SECTION 8 The False Prophet and The Days of Vengeance.

The Ministry of the False Prophet

It's about time to explain some of those outrageous statements I've made about Catholics. I've meant every word I've said so far. And there'll be no backing down here—no more or less than *scripture* does. And hopefully, I won't be burned at the stake. Seriously, I'll be calling a spade a spade, and it's nothinag personal. I've never been a Catholic, only been to an 'ecumenical Catholic service' once as far as I remember. So there's really nothing about me to judge here but my handling of *scripture* and whether it has given me enough *knowledge* and *wisdom* to overcome what you might otherwise consider ignorance.

The question of where the False Prophet will originate from is a most uncomfortable issue. Understandably, no one wants *him* to have any present or future relationship with their church. But everyone that wants to *know the truth* is going to have to face the fact that exposing the institution that will eventually support *him* is not going to be popular, and possibly even dangerous. The clues available in *scripture* alone go a long way in identifying *him* and his institution. And by deduction, just like we are doing with the raptures and the Antichrist Kingdom, we can narrow things down quite a bit further.

And when it comes to judging the False Prophet and the religious institution he represents, we'll see mass executions by bloody butchery including the most successful campaign of genocide ever. And this institution must be the one that's had some major successes in this field already. And remember we talked about the mass executions of Jews and Christians just after The Abomination of Desolation. Well, it's time to unhood the headsmen.

We **know** that Satan wants to be **like the most high**. And though The Real **most high** should have control of the biggest 'church' in the World, it could be argued that this is not the case, because the largest denomination of what is popularly thought to be God's Church is really <u>not</u> part of God's Church at all. And this 'denomination' is the only part Satan wants, or can use, because it will be the only part the Antichrist will be able to fully get on his side.

And I'm not talking about any of the so-called cults, nor am I really even going to address that issue in this **study**, except that I have already made clear how too many churches consider too many other churches cults, who have **beams** in their own eyes. And we're not going to focus on the Buddhist or Hindu religions because they stay mostly out of 'The God Zone' during The Great Tribulation so that **scripture** only pays them, at best, peripheral attention. And we're not focusing on the Muslim religion either because we'll see that the bulk of its followers are going to get crushed fairly early in The Great Tribulation, and later entirely subjugated by the Antichrist's expanding kingdom. And though some of these religions might help with the 'infrastructure' that Satan will need to deceive **all the world**, none of them

fit all the scriptural criteria for the institution of the False Prophet. So by simple deduction, and simple 'Protestant reasoning', we will see there's really no other suitable contender to fulfill this role than the Catholic Church. It's undoubtedly the richest and by far the most internationally influential, especially in the Western World, and most of all in Europe.

But remember I said that there are many that predict Europe's inevitable conversion to Islam. The implication is that Catholics will give up without much of a fight. But *scripture* simply doesn't agree. The clues instead make clear that it's not the Muslims that will really get the rowdiest and subdue the other guys. It's the Catholics that will finally do it and with the help of the Antichrist. But right now I see Satan disguising this perspective by a presently successful P.R. campaign that allows many to think that Muslims will eventually successfully take over Europe, making everyone overlook the alternative—that Catholics will instead take over Southwest Asia and North Africa. I mean we at least should think that it could go either way. After all, they've played that shuffleboard game before. It's what the Crusades were all about. Look it up.

But as should also be expected, I am sure the Catholics won't be able to pull it off without the Antichrist. So in 2009, with Iran now rising and Egypt apparently not yet even started in her rise to again rally the Muslims, and with it being unlikely that a sufficiently charismatic interim leader to rally the Catholics in Europe will arise in the meantime, the prognosticators of Europe's doom may continue to hold the majority opinion for a while. But we will see that the time is coming when Israel will stand in the way of most all of this—kind of like the U.S. has in the past—until after the Antichrist is revealed.

And however it unfolds, wars between the Catholics of Europe and the Muslims of The Middle East are a brewin'. But we now *know* from Gabriel the Archangel exactly how the last three will turn out—in detail. And if the Muslim World is to collapse not long after 'the Protestant Church' disappears, who else could rise in Europe in The Beginning of Sorrows that could ultimately 'harness' Satan's power by supporting the Antichrist? Who else but the Catholics? Again, this case is not finished until the next section because we still need to see how *scripture* makes clear that the Muslim World's role in The Great Tribulation makes them and their religion absolutely ineligible to host the origins of the Antichrist Kingdom, and makes clear that the Antichrist's early battles will be against the Muslim World. So from this point, the case continues with some of that 'Protestant reasoning' I mentioned a few paragraphs back.

First, it makes sense that Satan is not just thinking about who would be the best institution to support his religious leader in The Great Tribulation, but he must also be already preparing this institution to be ready for him when the time comes. So by now it should be recognizable. But really it's been recognized for nearly a millennium now. And you may have heard that all of the early 'Protestant Church Fathers' either believed or at least suspected that the Pope's office is held by the Antichrist. And certainly these Protestant Reformation Leaders did not agree on everything. But according to my encyclopedia, all the 'big ones' pretty much all agree on this point.

The Protestant Reformation, really the beginning of significant opposition to the Pope and the Catholic Church, could be said to start with John Wycliffe

of England whose books are eventually burned by the Catholic Church. And though he dies before they can burn him at the stake, they dig up his bones years later and burn them. Wycliffe's work is carried on by Jan Hus (John Huss), a Czech, who is burned at the stake. Martin Luther, German, follows them and is the Lutheran Church founder who is also popularly considered the overall Protestant Reformation leader. Others include Menno Simons, Dutch, a Radical Reformation Leader, (means he abandoned liturgy, the Holy Eucharist and 'Visible Church' organization—basically keeping none of the Catholic Church's practices), and he is the Father of the Anabaptists and the Mennonite Church. There is also John Calvin, French, Father of 'Calvinism', and Thomas Cranmer, the Anglican Church founder who is also burned at the stake. And John Wesley, the Anglican offshoot Methodist Church founder, becomes a champion of 'Arminian' theology. Yes, these Protestant Church Fathers—dare I call them apostles?—are the ones who start the still unfinished arguments over whether liturgy is mandatory, whether it's really a 'Holy Eucharist' or just symbolic communion, whether organization should be by 'Church visible' or 'invisible' (which means by a learned-elite over the entire Church v. autonomous small communities of believers), and over whether 'Calvinism' or 'Arminianism' best describes our reality. Of course Pentecostals have come along in the last century reheating things up guite nicely too. But all these Protestant groups at least used to agree that the Pope is either the Antichrist or his forerunner and that his 'Church' is apostate at best.

More recently, the Catholic Church has combated the Protestant Reformation with its false-fronted 'Ecumenical Movement' (read, 'can't we just all get along until we outmaneuver you pesky Protestants'). This deceptive movement has allayed a lot of this discord between Protestants and Catholics. But despite the effectiveness of this current but surely temporary 'Trojan-horse' policy of the Catholic Church, it's still widely held by many Protestants that the Pope is the Antichrist.

And this is technically true, but only because all popes of the Catholic Church can be classified this way. This is because the Apostle John would define such types as among the *many antichrists*. He says,

Little children [meaning, of course, those regardless of age who are scripturally and therefore spiritually immature and vulnerable] **it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time** 1 lohn 2:18.

John, like Paul, and probably because of Paul, sounds like he gets a little understandably overexcited about the current 'signs of the times' in his day too—kind of like some people do today. I've certainly been there and done that myself. And I think God designed His Word to work this way to keep us all on our toes. So the Apostle John also needs some slack for his apparent misunderstanding that the time of the end was then very close—though the whole Age of Grace is correctly identified as **the last time** before Christ comes. The important point though is the spiritual insight he gives us here. That suchlike as the popes of the Catholic Church should be considered **antichrists**.

And John adds to this clear reference about <u>the</u> **antichrist** what he means by who the other **antichrists** are, saying,

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us 1 John 2:19.

This general rule can be applied to anyone who abandons or denies *the truth of the gospel*. But the Protestant Reformation is an appropriate kind of reversal of this rule. This is when there was a mass exodus from an apostate institution because of *the truth of the gospel*. Sure, exclusivism can be dangerous no matter what the reason. But in this case, various groups of believers—later to be called Protestants—are among the first groups to escape the apostasy of the Catholic Church. And we will see how others in The Great Tribulation must also eventually do the same. But John is really only implying that pretty much anyone that is 'sufficiently exposed' to the Gospel and then rejects it in order to subvert it is an *antichrist*. So all the popes of the Catholic Church could qualify for this classification, as we'll *prove* before we're done.

However the Protestant Church Fathers were thinking that the popes they contended with were or could have been 'the one and only' antichrist that John also plainly acknowledges. But hey, I no more blame the early Protestant Church Fathers for coming to this conclusion than I do Paul or John for having an eye out for him in their day. And since John clarifies that every subverter of the truth may not be the antichrist because there are many such subverters—some obviously more effective at it than others—this confusion is even more understandable. And remember that Paul, John, and all of these Protestant Church Fathers live before The Book of Daniel even starts to be opened. This suggests that the Protestant Church Fathers should at least suspect that the pope is the Antichrist, since they understood and believed that they were dealing with a devil.

But rather recently some of us modern Protestants have finally figured out that there's a much more appropriate 'office' in *scripture* for the Pope of the Catholic Church to fill, namely, that of the False Prophet. There are only four passages in *scripture*—counting Revelation 17-18 as just one—that I am aware of that specifically mention *the false prophet* or his ministry or his institution. I mean if he's visible in the Old Testament—and I would expect he should be—I haven't found him there yet. So his role in *scripture* is easy to overlook if recognized at all. And this has evidently contributed to making any given pope an easily mistakable early candidate for the Antichrist by Protestant Leaders.

To make matters even more difficult to decipher, all four of the passages about him that I'm aware of are 'buried' in The Book of Revelation. Two of them are slim references really, and they are all at least as allegorical as literal. And it's the last one in Revelation 19 which identifies his destruction along with the allegorically represented Antichrist—*the beast*. But the two much more detailed references are completely locked in puzzling allegories that as far as I know remained mysteries until rather recently. To see these puzzles solved we'll need to use the last brief reference of him to unlock the

more detailed ones. The other brief reference comes up later in this section and again in SECTION 10.

So this last reference in Revelation 19 is the key to unlocking the others. We have already talked about **the marriage supper of the lamb** near the beginning of this chapter. And we'll talk about it again—as well as the rest of the chapter—in the sections to follow. This time we're only interested in the conclusion to the chapter. So all we need to **know** at this point is that Chapter 19 is a description of Armageddon and about the events that immediately precede and follow it. From this we can **understand** that the end of the chapter is about Armageddon's aftermath. During this time,

...the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Rev 19:20

Here we have an allegorically portrayed character described alongside one portrayed literally. But we **know** who **the beast** is here. It's obviously the one Jesus defeats when he returns—the Antichrist. And there is **with him the false prophet** that is here worthy to be mentioned as apparently just as responsible and punishable as the Antichrist, their punishment being that they will be the first to be **both...cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone**.

Just who is it that's worthy to accompany the Antichrist in this dubious honor? We get a brief literal description of who he is right here. He is the one...

...that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image.

The details of this mass deception by *miracles* accomplished by the False Prophet, and the power he wields using *the mark of the beast...and his image* are elaborated upon in the two more detailed but mysterious allegorical passages about him and his institution. But we already see here that he is one of the major workers of 'deceiving' *miracles*, surely both in the *signs* and *lying wonders* categories. This monster who is responsible for having *deceived* those who take *the mark of the beast* and worship *his image* and who therefore is *cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone* along with the Antichrist can by these criteria be identified in the first mysterious *allegory* about him in Revelation 13. We will now therefore be able to see that Revelation 13 is a more detailed account of the Antichrist and his False Prophet, there identified as *the first beast* and *another beast*.

We have covered some of the first part of Revelation 13 already too. It's about **the first beast** whose big mouth gives him away as <u>the</u> Antichrist at The Abomination of Desolation, the one that John's immature disciples were looking for and evidently misidentifying. I call him **the first beast** because John identifies him this way repeatedly in the second part of the chapter.

After John is through with his identifications of **the dragon** and **the beast**, in <u>Verse 11</u> he begins to identify **another beast**, comparing it specifically to **the first beast before him**, this same **first beast...whose deadly wound was healed**. And John tells us that this 'second beast'...

...exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast....

And we **know** where this **power** comes from because in Chapter 12 **Satan** is identified as **the dragon**, and in Chapter 13 we see that **...the dragon...gave power unto the beast**. So the False Prophet is described to be 'as powerful' as the Antichrist. And we're not just talking about religious institutional power, but also about 'miraculous' spiritual power.

John also shows us in <u>Verse 8</u> the *allegory* of *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*—who is obviously Jesus. And along with this *allegory* there is the one about Satan being the *worshipped...dragon* which is repeatedly in play in this chapter. Putting them together we can *interpret* what kind of 'second beast' we are talking about. He is someone who is acting as the stand-in representative for Jesus, and as if he speaks directly for God, yet he is a deceiver. This plainly fits the *allegory* about the False Prophet in <u>Verse 11</u> where we are told...

...he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Again, in terms of **a lamb** and **a dragon** this second beast is portrayed as masquerading as the literal representative of Jesus and God, who is really speaking for Satan. And this would be one way to describe the Pope of the Catholic Church.

By-the-way, the reason that **the first beast** will **rise up out of the sea** and the second **beast** will be **coming up out of the earth** may be a metaphor meaning that they operate in different types of institutions, one political, the other religious. But there might just as well be another reason. I mean you should remember that we've dealt with the misconception that the sea of glass is a metaphor for 'a multitude of people' by combining references in Revelation 4 and 15. And I should add here that we still have yet to deal with the correct and appropriate use of the *many waters* metaphor in the next allegorical reference to the False Prophet. The point is that we must always be careful to discern the literal from the figurative. And conclusions should remain under examination long beyond the point you think you are sure of them. And sometimes it's unavoidable. I mean, I certainly can't confirm that I see a metaphor in this case in Revelation 13, because it very well may be a literal reference. Maybe in these allegorical descriptions of these 'beasts' we are also seeing the simple literal differences in their geographical origins. The Antichrist, if he comes from, say, Irag, and establishes his kingdom in Europe, can be said to come ashore. And John may have this 'beach view' in the beginning of the chapter in order to witness this event. And I expect that the False Prophet will already have been long established in The Antichrist's domain when he acquires the power given him. So it makes sense from this perspective that John stood upon the sand of

the sea, and saw [first] a beast rise up out of the sea, and then beheld another beast coming up out of the earth.

However, the *four great beasts* of Daniel 7 also come *up from the sea*, these being elsewhere allegorized as some of the *heads* of *the dragon*. We *know* they specifically represent Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and the combined Roman and Antichrist Kingdoms. And in this case I don't see them all as needing to come ashore to establish their kingdoms, just maybe to expand them. So, maybe it's just a metaphor for the differentiation between political and religious institutions after all. But remember Jesus and Paul use the same metaphor about *'a little leaven'* for different purposes and meanings, remember? Anyhow, this is all I got, and either *interpretation* seems to fit for me. And maybe both, or maybe neither. But pretty much any given Pope of the Catholic Church is the perfect fit for someone who would presume to represent Jesus Himself, but who is really speaking for Satan. And don't worry if you don't *know* what I mean that the Pope speaks for Satan. We're getting to that.

Verses 12-18 give a detailed description of the False Prophets duties and responsibilities throughout The Days of Vengeance. And though I'm sure the Pope and his Church are instrumental in the Antichrist's rise to power by providing the infrastructure he can use to make *prey* and *spoil* of all other religious institutions in his kingdom in The Beginning of Sorrows, it's not until The Abomination of Desolation that the Pope and the Antichrist receive *all* the power to enforce the details revealed here. And the first thing this particular pope does upon receiving this power, evidently, is to display some whopper signs and lying wonders, some hot great wonders and likely other incredibly deceiving miracles to 'prove' he is God's spokesman, and by this deception, win the World's worship of Satan and the Antichrist. John exposes him as...

...he [that] doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed Verses 13-15.

And we can tell what this *image of the beast* is for. It's the Catholic Church's loyalty test for the Antichrist. Those made to submit to this test who do not pass will die, but not necessarily spiritually, unless they're stubborn hold-outs to Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc. Such 'religious hold-outs' will be real tragedies. And from this we see that the *image of the beast* will be necessary for the motivation of people that would not otherwise accept their membership in this 'newly restructured' Catholic Church so easily.

But something else will be required for the general control of the population. The False Prophet will institute this control by issuing the means

by which every single financial transaction will be permitted or denied, **the mark of the beast**. John explains how it works, saying,

...he [the false prophet] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name Verses 16-17.

So the Antichrist can be seen here to be using a preexisting religious network and its leader to organize and control his financial network.

Now we've all heard of technologies, and see new ones surfacing seemingly everyday, that could be incorporated into such a 666-style economic control of society. But you should not be surprised when I tell you that I am more than skeptical about technology's role in the mark of the beast. I don't see it as necessary at all. Remember, the regularity and severity of worldwide earthquakes alone in The Great Tribulation should limit the operation of international infrastructures to that of 'ancient times'. But an international religious network that has run by personal interaction and world-of-mouth for centuries, organized through interconnected local parishes, could do the job very well, and without the need of any modern technology. And I mean the Catholics should be the best organized worldwide network of any kind come The Great Tribulation. And despite all the 'withholding' still going on by The Spirit and the real Church, they arguably are even now. And we'll break this all down some more as we go. Next let's *learn* some more about the False Prophet in the remaining more detailed passage that's more focused on his institution, and the *multitudes* that make it up.

And speaking of the metaphor of the *many waters*, we're finally there. It's in Chapters 17 and 18, and it's part of a larger *allegory* involving the False Prophet's institution and headquarters *city*. And this account is like the account of the Two Witnesses in Chapter 11 which comes after most all of the first half's judgments are presented and concludes with events that mark the end of the first half, implying their ministry covers only the first half. The same can be said for the False Prophet seen in Chapter 17 and 18. This account occurs after the account of the second half's judgments and concludes with events that mark the end of the second half, implying his 'empowered ministry' covers only the second half—though in his case he must also be indispensably partnered with the Antichrist's success in the first half too.

The first part of this prophetic *allegory* in Chapter 17 is the most difficult to decipher, but a straightforward interpretation is finally provided by the Chapter's end. It's delivered by a team of angels within the *vision*. And the lead angel is *...one of the seven angels which had the seven vials* of The Seven Plague Judgments. This angel tells John,

I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters. With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth

have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication <u>Verses</u> 1-2.

Without a doubt the prophetic *allegory* in Chapter 13 covers 'the principalities and powers' of Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet in The Days of Vengeance, but this one instead focuses more on the judgment or end of The Ministry of the False Prophet, or really more on the end of his institution as a whole, and in terms of this institution's relationships with the various 'top players' in the Antichrist's kingdom and with the rest of the World. These 'top players' include the Antichrist, the spiritual prince over him—evidently not Satan—and the human ten kings under the Antichrist in 'his' empire. And since one or more of these players may be involved in any part of the allegory or interpretation at any point, misinterpretations and incomplete interpretations are easily come by.

But we'll see that all these players are depicted as various authorities that are controlled by **the woman**, who should be **interpreted** here as the overlording hierarchy of the Catholic Church. We can see this partly because in Chapter 18 we can deduce that **her** headquarters is Vatican City, and partly because this hierarchy is over **many waters** which late in Chapter 17 is **interpreted** to be **peoples**, **and multitudes**, **and nations**, **and tongues**. So the person of the False Prophet, the particular pope in The Great Tribulation, is certainly a part of all this, but not as much in focus here as the institution as a whole. And we will see this in more ways than one.

To start with, in the previous references to the False Prophet in Chapters 13 and 19, which refer more specifically to the Pope himself, we see *him* depicted with male characteristics. But this time we will see the depictions of a *woman*. It becomes apparent that this is because we are talking less specifically about the person of the Pope and more specifically about the headquarters *city* from which he 'ministers' and about the institution as a whole. This is *she* who is shown to be able to make the whole world gladly cooperate with *her* conspiracies, because *she* is a...

...whore...With whom [not just] the kings of the earth have committed fornication...[but also 'all'] the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

We should not miss the far-reaching influence described here and ponder who could have such influence at this time. And what does it mean that 'the whole world' is *drunk with the wine of her fornication*? It is later finally *interpreted* that *the wine of her fornication* is *the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth*. The fact that she is *made drunk* shows that *she* greatly overindulges in this *'wine'*. In other words, 'all' the surviving *inhabitants of the earth* will participate to some degree in *her* schemes to make *prey* and *spoil* of members of competing religious institutions—especially Jew and Protestants—as well as participate in *her* other surely heinous 'mass atrocities', pun personally unavoidable.

Now like Daniel's 'all' in Chapter 7, when he speaks of the four kingdoms...which shall bear rule over all the earth, again, we should be aware that God is obviously only focused on The God Zone, and that there

are good reasons for that. And I mean that we can recognize that all the previous 'world-ruling' kingdoms had their limits. Even Alexander couldn't get through India, let alone to China, nor could Julius get through present day England to Scotland, and none of them as far as I know made any 'significant' excursions across the Sahara Desert, or the Pacific Ocean, other than possibly a little curious exploration and trade. And the same standards will apply here in the Antichrist's future kingdom. The Antichrist will obviously not reach China; neither will China likely persecute their own Buddhists, except for maybe minority factions of them or other minorities as they already commonly do. But China will also likely offer to help eradicate all the Protestants and Jews—and probably Muslims too—as a strategicallytimed 'show of good faith' to the Antichrist that could be used to their advantage to advance on other fronts—like on The U.S. mainland, for example. And for the same reason China is not likely to provoke the Antichrist with the persecution of the Oriental branches of the Catholic Church—at least during The Beginning of Sorrows. So Catholic branches throughout the World during this time should experience astronomical growth, even in China. But China's eventual clampdown on her Catholics could be part of the trouble Gabriel mentions in The Days of Vengeance that develops out of the east and out of the north of the Antichrist Empire (Dan 11:44). And however China does it, surely she will make some 'political hay' in the spirit of Hitler and Stalin in the process of doing what she's going to do anyway—expand. The same kind of treatment of Christians, Jews, Muslims and Catholics should be expected in India too—unless and until the Antichrist comes to the rescue of India's Catholics in The Days of Vengeance. And we'll speak more about China and India's Catholics a little later on.

As for the rest of the World, we'll see in the next section how Russia, Southwest Asia and North Africa get wiped out in the middle of The Beginning of Sorrows with *fire and brimstone* 'sent from Heaven'. And I'm guessing *plague* will pretty much finish off the rest of Africa south of the Sahara Desert as there are already signs of this inevitability in sight. And the existing trend toward 'Catholic-supported communism' in South and Central America could easily fully engage The U.S. from sometime in The Beginning of Sorrows on.

So considering that China will have work to do to consolidate her own region first—because The U.S. is still in the way—and considering she will need to make sure that The U.S. becomes bound on her own mainland, becoming at least too 'preoccupied' with her own problems to try to protect anyone else, I expect China will more or less wait on a 'mop-up-at-the-end' strategy, which would mean she would avoid too much direct involvement with the Antichrist Kingdom until, as we will see, she finally makes a resolute showing in The God Zone at Armageddon. However we have seen in Daniel 11 a strong implication that China's final and farthest push to Armageddon is not her first attempt in that direction. A first attempt may be stopped by the Antichrist as she begins to intrude into central Asia toward the periphery of The God Zone.

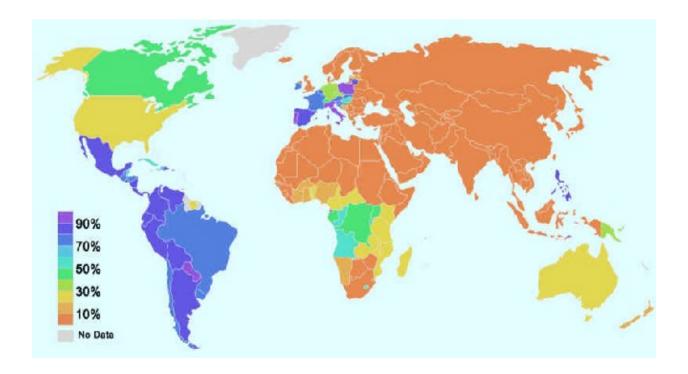
And in Chapter 17, God's focus is in The God Zone, including in the **allegory** starting in <u>Verses 3-6</u> about this **MOTHER OF HARLOTS**. This **woman** is described to be...

...arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration (or "amazement" or 'astonishment').

This **woman** is portrayed as conspicuously, excessively and shamelessly rich as the Vatican is even now. This is obviously because it's supported by the worldwide Catholic Church. It's the largest centrally organized religious institution in the World (see <u>Adherents.com: Catholics</u>). According to the 2008 edition of the Vatican yearbook, known as the **Annuario Pontificio**, which catalogs the church's presence in all diocese, the Catholic Church's worldwide recorded membership at the end of 2007 was 1.131 billion, up 1.4% from 2006 (<u>Catholic News Service, Feb. 29, 2008</u>). This is approximately one-sixth of the World's population. So there may be a few more Muslims than this, but they are certainly not nearly so well organized. And they don't stand a chance against this blood sucker.

Take a look at the MAP of Worldwide Catholic Church Membership (next page). Only one continent has 4 countries with over 90% Catholics. That would be Europe. The smallest is Luxembourg on the northeast border of France. But a couple of Mediterranean island nations could be added to this total too. Look for the blue, bluish purple and especially reddish purple countries for the highest concentrations of Catholics. Light blue and green countries are around half Catholic. Yellow and especially orange countries have the least Catholics. The yellow ones are most likely to be dominated by Protestants. Understanding this you can see that most of Europe is dominated by Catholics. Most of the orange countries are dominated by Muslims, Hindus or Buddhists. England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are notable exceptions to this. They are obviously overwhelmingly Protestant countries with few Catholics. And this is one of the reasons why I'm pulling for The U.K. to oppose the Antichrist Kingdom at least in The Beginning of Sorrows even though they are already so strongly connected with all of these other Catholic countries of The E.U.

MAP of Worldwide Catholic Church Membership



So the best candidates for the ten kingdoms that participate in the coming Beginning-of-Sorrows, Antichrist-led, 'Catholic Revolutionary War' in Europe are plainly visible on this map. They are, in a clockwise fashion, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and Slovenia. Germany and Switzerland are also likely to succumb to the literally surrounding and internal Catholic pressure too. Scandinavia may stay out of the picture in the cold north being less accessible across the Baltic Sea, though they must eventually acquiesce to the Antichrist. But it already looks like this will be about 10 Catholic counties kingdomwide, given that there will likely be a little consolidation here and there, and that surely some of these countries will simply be willingly dominated by but not included in *the ten*. The countries in the region of former Yugoslavia, for example, will probably remain too unstable to be other than ultimately assimilated. I'll address the region of Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, etc. a little later.

And there's another thing that seems obvious by looking at this map. Current events tell us that The U.S. is likely to eventually have Chinasupported trouble with its neighbors to the south. But to make matters worse, we can also see that The U.S. is even more likely to have Antichrist-supported trouble with these same neighbors—'triple-teamed' you might say. And these apparently natural alliances could result in 'Hitler-and-Stalin-like' treaties between China and the Antichrist Kingdom at least in The Beginning of Sorrows. And what do you think will happen when The U.S. floats her boats in the Mediterranean Sea and sends the Antichrist home *grieved* fairly early on in The Great Tribulation? (Dan 11:30) I'm guessing that it will no longer be only China that's motivated to bring the U.S. down. And you can graphically easily see why The U.S.'s neighbors to the south—and even to the north—would likely rise in widespread Catholic unified indignation against any actions The U.S. might take in The Beginning of Sorrows to hinder the

expansion of their religion by the Antichrist. And China would at least provide support, much of it likely made available before the start of The Great Tribulation, and likely paid for with the increasingly abundant supply of Latin American oil.

By-the-way, have you heard the reports of the vast oil reserves recently found off the coast of Brazil? Not to mention their growing economy. And if Venezuelan 'dictator' Hugo Chavez or one of his successors could get a hold of all that along with the rest of South and Central America—as I'm guessing he's already planning to do, starting with Bolivia's help—the seemingly unlimited manpower of Catholic Latin America could do the rest to overwhelm the U.S. And you should realize that the later you go in The Great Tribulation, the more it becomes a numbers game—the armies with the biggest numbers win because modern technology becomes an insignificant part of the equation. So The U.S. should have its hands full and no longer be able to stand in the way of the Antichrist and the Catholic Church's expansion into the full scope of The God Zone by the end of The Beginning of Sorrows.

But I'm also guessing that even after the true Church leaves in The Rapture, The U.S., probably with the supernatural help and courage of its 'left behind' but newly awake Protestants, will hold the line somewhere, but no thanks to the surely over 100 million Canadian and U.S. Catholics I expect will be left behind too. Still, the 'heartland' or 'Bible Belt' may at least start comparatively free of Catholics and full of 'Protestants in heritage only' (PIHO's—pun again personally unavoidable). And they should be forewarned by the fact that a Catholic confederacy takes over Europe. So some of them will **know** that this Catholic revolution must also be coming for them too.

And one of the leaders of this revolution, this **MOTHER OF HARLOTS**, is most identifiable by what's written **upon her forehead**. First, we should recognize that **she** is another **Mystery**. And it should occur to you at this point that this **woman** is connected to The Mystery of Iniquity. So in the same way that the Antichrist can't be **known** for sure until after The Rapture, so the particular pope who is actually going to be the False Prophet cannot be **known** until then either. But I **believe** we can **know** each of their origins, offices, and jurisdictions now. And we can **understand** that **BABYLON THE GREAT** must refer to the kind of religious institution that this **MOTHER OF HARLOTS** overlords—not to her geographical location.

Explaining how **BABYLON THE GREAT** identifies this particular religion is not so easy. This reference misdirects many to place the establishment of the Antichrist Kingdom in Southwest Asia which, again, we will eventually fully confirm cannot be. The best way I've found that this **great whore** can be identified was first published in 1916 in a book by the Reverend Alexander Hislop, called, **THE TWO BABYLONS OR THE PAPAL WORSHIP PROVED TO BE THE WORSHIP OF NIMROD AND HIS WIFE**. And the long subtitle of this book tells the story. Reverend Hislop proves that the central practices of Catholicism—primarily mother and child worship added to confession and penance—are the same practices used by Nimrod and his wife in their time. And by these practices both of these 'Babylons' are able to gain control of most the whole World. And I mean that today the Catholic Church draws in the whole World through this preexisting universal cultural connection.

It goes like this. The whole World worshipped Nimrod, and after his death, his wife Semiramis. Finally they worshipped the mother Semiramis and her

child Tamuz because it was believed that Tamuz was 'Nimrod reincarnated'. And at the point it all got out of control God had to intervene for our sakes and scatter this false one world religion from the Tower of Babel. The Catholic Church uses a variation on this same 'mother and God-child' theme that appeals to the very roots of every culture on Earth, all of which were once split from Nimrod's Babylon. Nimrod and Semiramis also used confession and penance to control and manipulate their subjects. By these admissions of guilt to a 'centrally supervised religious authority' they had complete control over their members just as the Catholic Church does today.

I should add that the Reverend Hislop, like earlier Protestants, and some still today, believed that a pope would eventually become the Antichrist. This is a minor popular error. His work has nonetheless solved the 'mystery' of why a 'church' in Rome is called **BABYLON THE GREAT**. Again, it's the character—not the location—that identifies her. I mean it's just like the way John earlier refers to ...the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. This cannot be about these locations, but about the character of Jerusalem. And it must be the same way with **BABYLON THE GREAT** in Revelation 17. And it's now unmistakable that the preeminent institution that employs these 'Babylonian' practices is the Church of Rome. By-the-way, a shorter, more recent version of this information (1966), though still calling the pope the Antichrist, is Ralph Woodrow's, <u>BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION ANCIENT AND MODERN</u>.

Now it's first *interpreted* in <u>Verse 6</u> that this *woman* [is] *drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus*. And it's no wonder either that John is so astonished at her appearance. She evidently represents many both past and still future murderous Catholic campaigns involving mass torture, employing extraordinary cruelty, and resulting in record-breaking carnage mostly of Jews and Protestants. Much of this past astonishing cruelty is recorded in <u>Foxe's Book of Martyrs</u>, especially the later editions published in the late 1500's. An expanded, more up to date version (1985) of these past atrocities against Protestants through the horribly brutal reign of Queen Mary in England and the Spanish Inquisition—John Foxe himself was contemporary to these massacres—is in <u>Foxe's Christian Martyrs of the World</u> published by Barbour and Company, Inc.

But John gives us very little description of this brutal bloodsucker. He only tells us she is a...

...great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication... [sitting] upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns...

But this is really a lot. From these clues there's very little mystery left who **she** is, and who **she** is riding. Only the identities of this Antichrist and False Prophet remain to be **revealed** as we will **continue** to show. But it's curious that we see the **woman sit upon** this **beast**, implying that the Antichrist Kingdom is dominated by this Pope and his 'church' like a rider controls the horse **she** rides. And we'll see that this is the case up to some point in The

Days of Vengeance.

The angel begins in <u>Verses 7-8</u> to *interpret* this relationship, telling us things we already *know* about the Antichrist, saying,

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

This is a reference where we see that Satan will not deceive literally **all the world**, because it's clear here that only those **not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world** will be so deceived. Unfortunately however, this must surely be the majority of **the inhabitants of the earth**. And as you might expect, this is where I would want to harp again about the apparent evidence here that there is just one human spirit of the Antichrist. But I'll try to save the remainder of that discussion for times that I find it personally unavoidable. Now it's time to harp about the fact that most of the angel's interpretations in the middle of this chapter are probably better described as riddles than explanations.

The first of these 'riddles' is in <u>Verses 9-10</u> where the angel says,

And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

But this one doesn't look too tough for us. The **seven heads** are not directly **interpreted** here. But we have already deduced who they are. Or have we? What we must deduce is whether the focus is on the seven spiritual **princes**, or on the many human kings, or instead on the seven 'world-ruling' kingdoms themselves. What makes most sense here is that these **mountains** must be a similar metaphor to the **great mountain** in Daniel 2 that Nebuchadnezzar dreams **filled the whole earth** after destroying the **great image**. Daniel interprets this **mountain** to be Christ's **kingdom...** [that] **shall stand forever**. And this tells us that Christ's **mountain** must certainly become a much greater one than any of the **seven** here.

Straightforwardly then, these **seven heads are seven mountains** which are the seven world-ruling kingdoms. Therefore as **the woman sitteth** on the **scarlet beast having seven heads and ten horns**, so she is sitting on these **seven mountains**. Or in terms we have used before, **the woman**, a religious institution, overlords a social, political and economic cultural composite of the six previous **kingdoms** all combined into the seventh, which is the Antichrist Kingdom. And **she** does this by controlling the Antichrist, and most likely by lending the support of the Catholic Church to his endeavors in exchange for that control.

And yes I **know**. This is not really what I told you in Section 7. So this has been another exercise in the natural progression of The Word of God. Specifically it should show you two things. First, it's easy to get attached to an incomplete picture. And second, you should regularly **experience** what

you had no idea was slightly out of focus coming into better focus. Of course you may have to reread the last paragraph again, and even the last section too, before you **experience** specifically what I mean here.

By-the-way, some have instead 'proposed' that these 'seven mountains' literally represent the 'seven hills' Rome sits on, 'the city on seven hills'. However we're not talking about the geography of the city of Rome, but of the Vatican, which doesn't really conform to this kind of topography at all. So it doesn't fit for me anyway.

And a good rule of thumb you should have picked up by now is that the best way to interpret *scripture* is with *scripture*. First try using similar both metaphorical and literal established scriptural interpretations. And after that, if nothing yet fits, then you can try one that happens to make sense in view of current events—maybe you'll get lucky with God's timing. But this is a common road to error.

Still, all reasonable options should remain open until the case is closed. And if you're stumped for a 'fitting' interpretation, especially without matching scriptural ones, wait for it. It will eventually come. This is the natural progression of The Word of God too. You have to **know** God will test your **patience** and **integrity** this way. And what we're ultimately looking for is a total **understanding** that fits 'all' **precepts**—one that holds up when you add new ones and becomes a fitting part of an ever growing big picture. And anyone who hasn't already given a good deal of **diligence** won't be able to see it 'all'. And worse, they will unavoidably misinterpret reality. What do you expect to see without **diligence** anyway? And I'm only talking about the 'all' that God would expect the most **diligent** and **faithful** of His **disciples** to see at any given point.

But surely some interpretations will not come until The Great Tribulation, some not until The Millennium, and an endless number in The Eternal Age. The ones that must come later, however, do not exempt us from the **shame** of not having **the knowledge of God** that we are supposed to have now. And time's running out for this age. So as The Spirit intends, we should **know** a good deal about the coming **ages** by now.

Again, God interprets His Word in His Own terms, though His means are as diverse as He is. So nothing reasonable should be rejected out of hand—that is without testing it through *exercise* and *use*. But running with the first 'reasonable' interpretation is responsible for a mess of errors we'll still be cleaning up for some time into The Millennium and beyond.

In <u>Verse 10</u>, when John adds that, *and there are seven kings*, this is where we can discern a change of focus to the spiritual *princes*. And we *understand* that this must now be referring to the seven angel-princes over the seven 'world-ruling' kingdoms, because *seven* human kings aren't enough to account for the number involved in these *seven* kingdoms. Remember we counted six human kings for Medo-Persia alone, all identified by Gabriel, including Darius, Cyrus, Cambyses, Smerdis, Darius I and Xerses. And there were more besides these before Alexander came along. So the *seven kings* here must be spiritual *principalities and powers* in *high* or *heavenly places* that can only be seen *through a glass, darkly* (Eph 3:8-11; 6:12; Col 2:15; 1 Cor 13:12).

This brings us back to the angel's progress report on Satan's seven World hegemonies under these **seven kings**. The angel reports of these angel-

princes that *five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come;* and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. The pronoun 'he' clearly designates the last prince over the Antichrist Kingdom and only indirectly refers to the Antichrist and the kingdom itself. And I repeat, this particular prince is not likely the Antichrist or Satan, but another 'high prince' in the hierarchy of the Unholy Trinity.

And we should *understand* that the angel's perspective is not redundant here. I mean if he's describing the Antichrist again he would be. Instead he's verifying for the first time that this last angel-prince—like the former *prince of Persia*, etc.—is *not yet come* and that *he* will rule over the Antichrist and his kingdom when he does, though in this perspective, like the Antichrist, *he* also apparently gets 'ridden' by the Catholic colossus too, not to mention by Satan. And it's news here that *he* will also get the same *short space* of power as will be given to the Antichrist. The angel also reports in <u>Verse 12</u> that the *ten kings*, who are just as obviously earthly kings, will be given the same *one hour* to rule as *the beast*. So this *short space* and *one hour* must be the same time period as the *forty and two months* given to the Antichrist, and very nearly the same as the *time*, *times*, *and an half* of the entire Days of Vengeance.

Also you should *understand* that due to compartmentalization—which in this case is the inability to simultaneously see the multiple levels of entities involved here—this *interpretation* of Verses 9-10 probably incorporates a level or two more than you've heard before, that is if you've ever <u>really</u> considered this passage before at all.

Finally, before we leave these verses, we should want to **know** how we can get this *mind which hath wisdom* that is able to *understand* this riddle (Verse 9). I've tried to **reveal** many of God's signposts that direct you to this **wisdom** in this **study**. And to the extent that you now **understand** this verse I apparently have. We have seen that we should let **scripture** interpret scripture, discern the literal from the metaphorical, be sensitive to perspective, watch for layering, character changes and other transitions, make logical deductions, stay **patient** and **diligent**, and regularly and reasonably *continue* to *exercise* and *study*—which must include speculation and testing—and do it all precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little while regularly adding new 'precepts' and 'lines' as you go, and while always watching for all manner of pitfalls because we know God is out to trip up the inattentive and insincere—to make them fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken—if they don't handle His Word His way. And you should now see that if you do all these things, you will get this *mind which hath wisdom*, and you'll eventually get the bigger picture—which if you *continue in* you'll see can be unendingly corrected, improved and expanded.

I mean do you expect that growth like this at some point ends? Yes, I know the time is coming when God will create new heavens and a new earth: and the former [things] shall not be remembered, nor come into mind (Isa 65:17; Rev 21:4) which we'll talk about some more later. But the chances that this journey could ever really end are the same chances that God is really finite—none. Or look at it another way, at what point do you expect you will understand all of God's thoughts and ways? This is obviously an eternal journey. And the skills you can gain from this study will

be eternally useful on this journey. And the best part to me is that we're **promised** by God that it's precisely this **use**—or the obedient practice of **scripture** <u>itself</u>—that protects us, sustains us and helps us eternally **grow** even beyond our ability to **understand**. This is a message in <u>2 Peter 1</u>. Unfortunately, this message also comes with the warning that if we don't continually **grow** this way we are vulnerable to being **lost**. And I mean that this includes obediently practicing **scripture** the way we have been in this **study**, though with **prophecy** the main action God expects of you is that you **continue** to pursue the **more sure word of prophecy** and **grow** in the increasing **light** it gives you to see by.

And if you're looking for mature growth in any topic of *scripture*, it's time to get *weaned from the milk*, and *drawn from the breasts*. I mean I'm telling you now for God that your annual read-though-the-Bible plan alone won't get you off the bottle. In fact, if that and your regular sermon attendance is all you're doing, then these practices will eventually become a distraction to your growth while habituating your tendency to compartmentalize. This is likely the case because there are unavoidably an overwhelming majority of *babes* in any given congregation. And if this is the case, how can most sermons rightly include *strong meat*? I mean even if for you have *pastors and teachers* who are capable of serving it up in an hour or so, *babes* can't swallow it. But more than that, God's Word maturely handled is increasingly *strong meat*, and increasingly incomprehensible to *babes*, let alone to newer 'meat eaters'. So make sure you're *weaned*, and growing in the *use* of God's Word, or you will one day be ashamed by your immaturity.

Also we have seen a more direct signpost on this road to **wisdom** in **prophecy**. Jesus hints at the way to start such a journey on the Mount of Olives when He directs us to Daniel for clarification. He implies, as Isaiah does, that to **understand** what He is saying we must follow the clues from **here** to **there**. And Daniel's record has indeed helped us, really forced us, to employ all these 'skills' to gain the **wisdom** necessary to figure out what we have so far. But I assure you that the gloriously bright day when you **know** you **understand** the **more sure word of prophecy**, when you have felt **the day star arise**, then you have only just begun. Not to mention that we're not yet done with this riddle in Chapter 17. It goes on until at least the end of the chapter. So we'll get back to more of how to get this **mind which hath wisdom** a little further on.

In <u>Verse 11</u> we come back to the person of the Antichrist in the next to last stage of his four stages of existence. He goes from someone who **was** or 'lived' up to the end of The Beginning of Sorrows to someone who **is not** or is dead, probably because he's killed trying to kill the Two Witnesses, to in the third stage, someone who **shall ascend out of the bottomless pit** to become **the eighth**. John explains,

...the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

So stage four is **perdition** or **the lake of fire**, and there are more details about this final transition in Revelation 19. But in stage three we see the Antichrist's promotion to a higher level in the hierarchy of the Unholy Trinity.

He seems to be moving up from a completely human king to a kind of hybrid human and spiritual king. And we can see at this point that one of the reasons that *the seven* angel-princes were introduced in the previous verse is so that they can be compared with this human prince in this one. Now I still think the Antichrist is human for all the reasons we already talked about. But I could add here that since he goes into *perdition* or *the lake of fire* with *the false prophet* after Armageddon and doesn't join Satan and all his angels in *the bottomless pit* for The Millennium, then this also indicates *he* and the False Prophet remain essentially human throughout The Great Tribulation. But whoever *he* is, he becomes specially spiritually empowered by Satan at the midpoint in a way that I don't think any human king over one of Satan's previous kingdoms ever was. Still this also raises the question of why this would need to be the case if we're not talking about a human. A spiritual prince would not need to be spiritually empowered by Satan because he would already be supernaturally empowered by God.

But I suppose Satan or his representative could nonetheless confine himself inside a human body for reasons that make no sense to me, unless there would be no other way to resurrect, sustain and empower him. But the language makes no provision for that here. And again, sometime beyond this 'resurrection', someone goes into The Lake of Fire at the end of The Great Tribulation, and likely a living human because all the angels apparently go into the Bottomless Pit at this time. Ok, I'm harping again. But it's only noteworthy that a human could receive such spiritual empowerment that would make him comparable to the other **seven** spiritual **principalities and** powers. And this mutes for me the questions of whether he is the eighth because he is a new human spirit, or because he is ruled or possessed by an 'eighth' spiritual prince. I mean I think it's more likely that the Antichrist's human spirit simply takes a vacation from his body before returning to his newly power-assisted one becoming comparable to the **seven**. In other words, this human Antichrist becomes the eighth because he becomes to some extent empowered just like the other **seven** except that what he lacks in the seven's angelic power he gains in the direct physical rule of the greatest human kingdom of all time. And again, putting Verse 11 together with Verse 8, this **beast** is represented as the same one throughout the entire Great Tribulation. I read it that the one that was, and is not, and **yet is**, is the same guy.

And I guess I'm finding it 'personally unavoidable' to continue harping on this topic, but you yourself should start to feel what it's like, when it comes to the review of a topic, especially when there's some uncertainty about it, and especially when a new precept or two pops up about it, just how personally unavoidable it is. And I have it on good authority that this method is extremely effective for *learning* and *understanding* the *knowledge* and *doctrine* of The Word of God. But in the next section we'll dig even deeper on this subject, and I mean all the way down to *the lower parts of the earth*.

Meanwhile, back on the surface of the Earth, we come to <u>Verse 12</u>. And having come this far through some of the most encrypted interpretations in this chapter apparently requiring the most *wisdom* to decipher, things are finally starting to get a little easier because this is when the angel starts to give more straightforward interpretations. For one thing, this verse plainly

shows that the **ten horns** must be attached only to the seventh head. And this reveals that the **ten kings** must be 'provincial kings' who will be under the empowered human **king**. The angel of the 7th Plague Judgment says,

...the ten horns...are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast...

So these **ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet**, become 'joint chiefs' that are limited to his same **one hour**, or 42 months, **with the beast**.

We *learn* in Verse 13 that these same *ten kings* are united in their devotion to the Antichrist, having one mind... [to] give their power and strength unto the beast. They are loyal to him. However we have also seen evidence of their disunity from Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream—the part about **the feet** 'composed' of **iron and** clay in the great image. But it must be that Daniel is only indicating their general cultural disunity because if you add this to what the angel of the 7th Plague Judgment says about these **ten kings** it implies that despite their disagreements they are nonetheless held together and focused in matters that advance their Catholic faith as lead by their Pope and the Antichrist. And yes, besides their common religious ties, I believe they already share a common government, The European Union, and currency, the euro. And it must be that their Catholic unity becomes the basis of the rallying cry of the Antichrist because Catholicism is surely the strongest bond between these ten nations. And Verse 13 implies that their one mind in their Catholic faith will be a sufficiently strong enough bond by itself.

In Verse 14 we are told that,

These [Catholics] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them...

Now this is a summary of the entire reign of these **ten kings** and should not be confused with just **Armageddon**. Sure, Jesus will **overcome them** at Armageddon, but their war with the Lamb begins at The Abomination of Desolation with the war with the saints. And it's easily argued that the preparations for this war have been a long time ongoing. And from this understanding we learn two things. It tells us that these Catholics fully cooperate with the Antichrist and the False Prophet to make prey and spoil of rival religious groups in both The Beginning of Sorrows and The Days of Vengeance, but especially of lews and Protestants. It also tells us that they will become deceived enough to travel to the ends of the Earth to fight Jesus if they thought they had the chance. But do these that are to become 'the lowest of the low' really expect to be able to attack God? I don't think so. I think that there will be other motivations that draw them all to Armageddon. And I think that whatever the circumstances, it won't be much of a fight at all. Still, I think they will come expecting the biggest fight of all time. Hang on, because we won't finish with I mean by this until SECTION 10.

In <u>Verse 15</u> we finally see the direct literal *interpretation* of what the *many waters* represent. The angel tells John that these...

...waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

These diverse *multitudes* must be the worldwide representatives of the False Prophet, namely the worldwide 1.131 billion and growing membership of Catholic Church. But as large and strong as the Catholic Church is, its days are numbered, because in <u>Verses 16-17</u> the angel explains,

...the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

We should notice here that it makes no sense that **the ten** that **hate the whore** would destroy the **peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues** upon whom **the whore sitteth**. This would require killing all the subjects that support their kingdoms. No, **the ten... shall make** <u>her</u> **desolate and naked, and shall eat** <u>her</u> **flesh, and burn** <u>her</u> with fire, all metaphors meaning that they will see to it that they plunder **her**—the institution—and usurp **her** authority, including the pope's and any church-loyal bishops, priests, etc. So it could be that the Vatican and Catholic churches everywhere will literally burn to some extent too, but only to the extent that they are not salvaged for Satan's new **'God of forces'** form of worship. And of course I'm talking about only those buildings that are still standing, most likely rebuilt, because this would be happening sometime into The Days of Vengeance after the first two Great Earthquakes.

In <u>Daniel 11:36-39</u> we also apparently see **them** (Verse 39)—**the ten** loyal **kings**—that force the issue to subordinate the Pope under the Antichrist, and set up the **God of forces** Church of the Antichrist sometime into the Days of Vengeance. So the **multitudes** cannot be the target of this attack, but will join it under the **ten kings** and the Antichrist, finally forsaking and subordinating the Pope and his church. To do this they will simply change allegiance, joining **the ten** in rejecting **her** in favor of the more direct worship of the Antichrist and Satan.

And this literally *interpreted* portion of Revelation 17 shows us a description of this transition not in terms of the rise of the Antichrist's new form of worship, nor in terms of the downfall of the person of the False Prophet, but in terms of the usurping of the authority of the Catholic Church in general by the *ten kings*. But the ultimate and complete demise of Vatican City is still to come.

The reason that this must be a transition but not the final end of the 'institution' is that there's another reference to the destruction of **Babylon** in the third and final **great earthquake** in the 7th and last Plague Judgment (Rev 16:17-21). So I'm guessing that Vatican City and the Pope must be overcome early enough in second half in order to give the Antichrist and Satan time for this period of their greater self-aggrandizement.

At the same time God instructs these so-called Christians that it's still

possible—obviously if they're not already 'marked', etc.—to *Come out of her*, and that they can do so beyond this transition all the way to the time of Vatican City's final destruction. Of course, to 'come out' would most likely mean to die. But this would be by far the lesser of two evils because John apparently indicates that those who do not *Come out of her* by the time of the final *great earthquake* will then be targeted by God. Again, this is evidently sometime after an earlier power grab organized by the *ten kings*. But for now we'll let all this stew on the back burner for awhile. And be *patient* because won't be completely through with this topic until SECTION 10 either.

In <u>Verse 18</u>, goodness gracious, the angel finally gets around to telling us that...

...the woman is...that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

So we're not just looking for a religious institution in the Antichrist Kingdom ruled by the False Prophet, we're looking for one headquartered in that great city that he pontificates from that is based in the Antichrist Kingdom. In this case, simple deduction probably works best. Could it be Nebuchadnezzar's **golden city** of Babylon? Never again right? But how about some other Persian or Arab city? Again, we'll finally finish proving that anywhere in this region is out of the question in the next section. And we **know** it couldn't be Alexandria or any other **great** or formerly **great city** in Egypt because the Antichrist fights with Egypt. And in the next couple of sections we'll finish **proving** that anywhere in Eastern Asia or Russia is out because God plainly has other plans for these regions too. And we've seen that God seems to have other plans for The U.S. This makes New York and Los Angeles and anywhere in between also out of the question. But there is Mexico City or rising Caracas, Venezuela, except again there's not so much to attack in terms of 'conquering the World' that is 'southeast' of these regions —and even worse pickin's in that direction from Australia. Still, there are many great European cities. But assuming all the great cities of the World were still in play, what city could come close to wielding the control over the kings of the earth that Vatican City does? Presently I see no rival to the Vatican in its ability to influence World affairs. And I'm sure we don't even see the half of it. Remember that Satan probably works best behind the scenes. And no, the Vatican doesn't hold absolute sway over all nations, but I believe they have been working on that for a long time now, and that they'll eventually be much more successful than we could have ever have imagined. You wait and see.

By-the-way, John Foxe evidently caught this bloody **whore** off guard and was able to document and widely circulate a lot of the earlier information about **her** atrocities. But **she** evidently learned her lesson. So more recent information and informants since Foxe show her to be much more stealth with **her** atrocities. And **she** is now also much more systematic, and covert as necessary, in her suppression and assault on **the truth** about who **she** really is. But information about **her** more recent bloody deeds is available. I recommend Chick Publications for a lot of good research on this topic including authors such as Edmond Paris, Avro Manhattan and Charles

Chiniqui. And yeah, if you've heard anything about this publisher or these authors I'm sure it was bad because **she** has been quite effective for quite a while in the hiding and defamation of **the truth** about her real nature—as you should expect.

And this brings us to the end of the chapter and back to our question of how we get **the mind that hath wisdom**. Do you remember in the first section when I told you, "You can imagine Mr. Magoo here if you want—it often gets that bad" (5th paragraph)? Well, what could be more Mr. Magoolike than most Christian's perspective of the Catholic Church. And for those of you who haven't heard of this fictional character, he is depicted as near blind but still relentlessly mobile. As a result Mr. Magoo is ignorant that he is continually confronted with extreme peril that is right under his nose. Well, the woman which is the worldwide Catholic Church and the great city where **she** 'sits', Vatican City, is right under our noses too. Yet too few recognize the extreme peril that **she** is secretly sponsoring. But you should at least be beginning to. And you should expect that most don't have the degree of **wisdom** that the angel of The 7th Plague Judgment is talking about. Our Protestant Church Fathers evidently had some though. And recent Protestant *teachers* have added to that *wisdom* as they should have. But remember I also said that we're supposed to stand on their shoulders so that we can see even more. This **study** proves that we can.

And in case you didn't notice, you should recognize that you are now designated by God as having **wisdom** if you now <u>can</u> 'fully' **understand** what John is talking about in this prophetic riddle in Chapter 17. Of course you should also now see that these verses are not easily **understood**, and that to **understand** them you must **understand** 'everything' we have covered so far. But if you do **understand**, this is indeed an achievement and an honor bestowed upon you by God.

And this is not a designation that can be conferred by any 'institution of higher learning', nor by any mortal scholar of any kind. It comes by the endorsement of God and the pronouncement of the angel of The 7th Plague Judgment. And unless your worldly titles or skills have helped you to come to this *understanding*, then I say again, they remain 'just as likely a hindrance' that prevents you from *understanding*. Unfortunately this is too often the case even for 'institutions of higher learning' that have the word 'Bible' or 'Seminary' or 'Christian' in their names. Indeed only God can exclude you from this designation, because no matter what anyone else thinks, absolutely anyone who comes to 'fully' *understand* this *prophecy* is someone with a *...mind which hath wisdom*. And my personal testimony is that this rank is available to even the *simple*, as long as this 'stupidity' is eventually vanquished by a relentless pursuit of The World of God—just like we are doing in this *study*.

But don't get all *puffed up* just yet, because Paul says, *Knowledge puffeth up*. Remember the real 'approval' we are seeking comes from being a 'studied' *workman* in God's Word. Is this you yet? I mean don't forget that you have been led by the hand to this point where you may now think that you fully *understand* this prophetic riddle. And this may be the first time you've had the *faith* that you actually <u>can</u> *understand* God's *more sure word of prophecy*. And this is an exceptionally auspicious achievement worthy of rejoicing and giving thanks to God. And I wish I could

let you bask in this triumph of *understanding*, but you need to next *understand* that the 'really mature' are also expected to be *apt to teach* stuff like this.

But in case you missed the memo, we are also warned that not many should even try, because it's an extremely perilous profession. Metaphorical strangulation by getting your foot caught down your throat would be among the least of these perils. The danger of *greater damnation* in The Lake of Fire, yes, like in the deep end, would be the worst. But you can start with some concordance searches on your own to find out, first of all, if all these *bold italics* KJV reference I splice into this *study* actually *prove* that I'm speaking for God. And I mean this as Paul means it when he says,

...let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another <u>Gal 6:4</u>.

In other words, and generally speaking, no **teacher** has succeeded until he is no longer needed. Isn't that at least part of what Paul is saying here? I think he is also saying that anyone can speak for God if he can **prove his own work**. But we will talk more about all this in the next sections too.

Chapter 18 begins with a clear change of messengers. But you should **know** that chapter and verse divisions have been imposed upon **scripture** mostly to aid in communication, but also that these artificial divisions can be misleading. So even though we have a change of chapters and a change of angels at the beginning of Chapter 18, we can see that this **prophecy** unfolds in much the same way as in Daniel 10-12 in that it includes the passing off of tasks to **other** messengers along the way. Specifically, the angel of The 7th Plague Judgment finishes his work at the end of Chapter 17, so that in Chapter 18 this 'relay prophecy' can continue with a second and third heavenly herald, and finish up with another who reveals the final judgment. And Gabriel may be involved in the delivery of this **prophecy** too. Maybe he's the one that shows up to receive the pass of the baton at this point. We'll also be able to see that Jesus is one of these heavenly heralds who delivers most of the remainder of this **prophecy** Himself.

And whoever this new angel is, John saw that he came...

...down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies Verses 1-3.

We have come to see that it's common for God in the delivery of a **prophecy** to start with and periodically jump to the end of the story in the process of revealing it. This is no exception. And we see here that this new city that is 'spiritually called' **Babylon the great** appears to have a similar end as Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, which we should remember will **never be**

inhabited again, but it will become the habitation of *wild beasts of the desert* beyond the point when God *will stir up the Medes against them* Isa 13:17-22.

We can also again picture here the continuing bloodbaths including the surely worse future ones that will be instigated by the cooperation of Vatican City and all Catholics with the Antichrist against all outsiders. And we see here that it's a united political, economic and religious conspiracy where *the kings of the earth* and *the merchants of the earth* and *all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication*, which near the end of this chapter is again confirmed to be *the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth* Verse 24. And this actually seems to imply that whenever or wherever enemies of the Catholics perish, then it's a good bet that Catholics are somehow behind it all, one way or another, and whether or not it appears that way. Of course things will immediately become much more out in the open when *the mystery of iniquity* is *revealed*.

This second 'glorious' angel we have just introduced announces in <u>Verse 2</u> a familiar end for **Babylon**, heralding that,

Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Again, this must be a preview announcement of the general condition of 'Babylon' that will exist in the timeframe of The Millennium. And the detail in this chapter appears to be directly connected to The 7th Plague Judgment which initiates this period. And it appears that this destruction is all God's doing—not the work of the **ten kings** anymore.

The third herald offering most of the detail of this destruction is evidently Jesus Himself, heard as **another voice from heaven** and on another mission to 'proselytize', who John...

...heard...saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues Verse 4.

And this verse is **proof** that however brutal the atrocities of this **whore** get, some of God's people manage to sustain a true faith in Jesus 'inside her', but will surely need to **Come out of her** in order to be saved—offer evidently expiring at the very end of The Great Tribulation. And though this must be relatively few souls, this shows that God is not willing to lose anyone that He can by any means **save**.

And this also seems to show that you can *understand* the Gospel message, and accept it, and still somehow 'function' as a member within this abominable church up to a very late point and still get out in time. I'm not saying I *know* for sure how. But I'm guessing that however it's accomplished it will surely be very risky business.

But some think that you must not only come **out of her** before you die but also before the start of The Great Tribulation because this message is available to us now in The Age of Grace. And I would agree that this is the best choice. And surely this is what the Protestant Reformation was all about, and it probably marked the beginning of this call of Jesus, though evidently it's still ongoing and will be throughout The Great Tribulation.

But once in The Great Tribulation you would assume that all Catholics would be the first to take **the mark**, possibly even in The Beginning of Sorrows, in order to function 'within her' which would seem to leave no possible way **out of her**. But we can now anticipate that there is a way. Jesus seems to imply there is when he says,

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched Mark 9:43.

I mean He's probably implying, among other things, that this is a late way **out of her**. And I don't see why voluntarily giving up your head, if it's the offending member, would be any less of an effective way **out**. Besides, at the point that you cut off your own hand you'd be in a position to lose your head next anyway—unless you could successfully hide. And I guess this could mean that some could survive The Great Tribulation and enter Millennium short a hand. And God willing there will be a whole lot of dismemberment going on for this reason.

And God is evidently not against deceiving people to save some either. Remember those two *midwives* that lied to *the king of Egypt* to save all those Jewish *children* in Exodus 1:15-21. This pharaoh wanted these two *midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah*, to *kill* all the male Jewish children when they were born.

But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

And later they plainly lied to **Pharaoh** about why, which evidently God approved of because, as Moses records,

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives...

So any imaginable way that any of God's people could deceive the Catholic Church into believing that they have a *mark* when they really don't seems fair to me, though again, this must be very risky business. Still, I'm looking forward to hearing some really good stories along these lines. But there are bound to be some real tragedies too. I mean I wouldn't put it passed Satan and the Antichrist to kill or physically restrain those who become 'appendi-cidal' to prevent them from cutting off their appendages. And by that I mean some will be conspicuously bent on cutting off their own hand or head. But God will deliver even these if they are 'his people'. I mean I'm certainly not going to underestimate the *power* of the blood of Jesus and the *compassion* of our *willing* God to *save* even after what He's said about this *whore*, and even given the especially bad odds for Catholics who *find* God's *straight* and *narrow...way* in The Great Tribulation.

And again, when I'm not plainly speculating, I'm still speaking for God. And most of what I've already said about the Catholic Church I'm saying for Him, because I'm just telling you what He has to say on the matter as I have been instructed by Him. And what I have to say next is absolutely for Him and should finally remove any doubt that the Catholic Church is this **whore**.

We have distinguished up to this point that the problem is not so much with Jesus' *people* that are in *her*, or even so much with other unbelievers in *her*, but with *her*, which is this lavish *city* and the entire institution itself. How can we *prove* that *she* is the real problem? Here's how. If anyone asks a true believer, no matter what their denomination, *what must I do to be saved?*, what will be the answer? A lot of you probably *know* that Paul's answer is,

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved Acts 16:30-31.

But many will insist on adding that we must also, **be baptized**. And Paul **that night...baptized** those that asked him this salvation question. Fine. After all, Jesus and Peter also famously preach these 'two steps'. **Believe** Jesus died for your sins and **be baptized** and you are **saved**. Of course everyone knows that the thief on the cross next to Jesus was saved even though he had no opportunity to **be baptized**. But this implies that acknowledging God **before men** to the extent that you have the opportunity must count for **baptism**—making the water part clearly not always required. And Jesus says,

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven (Mat 10:32-33; Luke 12:8-9).

So you might say that openly acknowledging God is the **new covenant** maker and denying God is the **new covenant** breaker. And this is one reason it's a much **better covenant** (Heb 8:6; 12:24).

And **baptism** is usually the easy way to publicly acknowledge Jesus before God. I mean this usually only requires standing up before people already on your side. But what the thief on the cross did, and Catholics in The Great Tribulation will have to do, is quite a lot tougher—acknowledge God before an extremely hostile audience.

Now we could further argue that *believing* requires *repentance*, *confession*, *faith*, *love*, *holiness*, etc., but keeping it simple there's really no problem here. We can say there are two steps to salvation—that the first step is to *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ*, and that the easier way to make the second step is to be *baptized with water*. The problem is with the official doctrines of the Catholic Church. This simple 'two step plan of salvation' is found <u>nowhere</u> in *her*, neither are *her* 'spiritual leaders' authorized to preach or teach it. I'm sure that these two steps nonetheless still occasionally happen within the Catholic Church or no one in *her* could appropriately be called 'God's people'. But the teaching of these two steps

must be the hardly tolerated exception to the rule at best. The fact is that the official path to salvation sanctioned by the Catholic Church is 'seven steps'—of which you would usually only need six at most—popularly called 'The Seven Sacraments'. And they really include neither of the *true* Gospel's two steps.

But again I'm not Catholic, and have little *experience* with Catholics, so what could I *know*. I *know* it shouldn't be too tough to get an answer to the question, 'what must I do to be saved?' Should it? The answer I got is the following 'seven steps' taught as absolutely necessary to being saved in the Catholic Church. Of course I will be guilty of at least oversimplification here too, and you could probably also argue with the order.

Step one—The Sacrament of Baptism: be "baptized", but preferably just after birth and long before you're able to come to any belief or faith about anything. Step one may also be 'minimally sufficient' if you die before the other steps, but there will normally be at least a very strong suggestion that a service donation is expected in order to shorten the time of torment such prematurely departed soul's must spend in 'Purgatory'. This kind of 'donate or suffer prolonged torment' extortion was one of the complaints of our early Protestant Church Fathers.

Step two—The Sacrament of Confirmation: get "confirmation" which includes 'classes' not including <u>any</u> **instruction** about the real 'two steps', but lots on the 'mother and child worship' thing, and on how to pray for help to a multitude of Catholic 'Saints'—anything but appealing directly to Jesus or God—and lots of stern directives about these redemptively useless 'seven steps', etc.

Step three—The Sacrament of The Holy Eucharist: do the work of "Holy Communion" occurring in the "Holy Eucharist" where you eat the "transubstantiated" (read real) body and blood of Christ on a regular basis to maintain your 'salvation'—do not ask forgiveness of you sins, just eat and drink Jesus—do not believe Jesus' blood sacrifice for you saves you, just believe that the drinking of His blood saves you, and that eating his body sustains you. And you may be required to worship the 'communion cracker' that in some places is referred to as "the wafer God" just as you would if Jesus were present. Kind of creepy, huh. Even creepier when you learn how the Catholics copied the Babylonians in the practice of this 'sacrament'. So this is one of the ways Catholics are identified as the latest form of the BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION. Arguments over this doctrine came to their peak in The Protestant Reformation and some Protestants, including Lutherans and a split of Anglicans, somewhat sided with the Catholics and still do today. The harm remaining especially for Catholics is that it deceives them into believing that they are saved just because they perform this ritual as prescribed.

Step four—The Sacrament of Confession: do regular "confession" of sins to a priest—exposing yourself to manipulation—and get his forgiveness or "absolution" by submitting to his prescribed penalties

and/or punishments called "penance" which is the substitute for having to be sorry for your sins. And this copy of ancient Babylonian doctrine makes it clear that simply being sorry for you sins or going straight to God or Jesus for forgiveness won't work anyway. They insist that you've got to have the priest do it for you. But going to 'Mary' and numerous other 'Saints' is encouraged because it might help you with your case. This step is also called The Sacrament of Penance or The Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Steps five <u>or</u> six—The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony <u>or</u> The Sacrament of Holy Orders: choose to get married and procreate more Catholics <u>or</u> get special ministerial 'powers' by becoming a celibate priest. The Sacrament of Holy Orders is also called The Sacrament of Ordination.

Step seven—The Sacrament of Extreme Unction: after being established by the getting or doing of all these previous 'steps', get "extreme unction" or "filled with the Spirit" by getting anointed with oil and in some cases slapped by your priest. This was also an ancient Babylonian practice. But this is also the sacrament being used any time a priest prays for the sick, etc. In fact this sacrament is more recently also called The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. And it applies to the dying too because in order to avoid possible lost time in 'Purgatory', you should not die until the priest arrives to render "last rites". If you die without the assistance of a priest, all of your 'getting' and 'doing' gives you no guarantee you'll be saved from a heavy penalty—like there's really a guarantee otherwise anyway. And all 'seven steps' and many other functions within this 'church' require the services of your local priest. They will tell you to your face that you cannot get directly into Heaven without a priest, and also that you cannot avoid or shorten your time in 'Purgatory' without the help of one every step of the way.

And did you see the real two steps anywhere in there? Go ahead, ask a Catholic, what must I do to be saved?, and see if you can get a straight answer. If they give you, somewhere along the way, the two steps, praise God. But it's far more likely you'll get the 'side step' and/or some or all of the 'seven steps'—anything but the 'two steps'. Prove me wrong if you think you can. But you also must understand that "repenting of your sins" and "being saved" and "being baptized" mean completely different things to Protestant and Catholics. For Catholics, neither of the real 'two steps' are required in their explanations of these terms, and only do with the few that would answer Jesus' call to Come out of her.

By-the-way, just one more little deduction tells us that there would not likely be such a call *to come out of her, my people*, to Muslims, Hindus or Buddhists, since these religions don't pretend to be 'Christian', making this another consideration that the Catholic Church best fits the mold. Hopefully though, the true Church includes some Catholics that stay 'in step' and depart in The Rapture. But other Catholics will surely awaken to the true *revelation of Jesus* after the start of The Great Tribulation. And these Catholics will have *double* duty (Verse 6). They will find themselves caught up in the doubly atrocious bloody 'consumption' of their new brothers and

sisters. Plus at some point they will have the doubly difficult task of refusing to take *the mark* and worshipping *the image of the beast*, not to mention refusing the other older damned 'sacraments'. They will also have great temptation to remain in one of the safest positions one can be in to ride out most of The Great Tribulation—in the Catholic Church. But some of them will recognize and *understand* that it's really one of the worst positions to be in to ride out eternity.

<u>Verse 5-7</u> elaborate on the vanity and treachery of Vatican City, and tell us about *her sins* of *double* duty. The results of *her sins* are seen in <u>Verse 8-11</u> when...

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Now this is a much more severe devastation than the **ten kings** inflict on the Catholic Church. And it happens in **one day** or **in one hour** and it's obviously administered by **the Lord God**. And this time it seems to be just the destruction of this **mighty city** as opposed to the entire worldwide institution, except that the severity and timing of this destruction tells us a couple things. First, because all this seems to be entirely the work of God, it implies that the rest of the World may be more generally assaulted by God at this time too. And we'll see this must occur during the last Plague Judgment, which must means that there's already been a worldwide subjugation of the institution instigated by the **ten kings**. Of course you should also **understand** that because of the **strong delusion** that God will **send** during The Great Tribulation, it's God who should get the credit for this too.

And this later, complete destruction will be accompanied by worldwide **mourning**. At this time...

...the kings of the earth...shall bewail her, and lament for her...And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her... <u>Verses 9-11</u>

And this brings us to <u>Verses 11-17</u> and a popular place where people mistake The U.S. for this '*whore*', which I expect, like in Daniel 11, happens mainly because they become lost in this *prophecy* too. And this is a place where current events are squeezed into a *prophecy* where they seem to fit but don't. But even otherwise good *teachers* make suchlike mistakes as we will *continue* to see.

To start with, we should get it straight that this **MOTHER OF HARLOTS** is 'the buyer' and not 'a seller' of all the merchandise listed here. Jesus says,

The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing <u>Verse 15</u>.

And surely some *merchants* in The U.S. will *weep and mourn over her* too when this *city* is destroyed, as will *merchants* from all over the World. The implication is that Vatican City becomes the chief consumer of the World's

goods during The Days of Vengeance. This would be because of the conditions caused by the devastating global judgments of God in The Great Tribulation, and because of the vast accumulation of wealth by *spoil* by the Antichrist and the Catholic Church. And all this must be compounded by the fact that all *power* is *given* to the Antichrist *over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations* Rev 13:7. Indeed it's confirmed in Daniel 11:36 that the Antichrist Kingdom will *prosper* in The Days of Vengeance. No wonder then that *the kings of the earth...bewail her, and lament over her...*And the merchants of the earth...weep and mourn over her because the World's chief consumer-city, responsible for sustaining the World economy, will in *one day* and *one hour* be lost.

This also tells us that we have not yet begun to see how *rich* Vatican City will become by the *prey* and *spoil* of her enemies. She will evident become just as filthy *rich* as *the merchants* are greatly disappointed. These *merchants* who are ... Standing afar off will see that *she...* [is] utterly burned with fire. And the pity party seems to go on and on. Jesus persists in this passage to describe how the whole World continues...

...weeping and wailing... And cried... And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate Verses 15-19.

But finally we see that not everyone is **mourning**. For some it turns out to be payback.

Verses 20-24 tell the payback story including who wins and how badly Babylon loses. The big winners are *heaven* and the *holy apostles and* prophets who are avenged. Of course a fair question is how all the holy apostles and prophets can be avenged if the Catholic Church doesn't really come into existence until hundreds of years after the start of The Age of Grace? But it's easily enough argued that guite a mountain of martyrs has been piled up just since Roman Emperor Constantine established the Catholic Church in the 4th century. And surely the so-called and various 'inquisitions' running from the 12th through the 18th centuries are rife with atrocities by the Catholic Church against those eventually called Protestants that need to be avenged, and these surely include assaults against apostles and prophets such as Jan Hus and Thomas Cranmer who are literally burned at the stake for their faith by the Catholic Church—they and their mountain of followers. Some sources (obviously Protestant) estimate that over 60 million were tortured and/or killed in these 'inquisitions' directed at suchlike 'two-step' Protestant heretics. And that would be near Great Tribulation standards for a judgment of God, except of course that the killing of these martyrs takes place over several centuries instead of just several months.

