

Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19

SEP/OCT 2026

LAMPLIGHTER

A LAMB & LION PUBLICATION

**BOWLS
OF
WRATH**

or

*Royal
Wedding
Feast*



LAMB & LION
MINISTRIES

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Be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves.

Those words from Jesus Christ guide Lamb & Lion Ministries as we seek to serve Him in a fallen world. As a multimedia ministry focused on proclaiming His soon return, Satan would love to mute our message and keep us distracted and sidelined.

But God has charged us to boldly declare His Truth while avoiding the pitfalls of the age. That is why, over the years, we have been intentional about the images and graphics used in the *Lamplighter* and all our visual media. With the advent of AI technology, ministries everywhere are being inundated with allegations of copyright infringement—even for images long in the public domain.

I often remind conference attendees that Jesus and the Apostles spread the Good News by word of mouth and later by written word. Our faith is grounded in the Word of God, which is not accompanied by pictures—still or moving. Yet the power of God's Word pierces even the hardest heart, planting seeds that the Holy Spirit brings to life. So while we strive to make our outreach visually engaging, we ultimately trust in the unseen God who draws individual hearts to Himself. The “eyes to see and ears to hear” He appeals to require spiritual discernment.

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As we continue our series based on our “Overview of the End Times” bifold (and the accompanying online teachings), we pray you have been enlightened and encouraged. This issue offers both—along with an urgent warning to those on whom the wrath of God still abides (John 3:36).

What does your future hold? Blessing or curse? Wedding Feast or Bowl Judgments? Everlasting life or eternal torment?

Choose wisely, but choose this day—while there is still time.



Tim Moore

Tim Moore
Executive Editor
Director | Sr. Evangelist
Lamb & Lion Ministries

Overview of End-Times

(18" x 30" Color Chart + Bi-Fold Supplement)



The *Lamplighter* will utilize the NASB or LSB translations interchangeably and note when other translations are referenced.

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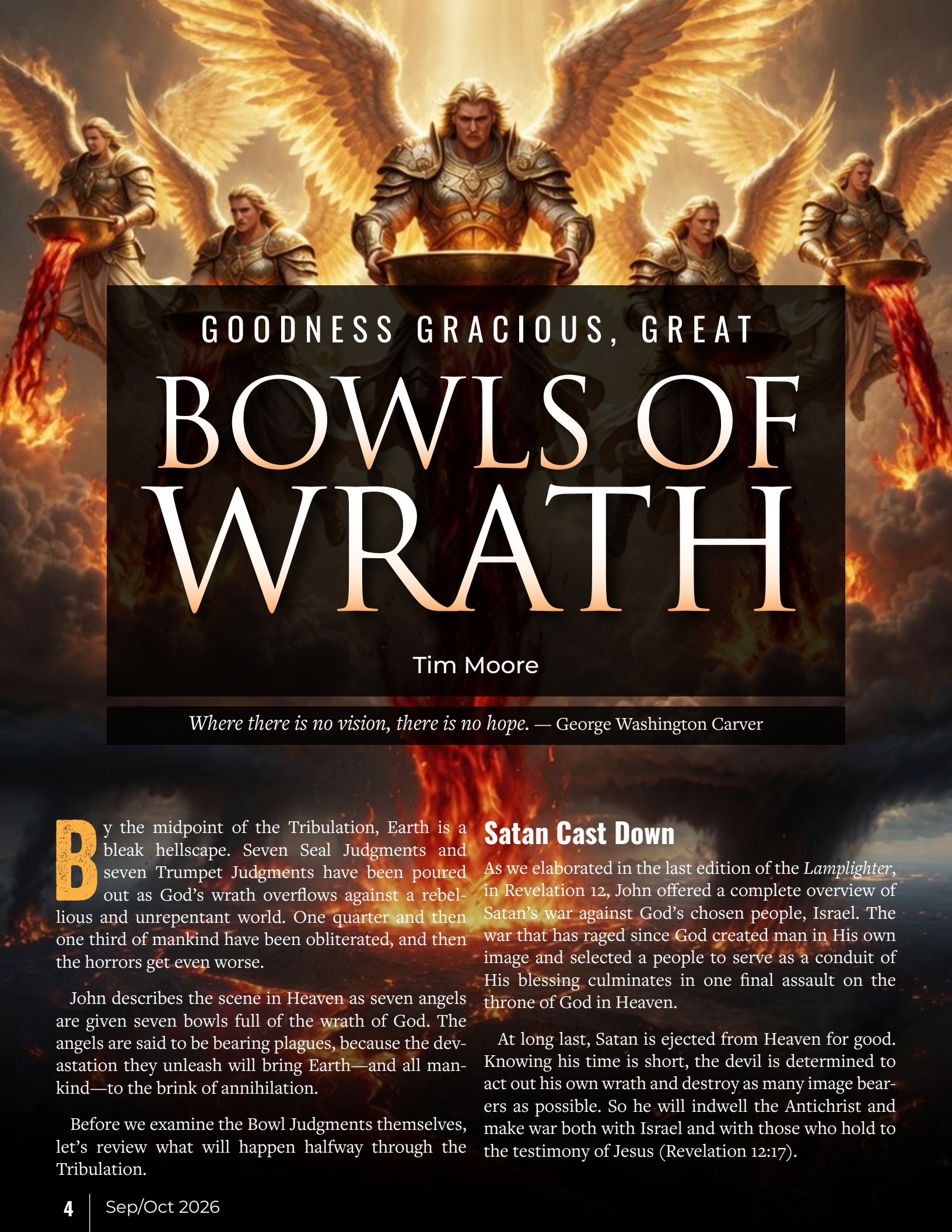
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GOODNESS GRACIOUS, GREAT BOWLS OF WRATH

Tim Moore

Where there is no vision, there is no hope. — George Washington Carver

By the midpoint of the Tribulation, Earth is a bleak hellscape. Seven Seal Judgments and seven Trumpet Judgments have been poured out as God's wrath overflows against a rebellious and unrepentant world. One quarter and then one third of mankind have been obliterated, and then the horrors get even worse.

John describes the scene in Heaven as seven angels are given seven bowls full of the wrath of God. The angels are said to be bearing plagues, because the devastation they unleash will bring Earth—and all mankind—to the brink of annihilation.

Before we examine the Bowl Judgments themselves, let's review what will happen halfway through the Tribulation.

Satan Cast Down

As we elaborated in the last edition of the *Lamplighter*, in Revelation 12, John offered a complete overview of Satan's war against God's chosen people, Israel. The war that has raged since God created man in His own image and selected a people to serve as a conduit of His blessing culminates in one final assault on the throne of God in Heaven.

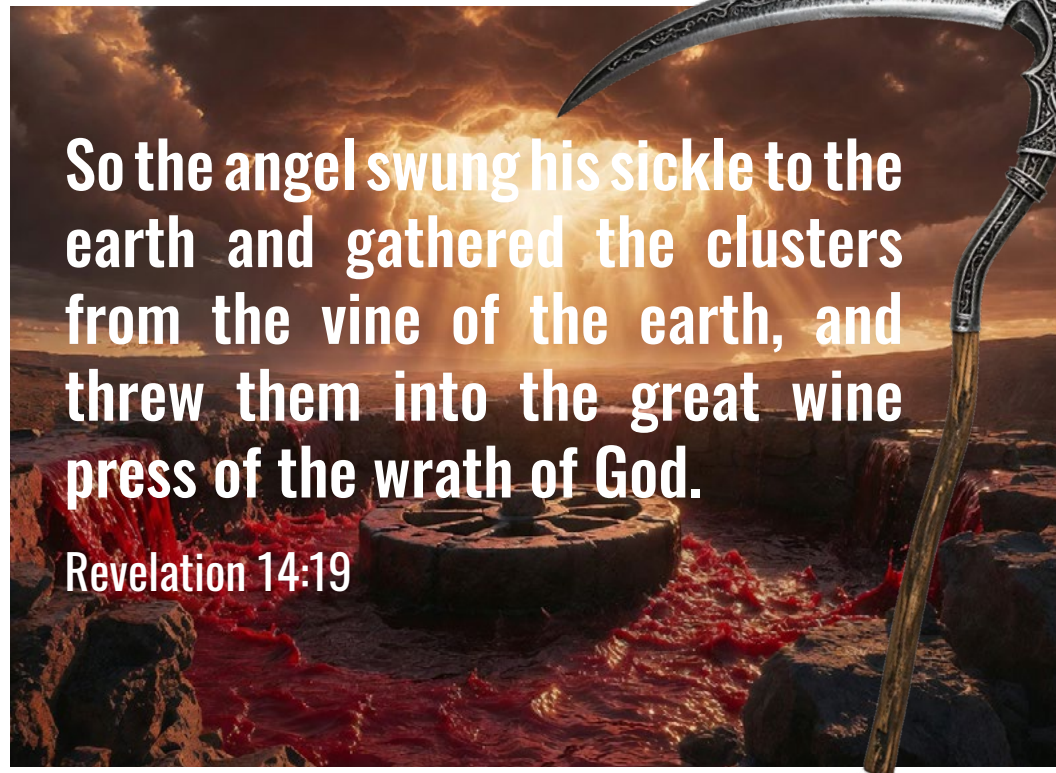
At long last, Satan is ejected from Heaven for good. Knowing his time is short, the devil is determined to act out his own wrath and destroy as many image bearers as possible. So he will indwell the Antichrist and make war both with Israel and with those who hold to the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17).

Based on the chronology of the Tribulation provided in Revelation, it is only now that the Antichrist requires everyone who wishes to buy or sell to take his name or number on their right hand or forehead. This is why hyped fear that people are obliviously taking the Mark of the Beast today betrays Scriptural ignorance.

The eternal stakes of this cosmic choosing of sides could not be more dramatic. Those who take the mark of the Beast will “drink of the wine of the wrath of God... and will be tormented with fire and brimstone... forever” (Revelation 14:9-11). But those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus will live forever—even if they are martyred as the Satan-possessed Antichrist rages.



It is in the midst of this horrible period that John sees a trio of angels harvesting men like stalks of grain or clusters of grapes and throwing them into “the great wine press of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14:19). In a horribly graphic description, John says that the blood that flows will run up to a horse’s bridle for a distance of two hundred miles.



So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:19

Clearly, the End is at hand, yet more destruction is still to come.

Heaven’s Last Onslaught

When John first describes the seven angels who will pour out the Bowl Judgments, he notes that when these final plagues conclude, “the wrath of God is finished” (Revelation 15:1). Before we even consider the judgments themselves, it is important to recognize what that statement reveals.

