THE MAN WHO SAW JESUS
Rev. 1

0. Turned = receptivity.
1. Night scene - stars.
2. World in darkness.
3. Christ & U lights.
4. Church supreme imp.
5. To shed lite must have Christ in center - Reflects.
6. Church can't create lite.
7. Christ in Kingly attire.
8. 7 points about Him.

1. Head & Hair - white - pure - eternity
2. Eyes, flame to search, penetrate. Sees little
details too.
Heb. 4:13 all things are n. & open unto
Sees all - every detail.
3. Feet - strong, secure, progress. Moves in His
church.
Isa. 52:7 How beaut on the mt. Bring good T.
Ps. 29:4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; full
of majesty.
Heb. 1:1-2
5. Hand - 7 stars.
Messengers.
All in His hand.
Complete.
No authority in self - only in Christ.
6. Mouth - Sword.
   Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is quick and powerful." 
   Jn. 12:47-48 "If any man hear my words, and believeth not, 
7. Face - Sun.
   Ps. 84:11 "For the Lord God is a sun and shield" 
   Matt. 13:43 grace & glory 

   no good thing
   Comp. Nehemiah: Hitheth 9:5-7:2
   Hitheth: September 9:10-92
   Jordan, Sept. 9:10-92
   Hitheth, September 9:10-92
   8:9, 19, 10-22, 10-22, 10-22.
   B. C. Church, Jacksonville, Ill., 10-19-73
I. My daughter's room with triplets at Harding--precious young Christian ladies and still good friends.
   A. Their names were
      and since I could never remember the third one, I called her "and Gamma Ray."
   B. We lost twins prematurely and I've dreamed of what those children would have been.
   C. If twins, or more still triplets, fascinate you, what about triplet expressions in the Bible?
      1. Though much of Revelation I do not grasp, I glory in the part that resonates with me.
      2. Let's review the opening of the difficult book and notice some.

II. Revelation 1:1-
   A. Our first one-- "The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass" as the KJV words it.
      1. First word is apokalupis (Revelation) as word means uncovering of something hidden to -over-
1. (cont'd)
   make known what man could not
   find out himself—it sets forth
   what God has made known—it is
   the revelation of Jesus.
2. It comes from God, it is not
   human nor angelic production.
3. God is fountain and source of all
   truth.
4. Men do not create truth.

B. The next one is in the same verse:
   This inspired word God "sent and
   signified it by his angel unto his
   servant John."
   1. Servant - slave
   2. A servant can leave his service,
      has stated hours to work, hours
      of freedom, is paid, has a mind
      and will of his own, can bargain;
      a slave can do none of this.
      (Barclay)

C. We move to the next sentence and
   find John to "bear record" of the
   word of God, and of the testimony
   of Jesus Christ, and of all things
   that he saw.
   1. He bore witness to the Word of
      God.
   2. Also to the testimony of Jesus.
   3. Are we that firm in our
      convictions?
5. Not enough to read Read--Hear--but Do.

D. Moving to the next verse we find blessings extended to "he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy" as well as those "that keep these things that are written therein."

2. Means to read aloud, publicly.
3. Hear and obey.
4. Short--know not our hour of departure.

E. Since Jesus is the theme of this book we quickly in verse 4 move to the message about him "which IS and which WAS and which IS TO COME."

1. If you want to know Jesus he will grant that his will be procured.
   John 7:17 "If any man will do his will..."
2. What's the most important truth you know about God?
   a) Is, it He is.
   b) He's here.

Exo. 3:14
c) He's not a "theological projection," rather He is, He exists, He's active, He is mindful of me!

d) He was--God in history, was there.

Isa. 41:4

e) To come--controls future, all under his sway.

Eph. 1:11

F. Jesus quickly has another description who "IS THE FAITHFUL WITNESS" and further is "THE FIRST BEGOTTEN OF THE DEAD" and is the PRINCE OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH.

1. Words to Pilate

Jn. 18:37
1 Pet. 2:21

2. Our words to the world.

2 Cor. 5:20

3. Comfort today to think of his power in this world--as king.

Jn. 19:11

G. Our Lord was busy in our behalf in that he "Loved us" and truly "HE WASHED OR LOOSED us from our sins by HIS OWN BLOOD."

2 Peter 1:9
1. If we forget our cleansing we are likely to forget how we ought to live as saints.

2. Revelation not of a system of thought, but of a savior and what he does for us.

H. He continued his great blessings for us in that he MADE US KINGS (or TO BE A KINGDOM) or PRIESTS and UNTO GOD his Father whom we serve and to whom belongs glory and dominion forever and ever. Zech. 6:13.

1. Do we remember who we are?

2. Jimmy Baird taught to "act like a Baird."

3. We have an exalted position.

Titus 2:14

1 Peter 3:5-9

4. We are a people of his own possession.

I. His end has not yet come because he promises to COME WITH CLOUDS guaranteeing that EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM especially those that pierce him and ALL KINDRED OF THE EARTH SHALL WAIL BECAUSE OF HIM.

Jn. 12:48

Jn. 6:44

Matt. 24:13
III. Since these things are inevitable all that's left is to say:
EVEN COME - V.7
EVEN SO, COME LORD JESUS
(Rev. 22:20)
THE CONSISTENCY OF GOD

Rev. 1:4-6

I. If there is a passage that points to the consistency of God. I want to see Him as always the same, ever loving and caring, always effective and devoted, ever the same.

A. In triplicate fashion I'll behold Heaven:
   1. That is, was, and is to come.
   2. That's the seven spirits, before His throne, the faithful witness, first begotten from the dead, prince of the kings of the earth.
   3. That loved us, loosed us, made us to be a kingdom and priests to God and His Father.
   4. That to Him be glory, dominion, forever and ever, Amen.

B. It's this divinity - God, Christ, the Holy Spirit that we want to grow in appreciation.

C. It's possible because of a letter written to the seven churches in Asia. Why seven?
   1. A complete, satisfying number to the Asiatic.
   2. Similar to our 12, a dozen.
   3. Though not all churches--Colosse, Troas, Hierapolis also them.
4. A number 54 times in this letter.
5. Stands for totality.
6. Addressed to seven, intended for a wider readership.
7. Don't know why these seven though it did make a rough circle in territory.

D. For these John wished grace and peace.
   1. Grace covers entire scope of salvation.
   2. With peace--best of all good things.
   3. Grace - Greek.
   5. Grace by which we are saved.
   6. And peace within ourselves and our brothers and sisters.

II. Then begins all the tributes.
   A. First of three forms - Him who is, was, and is to come, also from the seven spirits and from Jesus Christ thus the Godhead.
      1. God which is, was, to come.
         a. God's nature set forth who is, was and is to come.
         b. He ever exists and certain is now with us--I talked to Him this morning.
B. Seven spirits before His throne-God.
   1. These are not the words of man but of God the Father, the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ--makes it marvelously important.
   2. Four steps by which Rev. came.
      a. God to Jesus.
      b. Jesus to angel.
      c. Angel to John, God's servant.
   3. Seven spirits show forefold, complete work of God.
   4. Isaiah 11:2 - Spirit of Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of Lord
   5. John never uses the name "Holy Spirit," but uses the word spirit in a variety of ways.
   6. (God is before all things, and nothing survives Him.
   7. Nothing can resist the power of God.

  c. God the I am, the Being One, the Eternal Spirit, the Almighty.
  d. One in essence, not person.
  e. Was, is, to come denotes the eternity of God.
  f. No one created God.
  g. To come via Son in recognizable form.
C. From Jesus Christ who is:

1. The faithful witness—speaks from first-hand knowledge.
   a. Always true and dependable—
      pick me out, worthy of trust.
   Rev. 22:18-19 if any man addeth to or taketh away
   22: 6 They judging are true & faithful
   b. Will reveal all of God to us and
   only Jesus can do this.
   John 18:37 Their saith that I have @ been, can
   Heb. 5:9 being made perfect he became like unto
   c. My eyes saw, ears heard.

2. Firstborn of the dead.
   a. Rose never to die
   b. Assurance of our resurrection.
   Rom. 8:29 for who he did fore know, prefix Brit
   1 Cor. 15:20, 23 Risen—1st fruits then 3rd
   Col 1:15 Image of immortality, where—1st been Saviour
   1:18 Head/body, church, beginning, 1st Ether
   c. Sovereign—position before God.
   d. Exalted before all who are—dead.

3. Prince of the kings of the earth.
   a. He is head of all.
   b. Kings reign.
   c. Ruler.
   Rev. 11:15 Kingdoms of this world are become K.
   d. Rules now
   1 Tim. 6:15 Blessed are, King of kings, Lord
   e. We are now a kingdom.
   f. Jesus-figure of majesty
g. Revered for what He has done.
h. Wicked overthrown and Christ prevails.
i. Church called a kingdom because its people are under a king and it fulfills kingly functions.

D. Unto Christ who:
   1. Loves us.
      1 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 5:23; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2:14
      Eph. 3:19; 5:2, 2 Cor. 5:14
      b. Keeps on loving us.
      c. Love is a grace that stoops.
      d. Present tense, continuous, goes on and on.
      e. Permanent abiding fact.
   2. Loosed us.
      a. Washes away our sins in His own blood.
      b. In baptism to death react His blood.
      c. Loosed and set free.
      d. Continues to cleanse.
      1 John 1:7; 2:2, 5:2, 6:19; 1 Pet. 1:23-24
      e. All at the cost of His blood.
f. Set free (past tense), completely done in the past, the cross.
g. Loose—aorist points back to the one great atoning sacrifice, the cross.
h. See these terms:

Col 1:20 Reconciled.
Eph. 2:13 Made nigh.
Heb. 13:12 Sanctified.
Heb. 10:14 Perfected.
Rom. 5:9 Justified.
1 Jn. 1:7 Cleansed.

3. Made us to be a kingdom and priest.
a. King reigns.
b. Priest offers sacrifice.
c. Kingdom comes to those loose from their sins and now serve Him.
d. Priests meditate, speak to God on behalf of others and to God on behalf of men.
e. In kingdom now.

Col. 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness.
f. On priests.
1 Pet. 2:9 Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, holy, peculiar.
2:5 Ye are living stones, an sacred church to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
III. Peon of Praise.

To Him be glory, dominion, forever and ever, Amen.

A. Dominion = force, strength, might, power.
B. Amen = vigorous sense of approval.
C. Jesus' name 600 times in New Testament.
   1. Never prefixed by an adjective, i.e. sweet Jesus, but Jesus
   2. Never addressed as "Jesus" except by demons.

Old Union BC - 3/28/04
Melber, KY - 7/21/04
AN EVENT I WON'T MISS
Rev. 1:7-8

I. Most of the great events of the world I have not seen.
   A. I missed the fall of the Berlin Wall.
   B. I was no astronaut to walk on the moon.
   C. I was not invited to the recent Summit.

II. But I'm consoled, the greatest event for all mankind I will attend!
   A. I did not see Jesus when He 1st came.
   B. I will witness His return.

Rev. 1:7-8

III. He will come again.
   A. Behold He cometh the clouds and
   1. 1st prayer of the Book--Even So Amen.
   2. Since it was hard then--and now to be a Christian--these words console.
   3. Heaven's promises never fail--He is not an untried God.
   4. Qt.: what chance against Rome had "the panting, huddled flock whose crime was Christ?"
   5. No one had ever beaten Rome--but just you wait and see.

B. He Comes With The Clouds
   1. Return triggers opposing emotions: joy & fear...
   2. He's the Christian's hope.
      The evening consternation.
   3. Belief in his return purifies.

2 Tim. 4:7-8 I am now ready to be offered the
1 Jn. 3:1-2 beloved nowlove we the sons of
4. No doubt about his promises.

Jn 14:3 - Since I do--it's certain
2. Isa. 9:6
Matt. 24:30-31
Matt. 26:64
Acts 17:31
5. The Clouds unveil.
   a) Sudden
   b) Unexpected
   c) Glory

Dan. 7:1-14
C. Every Eye See Him
   1. Universal
   2. Saint & sinner
   3. Salvation--Judgement
   4. No longer say "I just can't see it"--
      every eye will.
   5. No secret return.
   6. No one will ask: "Is this the Christ."
      Living & dead will know.

D. His Enemies Will See Him.
   1. They must face Him in Judgement.
   2. Those that put him on the cross &
      those of today will see.

Jn. 19:34
One of the soldiers to open pierced
20:25
Princes nails in hands
20:27
3. Every Jew will know who Jesus is--
   every Indo, Moslem, Buddhist.
   4. Those ready & those that pierced
      will jointly see & know.
   5. World today largely oblivious to
      claims of Christ.

Phil. 2:10
Theos school also held highly excited
1 Thess 5:22 coming called day at the hand
3. Think of contrast when last they saw Him on the Cross.

E. Some Will Wail
1. Mourning of hopelessness.

Zech. 12:10
2. Cry for mts. to fall.

Rev. 6:16
3. Mourn because of sin and fact judgement has come.
4. Means to cut oneself as was common with mourners.
5. Is His return a treat or a threat to you?
6. Salvation or judgement?

F. Even so (GK) Amen (Heb)

IV. Who Stands Behind This Claim?
A. I am Alpha-Omega.
1. Jesus is complete, perfect, and the eternal revelation of God.
2. Same words describe both Father & Son—they are one.
3. This guarantees the contents of the claim.
4. God absolutely lacks nothing.
5. Dignity of the speaker demands we listen.

Col. 1:16
B. Beginning—End
Is—Was—Is to Come
1. The Eternal One.
2. He is able to keep his promise.
3. He sees the end from the beginning—utterly capable.
4. He sees it all in a moment of time.

C. He is the Almighty.
   1. We feel the might of opposition but He is almighty.
   2. He holds all things in His grasp.
   3. 7X Almighty in NT, 6 by John.

D. Question: Where do you stand?

2 Peter 3:8-9 By the Lord's great power
Ezek 18:32 "I take no pleasure in the death of a
Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered

Middleton, TN - 7/27/90
THE CAMARADERIE OF CHRISTIANITY
Rev. 1:9
1. There are things we do not kindredly share.
   A. Same house.
   B. Same amt. of money.
   C. Same no. of children.
   D. Same place of birth, skin-color, or heritage.
II. If we are Christians though, there are some kindred things we share.
Rev. 1:9 "I John who also am your brother, and compas"
A. He wrote from Patmos.
   1. Reader might not know so insignificant a place -
      so John marks it out - do we know every town of
      Tenn.?
2. The Island.
   a.) 15 miles in circumference.
   b.) 10 miles long - 5 or 6 miles wide.
   c.) Thus, 50 sq. miles in size.
   d.) Crescent shape - horns point to the East.
   e.) In Sporades group, Aegean sea, 70 miles southwe
      of Ephesus, (Coast of Asia Minor - only 40 miles)
   f.) Sea that surrounded and separated - used 25 X in
      Rev.
   g.) Mt. St. Elias on it - 800' high - highest spot.
   h.) Few trees, Monastery of St. Christodula founded
      1088; Monastery of St. John owns south half of
      Island.
3. Tradition of it - Place of Banishment - (Alcatraz)
   a.) Common type punishment.
   b.) John put c villians of the age.
   c.) During reign of Domitian.
d.) Hard labor in quarries; scourging, perpetual fetters, scanty clothing, short food, sleep on bare ground, dark prison.

4. Yet rise above it.
   a.) In exile Jacob saw God at Bethel; Moses & the bush; Elijah & still small voice; Ezek. the glory of the Lord by Chebar. Daniel the ancient of days.
   b.) Dreary places can become heavens to us via visions - if only in the spirit on the Lord's Day.
   c.) John needed this Rev. about AD81-96.
   d.) Patmos became gate of heaven.

B. He was "Brother & Companion."
   1. Humble states his being.
   3. Brother - heart glows c fraternity.
   4. Also shows it's the same family.

1 Tim. 3:15 "But if I tarry long that thou mayest know .

5. Tho he will cite other things he, c you, is in Christ.

6. Interestingly names self 3X in Rev.

7. He was a partaker - sharer.

Matt. 13:21 "Hath not root - dryeth for a while - for when trib. or persecution arise because of the word, by and by he is offended."

C. What did he share and why?
   1. Tribulation.
      a.) Sufferer - best men are subject to it.
      b.) Means pressure - like a great stone on a man's body.
c.) Speaks c the authority of experience.
Ezek. 3:15 "Then I came to them of the captivity at T.
d.) Lit. come to be at Patmos - not ordinary conditi
tion.
2. Kingdom.
a.) Rule of God - Church of God.
b.) Way in is via courage & endurance - (flanked,
on either side c these words) - not for lovers of ease.
c.) If tribulation exists, so does Kingdom - one not here in absence of the other.
d.) Treasured church above all else.
3. Patience.
a.) Note order of words - trib. - K. - P.
Lu. 21:19 "In your patience possess ye your souls.",
Rom. 5:3 Tribulation worketh Patience.
Acts 14:22 "Confirm. - exhort. Continue..thru
b.) Spirit of courage that begets gallantry &
transmits suffering to glory.
Matt. 24:13 "But he that shall endure unto the end, the
2 Tim. 2:12 "If we suffer we shall reign with him; if we

4. Whole life of Christian:
(1) Suffer.
(2) Reign.
(3) Wait - while in union c Jesus.
4. Why there? for the word & testimony of Jesus Ch
a.) Suffered for the word.
b.) Not because of social crime, but due to the highest service of the age - preaching the word.
c.) Loyal to truth - glory in so suffering.
d.) Meaning either went to Patmos to carry gospel or was exiled because he preached it - more than likely latter view.
e.) He bore testimony of Jesus.
f.) Told of him regardless of circumstances.

Hurst End 6-25-78
I. That there is a time so designated is without doubt.
   A. Mentioned one time - Rev. 1:10 in Bible, Rev. 1:9-11.
   B. It is in Didache (AD 120).
      1. Christians are to assemble on Lord's Day to worship (14:1).
      2. Assure us this was a day Christ conquered death via resurrection.
      Eph. 1:19-22 "And what is the exceeding greatness..."
      I Pet. 3:21-22 "The like figure whereunto even baptism also now save us."

   3. A day also anticipating his return.
   I Cor. 15:12-28 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."
   I Cor. 15:51-58 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."

   C. More frequent reference--first day of week.
   Matt. 28:1 "In the end of the Sabbath, as it"
   Mark 16:1-2 "And when the Sabbath was past"
   Luke 24:1 "Now upon the first day of the week"
John 20:1-3 "The first day on the week..."
1. Greek - MAI= one, first.

D. Early Practice
Acts 20:7 "And upon the first day of the week."
I Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints..."

E. Secular History
1. Pliny, a Roman governor 95-110
   "met at dawn, regularly scheduled day to worship Christ."
2. Met again some day to eat a meal (letter to Trojan).
3. Justin (first apology 67, 3-6), Sunday included reading Scripture, exhortation, corporate and individual prayer, Lord's Supper, offering.
4. Seventh day no longer regarded as worship and rest.

Rom. 14:5-6 "One man esteemeth on day above another: another esteemeth every day alike."
Gal. 4:8-11 "Howbeit then, when ye knew not God."
Col. 2:16-17 "Let no man therefore judge..."
5. Rather resurrection heart of gospel.
Acts 2:31 "Spake of the resurrection."
4:2 "Being grieved that they taught the people and preached through Jesus."
Acts 4:10  "Whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead."
4:33  "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection."
13:33-37  "God raised up Jesus again."
17:18  "He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods."
6. Distinguished church from Judaism—we changed nothing.

Col. 2:2
7. Keep Sabbath— I was never in Egyptian bondage!
8. Honor Jesus, not Moses.

F. How observed?
1. Some said mistake to leave Saturday. Remember Sabbath day—Exo. 20:8.
2. Transfer Sabbath observance—thus Sabbatarians—Sunday called the Christian Sabbath.
3. Moses' law not applicable—no hint of cessation from Sunday work.
4. Tertullian differed.
5. He brought early and late assembly.
6. Thus work or recreational activity not forbidden but stress the need to gather with other Christians for worship and edification.
G. Sabbath folk.
   1. Part of moral law.
   2. Given at creation.
   3. Not abrogated by N.T.

H. Worship
   1. God is worth it.

I Pet. 2:5 "Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house."
   2. Jesus is Messiah and salvation only in him.

Acts 4:24-30 "And when they heard that."
   2: 42-47 "And they continue daily with one accord..."
   5:42 "And daily in the temple... preach."

   3. Didache--confer sin before communion (14:1).
   4. Also love feast--full meal--agape 4th century discontinued.
   5. Constantine made it official, 313, then built church house.
   6. Calvin endorsed congregational singing, sermon important, nothing allowed but ordained by Scripture.

II. Difficulty comes with application.
   A. Lord's Supper--this do! when?
      I Cor. 11:24.
      1. First day (only once on that day?).
2. Any and every day--Mass--only bread.
3. Weddings, funerals?
4. I can't find any other specific duty of Lord's Day other than general Christian behavior.

I Cor. 16:1-4 "Now concerning the collection"
Acts 20:7 "And upon the first day..."
Heb. 10:24-25 "Let us consider one another to...

5. If love him, keep commandments.

Acts 2:42 "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine..."


Mark 15:25 "And it was the third hour and they crucified him."

John 19:14 "And it was the preparation of the passover..."

C. 12-12 or sunset sunset.

D. International dateline problem.

E. How reared--no Sunday picture show or ballgame.

F. Liberty of conscience and love.

G. Cody and Sis. Kerr--mowed yard on Sunday--wash dishes?

H. Preserve spirituality.

Neely's Bend C/C - 12/7/08
Evangelical and Reformed, and Protestant Episcopal. Its headquarters are in New York City.

**Lord's Day Observance Society.** An interdenominational evangelical society founded in London in 1831 to encourage “due observance of the Lord's Day,” “to diffuse information as widely as possible on the subject,” and “to promote . . . the enactment of such laws as may be necessary for repressing the open violation of the Lord's Day.” In the 19th century the society stressed Sabbath observance as Britain's duty as a Christian nation; but it also holds that each of the Ten Commandments is part of the moral law of God and is thus binding on all men, whether professing Christians or not. The society has been particularly active in publishing (sometimes over one million leaflets in a year), and in opposing proposed legislation that might detract from Sunday as a day of worship and rest from unnecessary work; this has involved it in frequent opposition to Sunday trading, sports, and entertainment. It has also engaged in evangelism, particularly among children.

*Peter Hicks*
I. Many of you have brothers--how would you describe yours?
   A. He's older than I am.
   B. We don't look anything alike.
   C. He's the best friend I've ever had.

II. John, in our text, describes his.
   A. He has earlier told of his excellencies.
      1. The faithful witness.
      2. The first begotten of the dead.
      3. The prince of the Kings of the earth.
      4. He loved us.
      5. He washed us from our sins in his own blood.
      6. Made us Kings and Priests.
   B. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen.
      1. I would say John thought a lot of his brother.
      2. Do you share a kindred admiration?

III. As we come to our text John further describes Him.
   A. (v-7) Behold he cometh with clouds.
      1. Wesley called this the summary of the whole book.
      2. Helps those who are under stress--after all, what's a brother for!
      3. It reaches the affected and we relish what this brings.
      4. Cometh
         a) His coming glorious
         b) 1st coming like a man--now in glory, not a servant.
c) His coming in like manner with his ascension.

Acts 1:11

B. Every eye shall see Him.
   1. Manner worthy of the Son of God.
   2. Brings the question--have we received or rejected Him?
   3. Seeings:
      a) Jacob saw God at Bethel.
      b) Moses at burning bush.
      c) Elijah still small voice.
      d) Ezekiel glory by River Chebar.
      e) Daniel--ancient of days.
      f) This one I will experience.

C. Those that Pierced Him Shall See
   1. John the only writer who tells of the piercing.
   2. That incident declared his humanity and his death.

D. All Kindred of the earth shall wail.
   1. Wail because of terror and pain if they did not truly repent.
   2. Kindred or tribes--all mankind.
   3. All mankind says Amen--all will know my brother.

IV. The Brother Speaks
A. Alpha and Omega
   1. 1st and last letter of Greek alphabet.
   2. In between his enemies boast and rage, but still He is the beginning and end of all things.
   3. This shows the entirety of things--nothing before my brother's days.
4. Jesus is complete between the 1st and last.
5. "Since He is the Alpha and the Omega He includes all space that's enclosed, all time is included, all events are encompassed, all creative things are supported by the holdings of His power, all history on the beginning of creation and the consummation of all things is encircled by the spirit." (P.C.)
6. As the Alpha he is the beginning and there is no point in the past in which He was not.
7. As the Omega Jesus can be the establisher of all things and brings to conclusion whatever he wishes. (Clark)
8. He is the end as He brings all things which are here revealed to a complete and glorious conclusion. (Wesley)
9. Is--was--to come.
   a) There is no coming to be in the divine nature. He only "is".
   b) Almighty = Lord of hosts or Sabbath--he is commanding all the hosts of all the powers in heaven and earth, thus able to overcome all his church's foes.

B. 1 John, Your Brother
1. Introduces himself by name 3 times.
2. Clark defines brother as a Christian begotten of God & incorporated into the Heavenly family.
3. Relationship to Christ he was a slave—to the saints a brother and partaker.
4. Partaker—companion—a sharer, joint participant with someone in something.