But the real foundation to this heap of martyrs is laid by other travesties that occurred in Nimrod's **Babylon** and later in Nebuchadnezzar's **Babylon**. And all these martyrs that underlie in this enormous pile will be 'topped', (double meaning intended), by the 'multitudes' added by the False Prophet's **Babylon**. And by-the-way, it should occur to you that these more ancient martyrs must have waited in Abraham's Bosom and presumably are now in

Paradise waiting to end up *under* The Altar in The Temple in Heaven. And we can expect that because of the earlier highly 'successful' inquisitions of this *great whore*, and because of today's exponentially larger population, that this *MYSTERY... MOTHER OF HARLOTS* religion, now clearly identifiable to those who have *wisdom* as restarting in the Roman Empire under Constantine, will be responsible in The Great Tribulation for many more martyrs than she has binged on so far. And I anticipate that when the Antichrist and the False Prophet start to carry out their *indignation against the holy covenant* in full force, we will see a much greater multitude of martyrs die in one month than in several centuries of previous 'inquisitions' instigated by this *great whore*.

But if it will make you feel any better—and it should, the word is **Rejoice**—the analogy in <u>Verse 21</u> is that this **great city Babylon** will be destroyed with such sudden **violence** that it will be like throwing **a great millstone...in to the sea**. 'Ker-ploosh!', and it will be over, onomatopoeically speaking. And this is an instance that appears to some to be a nuclear explosion, except those who assert this seem to overlook that in an earlier verse we see that this same destruction apparently establishes a permanent **hateful bird** sanctuary in the area, which would not seem to be possible if a serious dose of radiation had been applied there, and except for the fact that apparently non-radioactive, God-administered **fearful sights and great signs in the heavens** are reported by Jesus to be the cause. Whatever the case, it's clearly mega payback owned by God.

There is a detailed list in <u>Verses 21-23</u> provided by the fourth participant in this 'relay prophecy' of just how completely incapacitating this 'ker-ploosh' will be. Long story short...

Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

And it's important to notice in <u>Verses 23-24</u> the reasons given for this severe judgment that falls upon this 'abominable' institution, but especially on Vatican City. It's because that by this city's

...sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Again, this is not just a future description of *her*, but a past and present one too. Inside the Catholic Church is <u>already</u> *found the blood of prophets*, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. But most would be shocked to see what *she* is really up to today. I mean we're experiencing a worldwide state of affairs such that all nations of the World have been deceived by her for quite some time now. Yes, we're all just like silly ol' Mr. Magoo. And most of her members are just as deceived—except they are more like programmed Manchurian candidates waiting to unwittingly be activated to do the Devil's dirty work. And though this will become a much more open campaign at the start of The Great Tribulation, it is going on covertly now. Again, if anything bad happens to enemies of the Catholics, chances are it will not be widely suspected that the Catholic Church had any

involvement, though it's even more likely that some number of their both witting and unwitting agents <u>were</u>, with only those in the upper echelons fully aware of this global conspiracy. And it's safe to say that the present institution is patterned after Nimrod's and also after Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon—though according to Daniel's record Nebuchadnezzar evidently 'came out of' *her* himself (<u>Dan 4</u>).

Again, the worst of the atrocities of this **whore**—disguised as the Catholic Church—are surely yet to come. So it's at this time that I'll take the opportunity to finally say what needs to be said to counter a commonly believed lie I've heard a hundred times before in the public arena. This lie goes something like this. 'Christians are responsible for many of the worst atrocities throughout modern history.' And surely you've heard this before and maybe even conceded the point. But now you should see that this is a bunch of papal bull. Protestant Christians and nations have defended themselves from time to time against evil despots. So have God's people the lews. But be assured that generally speaking, Protestants are "not guilty" of the charge of committing atrocities anywhere near to what the Catholic Church has perpetrated in the name of Christianity. This charge however does apply to some PIHO's—Protestants in heritage only—who tend to start 'cults', and also to some other non-Christian religions. But it especially applies to Catholics, and mostly to the leadership of the Catholic Church. And this is how we can see Satan's use of **her** throughout most of The Age of Grace, especially against Jews and Protestants.

And when the apostasy of the Church becomes *great* because true Christians disappear, including all true Protestants and also the precious little 'salt of the Catholic Church' too, and only PIHO's and doctrinally-obedient Catholics remain, other than the relatively few *new babes in Christ* emerging amidst this turmoil, and when the full *power* of Satan, the Antichrist, and the Pope of the Catholic Church are unleashed, and when God sends nothing to interfere but His *judgments* while promoting it all with *strong delusion*, then Catholics worldwide will commit atrocities much worse than those committed in their past and present inquisitions.

And Tribulation Catholics will be provoked by the Muslims, true, but Satan will again take full advantage of the fact that Catholic doctrine really calls for the elimination of all competitors as surely and as ruthlessly as Islamic doctrine does. The only thing that now stops either of them is the *power* to do so. (See *The Secret History of the Jesuits* by Edmund Paris, *The Vatican Moscow Washington Alliance* by Avro Manhattan, and *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome* by Charles Chiniquy for plenty of proof of this and much more). And The U.S. will evidently be able to stop the Antichrist up to a point, before he gets his *power* from Satan. But after that point there will be no limit to the bloodshed that will be able to be caused by the Antichrist Kingdom with the help of the Catholic Church. No 'Christian' in The Days of Vengeance will be safe who is not Catholic. Except that, *If God be for us, who can be against us?* Read Romans 8. Of course this implies that you must remain willing to *endure unto the end*.

And it's worth repeating. Inside the Catholic Church is <u>already</u> found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. And after this exposé, I'm not really safe anymore either, and it's much more likely that my blood will eventually be found in her too. But I

surely wouldn't be the last Protestant martyr in this presently covert 'war against the saints'. Don't be surprised anyway. And hey, I'm not volunteering to die or anything, and I didn't create this monster. But the conclusion is horrifyingly clear. This Frankenstein-monster-sized, butt-kicking shoe fits, and the Catholic Church is wearing it.

Before we leave this topic, there is, I believe, one more relationship between the False Prophet and the Antichrist worth considering. The *milk* of *scripture* makes clear that we <u>cannot</u> *know* for sure the specific identities of either of these two characters before The Rapture of the Church. But with the *wisdom* that comes through the *use* of the *strong meat* of *scripture* we may now be able to *discern* each of their origins, offices and jurisdictions. In fact it's been long well established that the office of the False Prophet will be The Bishop of Rome, a pope of the Roman Catholic Church. As for the Antichrist, please consider the following newly discovered evidence. This evidence certainly tells us more about the present worldwide jurisdiction of the Catholic Church, but also possibly about which division of this jurisdiction the person of the Antichrist will emerge from, and possibly also exposes his office, and further establishes his geographical origin. And wouldn't you *know*, it again involves those pesky Parthians.

The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, also called the Nestorian Church by Westerners, and related to the Chaldean Syrian Church in India, traces their origins all the way back to the Apostle Thomas. But their real roots are in the former Seleucid Kingdom. And this division of the Catholic Church has recently 'come to terms' again with the Pope of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

The office of any pope over the Holy Roman Catholic Church is The Bishop of Rome. He is preeminent or "in full communion with" the single Western or Latin Catholic Church in Western Europe and the Americas, and with the 22 Eastern Catholic Churches in Eastern Europe and Western Asia. And he is preeminent over his College of Bishops that represent the approaching 3000 regional jurisdictions in these churches. This preeminent Bishop of Rome is considered the Apostle Peter's successor. But I believe neither Peter nor Thomas founded any of these churches. Still, the circumstances are that the longstanding disputes that have separated this Assyrian Church of the East from the 'mother' Holy Roman Catholic Church have recently ended.

To oversimplify, the preeminence of The Bishop of Rome and the differences in the styles of the ministry of the liturgy and of the sacraments (Latin vs. Chaldean) have been the main contentions between these churches. These kinds of contentions still continue to exist between several more of the so-called 'orthodox churches' around the World including the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and Greek Orthodox Churches, and others of the Alexandrian, Antiochian, Armenian, Chaldean and other liturgical traditions.

But these disagreements with Rome are really nothing to speak of and I expect that they will all eventually fall to *her* like dominos. Because any of these many 'rebel' orthodox churches who are not presently entirely "in full communion with" the pope, still share basically the same 'liturgical, sacramental and Babylonian-style faith', and there is no question who's side they would be on if it came down to it—and it's not on the side of Protestants.

And this implies an even more horrifying picture of the potential reach of the Catholic Church when added to the 1.131 billion 'official members' on its 2007 roster. Yep, it's going to be one great big scary monster.

But back to those pesky Parthians, and this Assyrian Church of the East. They are more briefly and simply called the Assyrian Church, and their members, the Assyrians. The church is obviously not the biggest branch of the Catholic Church for obvious reasons. They originally set up camp in what would become the center of the Muslim World. Oops. Pope John Paul II has declared them "the martyrs' church" because no other Catholic Church has suffered so many martyrs, unless you count when Stalin came along in WWII and exterminated an estimated 35 million members of the 'rebellious' Russian Orthodox Church, who obviously picked an even worse neighborhood.

But though Stalin may hold the record for the total number slaughtered by a nation's despot, we need to *understand* that, according to God, the Roman Catholic Church is the last manifestation of the *great whore* who is really the one responsible for the bulk of *all that were slain upon the earth*. In fact there are strong cases made that she was behind Stalin and Hitler's atrocities too. (Check out Chick Publications and the works of Paris, Manhattan and Chiniquy listed on page 331.) And by-the-way, a faction of Muslims in Turkey may have set a record when they exterminated probably over a million of their Greek and other Muslim but especially Armenian rivals —the Armenian Genocide—during WWI. But the Catholic Church will surely one day openly dwarf all of these efforts in The Great Tribulation. And again, no Protestant faction has ever been in this league.

Anyway, the Assyrian Church surely set up their camp in a questionable neighborhood. They are the original 'Christian' church in what is known at the time as Parthia, in roughly present day Iraq and Iran. They brake from the organization Emperor Constantine helped start a century before. In this case it's a break from the 'western' branch of Bishops in Antioch in 410 AD at one of the Councils of Seleucia-Ctesiphon. At this time the newborn Assyrian Church establishes their own supreme bishop or "Holy See"—or their own version of the Pope.

But a schism in this new church also develops following this period because of a faction preferring to follow the rising church in Rome. This allows the Persian kings in Parthia, who are constantly at war with the Roman Empire, a chance to assure the loyalty of their anti-Roman 'Christian' subjects. In 463 they grant protection to this more popular anti-Roman faction. And in 484 they execute the representative of the pro-Roman Church, and replace him with the anti-Roman one. And the final stroke comes in 489 when, once this new anti-Roman branch gets on its feet and dominates the region, they move the finally abandoned pro-Roman religious school to the Persian city of Nisibis to be taken over by this newly establish Assyrian Church of the East.

To further oversimplify, other schisms would arise, most notably with their offshoot, the Chaldean Syrian Church that took root in India, including branches "in communion with" and "not in communion with" The Bishop of Rome. In the 15th century it is decreed that the title of the supreme leader of the Assyrian Church, appropriately enough called The Patriarch of Babylon, would be from then on passed on hereditarily, leading to more schisms that

are not unlike the ones presently existing between Sunni and Shia Muslims today, except not usually so violent. But these Sunni and Shia Muslims were equally violent against the various branches of the Assyrian Church, killing

millions and chasing



even more from the region. The present Patriarch of Babylon is now understandably based in Chicago, and less than 1 million of the World's 4.5 million "Assyrians" remain in Iraq, most of these, naturally, in the more peaceful Kurdish Region in the north. This region includes the former capital of the Assyrian Empire, Nineveh, where today is located the City of Mosul. Now Mosul is presently outside the existing 'political boundaries' of Iraqi Kurdistan, but many Kurds wish the region to be expanded to include the largely Kurdish cities of Mosul and Kirkuk. Before the present war in Iraq starting in 2003, "the Assyrians" were the largest non-Muslim group in the country, and probably still are. Some had even risen to power in Sadam Hussein's Ba'ath Party Government,

the most prominent being Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

Mar Dinkha IV, the present Patriarch of Babylon (in 2009) based in Chicago, has unilaterally declared and announced the permanent end of hereditary succession. And he has reached out to the Catholic and other Orthodox 'cousin churches' as well. But though these actions have gone far to repair schisms, a rift between the rival patriarch of his church, Mar Addai, still exists. Addai is now at the head of a rival group called The Ancient Church of the East.

On November 11, 1994, an historic meeting between Mar Dinkha IV and Roman Catholic Pope John Paul II took place in the Vatican and a "Common Christological Declaration" was signed. One side effect of this agreement is that the Assyrian Church's relationship to the Chaldean Catholic Church is improved. It's even determined in this "Declaration" that Roman Catholics in Iraq could receive the Holy Eucharist, (the chowing down on the Lord's body and blood), in an Assyrian Church if unable to attend one of their own churches.

In September 2006, Mar Dinkha IV, the 120th successor in this line to the Apostolic See of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, Patriarch of Babylon, paid an historic visit to Northern Iraq to give oversight to the churches there and to encourage the Muslim governor of Iraqi Kurdistan to open a 'Christian' school as well as a library in the City of Arbil. Have you ever heard of such an 'inroad to peace' like this between Muslims and so-called 'Christians' attempted in The God Zone in recent times?—I mean besides by Protestants, of course. So though Mar Dinkha IV says there will be no more heirs to his office, he nonetheless still could be in the pontifical line of **the Assyrian**

spoken of by Isaiah and Micah. He could even be in the office that the Antichrist might eventually hold. Or maybe Mar Addai is.

But it also makes sense that Mar Dinkha IV was elected Patriarch in 1973 by a council of the prelates of his church in the city of London, England, and that his assassinated predecessor, Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, was educated at Westcott House, University of Cambridge in England. The point is that American or European education has become more and more common among this religion's prelates as it's often the only alternative given the instability in Southwest Asia. And all this makes sense because it shows the Patriarch of Babylon's connection to both Catholic Europe and Muslim Southwest Asia. However Mar Dinkha IV was not educated in Europe but received all his training in Iraq, being born there in 1935, though he now runs the church from Chicago.

Surely this is fantastic speculation, but it all fits hauntingly well. I presume that what we're looking for in the Antichrist is a man who can relate to the highest circles of both the Catholic and Muslim Worlds, but ultimately side with the Catholics. I've **known** for a long time that the False Prophet will be a Bishop of Rome. But I now strongly suspect that the Antichrist will be a Patriarch of Babylon. And I never imagined we could appear to be so close on his heels like we are on the False Prophet's.

And this leads us to another possible *revelation*. In the last section, in the interest of the process of this *study*, and in order to practice the ever expanding and changing process of growing in *the knowledge* of The Word of God, I again allowed you to be misled by an existing popular theory in end times *prophecy*. I implied that I still suspected that the Antichrist would gain power by first beguiling the leader of a *small* country in Europe. Indeed I used to think that this was the most likely scenario. But now you too should be able to see that we could be talking about the *flattery* of *the prince* of one of the bigger countries in Europe, because the reference to this *small people* in Daniel 11:23, the one that the Antichrist will use to usurp control of Europe, may be these Assyrians—truly a *small people*, but very well connected. And besides, one of the smaller, less militarily endowed countries in Europe probably couldn't provide the initial resources the Antichrist will need. Don't you think?

Certainly the Assyrians are a distinct group of Catholics whose support and influence the Antichrist could use for his rise to power in the process of establishing the league Dan 11:23 or the covenant with many for one week Dan 9:27. They are a 'small people' that originated and still partially reside in a region that was a sub-kingdom of Alexander the Great's kingdom—a Greek dynasty known as the Seleucid Kingdom. And it would certainly fit if the Assyrian, or the Antichrist, comes out of the Seleucid Kingdom. And he could use this same 'small people' as leverage for further mutually beneficial arrangements with the Bishop of Rome, and to further deceitfully negotiate peaceful cooperation between Catholics and Muslims in The God Zone, and to further enhance his authority and influence in the region.

The Muslims are already infamous for their inclination to deceitfully negotiate as a guise to gain time and advantage in order to ultimately conquer their enemies. They even have a word for it that comes from a precedent established by Mohammed himself, and they believe this precedent makes it justifiable. The Catholic Church, as far as I **know**, doesn't

have a word for it, but they are the same, except they evidently cover their tracks better—you **know**, those scary, Frankenstein-monster-sized tracks.

And it appears that what The Patriarch of Babylon has been up to lately is what a predecessor to the Antichrist would be doing. And I don't see this office as having the clout to fill the monstrous shoes of the False Prophet. But I see it in a unique position to use the pope's influence and at the same time it's own in the Muslin World to be able to pull off all that the Antichrist will need to pull off, and appropriately 'coming out of nowhere' to do it all

And whether this particular 'small people' will be the first to see the rise of the Antichrist or not, certainly they're at least a subset of the multitudes that the Pope will use to further enhance his authority and influence. And since the Antichrist first commands only a small people, there must be more uncertainty about them and their origin than about the False Prophet's. Still, if they are indeed the formerly rebellious branch of the Catholic Church known as the Assyrians, then they've been around almost as long as the revived Babylonian religion that Emperor Constantine helped found.

And I speak for God when I say that we have surely found the 'abominable' institution of the *peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues* Rev 17:15 controlled by the False Prophet—the Catholic Church. And after all, how long could such a well-described, excessively powerful, overwhelmingly large group hide from *diligent* seekers of *the truth* anyway? I mean *she* was recognized by John Wycliffe, one of our brothers who came *out of her*, over 600 years ago. And the abominable behavior of this *great whore* has been continuously exposed by *diligent* Protestants for many centuries now. And if you didn't *know* this already, then you must not *know* any sufficiently *diligent* Protestants—at least in the area of *prophecy*. Certainly a 'multitude' has already died at *her* hands, and *she* really has no rivals in this respect.

Of course this *great whore* is still a *MYSTERY* or secret to most the World and *her* true character still remains mostly disguised. She does indeed hide her tracks well. Still, it's certain we have found the 'beast-riding' office of the False Prophet—The Bishop of Rome. And I believe that it's likely we've also found the 'suck-up' office of the Antichrist too—The Patriarch of Babylon.

I guess you're ready now to take another look at the CHART of 45 Attributes of The Antichrist and His Kingdom (pages 200-201). Again, there are really 46 different identified and often repeatedly referenced attributes of the Antichrist on it. And it's a **study** in itself. Think a Patriarch of Babylon could one day fit them all. I'll leave that up to you, because I don't plan to cover the Antichrist as much in my next **study**. But maybe I'll catch up with you on line if I get the chance because when I'm not writing or otherwise **teaching** I try to keep **watching** such things. All assuming I don't wind up dead for presuming to expose such things. Nevertheless, God's will be done.

And by-the-way, if you passed up the job to **study** the chart, as Paul might put it, **shame** on you, because you should **know** by now that every time you go through a collection of **scripture** you should **learn** something new. And this section would have meant more to you this time if you did. Of course, I forgive you if you were planning to do it later. Then again, I guess I have to forgive you whatever the case—admonition, however, not withdrawn to whom it is appropriately administered.

But one more thing. We **know** the Antichrist is by definition diabolical. And Gabriel assures us he will **work deceitfully** Dan 11:23—or have a hidden agenda—in The Beginning of Sorrows. So though on the surface his proposals will simply be for 'peace between Christian, Muslims and Jews', I believe that his **league** will really be forged between Catholics and Muslims and sanctioned by the Pope. And this at best can only really be for the purpose of disarming the Protestants and Jews, and misleading the Muslims. And so behind the scenes I again see another Hitler-Stalin-like pact where the Antichrist, somehow representing both Catholics and Muslims, covertly negotiates the joining of their forces under the guise of peace so that they can together secretly plan to eliminate their common enemies the Jews and Protestants. Again, the Shia hate the Sunni and vice versa. So they'll understand Catholics wanting to kill Protestants, and they'll likely willingly participate in any plan that will severely reduce the number of 'Christians' and 'Jews'.

But by the time of The First Egyptian War that occurs after the Antichrist's initial 'pillaging' *time* of all the Jews and Protestants in his new kingdom—or somewhere around a year into The Beginning of Sorrows Dan 11:24-28— surely by then the Antichrist will already be starting in on the Muslims in his kingdom in order to *stir up* the 'one-sided' Egyptian civil war. And I'm expecting that there will be an overwhelming slaughter of the unwanted factions of Muslims in both kingdoms in this war, but none of the fighting will need to cross the Mediterranean Sea at this time.

Of course we would also expect that in any case the Antichrist and the False Prophet, early on, will eventually double cross all parties that they consider their enemies. And even some that are not. And of course all this behind-the-scenes negotiation is speculation on my part, except that however it's carried on it will be *deceitfully* done. And surely no one on this side of The Mystery of Iniquity can be sure how all these details will go down. But shouldn't we all *know* something about what should go down? I mean, Jesus isn't kidding when He says The Spirit *will shew you thing to come*. Is He? And I think on that day on the Mount of Olives when Jesus answers his disciples question about *the end of the world*, when He finally says, ...to all, Watch, He must mean that it's possible to have some idea what we're looking for. Don't you think?

The Judgments of God in The Days of Vengeance

There's a lot of confusion in popular end times *prophecy*. The main confusion we're addressing in this *study* is about <u>when</u> this rapture described in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 takes place. And we're exposing this confusion because it will help establish *the truth* of the pretribulational, premillennial, dispensational and stational perspectives of *the more sure word of prophecy* 2 Pet 1:19, and for that matter *All scripture* 2 Tim 3:16. And I say this confusion is God's doing though nonetheless our responsibility. This is because God must keep Satan under control and at the same time *prove* each man's *integrity* and *reward*. And

much of this confusion is not necessarily eternally damning. Protestants, whether or not they truly are still 'Protestants', who think The Rapture happens later or not at all, or who think we're already in The Millennium, or who think they're the only ones really getting things right, including those who mistake the False Prophet for the Antichrist—all remain eternally safe if they keep their sins washed in the blood of Jesus.

Another not necessarily damning confusion you may have noticed concerns the three different 'Babylons' ruined four different times in three different ages. But popular confusion about these perspectives has the potential to be very dangerous, even to the salvation of souls, as we will see. And there are many other more or less consequential confusions of identity, placement, detail, time and perspective. We'll try to resolve a good chunk of all this in this subsection.

By-the-way, the main confusion we will address in the next **study** has to do with differentiating the times <u>when</u> God **ariseth to shake terribly the earth** (e.g. <u>lsa 2:19-21</u>). The problem, again, is that there are multiple occasions when events somewhat fitting this description occur. And **teachers** of **prophecy** don't always consider enough **scripture** to distinguish these events, assuming too often that all 'major shakings' must occur in The Great Tribulation, but also—because of God's commonly-used, confusing layering and perspective changes—missing that they do.

See how God is? He will let you think you can make all your conclusions with a narrow perspective and walk away thinking you understand something—as most Christians commonly do, and as most are commonly taught. And if you don't think this applies to you then you're overlooking how many popular contradictory beliefs you share with your brothers and sisters in Christ. I mean, do you really think you have all the right answers or just some of them? Of course the meatier the matter the more contradictory the beliefs are about it. And thank God we're all generally tighter on the milkier ones—including the ones essential to salvation. But I'm speaking for God when I tell you that He has so designed His Word that if you don't keep on testing and improving your conclusions, to the degree that you don't, you are being set up by Him for some degree of **shame**—though again, not necessarily to be *lost*. But those who *continue* in His Word His way, to the degree that they do, they are being set up for some degree of **reward** and honour and greater eternal glory. And God will repeatedly shake you to get your attention so that you will have an ear and hear this. But still, too few will.

And Paul's reference to Haggai's **prophecy** makes clear that God's plan is to repeatedly **shake** the Earth to get our attention. He says,

Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven (Heb 12:26; Hag 2:1).

