

MSBC Bible Study 9-23

Eschatology Part I

A. Overview. This study concerns the book of Revelation. It is a book of prophecy and eschatology, and no doubt, the prophecies are there, but first, let's look at some preliminaries.

Revelation 1

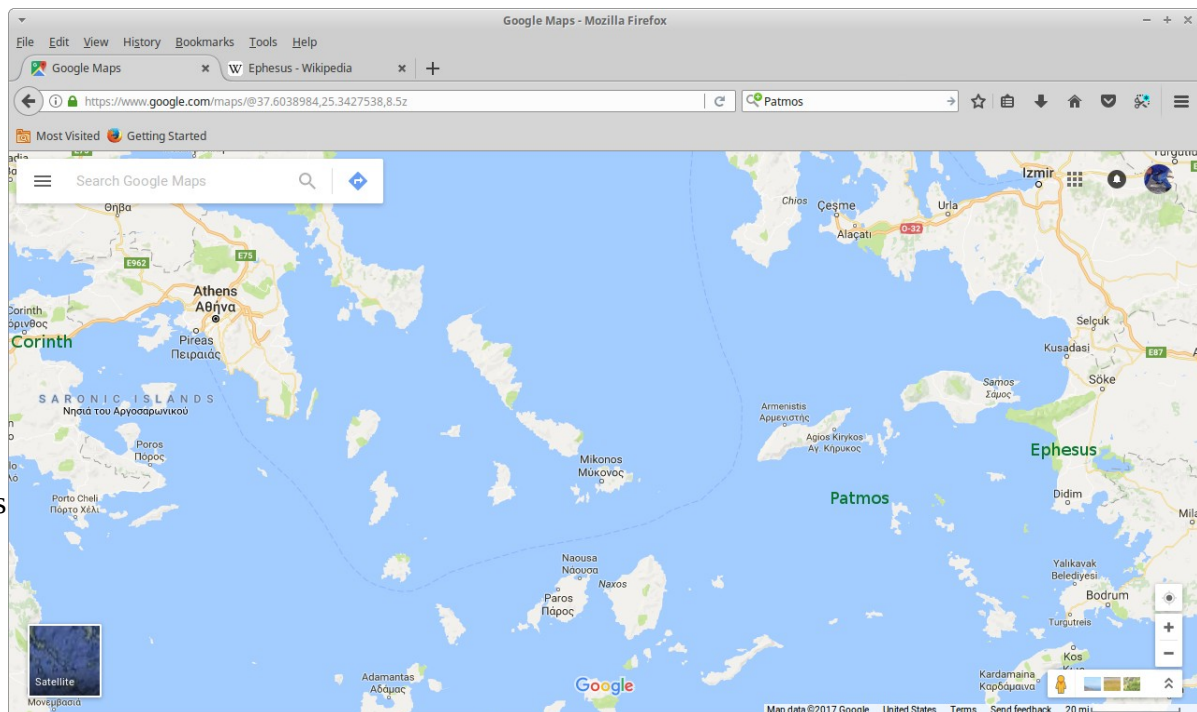
The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 3Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Here are the issues to discuss as we begin the study.

-Who is the author? It is widely believed (Justin Martyr) to be the apostle John, the author of the Gospel bearing his name and the NT books of I, II and III John. There are concerns however. Dionysius of Alexandria notes that the use of the name John is non-existent in the first four books, the author of Revelation uses it. He also notes that the Greek of the first four books is elegant and correct, while that of Revelation is neither. Notwithstanding, it is also evident that the other Johannine books went through several redactions prior to their final forms, and because of the banishment of the apostle, the recorder was likely not as skilled individually as prior groups of Christians.

- When was the book written? It was written during the terror filled reign of Domitian near the end of the first century AD. It is believed that all of the Johannine books were written in about a 10 year period during that time. Although there is a direct reference to Neron Caesar, this does not mean it had to have been written in an earlier time, since, late in the century there was a significant belief that Nero would return.

-What is the location? The island of Patmos in Greece is just off the west coast of modern Turkey. At the time the area was called Ionia. It is a 17 sq mi mountainous island on about the same latitude as Salem, VA. It is proximate to Ephesus (≈ 40 mi) which is on the west coast of Turkey.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

-How does this fit into the Canon of the NT? The NT Canon has 27 books, 23 of which were canonized by the end of the third century AD. The books of James, Hebrews, Jude and Revelation were canonized later with Revelation being the last one widely canonized near the end of the fourth century. It is the only Biblical book sans a commentary by John Calvin.

- Interpretation. **Preteristic**, **Historical** or **Futuristic (Millennialism)** are the 3 main interpretations of the book of Revelation. The Preterist views Revelation as a series of events having happened up until about 70AD with the fall of Jerusalem to Rome. Many Christians view this as outside the realm of Orthodox Christianity. The Historist views Revelation as a general view of history from beginning to end. This view was popular among the early Reformers (John Calvin, Martin Luther, John Knox). And the Millennialist views the book as primarily dealing with things yet to come. This view is common in Christianity today, but also the view of Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, and Jonathan Edwards among others.

Revelation 1

9I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

-Context: It is believed that the apostle John wrote the book while in exile on the island of Patmos, being exiled there for the preaching of the gospel of Christ. It is highly likely that Domitian is the cause of the exile because of the testimony of the trusted Roman historian Tacitus. According to David Jeremiah, such an exile was usually coupled with hard manual labor.

Revelation 1

10I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. 12And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;



13And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

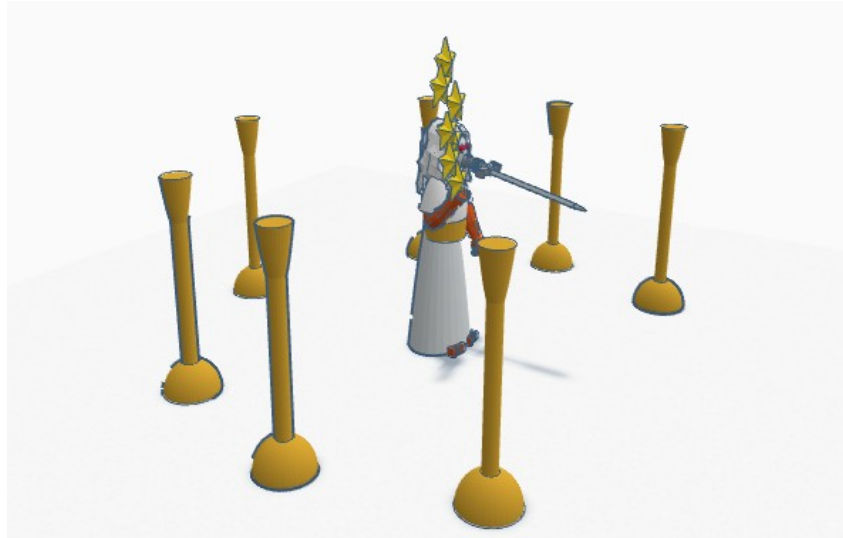
MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

17And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Christ appears to John and the appearance has much meaning. Additionally, we want to note the significant number of parallels with this book and several OT books. Here's a parallel from Daniel's vision.

Daniel 10

5Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: 6His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

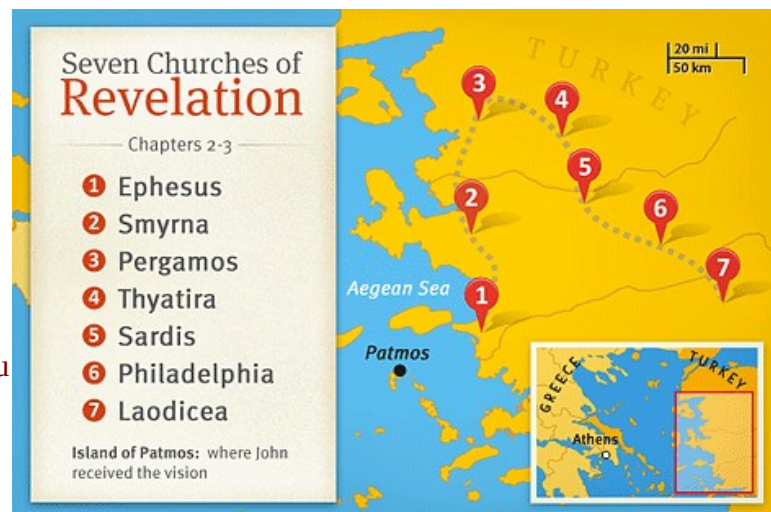


There can be no mistaking the similarity between the visions. Additionally note the similarity with Isaiah's vision in chapter 6 in which the train of God's robe filled the temple. In response to this John, like Daniel, falls as dead and is unable to move until the risen Christ can touch and reassure him with 3 things about Himself. First, He is the first and the last. Next, He is the One Who was alive, died, and is alive forevermore. Finally, He holds the keys of hell and death.