In His very first self-revelatory description of Himself, God proclaimed to Moses, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...” (Exodus 34:6-7). In Scripture, God’s patience led Him to delay His wrath—offering opportunity for repentance to occur:

- ▶ The sin-soaked world for the many years it took Noah to build the Ark
- ▶ Sodom and Gomorrah, wicked cities visited by angels before fire consumed them
- ▶ The land of Canaan, which was given four generations before God deemed the sin of the Amorite to be “complete”
- ▶ Nineveh, which heard the non-seeker-sensitive warning from Jonah and was inspired to repent
- ▶ Israel, which was warned by prophet after prophet before the anger of the Lord arose and the nation was judged and devastated

Wrath - extreme anger that manifests in vengeance or punishment; the ultimate expression of righteous indignation and divine justice.



Vengeance is Mine, and retribution,
in due time their foot will slip; for
the day of their calamity is near,
and the impending things are
hastening upon them.

Deuteronomy 32:35

Only a fool would look at these and other examples from the Bible and choose to ignore the limits of God's patience. As He said in Genesis 6:3, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever." There comes a point where the patience, grace, and mercy of God are exhausted, and His righteous indignation gives way to devastating wrath. When that occurs, the writer of Hebrews was spot on: "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands the Living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

Pharaoh came to realize that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not to be trifled with. At some point, Pharaoh's willful heart-hardening was locked in by God. Past that point of no return, God hardened his heart (Exodus 9:12; 10:20, 27; 11:10) and Egypt was devastated. That should be example enough, yet history repeats itself over and over again as mankind flaunts its wickedness while scoffing at the Lord's provision for salvation.

For two millennia following Jesus' First Advent and earthly

ministry, God has been patient, not wishing for any to perish. But the deepening rebellion and rejection of His Son are filling the cup of His anger—His righteous anger. Soon it will overflow and be poured out on an unrepentant world.

Christians living in this age may share God's indignation when we witness sin. But it is very difficult to keep our own anger from leading us to sin. That is why Paul cited Psalm 4:4 when he cautioned the Ephesians to "be angry, and yet do not sin," recognizing that anger itself gives the Devil an opportunity to cause us to stumble (Ephesians 4:26-27).

It is in that context that God will pour out His wrath on Earth throughout the Tribulation. When His patience is exhausted and His anger is fully aroused, He will mete out the punishment that is due and deserved. For every Christian whose heart has been heavy as we watch sin multiply before our eyes, the promise of Romans 12:19 will be fulfilled on every mortal heart

whose hardness has been locked in: "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord."

To mete out - to distribute, dispense, or administer something—especially a punishment, reward, or justice—in a careful, measured way.

The Bowl Judgments are thus the *final* outpouring of that wrath—but not yet the last judgment.

Seven Bowls of Wrath

It sounds trite to say, "but wait, there's more." When it comes to the series of judgments that will befall the Earth during the Tribulation, that statement is alarmingly true. Horror follows horror and suffering multiplies exponentially. The final series of Bowl Judgments seems to come in rapid succession and may actually occur within a very compressed time period. In order, they are:

First — loathsome and malignant sores on all who take the Mark of the Beast

Second — seawater turned to blood, resulting in the death of every living sea creature

Third — springs of fresh water also turn to blood throughout the world

Fourth — the heat or radiation from the Sun is increased to scorch mankind

Fifth — the kingdom of the Beast is cast into piercing darkness, so that men gnaw their tongues in pain

Sixth — the Euphrates River is dried up to allow the kings of the east to march toward the Jezreel

Valley in northern Israel to confront the Antichrist

Seventh — the Earth experiences cataclysmic lightning and thunder and another great earthquake that destroys cities throughout the world, splits the great city “Babylon” into three parts, and upheaves every island and mountain; simultaneously, great 100-pound hailstones fall from the sky

John intersperses his description of these final outpourings of God’s wrath with some telling observations. As the third angel pours out the bowl that causes fresh water to turn to blood, he comments, “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things, *for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets*, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it” (Revelation 16:5-6). Indeed. The meting-out of

punishment is undeniably justified and deserved.

In addition to the righteous justice being inflicted, Habakkuk teaches us that even in wrath, God remembers mercy (Habakkuk 3:2). A key aspect of the Tribulation is to drive rebellious people (and eventually the entire House of Israel) to the end of themselves. Even in wrath, mercy is offered to all who will confess their sin, repent (turn from their wicked ways), and embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. That offer is only withdrawn when a person’s fate is sealed—as when Pharaoh’s heart was hardened. We are also told that during the Tribulation those who accept the Mark of the Beast will have chosen poorly, sealing their fate for all Eternity.

Thankfully, many will realize the error of their ways and turn to Christ. They represent the Tribulation saints whom the Antichrist will hunt down with a vengeance and kill. Those martyrs will be gathered beneath the altar of God in Heaven. Affirming their belief in God’s righteousness and justice, they will cry out, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:10).

Why would **anyone** subjected to the wrath of God—and *recognizing* that they are suffering under His awful wrath—refuse to bend the knee? For the same reason people refuse to honor Him as Lord today. Jesus was crystal clear about this irrational human tendency. Just three verses after describing the wonderful love of God in John 3:16, He explained, “people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil” (John 3:19).

The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath

Revelation 16 - The Final Outpouring of Wrath

1

Malignant Sores

Loathsome sores afflict all who receive the Mark of the Beast.

2

Sea Turned to Blood

Every living creature in the sea dies.

3

Fresh Water to Blood

Rivers and springs throughout the Earth become blood.

4

Scorching Sun

Intense heat from the Sun burns and scorches mankind.

5

Piercing Darkness

The Beast’s kingdom is plunged into darkness; people gnaw their tongues in agony.

6

Euphrates Dried Up

The river dries up, allowing the kings of the East to advance.

7

Earthquake, Hail & Destruction

Massive earthquakes split Babylon and destroy cities; 100-pound hailstones fall; islands and mountains are destroyed.

“The wrath of God is finished.” — Revelation 15:1

“Righteous are You, O Holy One... They deserve it.” — Revelation 16:5-6



John also records three times in this sequence that the people enduring this final series of plagues refuse to repent. Instead, they blaspheme God (Revelation 16:9, 11, 21). No wonder God is indignant. The very people He sent His Son to save—and who are offered mercy and grace up until this moment—are still cursing Him. No longer does the Son intervene to say, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). The fate of this blasphemous final generation is sealed—forever.

Tribulation Purpose

The Tribulation will be more horrible than any of us can imagine. People think they are suffering today, but the little-t tribulations we endure result from A) this fallen world and the curse that God placed

on Creation, B) the ramifications of sin committed by image-bearers since the Fall, and C) our own sin and fallen choices working out their due consequences.

No one alive today can claim to have been subjected to the full wrath of God. Judgment and penalty, yes. But not God’s holy, pent-up, indignant wrath. Jesus said that when that wrath is being poured out upon the whole Earth, “if those days had not been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short” (Matthew 24:22). Yes, even in the midst of wrath, God will remember mercy. He will “cut short” those days in His great mercy so that the elect—that handful of Christians who survive to the end of the Tribulation—can enter

the Millennial Kingdom in their mortal bodies.

So, to reiterate, there is a great misunderstanding about the purpose of the Tribulation, which I reviewed in great detail in the last edition of the *Lamplighter*. While God will pour out rightful, justified, holy, and seemingly long-overdue punishment on the world, He will also orchestrate the final redemption of the remnant of the House of Israel through the Tribulation (when they come to the end of themselves and cry out to Him). In addition, many others will come to realize their desperate need for forgiveness during the Tribulation, leading to a great harvest of souls.

We can rejoice knowing God’s offer of salvation (based on the marvelous grace of His Gospel) will be in effect during the Tribulation. We can also thank Him for delaying His coming to allow the Church to reach its full measure—and each of us to be saved.

I am glad that only God the Father knows: when He will send His Son to gather His Bride, when the Tribulation will begin, which hearts are still soft enough to allow Gospel seeds to grow, and which hearts are irredeemably hardened.

Armed with the knowledge of the Gospel, I can only take God at His Word and trust that time is of the essence. The hammer could fall at any time, and so my task is both eternally important and critically urgent. If you are a follower of Christ, you have been commissioned with the same calling.

Where Is the Hope?

I opened this article citing one of my personal heroes, George Wash-

ington Carver. A man of unique talent and humility, Carver understood his place before God. He testified that he aspired to do great things, but God told him he was better suited to study the peanut. So he dedicated himself to studying the humble peanut—and made lasting contributions to science and the betterment of mankind through his careful, servant-hearted obedience to the Lord.

The hope in our consideration of the Bowl Judgments lies in the fact that you are reading about this horrific period of human history *before* it takes place. God did not owe any of us a preview of what lies

ahead. The Potter would be in His rights (and totally justified) to simply obliterate the “vessels of wrath prepared for destruction” (Romans 9:21-23). But He has forewarned us that His patience will run out—just as He did through Noah (the preacher of righteousness), the angelic visitors to Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham, Jonah, and a host of prophets to Israel and Judah.

As Jesus shared in the parable of the landowner and the foolish tenant farmers, God sent His own Son, but most people have refused to respect the Son. Instead, they celebrate His murder and intend to seize the Land and the glory that

belong to God alone. In due time—soon—the justified response even the chief priests and elders at the Temple foretold will come true: “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end” (Matthew 21:41).

While you still have breath—and while every wretched, blasphemous rebel inhabits this life—there is hope. Hope that you—and they—will humble yourselves, pray for forgiveness, and turn from your wicked ways. If you do, the God of all mercy will hear you from Heaven, forgive your sin, and grant you life everlasting.

What choice will you make? ☞

Loved with Everlasting Love

Author: Wade Robinson (1877)

Loved with everlasting love,
led by grace that love to know;
gracious Spirit from above,
Thou hast taught me it is so!
O this full and precious peace!
O this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease,
I am His and He is mine.
In a love which cannot cease,
I am His and He is mine.

Heav’n above is deeper blue;
earth around is sweeter green;
something lives in ev’ry hue
Christless eyes have never seen.
Birds with gladder songs o’erflow;
flow’rs with deeper beauties shine;
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His and He is mine.
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His and He is mine.

Taste the goodness of the Lord:
welcomed home to His embrace,
all His love, as blood outpoured,
seals the pardon of His grace.
Can I doubt His love for me,
when I trace that love’s design?
By the cross of Calvary
I am His and He is mine.
I am His and He is mine.

His forever, only His!
Who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah, with what a rest of bliss
Christ can fill the loving heart!
Heav’n and earth may fade and flee,
firstborn light in gloom decline;
But while God and I shall be,
I am His and He is mine.
I am His and He is mine.