The implication here seems to be that God doesn't just **shake** the earth twice, but several times, and that on the last time He will somehow **shake...heaven** too. But again, though we deal with all these 'major shakings' to some extent in this **study**, and especially in this subsection, a better accounting of them all will be in The Ages of Creation **study**. This

subsection really only covers The Days of Vengeance, when God will finally **shake not the earth only, but also heaven**. And this time, as with the rest of this **study**, we're more interested in just getting our bearings. And with what we've **learned** about God so far, you shouldn't expect that even this modest goal will be so easy your first time through.

The Antichrist and the False Prophet's *indignation against the holy covenant* and against the rest of mankind in their campaign of The Absolute Enforcement of the Worship of Satan and the Antichrist is not all that's going on in The Days of Vengeance. There is also, despite herald angels in the sky telling the World what is really going on, the *strong delusion* God sends to those who won't listen anyway because they *love not the truth*. And there are some other major distractions, seven of them really, called The Seven Vial or Bowl or Plague Judgments from Heaven.

We have talked some about why I don't really see much of man's contributions in the judgments of God in The Beginning of Sorrows that many other **teachers** of **prophecy** think they see. And suchlike misconceptions do not come from 'highly stacked' **scripture** focused on God's proven and prophesied capabilities, but from a poorly focused view of prophetic **scripture** along with too strong a focus on man's modern capabilities. Remember that Jesus hints at the real cause of most of The Seal and Trumpet Judgments, the ones that are presumably 'natural' or 'acts of God', saying that along with judgments such as famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes there will also be fearful sights and great signs...from heaven (Mat 24:7, Luke 21:11). In modern terms, He must mean that these disasters originate from space. This is what Immanuel Velikovsky discovered that people all over the World had already witnessed and recorded. And I'm pretty much going along with Velikovsky's predictions for the future too—that similar events must inevitably happen again—except that he evidently lacked some respect for God and was really only able to see backward, so he couldn't have seen half of what we will be able to see.

Still, Velikovsky's look backward gives us guite a lot of help. From cultural, archeological and paleontological evidence he complied last century, he envisioned multiple visits by planets—identifying specifically the repeated visits from Venus and Mars—where these planets are somehow for a time 'caught' by the Earth and somehow 'balanced' within their gravitational and electromagnetic fields and by their momentums. And while they are 'attached' to the Earth in this way, they evidently dump on Earth lots of 1) iron oxide or rust—red dust that makes water look like blood, etc., and 2) gaseous or liquid hydrocarbons—some of which through atmospheric electrolysis is changed into *manna* for the lews or 'ambrosia' for the Greeks, etc., and some of which burned or just accumulated (naphtha), and 3) meteorites—variously sized but mostly relatively small though lethal and possibly burning and/or 'bloody'. And Velikovsky found records of all manner of various combinations and quantities of iron oxide and/or ignited or unignited or electrolysized hydrocarbons and/or hot or cold meteor showers coming down in different areas all over the planet. His finds include records of the ancestors of the Scandinavians who witnessed an accumulation of 'bloody milk', and the ancestors of Latin Americans who witnessed a time when many were drowned in a downpour of a 'gooey' substance. So

Velikovsky discovered that these alien materials came from the sky in various combinations and quantities when either Venus or Mars was very close by. And these events were recorded by cultures around the World.

But Velikovsky was not really an orthodox Jew and he apparently lacked a good *understanding* of Biblical *prophecy* and also apparently had—like too many Christians—too little *respect* and *understanding* of God. Those additionally necessary perspectives for *understanding* all of this will be in place in The Ages of Creation *study*. But even now we can see that God must have targeted his enemies and saved his people with these supernatural 'defenses' and/or 'provisions' from the Heavens exactly as He intended and as He will do again.

And what's worth reemphasizing here is that the reason this seems too fantastic or far fetched is that God is much more fantastic and far fetched than we can possibly **understand**. I mean I don't ever expect to get to the bottom of all of this, but it's plain to me that He puts on such displays to make it possible for us to get an *understanding* of just how awesome He really is. And I really appreciate His ability to show us that He is mindbogglingly beyond our most fantastic imaginations by giving us a few glimpses of Himself that we can just barely get our minds around. Surely these events have many purposes. But one of them is to amaze and fascinate some of His more attentive children who can only gawk openmouthed at His finesse in delivering such spectacles. Indeed, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psa 111:10; Pro 1:7; 9:10), but these spectacles properly *understood* must ultimately show us that we are in unimaginably safe hands. I mean He evidently doesn't just have 'the whole World in His hands' because He sometimes masterfully juggles it along with other worlds and the Moon all at the same time, and all for the benefit of His children and the destruction of His enemies.

So you should by now have a better *understanding* of what the psalmist means when he says,

Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it [the earth] was done [or "came to be"]; he commanded, and it stood fast [or "appeared"] Psalms 33:8.

I mean if you don't *fear the LORD* and you don't *stand in awe of him* because He created the World with six commands, then you don't *know* Him as well as you thought you did, nor will you be able to adequately appreciate the unimaginable power God already has and will in the future put on display for the World for the clear purpose, among other purposes, to *reveal* Himself to us—at least to the limits of those of us who are paying attention. But you will eventually get it when you finally witness such displays for yourself should you get the chance. But it will be a *shame* to come to this *revelation* then. Because it's right here. And if this isn't enough for you to get it, please see my next *study*, God willing I get the chance to complete it. In it, if God will give me the chance, we'll *prove* He created the World in six commands too, contrary to the constant, malicious and/or ignorant banter that The Creation of the World cannot be *proven*. Of course it can.

So fantastically enough, all but possibly one of the judgments in this final

round in The Days of Vengeance must originate from outer space too—except, of course, that all the judgments are initiated from **the throne of God**. And these judgments are not much different than the 'acts of God' in The Beginning of Sorrows or in **other ages**, just 'worse'. And only the early **wars** of The Beginning of Sorrows seem to be exceptions to the more obviously God-fashioned judgments of the rest of The Great Tribulation. But God will be the designer even of these early **wars**. They are initiated by his judgments from Heaven after all. And we will see next section how He certainly gets directly involved in at least one of them and therefore likely all of them.

And again, there is really only one **prophecy** that is understandably mistakable as a direct description of the detonation of a nuclear weapon, Zechariah 14:12. But this event does not occur in these opening **wars** so we won't spend any more time it on here because we'll cover what it really is with sufficient context in the section after next. The point for now is that nuclear weapons certainly play <u>no</u> major role other than deterrence, and then <u>only</u> possibly early on, though I am not against a few small ones going off early here and there out of The God Zone as they have before. And I am expecting some super-duper new weapons and defenses to be developed in Israel before the start of The Great Tribulation as we'll see next section.

However there <u>cannot</u> be any nuclear weapons or even any kind of globally-networked technology operational—even in Israel—passed The 6th Seal Judgment, nor do I expect any of this to be involved in that judgment because all such technological infrastructure should be pretty much wiped out by this judgment, never to have a chance to recover again. So again, besides possibly the early wars leading up to The 6th Seal Judgment, I don't see any of man's 'modern technology' aiding or contributing significantly in any way to the judgments from Heaven. I instead see that part of God's purpose for The First Great Earthquake in The 6th Seal Judgment is to finish disarming mankind of his modern technologies and modern conveniences in order to provoke some serious soul searching. And any hope of a return to 'modernity' should be finally dashed in The Midterm Great Earthquake at the end of The Beginning of Sorrows.

And these 'natural acts of God' administered from Heaven, including The Seven Plague Judgments, Jesus identifies in His Discourse on the Mount of Olives. Again, Luke records that the cause in The Seal and Trumpet Judgments are the *fearful sights and great signs...from heaven* Luke 21:11. And it is only Luke again that gives a summary of The Plague Judgments in The Days of Vengeance where Jesus explains,

...there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven [including the Sun, Moon, Stars and planets] shall be shaken Luke 21:25-26.

Now maybe you can see how Velikovsky helped me come to an improved perspective of **prophecy** despite himself. Because you can see here that God is not just talking about a fireworks show in the sky. And you can

understand that God to going to give us more of the same kind of thing He's given us in the past. And I mean He's the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever, except that in The Great Tribulation, as He promises, He will be a schosh more severe than ever before, but along the same lines as before.

This would be along the lines of how *the LORD rained upon Sodom* and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire...out of heaven Genesis 19:24, and how He administered The Plagues of Egypt recorded by Moses in The Book of Exodus, and how He helped Joshua win his unusually 'long day' of battle half a century later, and how His angels killed overnight the entire 185,000 strong Assyrian army (Isa 37:36, 2 Kings 19:35). And these are the same kind of judgments from Heaven that Jesus is talking about that will happen in The Great Tribulation. And they are the same kind of consequences Velikovsky confirms by the records from previous ages, including from *scripture*, and from survivors worldwide, including *Moses*, *Joshua* and *Elisha*.

Again, these worldwide cataclysmic disasters were not the consequences of modern technology then, and the same will be true in The Great Tribulation. Jesus jumps to the climactic end of this story in this context a few verses later. I don't mean to the end of The Great Tribulation, but to the end of The Millennium, saying,

Heaven and earth shall pass away Luke 21:33, Mat 24:35

And this foreshadows the fact that escape from God's reach in any age is futile.

The account of The Seven Plague Judgments in Revelation is in Chapter 16. In the account, first John...

...heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth Verse 1.

One of these **seven angels** we've already heard from. He is the first in the 'relay team' that delivers the allegorical **prophecy** in Chapters 17 and 18 about the **city** and the **peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues** shepherded by the False Prophet. But we can discern that this **great voice out the temple** must be the proclamation of Jesus Himself, like in Chapter 18 when He is described as **another voice from heaven**. I mean it should be Jesus giving the command to **pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth** because if He is the only one **worthy to open** the Seal Judgments, then He must also be the only one **worthy** to give this command too. And He must still be in **the temple** at this time.

But some of these voices from Heaven are clearly identified as **angels** too. We already **know** about the continuously vocal **four living creatures** or **beasts** around God's **throne**. I'm guessing they're a superior type of 'sixwinged' **seraphim** with 'hands' as mentioned in <u>Isaiah 6:2-6</u>. Or maybe they're **cherubims** who apparently come in various sizes and stations. They're mentioned in lots of places. Satan, by-the-way, is called **the anointed cherub** in <u>Ezekiel 28:14</u>—which I guess identifies him as a king of

sorts. Then again maybe the *four living creatures* are a different kind of *creation* altogether. And does this covers all the bases? Probably not. The point is that with the limited view God has given us though the 'dark glass' between the physical and spiritual Worlds, my best guess for now is that besides Jesus, the Father and redeemed humans, the rest of these vocal heavenly *creatures* must be various types of *angels* talking, or in some cases 'trumpeting', from their various stations. But we'll consider this *heavenly host* some more before we're done.

Now it may be difficult to imagine that anything could be as bad as what we saw happening in The Seal and Trumpet Judgments. And this last round with only half as many judgments may at first not sound all that bad in comparison. But as usual you have to start with *faith* before you get any *understanding*. The *faith* of it is that Jesus and Gabriel imply that these last seven judgments of The Days of Vengeance must each average 'over twice as bad' as each of the first 14 judgments in The Beginning of Sorrows in order for this period to be appropriately described as 'worse'. In other words, this last set must be unimaginably bad—much worse than they sound. In fact I'm expecting that God will torture *the whole world* to the very limits of human endurance. And I think we're on the right track when we recognize that most of them more involve increasing *pain* than death, and for periods that are generally twice as long as in The Beginning of Sorrows. Still, they can't be so bad that it's impossible for the Antichrist Kingdom to nonetheless *prosper* during this *time*, *times*, *and an half*.

And besides being more focused on *pain* for longer durations, The Plague Judgments certainly bare many similarities to previous judgments of God. I see again the emergence of *grievous* ailments, water turning to *blood*, sea life dying, and *hail* or *stones* falling from the sky. And we will see *proof* in both this section and the next that in both halves of The Great Tribulation some of these stones will be on *fire*, much like they were for Moses and later for Joshua and at other times. Again, this must all happen by the same kind of catastrophes that Velikovsky's investigations show were documented again and again by survivors from all parts of the globe and—if you can *believe* it—with God's usual focus in The God Zone in The Bible too.

And obviously the severity of God's judgments in the past has not completely destroyed the Earth or mankind. He also *promises* that this last round will not completely do so either. Exactly how He will again link two planets so close to each other that they will interact intimately with each other's gravitational and magnetic fields, exchange material-filled atmospheres, and all without destroying each other and everyone on Earth in the process, I can only try to imagine. But the point is that I believe that we can and should try to imagine it. If Velikovsky, however unwittingly, imagined so much about God's past judgments, why can't we imagine even more—and of future judgments too? And surely God will be able to do stuff like this again, because the evidence that He has already done so time and again is not just Biblical but universal.

So though God will likely cause another planet to accost the Earth again, He cannot allow one to collide with the home planet of His people. Instead He will show us all again just how safe those that trust in Him really are. And in fact, when speaking to the **house of Israel**, He implies that He doesn't want us to be afraid at all—not if we want to be obedient to Him. He says,

...Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them... |er 10:1-2

Replace *heathen* with *unbelieving* and this *counsel* must still hold true. Because surely God by *the counsel of his own will* Eph 1:11—and also by *working in* His agents the Two Witnesses *to will* (Heb 13:20-21; Phil 2:13)—He will again use another planet to *'smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they* [and He] *will'* Rev 11:6, and this time with both Christian Gentiles and Jews alive on the planet. And it's not so much God's intentions to destroy the Earth and its people, but more to protect and defend His own people, and more to repeatedly attempt in a precisely measured way to draw the World back to Himself. Yes, this mission won't be that successful numerically, but I believe that by this plan He will redeem as many souls as possible. This is who God is and evidently how strong-willed He has created man to be.

So in perspective, these judgments are primarily the end of a plan designed to save God's people, the Jews. They are also surely the greatest measured pressure God can apply in a brief period of time short of killing everyone and destroying everything whereby He can by this means *save some* who could not otherwise be saved. For this cause The Great Tribulation will be filled with incredible displays on Earth and in the Heavens. And all of these displays will not just *declare*, but *shout* like never before the *glory of God*.

And I will be sorry if I miss these displays. I mean I don't *know* if I'll be allowed to see them or not. I just *know* that *the bride* may need to be occupied making *herself ready*. So we might be busy with other priorities. But one reason we can be separated in this way is because we won't need to see these awesome displays of God's power, provision and incredible finesse. We will have already gotten enough of this message. And for that matter I already have a good idea what The Great Tribulation is going to be like. And I hope that this *study* and The Ages of Creation *study* will be able to enlarge the view of these events even further before it starts, especially if we will be obliged to miss them. But whatever the case, my hope is that just like we get *comfort* by anticipating The Rapture (1 Thes 4:18; 5:11), we can also *experience* even more *comfort* from God's testimony of Himself in The Great Tribulation.

And growth in **the more sure word of prophecy**, as with all **scripture**, should bring **revelations**. And with at least some of these should come 'tingles'. And I certainly won't have done my job—which is to show God's awesomeness—if you don't **experience** some kind of an overwhelming response to at least parts of this **study**. I mean you should see in ways you never have before that He is a mind-bogglingly, breathtakingly, kneeknockingly awesome God. And you should **experience** at least some of what God means when He says, **every one that thirsteth** should **come...to the waters** of His Word, and that when you **hearken diligently unto** God, **and eat...that which is good**, then you can expect **your soul** [will] **delight itself in fatness**. And hey, if God tells you He's awesome and you don't get tingles or something like it, then you're really not getting the picture.

And because of the nature of these awesome wonders of God, especially in The Days of Vengeance, Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet should have some trouble stealing any credit as we will see. But certainly these characters will be adding to all the trouble as much as they can. And when it comes to people in general in The Days of Vengeance, I expect we'll be left with the worst of the worst and the hardest of hearts. And what we'll be mostly left with is the blood-sucking Catholics and the power hungry Chinese. But the trouble that these two dominating factions will cause won't compare with the trouble God will cause. Again, what the judgments of The Days of Vengeance are all about—as much or more than anything else—is God's efforts to melt some of these hardest of hearts. And His judgments will do this work better than anything else could. But at the same time we should also understand that His judgments will also need to keep these evil beasts occupied, or He will not be able to save the **few** in the midst of it all who are trying to *endure unto the end Mat 24:13*. Remember He also somehow shortens the days probably starting late in The Beginning of Sorrows, and that this will be responsible for saving some of God's remaining *elect*, especially in The Days of Vengeance (Mat 24:22, 24, 31; Mark 13:20). And His judgments must be just one way God will keep all the troublemakers on a leash.

And by-the-way, I guess it's about time to raise some oversimplified questions that would define that Calvinism vs. Arminianism argument—I mean since we're calling God's redeemed **the elect** on the one hand and 'pressed to choose' on the other. You could put the basic question this way. Are God's people **elect** or **chosen** primarily because they chose Him through **belief of the truth** 2 Thes 2:13? This would be Arminianism. Or is it because they really have no choice because they are by God **predestinated** to respond to **the truth** (Eph 1:5-11)? This would be Calvinism. Or could it somehow be both choice and destiny? To start with, Paul makes absolutely clear that God makes us as either **vessels of wrath** [and **dishonour**] **fitted to destruction** or **vessels of mercy** [and **honour**], **which he had afore prepared unto glory** Rom 9:21-23. And Paul concludes that,

...whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified [cleansed by the blood of Jesus]: and whom he justified, them he also glorified [selected for immortality] Rom 8:29-30.

But Jesus says that ...many are called, but few are chosen Mat 22:14, so at least from our perspective this process Paul speaks of is evidently prone to somehow break down somewhere along the way. And for more on the 'choice' side of this argument you could read through the 119 KJV references containing the word chosen. In them you'll see a lot of choice going on by all players. But any way you look at it, surely God knows all outcomes in advance. Still it's hard to deny in the human experience the incessant necessity to choose. I mean God's always asking us to choose to go, do, get, be, have, give, press, etc. And clearly come choose to do so and

some don't. In fact God Himself and those representing Him repeatedly ask His people to *choose* (see <u>Deut 30:19</u>; <u>Josh 24:15</u>; <u>2 Sam 24:12</u>; <u>Isa 65:12</u>). However in the 58 KJV verses including the word *choose* you'll see more of God's sovereignty than man's choice—but both.

So what we really want to **know** is how much manipulating of us God really does. I think I have some answers to that. And they're being woven into this **study** in case you haven't already noticed—though I have pretended that they haven't so as not to get bogged down. And this topic deserves a **study** of its own, though it's not like I think I'd ever expect to fully **understand** all God's **thoughts** or **ways** regarding this subject. But some people speak as if they think they fully **understand** God's thinking on this issue. Examples of these would be staunch Calvinist or Arminianist. And for those of you who think they truly **understand** the issue, here's a verse to chew on that speaks of what God will do to the 'abominable'. He says,

...I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not... |sa 66:1-5

So my human *understanding* of these apparent contradictions in *scripture* is that it's a matter of perspective. As we've seen already in this *study*, if you're not processing *scripture* from the right perspective, you can't rightly *understand* it. So first you need to *understand* that everything from God's perspective is a done deal. And He makes us how he wants to. Or as Paul says,

Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? Rom 9:18-21

But at the same time you must **understand** that from our perspective everything is a free will choice. And that...

...whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved Rom 10:13.

And 'everyone' gets a call from Jesus. He says,

...if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me John 12:32.

So evidently **all men** somehow get their choice up to some point. However I don't **know** how children who die young get a 'fair' chance.

But if you confuse these perspectives by, for example, presuming you can see things from God's perspective—I mean thinking that you can tell for sure whether any particular person is *predestinated* or not—you are confused indeed, because this is not nor ever should be possible for us—I mean not without specifically expressed *revelation* from God. Or else Paul would have never told you that it's necessary from your perspective to *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*. This means <u>you</u> can't *know* for sure who will *stand* or *fall*—including yourself. And this should scare you even more than The Great Tribulations should. But with the right perspective we can see the difference between God's *work* and ours—and *tremble* (see Deut 2:25; Psalms 99:1; Isa 32:11, 64:1-3; 66:1-5; Jer 5:22; Joel 2:1; James 2:19).

A view of God's perspective along these lines is visible in The Plague ludgments. God must be actively involved in the affairs of men to preoccupy people in general in order to limit the amount of trouble they are free to cause. On the other hand, we should remember that the slain but faithful Jews—the ones in Chapter 15 that participate in The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews—are seen in Heaven before The 1st Plague Judgment is poured out. This is evidence that God will back off to allow the Antichrist some time after The Abomination of Desolation to begin the execution of his campaign of *indignation against the holy covenant* unhindered. But when the first angel is finally sent to **pour out his vial upon the earth**, because of the nature of these judgments, the execution of this campaign must be increasingly hampered by God thereafter. And these strategies of God—to both facilitate and hinder the death of his people—must both be part of His plan to save His remnant Rev 12:17—these being both Christian Gentiles and Jews. They will be saved and redeemed whether they die and temporarily wait in Heaven to be raptured or whether they survive The Great Tribulation. And we'll get a better picture of the results of these different tracks to salvation in SECTION 11 and 12.

And we **know** that The Seven Plague Judgments in Revelation 16 must be happening at the same time as the reign of the empowered Antichrist and the ministry of the empowered False Prophet. A simple summary of this whole mess is given by Jesus on The Mount of Olives when He is answering His disciples question about a **sign...of the end of the world** Mat 24:3. Remember He tells them that the time following The Abomination of Desolation will be the worst time ever. He says,

...these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled <u>Luke 21:22</u>.

And this *line* in Luke's account about *the days of vengeance* comes from the Prophet Isaiah (<u>Is 61:1-2</u>). And from all this we can tell that Jesus is talking about the second half of the 7-year Great Tribulation, or the same *time, times and an half* which include The Seven Plague Judgments, the 42 months *given* to the Antichrist and the False Prophet, the 1260 days of safe haven God provides for the escaping Jews, and the 1290 days wherein all these events transpire and are concluded apparently at *Armageddon*. And now you should be able to see better than ever why both Jesus (e.g. <u>Mat 24:21</u>), and Gabriel (in <u>Dan 12:1</u>) tell us that this period will be the most

devastating time ever.

And The Days of Vengeance apparently don't start with God's judgments, but with Satan's *great wrath* Rev 12:12, when the Jews in Israel *flee into the mountains* at The Abomination of Desolation (e.g. Mat 24:15-16). This implies that this worst time ever starts with the worldwide slaughter of a multitude of new *believers*, some of whom I expect will be strangely calm. And their provocative *patience* and *faith* should foreshadow the 'marked' doom of burning *torment...for ever and ever* of all those who are mistakenly self-assured World citizens. This is what I expect it will be like at the start of The Absolute Enforcement of the Worship of Satan and the Antichrist.

And we can also see the placement of all this turmoil in Jesus' summary in Luke's record. Jesus says,

For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory Luke 21:22-27.

Here we see an account of The Days of Vengeance with a Jewish focus on The Absolute Enforcement of the Worship of Satan and the Antichrist (<u>Verses 23-24</u>). And we can connect the start of all this chaos with the time when Gabriel says the Antichrist...

...shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries [mostly Muslim] shall be overthrown Dan 11:41.

And this will include **Egypt** Dan 11:42. And following this short but overpowering war in North African and Southwest Asia, we should next expect to see the extremely 'perplexing' effects of the heaven-sent Plague Judgments (<u>Verses 25-26</u>). And finally we see that The Second Coming of lesus wraps things up (<u>Verse 27</u>).

And I expect **the Assyrian** will be a big nuisance in The Days of Vengeance, but that surely God will be a bigger one. I mean this period only starts with the Antichrist's reprisals. And yes, God hasn't hidden **the Assyrian** from His **prophets**, but with some **exercise** in the Old Testament you can't help notice that God gives the Antichrist much less attention for his part in The Great Tribulation than He gives to Himself. Jesus too, on the Mount of Olives, only implies that the Antichrist is a **sign** of **the end of the**

world. And the Antichrist is only indirectly mentioned by The Abomination of Desolation, and he is only implied to be behind a good part of the bloodshed and captivity. But you could argue that this is because the time of the Antichrist's appearance is still a **mystery**. And the Holy Trinity could still be obscuring the role of the Antichrist for this reason. Maybe.