Revelation

19Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; 20The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

There are seven Churches named which create a loop in modern Turkey. Although we are not going to take up the specific messages given to each of the Churches, we will make note of one interesting chronological interpretation given by Jeremiah.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

He sees each of the Churches as representing a period in Church history ... from the crucifixion of the Christ up until present day. In fact, the features and periods of the Churches can be summarized this way.

-**Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)** This Church had forsaken its First Love. Crucifixion to 90 AD. During this period we see a time of falling away in the Church. Nearly all of the NT letters deal with some form of false doctrine. The Church in Ephesus had lost its first love, The Galatian Churches were bedeviled by circumcision. The Thessalonians struggled with the Second Coming. It was a time of correction and instruction for the early Church.

-**Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)** This Church would suffer persecution. 90 – 313 AD. Along with Philadelphia, this Church is commended. Indeed, this period was marked by a preponderance of Christian martyrdom ... particularly at the hands of the Roman Emperors. Beginning with the clear cut persecution under Domitian, the persecution continued under Trajan through Pliny the Younger, governor of Bithynia. In about 110 AD, Pliny, on the account of two witnesses, would force non-citizen Christians to either submit to emperor worship and denounce Christ, or be executed. If they were citizens, they would be sent to Rome. In his correspondence, Pliny makes no claims of negative behavior, but only that the Christians were highly superstitious.

The persecution continued under Marcus Aurelius in the late 2d century AD ... particularly in Lyon, France. It was here that Christians were imprisoned (and in some cases fed to lions) even after apostasy. Usually these persecutions occurred under lower level magistrates. Such was the case of the slave girl Blandina, who was tortured repeatedly (the beasts would not touch her), yet refused to deny the Christ. Finally, after being flayed, was wrapped in a net and thrown to steer, one of which gored her to death. Also martyred during this general time period was Polycarp, a student of John.

The emperor Decius, in around 250 AD, insisted on going back to the Roman traditions of old, and required all citizens (save the Jews) to exhibit sacrificial activity to the Roman gods. A written libellus was necessary to avoid persecution. Among those martyred for non-compliance were the Roman pope Fabian, Babylas of Antioch, and Alexander of Jerusalem.

Following this, Valerian came to power, and, though fighting the Persians at Antioch, issued decrees to execute Christians and the Clergy. Those executed under him included Cyprian of Carthage, and Sixtus II and Lawrence of Rome.

The final, and most awful wave of persecution came under Diocletian in the late 3d century AD. As he surrounded himself with antichrists, the persecution was the most pervasive throughout the empire.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

-**Pergamum (Rev 2:12-17)** This Church needed repentance from the doctrine of Balaam. 313 – 500 AD. Interestingly, Balaam came in the form of Constantine. How could this be? Wasn't Constantine a Christian? Didn't he make the entire empire Christian? Well, yes and no to both.

Much good can be said of Constantine. He introduced solid currency to the empire, forbade the persecution of Christians ... particularly from Jews, gave Christian Clergy many rights, constructed various Christian edifices (including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher), returned lost property to Christians (from Diocletian losses) and professed Christ himself (we think).

The problem lay in the combination of Christian and Pagan traditions. What happened was the merging of pagan worship and Christianity in the form of various traditions (Christmas, Easter, New Year, etc). In the absence of persecution, the Church waned.

-**Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29)** This Church had a false prophetess whose nickname was Jezebel. 500 – 1517 AD. Similar to the effect the original Jezebel had on the nation of Israel, the effect of Constantinian reform was to establish the Church as the government. The result was the Roman Catholic Church ... not evil by any means and good for research ... and Crusades, BUT producing seriously errant Theology. The entire Church was led astray into a works/legalistic form of salvation. Indeed, these were dark ages filled with indulgences, positions of power for clergy (Constantine had already been elevated to the status of apostle), and, as a sort of taxation, the idea that salvation could be paid for with common currency. Although the Church continued to grow, the Catholic Church launched what would be known as a Counter Reformation.

Because of this the Church languished for the most part, in bed with a sick prophetess of heresy.



Little known German monk Martin Luther is angered by sale of Indulgences and in 1517 posts 95 Theses on door of local church criticizing this and other Church policies starting Protestant Reformation



-**Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)** This Church had fallen asleep. 1517 – 1700 AD. In 1517, a German monk by the name of Martin Luther protested the works based Theology he found in the Catholic Church. The result was an entirely new branch of Christianity called Protestant. During this period, the Bible was translated into various languages so that the common folk could read for themselves the Scriptures. There was a much better understanding of Salvation by grace alone. This was an age of separation with Catholicism.

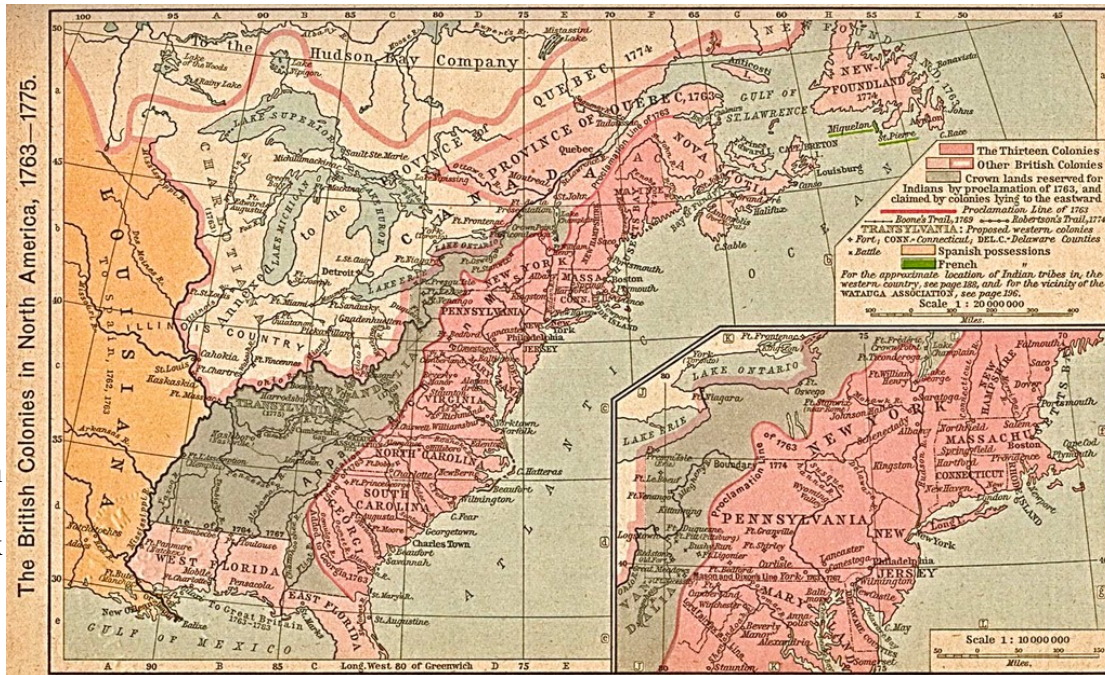
The great reformers along with Luther were Huldrych Zwingli (Switzerland), William Farel and John Calvin (France), Gustav Vasa (Sweden) and John Knox and Oliver Cromwell (British Isles), and finally the Puritans in the English colonies, along with others seeking freedom to worship in the truth of Christ.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

-**Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)** This Church had endured and would reap the blessings of faithfulness. 1700 – 1850 AD. Along with Smyrna, the Church at Philadelphia was one of only two Churches commended by our Lord. Historically, this was the great age of the Church. The revival in the Church was great and led by the Wesley brothers, Charles Spurgeon, George Whitfield, and Jonathan Edwards. The open door was largely represented by a great missions movement that saw Adoniram Judson and Lottie Moon go to China, William Carey to Burma and the founding of several deeply Christian universities (William and Mary, Harvard, Princeton, etc) in the British colonies in order to carry the Gospel to the Indian nations. In 1741 Handel composed the Messiah.

