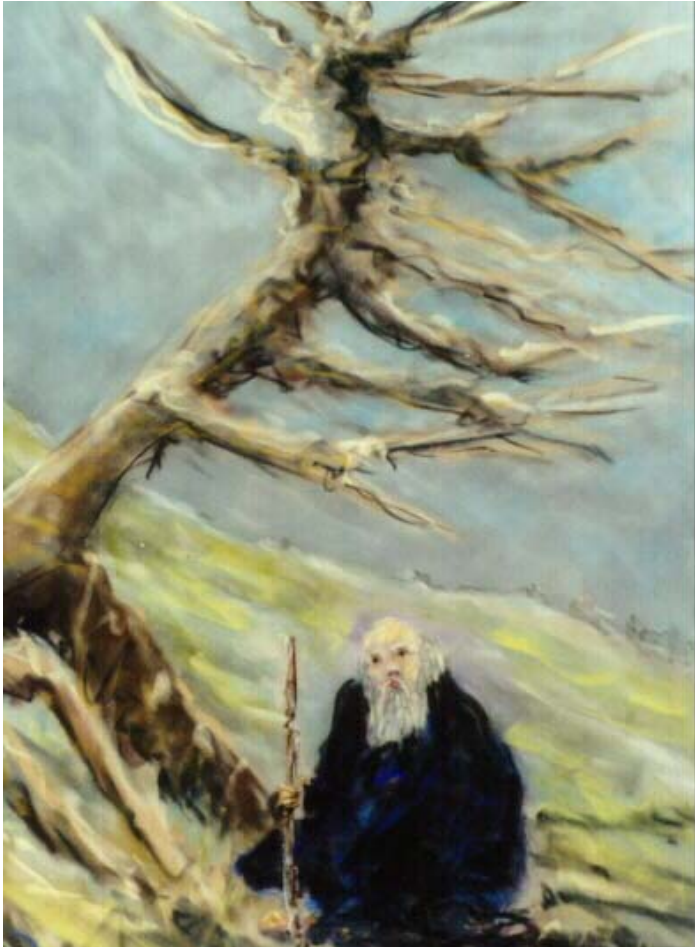


The Revelation Poems

(AN INTERPRETATION OF THE SEVEN SEALS)



John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

The Revelation Poems

(AN INTERPRETATION OF THE SEVEN SEALS)

WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED BY

Russell L. Smith

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Dedicated to:

MIZ ... PAH

FRONT COVER:
“The Price Of Wisdom”



Pastel by
Alexander Kaszas

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Morehead City, NC 28557

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Revelation 22:16-17

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

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(AN INTERPRETATION OF THE SEVEN SEALS)

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DISCLAIMER ALERT!

Revelation 22:18-21

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The Revelation Poems is an interpretation of the seven seals based on the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. It is the product of much inductive and deductive reasoning and is full of human error. In the final analysis, it is just the thoughts of the heart of one person, a feeble effort to understand and communicate God's Word --- i.e., to "Take, eat," and "Feed my sheep." The reader is reminded of 1 Thessalonians 5:21:

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.



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Genesis looks forward to **THE REVELATION** and **THE REVELATION** looks back to **Genesis**. It is the **Genesis** story that sets in motion the highly sensitive initial conditions that naturally and predictably evolve into the chaotic events of **THE REVELATION**. From the perspectives of both heaven and earth, **THE REVELATION** describes mankind's past, present, and future course --- including the conclusion of manmade chaos. Yet, the apparent chaos is very well patterned, being fully defined (Revelation 22:10) and fully limited by the ordered events which bound and increasingly bind it (Isaiah 55:11).

The Word of God is entirely "*lawful*" with lawful effects and predictable outcomes. The natural laws of the universe were established in the beginning (Genesis 1:1), before mankind, and *mankind can not break them*. Natural laws include all the forces of nature, which have natural and predictable operations on all natural events, which includes human behavior and thought, and all things and institutions "created" by human behavior and thought, from flags, churches, and money to governments, religions, and stock exchanges (Revelation 13).

The "Without form, and void" of Genesis 1:2 sounds much like "infinitely small" and "infinitely dense" — the nature of all things before they begin --- before the creation of the universe, or if you prefer, before the "big bang". And "darkness was upon the face of the deep" sounds much like the dark matter of the universe and the imagination of mankind — the "thick darkness" where God said He would dwell (Exodus 20:21; Deuteronomy 4:11; 5:22; I Kings 8:12; II Chronicles 6:1). The "without form, and void" of Jeremiah 4:23 certainly had a local interpretation but it also looks back to **Genesis** 1:2 and forward to the seven seals of **THE REVELATION**. In its full context, Jeremiah 4:23 reveals the natural consequences (Deuteronomy 32:20; Proverbs 1:27) of mankind's rejection of God's way and distortion of God's

words in favor of the violence and confusion of SELF-WORSHIP --- i.e., increasing cycles of chaos, concluding in **Destruction** and **Desolation** (Isaiah 24:12; 51:19; Lamentations 3:47; Jeremiah 25; Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 7:13; Romans 10:3-18; Philippians 3:19; I Thessalonians 5:3; I Timothy 6:9; II Peter 2:1-22; Jude 1:5).

Mankind's personal experience of chaos may begin or end at any point in time or space --- at any step or with any thought (or with the absence of any step or any thought). This is mankind's legacy and paradox from Eden. Enough is enough when enough is known and enough is never known till it's done — and the consequences of NOT can be known only if NOT is exactly what occurs. DOING or NOT doing is always the question and there are no other alternatives. OBEDIENCE in omission and commission creates and destroys BOTH risks and opportunities — and DISOBEDIENCE does the same --- all matters of values reflected in value judgments, the CHOICES of daily thought and behavior.

It is the images and words in the domain of the “thick darkness” of the imagination of mankind --- i.e., the thoughts of the heart, which are spirit not physical, that war to formulate intent and attribute value, creating and destroying who we are and who we are becoming, according to the sensitivities of our conscience, which we develop or NOT (John 2:21; 3:19-21; 9:39; 12:35-36; 14:17-21; 16:13-16; 20:29; Romans 2:15; 9:1; I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:17-20; II Corinthians 4:2-4; 6:16; Ephesians 2:21-22; Hebrews 9:14; Revelation 21:22).