But besides that debate, we should also recognize that the worst of The Days of Vengeance is a matter of perspective. I mean, for example, that this 'clear skies' period before the start of The Plague Judgments must be the worst time for *believers*. And I expect it will be the worst of the *time of Jacob's trouble* (Jer 30:7; Dan 12:1). But some of them who quickly die in the slaughter are really receiving a blessing in disguise, because the longer any believer survives, the more unpleasant this period must be for them. However the onset of The Plagues Judgments should bring increasing distractions to the Antichrist's forces, making these judgments more of a help than a hindrance to *the remnant*. I mean surviving believers should in some cases actually experience some relief from The Plague Judgments because of all the distractions they cause.

And I'd like to say we're done with the minor **trouble** makers. But their comparatively feeble interference is a big part of the picture from here on out. In fact, they have a big comeback in The 6th Plague Judgment. And **knowing** the roles of these minor players will help us take a closer look at the worst period in The Great Tribulation for **the whole world** Rev 12:9. I mean for all for those **not written in the book of life** Rev 13:8 which should be the vast majority of survivors on the planet. For them, the worst of times happens during The Plague Judgments described in Revelation 16. John witnesses in Verse 2 that when...

...the first [angel] went, and poured out his vial upon the earth [that] there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

This again implies there will be enough time for rank and file World citizens to already be marked and worshipping the beast before the start of The 1st Plague, and also that there will be enough time to kill all those who refuse it, that is those that can be caught. And this also implies that after the start of The 1st Plague it will become more difficult to hide the fact that you don't have **the mark** because of the **grievous sore** that comes with it. And I suppose this means that if you're going to try to fake **the mark** you'll have to somehow fake the **sore** too. But more importantly, it also implies that if you have held out this far, there is new encouragement to help you continue avoiding **the mark**. I mean so that you can avoid the **grievous sore** too. And this should be a pretty good motivation. I mean after the 1st Plague, who would want to take the mark knowing it would come with a Great-Tribulation-sized, **noisome and grievous sore** if they could somehow avoid it?

And this *noisome* and *grievous* sore on marked worshippers apparently doesn't go away because we will see after The 5th Plague Judgment that people are still 'blaspheming' the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores received throughout these judgments. And here we also see that Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet can have no way to take

credit for these *pains* and *sores*, but are forced instead to promote the blame game against God. This also shows the ongoing motivation for those without *the mark*. But it can't be easy to both avoid *the mark* and keep your head, though decapitation would be the more acceptable choice as necessary. And it also occurs to me that these 1st Plague *sores* won't slow down the Antichrist's campaign *against the holy covenant* too much, and it does give him another way to identify those without *a mark*.

But I've heard theories about 'ruptured miniature lithium batteries' powering tiny high-tech 'implanted marks' that could be the cause of these 'sores'. Well, some of the Egyptian cattle in one of The Plagues of Egypt die of a very grievous murrain or disease, and finally in the last plague both the firstborn of Egypt and the firstborn of [Egypt's] cattle all die, while in both cases God promises that there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel (Exodus 9:4, 12:29). So I can't say for sure how God again 'shall sever between' the two, that is, between the ones with the mark and the ones without—just like He did between all that is the children's of Israel and Egypt's progeny and cattle. But I have some ideas. For one thing, in the case of the ailment acquired only by the Egyptian's cattle, it surely wasn't anything like 'mass lithium battery failure' in their 'implanted electronic cowbells'. Other than that, maybe somehow there was a difference in the diet of Jewish and Egyptian cattle because of where they grazed that made the difference. And God knows that seeds are planted in the direction the wind blows. And maybe there will be something physical about this manmade *mark* that will be part of the equation causing this ailment—I mean the result of adding whatever chemicals are involved in making the mark with the ones God drops from the sky. These kinds of considerations must be closer to the right idea anyway.

But whatever the case, it's only safe here to give God the credit, not man. After all, remember that people will 'blaspheme God' because of it. And this is a good place to remind you that no international, '1984-style', computernetworked, satellite-aided surveillance and management system or infrastructure used to control and oppress the population could possibly still be in operation. This is because again, two great earthquakes—both before the Antichrist gains his worldwide dominance—will render any such infrastructures and technology useless, at least on a wide scale. And this doesn't consider the other devastating worldwide effects from other judgments of God going on around these *great* earthquakes. And this means that technology cannot play a significant role in the dissemination and enforcement of **the mark** either. I suppose it's possible that spotty TV and radio transmissions could be resumed to some extent. But new transmission towers would need to be built and later rebuilt again. And of course this assumes enough TV's and radios survive intact, and that fragile transmission equipment can be repaired—not a given—and that the Earth's next red companion in the sky is not causing too much signal interference—not a aiven either.

As far as **the mark** itself, which the Antichrist will not have the authority to absolutely enforce until after The Abomination of Desolation, and after The Midterm Great Earthquake, think large, plainly visible, and probably even somewhat crude ink tattoos. This could be done rather quickly to billions of people. And I would expect Satan would want his people visibly marked just

like God's 144,000 will be. And as far as enforcement, think horseman with **swords** and **shields** quite effectively organized and more personally networked throughout the worldwide membership of the Catholic Church. And this is already a highly organized membership that—not yet including the 'orthodox churches'—presently represents about one out of every six people on the planet. But by The 1st Plague Judgment it will surely be a much higher percentage. This worldwide community network of members of the Catholic Church must reach a formidable majority in all regions except in China and the rest of Eastern Asia. There I expect the controlling membership network will be the Chinese Communist Party. But the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand could go either way depending on whether they are assimilated by China or The Antichrist Kingdom, except that they are all more easily accessible to China. The MAP of Worldwide Catholic Church Membership (p.313) shows that these countries have plenty of Catholics. In fact I expect that the *tidings out of the east and out of the north* [that] **shall trouble** the Antichrist sometime after the midpoint probably come from some of these nations (Dan 11:44). But even in China-controlled regions, economic ties with the Antichrist Empire should be sufficient to motivate the bulk of these populations to take the mark too. This is because they will want access to the World market controlled by Vatican City. But oh, will they pay for it.

Continuing in The Plague Judgments in Chapter 16, in <u>Verses 3-4</u>, the second and third angels send a particular message to the World with their **blood** plagues that must be directed primarily against the Catholic Church. In the first of these two plagues evidently all the exposed water on the Earth becomes...

...as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea...

Or generally speaking, the oceans turn red and all sea life dies. And I say 'generally' because we will see that sea life will make a big comeback in The Millennium. In the second of these **blood** plagues apparently all the water inside the Earth—evidenced by spring and well water—becomes like **blood** too. And of course searching for new sources of water should become a distraction for most everyone on Earth at this time.

The message from God about these judgments is **revealed** in <u>Verse 6</u>. It's that since the inhabitants of the World...

...have shed the blood of saints and prophets... [God has] given them blood to drink.

Yes, these angels are implying that the surviving World population must become increasingly Catholic, because they are the ones who will be discharging the mainstream of this bloodletting. But there must also be an even bigger, mostly non-Catholic, Eastern Asian population also left alive as we will see. And this implies that these China-controlled regions will also participate in exterminating both Protestants and Jews—though I don't expect there will be as many to kill in these regions. And any surviving Muslims must eventually be assimilated by either the Catholics or the Chinese. But

considering God's focus in The God Zone, and that most Catholics will be there, this implies that the Catholic Church will attain a more of less universal control over *the whole world* in The Days of Vengeance. And I think we can compare the early Trumpet Judgments in The Beginning of Sorrows when God sends *blood* judgments affecting only 1/3 of the water on the planet with the later *blood* judgments of The Days of Vengeance when all the water is affected. I mean in both cases these judgments must correspond to how the global control of the Catholic Church changes and grows. Makes sense to me anyway.

And <u>Verse 7</u> shows us a couple of things. This is the wrap-up to The 3rd Plague Judgment when John...

...heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments...

One thing we *learn* in this verse can be *understood* from the previous verse too. It's that those who *have shed the blood of saints and prophets*— the ones who God will give *blood to drink*—deserve it. But this also has to mean that God is only applying necessary pressure, so that those still to be saved get a chance to get the message. I mean He's not wiping out everyone in these *blood* plagues. And He won't until Armageddon. So this must be the best possible incentive God can apply in his plan to *continue* to *save some*. And evidently an angel *out of the altar* is acknowledging this. The angel's declaration here not only acknowledges these plagues as appropriate punishment, but also as the 'right' amount of mercy for those that are still able to receive it. And don't forget, Jesus must still have the call out to His people to *come out of* this *great* bloodsucking *whore*.

Also remember that **the altar** is where the Martyrs will wait. And they should be able to see in these **blood** plagues that they are finally getting their revenge. And since these **blood** plagues in The Plague Judgments should be passed the worst of the slaughter of the **saints and prophets**, I'm expecting that most of them will be there to witness it. But this declaration of the angel **out of the altar** also implies that the Martyrs melt at the sight of this perfect mix of God's judgment and mercy. This verse hints that their desire for vengeance at this point will give way to worship as they witness the judgments of their **true and righteous** God. Of course this also could mean we all get to see the show. But it at least shows that the Martyrs must finally be seeing the Catholics seriously suffering, and that before the start of these **blood** plagues it must be mostly everyone else who is.

These **blood** plagues also fit Immanuel Velikovsky's theory. He deduced from the historical record that past experiences with suddenly appearing large quantities of 'red water' were directly related to the Earth's multiple close encounters with Mars—the red color coming from the high iron oxide or rust content visible on its surface. More recently, the existence of Martian surface iron oxide has been directly verified by successful missions using robotic rovers.

And in even earlier times, before the Earth's encounters with Mars, historical records reveal similar effects during Earth's repeated close encounters with Venus. Assorted probes have confirmed that Venus is now shrouded in a dense and highly reflective sulfuric acid covered, but mostly

carbon dioxide atmosphere which is believed to be a change from its past atmosphere—some thinking its present atmosphere is the result of the planet losing all its hydrogen into space. But those who agree with Velikovsky would say that it lost a significant portion of that hydrogen to the Earth. The dense atmosphere of Venus also makes it difficult to determine its present surface composition. But Velikovsky's evidence helps us see that it could not have been that long since there was still some hydrogen in the atmosphere—for making *manna*, ambrosia, etc.—and that the surface at least used to contain a significant quantity of iron oxide. This is another story that will be much more fully unfolded in the next *study*, God willing.

The 4th Plague Judgment reminds me that there is a way to 'rub two sticks together' to make fire, because in <u>Verses 8-9</u> we seem to see God rub two planets' atmospheres together to make **great heat** and cause people on Earth to be **scorched**. But this warming effect is not attributed to this companion planet. Instead,

...the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun...

So I expect this warming will more likely be caused by one of the **signs in the sun** Jesus speaks of. But however it happens, we'll leave more speculation about this heated mission of **the fourth angel** for the next **study** too.

With the 'pouring out' of God's judgment by **the fifth angel** in <u>Verses 10-11</u>, we can see that the ability of Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the Ten Kings to cause **trouble** grinds to a halt, because we can see, as John saw it, that the angel...

...poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast [now Jerusalem]; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

At this time, *the seat of the beast* must be in Jerusalem where his *palace* is, but *his kingdom* by this time should cover all of Europe, North Africa, and Southwest Asia, and maybe even India and Russia too. This means that at least The God Zone will somehow go dark. And however this happens, it should mostly protect any of God's people still alive and hiding in this region of the World. But I also expect that these 'patient and faithful' fugitives will suffer in this *plague* as much as anyone else—except they will not have *sores* like everyone else.

The next judgment doesn't really sound so bad. In fact, besides 'drying up' **the great river Euphrates**, it seems to bring back clear skies and relatively unhindered activity on the Earth. So this is when I expect the Ten Kings get their chance to subjugate the False Prophet and Vatican City. And this is when they should have sufficient support to do so. But this judgment is more directly God's final set up for **the end**, or in other words, for....

...the day of the LORD... [and His] cruel [plan] both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate... [and where] he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it Isaiah 13:9-13.

One reason this judgment must be the set up for **the end** is that we're running out of judgments. But more obvious than that, it plainly facilitates the gathering together of the last two contenders to World domination. So this must be when these contenders will see that the time for their 'Hitler-Stalin-like' dealings has passed, because they must be out of other fish to fry. But it's God who brings them to this point and will take advantage of it. He will make one of them desperate for spoil and the other to pretend to be desperate to survive. And He will convince everyone that their best plan is to come together and fight it out. John sees that...

...the sixth angel pours out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof is dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty Verses 12-14.

This **battle of the great day of God** is specifically identified as **Armageddon** in <u>Verse 16</u>. I imagine that God instigates this final **battle** by somehow drying up **the great river Euphrates** and thereby opening up the way for these contenders to fight each other at **Armageddon**. And yes I **know**, it's likely you've heard this explained a little differently. Hang on. I'll need the rest of this section and the next couple besides to **prove** this. But we'll start right away by making some big dents toward this breakthrough.

A couple paragraphs back we saw again that because of The 5th Plaguel Judgment most everyone still alive will be openly cursing God. And people like this might be insane enough to actually attempt to try to fight Him. And I **know** the...

...devils...go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty Verse 14.

But here again we need to be careful about the perspective. I mean, how could everyone really be expecting to take a fight to God? So I don't think they will be. We saw how 'the whole World' will cower before God during The First Great Earthquake. People will hide in the 'rocks and caves' acknowledging that God is the one who is dumping on everyone, and that it's hopeless to try to **stand** against Him (Rev 6:15-17). And remember that about The Days of Vengeance Jesus says,

Men's hearts [will be] failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken Luke 21:26.

So no, I don't see anyone will be motivated to come out in the open to raise their fists to the sky and openly defy God. No one would expect to be able to win such a fight. So in Verse 14 when we see **the whole world...gather...to the battle of that great day of God Almighty**, we must be seeing God and Satan's perspective, because they will **know** what is really happening, but I expect there will be very few on Earth who really do.

And don't Peter and Paul make clear the World's perspective at The Second Coming of Jesus when they say,

...the Lord will come as a thief in the night (2 Pet 3:10; 1 Thes 5:2)

And **the Lord** Himself makes this clear in <u>Revelation 3:3</u> and <u>16:15</u>. And referring specifically to His Second Coming He says,

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but [only] the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is (Mark 13:32-33; Mat 24:36).

So how can the average man on the battlefield **know...when the time is**— or even be expecting Jesus at all? He surely can't—and won't. And he won't be traveling to that valley to fight Jesus. Instead, he must be deluded by both God and Satan to come for some other reason. And by-the-way, this is another popular case where compartmentalization strikes again.

And what I expect is really happening—remembering it's God's judgment after all—is that God is deluding and drawing the Chinese Empire out to attack the Antichrist Empire by opening this access to Israel to the east. God lures China with an irresistible 'fishhook', much like we will see He does with the Russian Empire in the next section. I expect that China will think that it's finally time for that mop up job. And she will come at this time expecting to conquer and spoil the Antichrist Empire. Don't forget we've seen how previous 'world-ruling' empires had their rivals that always eventually overcame them. This is just the first time one of these rivals will be coming from so far *east* of The God Zone.

And again, since this is God's judgment it must be part of the **strong delusion** He 'sends' to get these rivals to come to their own slaughter. He will make everyone on both sides of this clash of superpowers think that their chance to finally conquer **the whole world** has come. But God must be luring Satan to participate in all of this with another kind of 'fishhook'. Let me tell you what I mean.

In these end game events, one of the two remaining contenders to World domination is collectively referred to as **the kings of the east**. From this description and by the process of elimination, I expect that all of these **kings** will be of East Asian origins and all lead by China. I also expect that since China takes God's bait that she does it because she think that she is the strongest remaining contender to World power, and probably simply by her numbers. And evidently the last thing she sees in the way between this multitude of foot soldiers and the spoil of the Antichrist Empire is **the great river Euphrates** which protects the access to **the seat of the beast**. So

when God removes this obstacle, **the kings of the east** must become a believable threat to the Antichrist Kingdom. We can deduce this because the Unholy Trinity will apparently react in desperation by dispatching their evil angelic henchmen to gather the remaining Catholics—or by then just Antichrist worshippers—from among the remaining **kings of the earth** to defend the empire—or at least that's what the Unholy Trinity will want everyone to think is going on.

I expect Sub-Saharan Africa is probably the hardest hit by The 4th Seal's *pestilences*, and probably won't recover to offer much assistance to anyone. So besides the Antichrist's forces in Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa, we must deduce that the next most significant forces for him left to draw on of *the kings of the earth and of the whole world* will be in the Americas. And extrapolating further on my earlier speculations—yes this is perilous, though the new clues here seem to fit—by this point China will have seen the success of their support of the Catholic takeover of the Americas. And I'm guessing that this is mostly China's success because of the diminished population and exhausted forces on both sides of this struggle in the Americas—kind of like the Antichrist's success in The First Egyptian War.

But the evidence that the Catholics technically win in the Americas, and that they are to some degree still able to respond to the Unholy Trinity's call for assistance is threefold. First, the *devils* that will be sent out on this round up will recruit assistance from *'the whole world'*. Second, the Americas are most likely to offer the Antichrist the strongest peripheral support because they harbor a majority of real Catholics—and I mean not so much of the newly converted kind—although again, they will likely all be newly converted to the God of Forces Church of the Antichrist. And third, where else of any consequence? In other words, it appears we've already identified and eliminated all the significant players around the World.

So by the process of elimination we can see that the Antichrist, probably by some feigned desperation to defend his new church and empire, will with the help of *devils* gather his forces from *the kings of the earth and of the whole world*. And this will most likely be from Europe, parts of Asia, Northern Africa, and the Americas, while China will gather hers by the promise of spoil from among *the kings of the east*, including all of East Asia. And this global perspective seems to show that China does not conquer the Americas. Still, once the way is open, China is evidently encouraged to start its final 'mop up' campaign of all of Asia with the obvious intention of continuing through Europe and then converge on the Americas. So one of the reasons that these Antichrist-converted Catholics—I'll call them Anti-Catholics—will eagerly come to the defense of the Antichrist's new church and empire is that they will perceive China as a real threat. They will believe that if the Antichrist falls they will no longer be in a position to defend themselves anymore.

Transportation of forces across the Atlantic Ocean might be a problem. But if God dries up the Euphrates to open the way for the Chinese, I expect He'll provide clear sailing and clear skies to facilitate the 'gathering' of the rest of the World too. And He will be expecting quite a turnout. When the stage is finally fully set, He will turn out the lights for the ultimate dramatic entrance. Then His Son will appear like a surprise, explosive, supernatural lightning storm.

And again, I think that this prolonged calm before the storm may be the only opportunity for the Antichrist to spoil the Catholic Church. And I'm guessing the looting of valuable religious paraphernalia will be considered necessary to pay for the preparation of the defense of the empire against the coming Chinese hordes. Remember the Antichrist uses the beginning calm in The Days of Vengeance to do the spoiling of all the Christians, Jews and Muslims. And Gabriel assures us he will find someone else to spoil in this later period of calm too. And if the Antichrist needs resources late in The Days of Vengeance there would be no one left to spoil except his own False Prophet's city and institutional holdings.

But to really *understand* all of this, we must see that this is when Satan decides that his best plan is to cooperate with God. And this would be because he is aware of what is about to go down. Why would he knowingly participate in this *strong delusion* that he must *know* he can't win? Indeed his participation will not be for what he can win, but for producing the biggest possible number of losers. So the reason he will go along with God's ruse is that he knows it's all over anyway. And he will know that there is no better way for him to maximize the number of the host of the Damned than to participate in God's plan. So Satan will initiate what most must think is a rally to defend his new institution and empire against a potentially overwhelming force from the East not because he is worried about being defeated by them, but because he knows he's about to be defeated by God anyway, and because he knows that this will all result in the biggest possible 'flush of souls' to *hell* than ever before.

And it's really all engineered by God—by the **strong delusion** He will **send** in The 6th Plague Judgment. And Satan will evidently have no better plan than to acquiesce to God's plan. So by giving China the access and the perception that they have the strategic advantage, probably simply by numbers, and by allowing Satan to send out **three** of his **devils** to rally the defense of the Antichrist's threatened empire—God will effectively draw all able supporters of the Antichrist or China to **Armageddon**. And sure, all parties will be looking for a fight, but I don't think they'll expect one with lesus.

But you're probably aware that the more popular story about **Armageddon** is that **the whole world** will be coming to fight Jesus. Maybe now you can see that this is probably another error of perspective, because on Earth I expect that only Satan and some of his higher-ups—and some isolated Christians—will **know** that 'the fight' is really with Jesus. And I expect that the general perspective of **the whole world** will be that they are instead fighting for World dominance, and that all this will really be the result of the **strong delusion** 'sent' by God in The 6th Plague Judgment. Again, China's delusion will be that she is getting the chance to spoil the Antichrist Empire, and the Anti-Catholics will think they are getting the chance to finally stop China and remove the last threat to the Antichrist's supreme rule.

And again, this will be nothing new from God. We will see that He's defeated the forces of Satan this way before, and that this is how He normally does business with unrepentant *evildoers*. The general outline of how this God-trap works is described in a Psalm of David. He sings,

He [the evildoer] made a pit, and digged it [to trap someone else for an evil purpose], and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate [another word for head] Psalms 7:15-16.



So one of God's plans for **evildoers** is that they will fall into the traps they lay for others.

But don't forget, this is just part of a tightly woven *interpretation* that relies on the totality of the *study* to really see, which itself is altogether only an oversimplified summary, and only a beginning of the cross examinations that should *continue* on this subject. And I mean two things by this. One is that you may need to go through this *study* a number of times before you can see it all working together. And another is that when you finally start to see all the convincing connections and deductions working together you will start to see that

there is no limit to the *interpretation* that could be added in the process of further cross examinations. And if you're up to speed you should also start to *experience* a good *understanding* of exactly what Jesus means when he says to *watch* the end coming.

For example, Turkey now has a dam at the headwaters of **the great river Euphrates** that can literally stop the waters of the river should they so desire. And this is information that some **teachers** of **prophecy** have a lot of misplaced excitement about. I mean, we can now tell that this is meaningless information, because we **know** there are two **great** earthquakes that occur before **the great river Euphrates...** is **dried up**. And these earthquakes should easily break this dam and foil any hope of rebuilding it. And we **know** that God will open the Earth to catch a **flood** of water to save His fleeing people (Rev 12:16). So we should also **know** that God won't need man's help to dam or dry up any river He wants. In the next **study**, God willing I get to it, we will even see how God apparently uses the interacting electromagnetic fields of two planets to do such things. But by now we should already **know** that God's ways, like the way He stops rivers, are incomparably awesome and altogether glorify Him and man not at all.

By-the way, there is a new name for part of the Euphrates. The last segment beyond where the Tigris joins it is now called the Shatt al Arab. It's been called this since a while before the Iranian Revolution of 1978-79. The point is that God will surely dry up the Euphrates to let the Chinese through, and will as necessary include the section nearest to its dumping out point into The Persian Gulf, and we don't have to worry that the Tigris might somehow interfere with His plan either.

And in case you didn't notice, the fact that these *three unclean spirits* are seen to be coming *out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet* may at

first seem to support the idea that **the beast** and **the false prophet** are possessed by these **spirits of devils**. Except that one of them comes **out of the mouth of the dragon**, and it's not reasonable to assume that Satan is 'possessed' by one of these **spirits of devils** too. Considering this, it's more likely that these **spirits of devils** are just more of the angelic **powers** at work in the hierarchy of the Unholy Trinity, and that the empowered human spirits of the Antichrist and the False Prophet do most the babysitting of their own bodies, and that what is meant by **out of the mouth** is simply that Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet have the **power** to give the recruiting orders to be carried out by these angelic henchmen.

And this also gives us an important clue. It shows that the False Prophet has not yet completely outlived his usefulness to Satan and the Antichrist even up to this very late point. He is empowered along with the Antichrist after all. And seeing he survives this long, we have more evidence that the *one day* of total, permanent devastation of Vatican City—the *one hour* 'kerploosh' when *she shall be utterly burned with fire* Rev 18:8—must happen in the third *great earthquake* described in last Plague Judgment. So in Revelation 16:19 where John gives us a description of this last plague, he includes that *great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath, and this must directly connect to the description of Vatican City's complete and permanent destruction in Revelation 18.*

And this also tells us that the 'house divided' moment between the Antichrist and the False Prophet must occur earlier. This is when the Antichrist's Ten Kings burn—or mostly just spoil—the False Prophet's city Rev 17:16. And this probably happens during the clear skies of The 6th Plague Judgment—certainly not in the darkness of The 5th Plague Judgment, and not any earlier because then the False Prophet is still needed the most to make sure everyone either gets a mark or loses their head. So if you do the math assuming equally-spaced Plague Judgments over the 42 months—except for a short delayed start for slaughtering saints, and except for another very short set-ending judgment—I expect the 'house divided' moment will be at least 7 months before God's final destruction of the city. And it could be even earlier if any of the first 5 Plagues are a little shorter.