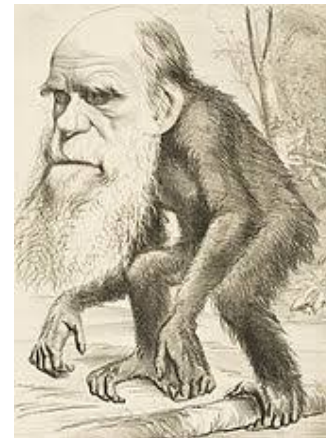
In 1774 KG3 invoked the Quebec Act and was rebuffed by the protestant colonists for restriction of religion, except for deference to Catholicism and the taking of tithes, reminiscent of the Sardisian period. And in 1776, through patriots like Patrick Henry (pictured on previous page), a nation was founded on the idea that every life is valuable to God.



-**Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22)** This Church was lukewarm. 1850 AD – present. In the mid 1800's there was a falling away led by Charles Darwin and others who sought to overturn the Biblical narrative of creation. Based on the very real notion of micro-evolution, these pseudo scientists extrapolated their beliefs well beyond acceptable limits. Following this, higher criticism gained traction among academic elitists. The Scopes trial of 1922 seemingly put the Bible on the back burner.

But, interestingly, a new branch of mathematics was burgeoning which would challenge the auspices of evolution. Scientists all over the globe were utilizing old mathematical techniques and new innovations to analyze growing data sets and forging what would become what we know as the field of statistics. As new archaeological discoveries were made, Biblical histories were confirmed, and evolutionary theories refuted.

Alas, the age of malaise continues as many scientists realized what they had in evolution ... a framework of a world without God.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23

Eschatology Part I

-Philadelphia (cont) In order to justify their selfish ambitions they and their willing sociological lackeys continue to plague the Church through, among other things, political correctness, diversity and relative morality. Many pulpits are filled with false teachers and antiChrists.

Finally, it should be noted that the book of Revelation can be divided into essentially three parts: The address to the Church (chapters 2-3), the throne of heaven (chapters 4 and 22) and the second coming of Christ and the affiliated tribulation on the earth (chapters 5 – 21).

Exercise A

- A1. Which of the following are descriptives of the risen Christ?
- a) Feet like bronze
 - b) hands of gold
 - c) White hair
 - d) starry eyes
 - e) voice like a trumpet
- A2. Approximately when was the book of Revelation written?
- a) 95 BC
 - b) 1995 AD
 - c) 95 AD
 - d) during the dark ages
 - e) 1700 AD
- A3. Which of the following Caesars persecuted the Church in the first century?
- a) Dometian
 - b) Nero
 - c) Diocletian
 - d) Julius
 - e) Constantine
- A4. In what year did Martin Luther begin the protestant reformation in earnest?
- a) 1963 AD
 - b) 1000 AD
 - c) 1517 AD
 - d) 1754 AD
 - e) 1967 AD
- A5. What was the actual prophesied Jezebel of the 15th century .
- a) globalization of economy
 - b) demons, vampires and witches
 - c) Islam
 - d) Catholics
 - e) heresy
- A6. Patmos is an island located in the _____ Sea.
- a) Aral
 - b) Caspian
 - c) Aegean
 - d) Black
 - e) Dead
 - f) South China

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

A7. In what Church age are we currently living?

- a) Philadelphia
- b) Sardis
- c) Ephesus
- d) Thyatira
- e) Laodicea
- f) Smyrna

A8. What Church would represent the persecution of the second and third centuries?

- a) Philadelphia
- b) Sardis
- c) Ephesus
- d) Thyatira
- e) Laodicea
- f) Smyrna

A9. How did the Quebec Act of 1774 illustrate the plight of the Church in Philadelphia?

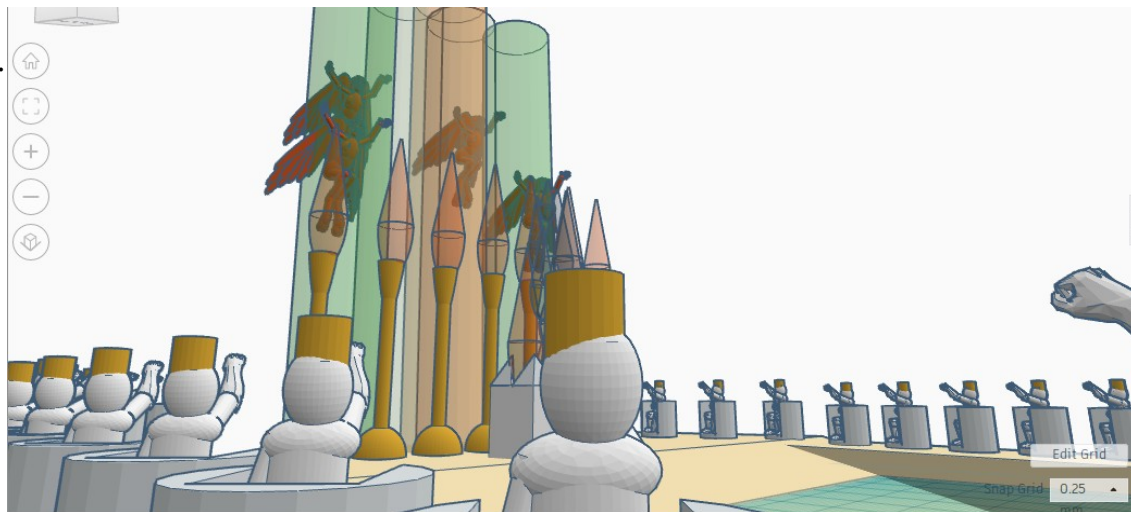
- a) It set up French as the major language of the new world
- b) Ice Hockey was slated to become a major player on the sports scene
- c) The Labour party was founded
- d) It gave native Indians the power to vote
- e) It reinstated the Catholic Church as the dominant religion over a vast region

A10. What are major tools of Satan in putting the Church to sleep in the current age? Select all that apply.

- a) Diversity
- b) Relative proximity
- c) Differential Equations
- d) Relative morality
- e) Relative humidity
- f) Diverse portfolios

B. The Throne of Heaven.

At this point Revelation takes a brief interlude as John is taken into the presence of God Himself (chapters 4 and 22). The time of prophecy shall come indeed, but, as if to continue the signature of authority from chapter 1, John's vision takes us to the seat of ultimate judgement for more confirmation.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Revelation 4

1After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Note that the angel speaking with John says that he must show him prophecy. But it's done through the lens of heaven. It was not a problem for John to go up to heaven, for the spirit carried him.

The first picture we have is of a magnificent throne that is, of course, occupied by God. It is here that we notice the colors of heaven, namely jasper, sardine and emerald. Jasper was a valuable gem in the ancient world. Although generally orangish in color, because of the significant presence of iron, it can also take on the color green. The gem has a very smooth surface. It represents strength and elegance.



Sardine, chalcedony or carnelian is orange to dark orange in color, with sardine being the darkest ... even black. It is also a very strong material. Interestingly, the first stone in the high priest's breastplate was either sardine or jasper. The stone images are from www.wikipedia.org.

Finally, the emerald rainbow is reminiscent of a splash of brilliance. This stone is very hard and very brittle. It is also very green symbolizing life ... like that which we see in March. Note also, that the rainbow is emanating directly from God, the giver of life. Look for these stones in the description of the breastplate of the high priest given below. Note that the emerald, sardius and jasper all appear.