GOD'S MIGHTY ANGELS

NO CHUBBY CHERUBS ALLOWED

Nathan Jones

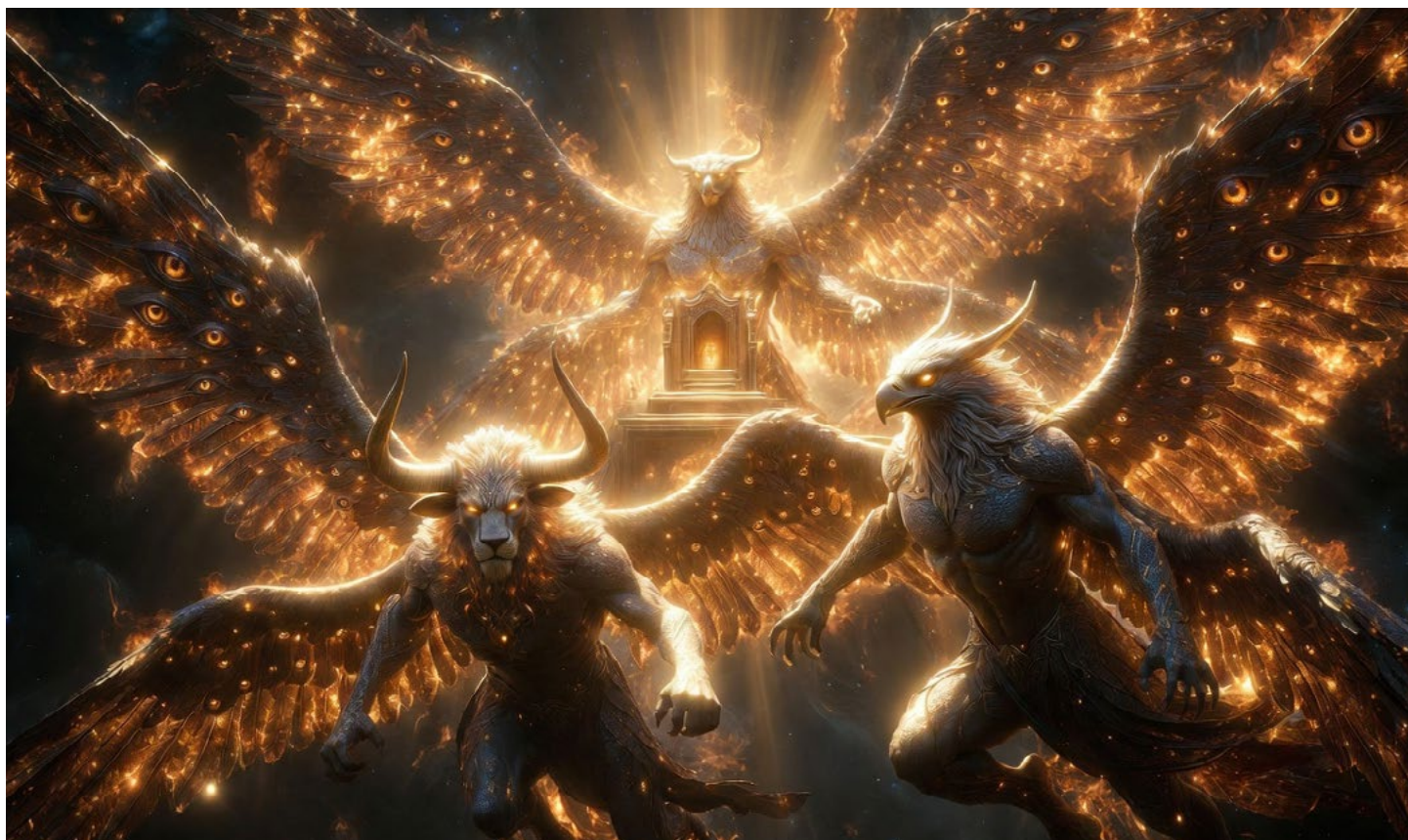
**The following article uses the NKJV translation.*

When I was younger, like most people, I operated under the misconception that all angels look alike. In my mind's eye, I pictured angels as uniform, like a tray of gingerbread men coming out of the oven, or like white-clad clone troopers marching through a *Star Wars* battle scene. Possibly that imagery had captured my mind because, growing up, I leaned heavily on the classically illustrated children's books from my parents' generation. They depicted celestial beings with a mid-twentieth-century Americana cultural uniformity. These angels were often portrayed as Caucasian men with curly blond hair, sporting two feathery white wings, a golden halo floating above their heads, a fairly tall, stoic demeanor, and dressed in white robes reminiscent of the ancient Roman toga.

Yet one of the first angels John described was “a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice” (Revelation 5:2 NKJV). Clearly, John saw characteristics that set this an-

gel apart from the myriad others he had just encountered. This strong angel, for example, was both strong and loud. Was this angel more shredded than the others? Did he sport huge muscles like Lou Ferrigno of *Hulk* fame—a Mr. Universe compared to the others? Maybe. Or did he lift heavy weights like a Russian powerlifter, or even a whole planet like the mythological Atlas? John never described such feats. And what about loud? Was his voice louder than all the others?

Angels differ widely in appearance and abilities. So let's explore three angelic classes that highlight the uniqueness of these celestial beings. First, there are the heavenly proclaimers—the Seraphim. Second, the mighty wheelmen—the Cherubim. Third, the fire wielders—the Fire Angels. This sampling will show that angels are not photocopies but are as different from one another as human beings are.



The Seraphim

Imagine a scene of unimaginable beauty, such as a golden sunset over a snow-capped mountain peak. That's kind of what John must have felt when he encountered the Four Living Creatures in God's throne room. Gaping, John wrote, "And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures... The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third like a man, and the fourth like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within" (Revelation 4:6-8).

The Mighty Worshipers

Here we meet a class of angels called Seraphim, who, upon gazing at the radiant beauty of the living God day after day, never tire of bowing and praising His attri-

butes: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8).

When not engaged in worship (whether alongside angelic choirs or the 144,000 Jewish evangelists as in Revelation 14:3), they carry out God's judgments, such as handing the seven Bowl Judgment angels their liquid instruments of wrath (Revelation 15:7). Whenever you see the Seraphim throughout the Revelation narrative—and it is frequent—they are praising God and carrying out His divine will. They always get the final "amen."

The Burning Ones

These Seraphim look upon the magnificence of the One on the Throne, not with just one set of eyes, but with hundreds covering their entire bodies. And their wings! We tend to think all angels have two wings, but the Seraphim have many more—six to be exact:

"with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew" (Isaiah 6:2).

John attempted to describe these four unique angels. They resembled the grand sphinxes that had historically guarded the Egyptian pyramids. John might have thought of the Seraphim as the Burning Ones, the legendary winged serpents that protected the Egyptian Pharaohs' thrones.

Each Seraph possessed a different face. One portrayed a lion, another an ox, another a man, and another an eagle. John naturally found it hard to classify these angels, so he simply called them the "living creatures."

Various theologians over the years have attempted to find symbolic meaning in their different countenances. Perhaps the lion's face symbolizes majesty and omnipotence, the ox represents faith-



ful labor and patience, the man signifies intelligence, and the eagle stands for supreme sovereignty. Or maybe the Seraphim represent the leaders of the different animal domains: the lion as the leader of the wild animals, the calf as the leader of domestic animals, the man as the leader of humankind, and the eagle as the leader over the kingdom of the flyers.

Others believe the Four Living Creatures represent Christ's attributes as shown in the Gospels: in Matthew as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, in Mark as an ox serving Yahweh faithfully, in Luke as God in human form, and in John as an eagle soaring as the divine Son of God. Whatever the Four Living Creatures may symbolize, they stand out as fantastical yet genuine angelic beings—beings whom

every Christian will one day gaze upon in awe.

The Cherubim

I imagine that if John could have looked over the shoulders of the Seraphim before him, he would have described what the prophet Ezekiel saw during his encounter with God's throne more than 600 years earlier—the Cherubim. Ezekiel wrote, "And I knew they were cherubim. Each one had four faces and each one four wings, and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings" (Ezekiel 10:20-21).

The Slandered Ones

If any class of angel has been misconstrued—even slandered—over time by the poetic license of Renaissance artists and Hallmark card designers, it has been the

Cherubim. Every Valentine's Day, these mighty angels of God are denigrated as chubby, diaper-wearing babies who sport tiny bows and heart-shaped arrows while holding banners that display sappy sayings. Many myths have developed around the Cherubim, especially the unbiblical idea that when babies die, they transform into these cherub-like spirit beings. Nothing could be further from the truth!

The Mighty Wheelmen

Ezekiel detailed his wondrous encounter with the Cherubim at length in his first ten chapters, and it was anything but a trip to the nursery school. He observed, while he "was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God" (Ezekiel 1:1). What the captive prophet saw was "a whirl-

wind coming out of the north” like a “great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself” (Ezekiel 1:4). “A brightness was all around it” and “radiating out of its midst like the color of amber” (Ezekiel 1:4). Amber, called “electrum” in the Old Testament—a brilliant metallic substance composed of silver and gold—emanated from the cloud. Great bolts of lightning burst forth from the raging nuclear furnace. Centuries later, John would describe the same imagery in Revelation 4, identifying the emanating cloud as the One on the Throne.

And the throne moved! That’s because God’s throne is, in fact, a chariot. Ezekiel described the throne’s four great wheels in detail. All four wheels had the same uniform appearance, a beryl color (emerald or aquamarine). The wheels had even been humbly named: “As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, ‘Wheel’” (Ezekiel 10:13). Not your typical Michelin tires, these wheels featured “a wheel in the middle of a wheel,” like some fancy tricked-out Hummer’s spinning rims (Ezekiel 1:16; 10:10). The rims were “so high they were awesome” and “full of eyes, all around the four of them” (Ezekiel 1:18; 10:12).

The truly stunning image befuddled the prophet, for within and beside each of these “wheels within a wheel” stood a Cherub. These angels performed their duty as million-horsepower engines propelling the throne-chariot forward. As Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, once commented, “It’s completely unacceptable to see fat generals and admirals in the halls of the Pentagon.” It appears equally unacceptable to God that there be chubby cherubs carrying His celestial throne.

You might picture a hamster running in a wheel, but these angelic wheelmen never move their legs or change direction. Ezekiel was floored that “When they moved, they went toward any one of four directions; but they did not turn aside when they went” (Ezekiel 1:17; 10:11).

God is so powerful that He doesn’t turn His chariot; rather, the whole universe veers in the direction God desires. The throne-chariot’s range is limitless, as the Cherubim “went wherever the spirit wanted to go,” wherever and whenever God desired to be present in

space and time (Ezekiel 1:12). The throne-chariot, therefore, transcends all dimensions in its travels. God’s throne can remain in Heaven or, if He wishes, appear at your front door. There is no place where God cannot make the universe bend to His will.

The Winged Wonders

According to Ezekiel, the Cherubim appear to possess some humanlike qualities. They resemble a man because they stand upright and have straight legs. The Cherubim also have hands that look like a man’s hands. But that’s as far as



The Fire Angel bellows, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”

Revelation 14:18



the human similarities go, because they also have many animal-like features. Their feet look like the soles of calves' feet. Unlike the Seraphim, which are limited to a single face, each Cherub actually possesses four faces—a lion on the right side, an ox on the left side, and the faces of an eagle and a man in front and behind.