And by-the-way, it occurs to me that the 2nd and 3rd Plague Judgments— the **blood** plagues—will overlap. This is because the angel **out of the alter** apparently makes one pronouncement about them both, not to mention that it seems likely that the same dusting of the Earth that turns the oceans red will shortly thereafter work its way into the ground water. And how long could God fry the Earth in The 4th Plague Judgment or freeze it in the darkness in The 5th before everyone dies? So I would not be surprised if the clear skies of The 6th Plague Judgment last a year or more.

In Daniel 11, Gabriel apparently describes the perpetrators who **spoil** the Vatican. He shows us a growing group of 'insiders' that cater to the Antichrist and that all along really...

...honour the god of forces... a god whom... [their Catholic] fathers knew not... a strange god... and he shall [increasingly over time] cause them [these Anti-Catholic insiders] to rule over

many, and [they] **shall** [eventually] **divide** [even] **the** [Catholic] **land for gain** [too] Dan 11:38-39.

And this must not only be because he has by then nothing left to take as a **spoil** for his insiders, but also because he needs resources to fight the perceived coming war with China. To see this clearer reread <u>Daniel 11:36-39</u> with an awareness of how this passage fits in the chapter.

So I see this assault by the Ten Kings on Vatican City to be kind of like what happened to the Knights Templar. They were the defenders of the pope and his Holy Roman Empire who descended from the famed 12th and 13th century Crusaders. But near the start of the 14th century they began to be scattered and spoiled by King Philip IV (the 4th) of France because they had grown rich, and because the king was in debt to them over his ongoing war with England, and because he was desperate for more money to continue the war. Pope Clement V (the 5th) was pressed by Phillip to acquiesce to this plan within a few years, but he must have gotten something out of it for his trouble too. And I think this story is something like what will happen in the latter part of The Days of Vengeance. With the help of his Ten Kings the Antichrist will finally subjugate the False Prophet under him, ending all worship involving the God of their *fathers*, including any mention of Jesus or Mary, and in doing so take great spoil of Vatican City and Catholic institutional holdings worldwide. I mean I'm expecting that all the features that identify Vatican City and Catholics Churches around the World as 'Christian' will be expunged—mostly a lot of statues and emblems being torn down and burned while a lot of *gold and precious stones and pearls* are looted in the process.

But I've heard other 'reasonable' stories of how this could all go down. Except they all overlook some of the precepts we're using. And any story missing precepts is at least somewhat misleading. And some of you may have gone on one or more of these 'wild goose chases'. So we must all recognize that all stories are necessarily incomplete, missing precepts. Because there is really no limit to the number of them that can be added. Again, this is the natural progression of The Word of God. And there's nothing wrong with reasonable speculation and the error that often comes with it if you're *continuing* to *grow* in the *knowledge* of God. Such erroneous detours help you grow, and all become part of the foundation that will help you build even higher forevermore. And there's no **shame** in this. If you use your speculations to help you find new questions, precepts and connections, and if you use your newer speculations—that come from the addition of newfound *precepts*—to practice adjusting your speculations, then you are on the road to **wisdom**. And there's no better or safer place to be but further down this neverending road. But this revelation should also be a clue to the patience needed to travel it. And you should see that you must always be asking yourself what other connections there are to make. Because there will always be more. So really the only question is this. How much will each of your newfound connections correct or improve your present view? Answers vary.

You should also see here the danger of navigating too tightly within a topic. Without many connections across many topics you really have only a 'happy meal' at best. And God doesn't want us to remain restricted to such a

diet. Still, it's for your edification that I walk you through examples of erroneous interpretations of end times *prophecy*, and how to build on earlier speculation, etc., so you can *learn* how to avoid the pitfalls involved and *continue* to *grow*. And I mean that speculation should remain so until you've had plenty of time to test your conclusions in the whole Word of God, until you see that your new connections aren't contradictory misfits and therefore in need of further evaluation. And we're still in the speculation stage with this story because we're only now just ready to consider the 'downfall' of the False Prophet in view of what John says about The 6th and The 7th Plague Judgments, and in light of what Jesus implies about it on the Mount of Olives, and taking into consideration what Gabriel and other angels in Daniel's prophecies say. All of this will provide a good beginning picture anyway.

By-the-way, Verses 15-16 apparently identify two groups that are to be raptured. The first group is the **Blessed** one. And each of its members fit the description of someone who watcheth, and keepeth his garments. So the **Blessed** group must be **believers**. And some of them must survive The Great Tribulation, and others of them must die and be raptured and redeemed otherwise. The second group, however, includes those who walk **naked** in **shame** and are **gathered** to **Armageddon**. And some of them will die, and others of them will be raptured alive, but all of these 'garmentless' will end up **in hell**. So 'keeping your garments' as opposed to 'walking naked in shame' must be metaphors for keeping eternal **redemption** through faith in Christ as opposed to refusing it for temporary relief but everlasting destruction. But the placement of these raptures is not as easily seen, though I think deducible. The clue from the placement of these groups here is that they apparently exit at the end of The 6th Seal Judgment—after the gathering of the global contenders to **Armageddon**. Beyond this we can expect that the 'rapture pattern' will continue. Remember that so far we have deduced that near the close of each of the last two sets of judgments that one or more raptures occur. So we can again assume that somewhere near the end of The Plague Judgments there will be another couple of raptures. But we'll get a closer look after we finish analyzing the downfall of the False Prophet along with the events of The 7th Plague Judgment, and an even closer look after we cover more specifics on the story about what's going on with the Jews in SECTION 9. But we won't see our best view until we get through a focus on Armageddon in SECTION 10.

So we're not through proving this case, but we have already established that the *three...spirits of devils* will *gather* 'garmentless' participants *to the battle of that great day of God Almighty*. And in <u>Verse 16</u>, John says that Jesus will also be involved in gathering *them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon*, and that Jesus will come there *as a thief*. And this 'thief's surprise' means to me that they won't have a clue to what is really happening until it's too late. And we'll confirm that only part of 'the garmentless' gathered to *Armageddon*—probably the smallest part—will be the volunteers gathered by Satan's angelic henchmen. And that another probably bigger part will come from *the east* looking for spoil. But we will see that still another part of these 'garmentless'—probably the biggest of all—Jesus will *gather* Himself.

And finally in <u>Verse 17</u> we get to John's account of The 7th Plague Judgment. There he sees that...

...the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

I'm guessing that this great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne must be the voice of The Father Himself. And I'm guessing it's Him instead of Jesus because in the 39 references in 31 different verses to a throne in Revelation—though a couple of them apparently refer to thrones lesus sits on both at the right hand of the throne of God and eventually on the Earth too (Heb 12:2; Rev 3:21)— the rest seem to refer to The Father on His **throne**. (Go to BlueLetterBible.org and type in "throne" in the 'Search the Bible' box, then click on 'Range Options' beneath and type in "rev" in the box that appears, then click the search arrow and you'll see all these references). So with the connections we've already made, we can understand what is meant by The Father's proclamation, It is done. 'It' must be that abrupt outpouring of cataclysm that includes in the same one day and one hour the special attention given to render Vatican City uninhabitable. And 'It' must be when the 42 months given to the Antichrist will be finished because after a judgment like this there will be nothing more he can do. And of course, 'It' is also the end of the 21 judgments of God from Heaven. And following this crescendo of worldwide ruin we are also expecting incapacitating darkness that lasts until everyone sees Jesus coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory to Armageddon.

Isaiah too must be speaking of this day when He says,

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain Isaiah 40:4.

Isaiah is speaking of 'a day' when everything will be shaken flat. And this is what we should expect the whole Earth will look like following the greatest earthquake of all time. And we would expect that the only thing that could follow such devastation would be the apparently smoky, **darkened** period that Jesus speaks of. And we would expect that this darkness must eventually be pierced by Him at **Armageddon**.

And this seems to imply that this last judgment is about as short as the previous two set-ending judgments, leaving enough time for the average length of the other plagues in this set to be over seven months or over 210 days each, not counting the delayed start at the beginning. But again, I'm guessing that the conditions created by the 2nd through 5th Plagues will require that they be shorter making The 6th Plague Judgment by far the longest. And I mean long enough so that things will have time to return to something like normalcy.

Another way I get this idea is the way Jesus speaks of the period just before His Second Coming. He says,

And as it was in the days of Noe [Noah], so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed Luke 17:26-30.

Here Jesus offers us comparisons to the suddenness of the destruction. And the implication is that everything is normal for quite a while before this destruction. But things can't be normal during most of the first 5 Plague Judgments—especially during the *darkness* of The 5th Plague Judgment. So there is apparently enough time during The 6th Plague for things to become relatively 'normal' again. In fact, this must be part of the *delusion* God sends. He uses this time to lull the World into a false sense of security. And remember that John tells us that,

...the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared Verse12.

But I think this implies that the **sixth...vial** is full of God-sent **delusion** so that survivors will somehow think that the worst is over—except for the inevitable final war that each side thinks they can win.

But there's more to consider here. And another way to approach this issue would be to ask when the Antichrist's 42 months are 'done'. Unfortunately this really confuses the issue, but it does give us some more ideas. What we know is that the Antichrist's time ends a time, times, and an half after The Abomination of Desolation, and that this is the allotted time for his *indignation against the holy covenant*, and that the conclusion of this time is the end of these wonders when all these things shall be finished (Dan 11:30, 12:6-7). But you can see God's intended ambiguity here when you try to determine which event actually brings the end of these 1290 days of wonders. Read Daniel 12 again. I mean the angel repeatedly answers Daniel's question about **How long** shall it be to the end of these wonders Verse 8, but not his question about what shall be the end of these things, and seems to indicate that this information is closed up and sealed till the time of the end Verse 9. But though 'unsealing' this information should not be easy, we should at least have *faith* that we can now figure it out.

So is **the end of these** 1290 days of **wonders** when the Antichrist's time to **'tread under foot'** runs out (<u>Dan 12:7</u>; <u>Rev 11:2</u>), or is it **Armageddon**, or both. Or from another angle, does **the end of these wonders** come with the end of **the tribulation** that Jesus tells us is 'immediately' followed by a **darkened** period, or is this **darkened** period and Jesus' Second Coming included in **these wonders** too? Jesus says,

Immediately after the tribulation of those days [—does he mean after the wonders too?] the sun [shall] be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken [and]...then shall all the tribes of the earth...see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory Mat 24:29-30.

More simply put, does the *darkened* period take place entirely on the *one day* of the 7th Plague Judgment or does it last for days afterward? I mean now that we expect that the destruction of The 7th Plague Judgment is quick, we now have the uncertainty as to how long this 'darkness' that follows it goes on—whether all the shaking produces days of darkness that ends when Jesus eventually comes or whether the shaking and darkness all occur more or less together with Jesus' coming being more immediate too.

What we can confirm at this point is that at least some of the specifics of the conclusion of **these wonders** must be seen in the description of The 7th Plague Judgment where John tells us of...

...voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great <u>Verse 18</u>.

This must be some 'wonder' indeed and, again, would be an appropriate finale to The Great Tribulation. The idea is that this hardly imaginable cataclysm must have a direct connection to Jesus' statement about when **the heavens shall be shaken** and to the special time suggested by Paul and Haggai when **not the earth only, but also heaven** will be **shaken** too (Heb 12:26; Hag 2:6). And this must mean that what's going on in **heaven** at this time won't just be another optical illusion created by the shaking Earth. This time we should expect that the Sun, Moon and all the planets in the solar system will be literally and visibly shaking too, at least until...

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain... <u>Isa 40:4</u>

And also until...

...the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken... Mat 24:29

How can we get more specific than this? We'll need more input and more questions.

So let's construct yet another question to help more clearly see what we're looking for. Do **these** 1290 days of **wonders** end in **one day** at The 7th Plague Judgment with **the earth** and **the heavens** apparently being **shaken** then **darkened** and with Jesus **coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory** at **Armageddon** that same day, <u>or</u> is there a

longer period of 'immobilization by darkness' before He comes. You should remember what I think from my scenario last section, but what I presented there was only speculation. We need to **prove** it.

And by-the-way, if you don't fully *understand* all these questions, as I would expect that even some *teachers* of *prophecy* might not, you should be careful of your conclusions on these topics. And I would say I'm sorry for all the questions but remember this *study* is really more about preparing you to ask the right questions than answering them, because this is what God expects of you if you want answers from Him.

God wants us to be able to formulate such questions—to **ask**, **seek** and **knock**—so that we can show Him and ourselves that we are ready for the answers. And He intends that you will get both the right questions and the right answers eventually as you **continue** with **patience**, and especially now at **the time of the end**.

And I would apologize for the repetition too except that those of you who consider this **study** to have too much of it will never be able to discover God's greater revelations in His Word (2 Cor 12:1). No, and not until you *learn* to *love* it. I'm speaking to those who think we just wasted too much time 'repeating questions'. To these I speak for God when I say you should instead appreciate the kind of **experience** that God might take you through in the building of better questions. It's indeed your ignorant distaste of repetition's value that stunts your growth—at least in this area. Because the spiritually mature know that repetition is the way that God intend for us to **find** and **learn** new things while reinforcing and strengthening our faith in what we already know. And you should understand that Satan knows this too, or does it suit your *flesh* in this case to remain *ignorant of his devices* (2 Cor 2:11)? Yes, you can expect that work in The Word of God should sometimes be tedious and painstaking, but that you should come to experience it as a labour of love 1 Thes 1:3. And by this I mean that the first work of the saved should be to labor in the word. Paul tells Timothy to make sure all elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, [but] especially they who labour in the word and doctrine 1 Tim 5:17. Want double honor when you enter the kingdom of heaven? Or just to be doing something especially more important than anything else? Then labor in the word. And work the works of [God]...while it is day... [because] the night cometh, when no man can work John 9:4. Besides, whether you like it or not, we still need more input and questions before we'll be able to get our answers 'unsealed'.

Some observations about the celestial dynamics of the situation would be appropriate about here. One telling deduction is that the Earth would probably not be capable of producing **so mighty an earthquake** all by itself. The red companion planet must be assisting in this event. In the description of The Final Great Earthquake John tells us...

...there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city [Jerusalem] was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent [75-100 pounds]: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great Verses18-21.

Again, the Vatican's complete and permanent destruction would fit in quite nicely during such a *great earthquake*. And the *darkened* conditions would seem to naturally follow. And I expect such an earthquake will make most normal activity impossible for a while thereafter. This would especially apply to those 'gathered' in The 6th Plague Judgment that are evidently slated to fill lake Armageddon with their *blood*, having evidently arrived just in time for the lights—the Sun, Moon and Stars—to go out. So you have to imagine here an awesomely intense but restrained 'balancing act' by God. He will by this time have been able to sustain an ongoing balance of the Earth with its new 'red' companion planet for an implausibly long period of years. But this finale must be the most awesome of all. Still, it's just a variation on an old family recipe of The Holy Trinity. And this time it should provide all the necessary ingredients for the most spectacular judgment of The Great Tribulation.

So this last evidently companion-planet-assisted great earthquake which results in *great hail out of heaven* must be like all the previous earthquakes of The Great Tribulation. And as usual, God's clearest focus is on the effects in the heart of The God Zone outward. So I imagine that the companion planet reaches a position directly over Jerusalem. And this could surely split things wide open as the forces involved impose a subtle 'eggshaped' elongation of each planet, each stretching along an axis through their closest points during this final *mighty* and *great earthquake*, and much like I imagine they do in the previous two *great* earthquakes, and as in the previous close planetary encounters of history, except that this last time the two planets must get a little closer and a little more elongated than ever before. And the expected effect would be that Jerusalem would split open as if the Earth was being squeezed from the sides. Such a squeeze put on the Earth by God by the various effects of gravity, magnetism and momentum would indeed be a wonder to behold. But surely God can do this, or something like it, as He has before. But there is no doubt that it will be just as John saw it. At a time when Jerusalem is the seat of the beast, that areat city lerusalem will split open and be divided into three parts.

Next, understandable enough, we *learn* that all *the cities of the nations fell*—not that I expect that there will be any skyscrapers left for God to knock down. And next...

...great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

So again, as *Babylon* seems to go 'ker-ploosh' in *one hour* on *one day*, it would be no stretch to suppose that this same *one day* is when the third and final *great earthquake* happens too. I mean surely Vatican City is one of *the cities of the nations* that fall in this *great earthquake* because all cities 'fall' on this day. The only difference with Vatican City will be that it

gets special targeting by God so that it will be permanently ruined so as not to support future repopulation. It should be an eyesore and a stench throughout The Millennium anyway.

This brings us to a few more opportunities to practice one of this **study**'s most important lessons. This is that you not only have to keep adding precepts that properly connect, you also have to make sure you don't leave any behind. And this gets to be guite a chore, but it's especially beneficial in helping you *grow* in *humility*. Yes, this has been another version of a wild goose chase—actually a barrage of wild goose chases—and this time there will be no one to blame but yourself because I have stated the information openly, repeatedly and most of it even recently that reveals connections that should already be obvious. And again, the problem is compartmentalization. But just as the mature *love* to *labour in the word*, so they also *know* that it's unavoidable that we carry around with us many erroneous popularly taught preconceived ideas from a variety of sources. And they know that we automatically attach them where they don't belong when trying to expand our *knowledge* of God in order to try to make sense of it. And they *know* that *precepts* that don't seem to fit our present mindset we naturally forget precisely when we need them most. But most importantly, mature Bible studiers **know** that in time with repetitious **exercise** that these false conceptions are exposed and swept away. And that no one can avoid this road and really grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

One way to identify compartmentalized errors is to recognize contradictions in the *precepts*—and not ignore them but pursue them. You must accept that you're missing something and that you need an answer from God. And this is when you *ask*. Again, *exercise* in the *precepts* with questions in mind—often in the back of your mind—and *exercise* with *patience* while you look for new *precepts*, and you will expose compartmentalizations and get the answers you want. But you must *ask* the right questions if you expect to eventually *receive* the right answers.

And you should expect this can be a long, drawn out process not just because humans are fallible, but also because in order to extract the 'meatier' portions of God's truth we have to look at God's Word as one big extremely complicated puzzle that you can spend a lifetime solving. Still, we know that those who take up such a work are worthy of double honour. And you should now know that redeemed Christians who have the chance but resist this **work** will eventually have to do it anyway, except this will be a **shame**—or call it a lack of **honour** if you will—though there are many other works worthy of reward that you can look forward to if you do them (Mat 16:27). But surely you are not 'growing in The Word' like you should if you're not **doing** it His way. A good **exercise** along these lines would be to find the context of what Jesus means when He says, Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing Mat 24:46; Luke 12:43. Nevertheless and 'Arminianistically' speaking, *labour in the word* shouldn't bring a special *honour* because it's available to even the *simple*—anyone with the opportunity can *choose* to do it! But evidently so few will *choose* to do so on a truly 'meaty' level that it will be an honour to those who faithfully do it.

But *labour in the word* is full of many tests. Passing them requires you

to eventually recognize misunderstandings of perspective as diversions for those who aren't really interested in *the truth* or very much of it. Again, the fact is that God has designed His Word so that the inexperienced and/or careless are led to view it from an incomplete or completely wrong perspective. And I've been setting you up in this section to show you a few examples of some of the less harmful of these kinds of compartmentalizations—I mean less harmful to believers. Such compartmentalizations are only especially shameful when you're especially dogmatic about them because they won't really directly affect Christians who depart in The Rapture. But I've also set you up for some more dangerous compartmentalized error—more dangerous because of the potential to shake the faith of some before we all—along with The Spirit—are *taken out of the way*.

One 'less harmful' compartmentalization you may keep falling for is seen when you remember that you **know** that 42 months can be as little as 1240 days while you also *know* that there are 1290 days—not to mention the 1335 —to consider in the wrapping up of **these wonders... when... all these** things shall be finished. The compartmentalization here is that we tend to revert in our thinking to an oversimplified scenario of a time, times and half a time when we think of The Beginning of Sorrows or The Days of Vengeance—even though I have already shown you how there are a lot of variables in these timeframes. What we can see by adding this left-behind information is that the Antichrist's time must end around 50 days before the end of these wonders. This is because his 42 months start at The Abomination of Desolation and can run no more than about 1240 days even if one of these months is a leap month, and **these wonders** also start at The Abomination of Desolation but don't end for 1290 days. And since we naturally place *Armageddon* as the culminating event of *these* 1290 days of wonders, we come to an apparent contradiction or at least an appropriate question, which is, how can the Antichrist's 42 months end around 50 days before *the end of these wonders*?

Well, we should first *understand* that this problem is not easily noticed by God's design. We do not notice this small gap of time in Daniel 12 because we are led to think that the 'end' of the Antichrist's time—when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people—is at the same time as 'the end' of these 1290 days. But again, by deduction there must really be about 50 days between when the Antichrist will finish his 42 months of power and when God will finish all these wonders at Armageddon. And again, we don't even need a leap month during The Days of Vengeance because this evidently darkened 50 days are distinctly ...Immediately after the tribulation of those days. So we could reach the end of 42 months, and finish a times, time, and an half, and also reach the end of the tribulation of those days 50 days before the end of these wonders.

Or, maybe the fact that the 1290 days is closer to 44 Jewish calendar months means that there will be two leap months during The Days of Vengeance. I mean just how will another planet in close proximity to Earth, and 16 hour days, affect the barley harvest anyway? And remember that the 1290 days plainly begins at The Abomination of Desolation but that the Antichrist's 42 month's may actually start about a week earlier, when he is

resurrected and empowered. These factors may work together to make the gap possibly a little greater than 50 days. And this consideration also implies that The Transition from The Beginning of Sorrows to The Days of Vengeance could not be more than two weeks or those 'lowlifes' supposedly trapped at Armageddon wouldn't survive until Jesus got there. But all this at least means that no one should be sure of any of this at this point, especially if some of these considerations are new to you.

Read Daniel 12 as many times as necessary to recognize the disguised staggered conclusion to The Great Tribulation given the constraints on the Antichrist's time of *power* from Revelation 13. It implies that there are two finishes—one when the Antichrist's time of *power* is up and another when the Antichrist's life at *Armageddon* is up—these finishes probably separated by up to two months. And all this would be typical of God's usual disguising of the finer details of His plans. In this case, the main purpose seems to be in order to catch most of the World *as a thief in the night* (1 Thes 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10; Rev 3:3; 16:15). And all this certainly brings new emphasis to Jesus' promise that...

...of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is (Mat 24:36; Mark 13:32).

But God shouldn't need to keep Satan completely 'in the dark' about this transition because by then Satan should be more than willing to cooperate with the plan.

And we've already guessed the purpose of these 50 or so days last section. And they should 'immediately' follow the earthshaking 7th Plague Judgment, just after God will have gathered the World's most arrogant, obnoxious and hardy survivors of The Great Tribulation in The 6th Plague Judgment, all to pin them down for a while at *Armageddon*. And I don't think God will target these particularly *haughty people* with that *great hail out of heaven* in the last judgment. No, I instead expect He will have a more humiliating way to 'lay them low'. I mean I'm guessing He *will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible* (Isa 13:11; 24:4) by nearly starving them to death at Armageddon before Jesus finally comes to destroy them altogether.

And whether these are newly-learned or long-known details to you, if you did compartmentalize any of them, you should now expect that this should be a common *experience* in handing The Word of God. But God willing it will also become a common way that you come to new *revelations*. I mean that many *revelations* should come by identifying compartmentalizations, and these by recognizing apparent contradictions. But no matter how amazing the *revelation*, you are likely to later find yourself having to correct yourself on the matter time and again, especially if the previous erroneous ideas were too well programmed into your thinking. All mature Bible studies already *know* this. And this is another reason why we need to *continue*. It has been my *experience* that I really have *learned* nothing until I have *learned* it many times over.

