed by Jesus!

Rev 18

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 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 spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. 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.”

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; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. 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. 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.’ 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.”

Rev 18

- “Fallen is Babylon the great!”
 - Who/What is Babylon the great?
 - Previously announced by an Angel (Rev 14)
 - She was rich and full of excessive luxuries
 - She will be empty & unclean & desolate

- Nations we driven mad by her excesses and perversions
- Kings conspired and colluded with her for evil purposes
- Merchants grew rich off her excessive luxuries

- Now is the time for her punishment, PAYBACK:
 - God has remembered her crimes
 - Double for what she has done
 - Double portion from her own cup
 - Torture & Grief for Glory & Luxury
 - IN ONE DAY (repeated several times in the chapter)
 - *“For mighty is the Lord God who judges her”*

Rev 18

“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. 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!’ ”

Rev 18

“**The merchants of the earth** will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more – 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; 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.

“They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ 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 and cry out: “ ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’ ”

Rev 18

“**Every sea captain**, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ 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!’ ”

Kings & Merchants & Sea Captains

- Kings & Merchants & Sea Captains will mourn & lament
- Kings:
 - Pax Romana – 200 years of unchallenged peace
 - No external threats
 - No internal civil unrest
 - No army or military
- Merchants:
 - Grew VERY wealthy off Rome
 - Gold, silver, precious stones, linen, silk, dyes, ivory, marble, costly wood, spices, wine & olive oil, cattle, horses, slaves
 - Italy and Asia – Olives & grapes replaced grain
 - Thousands of slaves worked the farms & mines & cities
- Sea Captains:
 - Transported ALL of these goods
 - Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea

Kings & Merchants & Sea Captains

“The excessive luxury of Rome and its passion for the extravagant are well known. At one of Nero’s banquets the Egyptian roses alone cost nearly \$100,000. Vitellius had a penchant for delicacies like peacocks’ brains and nightingales’ tongues. In his reign of less than one year he spent \$20,000,000, mostly on food.” (Mounce)

“Rome’s wealth was incomparable. There were 133,225 palaces in Rome, each with 365 stories – each story with enough food to feed the world” (Livy)

“From Egypt, North Africa and the Black Sea region they ferried some 400,000 tons of grain annually to the capital city. Rome’s insatiable appetites and seductive wealth lured provincials with money to invest in what could be exported to Rome rather than the needs of their people. Landowners in Asia used so much of their land for export items like wine that Asia’s cities had to import grain from Egypt to the south or from the Black Sea area to the north.” (Keener)

Rev 18

“Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.”

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. 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. 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.

In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.”

Kings & Merchants & Sea Captains

- Judgment:
 - Millstone into the sea
 - Same as 'winepress' (Rev 14)
 - Same as 'battle' (Rev 19)
 - Same as the final seal, trumpets, bowls
 - Violent and dramatic end
 - It is God's Judgment/punishment
 - It is 'repayment in kind'

- Rejoice:
 - Saints
 - Apostles
 - Prophets
 - "You have now been vindicated"

Rev 19

- GREAT rejoicing:
 - Hymn of Vindication
 - Response to the persecuted Christians

 - Harlot is condemned
 - Innocent blood is avenged
 - Bride revealed (Bride contrasts the Harlot)
 - Righteousness honored

- Angel is fellow servant

Rev 19

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. 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. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

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, 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."