Unlike the Seraphim, who have six wings, the Cherubim are limited to four. "Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies" (Ezekiel 1:11). When the Cherubim flap their expansive wings, "the noise of their wings [roars] like the noise of many waters... like the voice of the Almighty... like the noise of an army" (Ezekiel 1:24). Whenever the One on the Throne issues a command, the Cherubim lower their wings in humble submission, ready to obey His divine order as the universe bends to the Almighty's will.

And the speed at which the Cherubim fly! Ezekiel described how these mighty angels "sparkled like the color of burnished bronze," and "like burning coals of fire" had the "appearance of torches going back and forth" (Ezekiel 1:7, 13). Ezekiel's mind boggled at the fact that when the Cherubim ran back and forth, they moved like a flash of lightning. Apparently, no force in the universe can travel at the speeds the Cherubim do, even far beyond the speed of light itself.

The Almighty sits enthroned upon the Cherubim. No wonder the writers of the Old Testament, when describing the Ark of the Covenant, compared it to a chariot in which God sat enthroned on the Mercy Seat between the Cherubim. The artisans who crafted the golden Ark sculpted "gold cherubim that spread their wings and overshadowed the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord" on its lid (1 Chronicles 28:18). The scene in the earthly

Temple, then, was meant to depict in miniature the divine scene of God's heavenly Temple. There, the mighty Cherubim stand ready to carry the Almighty's throne across the universe at His command.

The Fire Angels

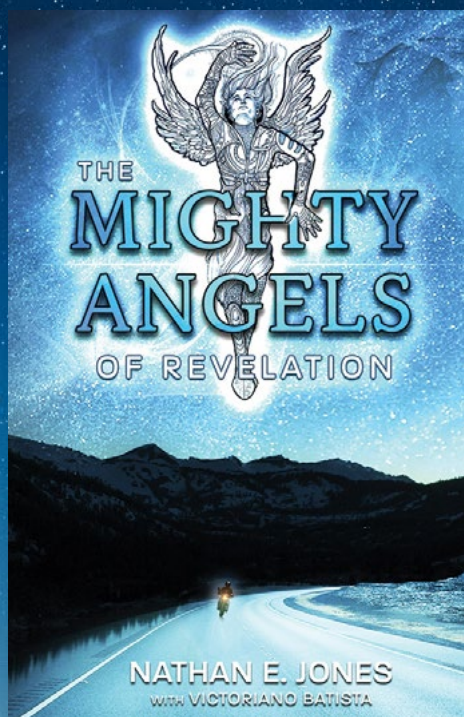
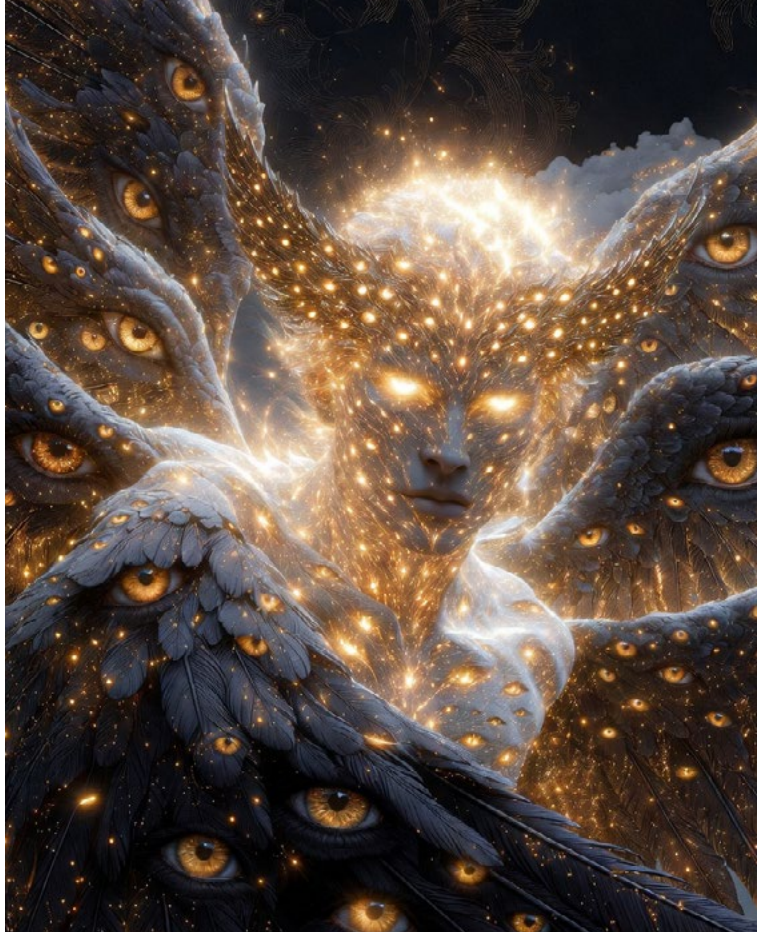
How fascinating that God's mighty angels can control the elements. Read the book of Revelation, and you will encounter angels who direct the winds, shift the tides, displace the stars, and even alter the course of the cosmos. In Revelation 14, we are introduced to another wondrous angel—possibly a whole class—who wields power over fire, much like Johnny Storm from the *Fantastic Four* comics.

John hears the Fire Angel bellow with a loud voice to deliver the Father's order to yet another angel tasked with harvesting the wicked, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes

are fully ripe” (Revelation 14:18). The harvesting angel obeyed: “So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14:19). Armageddon!

Heavenly Realities Beyond Imagination

The Seraphim, the Cherubim, and the Fire Angels genuinely challenge my limited understanding of God’s mighty angels. Many of them seem to exist as forces of nature rather than flesh and blood. These celestial creatures are so strange yet so marvelous that they defy wonder and exceed human imagination. And to think that one day, those who call Jesus Savior and Lord will get to know them personally. ☞



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MY WAYS ARE NOT YOUR WAYS AND MY TIME IS NOT YOUR TIME

(Why So Many Flashbacks and Flash Forwards in Revelation?)

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

— Isaiah 55:8-9

Tim Moore with David Reagan

The book of Revelation has long puzzled Bible scholars and laymen alike. Many pastors and teachers point to its apocalyptic language and actually warn faithful Christians away from this overarching prophecy that affirms God’s final victory.

Others get lost in the myriad of symbols, somehow failing to realize that the symbols themselves are usually interpreted or explained—either in close proximity within Revelation itself or in other passages that John references and alludes to throughout the book. Finally, scoffers love to treat Revelation as a punching bag for their scorn. They assert that no one can possibly understand the details of its extensive prophecies—and therefore claim it is a waste of time to even try.

We reject those naysaying attitudes. There are mysteries of God that cannot be fathomed or understood by man. As Moses acknowledged, “the secret things belong to the LORD our God” (Deuteronomy 29:29). Yet Moses also affirmed, “but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever...”

With that assurance of enlightenment, let’s pause and reflect on what we can (and therefore must) know from Revelation.

Accept the Plain Sense

Lamb & Lion Ministries has always adhered to the “plain-sense” meaning of Bible prophecy. As Dr. David Reagan says:

A very important key to understanding the Book of Revelation is to accept the plain-sense meaning of each passage. *Even if you don't understand it,* the best rule of thumb is to just accept the plain-sense meaning. **My Golden Rule of Interpretation** that I use throughout the Bible from beginning to end, whether it's prophecy or not, is this: "If the plain sense makes sense, don't look for any other sense, lest you end up with nonsense."

He continues:

Because I realize that prophetic interpretation contains symbols, I don't like to use the term "literal interpretation." I prefer the term "plain sense interpretation." Yes, there are symbols, but symbols have meaning. And when symbols are used, I look for the meaning of them. Again, if the plain sense makes sense, don't look for any other sense, lest you end up with nonsense! Remember, God doesn't write in riddles to purposefully confuse us. He knows how to communicate. Normally, He says what He means, and He means what He says. Try always to accept the plain-sense meaning. If you don't understand it, don't worry about it. Put aside what is confusing and hang on to what you do understand. Don't give in to the temptation to spiritualize a passage to death or allegorize it. It is a serious thing to play loose with God's Word. The spiritualization of Scripture is actually a blasphemous act. The reason is that when you start spiritualizing God's



*"If the plain sense
makes sense,
don't look for
any other sense
lest you end up
with nonsense."*

— David Reagan

Word, you start playing god, for you can make the Scriptures mean whatever you want, rather than what God intended.

(*Wrath and Glory*, page 31-32)

Dr. Reagan's warning is spot on. I once challenged a gifted pastor over his "reinterpretation" of God's Word. Although he was faithful to proclaim the Gospel and point people to Jesus Christ in every sermon, his Amillennial perspective caused him to play fast and loose with Bible prophecy. Specifically, every time he read aloud an Old Testament passage regarding God's prophetic promises to Israel, he would substitute the word "Church" for "Israel." Doing so completely changed the subject of God's promises and undermined the ironclad promises

God uttered to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Whether we are studying Revelation from a 30,000-foot level or diving into every detail, we must adhere to the plain-sense meaning of what God *chose* to reveal through Jesus to His bondservants—you and me.

If You Believe, You Will Understand

So, how do we bridge the gap from believing to understanding? One key is to engage in what we call a dirty five-letter word: S-T-U-D-Y.

There is simply no substitute—and no shortcut—for studying the Word of God. Whether following the "scarlet thread" that ties the Old Testament to the New and



points to Jesus Christ, hiding the Word in our heart, or allowing the Holy Spirit to illuminate our minds as we seek to understand specific passages, faithful, careful, intentional, and persistent study is required.

Too many people have a dartboard mentality about their own Bible study. They think that by opening the Book at random, God will bring a single verse to their attention. While God does indeed bring specific verses to mind from time to time, haphazard verse skimming is no substitute for careful study. But even study will be of little use unless it is grounded in unwavering faith. In other words, you have to believe before you will gain understanding.

Again, Dr. Reagan writes:

The best commentary I have ever read on the Book of Revelation is one called *The Revela-*

tion Record by Dr. Henry Morris (founder of the Institute for Creation Research). Right at the very beginning, he makes a statement that made me want to shout “Hallelujah!” He says, “The Book of Revelation is not hard to understand. It’s just hard to believe. If you will believe it, you will understand it.” What a profound insight! And it’s so true. Don’t forget it.

(*Wrath and Glory*, page 32)

With that in mind, and trusting that the Lord wants us to understand, we can unpack one feature of Revelation that often confuses some readers.

A God’s-Eye View Perspective on Time

The concept of time is difficult to understand fully. How many Christians can really comprehend the meaning of “eternity”? Can we truly fathom the idea that God exists *outside of time*?