Exodus 28

17And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row. 18And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. 19And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. 20And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings. 21And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes.

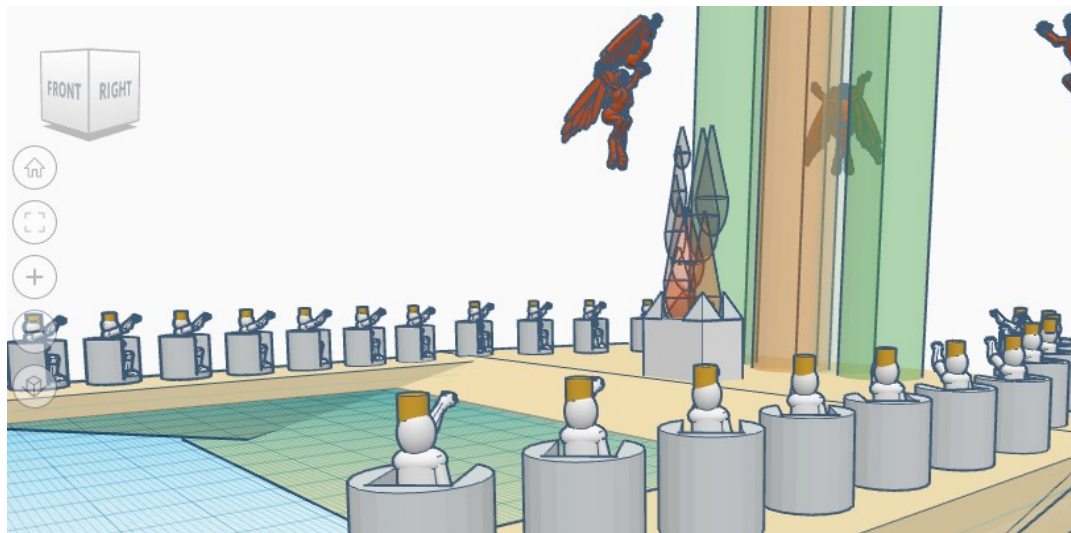
We see here glimpses of heaven. It is resplendent with color. There is a brilliant atmosphere surrounding the throne of God. It will turn out that the throne is portable (thanks to the cherubim). There is a sea of glass. There is worship from angels. There is worship from man (of a different sort). There is holiness. And it is consistent with the visions of Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Paul.

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

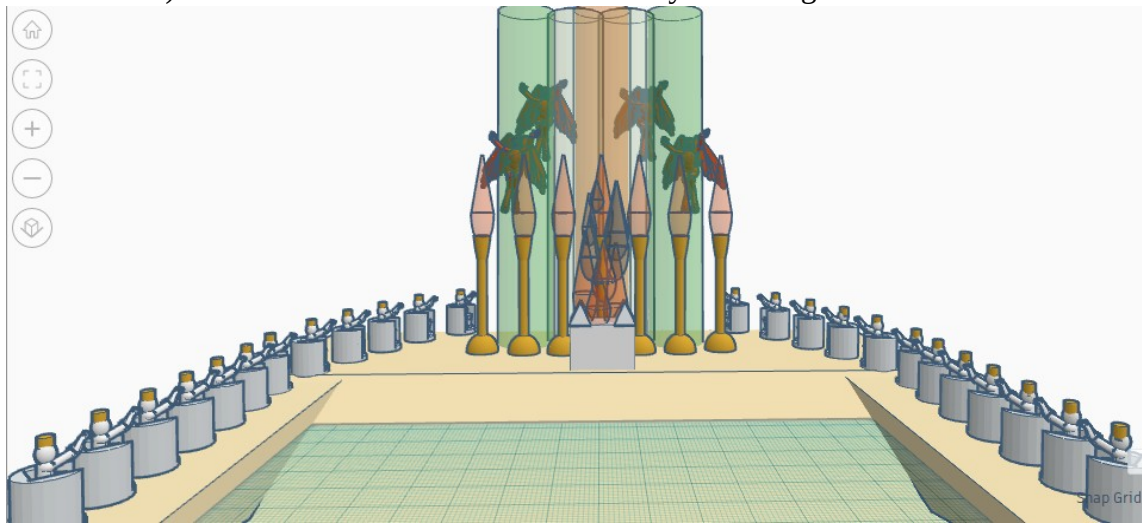
Now we are introduced to a heretofore unknown entity ... the 24 thrones with the 24 “elders”.

Revelation 4

4And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.



Some possible interpretations are that they represent a) the raptured Church, b) the entire Church, c) angels that never leave the throne (unlikely), d) some combination of apostles and Hebrew tribal representatives (quite possible because of the term “elder”), e) 24 individuals resurrected immediately following the resurrection of the Christ ([Matthew 27: 52-53](#)).



Revelation 4

5And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four

beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

One might ask if these are the serapim mentioned in [Isaiah 6](#). It’s close, but the serapim are standing above the throne, and there is no mention of “[eyes before and behind](#)”.

The Throne Room angels are very similar to those in the vision of Ezekiel, with the Hebrew captives at the Chebar river ca.600 BC. There are some differences: number of faces, wings, duty and wheels. But

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

the general appearance is the same ... particularly in the listing of the faces and eyes (representative of seeing all action on earth and heaven). The difference is that now the throne itself is in its home location in heaven, and the cherubim are possibly not carrying it as before. Rather they are leading in the worship about and below the throne ... which explains the last two differences given.

Ezekiel

4Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness *was* all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. 5Also from within it *came* the likeness of four living creatures. And this *was* their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. 6Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. 7Their legs *were* straight, and the soles of their feet *were* like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. 8The hands of a man *were* under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. 9Their wings touched one another. *The creatures* did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward. 10As for the likeness of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.

This is noteworthy in that it gives consistency to the vision. A serious Bible student will recognize the similarities between the passages. And whether it be Ezekiel or Isaiah, the comparisons are with Old Testament visions. Another consistency, is the tie in with the habit of Jesus in recalling OT passages many times. As we shall see, the types of worship are different between angels and men.

Revelation 4

9And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The crowns mentioned are not the crowns of rule, but rather the crowns of reward ... victors' crowns. Angels have not been saved from sin and redeemed by blood. Rather theirs is a praise of holiness. God is unlike anything we can think, imagine or design in Tinkercad. Human worship is oriented toward thankfulness and perseverance. We have been awarded the robe and crown of righteousness promised, and now, since God is in control, cast crowns before the throne to honor the One True God.

2 Timothy 4

8Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

This is no different than offering the fruits of our labors today. We give to God only what He has already given us. This give and take is brought forward by David Jeremiah's interpretation. Note the use of the word "worthy". For mankind, God is truly worthy because of the great redeeming work accomplished through the Son, Jesus Christ.

MSBC Bible Study 9-23

Eschatology Part I

Finally, the last words sum up the nature of God. Angels and men have been created (and all else for that matter) for the pleasure of God. When we glorify God, we are truly fulfilling the purpose for which we were created!

Exercise B

- B1. Which of the following are part of the throne room of Heaven (MA)?
- a) Altar
 - b) Elders
 - c) A sea like glass
 - d) 7 lampstands
 - e) Cherubim
- B2. In what book of the OT do we find a very similar vision to that of John?
- a) Genesis
 - b) Leviticus
 - c) 2 Chronicles
 - d) Ezekiel
 - e) 1 Samuel
- B3. In all visions of God he is ... ?
- a) right around the corner
 - b) just a phone call away
 - c) worried about the future
 - d) high and lifted up
 - e) a co-pilot
- B4. The crowns on the heads of the elders are (MA)?
- a) ivory
 - b) of a ruler
 - c) of an award winner
 - d) golden
 - e) silver
- B5. The seven lampstands represent the ... ?
- a) lucky stars
 - b) the seven deadly sins
 - c) the perfect number of lampstands
 - d) the seven of diamonds
 - e) the sevenfold Spirit of God
- B6. The worship of angels and the worship of mankind is different because (MA)?
- a) angels worship in awe
 - b) angels fly when they worship
 - c) man must have a piano playing
 - d) angels can play the harp
 - e) mankind worships in thanksgiving

C. Now we enter the realm of Eschatology. It is here that Christ re-enters the picture and unseals the seven scrolls. Chapters 5 – 19 deal with what we (pre-millennialists) believe to be future events. It is an

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

unfolding of activities leading to the day when “the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever! (Revelation 11:15)” We’ll start in chapter 5. John’s vision continues in the throne room of heaven.