Human Nature & Satan's Strategies:

The Creator established a perfect environment for mankind (Genesis 2:8) with great abundance and only one restriction on mankind's free will (Genesis 2:16-17). “Satan”, the personal name of the Devil, the dragon, the serpent in the garden (Revelation 12:9; 20:2), revealed his own motives and methods as he SUBTLY moved to influence mankind's FREEWILL and

CREATIVE IMAGINATION in order to shape mankind into his own IMAGE (John 8:44; II Corinthians 11:14).

Mankind was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:3) but Satan used his awesome knowledge of the natural laws of the universe and human nature to MOTIVATE mankind to act against God, thereby separating mankind from **knowledge of the holy** (i.e., understanding) and the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Satan used his great *wisdom and beauty* (Ezekiel 28:12-19) to deceive mankind, to LEAD mankind to MAKE CHOICES against God (Revelation 13:10), to believe his LIE (Genesis 3:4) instead of God's TRUTH --- i.e., to FOLLOW after the image of Satan instead of worshipping the Father. Satan SEDUCED mankind in order to steal mankind from the kingdom of God. He EXERCISED the thoughts of mankind's heart (Genesis 6:5) to become MANKIND'S GOD in his own earthly kingdom --- i.e., this current world system of things (II Corinthians 4:4).

Mankind and this world system are destined by Satan and human nature to DESOLATION and DESTRUCTION (Proverbs 1:21-33; Isaiah 24:12; 51:19; Lamentations 3:17) --- but the second coming of Jesus Christ will cut this process in its midst and terminate Satan's rule of mankind and his kingdom of DECEPTION & VIOLENCE (Revelation 11:18).

Why Eve?

Satan selected Eve as his target because he knew Adam would follow Eve's lead (Genesis 2:18). Adam had been alone before and it was "not good" (Genesis 2:18). (Notice that it is the woman who controls the beast at Revelation 17:3, and it is the beast that came up out of the earth that creates an image to the beast that rose up out of the sea in Revelation 13.) Through a single solicitous, non-threatening question (Genesis 3:1 "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the

woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”), Satan effectively FOCUSED and CONCENTRATED Eve’s attention on the only forbidden fruit in the garden, simultaneously MAGNIFYING God’s role as restricting mankind’s freedom of choice. Satan effectively laid the groundwork for both *attacking God’s motives* and *enticing Eve’s self-esteem*.

Instead of answering Satan’s loaded question with a simple “Yea” (Matthew 5:37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.), Eve apparently added to God’s words at Genesis 3:3 “neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” At this point, Satan KNEW Eve was putting words in God’s mouth (as self-deceivers and liars are inclined to do), and that Eve was FOLLOWING HIS LEAD. Now Satan was emboldened to directly contradict God’s words, essentially calling God a liar (Genesis 3:4 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”).

Satan had to offer Eve a powerful rationale to motivate her to join him in acting against God, motivating her to believe that God was a liar and deceiver of mankind. Satan did so in a twofold manner, by accusing God of selfishly keeping the fruit of the best tree in the garden for himself while keeping mankind as ignorant slaves in His garden. Satan made it threefold by promising Eve that this very delicious fruit would open her eyes and she would be as God, free to exercise her will and imagination independent of God’s restrictive interference --- unlimited knowledge and power, endless pleasure and complete freedom of choice, all available ***IMMEDIATELY through a single, simple act!***

Satan had indeed effectively applied his knowledge of the laws of the universe and basic human nature to create, concentrate, and intensify Eve’s resentment and envy of God --- to DEIFY her self-serving DESIRE for unrestricted freedom of choice,

freedom of experience, and unlimited wisdom --- to be God-free and yet to be God-like, “unnamed and unnamable”--- to be SELF-God, *which is exactly what Satan desires* (Matthew 4:9; Luke 4:7). Like a lamb to the slaughter, Eve was cognitively seduced into following his lead instead of God’s, seduced into “*changing*” mankind into Satan’s IMAGE (Revelation 13:18) instead of God’s (Genesis 1:26-27; II Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15; Revelation 15:2; 20:4).

At this point, all Satan had to do was let human nature run its natural course (Genesis 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”). Subtle Satan had effectively allied himself with mankind against God by planting evil seeds in fertile ground --- i.e., a mind void of understanding and overly open to suggestion --- which becomes increasingly furtive ground for the one who subtilty cultivates it.

Satan REDEFINED mankind’s freewill in terms of power and control in order to actively reinforce thoughts, emotions, and behavior oppositional to the authority of God, the Creator. And he called the truth a lie and a lie the truth, creating images in the imagination of mankind full of mysterious pleasures, immediate satisfaction, easy gains, and secret wisdom, all based on undue SELF-ESTEEM --- i.e., the pride of self-worship.

Filled with anticipatory excitement, Eve’s body was increasingly prepared to fulfill her imagination, which Satan had exercised and captured. Yet, in the final analysis, Satan simply used WORDS to influence mankind’s thoughts and CHOICES. *Exactly as he attempted to do to Jesus in the wilderness* (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13). There was deception, but no force was involved. In a simple, very clear,

two-alternative, forced-choice situation, mankind chose to reject God's way of the Spirit and the Tree Of Life and chose to follow Satan's way of the flesh to Death.

The Purpose of THE REVELATION:

THE REVELATION is designed to teach the way back to the center of the garden east of Eden, to the Tree of Life, the way lead by Jesus Christ who said "Follow me", "Take, eat" and "Feed my sheep" --- all written DECREES encapsulated in the single word "**COME**", which is still A WORD FITLY SPOKEN (Proverbs 25:11) to all upon the earth who have **ears to hear** --- spoken at the opening of each of the first four seals (Revelation 6:1,3,5, 7) and three times at Revelation 22:17:

Revelation 6:1 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.

Revelation 6:3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

Revelation 6:5 And 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.