Time, as we know it, proceeds linearly, much as a timeline represents visually. I’ve come to realize that while we are constrained to plod along that timeline, with limited ability to recollect backward and no ability to peer ahead, God is not on the timeline. Like a pilot flying at 36,000 feet can look down on a highway and see many miles in both directions, God can see far beyond our time horizons.

Just imagine that you are traveling along a road from point A to point B. Beyond the limits of your rearview mirror, you have no idea what is taking place several miles behind you. And depending on the terrain and visibility, you cannot possibly know what lies around the next bend in the road. But a pilot flying far above your head can see the traffic jam that awaits you several miles ahead.





God's perspective is infinitely greater than ours or any airborne pilot's. He can see the very *beginning* of our timeline from the moment He said, "Let there be light." He also sees the *end* when the First Heaven and the First Earth have passed away. And He can see everything in between with equal clarity.

So, as we come to Revelation, we must realize that God is offering a preview of "the things which must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1). Even the word "soon" is problematic for some, because they rationalize from a temporal perspective that a 2,000-year delay strains the meaning of "soon." But, as I like to say, when we've been gathered to the Lord for a billion, trillion years, will a mere 2,000 years seem that long? It's all about perspective.

Watch the Time Frame

With that in mind, let's seek to read Revelation from a biblical, or dare I say "godly," perspective. Here again, Dr. Reagan offers wonderful insight:

Another key to understanding Revelation is to watch the time frame of what you are reading. This is probably the most ignored key to understanding the book. Yet, it is vitally important. Watching the time frame is important when reading any type of literature. The Book of Revelation, in this regard, is no different from a novel. When you are reading a novel, you always have to be aware of the time frame of the passage that you are reading. Is it in the past, the present, or the future? For example, you might come across a flashback as you are reading a novel. Suddenly you are transported back in time to something that happened years ago. Then, you might be propelled right back to the present and read some events that are just occurring in the story line of the book. The book might even contain a flash-forward. Flash-forwards are not as common in regular secular literature as they are

in spiritual literature. The Bible is full of flash-forwards because God knows what's going to happen in the future and, through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, He gives supernatural knowledge to His prophets concerning future events. The flash-forward is a very common literary device in the Book of Revelation. Although the Book of Revelation is set up in chronological order in the sense that the major events it portrays occur one after another, nevertheless, there are many places in the storyline where it flashes forward to events that are going to occur in the future. You must be very sensitive to this if you are going to understand what is going on in the book.

Examples of Time Frame Changes

Let me give you some examples of passages in Revelation that contain flashbacks



or flash-forwards. When you reach the end of Revelation 11 you are in the middle of the Tribulation. The Antichrist has just murdered the two great prophets of God who have been preaching repentance for three and a half years. As Revelation 12 begins, the action of the storyline halts with a flashback that is designed to tell the reader why the Antichrist is raging against God and His saints.

The first five verses of Revelation 12 tell the story in symbolic language of how Israel gave birth to the Messiah and how Satan tried to kill Him at birth. The point of this flashback is that Satan hates Israel with a special passion because the Jewish people were the ones through whom God provided the Messiah.

Verse 6 ends the flashback by resuming the storyline. It tells us that a remnant of the Jewish people will flee into the wilderness in the middle of the Tribulation to escape the wrath of the Antichrist. The rest of chapter 12 is in the present-tense time frame, describing events that occur in the middle of the Tribulation, such as Satan's attempt to take the throne of God one last time, resulting in a war in Heaven.

Chapter 13 continues the present-tense time frame. It describes in detail some of the initial activities of the Antichrist and his false prophet after they come to power. While the Antichrist makes war on the saints and exerts his authority over all the world, his false prophet sets up a blasphemous religious system and a totalitarian society.

The present-tense action comes to a halt once again with the beginning of chapter 14. This time the action is interrupted by a flash-forward that is designed to comfort the reader by assuring him that despite all the terrible actions of the Antichrist and his false prophet, Jesus Christ will triumph. Verse 1 reads, "And I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads." This is a flash-forward to the end of the Tribulation. The Lamb, Jesus Christ, has come. He is standing on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. He is accompanied by a host of Jewish evangelists who were sealed by God at the beginning of the Tribulation.

The rest of chapter 14 is a flash-forward. It takes the form of a preview at the movies, telling us in abbreviated form what lies ahead. Verses 6 through 20 give us a panoramic overview of the rest of the events that are yet to take place in the final days of the Tribulation. For example, verse 8 tells us about the fall of "Babylon the great." That fall does not take place in the present-tense time frame until chapter 18.

(Wrath and Glory, pages 37–39)

Seeking Godly Understanding

Any parent who has tried to communicate complex ideas to a child knows that some truths cannot be

fully understood until the child grows to maturity. Likewise, some prophetic mysteries cannot be understood until we grow in Christian maturity. And some take great study accompanied by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

But if we believe that God chose to communicate Bible prophecy to us because He wants us to have understanding, be reassured, and be emboldened to serve Him mightily in this dark world, then understanding will follow.

To the Jewish exiles in Babylon, God inspired Jeremiah to share a message of hope and encouragement. While they languished in a pagan land and longed to be in the Promised Land, God assured them that He had plans for their welfare and promised them a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11). But He also urged them to seek Him, saying, “You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

Flash-forwards are given in the Book of Revelation primarily for one reason: to give comfort to the reader.

— David Reagan

God pulls back the veil on the end of time in the book of Revelation. Through a compelling narrative interspersed with flashbacks and flash-forwards, He reveals the culminating act of His plan for the ages.

Insight can best be gained by taking God at His Word and trusting Him—even when we do *not* understand. But understanding will increase as we study His Word, seek after Him and the wisdom He

offers, and keep our eyes on Jesus Christ. To that end, Jesus offers a succinct promise of blessing to all who will come to Revelation ready to have their hearts enlightened:

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
(Revelation 1:3) 🕒



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**WRATH
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GLORY**

By Dr. David R. Reagan

The excerpts in this article were pulled from *Wrath and Glory*. This timeless book by Dr. David Reagan helps demystify the book of Revelation so that every Christian can be blessed by the majestic revelations it contains. It is a powerful resource that goes hand-in-hand with our Revelation Study Guide and “Overview of the End Times” prophecy chart.

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THE Marriage Supper OF THE LAMB

Tim Moore

Shortly after John finishes describing the final outpouring of God's wrath in the Bowl Judgments, he pivots from the declared doom, prophesied fall, and worldly lament over Babylon. The destruction of that ungodly world system has already been discussed, so I will simply transition to the praise John hears resonating in Heaven.

With a loud voice, the great multitude shouts, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her" (Revelation 19:1-2).

Four times the multitude cries, "Hallelujah!" The last exclamation emphasizes the finality of the judgments poured out upon the Earth: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns" (Revelation 19:6).

We might expect that the next scene John witnesses is Jesus Christ returning in glory at the Second Coming, as described later in chapter 19. But first, John tells of a great marriage feast that will take place *before* Jesus

returns to defeat the Antichrist and the armies of the earth gathered in the Valley of Jezreel.

The details of the Marriage Supper remain somewhat mysterious, but we know from Scripture that it is an "invitation only" event.



The Bride Made Ready

Continuing to record the expressions of praise by the heavenly multitude, John hears them say, “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7). This passage alone presents several questions:

- ▶ Who is the Bride?
- ▶ How has she prepared herself?
- ▶ What is the nature of the relationship between Jesus Christ (the undisputed Lamb of God) and the Bride whom He marries?
- ▶ When and where exactly does this marriage (and accompanying supper) take place?
- ▶ Are other attendants invited who are *not* the Bride?

Let’s step through those questions one by one to get a handle on the great promise made to all who have put their trust in Jesus Christ.

The Bride

The Bride is the Church of Jesus Christ. That includes every Jew and Gentile who has confessed their sin and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ—trusting in Him alone for eternal salvation. As the Bridegroom, Jesus gave Himself for the Bride (Ephesians 5:25-27). He loves His Bride and is eager to gather her to Himself and bring her into His Father’s house.

Bible scholar Randall Price emphasizes the beneficiaries of this special promise: “This is designed for the Church—the raptured saints, and that’s why it’s the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.”

Prepared Herself

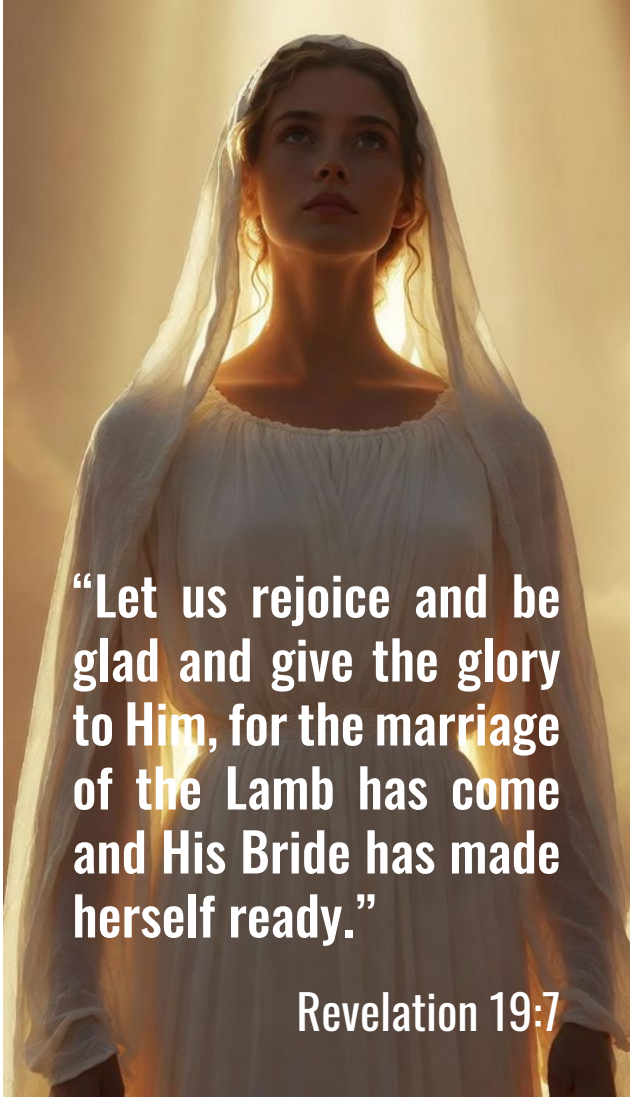
The idea conveyed here is that the Bride takes a proactive role in preparing for the marriage. In Jewish tradition, once a betrothal had been agreed upon, the marriage was legally binding. But it was not fully manifested (or consummated) until the bridegroom came to collect his bride and take her back to the place he had prepared in his father’s house. While she waited, the bride was expected to keep herself pure, prepare her heart, mind, and body for the covenant and conjugal relationship of marriage, and eagerly await her bridegroom’s arrival.