C. Then 3 things: Tribulation, Kingdom, Patience
1. Tribulation
   a) Pressing together.
   b) Great squeezing or pinching.
2. Kingdom
   a) Tribulation and patience essential conditions of His Kingdom.
   b) Kingdom stands in the midst of these things.
3. Patience (Brave endurance)
   a) Steadfast endurance as it leads to perfection of the faith.
   b) All are in and by Christ.

Lu. 21:19

D. On Patmos for the Word
1. Here see 3 parts of the world.
2. 10 miles long, 6 miles wide.
3. "Was" shows it was not his ordinary condition.
4. Either there to receive the word or because of his suffering for the word—the latter.
5. Patmos a consequence of his faithfulness to the gospel—not a voluntary exile to receive more revelation. (New)
5. There because he testified that Jesus is the Christ.
6. Tradition said confinement without hard labor reserved for offenders of a higher secular rank.

V. In the Spirit - Heard Voice
   A. Lord's Day
      1. First mention of the term.
      2. Like our "2nd Sunday".
      3. Hinds says word translated Lord only one other time in NT.
      1 Cor. 11:20
   B. Heard a Voice
      1. I heard 28X.
      2. I saw 44X.
      3. Great
         a) 20X
         b) Speaker identification so important.
      4. Trumpet--loud, clear.
      5. Commands instant attention and impresses the necessity of obedience.
      6. Catch and hold attention.
      7. Alpha and Omega.
      8. See--7 candlesticks, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 vials.
      9. Write--12X given.
     10. Churches like the irregular inverted capital V so far as location concerned.

Hillsboro - 8/23/00
THE VOICE I TURNED TO SEE - Rev. 1:12-17
I. OUT OF THE TEEMING SOUNDS OF EARTH—SOME INSTINCTIVELY CAUSE YOU TO TURN.
A. From the 50 m. square Aegean Island, called Patmos, opposite old Miletus, in the Gk. Archipelago W. of S. Asia Minor, with its glistening white crags, set in the vast sweep of the Aegean, John hear such a sound. He turned and saw "the Son of Man."

II. THEN COMES THE MAGNIFICENT DESCRIPTION. 1ST WE'LL SEE HIS DESCRIPTION, THEN LOCATION.
A. Of his person.
1. His clothing—"garment down to the foot"
   a. High Priest was so clothed—Lev. 16 Ex. 28.
      (1) Aaron's robe was for "glory & beauty".
   b. Like "Ancient of Days".
      Dan. 7:9 "The A of d.did sit, whose
   c. Girt about the paps with a golden girdle
      (1) To engage in activity, gird at loins; for royalty—at breast.
      On journey-loins; at rest-breast.
      (2) Christ girdle solid gold—HP—interwoven.
   d. The gold & sacerdotal robes bespeak Hi Priest & kingship of Christ—Priest robe & King's girdle, simultaneous offices held—like Melchisedec
2. His head—"his head & his hairs were white like wool."
   a. White eternal symbol of purity & wisdom & glory.
      Isa. 1:18 "Come now & let us reason
   b. wool=eternal; snow=pure.
   c. Clark says white like Hale.
3. His eyes "were as a flame of fire".
   b. He sees the human heart—omniscience, penetrate.
4. His feet "like unto fine brass".
   a. Bare—like H.P.
   b. Victory—even soles clean.
   c. Lit. brass which in furnace has reached white heat—burnished—glowing.
   d. Strength & stability—no vacillation, brass most durable of compounds.
5. His voice "as the sound of many waters"
   a. Earlier as trumpet—clear and distinct
   b. As water—strong, majestic, exuberant.
      (1) Can & will make self heard.
      (2) No voice so full as the ocean.
6. In his r. hand—7 stars.
   a. Lit. "hold in strong grasp"
   b. Jesus possessor & upholder of church.
7. Out of his mouth—sharp 2 edged swords.
   a. Cuts—long & heavy broadsword—sharp to stab—2 edged to hew.
   b. Victory bloodless—conquerors mind.
   Heb. 4:12
8. His face—"as the sun shineth in his st."
   a. None so bright as Jesus—uncloaked power.
   b. No artist to reproduce—think not of robe for instance but what robe portrays.

IV. JOHN'S REACTION.
   v-17 "And when I saw him, I fell at his ft.
   A. A sinking of nature precedes a communion with heaven—Wesley."
The cares that infest the day
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs
And silently steal away.

West End 5/11/58
Lawton 7/2/58
Dodge City 6/7/58
Athens, Ala. 9/7/58
Leesville, N.C. 6/25/60
Perry's Chapel 7/24/00
Silver Point - 7/24/00
There was once a lady who was very beautiful except for her hands, which were misshapen and marred. For many a long day her little daughter had wondered what was the meaning of those repulsive hands. At last she said to her: "Mother, I love your face, and I love your eyes and your hair, they are so beautiful. But I cannot love your hands, they are so ugly." Then the mother told her about her hands: how ten years ago the house had taken fire, and how the nursery upstairs was in a blaze, and how she had rushed to the cradle and snatched the baby from it, and how her hands from that hour had been deformed. The baby saved was her listening daughter. And then the daughter kissed the shapeless hands she used to shrink from.

—DORAN'S MINISTERS MANUAL, 1944, p. 112
JESUS AUTOBIOGRAPHY - Rev. 1:17-20
I. THE VOICE JOHN SAW (DESCRIBE IN v-13-17) NOW DESCRIBES HIMSELF.
II. BEFORE SEEING WHAT HE SAID— I WANT US TO NOTICE WHERE HE WAS— "IN THE MIDST OF THE 7 GOLDEN—"
   A. Candlesticks.
      1. The churches. v-20 (mystery disclosed secret)
         a. Contrast Jew candlestick ☿ & the independent candle stand. Jew's in Rome—Chr. now taking over.
            1) Independent—each on own base, each gave own light, each co-operated in sending light & getting letters.
            2) Autonomous - no central heirarchy
         b. Golden = precious & sacred.
         c. Give light = not own - from Jesus, not for self, but others, needs care, can go out, remove.
         d. Jesus ever there - in, not out of church.

III. JESUS SELF DESCRIPTION.
   A. Says, "Fear not"—must be a reason he can
   B. It's in his authority:
      1. Stated v-17 "I am the 1st & the last"
         a. Alpha - Omega  A & Z
            1) Eternal existence—co-creator.
            2) Can finish what he started.
            3) Can't be two 1st—God and Jesus are one. Phil. 2:6 "Who being in
      2. Achieved v-18 "I am he that liveth & was
         Note these 3 things—the epitome of gospel. I Cor. 15:1-3.
a. "I am he that liveth"
   1) I came to seek & save — born a savior — to this end.
   b. "I am he that was dead"
   1) I became dead — willing — literally
   2) He was crucified for our sins.
   3) See sin is serious.
      Rom. 3:25 "Whom God hath set forth
   c. "And behold, I am alive for evermore"
      1) Resurrection & ascension.
      2) Source of life — death no more has dominion.
      Jn. 11:25 "I am the resurrection"
      3) "Behold" — I demonstrate — not "going to" — Acts 2:27 "Because thou wilt
      S. His authority restated — "I have the keys of hell & — " v-18.
   a. No wonder could say "write", "Go" et
   b. Competent — victory over all enemies.
      II Thess. 2:18: "Clothing with brightness of glory
   c. Keep to both groups of Hadean world.
      Hades = unseen — abode of disembodied spirits — good or bad.
      1) To conqueror is given keys — see unseen — comfort to our dead — we leave to be with one with whom acquainted. Death is entrance to where Christ is.
   d. Jesus all sufficient — let nothing usurp his power.
      1) The head that once was crowned.
I CARRY A WHITE STONE  
Rev. 2:12-17

I. With me visit an ancient city.
   A. Pergamos, most northern of the 7.
      1. Pliny called it "by far the most famous city in Asia".
      2. Not on any great road.
      3. Capital 400 yr. at John’s writing.
         (a) Always an expectancy in a capital city.
      4. Built on top of conical hill, dominated valley of River Caicus, 15 mi. away Med. Sea seen.
      5. Center of culture, not commerce.
      6. Library had 200,000 parchment rolls.
         Second only to Alexandria’s library.
         (a) Population of 14,000. (2nd C. AD.)
         (b) Parchment named from Pergamum.
         (c) See card on its origin.
      7. Was a religious center - Satan’s seat.
      8. It was custodian of Gk. way of life.
         (a) In front of Temple of Athene - an altar - in front of 800' Temple. Altar 40' hi - projecting ledge of rock looked like throne - smoked always via sacrifice to Zeus.
      9. Seat of healing - used symbol of serpent.
         (a) Birthplace of Galen, next to Hippocrates in medicine.
(b) Coins of the city had an effigy of a rod encircled by a serpent.

(c)

10. Center of Caesar worship.
(a) It unified Rome.
(b) Once per yr. went to city's Emperor Temple to burn pinch of incense & say, "Caesar is Lord!"
(c) Then he filled out written certificate to prove he made act of worship.
(d) He said, "Caesar is Lord."
(e) Then he could go worship whomsoever he would.
(f) Chr. couldn't thus lived as a revolutionary - outlawed.
(g) Roman governors divided into two classes - those who had right of sword & those who didn't.

B. It was to the church in this city Jesus wrote a letter.

II. Contents of Letter
A. Jesus has a sharp 2 edge sword
  1. Lord's 2 edged is more powerful!
  2. Sword's sharp - penetrates & reveals thots & intents.
  3. Sword's absolute authority's symbol.
B. He knows our works.
  1. They didn't deny faith.
C. He knew where they dwelt.

1. Where you stay = home = permanent.
   It's an unusual word for Chr.
2. To be a Chr. here was Cromwell's "an engagement very difficult".
3. Chr. usually a pilgrim.
4. People had to stay there - the Chr. did.
5. Principle of Chr. is not escape but conquest.
   (a) Don't run - be a Chr. wherever you are.
   (b) To witness often meant martyrdom.
   (c) Do we play down our Chr. in certain circles.
   (d) It can be costly for you to be true.

D. Satan's seat's there.

1. Satan's got a throne - earth
2. Cor. 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath
   Nothing gained by under estimating
   enemy strength or closing our eyes to it.
   Matt. 4:8-9 "Again the devil taketh him up into
   Luke 4:6 "And the devil said unto him, "All
   3. Not dwellers in, but pilgrims thru this world.

E. Haven't denied name.

1. Here orthodoxy stood its ground but moral
   purity had been lost.
2. True to confession - holds name fast.
3. Must be stedfast to please God.

I Tim. 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay
Heb. 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of faith."
4. Hold fast Christ's name. His name is a symbol of His person.
5. Faithful to system of religion.
6. All Chr. are tested.
Jn. 15:19-20 "If ye were of the world, the world would love you, but when ye were out of the world, then they hated you, because they knew not the Father." Jn. 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that ye should have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the ways of the Lord; and so they were comforted." 2 Tim. 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 7. We know little about Antipas. (a) Jesus gives Antipas his own title.
Rev. 1:5 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the \text{\textcopyright{}} of God, and the \text{\textcopyright{}} of the Lamb; who liveth for ever and ever; and \text{\textcopyright{}} \text{\textcopyright{}} the ages of ages. Amen."
Rev. 3:4 "Thou hast a few names even in Sard" (a) Jesus gives Antipas his own title. E. Yet some things wrong & off. (a) Like Balak (name means little bird) -- there are some who have no real relationship, only nominal profession to true church.
1. Church has no right to "settle on borders of Moab". Max Beerbohm, "Happy Days of 1918"
2. Censors those who fellowship false teachers. Readers Digest "Lost Control"
3. No reliable church history to tell us about Nic. Constantine cards
5. Error there as Chr. taught to use a prudent conformity; cautious policy of compromise c practices & morals of the world. Creed card
(a) If you can't be different, can't be a Chr.
2 Cor. 6:17 "Come ye out from among
6. Doesn't involve isolation, separation, contempt & hatred for world.
1 Cor. 9:22 "To the weak became I as weak,
7. Lift the world to the level of Chr. - not visa versa.
8. Wrath of Christ against those who would lead others astray.
9. Fornication absolutely wrong; meats to idols relatively.
10. Nic. taught Chrs. not subj. to moral law.
G. Repent or else!
1. Read - He could have the conviction they didn't what I said.
2 Cor. 7:10 "For godly sorrow worketh repent:
2. Else is sword
(a) His sword is the word.
Matt. 3:8 "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for
(b) Confront a man c truth - he'd see his failure.
(c) Let him see the invitation to God.
(d) Let him see assurance of Salv. in the word.
Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other.
3. Else he'll expose guilty parties
Heb. 10:31 "It is a fearful thing to fall into the
Heb. 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over
III. The man who overcomes has 2 things
   A. One is Hidden Manna
      1. See:
         Exo. 16:11-15 "And the Lord spake unto Moses,
         Exo. 16:33-34 "And Moses said unto Aaron,
         Heb. 9:4 "Which had the golden censer, and
      2. Abstain from the world & eat Heavenly
         food.
      3. Abstain from Earth's seductions & enjoy
         Heaven's blessing.
   B. Other is white stone c a new name
      1. Some stones were strung & used for
         counting - you are numbered among the
         faithful.
      2. Juries voted by putting black for guilt or
         white stones for acquittal in an urn.
      3. Ancients had a little white stone tablet
         conferring an honor on possessor.
      4. Athletic victors where given above &
         meant free access to public games,
         entertainment = Chr. sharing honors c
         his Lord.
      5. Some gladiators fought til killed.
      6. Other gladiators so spectacular & such
         crowd pleasers retired, given a
         tessera (white tablet) with SP written on
         it. It stood for spectatus = a man whose
valor has been proved beyond a doubt.
Such a Chr. ready to enter God's rest.
7. Or ancients carried amulet or charm.
8. Could be a precious stone or pebble.
(a) White stone is "vote by Pebble".
Acts 26:10 "Which thing I also did in Jerusalem"
(b) Jesus votes for me!
9. Put their god's name on it for to know
his name gave possessor some power -
he could call him up.
10. No one else was to know the name on it.
11. Chr. knows God's name is therefore
safe. "Keep those kids quiet"
12. White is heaven's color.
13. It's a whiteness that glistens & shines
like the snow - dazzling purity.
14. Rev. full
Rev. 3:5 "He that overcometh, the same shall
Rev. 7:9 " After this I beheld, and, lo, a great
Rev. 19:8 "And to her was granted that she
Rev. 19:14 "And the armies which were in
Rev. 20:11 "And I saw a great white throne
15. New is also a characteristic of Heaven.
Means new in point of time & that there
is nothing like it before.
Rev. 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a
Rev. 5:9 "And they sung a new song, saying,
Rev. 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new
Rev. 21:5 "And he that sat upon the throne
16. Christ gives a new status to those faithful to Him.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chest End</td>
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<td>7-11-69</td>
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<td>Highland, Abilene</td>
<td>10-10-69</td>
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<td>Peter Sh., Park Arthur</td>
<td>10-24-69</td>
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<td>12-4-69</td>
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<td>Northside Church, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>1-30-70</td>
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<td>Allentown, Ky Church</td>
<td>8-31-78</td>
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<td>South Ave. Church, Franklin, Ky</td>
<td>9-14-78</td>
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For many centuries ancient rolls of papyrus existed containing the writings. Papyrus is a substance made of pith of a very large bulrush which grows beside the Nile. The pith was extracted, cut in strips, pressed into sheets, and smoothed. There emerged a substance not unlike brown paper, and this was the substance universally used for writing. In the third century B.C. a Pergamene king called Eumenes was very anxious to make a library of Pergamum supreme. In order to do so he persuaded – or even bribed – Aristophanes of Byzantrum, who was librarian at Alexandria, to agree to leave Alexandria and to come to Pergamum. Ptolemy of Egypt was enraged at this seduction of his
Outstanding scholar. By way of retaliation he put an embargo on the exports of papyrus to Pergamum. Faced with this situation the scholars of Pergamum invented parchment of elm, which is made of the skins of beasts, smoothed, polished, and prepared for writing. In point of fact parchment is much superior and centuries later ousted papyrus altogether as a substance for writing.

--Barclay

Once a cranky grandpa lay down to take a nap. To have a little fun, his grandson put some Limburger cheese on his mustache. Grandpa awoke with a snort and charged out of the bedroom saying, "This room stinks." And through the house he went. He finally was forced outside only to find out that "The whole world stinks!" This dismal experience can't happen to the person who is learning to say a positive word to everyone."

LIFE IS TREMENDOUS
by Charles E. Jones
Page 14 "Leadership is Learning to Live"
Max Beerbohm wrote a story called "The Happy Hypocrite." It is about Lord George Hell, who was an unscrupulous villain. Not only was he mean inside, he looked the part outside. Just seeing his face made people afraid of him. He fell in love with a young girl, Little Miss Mere, who was both beautiful and innocent.

She refused him, however, because as she said, "I can never be the wife of a man whose face is not saintly."

Because he wanted her so much, Lord George Hell had the finest maskmaker make him a mask that was saintly. With the mask of a saint, he again sought the love of Miss Mere and won it, and they were married.
Day by day he sought to keep up his hypocrisy. He was careful to be unselfish, attentive, and patient. He constantly held in check his evil tendencies in order to appear a saint.

But one day an old enemy found him, and in the presence of his lovely wife, ruthlessly tore off Lord Hell's mask. But when the mask was removed, a saint's face was revealed. He had actually become what he had practiced being day by day. The faith that he had kept, at the last kept him.

Practice keeping faith day by day, and one day you will have enough to keep you.

Allen, Charles L. *Life More Abundant*, page 63-64.
LOST CONTROL

Reader's Digest recently carried the story of the man filling out an insurance report explaining how his wife damaged the family car, "She backed through the garage door, ran over our son's bicycle, knocked down a bush, drove through the flower bed, and then lost control of the car..." Laughable though it is, it rather poignantly parallels the religious situation today. Modernist teachers have for years been careless with the Bible. They have debunked its claims for inspiration, denied its miracles, questioned its relevance, ridiculed its accuracy. Having thus undermined faith in the word of God, and having removed its moral restraints from society, they have "lost control" completely, and we are seeing an ever swifter breakdown of morals. "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." (Hosea 8:7).
Not infrequently our actions are misleading and therefore misunderstood. A tired commuter found a seat on the aisle opposite a man and two whimpering children. It had been one of "those days" at the office. The father across the aisle seemed unable to quiet the children and their crying wore on the nerves of our commuter friend. Finally he leaned over and blurted, "Mister, can't you do something to stop your kids from whinin' and snivelin'? Some of us would like a little peace and quiet!" The man turned for a moment from the children and answered, "I'm sorry, but I don't know what I can do about it. You see, my wife was buried this morning. I ... I don't think I'll be able to quiet them for a while."

"Helping Youth in Conflict" by Francis I. Frelick

Page 92
WHERE SATAN'S SEAT IS
Rev. 2:12-17

I. One of the 7 churches was Pergamos.
II. Certain things were said your mind must picture.
A. He that has the sharp sword with 2 edges.
   1. Sharp - penetrate small opening.
   2. Cuts both ways.
      a.) Converts & condemns.
      b.) Saves - slaps.
   3. Meet power of Rome c power of Word.
   4. Truth penetrates.
   5. Word speaks!
B. I Know Thy Works.
   1. God knows it's difficult to be holy in a hostile environment.
   2. Don't know origin of the church.
   3. To say Lord Jesus was to be persecuted; Lord Caesar was to escape it.
   4. Dwelt - among many temples but really lived there - not just passing thru.
C. Hold fast name -
   1.) Tolerate a little wrong leads to loss of influence.
   2.) Church had a living relationship c Jesus.
   3.) Caesar worship c incense got license for 1 yr.
D. Not denied faith - Antipas.
   1. Antipas an individual demonstration of loyalty.
2. Died for his faith.
3. Only reference to him.
4. Killed because of their witness to faith thus their name came to mean martyr.
5. One great crisis - he stood firm.

III. Some things you do picture.

A. Where thou dwellest.
1. In Turkey - most northern of 7.
2. From port Dikili - fish harbor - not tourist.
3. Agean coast.
4. Pergamos - Bergamus - 29 miles - (18 miles inland.)
5. Hospital.
   a.) Occupational theory of cure.
   b.) Use theatre, books, etc. except medicine arts.
   c.) Dream house, listened to running water
   d.) Doctor - Priest. mud baths in thermal water
   e.) Listen thru holes in tunnel.
   f.) Hot springs & mud baths. 
   g.) Healing water. 

6. 3 cultures - Hellenistic strongest.
7. City from hi hill to hospital in size.
8. Roman emperor often came.
9. Place of wealth. - Town at 160,000 then.
   a.) 200,000 vol. library.
   b.) 2nd only to Alexandria.
    Gamus = marriage.
12. 3 mi. no. of River Caicus.
14. 1st place in all the empire to give divine honor to Emperor.
15. Last outpost of Greek civilization.
16. 2 hi mt. mark city.
17. 14,000 folk now.
18. City of wealth & fashion.
19. Temple to Augustus dedicated 29 BC & to Goddess Roma, thus center of state religion.
20. Zeus altar 800' above city.
   a.) 200,000 vol.
   b.) Antony gave to Cleo & moved it to Egypt.
   c.) Made parchments.
   d.) From skins (pergamena charta) (paper of Pergamos.)
22. Famous for statuary too.
B. Satan's Seat.  
   1. Aesculapius worshipped (Asclepius).
      a.) Imperial cult of Rome worshipped him.
      b.) Serpent the symbol.
      c.) Invalids came to be healed.
      d.) Study dreams, if healed leave money.
      e.) School of Medicine here c Galen.
      f.) Coin of city shows effigy of rod encircled by serpent.
2. Many altars & temples.
Cable couldn't hear man - they were talking at parties: digested
man went home - saw 2 seconds before head 2 crumple later -
died from head to press & got well. Either legend:
union study which I cannot read.

Lesa didn't - 1980 BC (2) steps to complete - 36 steps to
common - second tower of Acropolis.

Check End 2-19-78.
SOME BREAD - A ROCK - A NAME
Rev. 2:17-18

1. What do you want out of life?
   A. A home - big & splendid.
   B. See the world.
   C. Rich, Powerful - button pusher.
   D. Some bread, a Rock, a Name.

Rev. 2:17-18 "He that hath an ear, let him hear wha

II. That was Christ's wish for Pergamos.
   A. Hidden Manna.
      1. Retell the Manna story.
      Exo. 16:32-34 "And Moses said, This is the thing whi
      Heb. 9:4 "Which had the golden censer, and the ark
      2. It's an honor to eat your bread.
      3. It's essential I have some.
      4. When I go where I've never been before, I ask
         directions of those who have been there: maps,
         talk, etc.
      5. Bread of life.

6. Hidden - because it's so very precious to us.
   B. White Stone.
      1. Sign of acquittal - Paul casted his against Chr.-
      2. Token of favor.
      3. Used in calculations, thus a time of reckoning.
      4. Eternally something individual between God &
         you.
5. "Well done."
C. New name.
1. In stone - permanent.
2. Written - public & unalterable.
3. New name shows advancement in life - Jacob to Israel.
5. New character no one else knows as I knew heart before God - our little secret.

Mrs. Nina Salmon's Funeral 2-14-78
LET ME BE WITH THE MINORITY
Rev. 3:1-6

I. To hear "minority" what flashes in your mind?
A. Could have to do with color or nationality.
B. It might be a political section.
C. Could be religious.
D. It might be affection for the underdog.

II. The Bible speaks of a "few names that have not defiled themselves"—that's the minority where I want to be counted.
A. It appears in the Sardis story.
B. It could be in congregations today.

III. The church at Sardis in location.
A. One of the 7 in Asia.
B. Located in an unusual town.
   1. Capitol of ancient Lydia.
   2. Located on an acropolis, 3 sides of it sheer cliff, 4th side approached by a narrow isthmus—so narrow a handful of men could defend it against thousands—thus thought to be impregnable.
   3. 30 miles south of Thyatira.
   4. At foot of Mt. Timolus.
   5. 3 miles south of Hermes River.
   6. Built on a smooth almost perpendicular rock hill, rising 1500 feet from plain below.
   7. Overlooked wide and fertile river valley.
   8. Noted for Kings and their wealth, splendor and luxury.
9. Crassus spoken of as one of extreme wealth--Bill Gates of his day.
10. Destroyed 1402 AD and never rebuilt. At present time there are 2 columns that stand from an ancient temple.
11. Cyrus King of Persia took the city 549 BC as a soldier--perhaps told by a slave friend a crevice in the rock hill, led a band of soldiers to summit and took city by surprise--silently came as a thief in the night.
12. 330 years later Antiochus the Greek took the city the same way--2X as thief in the night--thus these words hit hard at churches.

IV. He with 7 spirits and 7 stars spoke as the divine message of Jesus is carried out.
A. I know you have works and a name.
   1. Relative to works what must Jesus think of a church that spends all its money on itself--nothing for the inward man, only the outer.
   2. Property costs millions and we baptize less than 12 a year outside their own children.
   3. Our name is great before men--what about before God?
   4. Do we seek only the temporal?
   5. Is the fountain of life here on this earth?
   6. War, age, weather, earthquake remove most of the things we lay up in store.
7. Compromise with their pagan environment had so eroded the witness of the church that it was a Christian church in name only. (Hailey)
8. Name said you live—reputation on that seen without—man said alive—God said dead.