Revelation 6:7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

Revelation 22:17 **And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

Created in the image of the Creator but choosing Satan's word and way instead of God's, mankind is faced with the blessing and curse of "self-creation" --- i.e., shaping their own beliefs, values, emotions, desires, and behavior based on direct experience, observation, and exercising their own dark imaginations. In a very literal sense, we each are creating our own soul, the conscience that governs the thoughts of our heart in the domain of our imagination. We are indeed gods in the kingdom of our own imaginations ... and our thoughts have real, measurable, physiological properties with real consequences. How we exercise our brain in thought determines who we are and who we are becoming. How a person integrates their external and internal realities has profound implications for their physical and mental well-being, but these pale in comparison to the implications of creating one's own soul. Seeking and following after the Word of God literally creates associative links and pathways in the brain, **the fiery pathways of the Spirit** which lead the way back to the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God.

All things, including humans, are defined relative to God (Genesis 1:26-27; Hebrews 1:1-4; Revelation 4:2). In a very literal manner of speaking, **THE REVELATION** speaks to "the mind" of mankind, stimulating the neural pathways and building networks of association that allow for communion spirit to Spirit. Mankind is **created in the Creator's image**, and the design and function of the human brain is planned and fully consistent with the physical properties of the universe in which it develops and exists --- it is the nature of things. Even the four beasts of Revelation 4:7 correspond to the physical nature of the universe and the nature of mankind within the universe. Mankind is born into a universe of laws which can not be broken by mankind, nor can they be fully conceptualized or measured by mankind for they reflect the nature of the Creator --- as does mankind. But mankind does have an opportunity (II Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; Revelation 6:11) to develop in a balanced and integrative

manner, stimulating and building **GOOD** generative neural networks while “extinguishing” **EVIL** degenerative neural networks. **THE REVELATION** contains the words of Jesus Christ as delivered to his friend and servant, John. It is designed to mark his followers --- i.e., to “seal” his sheep in their foreheads (Revelation 1:1-3; 7:2-3; 9:4; 14:1; 22:4) in much the same manner as spoken of at Deuteronomy 6:8; 11:18 and at Ezekiel 9:4. Which is in direct contrast to Satan’s mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16; 14:9; 20:4). **THE REVELATION** is designed to “enlighten”.

But, it is a **spiritually blind** and **spiritually deaf** mankind that must find its way back to the center of the garden to eat of the tree of life. Mankind is cut off from direct knowledge of the holy. In the beginning there was one tree in the midst of the garden to be avoided, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In the end there is one tree in the midst of the garden to be approached, the Tree Of Life. In the beginning there were many paths to LIFE and only one path to DEATH. In the end there are many paths to DEATH and only one path to LIFE. In the beginning the reality of God was known by felt experience and His voice was heard. In the end He must be found.

THREE CONSECUTIVE WITNESSES

THE REVELATION is the last book in the King James Version of the Bible. It is a symbolic mystery of the Spirit designed to be studied and understood. “Understanding” is knowledge of the holy and **THE REVELATION** is most holy. It is the words of the resurrected and ascended Jesus Christ. **THE REVELATION** is the written testimony Jesus had in mind when he answered Peter concerning why John was following after them:

John 21:22-25 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

While in exile on the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9), John was “in the Spirit on the Lord’s day” and he heard a great voice as the sound of a trumpet BEHIND him (Revelation 1:10). When he turned to see the voice, he saw the vision of Revelation 1:12-16, which was a manifestation of the nature and character of Jesus Christ. Note in Revelation 1:1 that “he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John” --- a lucid and real event as experienced by John --- “signified”

to John by the Holy Spirit, who is now Jesus' angel or MESSENGER according to the will of the Father.

Revelation 1:1-3 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: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed 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.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:13-15 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

John's vision on Patmos (Revelation 1:9) was possible because John had "faithfully" studied the scriptures prior to the birth of Jesus (**the Word of God**), was a "faithful" disciple/friend of Jesus who was especially privy to Jesus' most intimate thoughts and important occasions (Matthew 10:2; 17:1; Mark 13:3; 14:33; Luke 8:51; 22:8; John 13:23; 18:16; 20:4; 21:20), which was essential for his witness of the Word of God in the flesh (**the testimony of Jesus Christ**). And it was John who received testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1) after his resurrection from the dead and ascension (**the witness of the**

Holy Spirit --- John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13; 16:25). John was privileged to be a witness of the THREE CONSECUTIVE WITNESSES of God (the “holy, holy, holy” of Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8), which are testimonies against the world and mankind (the “woe, woe, woe” of Revelation 8:13).

God always follows and keeps his own Word ... **for His Name’s sake** ...

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Hebrews 6:16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 10:28-31 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be

thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

1John 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

John 16:28 **I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.**

- ☑ His **FIRST WITNESS** was and is the Law and the prophets, which was until John the Baptist:

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

- ☑ His **SECOND WITNESS** was and is the testimony of Jesus Christ, the Word in the world in the flesh:

John 8:17-18 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

- ☑ His **THIRD WITNESS** was and is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the testimony of the Comforter, the Word in pure Spirit in the world:

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Three CONSISTENT, CONSECUTIVE, CUMULATIVE (Matthew 5:17) witnesses in the same sense as II Corinthians 13:1:

This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

The Old Testament law was national and external, focusing on **overt behavior**, with observable and measurable criteria for compliance and noncompliance, readily lending itself to application by men of good will. In marked contrast, the testimony of Jesus Christ was personal and internal, focusing on **covert behavior**, with private criteria for compliance and noncompliance, making each man his own judge, fully accountable for his emotions as well as behavior, with anger being equated with murder and every desire (soul) with its act of fruition. Man's relationship to God was changed forever and personal responsibility and accountability greatly expanded and intensified. Now the reins of the thoughts of the heart (the spirit) are truly tried (Matthew chapters 5-7).

THE REVELATION expands and intensifies the testimony of Jesus Christ to fill and convict the whole world, ultimately bringing it into the kingdom of God, as Satan is systematically and progressively excluded, eventually being cast into the lake of fire along with the beast and false prophet:

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the

beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

That is the current work of creation and why the followers of Christ are made kings and priests (Revelation 1:6; 5:10). Each individual is invited to feast on the "knowledge of the holy" and to participate in the kingdom and will of the Father.