Revelation 5

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 2And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

Why the weeping? Why the question from the angel? Why the seven seals?

According to David Jeremiah, the “book” actually consists of seven scrolls each having a Royal seal on it ... similar to Roman “book”s of the first century. The scrolls are filled *completely* and the opening of the scrolls is in direct correspondence with the unfolding of events of the end times. And it is this book that was sealed during the time of Daniel.

Daniel 12

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

One of the things that is most interesting about prophecy is its repetitive nature. One cannot help but notice the similarities between the prophecies in Daniel and those in Revelation. The questioning angel is also found in Daniel ... only this time calling across the Tigris River. In both instances, it appears that the question *may be* rhetorical. There is a sense in which the *question is a statement*.

When John finds out that no man can open the seals, he weeps. It is because we are reading the words of a prophet, one who sees *reality*. John sees that the reality of heaven will never become the reality of earth without someone being able to loose the preset drama for the “end of days” contained in this book. The book is actually 7 books, the 7th of which contains 7 trumpets, the last of which contains 7 bowls of judgement. It contains the whole end. Someone must be found worthy to open the scrolls. And apparently a *search* is made.

Revelation 5

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

It is actually one of the elders who offers the answer ... the Christ! The Christ is given 3 descriptions in this passage: *Lion of Judah, Root of David, Lamb that was slain*. Let’s view more scripture.

Genesis 49

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

9Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

This a prophecy from Jacob called Israel regarding his son Judah. From Judah comes David. From David comes the Messiah ... the Christ. But wait ... what is the order? This Jesus is also the Root of David. Christ himself answers this question in a dialogue with the Pharisees quoting **Psalm 110**.

Matthew 22

41While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. 43He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? 46And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Finally, He is called the Lamb that was slain ... for the sins of the world.

Hebrews 9

11But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

As a result of this Jesus and God receive resounding praise.

Revelation 5

8And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.



How can these hold vials AND harps??? At least for the beasts, the answer might be multiple arms. Or perhaps the vials are part of the harps. Or perhaps they're not holding the vials (pictured). At any rate, we note that the vials hold odours that are the prayers of the saints. It would help greatly if we could somehow identify those 24 elders! The praise of the saints is because of the redemptive work of Christ!

And resultingly, they (the 24 elders) will reign on the earth as kings (for administrative purposes) and priests (as for all the saints). Does this mean there will be 24 administrative districts on the future earth?

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Pastor Rusty Webster used to say, “if you don’t like new music here, you’ll be disappointed in heaven, because there they’ll sing a *new* song.”

Revelation 5

11And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.



100,000,000 and 1,000,000s of angels means a very large number. The second part of this simply implies that whatever the count is ... there are more. Note the similarity with the number of rejoicing of angels at Bethlehem in [Luke 2](#). There will be massive praise to the Christ and to God!

Power, Riches, Wisdom, Strength, honor, glory, and blessing are due our Christ. How do they differ? (from [wiktionary.org](#)). It is important to note the differences because there is specificity in the gifts that Christ receives. Kings are not elected. They ascend ... and have overwhelming support to do so.

Power is the ability to coerce, control or influence. Riches represent the storage of currency in one form or another. Wisdom is the ability to make a good decision. Strength is that on which confidence is based. Honor is the measure of respect one receives. Glory is admiration or distinction, accorded by common consent to a person or thing; high reputation; renown. Blessing (in this case) is the desire for someone to have good fortune.

The creatures name only four of these. Why? Riches, Wisdom and Strength are left out. Why?



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Animals do not lack strength. Birds can fly, fish swim, lions prowl, cheetahs run, etc. They have been given extra strength ... which is used at the behest of God (consider Daniel in the lions den). Riches are not accumulated by animals. A lion kills its prey, eats it and moves on. Bears may eat to store up for winter, and squirrels will store nuts, but it's only for a season. Finally, wisdom is not something animals use. There is no true leadership among animals. A lion might be "king of the jungle", but it's because of strength ... not foresight.



How do the creatures talk? Do the ducks talk with a lisp? Do the rabbits have a Bronx accent? Do donkeys sound like Eddie Murphy??? Not sure, but something must open up in the brain, and a donkey spoke to Balaam ([Numbers 22](#)).

There are four regions mentioned: sea, earth, heaven and under the earth (see also [v. 3](#) and [Philippians 2:10](#)). These represent the entirety of existence in ancient thought.

The definitions of the sea and earth are obvious. At the creation, the planet consisted of one sea and one island ([Genesis 1:9](#)). Now, there are a couple of tectonic plates that are pretty much all ocean, and others that are essentially islands. The difficulty lies with the other two.

Heaven is used in the Bible to refer to a spiritual or physical place. It is difficult to determine which is being referred to here, but my guess is a spiritual place with some relation to the physical ... perhaps containing the physical. It is evident throughout the Bible that earth is a VERY special place in spite of the recognition of planets, galaxies, and the universe. Perhaps the opposite is true with the underworld ... a spiritual place of lower dimension contained within the physical world.

At any rate, every being will give glory ... willingly or unwillingly ... to the *eternal* God!

We now come to the seals and the riders ... the unfolding of "history" ... but in the future. These are better known as the *four horseman of the apocalypse*. No, not the ones from Notre Dame, but the real horsemen.

These represent the beginning of unfolding, the signs and wonders that will precede the troubled times of the end.

Revelation 6

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

The first horse is white and its rider a conquerer. Is it the Christ? This was the view of Iranaeus. But, no. Christ would not be given another crown at this stage. Nor would he jump from opening the scroll to coming out of the scroll. The Christ we see in **Revelation 19** actually has many crowns.



Other erroneous views are that he represents disease, war, or prosperity. Again, the problem is that there is plenty of each of these things in the remaining chapters given sans mystery. One may choose to see this regarding the prosperity of the Roman empire. But we've just been all over this in the letters to the 7 Churches.

It is quite possible that it's the anti-Christ. This is the view of Billy Graham and David Jeremiah among others. This fits in a number of ways, not the least of which is that the anti-Christ must conquer the world in one way or another.

3And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. **4**And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

The second horse is red and its rider a villain. He represents civil war ... which breaks out after the anti-Christ has ruled. Some say it's war, and that's correct ... but of a ferocious sort.

It is the internal revolt of people against the anti-Christ, but now they cannot prevail as they have handed over all authority to him.

This may also represent a global set of wars bringing in the reign of the anti-Christ. It is not inconceivable now that war in any part of the globe might affect people living far off (as it was in say 1977). Technology and people movements have made a world society that is ripe for a world leader.



Revelation 6

5And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. **6**And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

The third horse is black and its rider a cruel judge. The rider renders a sentence on the earth ... Famine! But this is not the worst type of famine. It covers the earth yet is a famine on the poor. Wheat is scarce ... worth a day's wages. Barley is cheaper, but still scarce. But the deeper rooted olive trees and grapevines are still in production ... for the wealthy. Note that this portends a great gap between the wealthy and poor.

7And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

The final horse is transparent (or pale green), and its rider is Death. They are followed by hordes of hell. At this stage, 25% of the world's population dies off through military annihilation, starvation, sickness and wild animals. It is certainly possible that all four of these angel riders are demonic. And they are connected since the sequence of anti-Christ to Death and Hell is connected.

I also believe this is the same angel of Death spoken of in **2 Samuel 24**. Perhaps he now rides so that he can cover the earth. **Ezekiel 14** speaks of the same four scourges coming to and through Jerusalem (even if Noah, Daniel and Job were there).