Rev 19

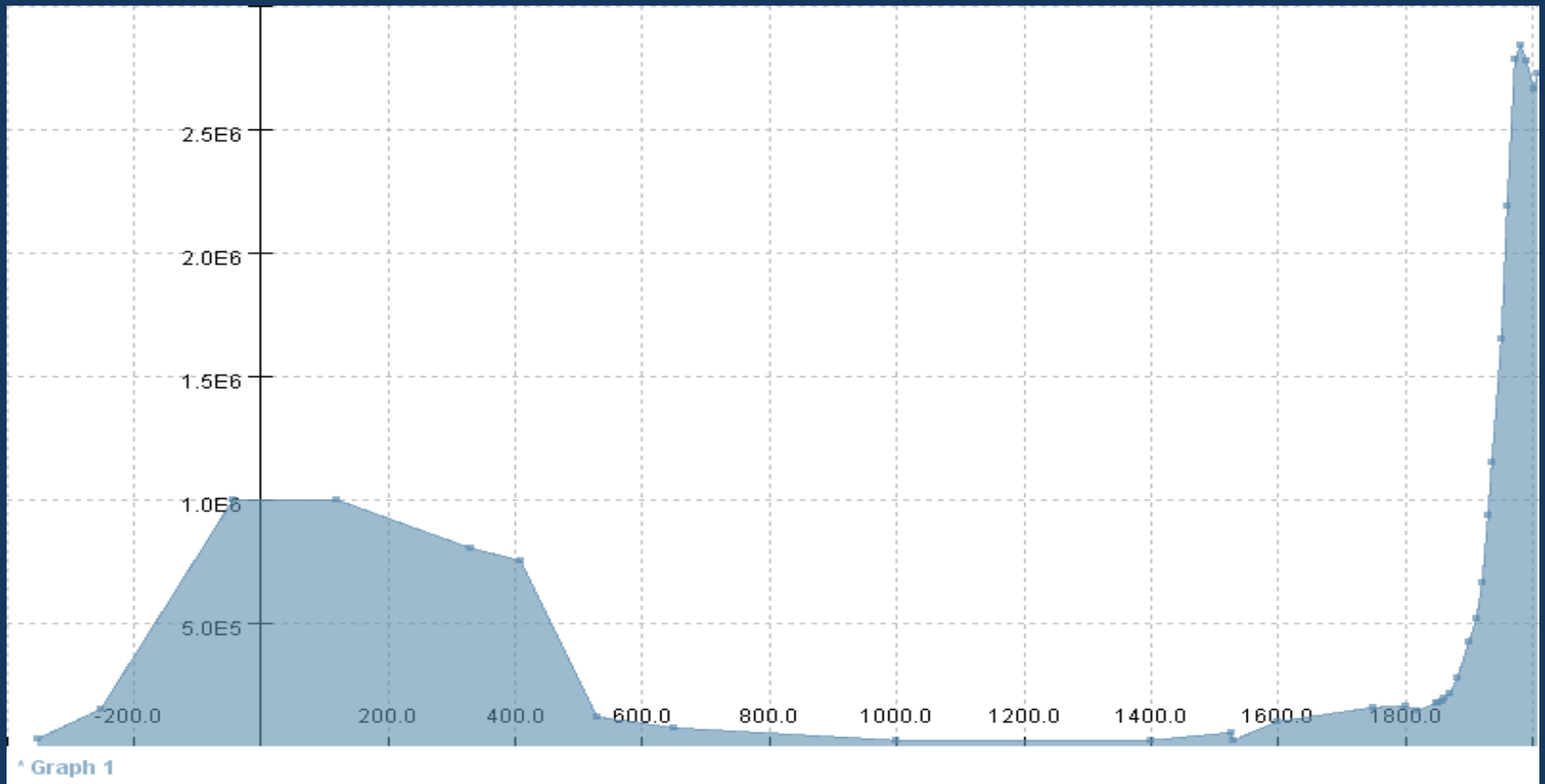
Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 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.

Rev 19

- GREAT battle:
 - REALLY cool picture of Jesus
 - 'Iron Scepter' (Psalm 2, Rev 12)
 - It's not much of a battle
 - Beast & False prophet cast into 'lake of fire'
 - Armies completely destroyed

- This is A judgment, but not THE judgment (FINAL judgment)
 - No books opened ...
 - No individual judging of actions or deeds ...
 - No death and Hades giving up their dead ...
 - No trumpet, Jesus descending on a cloud etc ...
 - This is the Judgment on an enemy of God
 - As God judged Assyria, Babylon, and others
 - The FINAL judgment is yet to come

Rev 18



ROME – Population over the centuries

Rev 20a

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 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.