THE WRITTEN WORDS OF GOD ARE DECREED:

Due to the nature of mankind, the Word of God is always carried forward in time in written form, figuratively "lifted up on holy wings" for future generations to SEE and HEAR in order to "Follow me", "Take, eat", and "Feed my sheep" --- to "Come" back to the paradise of God, to the Tree Of Life in the midst of the garden (Genesis 3:24), through the gates of New Jerusalem (Isaiah 65:17-18; Zechariah 2:5; Matthew 7:14; Revelation 22:14).

The keys to understanding **THE REVELATION** are presented throughout the Holy Scriptures ... the same basic patterns are presented again, again, and again ... to awaken spiritual eyes to the images of God and spiritual ears to His Word. God has always made His way clear --- and His way is good for His creation, including mankind. It is mankind that rejected the Word of God. It is mankind that crucified the Son of God. It is mankind that now mocks His Holy Spirit. Human nature has not changed since **Genesis** ... the laws of nature have not changed ... the physical laws of the universe have not changed ... and God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow (Hebrew 13:8; Revelation 1:8):

1) the Word of God (written in the Old Testament law and the prophets):

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle

shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

2) the testimony of Jesus Christ (written in the Gospels):

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

3) the Holy Spirit (written in the epistles and **THE REVELATION**):

Revelation 1:11 Saying, 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.

These first two witnesses are clearly and repeatedly mentioned together throughout **THE REVELATION** --- i.e., the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ (e.g. Revelation 1:2; 1:9; 12:17; 14:12; 15:3; 20:4). “They” are also the two olive trees of Zechariah 4 and the “my two witnesses” of Revelation 11:3-4, which for all apparent purposes are lying dead and abused in the street at Revelation 11:8. Spiritually deaf and blind, “dead bodies” which mankind USES but will not suffer to be buried. Lifeless, empty bodies ... headless cadavers --- i.e., the synagogue without the Word of God, and the church, ***the body of Christ*** (Ephesians 4:15; 5:23), ***without the head*** (i.e., Christ) --- because THE WHOLE WORLD IS DECEIVED (Revelation 12:9; 18:23). And Mercy and Truth can not be received nor given --- neither heard nor seen nor followed nor taught --- without knowledge of the holy (Deuteronomy 29:4; Psalms 115; Proverbs 9:10; Isaiah 6:10;

Jeremiah 5:21; Matthew 13:11-15; Mark 4:11-12; Luke 8:10; John 8:43; Romans 11:8). The general situation of mankind is well summarized at Isaiah 29:11-12:

And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

In completing “the testimony of Jesus Christ”, on his way to the cross at Calvary (Luke 23:28-31), Jesus cautioned those following him:

But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

The first two witnesses correspond to the old and new covenants (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrew 8:6-12), the Old and New Testaments --- i.e., the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Notice at Revelation 11:1-2 that John is given a golden reed and told to **MEASURE** the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein, but **NOT TO MEASURE** the court which is without the temple ... for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they **TREAD UNDER FOOT** (Isaiah 5:5; Jeremiah 12:10-11; Lamentations 1:15-17; Daniel 8:13; Micah 7:1-10; Luke 8:5; Luke 21:24) forty and two months (Revelation 11:2; 13:5) --- which is a thousand two hundred and threescore days (Revelation 12:6), three and a

half years (Daniel 9:24-27; 12:11), and the a time, times and a half (Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 12:14). But in the end, ***the world is judged according to its treading of the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the witness of the Holy Spirit*** (Isaiah 63:3-19; Revelation 14:19-20; 19:15).

God IS the habitation of His people and “My people” ARE the temple of God (Psalms 91; Psalms 107; Psalms 132; Proverbs 3:32-33; Isaiah 33:20; Matthew 6:5-6; I Corinthians 3:16-17; II Corinthians 6:16). Just as New Jerusalem is a city of truth (Zechariah 8:3; Revelation 21:27; 22:15) founded on faith, the temple of God on earth is a spiritual temple in the minds of mankind (John 4:24; Philippians 3:3), the pattern of the temple of God that is presented in Revelation 4 and “opened” at Revelation 11:19. And, it is the reins of the thoughts of each heart that is currently being measured (Genesis 6:5; I Chronicles 28:9; I Chronicles 29:18; Psalms 26:2; 33:11-15; 44:21; 139:23; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 17:10; 20:12; 23:1-40; Daniel 2:28-30; Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 4:22-23; 7:1-23; Luke 8:17-18; Romans 2:16; Hebrews 4:12).

The third witness is hard and fast at work during this present time of witnessing. And the third witness is entirely consistent with the first two witnesses. And it is the third witness that is now measuring all who worship God the Father (Exodus 34:14; Psalms 81:9; Psalms 99; Daniel 3:28; Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8; John 21:19; Romans 15:6; Revelation 14:7; 19:10; 22:9), in His temple, at His altar (Revelation 11:1; 15:2), according to His Word (Revelation 19:13). It is also the third witness that is, figuratively speaking, “gathering evidence” against all of mankind who are oppositional to the TRUTH --- i.e., the evidence is testimony ***against the wicked and their father Satan***, who is a LIAR and MURDERER from the beginning (John 8:44; I John 1:10; 2:4; 2:22; 4:20; 5:10-15; Revelation 13:16-18; 14:9-11; 16:2; 19:20).

Jesus judges and makes war in righteousness (Revelation 19:11) and in the present world-system SPIRITUAL WARFARE is being waged to judge the world (Matthew 10:34), all flesh and every spirit in it, which includes Satan, the Devil (Ephesians 6:11-12). *The world will be judged according to the judgments made by the world* concerning God's witnesses (Joshua 2:4; Matthew 5:10; 10:18; Mark 6:11; 13:9; Luke 9:5; 21:12; I Thessalonians 4:6; II Timothy 1:8).