The riders may ride out sequentially, but it could well be that their works are somewhat concurrent. For instance, the anti-Christ may be ruling a large nation; there may be a large war that leaves the earth scarred and barren; this results in a famine; and this causes murder, starvation, sickness ... which is perhaps borne by animals such as rats and other vermin. Is it here that the anti-Christ takes hold of world dominion? Will the Church be (or have been) raptured out? Will souls still be saved? We continue to progress.

Revelation 6

9And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

First note that these souls are under the altar ... not the throne. Were they there the whole time? Yes. This is the first mention of the word "altar" in the entire book of Revelation. These are those martyred for the sake of the Gospel. There are a number of questions this poses. First, who are they? Second, why are they given a special place in the throne room? Third, why do they seek revenge from God on their tormenters ... aren't we supposed to love those who hate us (**Matthew 5:43-44**)? Fourth, how did they get there? From here to Exercise C, we will give the *good* interpretation of David Jeremiah.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

According to Dr. Jeremiah, these are the souls of those saved in the tribulation, and they are Jewish. This is a complex issue. If we hold to a pre-tribulation rapture, then must we also hold to an end of the age of Grace (crucifixion to present) at the rapture? If so, how do these people get in? Consider ...

Romans 11

25For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 ... when I shall take away their sins.

Many of the Jews (not all) will be blinded until the fullness of the Gentiles are saved. This ends at the rapture, which also ends the age of grace. The Holy Spirit is removed (we are seeing part of that now) (2 Thessalonians 2:6,7), and all *%&1 breaks loose. Notwithstanding, it is here that the remaining Jews become cognizant of the truth of scripture ... ultimately about 144,000 of them. These begin to give testimony to the truth of the Word of God ... perhaps as they see prophecy take place before their eyes. As a result, they are slain by the anti-Christ and his minions.

They are given a special place under the altar as a result of [Leviticus 4:7](#). They represent the blood of the sacrifice poured out at the base of the altar.

The next question is difficult ... unless seen through the Jeremiah interpretation. These people have been martyred for the Faith. *But*, their martyrdom takes place *after* the age of Grace. It is an especially difficult martyrdom ([Revelation 12:11](#), [Zechariah 13:8,9](#)). As a result, they call upon God using the greek term *Despotes* (avenging King). It is their right to ask God for revenge on their tormentors. These got here through their testimony and faithfulness to the Word. Theirs is a different type of salvation which comes beyond the age of Grace. Their salvation still comes through Christ ([John 14:6](#)), but sans the Holy Spirit. Note that this is in keeping with many who are saved from Old Testament time. They may not have lived during the age of Grace, but they are still saved. Now these souls are given white robes of righteousness... which they need for heaven. Jesus told about this in a parable.

Matthew 22

11And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14For many are called, but few are chosen.



One in which the term used is “souls”, meaning that they are not in their resurrected bodies ... as are members of the Church led by the elders (possibly). They are in a state of transition.

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Revelation 6

12And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?



There is much imagery here. First there is a global earthquake ... not unlike in the days of Noah (1 Peter 3:20) in which the tectonic plates were in turmoil. Do they have to move slowly? Christians know differently. The effects in the sky are also mentioned, which means perhaps there is a meteor strike of such a magnitude that it knocks the earth slightly out of its orbit around the sun, disrupting the daily march of time. This would result in a lot of the side effects mentioned.

What's interesting about this, is that all the inhabitants of earth are now set against the Lord. And yet, they recognize that they are paying dearly for it. Instead of asking for salvation, they ask for death. Likely because the apostate views death as a chance for a) non-existence, or b) something new at which they can figure a way to be successful, or c) something that has to be better than life on earth, or d) an escape from God. The last verse is in Handel's Messiah.

Activity\ Revlt'n Seal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
angel/demon		Rides on red horse with civil war	Rides on black horse with famine	2 Riders on green horse with death			Stop 4 winds; seal 144000 Jews. Silence
AntiChrist/ asst	Rides on white horse w/ crown						
satan							
unbelievers		Civil War	Famine	Death for population/4		Want to die!	
Cherubim	Come and see	Come and see	Come and see	Come and see			Silence
Martyrs after Rapture		Civil War?	Famine?	Death?	Cry out under altar		Silence
Saved Jews		Civil War?	Famine?	Death?			Sealed with seal of God
Earth			Famine			Massive quake; debris cloud over earth/3	Safe through sealing process

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Exercise C

- C1. Which of the following are colors of the 4 horses of the apocalypse (MA)?
- a) Purple
 - b) Brindle
 - c) Yellow
 - d) Red
 - e) White
- C2. How many scrolls will Christ ultimately open?
- a) 10
 - b) 7
 - c) 4
 - d) 3
 - e) 12
- C3. Which of the following are plagues brought by the pale horse and rider (MA)?
- a) starvation
 - b) sickness
 - c) obesity
 - d) racism
 - e) animal attack
- C4. In the great famine of the black horse and rider, which commodity is reserved for the wealthy?
- a) Dr. Pepper
 - b) Dr. Thunder
 - c) Olive Oil
 - d) Methanol free Gasoline
 - e) denim
- C5. Who is the anti-Christ?
- a) The rider on the red horse
 - b) One of the beasts
 - c) Barack Obama
 - d) The rider on the white horse
 - e) The white horse
- C6. People can be saved outside of the age of Grace.
- a) True
 - b) False
- C7. The souls under the altar are souls of
-
- a) Aztecs
 - b) Martian
 - c) Black
 - d) Chinese
 - e) Martyrs



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

C8. What is given to the souls under the altar?

- a) Refreshments
- b) shade
- c) White Robes
- d) New shoes
- e) Bibles

C9. The age of Grace begins at the ...

- a) Creation
- b) Flood
- c) Fall of Jerusalem
- d) Tribulation
- e) Crucifixion

C10. When the sixth seal is opened, all mankind on earth ...

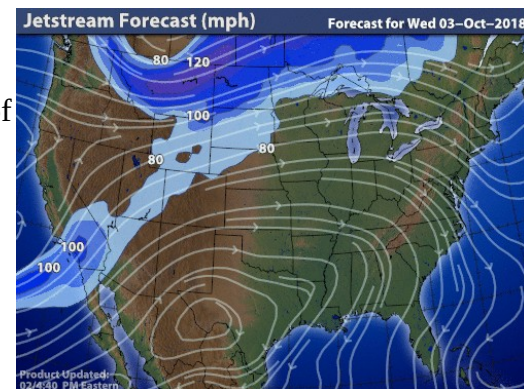
- a) hides
- b) repents
- c) rejoices
- d) sings
- e) dies

D. Now we begin the lengthy opening of the seventh seal.

Revelation 7

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

These are 4 meteorological angels controlling the jet stream (since the jet stream controls the weather) standing at the four “**corners**” (extremities) of the earth. The number 4 appears often with the notion of creation in the Bible. Although there are various interpretations of these angels, one plausible interpretation is that the four angels are controlling the four jet streams that flow from west to east around the earth (trackingbibleprophecy.org).



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Part of this is noted in [Ecclesiastes 1:6](#). The current jet stream is seen above. During the days described here, there is an eerie stillness on the earth. This is also the root of chaos theory in mathematics. It is interesting to note that our weather patterns are controlled by angelic forces who, at the command of God, change the patterns.

Now comes the 5th angel bearing the “[seal of God](#)” in order to place the seal on the foreheads of the famous 144,000 Jews. At this point are there 144,000 Jews to be sealed? No, revisit [Revelation 6:9-11](#). Some of them are already under the altar.

So why doesn't John say so? Because he's trying to track things in a space with $\dim > 3$. Try to remember specifics from a dream. Although you wake up thinking you can, it becomes difficult once you begin speaking.

In [Revelation 7: 5-8](#) we read that there are 12,000 Jews from each of the tribes. In this list, Ephraim is listed as “[Joseph](#)”. Dan is not listed, and Levi is inserted in his place. Yet Dan does appear in the inheritance group for the millenium in Ezekiel 48. All of this is interesting assertion since most Jews today do not know from which tribe they are descended except for Judah.