B. God Said Dead
1. Nothing too costly to buy for themselves, but so far as reaching out to world they were dead.
2. No enemies outside themselves. Folks don't disturb the dead, only the living.
3. They had a past but no future.
4. Good on promise, poor on execution.
5. Externally it looked peaceful and acceptable, maybe a model—but dead.

C. Remedy – Be Watchful, strengthen things that remain that are ready to die.
1. Look to the real condition of the church.
2. Sheer carelessness, over confidence, bring failure.
3. Twice the city fell due to lack of watchfulness.
4. Eternal vigilance is the bulwark of the faith and safety of the saints. (Hailey)
5. Strengthen only here in Rev.—includes lawful principles, activities, services—also individuals. It's renewal—come back to received & heard.
6. Establish firmly things that remain—take inventory.
7. Hold fast to the end.
8. Perfect—to bring to completion.
9. Jesus used "my God"—John is only one who writes it.

D. Further help—Remember what you received—Repent.
1. Both Sardis and Ephesus told to remember.
2. Know nothing of the origin of the church, but to be asked to remember what was received and heard must mean it began in a good way.
3. No material worth can keep a man's name on the roll.
4. Repent—turn from lethargy and death.
5. Else thief comes.

E. That Minority—Few names.
1. Some remained spiritually alive and testified to the truth all could have done so.
2. Lord knows the congregation as individuals and is mindful of each one's special entity.
3. Minority loyal.
4. Garments not defiled—not polluting the life cleansed by the blood.
5. Walk—only the living walk, dead are inert.
6. Walk means fellowship, oneness, mutual agreement.
7. White
   a) Purity
   b) White Christ wore at transfiguration.
   c) Angel--wore it.
   d) Church wears it in glory (Rev.19:8)
Ps. 51:7 "Wash me and I shall be whiter"
8. Worthy
   a) Be with Christ
   b) Achievers
   c) Threefold--arrayed in white--array to throw around, put around, put on, clothe one's self, not blot out, be confessed.
9. Not blot out--blot out possible.
Matt. 10:32
Luke 12:8
   a) Book of life 7X in N.T.
   b) Spiritually dead not in it.
   c) Resisted apostacy.
10. Confessed
   a) Have name called when crown of life given.
   b) God says it before entire heavenly host.
Silver Point, TN - 7/23/00
Walter Hill - 7/30/00
Riverwood - 9/10/00
In the January 1983 issue of Christianity Today there was an interesting article by Methodist Bishop Emerson S. Calaw. In a speech in Minneapolis he outlined what had happened to many “mainstream” churches in 1980. He reported:

- Methodist lost 69,000 members in 1980.
- Episcopal lost 55,000 members in 1980.
- Presbyterian lost 53,000 members in 1980.
- Lutheran lost 9,000 members in 1980.

What I found significant were the reasons he gave for this decline:

1. White birth rate slowed to - 0 - growth.
2. Nation’s population growing older.
3. Failure to develop an urban strategy.
4. Shift from lay evangelism to dependence on professional clergy.

There is something we can learn from this report. Points 1 and 2 may just be sidestepping the real issues. But points 3 and 4 have got to be considered.

**Do we have a strategy planned for reaching people?**

Anytime you do not plan, based on good research, you will not reach your potential. Jesus had a plan. In Acts 1:8, the disciples were told to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and then to the rest of the world. Christ had spent His life training men who would be dedicated, informed and inspired to carry out His plan. A strategy -- how we need one!

**Real growth involves the whole body.** People come to church primarily because of an invitation from a friend (70 - 90%). Each member has an opportunity and responsibility to your lost friends and relatives. If we just depend on the preachers to do this work, then what’s happening to the Methodists, Episcopal, etc. will happen to us, too. Life - or death - is in your hands.
THE VOICE OF JESUS--HOW DOES IT SOUND?
Revelation 3:20-22 "Now to him who overcomes I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne."

I. Voices are interesting things.
A. They are distinctive--Bro. Harpers always wants to know if I know him.
B. They are recognizable usually--unless women sing tenor!
1. We picture person via voice.
2. Lady at Grace said of A.R. Holton "Wish he had not come."
3. Of course voices change as we grow up.
C. Voice of Jesus most distinctive.
1. Voice of God--don't bequeath it to man.
2. Jesus' voice like: "Sheep hear his voice."
   a. "Celleth out by name."
      John 10:3-5 "To him the porter openeth; and the ungodly sceat them not."
   b. Teacher.
      Matt. 5:1 "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain."
   c. Suffering Servant.
      Matt. 27:46 "And about the ninth hour Jesus called a loud cry."
      Matt. 27:50 "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice."

II. What does his voice sound like?
E. K. Emurian did it with all A's.
A. Voice of authority.
1. Teach.
   Matt. 7:29 "He taught as one having authority..."
2. Healed.
   Luke 4:36 "For with what authority he commanded..."
   "the unclean spirits..."
Matt. 11:28
Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden;
John 3:16
Whosoever believeth in him shall have everlasting life.
John 10:10
My sheep hear my voice.
John 6:37
Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.
Rev. 21:3
And I heard a great voice saying

B. Voice of Assurance and Acceptance
Mk. 11:28
"There came a voice from heaven saying..."
Matt. 11:28
"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden;"
John 3:16
"Whosoever believeth and is baptized..."
John 10:10
"My sheep hear my voice..."
John 6:37
"Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out;"
Rev. 21:3
"And I heard a great voice saying..."

C. The Voice of Accusation
   Matt. 15:14
   "They be blind leaders of the blind..."
2. Corrupters.
   John 2:16
   "My house shall be called..."

D. Voice of Assignment
1. Samaritan parable.
   Lu. 10:37
   "Go and do thou likewise..."
   Mk. 10:21
   "Go, sell, what you have..."
3. Preach.
   Matt. 28
It would be hard to imagine our house without a copy of the scriptures in it. Yet for millions of people behind the iron and bamboo curtain such is the case. The Far East Broadcasting Co. has been organized to do something about it - their's is a unique service - they read the Bible slowly enough so that they may write it out in long hand. "Gospel by dictation is now penetrating the various countries which have been enveloped in satanic Communism. Portions of the Bible are read at dictation speed so that the listener can copy them down as they hear the words given over the air," said Pres. Robert Bowman of the SEBC. I wonder how much we appreciate our privilege.

Beware of False Lights

On the outer banks of North Carolina, not far from Kitty Hawk where the Wright Brothers first flew their air-plane, is the community known as Mags Head. In the days of pirates, one person tied a lantern around the neck of an old nag, and then led the tired beast up and down the sand dunes so that the light shone out over the Atlantic Ocean. Ship captains, seeing the light gently bobbing up and down, thought it came from another ship safely riding at anchor within a sheltered harbor. But when the captain tried to put into the same safe harbor, his ship piled up on the treacherous shoals and the pirates came aboard, forced the crew to "walk the plank" and then plundered the vessel before burning it. Beware those false religious lights carried aloft by false Messiahs who claim to be the one true light of God.
He Looked Into Heaven - Rev 4:1

I. Go with me outside Jer. to visit scene of Mat. 11.
A. Day by day, Mary Mag. & other Mary came.
B. Angel who rolled away stone spoke.
C. Mat. 27:56 Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek.
D. Go quickly & tell his disciples that he is rise.

II. Around this controversy reads:
A. I believe Rom. 1:4 Declared to be the Son
B. I don't want any annual celebration however.
C. But it's a logical faith, I must show why.
D. Jesus didn't from Rom. law demanded death.
E. Either stolen by enemies, friend else arose.
F. Enemies? a) no motive
G. b) No desire - stone, sword, seal, watch, sure.
H. c) Never made such claim.
I. d) Known where abouts & produced corp & seat & Art.

III. Followers?
A. Guard asleep, testified, unpunished.
B. Phys. impossible - 15 to be come, then created.
C. No motive! D. Died for this faith.

IV. He arose & went to Heaven (Mt. Oliv., noonish) Acts 1:9-11

V. Why to Heaven? May I on God's sound treat
Rev 4#5annon scene. You picture it.
A. Opened door - yet John awaited invitation
to come & write - are we as humble or are we presumptious?
B. See for yourself! Let's look at Heaven!
1. One on it. Throne God, Glory. No description of person (words no image) only splendor of being.
2. Like deeper, last stone in breast plate, pure, brilliant, like dia (Bib. stones of wisdom).
3. Like seraph, face, the ever burning.
4. Foolishness - the carnal rainbow, green
5. Soft, faithful, majestic, mercy, bond, keeps word.
6. Around - 24 elders (elders represent people they serve - are those faithful of all corporations?
7. Out of - lightning, thunder, voices, thunder.
8. Before - see of glass, crystal, domes, no wonder.
9. Offered best, where sacrifices pass.
10. In habitants.
11. And - Rev 5: 2
13. They endoeth the worship. "H. H. H. C.
14. One missing!
15. He saw Jesus come.
16. Book in fl. hand, seal, written in four binders, precious, complete.
19. Jesus' crown is yours. Ever since by faith I saw.
WHEN THEY OPENED HEAVEN'S DOOR
Rev. 4:1

1. I want to tell you about the day a door was opened in Heaven.
   A. It's not a private vision - I never had one.
   B. It's not a speculative quotation - that would do you no good.
   C. It's not the information of one who knows infallible all things - Revelation is not a simple
      book for me - I'm ever learning.
   D. It's not a doubting jest - I believe there is a
      Heaven. Read Rev. 4:1 "After this I looked, & b
      1. I believe there is a Heaven.
      2. I believe Heaven communicates c earth.
      3. I believe Heaven speaks c unalterable authority.

II. I Believe There is a Heaven.
   A. The Bible proclaims it.
      1. Enoch & Elijah went there. 2En 5 2Kings 2
      2. Moses returned from it. 3Mose 17
      3. Paul I assume saw it but couldn't tell. 2Cor 12
      4. There is a yearning in my soul for more than
         earth grants.
      5. John went thru an open door; journeyed in his
         vision from earth to court of heaven & told what
         he saw!
         (a) Door was set open - he didn't see it open.
         (b) Shows access - suggests you enjoy hospitality
            of the host. Tell at long to when I said come in.
      6. Tyndale says heaven used in several-ways.
         (a) God's dwelling place. NewJer. 808
            Rev. 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar
Rev. 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

(c) Place of conflict.

Rev. 12:7 "And there was war in heaven: Michael and

(d) Sky.

Rev. 6:13 "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth.

B. I Believe Heaven Communicates with Earth.

1. I've seen earth's palaces but never invited in.

2. John heard the voice of a trumpet.

(a) Trumpet hard to ignore!

(b) Can't easily disregard.

(c) Voice was perhaps Jesus - he alone takes us to Heaven.

(d) It was imperative & understandable.

3. It extended an invitation.

V. 1 "Come up thither & I will shew thee

(a) None must intrude into the secrets of God

(b) Enter the Open Door.

(c) Rev. speaks of other doors.

(1) Opportunity - Kingdom.

Rev. 3:8 "I know thy works: behold, I have set before

(2) Heart - man can or can't.

Rev. 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if

(3) Revelation.

Rev. 4:1 "After this I looked, and, behold, a door wa

C. Heaven Speaks Authoritatively.

V. 1 "I will shew the things which

1. It must happen.

2. The unfolding of divine will must occur.

4. Victory to be the Christian's - Rev. shows this - this chapter is key as to why it's coming.

IV. Today:
   A. Heaven's Real.
   B. It communicates via Word.
   C. It's full and final - therefore, act.

    Rev. End. 7-7-74

7-13-74 - Bible P/0 V.I.M. (Hill-Covey)
Northfield Road V.B.S. 7-22-74
Brant St. Church, Shreve, Ala. 8-6-74
Eastlake Church, Colorado-Springs 8-25-74

Highland Bb., Memphis 10-2-74
AC Lecture, 10-23-74
29th St. Church, Tulsa, Okla. 11-14-74
Metcalf Church 11-21-74

Highwood P./W. Church, Dallas 12-5-74
Montefiore Church, Shreve, Okla. 1-31-75

Winnipeg, Man. Church 11-13-75
THE ONE WHO SITS ON HEAVEN'S THRONE
Rev. 4:1-3
I. If Revelation is called the Throne Book of the N.T.,
   (and well it should: (1) Mentioned in every chapter
   except 2, 8, 9 (2) 62X in N.T. - 47X in Rev.)
   then Chapter 4 should be the Throne Chapter (14X -
   12X to God & 2X to elders).
A. Prepositional phrases center on it.
   1. On - God & elders.
   2. Round - Rainbow, elders, 4 beasts.
   3. Out of - Lightening, thunder, voices.
   4. Before - 7 lamps of fire, sea of glass, elders cast
crowns.
   5. Midst - 4 beast.
B. Throne Room of Heaven the Scene to which John
   was invited, & for a purpose. He's going to see the
   Majesty of God & the Power of Christ. It's to that
   scene we invite you to come.
II. Throne Set in Heaven.
   A. What's the significance of a throne?
      1. Shows royal status.
      2. Shows dominion & power.
      3. Reveals majesty.
      4. We'll see universal dominion of God - all other
         thrones beneath His.
   B. One sat on the throne.
      1. It isn't Christ - for only thru Christ is the one on
         the throne to be known!
      2. It's God - never dethroned by any.
      3. God on the throne.
Ps. 47:8 "The Lord reigneth over the heathen; God sitth.

Isa. 6:1 "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also

Ps. 97:2 "Righteousness & judgment are the habitation

(a) He's seated - shows honor, rest, satisfaction.
(b) He's fixed, secure, durable.
(c) One sat is present participle, continuity.

4. God described not as a man by jewels.
(a) Ottman, "God's like the coalescent hues of two precious gems."
(b) God is light.

1 Jn. 1:5 "God is light & in him is darkness at all

(c) Not in human form, shuns anthropomorphic details.
(d) He's like the flash of gems in color.
(e) Stones are Jasper & Sardis (ज्यार्स, सार्डीस).
(1) Jasper translucent rock crystal like diamond.
(2) Sardis - Red - often they engraved on it.
(f) Hard to know for certain what these stones were.

Ezek. 28:13 "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God

Exo. 28:17 "And thou shalt set in it settings of stones,

Rev. 21:19 "And the foundations of the wall of the cit

(g) God not described in human features but in transcendent brightness.

C. Round the throne the Emerald Rainbow.
1. Emerald is green.
2. We don't know whether vertical or horizontal in its surrounding.
(a) If Jasper unbearable purity of God.
(b) If sardian his avenging wrath.
(c) Then emerald his mercy.
(d) He keeps his promise - God never forgets us.
(e) His pledge is there & all he's promised he will do.
(f) He's got the muscle to master every commitment.

7-14-74 West End (no responses)
Highland St., Memphis 10-2-74
IOC Fellowship 10-23-74
29th & Yale St. Church, Tulsa, Okla. 11-4-74
Methodist Church 11-21-74

Skyline Church, Dallas 12-25-74
Westside Church, Santa Fe 1-1-75

Minneapolis, Minn. Church 11-13-75
THE ACCOUTERMENTS OF THE COURT
Rev. 4:4-6

I. As does any court, heaven's has many features.
   Our task now is to see the accouterments of the court.

II. Round the throne we find.
A. 4 & 20 seats.
   1. The KJV word for seats is really thrones.
   2. Those who are on those thrones are elders.
   3. Multiple interpretations have been given as to their identity & why the no. was 24.
      (a) 24 orders of priest
          I Chron. 24:7-18
      (b) 24 order of Levites
          I Chron. 25:9-31
      (c) They are 12 patriarchs - complete.
          They are 12 apostles.
      (d) Represent the faithful people of God of all ages
      (e) Come face to face c fact we are not told who they were.

4. But I do know some things:
   (a) "Elder is the official title of the highest functionary official of the church", Smith--thus men of honor and ability.
   (b) Their thrones are close to God & enjoy His presence--this is where an elder ought to be.
   (c) Jesus promised thrones.
      Matt. 19:27-29 "Then ans. Peter and said unto him, I
      (d) They are clothed in white raiment.
      (1) Thrones show royal status.
      (2) White shows purity (Rev. 3:4).
(e) They wear golden crowns.
2 Tim. 4:6-8 "For I am ready to be offered and the time
James 1:12 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation
Rev. 2:10 "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give
1 Pet. 5:1-4 "The elders which are among you I exhort
5. I know some things these elders do that should be duplicated by every elder today.
(a) They have earned respect.
(b) They are close to God.
(c) They properly interpret Heaven's word.
Rev. 7:13 "And one of the elders ans. saying unto me,
(d) They encourage the seer.
Rev. 5:5 "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep:
(e) They doff crowns & continuously worship.
B. Out of the throne - lightening, thunder, voices & 7 spirits.
1. Such often associate c voice of God.
Exo. 19:16 "And it came to pass on the third day in th
2. Seven Spirits.
(a) 7 lamps of fire - show the 7 spirits it says.
(b) 7 the fullness of gifts.
Gal. 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, pe
(c) Continuously burned - his inspiration has not been dimmed.
C. Before the throne the Sea of Glass.
1. Hard to interpret. Only one other time Rev. 15:
   2-3.
2. Glass very precious (crystal).
Job 28:17 "The gold & the crystal cannot = it: and the
3. Said varying to represent:
(a) Dazzling purity.
(b) Immense distance between God & man. Let man never be familiar but keep his distance.
(c) Brozen sea before temple in which priest was at.
(d) Dragon.
   (This shows affliction of sinful man)
(e) Nothing prevents God from gazing into depth of any matter.

Book End. 7-21-74

Highland St., Memphis 10-2-74
RCC Lecture. 10-23-74
W.F. Cooper, Dallas, Texa, 11-14-74
Methodist Church 11-21-74

Aspinwall Bible Church, Dallas 12-5-74
Aspinwall Bible Church, 1-31-75

Memorial, Kansas, Church 11-13-75
ABOUT THE THRONE--4 LIVING BEINGS
Rev. 4:6-11

I. John grants the joy of our seeing by faith what he
saw by vision. Some of it isn't easy to comprehend.

II. There were 4 Beasts.
A. In the GK 3 words.
1. Dzoon = 20 X = zoology = living creatures.
2. Therion = 38 X = wild beasts.
3. Ktenos = domestic animal. (Jesus used only the
donkey).
4. For this it's living creatures.
B. No stranger to Bible - Ezek. had such.
Ezek. 1:6 "And every one had 4 faces, and every one
10 "As for the likeness of their faces, they four
22 "And the likeness of the firmament upon the
26 "And above the firmament that was over the

C. What are we to see that's factual about them?
1. Full of eyes before & behind.
   (a) Intelligent.
   (b) Keen of observation.
2. 4 Features.
   (a) Lion.
   (b) Calf.
   (c) Man.
   (d) Eagle.
   (e) Meaning?
      (1) All that's noble, strong, wise, swift in nature.
      (2) Irenaeus said it was Jesus.
      (a) Lion = powerful working = John.
      (b) Ox = sacrifice = Luke.
      (c) Man = incarnation = Matt.
(d) Eagle - gift of HS - Mark.
3. They had 6 wings.
4. Full of eyes within.
5. Worship constantly.
   (a) Always near the Lord.
   (b) Nature & man join in praising God.
Ps. 19:1-2 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and
Ps. 103:22 "Bless the Lord, all his works in all places
   (c) They had duties to perform.
   (d) Life is incomplete unless part of its function is
       to worship God.
   (e) Worship real, not ritual.
   (f) Sleepless praise offered.
   (g) What can you say for God?
       (1) Holy.
       (2) Omnipotent.
       (3) Eternal.
       (4) Worthy.
V. 9 "Give glory & honor, & thanks to him that
   (a) 3X shows Trinity.
   (b) One of 30 heavenly utterances in Rev.
7. Do we emulate?
   (a) Is our praise constant?
   (b) The apostle heard their song - when ours is
       sounded out, what does man hear?
   (c) Are we united?
       Are we thankful? (Not cold or formal).
       Are we humble? (not self confident).
   (d) Banowsky said it was the picture of the
Investiture of the Lamb. To God all creatures bow because to Him all owe their origin.

D. Creatures & Elders Praise God.
1. Doff their crowns in submission.
2. Church today is folk surrendered to Jesus - not to Diotrephes.
3. Man possesses many powers but he's not able to create - shows deference to He who does.
5. God hasn't abandoned world - it's His!

Conclusion: If God had around his throne what he liked, won't He be pleased if I duplicate it here today?

A. Endless worship that's sincere, knowledge;
   Rejoice
   1) Thank  3) Praise
   2) Humility  4) United
B. Extends itself and moves others to worship as they hear our song.
C. They were submissive, worshipped only God!
D. Holy duties performed left no time for sinful pursuits.

Shepherd 7-28-74
L.C. Lettership
10-23-74
Highland St. Memphis 10-2-74
THE BOOK NOBODY COULD OPEN

Rev. 5:1-5

I. Our Court Scene of Heaven Continues.
   A. Attention is now on a Book.
   B. Jesus waits in the Wings.

II. The Unopened Book.
   A. It was in the right Hand of God.
      1. Lay on the palm of God.
      2. Right hand usually strong one.
      3. Jew put low on left hand (Deut. 6) to strengthen it.
      4. Hand of God shows He could translate into power the message.
   B. It was a Full Book.
      1. 1st describe the nature of the book.
         (a) Barclay said it was a roll.
         (b) Other speak of a scroll.
         (c) Papyrus was from pitch of bulrush. Bulrush grew 15' hi - 6' of it below water. Thick as a man's wrist. Pitch extracted & cut into strips, rows of strips laid vertically, on top of them another horizontally, whole moistened c water & glue. Pressed. Resulting substance beaten c mallet & smoothed c pumice stone. Result was substance like brown paper.
         (d) Leaf form of books came into usage 2nd century
   2. Shows fixity, fullness, security.
   3. It was written front & back.
      (a) This called an opisthograph.
      (b) Shows there was a lot to say. Full as it could be.
4. Sealed c 7 seals.
   (a) Complete privacy. *This message of significance.*
   (b) Roman world sealed c 7 seal to attest validity of a will.
   (c) Sealed book of no benefit. It's written to be read.

III. A Strong Angel Calls for an Opener.
   A. Strong Angel - Loud Voice.
      1. Challenge must go to ends of earth.
      2. Book worthy - tells plans of God.
         (a) God has purpose, plan, design for universe.
            Barclay said a goal & a consummation is ahead.
         (b) Purpose of God will be worked out.
         (c) He proclaims - not says.
         (d) Loud voice - urgent, great concern.
      3. Angel's concern is c worthiness - not naked power

B. None Worthy to Open It.
   1. World so bad none could rec. the message of God
   2. Can God deliver a message unless one is fit to rec. it? We might have that many worthy
   3. Was man completely impotent?
   4. Christ alone has key to history & all of it rests in right hand of God - not power of man.
   5. God is sovereign.

C. John Cried Because None Worthy.
   1. Wept much = noisy wailing.
   2. Do we cry because many are ignorant of the gospel. Or because we are, asked Scott.
   3. Are we concerned about the future of the church
4. Some word for weeping of Jesus over Jerusalem (Lu. 19:41).

D. An Elder Said Weep Not.
   1. Comforting to see an elder stop a tear.
   2. Joy to know an elder knew Jesus was in the wing
   3. Comfort to know if we'll just wait God has a
      solution for our tears. Future belongs to God!

E. The Christ Is Introduced.
   1. Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
      (a) Used only here in NT.
      (b) Lamb (cross) is central.
      (c) Contrary excellencies unite in the Redeemer.
   2. Root of David.
   3. Hath prevailed.
      (a) Lit. "he has won a victory."
      (b) Over Sin, Satan, Death.
   Col. 1:15 "And having spoiled principalities
   2 Tim. 1:10 "But is now made manifest
   Heb. 2:14-15 "That thru death he
   Acts 2:32-35 "This Jesus
      (c) Prevailed once for all.
      (d) None but Christ has ability to see title deed &
      claim what He brought a price of His blood.
      (e) Path of suffering brot Jesus to place of power.
   1 Pet. 1:19 "But with the precious blood of the
   4. Has right to open & loose the 7 seals.
      (a) He's able to know the secrets of God.
      (b) Able to reveal them.
      (c) His duty to preside over & control things that
      shall be.

24th End 8-4-14
IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE STOOD A LAMB

Rev. 5:6-7

1. Now we move to the climax of the vision - Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the World.

A. Lion & Lamb - Powerful & Worthy.

Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ...

II. The Lord is Center Stage.

A. The Unopened Book still on the Palm of God.

B. An elder said but one is coming.

C. Behold a Lamb!

1. Midst of throne.
   (a) Center of all attention.
   (b) Center of all named beings.
   (c) Midst of elders.
   (d) Midst of candlesticks.

   1:13 "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks:"

   (e) Us.

   Matt. 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered...

   (f) He turned to see the Lion & saw a Lamb.

2. Stood a Slain Lamb.

   (a) He stood - very much alive.

   (b) Was slain but is alive.

   (1) Even in Heaven Jesus pictured as one who suffered for & loved us. Slaughtered is word.

   (2) Efficacy of death preserved till now.

   (c) Is a Lamb.

   (1) 29 X used in Rev. for Lamb.

   (2) Yet word used here nowhere else in NT.