The world is in Satan's power (Job 1:6-7; Zechariah 3:1; Matthew 4:2-11; Mark 1:13; 4:15; Luke 4:2-14; 10:18-20; Luke 13:6; 22:3; 22:31; John 13:27; Acts 5:3; 26:18; Romans 16:20; I Corinthians 5:5; 7:5; II Corinthians 2:11; 11:14; 12:7; I Thessalonians 2:18; II Thessalonians 2:7-12; I Timothy 1:20; 5:15; Revelation 2:9; 2:13; 2:24; 3:9; 12:9; 20:2; 20:7). And the world is on a very human course of "self destruction" ... under governments (Revelation 13:1) and religious systems (Revelation 13:11) created by mankind (Revelation 13:18), in the image of Satan.

The Third Witness:

The WISDOM, JUSTICE, JUDGMENT, AND EQUITY (Proverbs 1:3) of God can only be learned through God's messengers, His witnesses. Worshipping the Father is learning and doing His will --- i.e., being drawn to the Father --- by believing and following the testimony given by His messengers, the witnesses which testify of Him, which includes the truth and testimony of the third witness (John 5:38; Galatians 5:5; I John 5:10-12; Revelation 22:16).

His THIRD witness is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, or Comforter, which is currently at work to fulfill the third woe and THIRD TESTIMONY AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF SATAN AND FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD ...

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with

you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Hebrews 10:15-17 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

The completion of the third testimony marks the second coming of Christ --- i.e. when the testimony of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled. The SECOND COMING of Jesus Christ IS THE THIRD WOE for mankind! All three witnesses are encapsulated in the one scene of Revelation 19:11-16 (see below), which is a scene of the second coming. It is Jesus who was the "Faithful and True" witness (Revelation 3:14; 22:6)

who opened the seven seals (Revelation 1:5; 3:14; 5:6). His name is called "The Word of God" (John 1:1; Revelation 19:13) ... in righteousness he doth judge and make war (Matthew 3:15; Revelation 6:2; 19:8) ... "out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword" --- the only weapon Jesus used against Satan, the devil, in the wilderness at (Matthew 4:1-11). The same weapon is today available to his army, his followers, a cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 4:12; 12:1; Revelation 10:8-11) on white horses (Revelation 6:2) dressed in fine linen, white and clean (Psalms 132:9; Revelation 6:11; 7:14; 19:8).

It is Jesus that will destroy those destroying the earth and it is Jesus that "treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Jeremiah 10:10; John 3:36; Romans 1:18-21; 9:22-24; Revelation 6:16; 11:18; 14:9-19):

Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (see Genesis 14:18; Psalms 110:4; Revelation 1:6; 5:10)

From his birth to his death, Jesus was the Faithful and True witness (Revelation 3:14; 19:11; 21:5; 22:6), being the expressed image of his Father (II Corinthians 4:4; Colossians

1:15; Hebrew 1:3), reflecting His Father's will rather than his own. Jesus was the messenger of his Father, speaking by commandment only the words given to him to speak by the Father (John 12:49; John 14:10). Now, the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of the Father (Matthew 10:20; Mark 13:11) is "the messenger" of Jesus Christ (John 16:13; Revelation 1:1), giving understanding of **THE REVELATION** of Jesus Christ to all who have **ears to hear** (Matthew 13:9-17).

Those who follow after Jesus Christ are, in their own due time according to their individual circumstance, progressively conformed to his image and purpose (Romans 8:29; II Corinthians 3:18; 5:17; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10) through the sevenfold operation of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:4-13; Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6).

It is this Holy Spirit that speaks to the seven angels of the seven churches (Revelation 1:20), but the words spoken are the words of the resurrected and ascended Jesus Christ (John 15:26-27; 16:13; Revelation 1:1). This is the same as the Holy Spirit of the Father that descended, lighting as a dove on Jesus (Matthew 3:16), and was poured out on mankind on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

Acts 2:3: And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. In addition to the following reference from Hebrews, consider the texts and contexts of Exodus 24:17; Deuteronomy 5:26; I Kings 18:24; II Kings 6:17; Daniel 10:6; Revelation 1:14; 2:18; 3:18; 19:12.

Hebrews 1:1-7 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his

power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

Peter clearly testified that **the events of Pentecost fulfilled the prophesy of Joel 2:28-32** (see below). Peter concluded his Pentecostal speech by asserting that the people had not only rejected Jesus as king of the kingdom of God, just as God was rejected as king of Israel (I Samuel chapter 8), but they had murdered the Son of God, who is now sitting on the right hand of the Father, both Lord and Christ:

ACT 2:14-26 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy

footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Joel 2:28-32 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

RATIONALE AND OVERVIEW

It is no accident that Satan's threefold strategy for tempting Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13) is the same strategy he used in Eden to separate mankind from God (Genesis 3). It is no accident that Satan's threefold strategy corresponds to the three core tendencies of pathological character development profiled by Solomon in Proverbs --- i.e., the SIMPLE, the SCORNER, and the FOOLISH (e.g., Proverbs 1:22). It is no accident that there are three corresponding preparations of the heart (ground) presented in detail in the "*parable of parables*" --- i.e., the parable of the sower. It is no accident that the "Holy, holy, holy," of God (Revelation 4:8) corresponds to the "Woe, woe, woe," of the inhabitants of the earth (Revelation 8:13). It is no accident that it is in the mouth of two or three witnesses that all things are established (Deuteronomy 19:15). And, it is no accident that the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the witness of the Holy Spirit consecutively and progressively convict the world.

The "**dark sayings**" (Numbers 12:8; Psalms 49:4; Psalms 78:2; Proverbs 1:6; Daniel 8:23; Matthew 13:34-35; Mark 4:33-34) of **THE REVELATION** of Jesus Christ can not be understood or much appreciated by the world because **THE REVELATION** is a grand parable (Matthew 13:34), the words of Jesus Christ, which are always fitly spoken (Proverbs 25:11; John 6:63), Spirit to spirit (Revelation 1:1; 1:10; 22:17), which the world can not receive because the world is spiritually dead (Genesis 2:17; John 14:17).