According to David Jeremiah, the sealed are not the Church nor the 24 Elders (clearly), nor are they 7th Day Adventists (since they are Jewish), nor Jehovah's Witnesses (since they've had to change their theology to include “overcomers”). They are sealed for protection, power and promise. This sealing will later be copied by the anti-Christ.

Revelation 7

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

16They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.
17For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

What is meant by “**came out of great tribulation**”? I believe this refers to those Christians coming out at and before the rapture. But there is the issue with the word “tribulation”. Though this is different from David Jeremiah’s interpretation, I have 3 compelling reasons to believe it to be the case.

For one thing, they already have the robes of righteousness through Christ (unlike the saints under the altar). The second reason is that they are innumerable ... meaning there are way too many to humanly count. One might be tempted to think that heaven is like earth in terms of population ... himself and his favorite relatives and some other people. But when you think of all the people who have lived on the earth and been saved, the size of the group is staggeringly large!

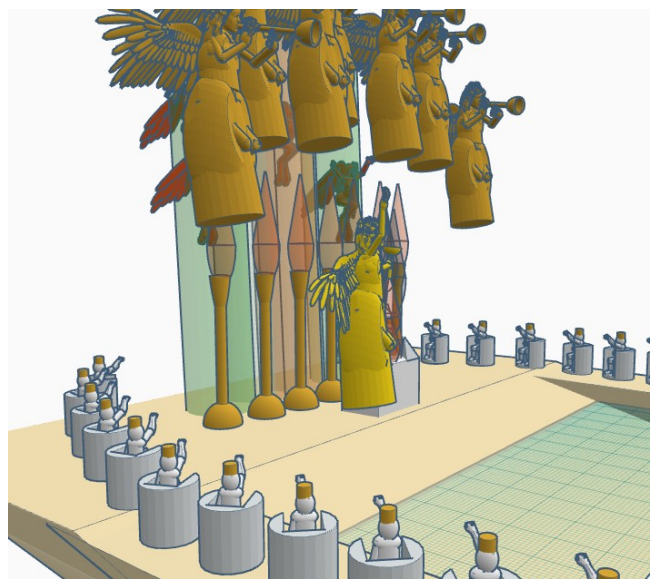
Third, it says that this multitude has washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. This is precisely the method of salvation in Christ during the age of Grace. It is the people under the throne and the rest of the 144,000 that have a different salvation ... yet still in Christ. *I believe that perhaps this multitude consists of all those (from the first century on) who have been martyred for the name of Christ.*

Notice also that John says “**one of the elders**”. I believe this is a reference to one of 24, meaning the elders are 24 in number as opposed to the innumerable Christians we just read about. We shall see how this interpretation holds up in light of the coming prophecies.

Revelation 8

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

2And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 3And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 6And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.



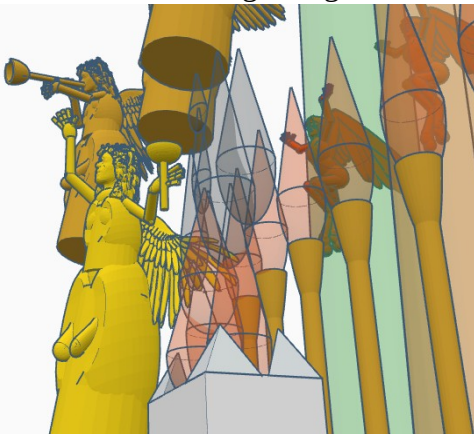
MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Now the complete body of Christ has been removed from the earth. What is about to take place is only a taste of the horrible wrath of God on those who reject Christ. And it is Christ himself Who breaks the 7th seal on the seventh scroll.

We are at (or beyond) the halfway point of the great tribulation. And the silence is the prelude to the sounding of the trumpets which are signals for each of the judgments about to transpire. Trumpets had been used by Moses in the OT for two purposes: as a call to worship, and a call to war. In these cases, the trumpets are for both.

Some say that the “other angel” at the altar is Christ. I disagree, since Christ is clearly identified up to this point and it would seem to break the pattern for John to suddenly cloak His identity. This is another angel leading the throne room in an act of worship mixing incense with the prayers of the saints. I do agree with David Jeremiah on this, that is likely the prayers of the saints under the altar which will now be answered with God’s vengeful seven trumpets.

After that the censor with its fire is hurled to the earth and causes a great earthquake, along with thunder and lightning. I’m assuming the voices here would be screaming.



It is natural for humans to fear death. It is the old enemy that has been in effect since sin entered the garden of Eden (**Hebrews 9:27**). And with little variance, this has been the case. But now we are about to see the peril that will come upon the people of earth; people devoid of much of any influence of the Holy Spirit and people devoid of other Christian people. That’s harrowing enough without the ensuing trumpets.

It is also worth noting the part this plays in the “life on other planets” arguments. It would appear that a disproportionate deal of attention is given to little ol’ planet earth by the God of the universe if, in fact, there are all kinds of other planets with humanoid creatures. That’s not to say that there haven’t been UFO sightings. Many people claim to have seen UFOs. Ezekiel did too. But we know that in the end, these are likely spiritual entities ... not extraterrestrial life forms.



Revelation 8

7The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The first trumpet results in a horrible and nasty hailstorm that devours a good portion of earth’s vegetation. Notice the similarities between this woe and the plagues of Egypt. Mysterious meteorological phenomena with disastrous results. Hail can occur at any time and is destructive. In this case it is global. Perhaps the blood mixed in with the hail kills the green grass in the same way the blood in the Nile killed the aquatic life (**Exodus 7:18, 21**).

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

The rest of the trumpets in Revelation 8 consist of trumpets 2 – 4, and we shall see that *these signs are a little bit more than what's been seen in earth's history.*

Revelation 8

8And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

It seems that a large meteorite of some sort crashes into the Atlantic ocean. If the third of the sea means all oceans, then the Atlantic would represent about 1/3. This would, of course, create Tsunamis of gigantic proportion which may lead us to the third trumpet, and its freshwater contamination.

Revelation 8

10And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Freshwater contamination occurs in trumpet 3. This may be a followup from the meteor in the Atlantic. Or it may be a second strike of some sort on land. The thought of contaminated waters blasting onto the African, North American and Eurasian plate could do just that ... not to mention the contaminated rain that would fall on the first and third of these. Also, Eurasia covers about 1/3 of the land on earth. Could this be some sort of nuclear conflict on that plate?

Revelation 8

12And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

What is meant by a third of the sun darkened, or a third of the moon and stars darkened? I disagree with David Jeremiah here in that I don't think the days will be 16 hrs because that speaks nothing about the light given ... only the length. I think it refers to periods of total darkness that last about 8 hrs ... like the oil clouds in Saudi Arabia. This could still yet be related to the meteor crash of the second trumpet. In this case there some sort of blanketing of the earth in which the light is filtered out?

Is it EMP related? Is there a problem with the earth's rotation? Does something happen with the sun and stars so that there light is reduced? I don't think so. Too much to come.

Revelation 8

13And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

We now come to Revelation 9 in which trumpets 5 and 6 are sounded. The first four trumpets brought judgment to planet earth. Here we have demons and demonic people being released on the people of the earth. These will wreck havoc on the 144,000 saved Jews, tribulation saints and the lost.

Revelation 9

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

The locust demons come from a particularly dark portion of hell. Remember the demons in the pigs. They are intelligent inhuman beings that will plague people not marked by the seal of God for 5 months ... OR they will plague people not marked by the seal of God for 5 months. The stings, however, will not result in death. For the lost, the idea of death as an escape (as in the case of Eric Harris and Dylan Kliebold) is a demonic deception says David Guzik. At any rate, the vegetation (and perhaps animals) remains untouched during this time. Again, I don't think this is Satan (per David Jeremiah). His time will come later.

Revelation 9

6And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10And they had tails like unto



scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 11And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Now comes the 6th trumpet. At this stage, it is likely that the only Christians remaining on earth are the 144000 Jews and a small minority of Gentiles. There are still saved gentiles that remain.