   (3) John wants you to see a new picture of the Lamb.
(4) Russia - bear
  France - tiger
  England - Lion
  USA - Eagle
  Kingdom - Lamb
(d) Had 7 horns.
  (1) Horn = omnipotence.
  (2) Horn = power & honor, strength
  Irresistible might

1 Sam. 2:1 "And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart r
  (3) Completely adequate for every occasion.
  (4) All authority.

Matt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
Phil. 2
(e) Had 7 eyes.
  (1) Omniscience - Knows all.
  (2) Knowledge.
  (3) Searching vision - nothing hidden from him.

3. The Lamb Took the Book
(a) Jesus recognized.
(b) He alone has power to intercede c God.
(c) No movement of equal majesty in annals of time
(d) Didn’t take by snatching.
(e) Investiture of the King said Erdman.
(f) Recognition of the right of Christ to rule & to
  control events ages to come.

4. 24 elders & 4 living beings worship him.
(a) Earlier worshipped God - now lamb.
(b) Fall down - shows the solemnity of hour.

5. What do you ascribe to the Christ?
THE DAY HEAVEN BURST INTO SONG

Rev. 5:8-10

1. James says, "Is any merry, let him sing"—and so Heaven did.
   A. It's the Coronation Song.
   B. It's the awaited chorus of victory.
2. When he took the Book a response was triggered!
   A. Worship of the Beasts and 24 Elders.
   1. Salute of the living world.
   2. A plant's alive but rooted to one area—living creatures moved everywhere & brought praise—Kuyfer.
   3. Lamb to be seated c Father.
Rev. 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit
4. Each had harps.
   (a) Music of praise.
   (b) Note ea. had one—if instruments today, let ea. have his organ!
5. Ea. vials.
   (a) Full of odors—prayers.
   (b) Prayers are incense.
Lu. 1:10 "And the whole multitude of the people were
Ps. 141:2 "Let my prayer be set before thee as incense
   (c) We don't pray alone—celestial beings do
   (d) Yet every man has open door to God.
   (e) Saints are all God's people.
   (a) Heaven the homeland of music.
   (b) Waves of praise arise—till reaches an unparallel fortisimo.
   (c) Great Oratorio of Redemption.
(d) After all it's the full purpose of God for all the world to recognize His Son.

Phil. 2:9 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him...”

(e) Song is new - Rev. abounds in new things.

(1) Name.

Rev. 2:17 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches."

(2) Jerusalem.

3:12 "Neither shall there be any more day: for the Lord God shall be unto them a God, and they shall be unto him a people."

4:2 "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride decked with jewels."

(3) Heaven.

21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

(4) All things.

21:5 "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new."

(5) Two words for new: (1) in point of time tho not in quality, & (2) new in quality. This song newly produced - nothing like it before.

Isa. 42:10 "Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the new游乐器:"

(f) Message of the Song - Results of Jesus death.

(1) Sacrifice.

(2) Emancipate.

1 Tim. 2:6 "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time:" 

Mk. 10:45 "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Gal. 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: (for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree):"

(3) Universal - came from everywhere.

(4) Availing.

(a) Made us Kings.

(b) Made us priests.

(c) Gave us triumph.

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in the last time ye shall do well, when I shall come again unto you."

(5) Hr. of death we do not lay aside our character - we reassert it.
6. Not shall reign - but present tense - kingdom her Eph. 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made us Heb. 12:23 "To the general assembly and church of th 28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which

B. Worship of Heaven.
1. Reserved for Divinity.
2. Worship is worth ship. Jesus redeemed us, thus owns us.
1 Cor. 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the
3. Salvation is Ransom - it's like a slave purchasing his freedom. Cost $ Jesus Blood!
4. They thank Jesus for doing for them what they could not do for themselves.

C. All humanity salutes.
1. 7 X used in Rev.
7:9 "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude
10:11 "And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy a
11:9 "And they of the people and kindreds and tongues
13:7 "And it was given unto him to make war with
14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of
17:15 "And he saith unto me, The waters which the
WORTHY OF RICHES IS THE LAMB 
SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS

I. Good to be with you & I'm flattered 
   to get to make a speech.

A. About Speeches
   1. LIKE TAILS
      2. Introduce you now? or let them enjoy.
   3. SPEAKER - Hit-Talk About 5 min.
      A. Preachers at house - Exchange
      B. Occasion Worthy - site
         1. Good food - Hubby Hanks - Tangerine
         2. Ladies' house - Seven Crooked - Seamstress
      4. PEA - It you's at home but I'd get ya.
      5. Bon Appetite - Sem Jones, Sister

C. Season? Politics & Packages
   1. Graveyard Voter - Many int. 38, cost 4, IRS
II. What's
A. What on list for success ingredients?
B. Matter how guy feels if does job?

III. Success Qualifications
A. Chris, Morely - learning, sensing, perceiving
B. Knowledge - Teacher 132186 Looker No. 1
C. Originality - Chippewa in law, log of wood from anti-factories
D. Education - Churchill said you'll profit from my experiences
E. Wise heartedness - Dedication, Loyalty is 11:2 Blessed are they that keep his

IV. Singleness of Purpose
A. Seeks with whole heart

1. Of some he has done a great many things badly. (Job vs. Bus team early 3 min.)
2. Zooms in on one thing - Boy Kiss Girl
B. Dedication - Blessed are undetiled
   1. Undetiled = Perfect (E)
   2) NT = Wholeness
   b) OT = Simplicity, genuine need, Sincerely - Conductor Violinist can't come to concert.
2. Full-hearted folk are erect
happy.

3. Loyal to idea (Rev 5:12)
1. Mess of folk of divided heart
2. Let us show united heart and teach.

4. Does Spirit or work matter?
A. Are you happy—goals, values, balance, what told, but heart not in it?
1. Churchill: Train: Can't get on—doesn't stick
2. Seek God's favor in form or ceremony
3. Dismiss—bow head
4. Say Jesus in prayer—"s.t.
5. Ready recollection

B. Does it or insincerity hurt?

6. God asks full heart in love of the Assignment
Ps 17:6 "Then desire truth in the earth"
1. Skies, to give up a as learn how with
Some speeches are like tails. For instance, it might be like a cat's tail, fur to the end. Others are like a rat's, smooth and to the point. Some speeches are like a dog's tail, bound to occur. Whereas there are others like a rabbit's, which are just a suggestion.
DEAR OLD LADY: "Pardon me, sailor, but do those tattoo marks wash off?"

OLD SALT: "Couldn't say, ma'am."

JANE: "That speaker last night sure made a hit."

JENNY: "What did he talk about?"

JANE: "About five minutes."

Ouch

"Parson, every Monday morning I see other ministers meeting at your house. What goes on?"

"We meet and exchange sermons."

"Well... if you ask me, you'd make a poor horse-trader."

My husband often goes fishing and hunting and so we have had a strange assortment of meals, some of which the children haven't enjoyed. One day, my little daughter asked where her father was. I replied that he was out target shooting.

"Oh, no," she wailed, "I suppose we'll have to have target for supper." —Mrs P E IRWIN, Grit, 8-3-69.
As they arrived at a party, a man whispered to his wife, "Your left stocking seam is crooked."
Quickly she made adjustments without being noticed in the crowd. Then she whispered to him, "Is the right one all right?"
"Sure," he said, "it's seamless."
— Sunshine Mag, 11-60

"PEOPLE ARE NO %$@ #& GOOD."

The first day of school began on a bright note for a teacher who was glancing over the roll book.
"Look at those IQ's," she thought to herself. After each student's name was a number, such as 138, 140, 145. "I've got a terrific class!"
The elated teacher tried new methods. The students responded exceptionally well to her creative approach.

Only later did she find out that the figures were not for IQ, but for their locker numbers.

Most of the time, people will be as positive or negative as we expect them to be. Even misplaced confidence is better than despair. When you think about it, God puts an astonishing amount of trust in each one of us.

Father Keller

The young lovers were trying to find some quiet, secluded spot for a long embrace. But everywhere they went there were people, people, people, and the girl was shy.

Suddenly he had a bright idea. Triumphantly he led her to the railway station, and, standing beside the door of a railway carriage as though seeing her off, kissed her fondly.

After the couple had repeated the experiment at four or five platforms, a sympathetic porter strolled up and whispered to the young man, "Take her 'round to the bus stop. They go every three minutes from there." — Rotary Roar, Royal Oak, Mich, quoted in Rotarian, 2-69.
One of Winston Churchill's favorite stories was about a man waiting on the platform one bitter cold night for a London-bound train. Due to some emergency, a monstop express made an unscheduled stop, and the man quickly stepped aboard.

"You can't get on here," objected the conductor. "This train doesn't stop here."

"Very well, then, just forget it," suggested the passenger. "If this train doesn't stop here, then I'm not on it." — The Railway Clerk, 9-69.

A LIL' FUN

to Laugh

THE CONDUCTOR of the community orchestra was almost out of his mind because at every rehearsal at least one member would be missing. At the last rehearsal, he called for attention and said, "I wish to thank publicly the first violinist for being the only member of the orchestra to attend every rehearsal."

"It seemed the least I could do," the violinist said humbly, "since I won't be at the concert tonight."

Five-letter Word

Because her granddaughter
10. -yet read, and Grandma
16. was taking her on a trip. She
5. had taught the youngster to count
15. the number of letters in the
14. door before going into a room. Three for Men, a no.
12. five for Women all right.
11. But after counting five, the
9. youngster still got into the
8. wrong room. Instead of the
7. three-letter "Men," it was
6. "Gents" — five letters just like
5. she'd been taught.
4. Mattoon, Ill. Salute
WORTHY IS THE LAMB
Rev. 5:11-14

1. From Dust to Divinity - Jesus left Bethany to enter Heaven.

A. Go with me back to the Bethany scene.

1. He led them out as far as to Bethany.
   (a) Were against it.
   (b) Hardly central summit of Mt. Olives.
   (c) It's the 40th day - he's withdrawing in a different way.
   (d) They'll no longer see him, but will feel his presence.

John 14:28 "I go away & come again unto you.

2. He lifted up his hands.
   (a) The priest about to ascend to his throne extends nail scarred hands.
   (b) Uplifted hands were the sign of an accepted sacrifice.
   (c) The uplifted hands to bless are the last recollected disciples have.

3. The lips part to bless.

4. He was parted from them.
   (a) To be more nearly c them.
   (b) Bear humanity & touch whole life of man.
   (c) Make intercession.
   (d) Make good his promise.

B. They worshipped him & returned to Jerusalem but where did he go?

1. Worship & joy go together.

2. Joy because now assured of his divine mission.
Eph. 1:22 "Raised up together with Christ & made to sit together in Heavenly places."

3. He passes beyond sphere of man's sensible existence into the open presence of God.

4. Shall we see where He went?

II. There is One Accolade of Praise! Worthy Is the Lamb!

A. With this the Court scene closes.

B. But with this life has meaning.

III. 3 waves of Praise - 1st recorded song of Heaven.

A. Living Creatures.

B. 24 elders.

C. Angels - never said to sing - say, not sing, worth:
   1. $10,000 \times 10,000 = 100,000,000 = 100$ million.
   2. 1000's of 1,000's. - GK for unlimited no.
   3. Loud voice unashamedly.

Ps. 98:1 O sing unto the Lord a new song.

IV. Praise to the Lord of the 7th Power.

A. 7 spirits show completeness as the HS does his work well.

B. 7 praises of Jesus.

1. Power.

1 Cor. 1:24 "But unto them which are called
   (a) Has resources to carry out every promise.

2. Riches.

Eph. 3:8 "I should preach among the Gentiles

2 Cor. 8:9 "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus

3. Wisdom.

   (a) He's smart enuf to know our secrets.
(b) He's smart enuf to know the way of life.
(c) He's smart enuf to know solutions.
4. Strength.
Eph. 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord.
5. Honor.
Heb. 2:9 "But we see Jesus who was made a little lower
John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh & dwelt
(a) Not for himself - pours them out on others.
(b) Jesus rightfully moves by God.
Rev. 5:13-14 "And every creature which is in heaven
1. Jesus seen in His proper place.
2. Living Ones started song - they end it c'Amem.
Write End 9-1-74

Highland Bt, Memphis 10-2-74
Core Fellowship 10-23-74
344 Lyric St, Church, Joliet, Illa. 11-14-74
Bethesda Church, 11-21-74
Shippenopolis Church, Dallas 12-5-74
244 York St, Kansas City, Mo 1-31-75
Minnecola, Kansas Church 11-13-75
DESTINY OF A CHURCH
Rev. 7:9-17

I. Terms that were tiny described its beginning.
   A. There was the solemn promise.
      Matt. 16:13-18 "When Jesus came into the"
      No—yet future.
      Mk. 9:1 "There ye some of them that stand"
      C. From stone to mountain.
      Dan. 2:34-35
      D. Small but destined for bigness.
      Matt. 13:31 "K. of H. is like a mustard"

II. And so it started with the sound of a mighty rushing wind.
      Acts 2:1-2 "And when the day of Pentecost was"
      Acts 2:38
      Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received"
   A. From then till now:
      1. Same scheme of redemption.
      2. Same avenues of worship.
      3. Same autonomous organization of this organism.
      4. Same service, same dreams, same hope.
   B. Thus born and thus continues a people who
      1. Believe Jesus, God's Son, will extend Heaven's grace to every obedient soul.
      2. Believes He speaks in the Inspired Word that is equipped to answer every vital & essential question.
      3. Live after the pattern of holy living wherein Jesus is the perfect example.
4. Who share the same hopes of Heaven for the obedient servant.

III. What then is the destiny of that glorious, growing, expanding body of believers?
Rev. 7:9-17 "I beheld...a great multitude"
A. It filled the Mt. and became a multitude.
1. No man could number. (See God's record.)
   a) Reason so--number was constantly changing.
   b) After all, who is privy to God's record.
2. Comprised of all nations, kindreds, people, tongues.
   a) See universal saviorhood of Lamb.
   b) Ployglot cosmopolitan crowd yet one.
   c) All race barriers removed.
   d) Describes social, ethnic, political and linguistic nature of gathering.
3. Stood before the throne, Before the Lamb.
   a) Note the company kept.
   b) Stand shows position of security.
   c) Note the clothing and palms.
      (1) White--pure & victory.
      (2) Feast of Tab. carried palms--lived in booths--harvest time.
      (3) Palms emblem of constancy, fruitfulness, patience, victory.
      (4) Robe is character.
   d) Hear their cry, "Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."
   (Not to our wisdom or goodness)"
(1) Action—kept crying.
(2) Praise God & Lamb for Salv.
(3) It's humans that cry—they know persecution & blessedness of gospel experience also.

e) Angels, Elders, Beasts fall on faces and worship God.

f) Their Praise.
   (1) Amen
   (2) Blessing
      (a) He blesses as nothing else does.
      (b) 7 words shows completion.
   (3) Glory
      (a) Give him glory & adoration.
   (4) Wisdom
      (a) He's fountain of all truth.
      (b) Need to listen & wait on Him.

(5) Thanksgiving
Ps. 103:3 "Bless the Lord O My Soul"

(6) Honor
   (a) Worship Him.
   (b) Don't use Him to get things but adore Him.

(7) Power
   (a) Arm never shortened.
   (b) We struggle to find strength—not God.

(8) Might

(9) To our God forever and ever, Amen. Approved
(a) Angels amen martyr's faith.
B. A Question Came
   1. What are these? Asked 2 questions.
      a) Not a question for his benefit but John's.
      b) Who is able to stand—the church.
      c) Let the world do what it will—the church of Christ is invincible.

John 16:33
   2. Whence came they?
      a) Ones who keep on coming—present middle participle.

C. Sir, thou knowest. Confesses ignorance and request for inter.
D. And he did—"these are they."
   1. Which came out of great tribulation.
      a) Paid for their faith with their blood. Tenses: continual coming.
      b) Arrived not to complain but praise—"Toil of the road will seem".
      c) It's worth it—endure—God will never be in your debt.
      d) The great tribulation.
   2. Washed their robes. Active—not passive
      a) Don't look for life here free of all trouble—endure.
      b) Ancient times could not approach God in soiled robes.
      c) A sacrifice restores a lost relationship.
      d) Man has a part in his salvation—we must wash. Appropriate the grace.
   3. Made white in the blood.

Isa. 1:18
1 Cor. 6:11
E. Consequently: Acts 15:9
1 Jn. 1:7
Rom. 3:25
1 Pet. 1:18-19
Acts 22:16

1. Are they before the throne?
   a) Picture of great concentric circle--outer ring angels, nearer throne
      24 elders, still nearer 4 creatures, before the throne white robed
      martyrs. Only ones in Christ are there.

2. Serve him day and night.
   a) Reconciled.

3. God dwells among them. Thus approves of them.
   b) Spreads his tent over us.

D. Their blessings.

1. Hunger no more.
   a) Closer with promise of ultimate
      satisfaction.
   b) Totally satisfied.

2. Nor thirst. Torments are forgotten.

3. No sunlight or heat.
   a) Many early Christians were slaves
      and they had no rest.

Isa. 49:10

b) No more burden or pain.

c) While on earth we are subject to
   the hurts of heat. We'll have no
   more hardships imposed on us by
   nature.
4. Lamb feeds them.
1 Pet. 2:25
Heb. 13:20
5. Lamb leads them unto living ft. of waters. (Emphasis on life)
   a) God shelters them with his presence & leadership.
   b) Emphasis on life.
Jn. 4:14
   c) Ft.—the source of life.
6. God shall wipe away all tears.
   a) Without God troubles of life unbearable.
   b) Consolation here—eternal reward there.
   c) God against whom we have sinned wipes our tears.
   d) Hit. out of their eyes—nothing but
      perfection bliss, life remains

Franklin, KY - 7/9/91
Hilton Head, SC - 7/14/91
WHEN PREVIEW BECOMES FULL FEATURE
Rev. 7:9-17
I. There are passages in the Bible that mystify as to whether now or hereafter.
   A. Destruction of Jerusalem in Matt. a case in point.
   B. But Rev. abounds with similar difficulties.
II. I raise the question, "Do we do it an injustice to say it describes here now and hereafter?" We speak of foretaste as current will give place to permanent hereafter.
   A. The aftermath of the sealing of the 144,000 is a bit like that.
   B. Can we see it as the preview and then the full feature; the taste moving to reality?
   C. It is in this spirit we present a hopeful lesson--knowing the harmony of what we now have and later Heaven; i.e.  
      1. Jesus is with us.
      2. Salvation is ours.
      3. A multitude enjoys it.
III. And so we move to Preview.
   A. "After that" (v-9)--we'll see rewards here and glory later.
   B. Innumerable multitude.
      1. Human race is one by origin but afterward separated into tribes, people, tongues.
      2. Sealed--pointed to glory.
      3. No one nation has a monopoly on saints.
4. This multitude is the faithful to the very end.
5. Johnson:
   a) 1st multitude--Jews saved by Christ.
   b) 2nd from nations--Gentiles.
6. All race barriers removed.
C. Stood
   1. Lit. were standing.
   2. Honor afforded.
   3. Throne inaccessible except through Lamb.
D. Clothed White Robes
   1. Pure & clean.
   2. Washed.
E. Palms in Hands
   1. Symbol of:
      a) Joy
      b) Peace of the elect.
      c) Constancy.
      d) Fruitfulness.
      e) Patience.
      f) Victory.
   2. Feature via Crudens.
      a) More oppressed more it flourishes.
      b) Higher it grows and broader & stronger it is at the top.
F. Cried with a Loud Voice--Salvation.
   1. Cried ceaselessly.
   3. Lit. The Salvation.
   4. Ascribed to God & the Lamb.
      a) Both involved in our salvation.
      b) God service; Jesus the medium.
5. Get a great Amen from:
   a) Angels
   b) Elders
   c) Four beasts
6. Ascribe 7 fold adoration—typical of Rev. and its completeness.

Ezek. 37:3

G. Questions Come
   A. What are these in White Robes?
   B. Whence came they?
      1. When we are ignorant we look up.
      2. Elder knows—tells John.
         a) Think what folk in Heaven know.
         b) Can we, as an apostle, admit our ignorance?
         c) I don't know but you do!

H. Answer Given
   1. Out of Great Tribulation.
      a) Route to heaven through trial.
      b) Could be great one—could be a private, individual experience.
      c) Lit. The great.
      d) Church ever under attack.
      f) Let the world do what it will, church is invincible.

Jn. 16:33
   g) God hasn't said it would be easy though.

2 Tim. 3:12 "All that live godly"

2. Washed Robes
   a) Not saved by our suffering but by his!
   b) They applied the cleansing power of the Lamb.
1 Pet. 1:18
c) Where do we contact the blood?
Rom. 6:3
Eph. 1:25
Col. 1:18
d) Jesus gave his blood but man must appropriate it.
I. End Result
1. Before the throne.
   a) Ever in the presence of God.
2. Serve day & night in temple.
   a) God's tabernacle over them.
   b) Unlike temple & court, this one open to all if faithful.
   c) Unbroken service & safety.
   d) Service uninterrupted.
3. Hunger not thirst.
   a) Later free from inconvenience of earth.
   b) Wants supplied.
   c) But now—Lamb feeds them.
      (1) Blessedness of soul & body.
      (2) Christ the Shepherd will bring the lost sheep home.
4. Led to fountains of living waters—as word nourishes.
5. Wipe away tears.
   a) Sorrow knows a softening & later obliteration—we can take what life gives.
   b) Tears of
      (1) Compassion

Lu. 19:41-42
(2) Sympathy

John 11:35

(3) Bereavement

2 Sam. 18:33
Matt. 2:16-18

(4) Anxieties

Acts 20:31

(5) Sacrifice

Ps. 120:5
Acts 20:19

c) Tears removed

Isa. 25:8
30:19
35:10
60:20

6. Meyers says:

Perfect communion--Before throne
Perfect service--Day & Night
Perfect protection--Tabernacle Over
Perfect life--Fruitfulness
Perfect joy--Tears gone
THE LAST GASP
Rev. 12:13-17

I. Would that we were as tenacious as the Devil.
A. Can't win - yet works.
B. Lost war but still battles.
C. Met his match but still exudes his energy.

II. The Devil Lost Heaven, Casts to Earth, Renews his Attack.
A. We see our major enemies in this chapter:
   1. Dragon.
   2. Force.
   3. False religion.
B. Note persistency of Devil:
   1. Fails in one ave. he switches to another.
   2. Finds earth a new stage on which to do his work.
   3. Power not annihilated but stimulated by defeat.
   4. He's limited to earth until such time he'll be sentenced lower.
   5. Knows his time is short but he also knows he has fresh opportunities.
   6. Thus, he goes after us in hot pursuit.
   7. Persecutes the woman that brought forth the child.

III. Woman rides away on eagle wings (Rev. 12:14).
A. God, on eagle wings, protects His people.
Exo. 19:4 "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptian
B. Church escapes most deadly attack.
C. Devil can't destroy her, thus the millennium of Rev. 20.
D. So long as Christ is absent from His folk, they are in the wilderness.
1. Solitary life somewhat imposed on Christians.
   Many things in which you cannot participate.
2. Church hidden from public view.
IV. Nourished for a time & times & a half time from the face of the serpent.
A. I know the serpent is the Devil.
B. What are all these times?
   1. It's the time period the Christian uses to proclaim the gospel far & wide.
   2. Goes to 2nd coming.
   3. Devil now bound.
   4. Speaks of short time of assault then the judgement
   5. Time = 1 yr.
      Times 2 yr.
   6. Same as 1260 or 42 mo. - all same time period.
   7. Some have said church unseen for 1260 yrs. - not extinct but obscure.
   8. 3 1/2 symbolizes indefiniteness of troublesome times.
   9. She's nourished whole time of her earthly journey
10. Always persecuted by Satan, always nourished by God.
V. Satan Casts Out a Flood.
   A. Church ever suspect of being washed away by false doctrine.
   B. Devil tries to swamp woman by torrent of evil released.
C. Earth helps woman and swallows up flood.
VI. War c Remnant of Seed.
A. Satan tries to kill Christ, the woman, then the rest of her seed & is unsuccessful in all.
   1. We see what happens to each effort.
   2. He never wins.
   3. He's a born loser.
   4. Sure it's a chapter of struggle – so is life.
   5. Rest of seed = saints.
   6. Can't unseat Throned Christ, nor destroy Church, thus attacks woman's seed – the church.
   7. I'm weakest of all but I'll win.
Gal. 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent for
VII. But this I must be!
A. Keep the Commandments of God.
   1. 10X in gospel of John.
   2. 14X in 1st John.
   3. Many times in Rev., thus no enemy of love – since this was apostle of love.
   4. Seed are those who keep His commandments – the obedient.
B. Have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
   1. Church persecuted but not destroyed.
   2. Counterforce to all evil is Lamb, Faithful saints & God's judgement.
   3. In the long run, it's good & well with the good; it's ill c the wicked.
4. It's Jesus vouching for us - we have his testimony that he'll confess us before the Father.
5. Center of God's plan is Jesus, not restored Jews.
6. Christ in the church today the earnest of His final return & reward.
VICTORY SNATCHED FROM JAWS OF DEFEAT
Rev. 13:6-10

I. Out of the most impossible situations victory has come:
   A. Athletics
   B. Physical illness
   C. Financial plight
   D. Certainly in work of the Lord.