Yet, those who dismiss **THE REVELATION** as too complex or too symbolic or too mystical to understand disesteem the

Word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. And, those who hate the jealous and vengeful God of the Old Testament but love the forgiving and merciful “Sweet Jesus” of the New Testament do not understand that God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow (II Thessalonians 1:6-10; Hebrews 13:8; Jude 1:14-16; Revelation 11:18; 19:15). They follow after a “new Jesus” (Matthew 24:5), a conceptual idol created by the imagination of mankind, denying the Father and His three consecutive witnesses to mankind --- i.e., the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit --- which are fully congruent but progressive and cumulative with respect to testimony and outcomes.

When he was in the world, Jesus Christ was "seen" but not perceived as the Son of God, and his words were “heard” but not understood, because the eyes of mankind are blind to the Light and open to the darkness (Genesis 3:7; John 1:5; 3:19; Revelation 5:3-4). Similarly, the ears of mankind are deaf to the Truth and open to the lie (Genesis 3:4; John 8:42-47).

Mankind follows after the image of mankind (Revelation 13:18), esteeming their SELVES as gods, and defining what "feels good" as GOOD and what "feels bad" as EVIL, following after their own image in worship of their father, Satan (Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 21:25; Jeremiah 9:12-16; Daniel 11:36-39; John 8:42-47; Jude; Revelation 13:8).

A Note About The Image Of The Beast and the 666:

Chapter 13 of **THE REVELATION** is an overview of world events under Satan’s influence and mankind’s rule. The beast rising out of the sea (Revelation 13:1-8), corresponds to the nature of MAN, which is manifested in the *force and violence* of the nations. The beast coming out of the earth (Revelation 13:11-14), corresponds to the nature of WOMAN, which is manifested in the *lies and deception* of false religions. It is the second beast, the WOMAN, that *created an image* to the first beast, the MAN (Revelation 13:14), and it is this image that

relates to the mark of the beast --- i.e., the offspring of the MAN and the WOMAN, which is **MANKIND** without God. The Antichrist (I John 2:18-24; 4:3; II John 1:7) is simply a final reflection of the nature of MAN and WOMAN --- i.e., the nature of MANKIND without God. The final Antichrist (Daniel 11:36-39; II Thessalonians 2:3-4) comes to power by the will of the people, the same will demonstrated in Eden by Adam and Eve when they followed after Satan's image --- SELF-WORSHIP --- following after their own image instead of God --- creating a new Christ in the image of mankind:

Revelation 13:15-18 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. And he 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. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The number of his name --- i.e., the number of the beast which rose up out of the sea --- is the number of a man ... i.e., the value one places on their SELF (Daniel 5:27) at the expense of others, contrary to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The "Six hundred threescore and six" or 666 (Revelation 13:18) is the wages of tribute paid to Solomon each year by the nations (I Kings 10:14 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,) --- a "talent" is a unit of weight, equal to 3000 shekels, 60 minas, or approximately 75 pounds. Approximately speaking ... 666 talents of gold = 49950

pounds, divided by 360 days = 138.75 pounds, Solomon's approximate daily weight in gold for one year. This king's wages were based on his *weight in gold each day ... his daily wages ... tribute from the nations.*

King Solomon, is noted for his wisdom (I Kings 3:5-14; 4:29-34; 10:6-9), but it was Solomon who **brought all of the false religions of the nations into Israel** (I Kings 11:1-13) and **violated all the laws of God related to kings** (Deuteronomy 17:14-20), which resulted in the destruction of Israel as a unified nation. In spite of his great power and wisdom, Solomon *followed after his own eyes*, his own desires, DISESTEEMING GOD AND ESTEEMING HIS OWN SELF --- *this is the mark of the beast* in the right hand (what one does --- overt behavior) or the forehead (what one thinks --- covert behavior). Figuratively speaking, each person has a mark identifying them as followers of Satan or God. Which mark they have is determined by the degree to which they engage in SELF-WORSHIP or follow after “the golden rule”. Where one leads --- i.e., by influencing, motivating, teaching, shaping the behavior of others --- and, the methods one uses make it clear whose image or seal one bears:

Revelation 13:9-10 If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Now, BY NATURE, mankind is driven to diminish uncertainty and to seek control. This core aspect of human nature is expressed through the interaction of the clarifying and mutually exclusive cognitive processes of GENERALIZATION (similarities) and DISCRIMINATION (differences) — the “**I AM ... NOT**” of one’s SELF-concept, which governs motivation, expectation, and behavior. Add the natural **desire** to increase pleasure/comfort **AND** decrease

pain/discomfort and you have the essence of human nature which Satan effectively exploited in Eden (Genesis 3:1-24).

But, the flesh of this world system has nothing to do with the Spirit or kingdom of God (John 3:6). God is Spirit and the words of the testimony of Jesus Christ are spirit (John 3:34; 6:63). And, in these latter days, the mystery of **THE REVELATION** is understood as a witness through the Holy Spirit which is **daily** poured out to mankind (Proverbs 1:23; Acts 2:16-21).

THE REVELATION presents simple, self-evident, oft repeated core truths about human nature, the nature of the world, and the nature of the kingdom of God. No human knows the mind of God but God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33), and He keeps His own Word (John 4:23-24; 14:4-17:26), and **FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE**, God is bound by His own Word. Though sealed to the world (Isaiah 29:10-24), the dark sayings of **THE REVELATION** are opened at the time of the end (Daniel 12:9) to all who “Follow me” and “Take, eat” and “Feed my sheep” (John 6:27; Ephesians 1:13; Revelation 5:5; Revelation chapter 6; 8:1; 22:10).

Revelation 22:16-17 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

THE REVELATION is concerned with both personal and interpersonal value systems, from family values to the values of the market place and public opinion, and ultimately to the seats and courts of our justice and judgment. Wherever we

spend our time and attention and strength and desire. It is individuals that fill the seats and courts and gather in the market place at the gates of the city. It is individuals that make the choices that constitute our social order and the form of our government. Each student and teacher must literally “*pay attention*” to **SEE** the patterns and know the way to follow and lead.