Revelation 9

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. 16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them ... 18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

It is somewhat unclear what is happening. Four Euphratic demons are loosed, and suddenly we have an army of 200 million. Who's army is it? What does the army have to do with the demons? On whom are they marching? Is it the demons or the army that kill by fire, brimstone and smoke? Is the army made up of demons?

One interesting interpretation is that the demons represent the false religion of Islam (and others perhaps) in the four countries of the Euphrates ... Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. These countries may align (as a result of the demons) and form the massive army to march on either of Jerusalem, or other secular kingdoms. It was unthinkable to consider 200,000,000 people in John's day. Today, if 1 in 7 people in China joined the army, they would have a 200,000,000 man army. Additionally, another third of mankind is killed, so that now half (see seal 4, p 18) of the world population is gone by 3.5 years into the apocalypse.

Revelation 9

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

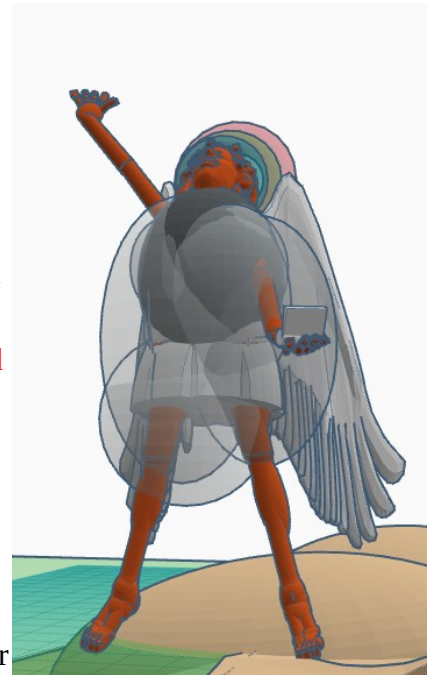
These are also the sins of our time. It is these people who are lost in their sin. Their minds have been left desolate by the Holy Spirit. The practical effect is that they ultimately believe in their own power and that of mankind over the seemingly unusual and overwhelming events.



MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Revelation 10

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, 3And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices ... 10And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. 11And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.



This chapter is a short interlude for a meeting between John and the giant angel of the Mediterranean. There are a couple of things to note. First, this is NOT Jesus Christ! Although some hold to this belief, it is clearly wrong. John's writing in Revelation, even when cryptic, is always clear when he speaks of the Christ. He would not introduce the Christ, by saying, "then another mighty angel" (as if mighty angels are equal to Christ). Second, the open scroll is not a part of the other seven. In this scroll, John is encouraged to continue his prophecy. It does not bring about havoc on the earth as the other seven. Third, the description is most noticeably like the angel of the book of Daniel ... who is also NOT the Christ. We also see the 7 thunders of God in Psalm 29 identified by the phrase "voice of the LORD".

Psalm 29

3**The voice of the LORD** is upon the waters ... 4**The voice of the LORD** is powerful; the **voice of the LORD** is full of majesty. 5**The voice of the LORD** breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon ... 7**The voice of the LORD** divideth the flames of fire. 8**The voice of the LORD** shaketh the wilderness ... 9**The voice of the LORD** maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

We now enter the world of the two witnesses ... believed by some to be Enoch and Elijah since neither of these two actually died. Moses is also a candidate because of the miracles performed through him.

Revelation 11

3And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

John Walvoord, however, makes an excellent point in that since John the Apostle did not give specific identities, it is prudent that we also shouldn't try to identify them.

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

It is here we see that these two witnesses (picture from Alan Tattersail) prophesy in Jerusalem for 3.5 yrs ... concurrently with the events of the first 7 seals and first 6 trumpets. And it is our first introduction to “the beast”. Can you imagine the vitriol extended to these two from the mainstream media? They will be accused of hate, violence and forcing their religion of Christianity on the world. As with people today, so then will people be enraged at the thought of the Bible actually being true, and Christ being the only way! Imagine also the delight of the world when these two are “killed” by the beast. The beast will have no problem getting a majority of the earth to follow him now. More on this in [chapter 13](#).



Revelation 11

8And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Oh the pain of being wrong ... again ... and again ... and again! This is a classic example of intelligent people being completely and rabidly illogical in the face of clear and visible proof contradicting their system of beliefs. It is demonstrated over and over throughout time. Finally notice that it is the “remnant” that are afraid and rightfully give glory to God. The seventh trumpet is sounded during this chapter.

As a quick recap of the battling parties, it appears that kingdom of islam (and perhaps other false religions of today) will wax strong during the first 3.5 yrs, and will attempt to eradicate the post rapture Christians (Jewish or Gentile). Likewise those of the humanist religion (though they consider themselves non-religious) will also persecute Christians. The interesting thing, however, is that there may also be conflict between each of these two groups as well. And it just may be that the beast tips the scale of popularity in favor of the humanists, all the while holding out an olive branch of peace to the islamists. On the next page is a tabular recap of what we’ve studied so far.

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

Activity\Rvn Trumpet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
angel/demon	Sounds trump	Sounds trump	Sounds trump. Wormwood	Sounds trump; Woe x 3	Sounds trump; opening of pit by Abaddon ; scorpion like form	Sounds trump; demons cast out of heaven; 4 Euphrates demons released	Declaration of God's reign on eath; Angel on land and sea; Pour 7 bowls
Anti-Christ/ False Prophet							Mortally wounded, but healed; Rise of kingdom ; False Prophet; image alive
satan						Cast out of heaven ; tries to kill woman	Empowers the Anti-Christ
unbelievers	suffering	suffering	suffering	suffering	Tormented with stings for 5 months; want to die!	Defiance	Raise army of 200 million; invoke mark of and worship for Anti-Christ
Cherubim							worship
Elders						Enoch and Elijah appear in Jerusalem	worship
Saved Jews	suffering	suffering	suffering	suffering	Safe from stings	Escape (as woman) to Jerusalem	
Earth	Hail, fire, blood. Trees/3 and grass killed	Meteor hits Atlantic killing sea life	Freshwater/3 contaminated following meteor strike	debris cloud over earth/3	Greenery reappears		

Exercise D

D1. Who is the demonic king of the bottomless pit?

- a) Appolos
- b) Mountbatten
- c) Abbados
- d) Alladin
- e) Abbadon

D2. Which of the following countries currently border or contain the Euphrates (MA)?

- a) Iraq
- b) Jordan
- c) Iran
- d) Saudi Arabia
- e) Lebanon

MSBC Bible Study 9-23 Eschatology Part I

- D3. For how long do the two witnesses prophesy in Jerusalem?
- a) 1260 yr
 - b) 365 day
 - c) 42 weeks
 - d) 3.5 yr
 - e) 1000 yr
- D4. Which of the following are possible candidates for the two witnesses (MA)?
- a) Enoch
 - b) Elisha
 - c) Moses
 - d) Jonah
 - e) Joshua
- D5. Who is the angel of the Mediterranean?
- a) the woman Israel
 - b) the Christ
 - c) the Prince of Persia
 - d) Aladdin
 - e) the angel of the Mediterranean
- D6. Where exactly is the bottomless pit?
- a) We don't really know
 - b) Babylon
 - c) San Francisco
 - d) a hole from pole to pole
- D7. What is the name of the demon polluting a third of the freshwater in trumpet 3?
- a) Abaddon
 - b) Satan
 - c) Marshwiggle
 - d) Wormwood
 - e) Wiggleworm
- D8. How could a third of the sun, moon and stars be darkened?
- a) They could just lose their luminosity
 - b) There could just be 16 hr days
 - c) a third of the earth could be covered by a blocking cloud
 - d) a third of them could just explode
- D9. What is the anti-Christ's first major act?
- a) Kill the two witnesses
 - b) make peace with the Islamic realm
 - c) Figure out a number to use
 - d) Develop technology for use on wrists and foreheads
- D10. Which of the following are capabilities listed of the two witnesses (MA)?
- a) turn water into blood
 - b) control TV signals
 - c) create black olives at will
 - d) Kill attackers with fire from their mouths