II. That's the purpose of Rev. -- you will win.
   A. But I want to tell the impossible chapter.
   B. Describing one beast it goes for 10 verses with the scantiest of hope -- yet it's there.
   C. If in the darkest hour of seeming defeat there can be victory, what really do I have to fear?
   D. Study with me Rev. 13.

III. The Story of a Dark Chapter -- but watch for the two rays of hope.
   A. 1st see the Sea Beast & the One Who Saw.
      1. Frank Pack & others state the "I" of verse one should be "he".
      2. Refers to dragon taking stand by the Sea -- not John.
      3. As Stacy says it's the unholy trinity -- 2 beasts & Satan.
   B. As LeHaye says "when the plain sense of the Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense."
   C. Scott feels the sand on which he stood was people, countless ones.
B. He was conscious of the Sea.
   1. Often represented the human race in turmoil.
   2. Sea scary to Jew.
      a) Roman army came out of the sea against Asia.
      b) Ever mean troublesome times.
      c) Unstable, confused, disorderly.

C. Note the Beast.
   1. We quickly ask "What does this represent?"
      (He's not identified)
      a) Nation's governments - political entity of great power.
      b) Agents of Satan whatever they are.
      c) Satan uses men tho we don't see him - he sees us.
      d) It's sinful, human society estranged from God.
      e) Daniel says (Dan. 7) the beasts of his prophesy are governments; ruling without thought of God.

D-A-mi'khan
(1) Domitian would not receive letters unless addressed "Supreme Lord & God!"
(2) History tells of an imperial cult.

f) This we do know:
   (1) Satan came to earth in rage & fury (Remember Rev. 12)
   (2) Beast wanted to lead men from God to himself.
3. Complete dominion
(3) There is always a struggle for the souls of men.
(4) This beast a vicious jungle one.
g) Barclay says the beast from the sea is the Rom. government & the beast from the land the organization to enforce Caesar worship.
h) Does Satan operate through us?

2. Description of Him.
a) 7 heads.
   (1) 7 shows fullness.
   (2) Complete dominion.
   (3) Absolute evil.
   (4) 7 emperors.
   (5) Every emperor called himself Divine - Nero put "Savior of the World" on his coins.
b) 10 Horns
   (1) Concentration of power.
   (2) 10 or multiples stood for wholeness.
c) 10 crowns on Horns, not heads.
d) Blasphemy on Heads.
   (1) Sets aside God.
   (2) Usurps power.
   (3) Humanistically exalts men over God.
e) Leopard
   (1) Like Dan. 7
   (2) Speed
4.

(3) Empire built on force not on moral excellency. It was anti-God.

(4) Not moral goodness but brute force.

(5) Remember Satan is always looking for hands to use.

f) Bear - crushing power.

g) Lion - vicious nature.

D. Dragon give him power.

1. Same thing devil offered Jesus.

Lk. 4:6 "All this power will I give them, and the glory"

2. Dragon is devil & he gives power to persecute the church.

3. Blend state & church you get corruption.

(111s)

4. Note boastful nature of world.

5. Beast is brutal, ruthless & persecutes with vigor - world is utterly opposed to God.

6. Nero said he wished all people of empire had one neck so he could behead all at one time.

7. Romans called Med. Sea the center of the world - whereas we know it's Spring Hill!

8. Authority = right to act officially.

E. One wounded head out of 7.

1. World continues to exist in spite of its fatal weakness.

2. Many thought Nero came back to life.

3. Devil is a great imitator of resurrection of Christ.

4. Was healed.
IV. World's Reaction
   A. Worshipped
      1. World's power is persuasive, threatening, and attractive.
      2. Would you vote for a leader who promised and provided peace, international prosperity, minimum taxes, and complete freedom from moral restraint? (Jacobsen)
      3. Worshipped him.
         a) Used language usually reserved for God.
         b) Worshipped brute force more than moral strength.
         c) Barclay says gratitude for peace of Rome brought about the goddess of Rome's worship.
         d) Short step to Caesar worship.
         e) It was seen as a unifying force in all the Roman world.
         f) Thus gradually it became compulsory.
         g) Annual pinch of incense & a certificate was given showing compliance. Then the Roman citizen could go worship as he please.
         h) Conflict with Christian = Caesar is Lord vs Jesus is Lord.
         i) Christians were ones who would not take oath of loyalty to Rome.
         j) Thus they were automatically outlawed.
         k) No nation had ever withstood the might of Rome - what could defenseless Christians do?
4. Who is Like Him?
   a) Michael — who is like God?
   b) Nero? Domitian?

5. Who is Able?
   a) They saw not power of God.
   b) Life is without meaning without God.

B. Are we swept over by such?
   1. His mouth spoke blasphemy.
   2. He threw his weight around.
      a) Power was "given" — can also be withdrawn!
      b) Limits were set.
   
3. 42 months.
   a) 3½ years an indefinite time.
   b) Note end of evil is fixed.
      (This ray so light hardly call it one!)
   c) Devil knows time is short so he wants to do as much evil as he can.
   
4. Speaks against God but didn't defeat him —
   
   a) Blaspheme speaks evil of God.
   b) Not cursing — Jesus accused of it.
   c) It's exaltation of man over God.

V. Permitted War.
   A. Evil conquers by persecution if it can.
   B. Overcomes in one sense yet blood of Christ gives victory.
   C. Many bowing to this Power of Evil.
   D. Do we bless growth of Satan's Kingdom?
VI. Certain Victory.
A. Names are in Book of Life of the Lamb.
2. Lamb's worshippers are.
3. There is a hidden power.
4. No Neutral ground - either with Jesus or not.
5. Humanity in 2 groups - those who worship
   and those who don't.
B. Book
1. God's ever had one.
   Rev. 3:5 "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed"  
   20:15 "Whosoever was not found written in the book"  
   Phil. 4:3 "I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help"  
   Exo. 32:32 "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin - - "  
   2. 6X in Rev. - God knows his own.
   Deut. 32:32-33
   Ps. 139:16 "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being"  
   Lu. 10:20 "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the"  
   Heb. 12:23 "To the gen. assembly & church of the f.b.  
   Matt. 26:52
4. Book is the register of those saved by faith
   in the Lamb.
C. Life & Lamb
VII. Hear Me.
   A. Captivity
      1. Men will receive just retribution.
      2. Reap what we sow.
   Gal. 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked;"
   Matt. 7:2 "For with what judgement ye judge,"
   3. Can't defeat Satan with violence.
   4. Church states its existence in the imitation
      of the Lamb.
   Isa. 33:1
   Jer. 15:2
   B. Sword
      1. Don't resist violence with violence.
      2. Render self an earth dweller & you go to hell.
   C. Patience
      1. Endure - your enemies will be destroyed.
      2. Be true through trials.
      3. Whatever is involved in following Christ
         the Christian must accept.
      4. Christianity can never be defeated by force.
      5. God's redeeming love is older than God's
         creating power.
      6. Christian does have weapons - steadfastness
         and loyalty.
      7. Accept the worst & turn it into glory.
      8. Martyrdom of saints was their victory -
         stood steadfast.
     10. Our resource is God.
Col. 3:3 "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Ch.
Skillman Avenue Church, Dallas, TX - 9/11/85
THAT BLESSED INTERLUDE
Rev. 15:1

I. John does not stray long from his mission to reveal things about Jesus Christ.

II. In fact in this, Revelation's shortest chapter, he attacks it at the start.
   A. We'll see his presentation of the coming last plague.
   B. But we'll spend more time on that Blessed Interlude that follows this statement.

III. The Lessons Learned from the Introduction of the Last Plague
   A. "And I Saw"
      1. And shows connected continuance.
      2. It is the last plague.
      3. This chapter a flashback to previous time--does not move in chronological order.
      4. It introduces the coming of a great event.
      5. 4th series of prophesies.
      6. 2 visions: 1st victory and triumph; 2nd wrath poured out.
   B. Another Sign.
      1. Signs point toward truth.
      2. Signs give directions.
      3. Called great and marvelous--no other sign so lauded.
   C. 7 Angels Having the 7th Last Plague.
      1. 7 last plagues of God's wrath.
      2. Others dread plagues but not NT Christians.
      3. Last
         a) God's purpose is fulfilled.

Gen. 6:3a
2.
   b) God's patient but it can end.
   c) God bears long and warns but
      in the end time comes eventually.
   d) We see progressive judgements
      but this is the worst one.
   e) Final separation of good & evil.
   f) Yet not totally final as beast yet
      to go in lake of fire.
   g) But obviously those who reject
      Christ are finished.
   h) There comes a time when it's too
      late to pray.

4. Plague
   a) Comes to enemies of the church.
   b) Plague = stroke, blow, take a stick and strike something.
   c) Things learned:
      (1) Plague culminates in what has gone before.
      (2) It's penalty for broken law.
      (3) God lives forever and ever.
      There may be delays in punishment but it will come.
      He never abandons his purpose.
      (4) Whole world will learn to fear God though some unwillingly.

Phil. 2:9-11

5. God's mercy also demands exercise of his judgement & punishment.

6. For awhile God permits hard-heartedness to go unpunished til the final judgement.
7. Nothing will stay the punishment of the Lord.
D. Fill up wrath of God.
   1. Means is finished.
   2. Opposes all evil that denied Him.
1 John 2:22

3. Wrath
   a) Expression of God's final judgement.
   b) Wrath with increased intensity—like hurricane winds.
   c) Must come as inexorable consequence of breaking His laws.
   d) His wrath unlike man's—bestial, passion, no spite, hate.
   e) Same John says God is love, God has wrath.
   f) Some day every knee will bow.
   g) It comes when man has no time to repent.
   h) God has to do it; "It please the Lord to bruise Him"—for us.
   i) God's wrath told 11X in Romans alone.
   j) To restore paradise, remove people who hindered it coming either by conversions, or plagues.
THAT MARVELOUS VISION
Rev. 15:2

I. Revelation takes us quickly from one scene to another.

II. Let's see this vision of the Last Plagues.
   A. John saw a Sea of Glass.
      1. Sea separates us from God.
      2. Glass
         a) Transparent.
         b) See clarity of holiness of God.
         c) Also see the administration of His justice.
         d) Seas could be dark or clear.
         e) Clear—no impurity.
         f) God's folk are clear and clean, create a glow.
      3. Mingled with fire
         a) Some said bubbly and defiant.
         b) Setting sun gives fiery red appearance.
         c) Fire symbol of Judgement.
   B. Place for Victors
      1. There are saints in Heaven.
      2. Victory complete.
      3. Christians come off victoriously.
      4. In position of splendor and safety.
      5. True victory for believers.
      6. Overcome via faithfulness.
      7. Those who had conquered.
      8. "A man is no fool to give up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." (Jim Elliott, murdered by Auca Indians)
      9. Day of martyrdom one of victory.
Matt. 16:25

C. Stand on Sea of Glass.
1. Standing beside sea of glass, calm, victorious, glow with reflection of fire, victorious over apostacy.
2. Not separated from God, but standing with Him.
3. They've won their victory.
4. Stand—they are in covenant relationship with God.
5. Lot of all the obedient.

D. Harp of God
1. Literal or not?
2. All worship God because His righteous acts have been made known.
3. Shows praise for God.
4. All can worship unmolested.
5. Harps show victory.
6. Harps symbolize something other than harp—namely, the praise of God. (Winters)
7. Music suggests ecstasy and infinity.
8. Are prayers incense?

Rev. 8:4
9. Would this authorize altar of incense in church?
Our investigation is not to determine if instrumental music can be beautiful to human ears. We want to know if, when, and why it is to be used in Christian worship.

Revelation 15:2 is the closest we come to finding Christians with harps mentioned in the Bible, and in this case the Christians and the harps are in heaven. “And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. And they sang the song of Moses the bound-servant of God and the song of the Lamb” (Revelation 15:2, 3a).

The New Testament never portrays Christians on earth praising God with harps. The winners in heaven received their harps clearly and directly from God. Such is not the case for Christians on earth. Neither God, nor His Word, have ever given us any indication that we can or should play harps in worship. If, when we enter our heavenly reward, the Lord gives us harps or any other instrument to play, we should do so. But until then, while we are His servants on earth, we have absolutely no biblical encouragement to adopt that practice.

While harps are mentioned in John's vision of heaven, no other instruments are shown. Based on what we have seen in David's Old Testament system, this is significant since any precedent for harps would not necessarily extend to other instruments. The instruction in the Old Testament temple was specific for harps and lutes and did not automatically extend to other instruments. In heaven those who received harps didn't opt for full orchestration.

—Richard E. Wolfe
"Songs, Cymbals, & Tambourines"
I. Where did you learn the songs you sing?
A. Parents
B. Church
C. Camp
D. Christian Schools
E. Radio/TV

II. Heaven has songs and Rev. 15 tells us of them—Let's sing Heaven's songs.
Rev. 15:3-4 "And they sing the song"
A. Who is Singing?
   1. They are victors.
   2. Sing 2 songs.
      a) Song of Moses.
      b) Song of the Lamb.
      c) Distinct though in Harmony.
   3. Glad there is singing in Glory.
B. Song of Moses, Servant of God.
   1. Sang when crossed Red Sea.
Exo. 15:1-19
   a) Jews this at end of each Sabbath.
   b) Moses & Christian age seen.
   c) Law of Moses given to one nation—Christ word for all men.

John 14:48
   2. Also in Deuteronomy 32:1-43.
   3. Moses center of OT.
      Lamb center of NT.
   4. We sing "Let those refuse to sing who never knew"
   5. Moses called servant.
Ps. 98:1 "Sing unto the Lord a new song"
C. Song of the Lamb
1. Also song of deliverance and victory.
2. In every clime Jesus is praised.
3. God's children express their happiness.
4. Lamb also shows wrath of God.
5. We'll see a great description of Lamb.
6. You have a song of deliverance to sing.
7. We overcome by blood of the Lamb and our redemption superior to Red Sea one.

III. Now comes the Praise of the Lord.
A. Great and marvelous are thy works.
Ps. 40:5 Many are thy wonderful works
Ps. 92:5 How great are thy works-they are very deep

1. Song of acclamation of works of God.
2. Just & true we'll see.
3. Lord God Almighty.
   a) Confidence in the complete overthrow of all who oppose God.
   b) 9 times in Rev. God is called Almighty.
   c) Limitless power.
   d) Holds all things in grasp of his power.
B. True are thy works, King of Saints
1. Extols God for his justice.
Ps. 145:17 The Lord is r. in all his ways, helpful
Rom. 3:26 Just & justified

2. God's love does not set aside his justice.
3. He's genuine.
3. No shame or dishonesty.
4. Note absence of words about men—all about God.
5. Self importance is out of place.
6. They lose themselves in adoration and praise of God.
7. His justice vindicates them.
8. Self importance is out of place.
9. They lose themselves in adoration and praise of God.
10. His justice vindicates them.
11. His mere saves them.
12. God is true—no sham or false ways about Him.
13. King of the Saints.
14. He is Holy and brings men to this.
a) Some King of nations, ages.
b) King of all ages regardless of outward appearance.

C. Who Shall Not Fear Thee

1. No saving grace after death—it is done.
2. Walk with God cautiously and by faith.
3. We are to glorify His name.
4. Note his characteristics:
a) Creator
b) Just
c) Object of worship
d) Holy
e) Omnipotent
f) Eternal
D. Thou Alone Art Holy
   1. Amazing characteristic, thus able to perfectly judge.
   2. We glorify Him when we live like Him—in holiness.

Ps. 86:9 Every soul shall taste and see the Lord's goodness.

E. All Nations Come & Worship
   1. Greater than Moses outreach.
   2. Distinctiveness preserved.
   3. From every nation comes individuals who will worship God.

Gen. 18:25, Shall He judge His people iniquity in Heav

4. Every knee will bow.

Ps. 2:10 crushed the heads of them that trusted in Him.

5. Let nothing hinder our fellowship with Him.

   a) See his righteous acts.
   b) Feel his love.

IV. What a marvelous Song!
   Any part of it you do not feel?

Lakeview Chr. Home Lectureship, Carlsbad, NM 9/19/98
THERE COMES THE DAY OF NO MERCY
Rev. 15:5-8

I. I suppose all of us face days of "no more"—it's all over.
   A. I've stood with grooms as the wedding march begins—singleness is all over.
   B. I've been with graduates as we march to get diplomas—it's all over.
   C. I've been the last to look on the face of a loved one—it's all over.
   D. All of this we accept but the devil leads us to believe the spiritual life is different—there is still one more chance—so wait awhile.

II. I'd like to bring you to the day of finality, the one of no return, the closing of the moment of repentance—it's no more.
   A. We will study Rev. 15:5-8.
   B. It's the time of closure, opportunities—contrasting this moment—are no more.

Rev. 15:5-8

III. See the Day of Finality
   A. We best hear the message.
   B. No 1000 years with different law—this word is it and there will be no more.
   C. Logically moves to an end—v 4.
      1. "For" thou alone art holy.
      2. For all nations shall come.
      3. For thy judgements are made manifest.

IV. John Saw
   A. I looked
      1. End comes gradually.
      2. Guided in truth to know this.
B. Saw Temple of Tabernacle of the Testimony.
   1. 15X in Rev. reference to temple.
   2. Temple dwelling place of God--even as He is in his church today.
   3. Naos--where God dwells in mercy.
   4. Innermost part--Holy of Holies.
   5. Now opened for a clear view of God.
   6. God and angels there.
   7. Tabernacle.
      a) Testimony of God's presence.
      b) Each life needs to be conscious of presence of God.
      c) Expression used only here.
      d) Tables of stone--God's word, kept there.

C. Opened!
   1. This not done til now--could see inside it.
   2. Veil earlier taken away.

D. 7 angels with 7 plagues came out.
   1. Apocalyptic writers arrange in groups of 7 and 3--3 groups of 7 stand for the completeness.
   2. 7--completeness.
   3. Come from throne of God.
   4. Our High Priest can demand punishment.
   5. 3 groups of 7 angels.
      a) 7 churches
      b) 7 trumpets
      c) 7 judgements--here
6. Angels ever do God's biddings.
7. Time of divine wrath and terror.
8. Came from place where law of God rests, via ark of covenant.

E. Clothed in Priestly Garments
1. Majestic picture of God's glory.
2. Should strengthen our determination to be obedient.
3. 7 plagues of wrath.
4. Pure white linen.
   a) Garment suggests royalty, purity, dignity.
   b) Bright--shining!
   c) White, in East, uniform of highest distinction.
   d) KJV--pure white linen
      ASV--precious stones bright and pure.
5. Golden Girdle
   a) Girded--ready for action.
   b) Their dress is priestly, royal and from Heaven.
   c) Girded with truth.

F. Given 7 Golden Vials
1. Beast--creature.
2. Golden Vials
   a) Pure gold--majesty seen.
   b) Bowls out of which contents can rapidly be emptied.
   c) Content without limit on those who oppose sovereignty of God and Christ.
   d) Ultimate of supreme expression of wrath of God.
e) At end of age.
f) No literal interpretation of bowls.
g) God is justified in His wrath.
h) Seals—trumpets—vials, the last thing.

G. Wrath
1. Judgement on rejectors.
2. Boiling anger toward the wicked.
3. Sin angers God, does it us?
4. (Wrath is not a substance you put in a bowl.)
5. But do you think God waits until the end of time to show it?
6. Do you think anything will stop it?

H. Wrath of God
1. Wages of sin come due.
2. See toll collected from disobedient children.
3. Nothing remains but to pour out the wrath.
4. All plagues come directly from God.
5. Proves God will punish the wicked.

II Thess. 1:8
6. Men with impurity can defy God.
7. God is vindicated and his word cannot be destroyed.
8. It's from God who lives forever and ever.
   a) They lose themselves in adoration and praise of God whose justice has vindicated the righteous and whose mercy has redeemed them. (Pack)
b) Saints ever praise God.
c) God's children express their adoration.
d) In the presence of God we forget ourselves and express love for Him.

I. Temple Filled With Smoke
1. Only 2 classes of people—disobedient and those who come out of temple.
2. So much smoke can't enter temple til plagues are completed.
3. During apostacy hard to see the church.
4. God uses smoke and clouds.

2 Chron. 5:11-14 "For He is good, mercy endureth'
1 Kings 8:10-11 Cloud filled house
5. No way to escape smoke showing God's glory.

Isa. 6:4 House filled with smoke

J. No Man Able to Enter
1. One time Moses could not.

Exo. 40:35
2. Hour of Judgement has come—repentance is past.
3. No one can enter temple.
4. No man can fully see the mind of God.
5. No plan or prayer of man can hinder the coming judgement.
6. See God's abiding universal opposition to evil.
7. Man is powerless in the presence of all power.
8. No one can intercede for the guilty.
9. No possible evasion.
10. The end comes—no grace here.
11. Intercession of no avail.
K. Then now accept his mercy.

Sycamore Chapel, Ashland City, TN - 9/2/98
GOD MAKES HIS ENEMIES MIND
Rev. 17

I. I shall never forget a prayer of Thom. Barr - at a
political rally he thanked the Lord for "these
servants of thine."
A. My 1st reaction - he doesn't know them like I do!
B. My second was to learn more.
1.) Officials of gov. are His servants w/o covenant
relation.
Rom. 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher p
2.) The bitterest of enemies God makes to serve Him
Dan. 4:17 "This matter is by the decree of the watche
Ps. 76:10 "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee:
II. So in Rev. 17 we see how God uses His enemies for
His purpose.
A. You will see the enemies fight one another.
1. Good enuf for them.
2. God provokes such a reaction.
3. God motivates this conflict.
4. God rules over restless multitudes.
Hab. 1:5-10 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard
Isa. 10:5 "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the
5. There are seeds of disintegration in evil powers.
Exo. 9:16 "And in very deed for this cause have I raised
Isa. 44:28 "That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, an
B. Partnerships are dissolved.
1. World loses respect for apostate church when it
sinks to levels of world.
2. When it does, they turn & rend it.
3. Two churches in the world: true & false.
4. Wicked men break up; due to:
a.) Jealousy.
b.) Hatred.

5. Support of moral evil is unstable.

C. Lamb, that was slain, will triumph.
I. I cheated—I looked at the answer book—I saw the last film in the serial—I read the last chapter—I know how it ends.

A. I don't know when the end's coming but I know how it will come.
B. I don't know the age in which it will be but I know the conclusions.
C. I don't know the agents of unrighteousness but I do know the gains of the righteous.

II. It all begins with the Judgment of the Great Whore

Rev. 17:1-2 "And there came one of the 7 angels who
A. See details.
1. 1 of 7 angels c 7 vials.
2. Great whore, resides in wilderness
3. Sat upon many waters.
4. Great whore adulterous c Kings of the earth.
5. They get drunk c the wine of fornication.
B. What does this apocalyptic language mean?

III. The Last Battle.

A. The Judgment of the Whore.
1. Spiritual adultery has always been a plague of God's purity.
   a.) In every age some portion of the church would be one with the hostile world.
   b.) Church becomes infatuated c worldly power.
   c.) The harlot is Christianity secularized.
   d.) Whenever religion & politics become confederates it spells ruin.
   e.) Church needs to keep self unspotted from world
& seek no alliances.

2. Women have often symbolized the people of God.
   a.) True woman is symbol of true church.
   Gal. 4:22-26 "For it is written, that Abraham had two
   Eph. 5:22-24 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own
   Eph. 5:31-33 "For this cause shall a man leave his fath
   1.) Also a temple, city, household Kingdom, as
   well as wife.
   Herlot also in ciy- Babylon
   1 Cor. 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of Gl
   Heb. 12:22 "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and un
   Gal. 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us d
   Matt. 16:18 "
   b.) Unfaithful woman represents God’s backsliding
   folk.
   Ezek. 23:37
   Nahum 3:4 well favored harlot, mistress of witchery.
   Isa. 23:15 Tyre sing is 2 harlot.
   Isa. 1:21 Faithful city became 2 harlot.
   Jer. 2:20 Played harlot c many lovers - yet return.
   Jer. 3:1 again to me saith the Lord.
   3. There’s always a spiritual Babylon. (See N.C.)
   a.) Not literal town – forever gone.
   b.) But degenerate church or religion that identifies
   itself with the world & brings dishonor to Christ.
   4. A corrupt world & unfaithful church come to ruin.
   5. The church that so lines up c the world commits
   fornication.
   a.) This is false teaching being practiced.
   b.) False doctrine dulls the senses & closes one's
   eyes to truth.
6. Heightens the picture by introducing drunkenness.
   a.) Kings follow harlot c a fanaticism like unto
       drunkenness.
   b.) Fellowship of the world stupefies as wine does
       the drinker. Satan boost. 7. Nil: Many waters,
   7. She sat on many waters. See v. 15: sections of people
   a.) Water is unstable - thus where she sits is insecure.
   b.) Babylon was by river c many canals under her,
       thus the imagery of many waters.
   Jer. 51:13 "O thou that dwellest upon many waters
   c.) Tho unstable it was a position of wide influence.
   d.) V. 15 said it was "people, multitudes, nations &
       tongues."

B. God Shall Have the Final Say.
   1. I don't know whether the whore is Papal, Imperial
       Rome or not.
   2. I don't know she's the Protestant Churches.
   3. I don't believe the Kings are literal.
   4. But I do believe the church can ever drift--
   5. That it will be wise to know that the conscience
       of the church will always confront some Babylon-
   6. That God will judge & refuse to accept the false.
   7. That if I'm on the side of Right, I have no fears.