It is each "living soul" (Genesis 2:7; I Corinthians 15:45; Revelation 16:3) that creates their own **WELL TRODDEN PATHS** and neural networks. Each LOT in life is different but the human nature is the same. No one else can live one's life, and one can not not make choices.

For GOOD or EVIL, we have a hand in **creating** our own personalities, **shaping our selves**. It is this hand which holds the reins of our hearts and shapes our souls, the fiery pathways of our cognitive lives — and it is this hand for which we are **personally accountable** and can cast no blame. This is the beauty and power of creation. The essence of life and living is defined in terms of the ever changing self, which in turn is defined in terms of the tensions and energies generated by our controlling or being controlled by our own primary core tendencies. **Regardless of our lot in life**, it is we that are the potters and the clay, shaping the nature of our selves by the choices we make in thought, word, and deed.

The same event will always be perceived differently by each individual, and **markedly so by those following after God's way and those opposing it** (Exodus 14:19-20). For example, the marriage supper of the lamb (Revelation 19:7-9) is the same event as the supper of the great God --- i.e., the second coming of Christ is at the world's Armageddon (Revelation 16:16; 19:15-21). And, what is GOOD (“Holy, holy, holy” --- Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8) to God who is Spirit is EVIL (“Woe, woe, woe” --- Revelation 8:13) to mankind which is

flesh, and to Satan and his demons. What is EVIL (abomination) to God who is Spirit is GOOD (desirable) to the world which is of the flesh. This is the price of mankind's eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil --- i.e., having to learn what is GOOD and EVIL by direct experience, observation, instruction, and exercising the darkness of separate imaginations --- with all the process and results being distorted by the inherent flaws of human nature (Proverbs 1:22; Jude verse 11).

Mankind making value judgments without higher order counsel and guidance is self-destructive due to mankind's basic nature. Mankind inevitably translates GOOD into EVIL and EVIL into GOOD, and thus **God into Satan and Satan into God**; doing what's right in one's own eyes, what "feels good", following after one's own heart (Judges 21:25), being "open minded" and enabling EVIL as the virtue of "being forgiving" --- being **politically correct**, being highly sensitive to "**victimization**" --- Jesus spoke well of human nature at John 16:2-3:

They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Only Two Kingdoms:

In the final analysis, there are only two kingdoms: the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. We are all in one or the other. Not making a choice between these two is not an option, it is a rejection of the Word of God, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit of the Father, which is now sent to mankind through the resurrected and ascended Son, Jesus Christ who is **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS** (I Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16).

THE REVELATION is a *book about a book* (Revelation 5:1), a book of ancient history and end time prophesy written by commandment (Revelation 1:11) concerning the most holy will and nature of God the Father as a formal witness and testimony against the world on behalf of “the sheep” who follow after the good shepherd, Jesus Christ (John 10:7-18).

THE REVELATION was written to be increasingly understood at the time of the end (Revelation 1:1-3; 1:10-11; 1:19).

Written by John (Revelation 1:1), **THE REVELATION** reveals how Jesus Christ "earned" (Revelation 5:5) the right to look upon, open the seven seals, and share (Revelation 10:9-11) the contents of the book which was in the Father's right hand (Revelation 5:1) with all who desire to follow him in doing the will and work of his Father (John 4:34). The "little book" in the Father's right hand, which Jesus Christ now shares with his followers, reveals OUR FATHER'S will and instructs **His children** (Matthew 5:9; Luke 20:36; John 11:52; Romans 8:16-23; 9:8; Galatians 3:26; I John 3:10; 5:2) how to continue the work of His only begotten Son (John 1:14-18; 3:16-18; Hebrews 11:17; I John 4:9).

Each of the seven messages to the seven angels of the seven churches of **THE REVELATION** ends with: "**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches** ..." (Revelation 2:7; Revelation 2:11; Revelation 2:17; Revelation 2:29; Revelation 3:6; Revelation 3:13; Revelation 3:22). Jesus used the same admonition and encouragement many times when he walked the earth as the Son of man and the only begotten Son of God (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:18; 13:43; 15:10; Mark 4:9; 4:23; 4:33; 7:16; Luke 8:8; 14:35; John 5:25; and many others).

The will of the Father and His nature and His purpose for mankind --- is the fulfillment of His Word, the conclusion of the testimony of the ark of the covenant --- as "revealed" in the opening of the seven seals (Revelation 6:1-17 plus Revelation 8:1). The most holy words and images of the seven seals are further "**translated**" in the seven messages to the seven angels of the seven churches (Revelation chapters 2 and 3). **ANGELS ARE MESSENGERS**, as are all who "**carry**" the Word of God (Exodus 13:18) and the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:2). The seven messages are sent to the **INDIVIDUAL** members of the body of Christ (II Peter 1:20) in order to lead each of his followers to New Jerusalem and the Tree Of Life in the midst of the garden of God (Revelation 22:14).

Each of the seven messages is to be "heard" as the voice of the Master (i.e., understood) and "kept" (i.e., followed) by the individual members of his body, the church (Ephesians 5:23). But, in these latter days, **the whole world is deceived** (Revelation 12:9) and **Christianity is following after a false Jesus created by mankind in mankind's image** (Revelation 13:18; 14:18; 16:19; chapters 17 and 18). And mankind calls GOOD evil and EVIL good, denying and blaspheming the Holy Spirit **exactly** as it did the law and the prophets until John the Baptist (i.e., the Word of God) and the Son of God in the flesh, Jesus Christ (i.e., the testimony of Jesus Christ). But, **the world can neither crucify nor lay hands on the Holy Spirit.**

The Father's book (Revelation 5:1) includes the thoughts of His heart (Psalms 33:11; Jeremiah 23:20), His desire and delight --- and, His purpose for mankind. It is to be **consumed** (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; I Corinthians 11:24-34; Revelation 10:1-11), and increasingly understood by all who are **drawn to the truth** and **called** to the marriage supper (Matthew 22:1-14; I Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 19:9) It is sweet (Revelation 3:20) and bitter (Luke 17:7-10), full of both

blessings and curses, both old and new (Deuteronomy 11:26; 29:19-20; Matthew 4:4; 13:52; II Timothy 3:16). God will surely nourish any seed of His son, even in the increasingly desolate wilderness of the imagination of mankind in this time of the end (Matthew 13:37-39; Revelation 12:14; 12:17).