Likewise, every individual within the body of Christ (the Church) is expected to be pure, to prepare their heart and mind for the upward call, and to eagerly await the sound of a trumpet and the cry of an archangel announcing that our Bridegroom is coming. We cannot *prepare ourselves* in the sense of being self-sufficient in any way other than those charges. But the Holy Spirit who teaches us all things also guides us into all truth and discloses what is to come (John 14:26; 16:13).

Nature of the Relationship

Anyone living on this side of Eternity is incapable of fully comprehending the nature of the relationship that awaits us when Christ gathers us to Himself. But Scripture does provide glimpses of the glory that awaits us.

Simply put, we will be *united* with Christ. There will be no barrier of



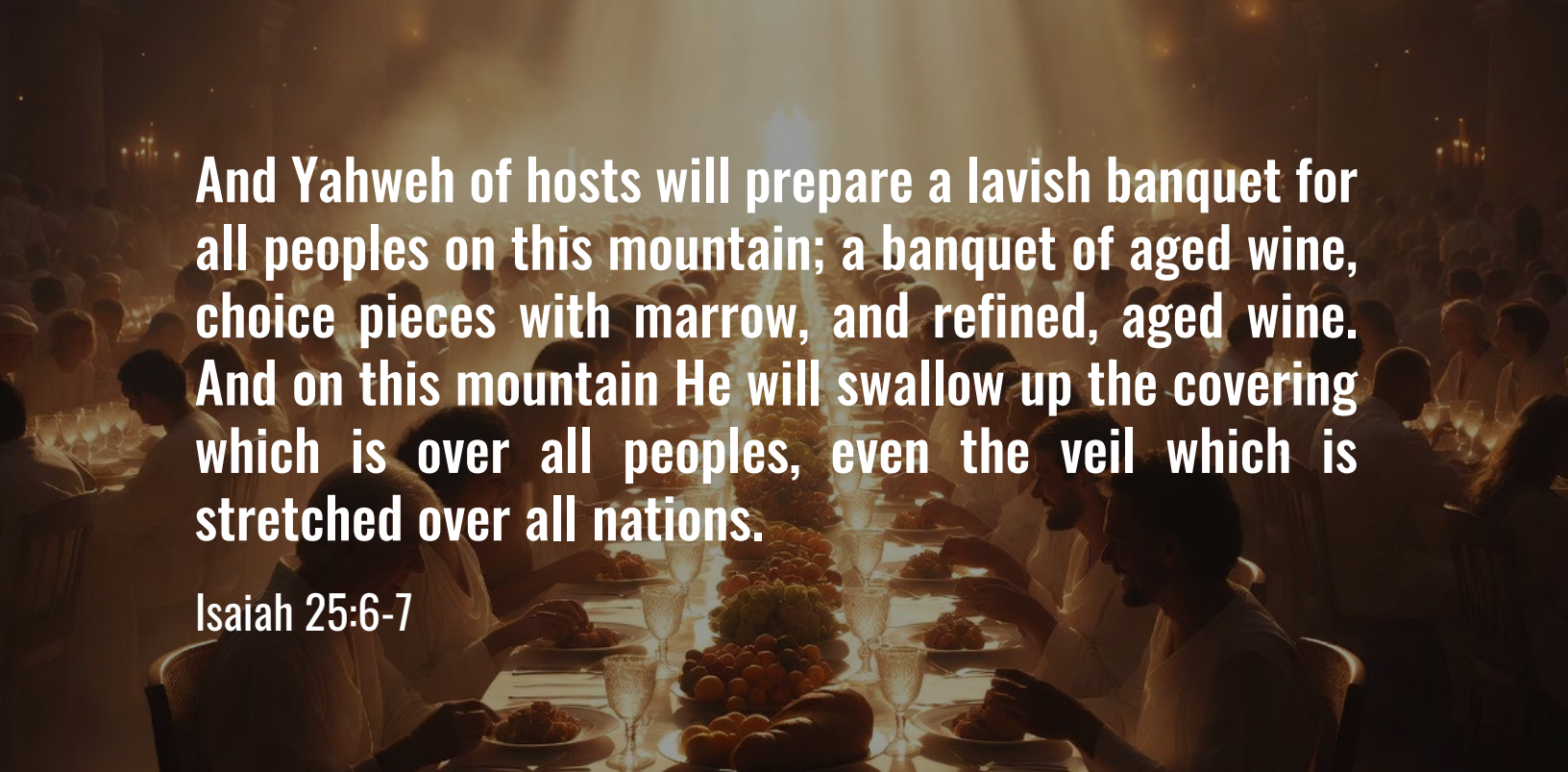
“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready.”

Revelation 19:7

time or space to separate us from our Beloved forevermore. Paul puts it this way: “...now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known” (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Given the metaphor Jesus chose to describe the intimacy of His relationship with us, we have to recognize that every metaphor breaks down even as it provides insight. No relationship draws two people closer than the bonds of marriage. Rightly understood, it is a lifetime covenant that brings blessing to both—and extends blessing to children for many generations to come.

The most intimate act of marriage is the conjugal relationship between a husband and a wife. In Old Testament parlance, a man



And Yahweh of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.

Isaiah 25:6-7

was said to “know” his wife (Genesis 4:1). Rather than a mere polite phrasing for a sexual encounter, “knowing” conveys a deep intimacy of love, hope, and mutual trust. The intimacy we can anticipate with Jesus should not be reduced to some twisted Freudian physical relationship but must be understood as the most intimate fulfillment of the love, hope, and trust we have placed in Him. That is why Paul described his anticipation of “knowing fully just as I also have been fully known.”

When and Where

The narrative flow in Revelation 19 suggests that the Marriage Supper occurs toward the end of the Tribulation. Others have described it as a “seven-year supper” (to quote one of Don McGee’s favorite descriptions) that lasts from the Rapture until the Second Coming.

Randall Price says, “A marriage supper always [follows] after a great victory, after a great triumph, after something.” Accordingly, he would

place the Marriage Supper at the end of the Tribulation as a culminating celebration over the fourfold “Hallelujahs,” rejoicing that Jesus is finally going to exert His reign.

Based on his study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Dr. Price also suggests that there will be two great banquets—the Marriage Supper of the Lamb with Church Age saints and another feast thrown to celebrate God’s fulfilled promises to Israel, where Christ serves as the Priest who offers bread and wine to those who anticipated the Messiah *before* the Church Age or trusted in Him after the Rapture.

Old Testament passages such as Isaiah 25:6-9, Hosea 2:16-20, and Psalm 45:6-17 clearly anticipate a great banquet as would follow the marriage of a king and his bride. Whether those point prophetically to the Marriage Supper or another End-Times banquet is open for interpretation.

Pastor Carl Broggi says that “the marriage of the Lamb takes place

in Heaven during the seven-year Tribulation period. The Church is evaluated; rewarded.” But he believes that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb takes place on the Earth when the Lord comes back—putting it *after* the Tribulation. He sees passages such as Isaiah 25, Matthew 22, and Matthew 8 pointing to the time “where we sit down with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, God’s people of all time, and with the Lord. It is, I think, going to be a very special start to the Millennial Reign.”

Lest we quibble over the exact timing of the Marriage Supper, Pete Garcia offers insight into the flow of time in Heaven. He says, “I think we have to distinguish the fact that here in this reality we’re bound by time. So when you step outside of time [following the Rapture], trying to place [the Marriage Supper] in human time would be kind of difficult. But I think that while the Tribulation is going on during those seven years on the Earth, we’ll have the Bema judgment, then the Bema judgment reward ceremony, and then the dinner.”

I've shared these varying perspectives to convey the reality that none of us really knows *exactly* when or where the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place. We don't know the menu, the length, or the ceremony or program. We do know the dress code: "fine linen, bright and clean"—given to the Bride as a representation of the righteous acts of the saints (Revelation 19:8). And we do know that we will be there. Will you?

Other Attendants

Here again there is some mystery regarding the "other attendants" at this supper. Will they be angels, Old Testament saints, or post-Rapture Christian martyrs? My expectation is yes, yes, and yes.

The promise of the Rapture is only for Church Age followers of Jesus Christ. Those Old Testa-

ment saints who were in "paradise" (or "the bosom of Abraham") before Jesus' death at Calvary will not receive glorified bodies until after the Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom.

Pete Garcia echoes this same sentiment. Regarding the guests at the Marriage Supper, he said, "I think that's the Old Testament saints—the faithful from Adam all the way up through John the Baptist (through the timing of the Cross)."

You Are Invited; Are You Ready?

But the marriage analogy beautifully conveys the deep love our Bridegroom Messiah—our own Kinsman Redeemer—has for His betrothed Bride. He longs to gather her to Himself and bring her into the place He has prepared for her in His Fa-

ther's house. He eagerly anticipates the intimacy of relationship that will be possible when we have been given glorified bodies and see Him face to face.

The only question is whether you are part of the Bride and longing for your Bridegroom. Are you preparing yourself for the consummation of your faith—the upward call of Christ into a glorious eternity with Him? Or are you so busy and distracted by this life that your response to the promise of His coming is, "meh"?

If "meh" is all you can muster, perhaps you need to better "make yourself ready," for our Bridegroom is coming soon! 🍷

You are cordially invited

*To the
Marriage Supper
of the Lamb*

*Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, joyfully invites
His Bride—the Church—to join Him forever.*

Revelation 19:7

*Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to
Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come...*

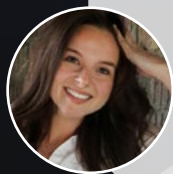


WAITING FOR THE BRIDEGROOM

BRIDESMAID OR BRIDE — WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

Natalie Lorimer

One of the most beautiful moments in the weddings of my four children was when my son-in-law began weeping at the sight of my daughter walking down the aisle. As we reached the front of the sanctuary, I had to hand him a handkerchief. The unrestrained joy that young man expressed was a beautiful manifestation of his love for his bride.



Natalie Lorimer, who co-labors with us to produce many of Lamb & Lion's Christ in Prophecy and Prophetic Perspective videos, shares her perspective as a young bride. Any of us who have anticipated our own wedding day can identify with the eager anticipation she poignantly describes.

When I got married in October of 2022, people asked me all the usual questions: “Are you excited?” “How’s wedding planning going?” “What are your colors?” Of course I was excited! Planning our wedding was a lot of fun, but what I looked forward to most wasn’t the wedding itself. I couldn’t wait to be married. I was excited for the life my husband, Matt, and I were about to begin together.

Don’t get me wrong—our wedding day was wonderful. It wasn’t huge by today’s standards, but it was perfect for us. We got to celebrate with our

family and friends, laugh a lot, eat good food, and thank the Lord for bringing us together. I can truly say I wouldn’t change a thing.

But once the cake was cut and everyone headed home, that’s when the part I’d really been looking forward to started. I realize now that the excitement I felt wasn’t really about one special day. It was about the life that would follow with the husband God had so clearly chosen for me. That kind of eager anticipation reminds me of something even greater that every believer is looking forward to: the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

“One of my favorite moments from our wedding was seeing my husband waiting for me. After weeks of planning, none of the little details seemed to matter anymore.”