"Yosemite, Calif. Family Encampment 7-28-77
West End 4-2-78

South Main Church, Heathford, Jlp. 4-20-78"
THE UNITED FORCES OF EVIL FIGHT THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Rev. 17:7-8

1. Do you ever wonder how evil can be so rampant & so strong - so did John!
   A. "When I saw... I wondered" (V. 7).
   1. Good folk have always been astonished by sin.
      a.) Evil is a marvel.
      b.) John marvel sin could be so rampant.
      c.) Paul marveled so soon removed.
   2. How can God be Almighty & good oppressed?
      Just wait till tomorrow!!

B. The Beast is Explained.
   1. Was - is not - yet is (V. 8).
      a.) 3 stages.
         (1) Contrasts c the everlasting power of God.
         (2) Evil may seem to disappear but it only seems to.
   2. Came out of bottomless pit.
      a.) Abyss = Satan's dwelling place.
      b.) Jesus comes from heaven the 2nd time - Beast from pit.
   3. Goes to perdition.
      a.) Before Jesus sacrifice Satan ruled the world.
      b.) Christ overcame.

Jn. 4:33
   c.) For faithful, power of beast is not, thus Satan's power is non-existent.
   d.) He only has power over the witness when they cease to witness.
   e.) Sins not original c man - angels did & none can be redeemed.
4. Who's the Beast?
   a.) Rome does not exhaust the symbol.
   b.) The great city is every city & yet no certain city - it's civilized man apart from God in every age.
   c.) John doesn't say enuf to make firm identification of the beast - main thing is he is telling his destruction - ultimately all perish.
C. Seven Heads are Seven Mts.
   1. Symbol of power & universality.
   2. World power is always formidable.
   3. Mt. Dan. 2:35 "Now that since the image became gld, mt.
   Jer. 51:25
   Isa. 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last day that the mt.
   4. Great harlot sits on successive empires.
   5. Mt. not restricted to any one world power but are principles common to every generation to a greater or less degree.
   6. Rome may claim the 7 hills.
   7. However, over 40 symbols are explained in the Book.
D. 7 Kings. PBlus 1 = 8
   1. Some obey beast & act for him.
   2. Does he mean Kings or Kingdoms.
   3. Is it the successive manifestation of worldly Kingdoms throughout the changes of history.
   4. Is it successive era of opposition to God's folk?
   5. Tho many try it, I know no emperors, or status of Roman gov. to which one can make this fit.
a.) 7 Kings - Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Titus.
b.) Imperial Rome - gave law, was greatest violater.
c.) Harlot is Roma.
d.) 8th - Nero returned to life.
E. Receive Power 1 Hour.
1. Their time is short!
F. The United Kingdom Has One Mind - War c the Lamb.
1. Unanimously in opposition to the Lamb - but to no avail. Eph. 6:12 “For we wrestle not against the flesh but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
2. 1 fixed purpose - collaborate to oppose God.
3. 10 folks of 1 mind.
(a) Used in apocalyptic language to show whole is divided into parts.

II. The Lamb Shall Overcome.

A. The Battle is Pitched.
1. Truth vs. Error.
2. Right vs. Wrong.
3. Moral campaign is universal, unrelenting, momentous.
4. Mt. vs. Lamb.
Matt. 4:8 “Then the devil took Him up into an high mountain, and said, All these things will I give You, if You will fall down and worship me.”

B. Warriors - Lamb vs. Beast.
1. Lamb is innocent, mild, pure.
   (a) Power not to be estimated by size or form.
   (b) Christ now Lamb & Head over Church.
   (c) Title in reverse order.
Rev. 19:16 Vesture of THIGH: King of Kings
Dan. 11:36 For the Lord saves you as your king.
Deut. 10:17 and lead you after the God whom you have chosen.

(d) Title of Lamb shows atoning work.
(e) Title on Robe & Thigh (19:16).
2. Lamb is King of Kings - not just another King.

Dan. 19:16
2 Cor. 16:3-6
2 Cor. 10:3-6 For the weapons of our warfare
3. Consequently, we not conquer last victory
   a.) Do not fear the final outcome.
   b.) Harlotry has won due punishment.
   c.) God’s in control no matter which nation is on
      the throne.
   d.) See fate of all false religions.
   e.) Outcome of battle never in doubt, tho the
      world may go on regularly till last moment.
   f.) In Lamb a throne that will not end - no dashing
      of hopes by change of an administration.

C. But the Lamb does not stand alone - but c the
   called, chosen & faithful.
1. That’s you, brother.
   a.) Those associated c Christ share the fruits of the
      victory.
   b.) He does not conquer alone.
2. You are called.
   a.) To serve.

2 Thess. 2:14 He called you by our gospel to the
   b.) Nowhere else used in Rev. obtaining of The
3. You are chosen-- Glory of our Lord Jesus
a.) To live dedicated lives.
4. Are you faithful?
   a.) You will then share victory.
Jn. 14:23 If ye love me, keep my words
   b.) Fd. of v. 8 shows God's eternal purpose - what 
       about yours?
   c.) Above his retinue, not his resources.

Yosemite Family Encampment 7-28-77
West End 4-16-78
BEHOLD THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE
Revelation 19:11-16

1. Though the religious world may make an annual celebration of the victory of Christ; to Jesus' church the celebration is weekly—every first day—and inspiring to recall.
   A. The Lord that I serve is Master of Death, Hell and the Grave.
   B. Perhaps never could it be more dramatically stated than as the rider on the white horse.
      Rev. 19:11-16 "And I saw heaven opened and..."
   C. May I tell you the marvelous event?

II. The Ands of the Paragraph Give Many Logical Breaks.
   A. "And I saw heaven opened..."
      1. Others knew a similar event.
         Ezek. 1:1 "As I was among the captives by..."
         Matt. 3:16 "And Jesus when he was baptized..."
         John 1:51 "Hereafter ye shall see him open...
   B. And behold a white horse.
      1. Horse denotes honor and power.
      2. He is symbol of fleetness and strength.
         a. Impediments are laid aside.
      3. White horse also shows victory.
   C. And he that sat upon him—
      1. Astride the horse of victory was a rider—evidently the victory was his.
         a. We know not all but we learn much about the unique rider.
      2. He was called faithful and true.
a. The marriage to come—wonder if at our weddings this is the reason we sing such words?

b. To the Laodiceans he was called Rev. 3:14 "The Amen, the faithful and true.

c. Faithful—every promise is fulfilled.

(1) Sadly the wicked remain unmoved.
(2) Promise of reward should encourage Christian to be faithful.
(3) Because he is faithful he cannot let his folk fight alone.
(4) Thus the warrior comes but no renewal of struggle is seen. He has already conquered.
(5) Note the royal commander and the dazzling retinue.

d. This rider is True;

(1) Being True he brings victory.
(2) His name is Powerful.

Phil. 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every name shall bow down.
(3) Jesus used 14x in Rev. It opens and closes the Book.
(4) Opposed to false and shadowy.

(a) I read story of girl who never knew her benefactor yet she talked unknown to her with him daily. Once she saw his shadow and called him Daddy Longlegs.

D. And in righteousness he doth judge and war.

1. Note dual roll of warrior and judge.
2. **As a Warrior:**
   a. He's concerned with sin's punishment...
   b. How would you stand when He comes?

3. **As a Judge:**
   a. All his deeds because he has perfect knowledge is right...
   Acts 17:31 "He hath appointed a day.
   b. Who needs picket his "bombings"?
   c. Whom has been unfairly treated due to bribes of Him?

E. **His eyes are as a flame of fire.**
1. What is not seen in his all searching eyes
2. Do we hide anything?

F. **And on his head—many crowns.**
1. Multiple diadems compose His crown.
2. Name is there though now unknown.

G. **And he had a name—written—no man knew**
1. This is the second name; first faithful and true.
2. This one unknown.
3. He promises a new name to those that overcome.
4. No one truly knows the Son save the Father.
   Matt. 11:27 "All things are delivered unto 
5. Only Jesus can truly grasp the mystery of His person.

H. **And he was clothed with a Vesture...Blood.**
1. Recalls a prophesy. Does this show his death and reason for his power?
   Isa. 53:2-3 "For he shall grow up before him
2. Who's blood was there though?
   a. Enemies perhaps.
      Gen. 49:11 "Binding his foal unto the vine,
   b. Yet who has ever unjustly suffered
      from His reign?
   (i) Contrast with Castro, Stalin, Mao.
   c. Who's blood will be there--yours?
      Isa. 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress al
1. And his name is called Word of God.
   1. Now the third name--word is expressed
      thought.
2. Only John calls him the Word.
      John 1:1-4 "In the beginning was the Word
3. He's the full and final revelation of God:
   a. God becomes articulate in words we
      understand.
   b. He is absolute, infallible, of exhaustless
      significance, almighty power.
   c. We need no councils, synods, Joe Smiths
      or Mary Eddys.
J. An army accompanies Him.
   1. They follow Him in victory.
      a. If He walks they do.
      b. If He rides they do.
      c. If He carries cross they do.
      d. If He crowned they are.
      e. They fare as He fares.
   2. Heavenly army on white horses.
      a. They too know victory.
3. Clothéd in fine linen, white and clean
   a. Though his garments be blood spotted, their's is clean.
   b. Fine linen is righteous acts of the saints.
   c. Not armed with swords but righteousness is their battle. Holiness is their cry.
   d. None fight under His banner unless qualified in character and capacity.
   e. His army partakes of His victory.

K. And out of his mouth the sword.
   1. This sword the word.
   2. He subdues with the gospel.
   3. He overcomes the world--so must we.
   4. He rifles the sepulchre and hewed death in pieces.
   5. His weapons are spiritual.
   6. Smittes nations and keeps in complete subjugation.

L. And he shall rule and tread winepress.
   1. He adds emphasis as he alone does it.
   2. Eternal destruction for enemies.
   3. Rod of iron over enemies.
   4. His reign is for the highest good of man.
   5. Materially he reigns--son, moon, stars, appoints bounds of nations.
a. No astronomer ever finds conflict with God.
6. He puts men in power. "By me princes rule."
7. Supreme in moral world.
   Rom. 8: But God be thanked that ye
   a. Sin has but one master--Jesus not self.
8. He's Lord of spiritual realm.
   a. He regulates all things--we need not fear the outcome.
M. And he hath on his vesture a Name
   1. This is what we've awaited!
   2. Now the 4th name:
      a. Faithful and True.
      b. Unknown.
      c. Word of God.
      d. King of Kings.
3. His name is now revealed as He is exalted to rightful position of Honor.
4. Honor is now His whether I so ascribe or not.
5. Note where it's written:
   a. At this time kings traditionally wore names on their thigh.
   b. Part exposed as he rode--part on robe and part on Him.
   c. Thigh used only here in N. T.
      I Tim. 6:15 "Which in his times he shall s
   d. Thigh strongest muscle of man--more congregate here.
      (l) Jacob was weak in his strongest place--
God touched—he limped rest of life?

(2) If milder aspects of Jesus will not win stronger ones do.

(3) Jesus knows boundless tenderness and boundless indignation.

6. His is Universal sovereignty.

III. Will you bow to His inevitable reign over you?

A. Today?

Crested 3/31/09

Terry Diane Oliver — PM
Mid-South Training Series—Memphis—3/31/09

919-419-4967

Locust Grove, KY (BC) — 8/27/00
I. When it comes to solid thought, what is the most profound thing that enters your mind?
A. What will I do with my life to support myself?
B. Will I marry—if so how will I know this is the right one?
C. Is there a part of me called a soul that will live somewhere forever?

II. You are getting close—but one thought is above all this: Will I one day stand before the Eternal God and give an account to Him for the way I have lived—knowing who I am and grasping the consequences of reward and punishment according to a divine standard.
A. If you believe this then without exception you believe in the judgment initiated by the Everlasting God.
B. It is this matter we now study.

III. Some preliminary thoughts:
A. We do not know when it comes.
   1. We speculate as to the joining of the return of Christ and the judgment.
2. G.C. Brewer told when "it's appointed to men once to die and after that the judgment.

B. We do know it has not come—Luke tells us things will be routinely carried out as in Sodom, until the moment it comes.

C. Jesus gave wonderful parables about our need to be ready—Pounds, Virgins.

D. We read specific statements about it and remember the Greek word for judgment is crisis.

E. But is there something detailed in the Bible about it?
   1. It's a day different to all other days.
   2. It's foretold.

Acts 17:30-31. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

IV. For that specific scene go with me to Revelation 20.

A. Admittedly there are things in this chapter I do not fully understand—as the highly figurative language is used. Nor can I analyze every detail or harmonize every statement.
B. But as the Word continues to me there seems to be specific things we can group.
1. By no means am I the final word.
2. You may honestly hold conviction that vary.
3. But I'd like to present what I naturally believe is the truth on

V. Revelation 20:11—these statements:
A. I saw a great white throne.
1. John writes this as eternal Scriptures so I do not doubt.
2. It is real, it's true.
3. This is the day of God.
4. This is the Judgment Day, partially described.
5. It declares a throne.
   a) Majestic
   b) Authoritative
   c) Overpowering
   d) It thus declares probation is over, there remains time to overcome sin.
6. It is great.
   a) Because of Him who sits on it.
   b) Because of what it will do.
   c) Because it is the full and final assembly of all who have ever lived or were living when Christ came.
d) It's the one throne to which all bow.

e) Humanity is brought right into immediate contact with God.

f) Scope

2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."

7. It is white.
   a) It is pure.
   b) Not like Henry VIII, with all his marriages and beheadings.
   c) No impurity, no tyranny, no sensuality.
   d) Not one stain on it.

8. But we are not told who sits there - God or Jesus.

John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son."

B. I saw him that sat on it.
   1. He did not identify.
   2. Either God or Jesus -- via Holy Spirit only one to judge us.
   3. Perhaps Jesus on throne as he judges.

John 5:28 When the Son of Man shall come in his
Matt. 25:31-3
2 Cor. 5:10 We shall stand by the judgment seat
Rom. 14:10 We shall stand by the judgment seat
C. From whose face the earth and heaven fled away.
   1. Peter told us heavens pass away and John will shortly say needs of new earth.
   2. Thus see only throne before which all men stand.
   3. Final conflagration.
   4. We stand in the vast assembly somewhere.
   5. Thus closes last probationary element--last ray of sun gone to rise no more.

D. And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God (or throne).
   1. None exempted.
   2. All have some talent used--big or little.
   3. This is the day toward which all mankind has been pointed.
   4. Death has not ended all--this takes place when earthly life is over and this world is no more--new heaven and earth.
   5. Obviously men live on after death here else how to appear before judgment bar?
   6. None great enough to avoid judgment or small enough to escape

2 Cor. 5:10 we must all appear before the judgment; that every one may receive the things done in his body whether good or evil.
E. And the books were opened.
   1. First two not identified—but some basis for judgment that was authentic.
   2. Old Testament for Jews?
   4. Area of conscience?
   5. Some responsible record of acts, words, thoughts that "Books" disclose. 4. Read

John 12:48 He that receiveth me receiveth not me but the Father that sent me.
Luke 16:25 Son Remember

F. And the Book of Life
   1. We sing "Is My Name Written There?"
   2. Via comparison on with first two books we get into Book of Life and salvation.

G. Dead judge out of those things which was written in the books according to their works.
   1. Saved by grace.
   2. Judged by our issue of faith that works! Sam 2:26 who works dead
   3. Tried are the works of men.
   4. Determine degree of punishment and reward.
   5. We are writing our destiny—each author of his own lifestyle.

2 Cor 5:10 Be not deceived, God is not

John 12:43 There is a body "good and bad"
6. Destiny rests on written evidence.

H. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it.
1. Thus all the dead included.
2. Jews thought it horrible to be buried without a monument.
3. Buried at sea does not lose identity.

I. Death and hell (Hades) delivered up the dead which were in them and they were judged every man according to their works.
1. Note last phase repeated.
2. Judged by:
   Deeds
   2 Cor. 5:10  
   Words
   Matt. 12:36-37 Every idle word shall be judged.
   Thoughts
   1 Cor. 4:3-5 All the hidden things of men are manifest in the light. Secret things are revealed.
   3. Nothing covered that shall not be revealed and hid that shall not be known.
   4. Thus all will see the accuracy of the judgment decisions.

All will know why anyone is lost. The record will show it.
5. Some things pointed out:
   a) Worth of man's character
determined by his works--not
religious position, creed or
profession -- "what has he
done?"
b) Determined by recognized
authority--the books opened--
opened to memory, conscience,
universe.
c) According to record maintain-
ence--whosoever not in book not
admitted.
6. Faith has to do with believing.
Works has to do with everybody.
7. Death and hell are enemies of
Christ.
J. Death and hell were cast into the
Lake of Fire -- second death.
1. Imagine--the death of death--
ever again will man die.
2. Nor will annihilation take place in
hell!
3. No longer exists the mysterious
realm of Hades.
4. Devil, Beast, False Prophet there.
Rev. 20:10 "And the devil that deceived
them was cast into the lake of
fire..."
5. Lake of fire final abode of all in opposition to God.
6. What's left for me to stand on? Nothing - all's gone.

K. And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.
1. At the end only God and the redeemed.
2. For man it's heaven or lake of fire - nothing else left.
3. Names: Those purchased by His blood.
5. For some sense of defeat, unrest, exclusion, remorse, hopelessness, unavailing regret, what might have been. "Son remember".
6. Those who have made an agreement with lake of fire cast into it.

Rom. 2:16

7. Everlasting destruction from God.

L. Name written there?
1 Cor. 15:26 Son subject to Him
2 Tim. 1:10 Obtain the same which is in Christ Jesus' eternal glory
1. Two kinds of folk: saved or lost.
2. Which are you?
3. We all spend forever somewhere—what's your choice?

Green Hill C/C -- 8/27/08
Mt. Juliet, TN
As soon as the great resurrection is completed, the final judgment of the world will take place. We live in a world that has meaning, a moral world in which good and evil need to be rewarded and punished. When sin came into the world it brought evil and death, but it also occasioned moral choices. These choices will come under the scrutiny of the sovereign of the world. All men face personal decisions which involve pledging loyalty to Satan, the instigator of sin, or loyalty to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Man as a moral being makes choices and these choices call for eventual judgment.

"But the judgment shall be set..." This is God's final and effective answer to all of the misdeeds of men and of nations. It is necessary in the mercy and providence of God that the continuity of Adam's race upon earth shall be allowed until the full number of the Redeemed have come into service of God through Christ. Concurrently with this it is unavoidable that many terrible developments shall plague Adam's rebellious, sinful race. These terrible examples of wicked human governments, symbolized by the four beasts, are among the most prominent and the most evil of those wicked things that shall arise among earth's populations. But, in His own good time, THE JUDGMENT. "But the judgment!" Yes there shall indeed be a final Judgment Day. This is one of the foundational doctrines of Christianity (Hebrews 6:2).
The Judgment Day is extensively mentioned in the NT. That is the occasion when God will cast evil out of his universe, when Satan, and the Beast (all of the beasts), and the False Prophet (all false and immoral religion) shall be cast alive into the lake of fire that burneth with brimstone. See Revelation chapter 18, 19, & 20. The Final Judgment may not be dismissed as merely a sensational feature of apocalyptic literature. Christ spoke firmly of it in Matthew 25th chapter; and those who accept Christ as the World's only Lord and Saviour are surely obligated to believe what he said of that Eternal Day.

--James Burton Coffman Commentaries
The Major Prophets - Daniel

pg. 124

If we notice the terms themselves, nothing can be conceived more majestic than this description of God's coming to judgment. First, "the thrones are set down, and "the Ancient of days," the eternal incomprehensible Jehovah, with Christ as his assessor, take his seat. The August appearance of the Judge, "clothed in a garment white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool," denotes his unsearchable wisdom that penetrates the deepest secrets, and his unsullied integrity as discoverable in all his decisions. His throne is compared to a triumphal chariot, whose seat and wheels are of fire, and from which issues a stream of fire, to destroy those whom his justice shall condemn. "Myriads of angels minister to him" as the willing executioners of his decrees and "innumerable multitudes stand before him" to receive
their sentence from his mouth. "The judgment being thus set, the books are opened;" as well the book of his remembrance, wherein the actions of all were written, as the book of his law, whereby they are to be judged.

--Charles Simeon
Expository Outlines on the Whole Bible, Vol. IX

pg. 534
THE DAY DEATH DIED
Rev. 20:11-15
I. With the guidance of the Spirit we pierce the veil of eternity.
   A. John is through with earthly events.
   B. It's the last scene of time, of anything connected with the present order.
   C. Called by some the most awesome passage of the Bible.
II. Immediately I find myself before the:
   A. Great
      1. Due to the immensity of its decisions.
      2. By virtue of the destinies decided.
      3. By its perfection in accurate judgement.
   B. White
      1. Immaculate
      2. Pure
      3. Pure brightness
   C. Throne
      1. Majesty & power
      2. All humanity--the dead of all time before it.
      3. Never again to see the gathering of all that have ever lived.
   D. Him
      1. Not identified or described.
      2. We know its God.
      3. Some say it's Jesus.
         a) Looks like his Father in perfect unity.
Jn. 5:22 for the Father said, no man but hath come.
Acts 17:31 Times or this ignorance
Rom 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.
b) What God & Jesus do is the same.
Rom. 14:10 For we shall all stand before the judgment seat
2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before Christ
   c) God in Christ.
III. From the Face of the Lord:
A. Heaven & Earth Fled.
   1. Their fleeing emphasizes his majesty.
   2. His presence melts the elements.
   2 Pet. 3:10 The Lord is not slacked
   3. Created world shares the results of man's sins.
   4. Suddenly gone--no transition.
Ps. 102:25-27 Reader
   5. The new man in Christ needs a new world.
   6. Old earth has run its course:
   7. God created the earth; He can rightfully destroy it.
   8. Everything vanishes except God's majesty.
B. "No place found for them"
   1. Matter is not eternal.
   2. Everything is now spiritual.
   3. Without warning suddenly everything is destroyed to give place to a new future to last for all eternity.
   4. Non-eternity is connected with the old order.
   5. New order not substance or material.
IV. And I Saw
A. The Dead
   1. Includes all mankind from earliest days
2 Cor. 5:10  
2. Not to be judged en masse but individually.
3. This the general resurrection.
4. Last time all humanity seen in one place. *(v-13)*

B. Great & Small
1. Judgement the great leveler.
2. No one so important as to be immune from judgement and no one so unimportant as to make judgement inappropriate. *(Mounce)*
3. This is not the extinction of existence.
4. Everyone--ever a person--even confined to mother's womb appears.

C. Stand Before God
1. Posture not as important as is our presence there at the Bema.
2. To the persecuted--assure God is just.
   - To the wavering--warn that lukewarm service is not enough.
   - To all--there is a destiny for everyone.

V. And the Books:
A. Books Opened
1. Plural--Life & Human Deeds; Life & Law; Conscience, memory; God's word, covenants under which we've lived.
2. They are not identified.
Omniscience of God—Nothing unknown.

B. Opened
1. Much comes to light.
Ecc. 12:14
C. Another Book—Open—Life
2. Redeemed
   a) Those who apostatized.
   b) Those who worshipped heart out.
   c) Life is in Christ.
3. Book of Life
Exo. 32:32 If thou wilt not forgive their iniquity, . . .
Ps. 69:28 Let me be blotted out of the book of the living.
Isa. 4:3
Phil. 4:3 Wherefore also, whose names are in the book of life.
Rev. 3:5
Rev. 22:19
4. Active citizens of the Kingdom.
5. 8 NT references to Book of Life.
D. Judged by things written.
1. Omission & commission.
2. Judged fairly on what has been done in this life.
3. Some already know.
Jn. 3:18 He that believeth not is condemned already.
4. Now everybody understands.
5. Degrees of awards & punishments.
6. Everyone in Heaven blessed to the extent of his abilities.
7. We can earlier know but the degree
cannot be determined until all the
evidence is in.
8. We write our own destiny.
Every man the author of his own life's story.

Gal. 3:10

Daniel's prophecy: We are saved by Christ's atonement, not by our attainments.

Dan. 7:10

11. None saved on the basis of good works; that does not put you into rank of


13. Sentence is not arbitrary—it rests on evidence.

E. Books by which judged currently available.

VI. The Disgorging.

A. Sea gave up the Dead.

1. Death at sea no monument—the Jim Allens told of one who died while on their ocean crossing.

2. Some see no monument a terrible fate.

3. Accidental death does not prevent our judgement.

4. Though buried at sea and eaten we do not lose our existence.

5. We attach reverence to the tomb & treat it inviolably.

B. Death & Hell gave up theirs.

1. Death & Hades an inseparable pair.

2. Hell = Hades. Holds us subject to fear.

VII. Death of Death in our lives. Eternity changes.

A. Death & Hell in Lake of Fire will.

1. Death forever abolished.

2. Death must die.

3. Last enemy destroyed.

4. Some fate as Devil.
I Cor. 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed:
54:55 Corruptible shall put on incorruptibleness.

Rom. 5:12 Christ is death of death & hell's destruction.

II Tim. 1:10 Christ abolished death, and life immortal.