Other 'less-harmful', but common compartmentalizations on this subject are the ones that lead to misconceptions about the levels and uniformity of

the devastation. When it comes to The Great Tribulation we tend to think globally and uniformly while it's more likely that God targets people and places differently and in varying degrees. And this leads to apparent contradictions. For example, one glaring apparent contradiction is seen when we remember that The 7th Plague Judgment—including the global Final Great Earthquake and the absolute destruction of Vatican City—is followed by a period when **the sun shall be darkened** where we understandably assume that **'the whole world'** falls dark. What we have left behind this time is that this 'darkness' is apparently accompanied by 'worldwide mourning' as those **...Standing afar off** watch Vatican City burn.

So you may have overlooked that you thought it was possible that all human activity and atmospheric visibility become uniformly and severely limited while at the same time the whole World watches in hopelessness as the Vatican burns. This doesn't seem possible, does it? To accommodate these conditions the scenario must really be somewhat sequential and the consequences to some extent irregular and targeted. Again, the problem is that with no visibility immediately after this earthshaking event, there could be no one to 'see' *the smoke of her burning* and *mourn* the destruction of Vatican City. So the question becomes, how will they be able to *mourn* this complete and final destruction of *that great city Babylon* Rev 18 following *so mighty an earthquake, and so great* Rev 16:17-21, that is evidently also 'immediately' followed by a period when *the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken (Mat 24:29; Mark 13:25-26)?*

You should **know** by now that God's way for us to get the answer will involve using the connections that helped us form our question to direct us elsewhere to more connections that have the answer, such as in Isaiah 13 and 24, loel 2-3 and Haggai 2. More detail and perspective are available in these passages, and we'll get to them. But this is where I should confess that some of the confusion about this is partly my fault. I diverted you earlier by suggesting that the people of the World would likely be too busy mourning their own problems, not the Vatican's—a reasonable idea if it remains compartmentalized by itself. And we'll sort out this confusion before we're done too. But a well-connected guestion alone can help us 'decompartmentalize' somewhat, especially here where I've already given you enough of the connections elsewhere to figure it out. So again, how can all **the cities of the nations** fall in the greatest earthquake ever, and then fall into darkness, but all the kings and merchants still see Babvlon burning and *mourn* it? Can we assume that the whole World becomes dark? Or what other fitting scenario could resolve these apparent contradictions?

But we're really not through with the question itself. There is still another quite overcrowded compartmentalization in it that we should resolve first. I mean just when you thought that we had resolved when **Babylon** falls, it's time to think again, because there's more to **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT** than meets the eye, because it's a **mystery** that is solved by a riddle. And this riddle is repeated in **scripture**. It reads,

Babylon is fallen, is fallen (Isa 21:9; Rev 14:8; 18:2).

And the solution to this short riddle is as simple as answering the question, when? And with your continued *patience* I'll explain what I mean. And I mean that for the benefit of beginners it will include some *exercise*—often otherwise confused as repetition.

We have seen in Revelation 18 John's record of the total destruction of Vatican City directly by God's hand in just **one day** and **hour**. And in Chapter 17 we have seen the 'spoiling' of Vatican City but not as directly by God's hand as by...

...the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled $\underbrace{\text{Rev } 17:16-17}$.

And these actions of the Ten Kings cannot occur at the same time as The 7th Plague Judgment, but must happen before it, or there would be nothing left of **that great city** of the False Prophet for them to attack. But we can also confirm this sequence because there is still one detail we passed by that clearly distinguishes these events as two different stages of the downfall of Vatican City. This detail is a very clear transitional phrase separating these stages. After the description of the attack of the 10 kings in Chapter 17, John says,

And after these things... Rev 18:1

And what he describes next is <u>God's</u> attack on Vatican City in Chapter 18. This reinforces the idea that the False Prophet must give up his authority over *Babylon* to the Antichrist sometime during The Days of Vengeance but remain a participant in the Antichrist Empire under the Antichrist until the end. And I expect that the False Prophet will bow down and worship the *God of forces* and even the Antichrist too. So I expect that this first downfall of Vatican City is more ideological—it's the end of the misdirected worship of Mary and Jesus and the beginning of the worship of *a god whom* the Antichrist's Catholic *fathers knew not* <u>Dan 11:38</u>. This would be Satan himself.

And this first ideological downfall is metaphorically described in Rev
17:16. It's when the Ten Kings...

...shall make her [this great city and its religion] desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire [or divide the land for gain and spoil her Dan 11:39 but not yet utterly burn her Rev 18:8].

And if you read again from <u>Daniel 11:36</u> to the end of the chapter, maybe you can now see that the Antichrist starts his usurping 'church' even before the midpoint—even before The Third Egyptian War and before he enters Israel (<u>Dan 11:40-43</u>). In fact I expect its membership is growing even now. But I also expect that until late in The Great Tribulation that Anti-Catholics will

practice behind the scenes—as Satan worshippers do today. Beyond this, Gabriel seems to be describing a slow *increase* where more and more powerful people from the top down join the Antichrist's church in order to get all the goodies. I mean it must be his insider underground worshippers...

...whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall [increasingly] cause them to rule over many, and shall [increasingly] divide the land for gain [among them] Dan 11:39b.

But originally this worship can't happen among rank and file Catholics. It will take time to turn their full loyalty to the Antichrist as he must originally rely on their loyalty to the Pope and the Catholic Church. And remember I think it's likely the Antichrist will be a bishop among Catholics—The Patriarch of Babylon. But from the start, the Antichrist and his elite will worship **a strange god** which will start a trickle-down effect. And I expect it will grow from **the fattest places** of power in the Antichrist Kingdom (Dan 11:24) and surely with all the Ten Kings. About this top-down scheme Gabriel says,

Thus shall he [at first secretly] **do** [with his insiders] **in the most** [or "greatest"] **strong holds with a strange god...** Dan 11:39a.

And 'thus shall he increasingly do' until the Ten Kings completely subjugate the Pope and Vatican City to the Antichrist. Then he can finally openly impose the undisguised worship of this **strange god**, Satan, upon his entire World kingdom. Watch out for the modern translations in this verse though.

And surely even today there are those that participate in this underground brand of satanic worship that are deceived by the same kind of false hope of ever-increasing power. The difference in The Great Tribulation will be that Satan, through the Antichrist, will finally gain enough control to completely take over the Catholic Church. And I expect that after his resurrection the Antichrist will never bow down to the Pope again—and maybe never will at all—because Gabriel says,

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all Dan 11:37.

So some time before the 7th Plague Judgment the Antichrist must gain control over *this great city* and thereby the entire institution and abolish Catholicism—but especially the parts about 'Jesus'. And He will *divide* it *for gain* for his insiders, and likely in preparation for their defense against *the kings of the east*. But this must happen early enough so that the Antichrist can see his new *god of forces* Church *prosper*—again, probably during the clear skies of The 6th Plague Judgment. And this—along with all the 'eating and drinking', 'marrying and giving in marriage', 'buying and selling', and 'building and planting' that also must be going on (Mat 24:37-38; Luke 17:26-30)—make it even more likely that the *strong delusion*-filled 6th Plague Judgment will be the longest of all.

And during this time of relative peace after the False Prophet and his *city* are striped *naked* of their former religion and authority, this new *god of*

forces, Anti-Catholic church will evidently carry on business as usual, because the kings of the earth and the merchants of the earth will not bewail, lament and weep and mourn over her until sometime after these things when God later destroys Vatican City completely. This occurs on that final one day when the city is rendered uninhabitable by God in The 7th Plague Judgment. This is when the World will mourn, and when all the cities of the nations will fall. And this must be when Babylon is fallen, is fallen and the smoke of her burning will be seen afar off, evidently after which the Sun, Moon and Stars will all go dark.

What's next? This is a lot to *understand*, so let's recap one more time. First the forces of the **ten kings**, being loyal to the Antichrist, spoil the Vatican putting the False Prophet in a subservient position to the Antichrist, and the Antichrist in control to finally institute his own form of Satanic worship that will evidently have been a long time coming. But the economic operations of the city should more or less remain in tact. And from then on, it will be **the beast** who is riding **the woman**, or the Antichrist who is controlling the Vatican and the new World religion, instead of the False Prophet. And Vatican City will probably get a new name, or maybe an old one, but surely this new religion will be devoid of the mention of Jesus. And since the Antichrist will still need the regular operations of the Catholic Church sometime into The Days of Vengeance, the only time I see that he and the Ten Kings will be ready and unencumbered by God to pull off this switcheroo will be during the relative calm of The 6th Plague Judgment. And when the vast, non-technological, community-driven and extremely efficient infrastructure of the Catholic Church is usurped for use as the new **god of** forces Church of Satan and the Antichrist, they will use the resources of that great city that is still evidently clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls, etc., to gather the Antichrist forces to **Armageddon** to defend his empire and new church against China and company. And this should be a world-economysustaining level of business as usual until God finally brings it all to an end in The 7th Plague Judgment. And all this must somehow maintain the operations of the Unholy Trinity until the end too. I mean the empowered Pope will probably become the new high priest of the Antichrist's **God of forces** church. Though all this really shows is that they don't really have their act together—no grammatical errors required.

And for all this to work I see two downfalls of Babylon in the later part of The Days of Vengeance. The first probably happens early in The 6th Plague Judgment when the 10 kings sack the Vatican for authority and for spoil to fund the coming war. The second is possibly a year later in The 7th Plague Judgment when the city is finally absolutely destroyed and *utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her*. And this is when the *kings* and *merchants* of the World will naturally *mourn* the city's destruction, and when the Sun, Moon and Stars fade to black.

But if you think this solves the 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen' riddle, you're only part right at best. Because I really think that these two downfalls of Babylon in Revelation 17-18 serve better as a diversion than a solution to this riddle, which brings us back to the 'overcrowding of compartmentalization' I was talking about. I mean we shouldn't overlook counting Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. Considering these

downfalls we have three differently situated cities to account for, and arguably four different downfalls of these different cities to keep track of too. And certainly no one is getting it all right who sees just one city and one downfall of *Babylon*, because what we have left behind is that God often presents His whole plan from His perspective. And in doing so He often describes thousands of years as just days. And I mean He repeatedly describes <u>all</u> the exploits of this *great whore* altogether as one great big satanic conspiracy. This is what Isaiah, Jeremiah and John together *reveal* about the different occasions when *Babylon is fallen, is fallen* (Isaiah 21; Jeremiah 51; Rev 14:8; 18:2). Jeremiah, by-the-way, doesn't actually use this short riddle about *Babylon*, but tells quite a connectable story. And Isaiah, Joel and Jesus (in Matthew's record) give a connectable picture related to this *great whore* by speaking about the accompanying effects, each saying something to the effect that,

...the sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining (<u>lsa 13</u>; <u>24</u>; <u>Joel 2-3</u>; <u>Mat 24:29</u>).

I mean we now **know** that this darkness is a marker of The 7th Plague Judgment and of the final destruction of **Babylon**.

So the repetition of *is fallen* by Isaiah and an angel or two in Revelation is not redundant but a clue. And apparently not just that it falls just twice, but again and again and again. I see God describing these different downfalls, some of which are thousands of years apart to us, as only days apart for Him. I mean He describes them as if they're taking place all in the same 'week'. And you will certainly need to begin to recognize how and where this perspective fits in *scripture* in order to *understand* this last downfall of Babvion, and not confuse it with previous downfalls, and even see where descriptions apply to all the downfalls. Your assignment is to read these chapters referenced in the last paragraph about Babylon's demise, demise again no redundancy—and about the initiation of this darkened period, and begin to try to distinguish our 'point in time' perspectives from God's transcendent ones. This *exercise* should leave you with more questions than answers. But this **exercise** is also meant to bring you to a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever, and even more so as you repeat it.

But to help you get started you can see that Jeremiah specifically mentions *Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon* Jer 51:34. And those who tend to stay in the human perspective must assume that the whole *prophecy* is only about Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. Indeed there is much evidence that God is at least partially referring specifically to Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. But there are too many 'similarities' in Jeremiah's prophecy with the obviously future downfall and destruction of *Babylon* that is described in Revelation 18 too, like how it is *suddenly fallen and destroyed* Jer 51:8, and is completely *burnt* Verse 25. And the point is that suchlike destruction does not really happen to either Nimrod or Nebuchadnezzar's *Babylon*. Jeremiah also prophesies of *Babylon*'s permanent desolation and uninhabitability except by wildlife (Verses 26 and 37), and of its 'ker-ploosh-like' end (Verses 63-64), and how people will *howl for her* Verse 8. And all this ties in with Isaiah, Joel and Jesus' description

about when the **sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining**, etc. And again, none of this happens with Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar's **Babylon**. So we need to try to see it God's way. When speaking of the characteristics and downfalls of **Babylon**, you should notice that some of the details focus on **her** at a point in time, but that others show her transcending time. This is God's transcendent perspective. And this brings us to a dangerous popular compartmentalization.

I gave you a flimsy argument earlier that may have led you to believe that one of the reasons that *Babylon* could not be rebuilt in present Iraq is because it was decreed by God that no one could ever live there again—that it could never be inhabited again except by wild animals. Maybe now you can see why I don't really believe this applies to



Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. And a glaring problem we have with this theory is that Saddam Hussein started rebuilding it. And yes, I've heard that the bricks are already cracking in this 600 room palace which is a reconstruction of and adjacent to the site of the Palace of King Nebuchadnezzar II, and that this incredibly elaborate ziggurat style (stepped pyramid) palace was never really occupied except by American troops, and that it is presently in

complete disrepair. But I hear they had to displace about 1,000 Iraqi to build it. And this means that this particular former *golden city* was not the one that God meant was to remain forever uninhabited—because it now is. And if this former location of King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon should begin to flourish again in the future it will prove nothing except that when God refers to a period when *Babylon* will become permanently uninhabited, when it can only be occupied by wild animals, He must only be referring to the future condition of the last *Babylon* and the location of Vatican City. After all, the Vatican is the fountainhead from which most of *the blood of saints* flows.

So you should now see that a too-limited perspective of this **prophecy** has lead to an incorrect **interpretation**. And that this popular misinterpretation will probably be responsible for shaking the faith of some should this area 55 miles south of Baghdad experience any further resurgence of any kind.

But lately, because of the rise of violent 'Muslim extremism', too many **teachers** of **prophecy**—with an even more limited perspective of **prophecy**—are expecting a resurgence of **Babylon** in the Middle East, and that the Antichrist will first establish his kingdom there. And this confusion works to the Antichrist's advantage too. Remember we already talked about how we should expect Satan to invent decoys of his kingdom to divert attention from the real one. But they can only really be decoys for those with shamefully limited or immature perspectives.

And we now **know** that from God's perspective all three **Babylon**'s are the same **great whore**, with His plans for **her** carried out from three locations over several thousand years which Peter assures us is like only several days to Him. And such **revelations** are worthy of a **study** of their own. Because now I'm only expecting you begin to awaken to a bigger

picture of God's unchanging transcendency—that what God has done before He will do again and again, but also that He is still in the process of doing it. This is part of what He means when He says,

For I am the LORD, I change not... Mal 3:6

After all, it's not like He messed things up the first time through, or that He would need to improve on His methods of justice or defense or supply. And He naturally speaks across time to *reveal* himself as unchanging—His diversity notwithstanding. And He is obviously not yet done revealing Himself fully as *prophesied*, or really ever will be. Such an *understanding* from our perspective inevitably goes beyond 'tingles' to what I call 'short circuits'. It's like when David tries but evidently falls short of describing how great God really is and finally exclaims,

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Psalms 8

And I **know** that God's **thoughts** and **ways** are <u>forever</u> unreachable, but in the same passage of **scripture** that He tells us this, He also practically begs us to **come** and **learn** as much as we can about Him (<u>Isaiah 55</u>). So when God declares that He is unreachable He cannot mean that you shouldn't bother trying to **understand** Him more. He instead means to encourage us that there will be no limits <u>forever</u> to what you will be able to **understand** if you **continue** to **ask** Him, **seek** Him and **knock** at His door.

But after all this I expect that at least some of you are still compartmentalizing on how God can wipe out the cities of the nations, absolutely finally destroy **Babylon**, and bring on the darkness, while at the same time allow the World to watch Vatican City **burn** and **mourn** it. What you may still not be properly integrating into the picture—though I just recently told you again—is how God focuses on Israel and His people. And you should **know** that He has all the power and finesse He needs to distribute His justice or mercy down to the very last person still alive on the planet. And Velikovsky has provided plenty of conclusive practical evidence of this. This evidence along with **scripture** helps us recognize and sort out some big pictures and begin to *understand* God's unchanging and awe-inspiring methods of judgment, emancipation and provision. And if I'm not catching you off balance this time, it's a matter of time before God Himself does on even bigger pictures as you **continue** this way. But you can expect that during the course of such *labour in the word* that you will find your 'tingles, then 'short circuits'. And in repeated trips through you will get the opportunity to review bigger and bigger pictures before you reach the short circuit. And it's in *exercise* like this that you can really *let your soul* delight itself in fatness Isa 55:2.

And yes, the same God-driven process that causes The Final Great Earthquake and destroys Vatican City must also cause the resulting 'darkness'. But you *know* that in The Final Great Earthquake everyone cannot be totally blinded by darkness nor completely incapacitated <u>because</u> of their response to this cataclysm. John records that *men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail* that accompanies this *great*

earthquake Rev 16:21. And this is evidently not their only response. Their other one is to mourn the destruction of Vatican City from afar off Rev 18:9-10. So knowing God's focus and finesse, we should expect that just like the hail and the destruction of Vatican City, even the 'darkness' is targeted by God.

This is where you should remember that God will most likely only place 'thick darkness' strategically when and where He wants it to be—like He will in The 5th Plague Judgment and like he did in ancient Egypt. Velikovsky discovered that when ancient Egypt was experiencing her three-day plague of thick darkness Ex 10:22, the ancient Chinese recorded that fires were ignited everywhere because of the prolonged day. This leads us to imagine that God, using a companion planet, will again manipulate the Earth into such a motion so that the same side of the Earth will remain toward the Sun for a prolonged period, creating a prolonged period of 'thick darkness' centered over Israel. This must also create a prolonged, life-sustaining ring of dusk around the center—especially considering that a little 'wobble' (Isa 24:19-20) could give a dramatic expansion of this dusk zone.

So my guess is that the sun-deprived, smoky **thick darkness** centered over Armageddon can begin rather 'immediately after' The Final Great Earthquake of The 7th Plague Judgment, because this is what Jesus indicates should be seen from an Israelite's perspective—that things will go dark there rather 'immediately after' the city of Jerusalem is shaken in three—all presumably the consequence of the planet-assisted earthquake that will have just occurred. But Jesus also seems to indicate in Revelation 18 that much of the rest of the World will instead be given quite a firestorm to watch over Southern Europe.

Now there would need to be guite a pillar of smoke rising above Italy for it to be seen from the Americas. But since the Moon can be seen from both America and Italy at the same time, I expect the rising smoke from the destruction of Vatican City will be too. I mean during the **one hour** in The 7th Plague Judgment when Vatican City is destroyed, the rising smoke should be visible from nearly half way around the planet. And we should anticipate that during this 'sunset' on the Antichrist Kingdom that most everyone in daylight and even some who are not should be able to see the outer atmospheric effects of the destruction of Vatican City as widely as the Moon. And for many the spectacle of the destruction of Vatican City should accompany the beginning of prolonged daylight instead of prolonged darkness. And I have imagined various ways God could pull all this off. You should try too, though you should still expect to be at least somewhat surprised, let alone amazed. by what really happens. Except that being shown such things to come by the Spirit of truth means that you can never be completely surprised anymore. And if you don't like surprises, my next study should be of even more help along these lines.

So most of the God-cursing, Vatican City-mourning population who are still 'standing' **afar off** will be able to see the destruction of Vatican City as the 50 days of prolonged **'thick darkness'** begin to 'settle' over The God Zone. And the opposite hemisphere should therefore settle into what I'm guessing will be about the same 50 days of sunlight, likely centered over the Pacific Ocean. And this is when we should remember that because of the 2nd and 7th Plague Judgments that this is not so much a problem because by this time

there can't be any islands or any sea life left in it to speak of. I mean the Pacific Ocean should be a dead zone, and likely considerably bigger than it is now. It should expand when the Earth is **scorched** and presumably at least some of the polar icecaps melt in the 4th Plague Judgment, and it should expand further when The Final Great Earthquake shakes even more coastline underwater.

But we can't ignore that prolonged daylight should soon fry anyone on that half of the planet while those in the prolonged darkness would soon freeze to death. But Velikovsky also found reports that a haze existed planetwide for decades following the Exodus. So I expect again that a planetwide haze of smoke will form soon enough to prevent the planet from reaching lethal temperatures. And I know that Russian probes have successfully landed on Venus and have measured that its thick atmosphere has little range of temperature on the surface despite its relatively slow rotation. So God's perfectly measured 'thickness' of light and dark atmosphere must again in time make Earth a relatively evenly temperature-controlled environment. This and everything else He does will undoubtedly again accomplish His purposes both to *nourish* and *protect* His own people and to *destroy the sinner* at the same time. And we will talk some more about all this in the next couple of sections.

Finally there's still the seemingly 'reasonable contradiction' I brought up earlier to divert your attention that I haven't yet resolved. Why would the World mourn Vatican City when their own cities are in ruins? You must remember that this is the third time the World has been shaken to pieces. And sure **the cities of the nations** will be in ruins. But this time there cannot be as many especially heavy and lethal buildings left to fall on people, and we can no longer be talking about the wipeout of heavy infrastructures either. It will only have been 3 ½ years since most everything had to be 'rebuilt', and also only a couple of years before that too. So just before The Final Great Earthquake, the market must be running largely on the twicesalvaged wreckage of the first two great earthquakes. And this economy will likely be powered by horses and oxen because they run on grass. So It must be a relatively light infrastructure—a sort that can be very quickly put back in operation with mostly man and animal power using only what we would now consider primitive devices and tools. So they shouldn't have as much to mourn of their own losses as you might first think. And they evidently didn't seriously mourn after the first two great earthquakes either because in both cases the Vatican will evidently be spared which leaves something to rebuild for and the financing to do it. But with Vatican City finally gone there is now no more hope in rebuilding because there will evidently really be no one left to buy the World's goods. And this will be utter hopelessness to those who put their faith in the World.

And you shouldn't be surprised either that we're not done painting this picture. Some of the most awesome details still remain to be integrated. In the next section we'll broaden our view of the 'spiritual places' involved. In fact we are going to look inside spiritual Earth. And we will be digging really deep, boldly going as deep as any soul has ever gone before, and looking at views throughout the ages of the changing occupants inside *her* (e.g. <u>Gen 4:11</u>). In the process we will unearth The Rapture of the Dead Jews. But we'll finish up back on the surface and *continue* to expand our appreciation for

the transcendent, unchanging, God-Zone focused and awe-inspiring methods of God's judgments upon the Earth—specifically with His judgment of the wild ride of the *red* horse in the first half of The Beginning of Sorrows. By this we'll be able to better imagine God's husbandry of Israel and the consequences to the rest of the World in the rest of The Great Tribulation.

And sorry if I made all this too confusing for you your first time through. But again, if you're like me, it should take you a few times through before you can anywhere near fully *understand* all of this, because this is the natural progression of The Word of God. He has designed His Word to require some time and some repetition to *understand* it. But each time through leads to a better *understanding* because you see things you missed or misidentified the last time. And you'll need practice carrying with you all the precepts you gather along the way. It's not easy keeping track of them all when you're adding new ones all the time. And you've got to expect that you're going to make *errors* of all kinds that are only corrected *if ye* continue. And I guess I'm not really that sorry because God never intended this to be easy. And I'm certainly not sorry for the repetition because this is the road to *knowledge, wisdom* and *doctrine* that we must *continue* to travel on. Sure, this **study** is just one way to travel this road. But it's His way, because it's more about the **exercise** of **use** of The Word of God that yields wisdom and understanding than anything else. And such exercise transforms you from a **babe** and **milk** drinker to an eater of **strong meat**. And anyone who will *continue* to *work* and *strive* and *press* with *patience* and *diligence* will be able to pass God's tests and become *approved unto* God.

And it's not my intention to impress you with my storytelling skills, or with just another story, but to "equip" each *disciple* to...

...prove his own work , and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another Gal 6:4.

Paul shows us God's intent here—that everyone by The Spirit should share in this *labour in the word* and in this *rejoicing*. But Paul also teaches that God by The Spirit provides *teachers* to help achieve these goals. And this *study* is my contribution by The Spirit to help you to achieve this standing with God. And as should be expected from now on, the following sections should help to correct, improve and expand your *understanding* of what you've *learned* so far.