— Natalie Lorimer



The Best Is Yet to Come

We had a delicious wedding cake and an assortment of cupcakes in just about every flavor you could imagine. But as good as they were, they don't even come close to the feast that's waiting for us when Jesus comes for His Bride, the Church. That will be a celebration unlike anything we've ever experienced.

Revelation tells us about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, when Jesus and His Bride will finally be together forever (Revelation 19:6-9). What a celebration that's going to be! Every believer who has trusted in Christ for salvation will be there, rejoicing together because of what He has done.

Before my wedding, there were things I had to do to get ready. We sent invitations because we wanted people to celebrate with us. As

Christians, we've been given an invitation to share too. We get to tell others about Jesus and invite them to put their trust in Him before He returns.

I also spent time thinking about what it meant to be a godly wife. I knew the wedding would last only one day, but marriage was for the rest of my life. In the same way, we're not just waiting around for Jesus to come back. Every day He wants to deepen His relationship with us. He's growing us, teaching us, and making us more like Him as we walk with Him.

Dressed in Purity

Then there was the dress. Like so many brides, I wore white. It was a reminder of purity, but I knew the dress itself didn't make me pure. Only Jesus can do that. Through His sacrifice on the Cross, we have been clothed in *His* righteousness. One day His Bride will stand before Him, not because we've earned it, but because He has made us clean.

Revelation tells us that His Bride will be dressed in fine linen, bright and clean. I thought my wedding dress was beautiful, but I have a feeling it won't even compare to the finery the Lord has prepared for His people. Best of all, we'll be standing before the One who made us spotless, clothed not in our own goodness, but in His perfect righteousness.

Our Bridegroom Awaits

One of my favorite moments from our wedding was seeing my husband waiting for me. After weeks of planning, none of the little details seemed to matter anymore. I wasn't thinking about flowers or decorations. I was just happy to see him.



I think that's how it will be when we finally see Jesus. Yes, Heaven will be beautiful. Yes, it will be wonderful to see loved ones we've missed over the years. But the very best part will be seeing our Savior face to face—Someone we have all talked to throughout life, Someone who was there with us in our lowest moments, and Someone who knows us better than anyone else.

My wedding day was one I'll always cherish, but it points me to an even better day that's still ahead. And I have a feeling that glorious celebration will make every wedding reception on Earth seem pretty small. 🍷





WHO'S CRYING NOW?

WHAT AND WHERE IS BABYLON?

Tim Moore and Nathan Jones

The kings of the earth will weep and lament... and the merchants and every shipmaster and passenger and sailor were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste."

— Revelation 18:9-19

In 1981, the rock band Journey released a song written by Steve Perry and Jonathan Cain titled "Who's Crying Now?" That question could well be the theme chorus for the kings and merchants of the earth who will weep and lament when Babylon the Great is consumed in a single day toward the end of the Tribulation (Revelation 17 and 18).

Perhaps an even more appropriate lyric would be "Who's Sorry Now?" as sung by Connie Francis in 1957. Speaking of warnings ignored and payment come due, this song captures the righteous indignation God will pour out on Babylon and the sorrow that will consume those who have disregarded His warnings as they gloat in their riches and immoralities.

For many Christians who study Revelation, the dedication of two full chapters to the demise of this cryptic city or system is a tantalizing mystery. As such, there has been much speculation about the na-

ture and location of what John describes as a woman riding a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names and herself bearing a mysterious name:



So, who or what is Babylon, and where is this horrific city or system located?



Babylon as a “great city” that will be “thrown down with violence” as a millstone is cast into the sea (Revelation 18:21).

Even so, a city can represent an entire empire or system—just as Washington, D.C. represents the United States (in terms of the government, the leadership, or the nation), New York has traditionally represented the capitalist system of America, if not the West in general, and Brussels represents the European Union. Destroying any of those individual cities would represent a grievous blow to the nation or system they represent, which is one reason why al-Qaeda was determined to strike both New York and Washington (the economic and political centers of America) on 9/11 in 2001.

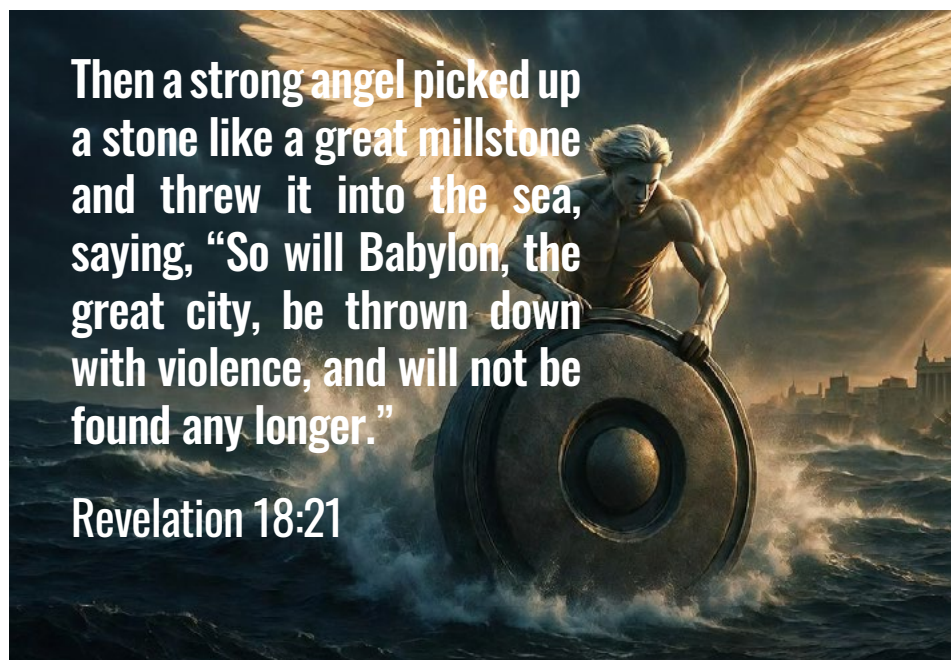
Who or What?

Most scholars readily agree that John’s description of Babylon as a woman is symbolic. Just as justice is sometimes represented by a blindfolded woman holding a pair of scales, or in America liberty is symbolized by a great statue standing in New York Harbor, John describes a woman holding a cup full of abominations and the unclean things of *her* immorality.

We have only to look to Proverbs to see Solomon personifying wisdom as a trusted sister, while temptation to sin is personified as a harlot (Proverbs 7–9). In His letter to Thyatira, Jesus also refers to a false prophetess who is leading His bond-servants astray as “Jezebel.” It is inferred that this is a symbolic name for a real person (probably *not* named Jezebel), but intentionally pointing back to the Baal-worshipping queen of Israel wed to evil Ahab.

Regarding “Mystery Babylon” in Revelation, there is wide consensus that instead of referring to a single individual, the name represents either a city or a world system. Several times in Revelation 18, Babylon is called a great and strong city (vv. 10, 16, and 18). No less than a strong angel from Heaven decries

In either case, the wickedness encouraged and propagated by that end-times locality or system infects *all* the nations of the earth. As John records, “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the mer-





**And the woman whom you saw is the great city,
which has a kingdom over the kings of the earth.**

Revelation 17:18

chants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality” (Revelation 18:3). Just consider some of the leading growth sectors of our economy today: “adult entertainment,” including gambling, pornography, drugs, and rampant hedonism. And that is with the restraining influence of the Church present to hold back some of the worst excesses. Can you imagine the immorality that will be unleashed—and the profits that will be generated by wicked means—after the Rapture?

When and Where?

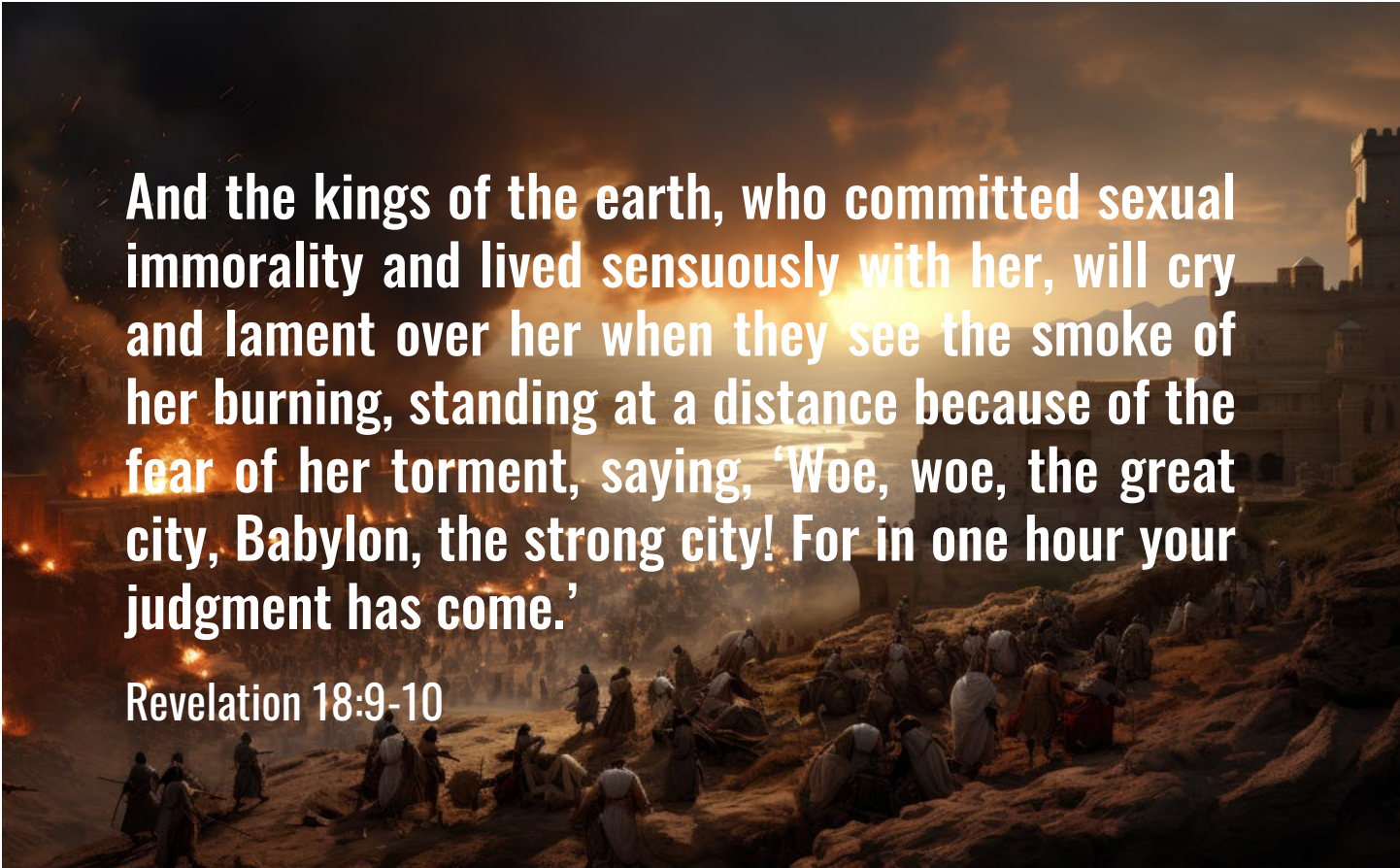
For almost 2,000 years, debates have raged about the exact location of Mystery Babylon. Many early Christians assumed that John was referring to Rome but doing so in a cryptic manner to avoid additional

persecution for prophesying its demise. As Rome came to represent the Roman Catholic Papacy (here again, with a city standing for a corrupt system or empire), Protestants were quick to adopt that interpretation as an indictment of the Papacy and the errors exposed in Catholicism. Bill Salus supports this position, emphasizing John’s use of the present tense in explaining that the harlot “*is* the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth” and is judged to “avenge” the apostles and prophets (Revelation 17:18 and 18:20).