4. What goes around comes around.
5. Negativism puts men in 2nd death--the negation of eternal life is eternal death.
6. Last assize conducted with scrupulous justice.
7. This the final end of the Devil.
8. The abode of all evil.

B. Lake of Fire
1. Final, eternal abode of all evil.
2. Hell is more terrible than dying.
3. God gives us the choice of two abodes.
4. D. Webster was asked, "What is the greatest thought that ever passed through your head?" He answered quickly, "My accountability to God."

C. Saved or Lost? Devil's door awaits all who are hardened against grace.

D. God made man a creature of choice.

E. Everyone forever somewhere.

VII. For Me

A. Eternal separation awaits all who reject Jesus.
B. Sobered by our ultimate encounter with God.

C. Thankful I can be saved!
THE DAY DEATH DIED

Pleasant Valley - Little Rock, AR - 8/12/90 (BC)
Nashville Rd., Gallatin, TN - 8/29/90
Woodson Chapel, Nashville, TN - 10/1/90

Fishinger-Kenny, Columbus, OH - 12/5/90
HOME, AT LAST - HEAVEN
Rev. 21

I. Qn. often come "What do you want out of life?"
A. Ans. are diversified
   ) Addle - Power
   ) Fraud - Pleasure
B. What do people think I want.
II. I've another "What do you want at the end of
earth's life?" Here we are more agreed - Heaven.
(After all, whatever serves the purpose for which it
was created is best - $1 million dollar computer for
a door stop? Asked Carl Mitchell).

III. What is Heaven like?
A. It's comfortable.
1. Totally new - not a reworked earth.
2. It's beautiful, bride, jewel.
3. It's spacious cube - 1500 miles.
4. It's safe - all bad is outside.
5. It's glorious - God & Christ are its temple.
6. It's filled c the glory of the Kings of the earth.
7. It's complete c all needs being met.
8. It's accessible.
9. It gives daily communion c God.
10. No more seas, forever in motion, type y
    perpetual ceases.
11. Intimate relationship c God.
12. All possible by him who sits on thone.
   He uses powerful dox.
B. What will be our body form?
I Jn. 3:1-2
1. John had seen the body of Jesus after the resurrection, so are we a different type?
I Cor. 15:32
2. Like angels?
Phil. 3:20
Matt. 22
3. We can see God.
I Thess. 4:30

C. "It is done"
1. So sure is God to do it - wants it already done.
2. Seals it - stops all things < his pleasure.
3. Final adoption comes to those who overcome.
4. Eternal fellowship with God.
Shepley end 12-26-76
THE ETERNAL CITY

Rev. 21:1-5

I. There never has been a city like the one I'm going to see. May I tell you about it?

II. Features of the City.
   A. It's in a new place.
   V. 1 "And I saw a new heaven & a new
      Old passes away.

II Pet. 3:10-13 "But the day of the Lord will come as
   Beyond the storm lies the eternal calm--Ottman
   3. Everything is new.
   4. No longer is Paradise a garden but it's a city of multiple folk.

B. No more sea
   1. Waters cover 7/8 earth today--they are denied other planets.
   2. Sea spoken of as source of evil.
      13:1
      Isa. 57:20 "But the wicked are like the trouble
   3. Nothing permanent about sea--we cross it, not live on it.
   4. Sea can divide & alarm--thus must be abolished in the bliss of the blessed.
   5. Sea is a type of perpetual unrest.
      (a) Note these illustrations.
   6. God conquered Red, Jesus Galilee, so now Heaven helps us conquer this sea.
   7. Nothing left to divide.

C. It's a holy place.
   1. No tabernacle--all is one.
2. No lights—God is.
3. No pollution.
4. Has tree, street, fountain, fruits.
5. All that mar is gone.
6. Here dwells righteousness.
7. God in person is there & I see Him.
8. Set apart for God's use.

D. Like Bride.
1. Ladies really prepare.
2. We make it as perfect as we can.
3. 3x in one verse says in the presence of God
   Himself.

E. Voice of God is there.
1. We have no photo of Heaven—only the
description.
2. We take God's word for it!

F. No tears.
1. Perfect in home of redeemed.
2. His concern is infinite.
3. Every tear gone.

G. No death.
1. All alienation is gone.
2. No estrangement.
3. death removed, joys, blessings forever!
H. No sorrow.
   1. All cause of future sorrow banished.
   2. All distressing experiences disappear.

I. No crying.
   1. No voice of despair.
   2. No cry of dismay.

K. No pain.
   1. Includes painful labor & weariness.
L. All things new.
   1. 2 words for new - time & quality. It's the latter word used here.
   2. Newness of freshness - no decay.
   3. When the World, Devil, & flesh have done their worst, God's work will still go on.

III. Surely you want to go. If it's God's city, we go on His terms.

Sheet End 6-20-71
I SAW THE HOLY CITY
Rev. 21:1-5

I. It's easy & natural to be excited about places:
   A. Ephesus & its impact on the world.
   B. Crete & the civilization that predated Christ.
   C. Acre - and Paul's one day there.
   D. Jerusalem - and Jesus' ministry.

II. But places are not holy - even Jerusalem was
   completely wiped out so none knew even Calvary.

III. But there is a holy city - and John saw it. May I
   tell you why I want to see that town?

Rev. 21:2 "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusa

A. 1st tell me some things it means.
   1. They shall be his people - plural - shows
      catholic nature as men come from all areas - no
      passport to restrict to one land.
   2. Work of Redemption is completed - you are at
      home c God.
   3. Whole aim of God is to bring God & man
      together in eternal fellowship.
   4. It's a city prepared.
   5. God's got better things progressively in store for
      us.

B. What's ceased to be?
   1. No more sea (Rev. 21:1).
      a.) Israel feared the sea.
      b.) John conscious of it in his Patmos writings.
      c.) It brought noise, tumult, traveler.
      d.) It meant trouble as it raged & roared, agitated

Ps. 107
Isa. 57:20 "But the wicked are like the troubled sea,
Jer. 49:23 "Concerning Damascus. Hamath is contou
f.) It's mysterious.
g.) It separates.
h.) It rebels.
Ps. 65
Ps. 93
2. No death (Rev. 21:4).
a.) Sin's no more, so no more death.
3. No more sorrow.
a.) God shall wipe away all tears.
b.) We cry no more - joy knows no shade; eternity
   no cloud.
c.) Curse & condemnation gone.
4. No more crying.
a.) Nothing to make us - what does today?
   1.) Disappointments.
   2.) Frustration.
   3.) Loneliness.
   4.) Forgotten.
b.) Nothing defiles.
c.) Singular - every teardrop.
5. No more Pain.
a.) No disappointments.
b.) Nothing.
6. No night.
a.) God's the light.
b.) No pause.
c.) No weariness.
7. No temple.
   a.) No help needed.
   b.) No holy day or place - all are.
C. What's new? (Rev. 22:1-6)
1. River - streams make glad the city of God.
   (We built early cities at place of water & fortification).
   a.) Give life.
   b.) River flows thru broad st. which intersects city, row of trees on either side of bank.
   c.) Flows from God, thus brings pure blessing.
   d.) Not centrality of eternal life in new Jerusalem.
2. Tree.
   a.) Of life.
   b.) Full supply - continuous.
   c.) Basic: water, food, health.
   d.) Not seasoned in its bearing, but does constantly
3. Throne.
   a.) No intervening authority.
   b.) The Eternal is Everything.
   c.) Jesus sits on it.
   d.) Always in sight.
4. Service.
   a.) Let it be perpetual.
   b.) No more self-will.
5. No curse.
Gal. 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse
1 Pet. 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own
   a.) No cursed person or thing has a right in Heaven.
6. Sight - see His face.
1 Jn. 3:1-2 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God."
2 Cor. 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Thus new clothing of soul.

Bear the imprint of God.

Royalty - reign forever.

1 Pet. 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that doth not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of the glory of his greatness have been grafted in again unto him."

IV. All Good is Accomplished by Divine Agency - I

Make.

A. 9X I will be your God.
B. 12X ye shall be my people (in the Bible).
C. God's 5X in 3 verses.
D. Make - not create - that which sin marred is removed.
E. Are you in Him?
I. I know of no earthly destiny that is exempt from flaws.
   A. 51% Americans prefer the ocean to vacation.
      1. Got to get there.
      2. Did I turn off the stove--I'm not sure, haven't used it in 3 weeks.
   B. Homecoming
      1. Do I look as old as he does?
      2. Buildings gone.

II. One is flawless and that's Heaven.
   A. Can't imagine a flaw unless you are not there.
   B. Don't grasp it all but all I do I love.
      1. Father's house many mansions--Room literally. "We've got room for you."
         Robert Ripley said Heaven is full--how much does a soul weigh--3 oz.?
         No, we've "room for you"--stay with us. *Twin I never saw*
      2. Will we know each other?
      3. Neither married nor given in marriage.
   C. Confident every problem solved as all I'm told I love hearing.

III. We go to one partial passage--can't even use the whole chapter but glory in all of it.
    A. We'll use the last part.
    B. Rev. 21:21 our starting point.

IV. From Rev. 21:21 we learn:
    A. 12 gates
       1. We start here because gates are later mentioned in our study.
2. 12 gates - 12 pearls
3. We'll come back to gates.

B. Street Pure Gold
1. Like transparent glass.

C. No temple there.
1. Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple.
2. See the divinity of Jesus.
3. Only title for Christ in this section is Lamb.
   a) Occurs 7X.
   b) Emphasizes Christ giving of Himself.
   c) See boundless love.
   d) See necessity of being in Christ.
   e) Washed in the laver of His blood and presented to the Father without spot.
4. Temple symbol of God's presence in the midst of his people.
5. Whole New Jerusalem is the dwelling place of God.
6. "All inhabitants of the Holy City are conscious of His presence and serve Him as priests" - Robbins.
7. Jesus was the temple of God when He was on earth.

8. All have personal access to God.

D. No need of sun or moon to shine in it for the glory of God did lighten it and the Lamb is the light thereof.
1. Read Isaiah 60:19-20.
2. The immediate presence of God irradiates it.
3. God's glory through the Lamb fills the entire city with uncreated light.
4. City flooded with light, darkness of every kind is banished forever.

1 Jn. 1:5 God is light, in him is no darkness

E. Nations saved walk in the light; Kings of earth bring their glory and honor.
1. Some translations for "in the light" have "emit light" or "by the light."
2. Heaven is the place of the saved.
3. Kings forget their glory and lay theirs down at God's feet.
4. He is describing the new city in terms of fabulous wealth, dazzling color and indescribable beauty.
5. All the glory and prestige of the world there to show Jesus is the King over every department of human life.
6. Jerusalem, the imperial city, receives the tribute of the world.
7. All ranks and degrees of men fill Heaven's courts.

F. Gates never shut.
1. Walls express safety.
2. Open gates show no danger of hostile attack.
3. Gates not shut by day--and night goes not exist.
4. Left open showing nothing can harm the citizens.
5. Gates face every quarter, always open, none desire to leave.

G. Glory and Honor of Nations Given to it.
   1. God is over all.
   2. The truly glorious & excellent are there.
   3. Whatever is excellent and valuable in the world shall be theirs in a refined and higher degree.

H. No entrance to:
   1. Defilement
      a) 7 things missing—temple, sun and moon, night, unclean, defilement and works of abomination, lies.
      b) Words both a promise and a warning—Heaven will be free of ungodly influences that sometimes make this life so difficult.
      c) We can't hold dual citizenship.
      d) Defile translated unclean, unholy.
      e) Unclean = common.
   2. Abomination
      a) Nothing impure.
      b) None who insult God.
      a) Truth ever necessary.
      b) No hypocrite or pretender.

I. Those who enter are in the Lamb's Book of Life.
   1. Redeemed from sin and freedom from toil and persecution—ever in the eternal presence of God.
   2. Names of the unworthy not written there.
I. I introduce to your mind the word "Heaven" - what was the first thing you thought?
A. I want to go.
B. It's up.
C. It's the home of the redeemed.
D. It's where my loved ones are.

II. I don't know what you thought, but I do know one thing the inspired John saw - and I want to relay his vision to you.

Rev. 21:22-19 "And I saw -

III. We move to telling what John saw - though this is only part of it.
A. I saw no temple therein.
1. "Purpose is to show the unsurpassed splendor which radiates from the presence of God and the Lamb." (Ladd)
2. Task beyond us to desirable God - much less God in his home
3. No temple - the eternal presence is there and the eternal presence super-
John 4:21

3. No sanctuary there for it is itself a Holy of Holies as the cube form suggests.

4. No temple shows God is giving full, free, and equal access.

5. No one dresses to go to church and no one misses - He's in it all time.

6. Three new things: new temple, new light, new life

B. Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

1. God's ever wanted fellowship with man.

2. Heaping up of titles: Lord, God, Almighty is impressive.

3. Lamb is equally with God.
   a. The promise of God's presence with His people is realized in the person of the sacrificed and exalted Christ.
   b. God and Christ stand in the same relationship to man.
c. See the universality of the knowledge of God in the eternal order.
d. Jesus the Lamb on same level with God.
e. God and Lamb - the light of it.
C. Saw a city had no need of sun.
   1. I do here - essential.
   2. There God and the Lamb are the light - essential too.
   3. Heaven needs no created light - sun or moon.

Isaiah 6:3
4. Future hold no dark ages.
5. Darkness the metaphor for existence apart from God.
6. No cloud ever crosses in the land of fadeless day.
7. No shadows ever rests upon it.
8. One perpetual high noon.
D. Nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.
1. Nations
   a. People will not lose their national identity.
   b. By light of God nations walk.
   c. City of God has the best of all nations.
   d. Church taught them it possesses an unfailing source of illumination and it radiates far beyond her borders.
   e. Church the medium of light to the world outside.
   f. Boll taught that in the new earth there are people and nations, redeemed forever, leading a glorified existence, yet distinct from the bride, the Lamb's wife, who has her abode in the city with which she's identified. There are ranks and destructions among God's redeemed. Redeemed nations of the new earth walk by the light of the city. Their kings bring glory and honor to it. None have access to it.
IV. If I'm puzzled by this I am clear on what will not be there.

A. The gates will not be shut.
   1. Open continually - danger and darkness gone.
   2. Closed the old city.

Neh. 13:19

3. No enemy to invade - lake of fire took care of that.
4. Shows absolute safety and openness of New Jerusalem.
5. No enemy to invade.

B. No night there.
   1. No period of doubt, fear, or darkness.
   2. Heaven's one eternal day.
3. No time wasted in sleep
   (as I miss the news.)
4. Day dawns - no sunset.
C. Nothing that defiles.
   1. Unclean have no access.
   2. Purity is the characteristic of the city.
   3. Sin in every phase excluded.
   5. Not one impurity brought to the city.
D. Nor works and abomination.
   1. Outlaws all repulsive to God.
   2. Everything not devoted to the service of God left out.
   3. Purity city contrasts with the earth.
E. No makes a lie.
   1. No untruth.
   2. No contrived deception.
V. Who is to enter?
   They which are written in.
   A. Note the But - everybody's not going.
   B. The Written.
      1. Inhabited only by the saved.
2. Saved are in the church.
3. All the saved are added to it.
4. There has been an entry - unlike my barn not insured!

C. Lamb's Book.
1. Through Christ only do we enter.
2. Our salvation depends on what Christ has done.
3. Are you looking for a city - are you in Christ?

Smithville, TN - 3/31/99
Vultee - 4/4/99
Funeral - Mrs. Edna Cardwell - 4/4/99
Things Abominable to God

Rev. 21:27

I. Some one take advantage of you—"Stricken you out later."
A. God dislikes all the tolerating some of our activities but will eventually have what He wants.
Rev. 21:27 "And there shall no wise enter into it any-
II. If nothing above; show what does He call abominable.
A. Define—extreme hatred, disgust, loathsome, despised.
III. Things Abominable

A. Idolatry
I Pet. 4:3 "For the time past of our lives may suffice us
1. Excessive love & veneration for anything.
2. God must be first—His word uppermost.
3. Compare:
   Praise reading—Bible study
   Praise spending—"spending"
   Pleasure—Duty
   Work—Divine appointments (Boy & Daddy at store)
   Or 16:13 "No man can serve two masters: for either
   1. Wisdom of Men (Wheat & Tar) vs. the Wheat
   Or 16:15 "And he said unto them. 'Ye are they, which
   1. Opinion this is most difficult thing to get men
   to accept.
2. No one likes to hear he's wrong—even by God!
3. Belief in above eliminates presumption. Absence of
testimony means absence of knowledge: no preaching?
Names, practices, creeds, customs in book?
4. How do you know your pleasure is God's?
C. Hypocresy
Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God, but
2. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life. 3. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life. 4. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life. 5. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life. 6. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life. 7. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life. 8. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life. 9. Phil. 1:20 says, "One thing I count as "loss."" Any given thing is greater than losing one's life.
Question

A little boy asked his mother one day if she thought his father would go to heaven. "Hope so" the mother replied, "But why do you ask such a question?" To this the little boy replied, "Because I was afraid he wouldn't have time to leave the store."
As I walked into the Church of Jesus, a marvelous Cathedra! my attention was immediately arrested by a large statue of a woman, two men and a little boy. Upon inquiring of a near-priest as to what it meant I was stunned to learn that the woman represented the Church, and that the two men were Martin Luther and John Calvin.

Now just picture this if you can—the Church, or the woman, held a large whip above her head as if to be beating these two great reformers! And the boy, ah, that was indeed interesting, for the boy represented an angel of God tearing to tiny pieces the Holy Bible. Thus, you can understand what the Catholic Church thinks about other religious bodies and especially those who read God's word.

The church of Christ in Italy has had Bibles torn and ripped apart in public, and the Catholics have made many attempts to beat us also, but God always overruled and we have been able to escape personal injury. However, the fact remains, and I hope you will warn America about it—Catholicism is founded on ignorance, and what she has done to Italy, Spain and Mexico she will do to America also, if and when the opportunity presents itself.
GOD'S HEAVEN  Rev. 21:9-Rev. 22:5
1. To see something so glorious need be prepared and stationed.
   A. John taken to great and high mountain.
   1. Let us remove obstruction of mundane world.
   [I. These Features Are Apparent. (Much we don't know--let's take what we do w/o speculation.)
   A. About It, I Know 12 Things.
   1. It is the Bride of Christ.
      a. We see church as it ideally exists. Lesson belongs to past, present, future.
   2. It is a named, described city.
      a. Pure gold like clear glass.
      b. City shows pernacy, many, safety, security, fellowship, beauty. It shows communion of lasting multitude. Gold shows pure, non-obstructable fellowship of God and saints.
      c. Name--Holy Jerusalem, New.
         (1) Have you been to holy land--not yet, on my way.
   3. It's luminary--glory of God & Lamb. note
      b. No sun or moon as need no created lites.
      No nite there. Life can't bear darkness long.
      c. God the Shechinah--Christ drives away moral polution.
   4. It has a wall--great & high.
      a. Jasper wall--safety & security--protection (enemy or element)
         (1) Meas of beauty
      b. Wall 144 cubits. or 216 ft. wall & 7,281,060 ft. city. Heifer thickness
         (1) Insignificant size--little to keep out.
         (2) Order & origination fall below spirit-
5. It has 12 gates, with 12 angels, 3 on each side, point of the temples.
   a. On each, names of 12 tribes of Israel.
   b. Each a pearl.
   c. Ever open ample opportunity to enter & fellowship with God.
      (1) Shut symbolizes darkness, danger.
      (2) There is a gate that stands ajar, a radiance from the cross afar, a Savior's love revealing apostolicity.
   d. Angels additional guardians.
6. 12 Foundations with Apostles names.
   a. Garnished with precious stones.
      Jasper=diamond
      Saphire (lap is la zuli)=clear blue
      Chalcedomy (kal-sed o ni=inferior emerald, green)
      Emerald
      Sardonyx (like agate in cameo)
      Sardius (carnelian)
      Chrysolite (yellow=the golden stone)
      Beryl (like emerald, less green)
      Topaz=yellowish green
      Chryspstrasus (yellowish pale green)
      Jacinth (red variety of zoicon=orange)
      Amethyst=purple.
7. It is four square (unshakable firmness).
   a. Know so because measured with golden reed for only this becomes Heaven.
   b. Measure wall, city, gate—yet none told height of gate—for who can measure Christ?
   c. Cube—12,000 furlong=1400 miles.
      Wall 216 ft. vs 7,281,000 ft.
      (1) Shape of Holy of Holies.
(2) What can you add to the perfect cube? 3
8. God is the sanctuary or temple.
   a. No church there—no real estate agent
      speaks of churches and schools.
   (1) Churches divide and sectarianize.
   b. Fellowship immediate and direct—city is
      the temple.
   c. Heaven is the church—need be in it to go
      there.
9. All Nations are there.
   a. All time, race, color, people gain admittance.
   b. Don't make Heaven bigger than my God
      (admitting Hindu, Buddhist, etc.) for who's
      Heaven is it?
   c. Kings of Earth acknowledge—God alone
      superior—none dispute his way.
   d. Note the written are in; the impure are
      without.
10. It has street of Gold.
    a. So brilliant seems like glass.
    b. Pure—needs much refining.
    c. Perhaps collectively for many streets—
       else what does those two gates open into?
11. It was the River of Water of Life.
    a. Clear as crystal, pure.
       (1) River—profound in depth, majestic in
           volume, restless in movement, exhaustless, universal, ever flows.
       Ps. 46:4
       (2) There is a river makes glad the city.
       (3) Water—fontal source to some.
    b. Comes out of throne—not by it.
       (1) Only throne of value—God & Lamb same
           value.
c. Flows by the golden street.
d. Paradise or park between River & Street
   ---here the Tree of Life. 
(1) River---shows source, channel, fertile
   banks but no estuary or mouth.
   Eternity is the ocean of love in which
   River is Lost.
(2) Living water, pure, clean, fresh, whole
   some, not stagnant, turbid or salt.
(3) Life---Restorative, refresh, support.
(4) Source---throno---all life from God by
   His for Jesus' sake.
e. Paradise has Tree of Life. 
   (1) Generically for all trees.
   (2) Bears 12 manner of fruits, every month,
       abundance of grace.
   (3) Leaves for healing of the nation.
       Botanist says in leaf whole tree is
       discernable.
12. There is the Throne of God & Lamb.
   a. No curse---free from malulation.
   b. Servants voluntarily serve.
   c. And they shall see his face
      I John 3:2
      (1) What draws you to Heaven---free from
         pain or Christ?
   d. Mark in their forehead.
   e. Reign forever & ever. let "to the ages of the
   ages!"
   (1) Heaven is for conquerors.

II. Today where are you?
A. Heaven is:
   1. Bride of Christ.
   2. City, Holy Jerusalem.
   3. God & Lamb the Light.
   4. Has 144 cubit wall.
5. Has 12 gates with 12 angels with 12 names
6. Has 12 foundations with apostles.
7. City Four square.
8. God is the sanctuary.
9. All nations there.
10. Street of Gold.
11. River of Water of Life.
12. Throne of God & Lamb.
13. Lucky—if it has you!

B. A Blot on the Church?
C. Never seen on the Road to Heaven?

(1) Then do something!!

West End 3/26/61
Markville 3/25/61
Granny White 4/7/61
Holmes Rd. Memphis 4/7/61
WILL I EVER SEE THE LORD?
Revelation 22:1-5
1. Perhaps all of us recall going to a parade.
A. Describe it--
   1. Jostle for front spot.
   2. Stand for hours.
   3. Hoist kids to shoulders.
   4. Alert to "here he comes"!
   5. Passes quickly--touch him--"he waved at me!"--"shake the hand that shook the hand"--but no lasting contact.
B. Is this the way it is with God?
   1. When will I see Him?
   2. Will it be very long?
   3. Will He know me--surely these are questions that come to us all.
II. There are somethings about the hereafter that are mysterious--but there are other things perfectly clear--this is one of them.
A. I will see Jesus!
   Rev. 22:4 "And they shall see his face; and at the end of the race, with the beginning of Heaven, the redeemed shall see Jesus.
   2. It isn't a temporary sight but a blessed, continuing communion.
      a. It is devoid of hindrances.
      b. It is a lasting time of service as "slaves that are owned and employed by him.
   v.3 "And his servants shall serve Him"
(1) If you don't enjoy it here why would you there?
c. It is a place of most pleasant surroundings--pure river of water of life, throne, street, city, tree of life, and leaves for healing.

d. It shall last--not fitful but continuing!

e. Jesus shall be the main attraction--they walk by sight now, not faith.

B. Those who shall see are called "his servants." (v-3)

1. Do you know how to become one?

2. This is after the pattern of Christ's post-resurrection appearances--only his own.

C. They are folk who by grace have qualified themselves.

1. They are people of hope.
   1 John 3:2 "Beloved now are we the sons of

2. They are people who've endured and accepted.
   1 Cor. 13:12 "For now we see through a glass,
   a. RSV talks of imperfect knowledge and prophesy.
   b. Ours is seeing dimly, knowing, in part--but then "face to face".
   c. "I shall understand fully even as I have been fully understood" (v-12)

3. It's for folks who are pure.
   Matt. 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for
   a. Jesus wants only the pure there.
   b. He calls all the vile here!