Later, other cities were considered, including London, Paris, and New York—always chosen for their prominence as the capitals (political or economic) of powerful nations or vast empires. Most of the prophecy teachers affiliated with

Lamb & Lion Ministries reject this perspective. Instead, perhaps because so many locations were posulated in the past, many current Bible scholars believe that the Mystery Babylon John refers to might be a yet-to-be-determined location where the Antichrist will establish his global headquarters.

Some suggest it could be a rebuilt Babylon—the ancient city in Iraq that Saddam Hussein began to restore 40 years ago in an audacious effort to spur tourism to Iraq. Others have advocated for a new city somewhere in Europe or the Middle East and pointed to massive city-building projects that rival the original Babel in their hubris and audacity. (For instance, in 2021 Saudi Arabia announced that it would build a 100-mile-long city called “The Line” in the Arabian desert, with aspira-



And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived sensuously with her, will cry and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

Revelation 18:9-10

tions of housing nine million people but allowing no cars.)

Today, relatively few Bible prophecy experts advocate for Rome as the potential site of the fulfillment of Mystery Babylon. According to David Reagan:

Prior to this century, the consensus of opinion among Bible prophecy experts was that the “*Mystery Babylon*” of Revelation 17 and the “*Babylon the Great*” of Revelation 18 were both references to Rome. Today, that opinion has radically shifted, and the consensus now is that these terms refer to ancient Babylon. Accordingly, these experts argue that Babylon will soon be rebuilt. This is the reason that Tim LaHaye, in his “Left Behind” series of books, presents Babylon as the capital city of the Antichrist’s world kingdom.

Terry James and Al Gist share that sentiment, along with Mark Hitchcock, who says, “I take the view that it’s a literal rebuilt Babylon in the future.”

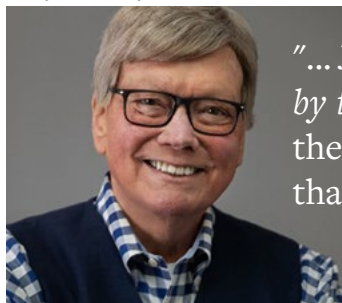
The Power Behind It All

There can be little doubt the Babylon that John was describing will be the seat of the Antichrist’s power. Pointing to that final global autocrat, Isaiah prophesied that the “king of Babylon” will be an oppressor of unprecedented ruthlessness (Isaiah 14:1-17). And, as Ed Hindson noted, “It’s obvious in the book of Revelation that John portrays Babylon, *whatever he means*

by that, as the Kingdom of the Antichrist—the ungodly world system of the last days that controls the world economy.”

It is also obvious that this single city has influence that appears to exceed even the economic power of New York City, the political power of Washington, D.C., and the religious influence of Rome. That is why God orders the city’s destruction by a supernatural outpouring of His wrath, and why the kings and merchants cry and lament so bitterly at its loss.

For that reason, we believe that, like many other prophecies, the



“... John portrays Babylon, *whatever he means by that*, as the Kingdom of the Antichrist—the ungodly world system of the last days that controls the world economy.”

—Ed Hindson

characteristics of Mystery Babylon are evident in various cities and systems today—just as they were in John’s day. However, that leads to the question: What is a city? It is more than a location on a map, a conglomeration of buildings, or even a community of inhabitants. Cities come to have a culture and influence that transcend all of those outward appearances. And just as ancient Babylon (and Babel before it) came to represent a willful rebellion and embrace of wickedness in the eyes of the Lord, Mystery Babylon may very well represent the ungodly, reprobate, and rebellious *system* of the Antichrist.

Do we believe the Antichrist will rule over his global empire from a great (in human eyes) city somewhere in the Middle East? Yes. Do we believe that the city will be destroyed in a single day as described in Revelation 18? Again, yes.

We believe the crying and sorrow of kings, merchants, and all those who reveled in the sinful system she represents indicates that something far more entrenched and malign will finally be laid waste. Hubris and rebellion had inspired Nimrod to build cities in Shinar and Assyria. He and his men sought to “build for [themselves] a city and a tower whose top will reach into heaven.” Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah flaunted their exceedingly great wickedness before the Lord. So too will the Antichrist build for his own pride and glory a city from which to rule over his global empire.

In the end, Nathan’s plain-sense bottom line about Mystery Babylon: “Whether it’s Rome or a rebuilt Babylon, we don’t know, but the city will collapse as God attacks the Antichrist capital here on Earth.” The capital city of the Antichrist—Satan’s personally possessed and ex-

alted man—will be obliterated. As David Reagan added:

It doesn’t really make any difference whether the Antichrist will reign from Babylon, Rome, New York City, or some other city. Regardless of which city it might prove to be, Almighty God is going to destroy the city, its king, and all its sinful activities in one hour of one day (Revelation 18:8-10). The point is, that regardless of the true identity of Babylon, Jesus is going to triumph, and we, the Redeemed, are going to win in the end.

We couldn’t have said it any better! So, knowing that King Jesus will be victorious over all His enemies, still your heart, dry your tears, let go of your anxious thoughts, and keep your eyes lifted up, for our Redemption is drawing near! 🕊

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

SEP/OCT 2026

NATURE

On a single day in June, major earthquakes struck California, Japan, and Venezuela, including a double-whammy quake (7.5 and 7.2 on the Richter scale) that devastated area around Caracas. Geophysicists say the US left coast is overdue for a major quake that could strike with little notice.



Medical professionals are warning of a new tick-borne “Powassan” virus that can infect victims within a few hours of being bitten by the tiny pests. To make matters worse, the tick population is exploding across the United States.



SOCIETY

Satan may have finally “jumped the shark” (a phrase from a 1970s sitcom that conveys pushing something too far) with regard to transgender activism. At long last, Americans are coming to their senses and cooling in their acquiescence to this militant rejection of Creation order.



Four years after the US Supreme Court sent the abortion question back to the states with the Dobbs decision, more unborn children than ever before are slaughtered annually by means of abortifacients (medication) mailed nationwide—in violation of postal laws on the books.



SPIRITUAL

The radicalism of Leftist Christianity (which J. Gresham Machen accurately described a century ago as “something other than Christianity”) will be on full display with the Texas candidacy of PCUSA member James Talerico for US Senate; he believes God is gender fluid and Jesus is not worthy of worship.



Some hopeful evangelists are touting a spiritual revival sweeping the United States (with anecdotal evidence of an upsurge in church attendance by certain young adult sectors); but while the light shines brighter in some places, the darkness deepens elsewhere.



We're on the back side of 2026 and picking up speed toward the end of another year. Likewise, the Signs of the Times seem to be accelerating all around us. There are a few positive signs, but others that sound an ominous note. The question for all of us awaiting the Rapture is not whether America will linger another 250 years—or even when the Lord will call us Home. The answer to the first and the timing of the second are known only to God. Our charge is to be like the sons of Issachar: understanding the times and knowing what to do with the time we have.

WORLD POLITICS

American allies in the Middle East are becoming more outspoken in their denouncement of Iran, which remains belligerent following weeks of devastating air attacks by the US and Israel; some pundits are warning of a looming World War III if hostilities continue to fester and expand.



Once the scourge of western nations, socialism is gaining traction where capitalism reigned; from New York to Seattle and London to Berlin, socialists and communists—united in their animosity toward Christianity and embrace of unrestrained government—now wield political power.

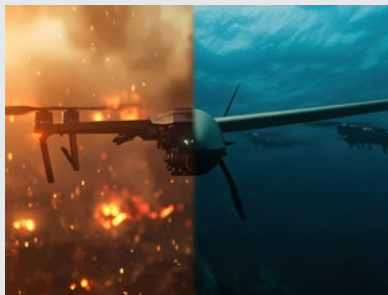


TECHNOLOGY

AI technology is filled with promise, potential, and perilous, pernicious threats. It is also consuming an inordinate amount of energy and water resources. A single “data center” that allows your grandkids to make funny faces on their social media consumes as much electricity as Salt Lake City, Utah.



Offensive aerial and underwater drones costing a fraction of the systems charged with defending against them are causing a revolution in military affairs (RMA), with small nations now able to challenge or undermine the superiority of vastly larger forces.



ISRAEL

After touting President Trump as a modern-day Cyrus, Israelis are feeling increasingly isolated in the community of nations. The dramatic downturn of public opinion toward Israel (even within the self-professing Church) has been alarming to Jews and Christian Zionists alike.

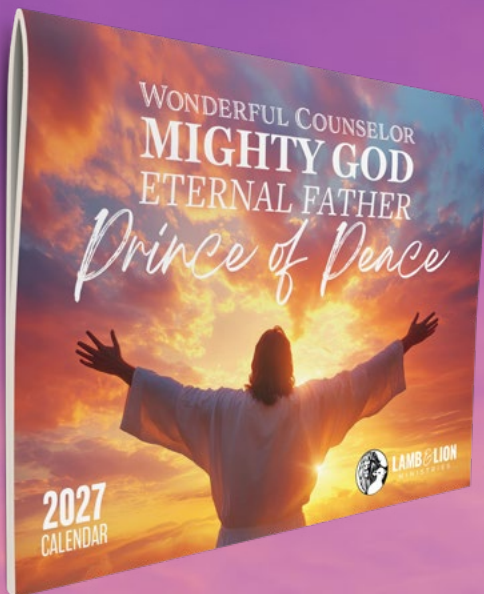


As the United States pursued a problematic peace with Iran, Israel's concern about the Islamic regime's nefarious activity throughout the region continued to mount; proxies from Hamas to Hezbollah to the Houthis remain sworn enemies of the Jewish state—and sources of violent attacks on Israel.



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