4. It is for the perfect.
   Matt. 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as
D. It all shall be genuine!

v-4 "And his name shall be in their forehe.
1. His name stands for God and His authority.
2. It represents what he is in holiness, righteousness, purity, love.
3. Saints will look like, resemble their father!
4. This also implies a seal. They know they belong to him and bear his image.
   All doubts removed.

III. Is this your hope?
A. Are you one of his?
B. Are you faithful?
C. Do you consider this enough or is something else more attractive? (See tract)
Ps. 17:15 "As for me, I will behold thy
1. Do you want that which was denied Moses
Each year nearly 16,000 people in the United States come to the conclusion that life isn’t worth living. Some take poison, others jump from bridges or apartment houses, while others resort to firearms. Are these people right? Is life worth living after all?

Life is not worth living if you live it only for

**Is Life Worth Living?**

---

**MISERY:** “I am the most miserable man on this earth.”

Ivan Krueger, wealthy head of the world’s largest monopoly, committed suicide.

**FAME:** “I walk up and down thinking I am happy and knowing I am not,” said the famous essayist, Charles Lamb.

Stephen Foster, composer of “Old Black Joe,” “Swanee River,” and other plantation songs, died a drunkard’s death at the age of 38.

Edgar Allan Poe, famous poet, drank himself to death.

**POWER:** Napoleon died a lonely, horrible death on the Isle where he was exiled.

Julius Caesar was assassinated.

Hannibal took poison. Mussolini was executed.

**PLEASURE:** After years of pleasure, Robert Burns wrote:

> “Pleasures are as poppies spread, you seize the flower, the bloom is shed.”

Lord Byron, who lived a life of sinful pleasure, lived and died an unhappy man.

But life IS worth living if you live it for CHRIST. . . The educated Apostle Paul said, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). The uneducated Jerry McAuley, “the river thief,” found such joy in living after he started to live for Christ that he established rescue missions to tell the good news that life is worth living when it’s lived for Jesus.

Yes, from all walks of life, people have found that a life for Christ is a life of joy.

How does Christ make life worth living?

**FIRST:** He forgives all your sinful past. As long as you have past sins bothering you, a joyous life is impossible.

**SECOND:** He gives hope and help for the present. “My God shall supply all your need
Christ promised everlasting life and an eternal home for you. "As many as received him [Christ], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2, 3).

This Christ, who can save you from eternal death and make your life worth living, only asks one thing—obedience to Him.

Long ago, in the school of Socrates, it was customary at the beginning of the term for each student to bring him a present. After all the others had given their gifts, a very poor lad flung himself at the feet of the great teacher and said, "Oh Socrates, I give thee myself." What that one did, you can do now as a poor, lost and needy sinner.

Throw yourself at Christ's feet and say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Oh Christ, I give myself to Thee."

If you will do this in simple faith and in sincerity, Christ will make your life worth living.

—Nathanael Olson

Cover: Fred Sieb
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THE LAST BEATITUDE
Rev. 22:14-15

I. So we come to a victorious end of the N.T.
   A. I hope it is true of our lives.
   B. It's the final beatitude.
   C. It's No. 7. I don't make criminals.

II. What Is It? "Blessed are they that do his commandments"

   v-14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments"

   A. Do Commandments vs Wash Their Robes.
      1. Little difference in Greek words.
      2. Little difference in meaning.
      3. Better manuscripts point to washing robes.

   B. What does the Robe expression show?
      1. Man has a part in the salvation process.
      2. Jesus is the sacrifice but man must appropriate it.
      3. All the glorious things God has done for us is for naught if we do not accept it.
      4. We must wash our own robes.

   Rev. 7:14 Washed their robes made them white in

   5. Obedience is ever God's plan for man's part.

   Matt. 7:21-27 Not everyone that saith unto me
   2 Thess. 1:7-9 And who are troubled
   Heb. 5:8-9 They who were sons not learned

   6. Bathe yourselves in the spirit of
      Christ so that your habits, manners, doings at home & abroad are like His.

   7. Obviously the washed needed cleansing.
      Obviously the washed sought cleansing.
      Obviously the washed obtained cleansing.
Obviously the washed continue to do it.
8. Deeds are the exudation and fruition of the whole life.
9. Wash a tense that is present indicating duration, continuing action. Habitually wash.

1. If we walk in the light
10. Original washing puts us into Christ.

Acts 2:38
Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption, through his blood
Acts 20:28 Feed the sheep of God
Acts 22:16 Now why forkest thou to rise

C. We thus have a Blessing:
Right to Tree of Life & Enter by the gates into the city.
a) Right of entry ours.
b) Enter openly, without challenge.
c) Not surreptitiously or climbing in another way.
d) Triumphant—nothing concealed—no forbidden way.
e) Victory ours.
f) Nothing of which to be ashamed.
g) Go through the gate of pearl.

III. Conversely there are those without the city:
A. List of disbarred—6 sins cited.
1. It has no defilement of the city.
Rev. 21:27 There shall in no wise enter—it is abominable
2. Destined for lake of fire.
Rev. 21:8 Lake of Fire

Lake of Fire
3.

B. List of Disbarment

1. Dogs

Rev. 21:8

a) Symbol of savagery.

b) Unclean & vicious.

c) 2 footed—not 4 feet.

d) They live only for this world.

Phil. 3:2

beware of dogs, evil workers, evildoers!

1 Cor. 6:9-10

neither does Jesus share in it.

e) Male prostitute.

Deut. 23:18

f) Hates his brothers.

1 Kings 21:15

f) Immoral person.

2. Sorcerers

a) Necromancers.

b) Magic tricks.

c) Astrology.

3. Whoremongers

a) Immoral persons.

b) From porno.

c) Prostitutes their body to another's lust for hire. (Thayer)

4. Murderers

a) Hates his brothers.

1 Jn. 3:15 15 murder as a murderer.

5. Idolater

a) Worships gods made with hands.

b) Covetous.

c) Refuses to give Jesus his all.

Luke 14:33 "No one of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."
   a) Deceitful.  
   b) Some lie under pressure.  
Prov. 6:19 God hates...false witness speaks lies.  
C. But if you'll repent you can be saved.

Long Creek Church, Columbia, SC - 9/12/93
Numbers Game

When I answered the phone, an angry voice demanded to speak to Fred. "I'm sorry," I said. "You must have the wrong number."

"Don't be sorry, lady," the voice growled back. "You're lucky you don't know him."

Grief Cases

After a busy day at a department store, one weary salesclerk remarked to her friend, "The more patience I have, the more people use it."

"Graffiti," McNaught Syndicate

A study showed that 7 percent of those surveyed committed two thirds of all violent crime

Since 1960, violent crime has increased 500 percent. A 1987 Justice Department study found that eight out of 10 Americans will be victims of violent crime in their lifetimes. Six million violent crimes were measured by the Justice Department in 1990.

Audiences are shocked when they are told that violent criminals serve only 5.5 years for murder, 3.0 years for rape, 2.25 years for robbery and 1.28 years for assault. We have to ask the question, is 5.5 years long enough to serve in prison for intentionally taking another human being's life?

been suggested that about 75,000 new, young, persistent criminal predators are added to our population every year.
To The Point

By STEVE GOODIER

I've heard it said, "It's not your age that matters, but how your matter ages." As we grow older, is our goal to continue looking young?

A little girl climbed into the lap of her grand father and studied his white and balding head. She ran her fingers along the deep wrinkles road-mapping his face and neck.

"Did God make you?" she asked.

"Yes."

"Did God make me, too?" she wondered.

"Yes," he replied.

"Well," she shrugged. "Don't you think He's doing a better job now than He used to?"

Did did make us. God made us young and beautiful. But these bodies age and change. Whether I fight or accept it, the years will leave their footprints.

But there is no reason for my spirit to grow stale and bored. Someone has provocatively said that it is not how old you are, but how you are old that counts. I want to remain fully interested in life, for then I'll be fully alive. I want to continue dreaming. I want to stay enthusiastic. In short, I don't want to die until I have lived.

---

When I was a young announcer raising funds on our local public-television station, a woman called in and told our volunteer operator that she would donate $100 if I shaved off my beard. I agreed to help the cause and came back clean-shaven the next night.

The check arrived the following day—
from my mother.

—Clarke Caywood (Wilmette, Ill.)

I came home from work one day to find my wife, JoLynn, cradling our six-month-old daughter and repeating, "Da-da, Da-da." How sweet, I thought to myself, for her to choose Daddy as our baby's first word.

Several weeks later, JoLynn and I were awakened by a small voice crying, "Da-da."

Turning over to go back to sleep, my wife said, "She's calling you, dear."

—Mike Coleman (Manchester, Mo.)
SHUT OUT
Revelation 22:14-15
I. It's unpleasant, frustrating and defeat to
be shut out.
A. Have you had these experiences?
   1. Bank closes at 3:00--you get there at 3:05.
   2. Can't board plane--haven't room--yet others
      walk on.
   3. Motel--"family of 4"--"no vacancy."
   4. Last seat is taken on the bus, standing
      room is taken--you are shut out!
II. We are on our way to another world.
A. Do you believe it as evidenced by your
   preparation?
   1. Truly do you believe it at all.
B. Do you believe there is a judgment in which
   we'll be told which world?
   Rev. 20:13 "Death and hell delivered up the d
   1. Anihilation? Then the grave digger would
      put an end to each reprotrate. What would
      hell deliver?
C. Judgment is going to show various classes.
   1. There will be:
      a. Dogs--unclean, ravenous. All that's
         rapacious, filthy, degraded.
      b. Sorcerers--practitioners in impostures in
         arts and religion. Trade on credulity of
         men.
      c. Whoremongers--the immoral.
      d. Murderers--malignant spirits.
      e. Idolaters--"bows to pomp and glitter of
         titled fools".
      f. Liars
   2. What will God have to do with these?
      a. He made hell for the devil.
Matt. 25:41 "Depart from me ye cursed into
b. Some decide they'd rather follow Devil
than God.
c. Do you know some who are homesick for hell:
(1) It seems to be a favorite word. They
show no such affection for heaven, or
words like church, prayer, Bible.
(2) This man would be unhappy in heaven.
(3) He can't stay one hour in worship—one
hour is interminable as he wiggles.
d. This was never God's wish to have you
wicked. You chose—you made your prepara-
tion for heaven. God simply abides by
your decision.
Clip #1.
e. Judas went to his "own place." Who today
keep once honky tonks, cheap hotels, etc?
John 3:19 "Men love darkness rather than
(1) This is the reason some not Christians
—don't want to!
(2) Light and darkness don't mix.
(3) What if God were to let this type con-
gregation in heaven—it'd ruin all.
(4) Would you put a man with an assault
record in your house, thief at your
books. Can't amputate a lie, immunize
adultery or vacinate murder.
James 1:15 "Sin when finished bring
(5) Police separate lawless from law
abiding.
f. Be fair with God.
(1) Would you give the dumb and studious
the same grade?
(2) Don't ask him to run heaven without
order or reason.
2 Pet. 3:9 "The Lord is... not willing that...
Ezek. 33:11 "I have no pleasure in the de
3. What will you do about it?
a. Cross can't ask for forgiveness on other side.
b. You have your 2nd chance here--death your deadline.
c. It's sad to be left out.
d. There will be plenty with you.

(1) See clip #2.

West End 9/2/62
S. Napth 9/2/62
THE LAST INVITATION  
Rev. 22:16-17

I. Knowing the position you take will signal whether you agree with me or not.
A. Pre-Post-a millennium.
B. Preterist, historic, philosophical, recapitulation, futurist.

II. Even my test—the last invitation—to whom is it extended? Jesus has just said, "Behold, I come quickly."
A. Are they inviting him to return—thus invitation to Jesus.
   1. Come is singular—addressed to Lord. (Bruce)
   2. It's a welcome—please come Jesus. (Ortman)
   3. First half to Jesus, sudden shift & last half to world—thus interpret it all. (Ladd)
   4. Impossible to be addressed to Heaven. (McGuggin)
B. Thus invitation to the world asking sinners to come to salvation.
   2. Betty asked man on elevator, a total stranger, "Have you been there?" He was mystified—where?
   3. I shall lead you in the belief I have it is to sinners to come to salvation.

III. It's the Last Invitation.
A. No doubt about this as it is at the close of Revelation.
B. He has just said:
v-11 "He that is unjust, filthy, righteous, holy—be holy still"
1. Comes a time when you can't change --last opportunity.
2. Destiny is forever fixed with his coming, no second chance.
3. You will not see the return of Jesus change any moral condition in man--too late!

C. For those of us who preach--we will one day extend the last invitation--(the way some preach they already have).

D. But I want you to know the final hour has not yet come.
   1. Would you hear today joyfully the second coming trumpet?
   2. Are you ready?
   3. Are you doing his commandments, washing robes made white that you may enter the gates of the city?
      a) You have & are obeying the gospel.
      b) Our "right" is by virtue of what He has done for us.

4. Without are:
   a) Dogs--unclean animal.
      (1) Impudent pretenders.
      (2) Unholy licentious professors.
      (3) Impure & filthy--"dirty dog".
      (4) Male prostitute Deut. 23:18
           I Kings 21:19
   b) Sorcerers
   c) Whoremongers--porno
   d) Murderers
3.

e) Idolaters  Col. 3:5
f) Loves & makes a lie--either
    acting or speaking. Prov. 6:19

5. If you are in that group there is
still time to come because now with
warnings he mingles mercy. (Clark)

IV. The One Who Starts the Invitation.
A. I Jesus.
   1. I is emphatic.
   2. Jesus = Savior.
   3. Single name Jesus identifies heavenly
      revelator with the historic Jesus of
      this earth though disciples knew.
      (Ladd)
   4. Jesus gives us himself--not just his
      teachings.
   5. He is ever concerned for souls.
   6. Sent angel to testify.
      a) You is plural--thus to all, not
          just John.
      b) Guarantees the accuracy.
B. I'm Root & Offspring of David
   1. Root
      a) I'm his source.
         Matt. 22:41-46
         Isa. 11:1
         Isa. 11:10
      b) He's more than a man who lived
         in Palestine--he's the messiah.
         Jer. 23:5
      c) Shows earth connection; star
         heaven's.
2. Offspring.
   a) David's source, David's heir to throne.
   b) He's more than a man.
3. Many titles.
   a) David's Lord.
   b) David's Son.
   c) Morning Star (Nations use for majesty) (New era to come).

Nu. 24:17
2 Pet. 1:19
John 8:12
d) Coming one.
e) Water of life.
4. He was:
   Born King of the Jews Matt. 2:2
   Died King of the Jews Matt. 27:37
   Will Reign King of the Jews Zech. 1:9

V. Those Who Echo the Invitation
A. The Spirit
   1. Holy Spirit
   2. Uses printed page
   3. No one goes to Heaven by chance.

Rom. 1:18
Heb. 4:12
John 16:8
Acts 2:38
4. You are not alone on vocal music nor necessity of baptism.
   a) See clips.
   b) For forgiveness of sins.
   c) Matt. 26:28 "For this is my blood"
   d) Because of ?
5. Via sacred word, conviction by the influence of conscience men come.

B. The Bride
1. The church breaks in & says come.
2. Not one voice is to be muted as many invite.
3. Invitation by body and by individual believer of it.
4. Church invites by her standard of living.
5. Church says come via our happiness--we've found something.
6. Every Christian has the responsibility to pass it on.
7. No one can be a Christian who is not Christianizing. (Pack)
8. Everyone a missionary.

C. Heareth
1. Ones who will obey.
2. Who knows how many via TV and Radio.

D. Athirst
1. Earnestly desires blessings of the gospel.
2. There is an inherent thirst in the human heart. (Robbins)

Isa. 55:1

E. Whosoever Will
1. Is it a descending climax?
2. The worst may come.
3. Devil tries to frighten:
   Too young
   Too old
Too bad
Too late
Too weak (to last)
4. Note "will"--only ones shut out are those that will to keep out.
5. Must be a willingness to accept.
6. Salvation a matter of will.

F. Water of Life Freely
1. Water cleanses.
2. Essential to every man's needs.
3. What else can quench thirst?
4. Given freely--without money--without price.
5. Come angels rejoice.

Lu. 15:7

Crittenden Drive, Russellville, KY - 4/27/94
Churches of Christ have stood almost alone in the religious world on the subject of water baptism. We have insisted that immersion to a penitent believer is essential to salvation from past sins. Because of this conviction we have been charged with disregarding or nullifying the grace of God, teaching salvation by works, advocating baptismal regeneration, and denying the protestant theology of justification by faith only. Whereas we have emphasized baptism as a condition of salvation, protestant denominationalism has promoted the theory that baptism is simply a "sign" or "symbol" of the salvation which one has previously received through faith alone.

A Doctrine of Recent Origin

What many people do not recognize is that churches of Christ are advocating the ancient view of baptism, dating back to the first century and continuing almost unabated until the time of the protestant reformation. Jack Cottrell has pointed out:

The understanding of baptism as the time when God bestows salvation was the nearly unanimous view in Christendom for nearly fifteen hundred years. It was a consensus shared by the early church fathers, Catholic theology in the Middle Ages, and Martin Luther. The "other" view, the one that now prevails, was the creation of Huldreich Zwingli in the decade of the 1520's. It was adopted by his followers, including John Calvin; and mainly through the latter's influence was spread throughout the bulk of Protestantism. Thus the "sign and seal" concept of baptism is the newcomer, the usurper. We should have no qualms about abandoning a view whose roots go back no further than Zwingli.

It was Zwingli—through John Calvin—who influenced the teaching of most modern denominations on the subject of baptism, leading them astray from the historic biblical position and culminating in what is now the majority view which rejects the essentiality of baptism to salvation. Cottrell has stated: "This, then, is the essence of baptism according to the Reformed tradition. It is the view commonly found today in Presbyterian and Reformed denominations, in Baptist and Mennonite groups, in the Wesleyan tradition (e.g., Methodists, Nazarenes), and indeed in most Protestantism." Most adherents to this view would be surprised to learn that it is not only younger than biblical times, but that it is scarcely five hundred years old.

When men began to enunciate the restoration principle (the idea that we can go back to the biblical pattern and reproduce scriptural teaching and practice today), one of the characteristics of this effort was to emphasize baptism "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). There was a determination to lay aside human creeds and denominational dogmas and to "speak where the Bible speaks" (I Pet. 4:11). If one reads the Bible, apart from
preconceived ideas and theological biases, he cannot fail to see that baptism was a part of conversion. Look at the conversion stories in the book of Acts and note the presence of baptism in each case! Yet, as Cottrell has noted, “The tragedy is that many in this very movement [to restore the biblical pattern] have begun to doubt its validity and are espousing and proclaiming the Zwinglian heresy instead.” The influence of Zwingli and Calvin upon the religious world has been very great indeed.

The Biblical View

Notwithstanding the theological systems of men, however, the teaching of the scriptures is clear. In passage after passage, where baptism and salvation are both mentioned, baptism invariably comes first. In Mark 16:16, Jesus said: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Notice the divine order: (1) Belief, (2) Baptism, (3) Salvation. If we are first saved, and then baptized (as most denominations teach), is it not strange that neither Jesus nor any inspired writer ever had the correct order? In every instance, the biblical writers placed baptism before salvation.

The scholars in denominationalism have had a particularly difficult time in explaining Peter’s statement on Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2:38. On that day the inquiring multitude had cried out, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter responded with a command: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Consider the following: (1) It is unquestionably true that the multitude wanted to know what to do to be saved. Peter had just charged them with the crucifixion of the Son of God (v. 36). (2) The answer given in response to their question was twofold: repent and be baptized. They were not told merely to repent, but rather to “repent, and be baptized.” (3) The command given by the apostle Peter on this occasion was not his own; it was issued “in the name of Jesus Christ.” (4) If there could be any doubt at all about why they were told to repent and be baptized, Peter resolved it by stating it was “for the remission of sins.” (5) Three thousand souls gladly accepted the message and were baptized (v. 41).

The foregoing scene is so vivid, and the inspired instruction of the apostle Peter is so explicit, that it is a wonder the Zwingli/Calvin position has endured. But it has not endured because of Acts 2:38; it has endured in spite of Acts 2:38! Gallons of ink and reams of paper have been expended to defend the “symbolic” understanding of baptism and to “explain away” the clear instruction of Peter in Acts 2:38. Most of these efforts have centered around the expression: “for the remission of sins.” What does it mean? W. E. Vine says the expression is “used of the forgiveness of sins.” Thus, the case grows stronger. Peter instructed the inquiring multitude to “repent, and be baptized . . . for the forgiveness of sins.” What could be clearer? Sinners asked what to do, and an inspired apostle told them to repent and be baptized and stated that it was for the forgiveness of sins! Who, then, pray tell, has the right or the authority to tell sinners that baptism is not essential to the forgiveness of sins? Yet, since the days of Zwingli and Calvin in the 1500’s, denominational ministers have been telling sinners just the opposite of what Peter distinctly and categorically stated on the day of Pentecost. And how has this been justified? Because, we are told, the little word for (eis in the Greek) in Acts 2:38 means “because of,” that is, sinners were to repent and be baptized because they were already saved, not in order to be saved! So, Peter’s declaration on the day of Pentecost should be understood as follows: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the
name of Jesus Christ because of the remission of sins you already possess.” Will this idea stand the test of truth? Let us see.

For the Remission of Sins

First, consider the context. Peter had just convicted these hearers of the crucifixion of Christ—“that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified” (v. 36). They immediately cried out, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” The “symbolic” view of baptism would have us believe they were already saved and that Peter told them to repent and be baptized because they were already saved. Does that explanation fit the context? What do you think?

Second, remember the twofold command. They were told to “repent” and “be baptized.” If “for the remission of sins” means “because of the remission of sins,” and therefore renders baptism unnecessary and non-essential, would it not have the same effect on the command to repent? The same people were given the same commands at the same time for the same purpose. If baptism is not necessary to salvation, we can also forget about repentance.

Third, look at the same expression elsewhere. Since inquiring souls on Pentecost were told to repent and be baptized “for the remission of sins,” is there some other occurrence of this phrase that we might examine for comparison? Yes, it is found in Matthew 26:28 in connection with the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself said, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” Now, Jesus said his blood is shed for many “for the remission of sins.” Does that make the blood of Christ non-essential? It is the same phrase (in both English and Greek) which is used in Acts 2:38 in reference to repentance and baptism.

Fourth, examine how eis (the Greek preposition translated for) is used with other requirements for salvation. In Romans 10:10, it is said “with the heart man believeth unto (eis) righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto (eis) salvation.” Please note that this is the same preposition which is used in Acts 2:38 with repentance and baptism—“for (eis) the remission of sins.” Does it still mean “because of”—man believes because of righteousness, and he confesses because of salvation? Let us be fair in studying the scriptures. If we are going to rule out the essentiality of baptism, based on the meaning of the word for (Greek eis), then must we not also rule out belief, repentance, confession, and even the blood of Christ for salvation? Is it not obvious that there is theological intolerance toward Peter’s teaching that baptism is for the remission of sins?

Fifth, take note of what denominational scholars have said. In July 1877 the Baptist Quarterly published an article by J. W. Willmarth, a prominent Baptist minister and scholar, entitled “Baptism and Remission.” In this article he sought to warn and admonish his own brethren regarding their claim that for (or eis) means “because of.” Dr. Willmarth strongly urged that eis means “in order to,” not “because of” (that is, it looked forward rather than backward, meaning that baptism is in order to the remission of sins, not because of). He stated: “Everything unites to render a mistake as to the force of eis almost impossible. Everything compels us to assign to it its obvious, natural, distinctive meaning, as used to denote the purpose of actions.” Further, he quoted from the noted Baptist commentator, H. B. Hackett, to this effect: “This clause states the motive or object which should induce them to repent and be baptized.” It is a pity that the scholarly admonitions of Drs. Willmarth and Hackett did not prevail. Their remonstrances, if heeded, might have aimed their brethren toward the biblical ideal of baptism “for the remission of sins.”
Conclusion

There is no question that salvation is by grace through faith (Tit. 2:11-12; Rom. 5:1). The question is not whether we are saved by grace through faith, but when? Are we saved by grace through faith only? James said that “faith without works is dead” (Jas. 2:26). Or are we saved by grace through faith when that faith works by love (Gal. 5:6)? Salvation is by an active, obedient faith, and gospel obedience includes baptism for the remission of sins.

—EDITOR

ENDNOTES

3 Ibid.

Who Can Be Baptized?

Basil Overton

Because of what is written in the New Testament about baptism in water, everyone who has not been baptized as taught in that sacred volume should do everything necessary to learn who can be baptized in the way the Lord Jesus Christ requires.

Many people, including great numbers of religious people, think of water baptism as being a relatively unimportant matter, and as being such a little thing it should not be a cause of concern. However, throughout the Bible it is clearly taught and demonstrated that God often tested the faith of people with something they did not think was important. God may test the faith of people more with something that seems to be little and unimportant, than he does with what may seem to them to be big and significant.

Baptism and Salvation

The question “Who can be baptized?” is important because the New Testament teaches that baptism in water is essential to salvation from sin. If it is not essential, it is a waste of time to ask the question and to answer it.

In the New Testament there are six verses in each of which water baptism and salvation are mentioned together. In every one of these verses, baptism is first and salvation follows. These verses are: Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; and I Peter 3:21. There are also many other passages which teach that baptism precedes salvation from sin.