The “seven churches which are in Asia” (Revelation 1:4) represent the state and nature of the so-called “people of God” and “body of Christ” at the time of the end. The tares and the wheat are thoroughly mixed (Matthew 13:24) and the tares have the power and control in this system (Revelation 13:2 and 13:12). This is the usual and end-state of human governments and religions, both of Jews and of Christians ... and of Muslims --- all are products of this earthly system and human nature, things under Satan’s rule apart from God. After all is said and done, “God’s chosen people” are only human (Ecclesiastes 3:18), and none are righteous (Isaiah 41:26-29; Romans 3:10-18; 7:13-25).

The seven churches represent the professed “body of Christ” at the time of the end, when “the church” is **full of error, heresy, and apostasy**, in **EXACTLY** the same manner and sense as the house of Israel (Numbers 32:13-14; I Kings 11:1-13; Jeremiah 10:6-8; 14:10-12; Ezekiel 23:29-30; Daniel 4:15-17; Amos 5:4-8; Matthew 16:12; John 18:23; 16:32; Romans 1:18-21).

But, “the church” consists of individual members. The seven churches also represent each individual member of the body of Christ and their personal developmental history! The seven churches profile the developmental history of Christianity ***AND the developmental processes that individual Christians must struggle with throughout their lives until death, just as Jesus did.***

Additionally, the seven seals and the seven messages to the angles of the seven churches profile the developmental history

of **mankind's relationship with God**, not only for all aspects of Christian life, but for all mankind from Genesis to Revelation ... the beginning to the end. ***It is human nature that predicts the course of events that was set in Eden*** (II Timothy 1:15; 3:1-7; 4:3-4; II Peter Chapter 2; II Peter 3:3; Jude verse 4; Jude verses 17-19; Luke 23:31; Revelation 18:4).

Yet, **God is bound by His own word** and will not leave his people powerless (Genesis 28:15; Leviticus 23:22; Job 26:2; I Kings 8:57-61; Psalm 16:10; 17:14-15; 37:33-34; Jeremiah 46:28; Ezekiel 6:8-10; 12:16; Zephaniah 3:12-20; Malachi 4:1-6; John 14:18-21; 14:27-31; Acts 1:8; 2:27; Hebrews 13:5; Revelation 11:12.).

Figuratively speaking, Peter used "**the keys to the kingdom**" (Matthew 16:19) to open "**the door in heaven**" (Revelation 4:1), first for the Jews at Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and then for the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44). Between the events of Pentecost and those at the house of Cornelius, believing Jews also required the "laying on of hands" (e.g., Acts 8:17) in order to receive the Holy Spirit. After the door was opened to the Gentiles, the **hearing** of the Truth by a faithful ear was all that was required for baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:15-18; Romans 10:17).

Also figuratively speaking, baptism with the Holy Spirit represents Spiritual conception (John 3:1-21). The nourishing of the woman in the wilderness for **a time, times and a half** (Revelation 12:14) culminates in the woman's **labor pangs: less time between birth pangs of increasing intensity and duration**. The "birth process" continues as the whole world approaches **Desolation** (the Truth replaced with the Lie) and **Destruction** (Mercy replaced with Violence). It intensifies until the traumatic "**birth**" of a new order at the end of the third witness --- in one hour --- i.e., ***the second coming of Christ***, which stops the self-destructive course of human events and

brings the kingdom of God and New Jerusalem into full view (Revelation 18: 9-11; 18:19).

Daniel 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

Revelation 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). And, **an ear that hears must be trained to do so** (Matthew 13:9; Revelation 13:9), and that comes by studying to understand and apply the Word of God. Spiritual listening is an active process, especially if one expects God to listen and answer. Without appropriate motivation and training and discipline, the ear will not hear or know --- i.e. will not recognize **the voice** of the Master or know **the words** of Mercy and Truth (Psalms 25:10; 85:10; 89:14; 100:5; Proverbs 3:3). And, the eye will not see or perceive **the way** --- i.e., **the door** (Revelation 4:1) or the gates of **New Jerusalem** (Revelation 3:12; 21:12), which **the keys of the kingdom** fit. The witness and testimony has been to one end from the beginning, and the same one has consistently testified from the beginning of the one Father and His kingdom:

John 10:1-18 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the

shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Luke 13:25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

THE SEVEN SEALS

The seven seals on the book of Revelation 5:1 are opened in Chapter 6 plus verse 8:1. The seven seals correspond to the seven messages that John was instructed to write to the seven angels of the seven churches (Chapters 2 & 3). At the end of each of the seven messages is the instruction:

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

{ Thus, the message to the seven angels is also to you. }

Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and he opened the seven seals after he ascended to heaven. He had met the criteria to open the first four seals by his life on earth, up to and including his death. His resurrection and the 40 days (Acts 1:3) of his being seen, speaking of things pertaining to the kingdom of God up to and including his ascension correspond to the **fifth seal** --- i.e., Death defeated. **The sixth seal** corresponds to the events of the **10 days of waiting**, between Jesus' ascent and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Revelation 8:5), which was full of spiritual warfare in heaven once Jesus appeared in heaven to take the book from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne (Revelation 5:7); warfare resulting in Satan being cast out of heaven to earth (Revelation 12:9-12). The consequences of these heavenly events are still unfolding on earth. The **seventh seal** (Revelation 8:1) is the second coming of Christ, which occurs when the witness and work of the Holy Spirit is done (Revelation 10:7).

The events on earth continue to unfold as a natural consequence of God's universal laws, which mankind can not break, and basic human nature (Genesis 6:5). It is **not** a matter of God "doing something" to mankind, but rather, a matter of mankind experiencing the consequences of human nature

without God. That's the great and final tribulation, which began in Eden for this world system and for each of mankind, starting with birth and ending with death. Each individual experiences trial and tribulations throughout their lives, of increasing frequency, intensity and duration as death is approached, unless the process of life and death is prematurely interrupted. This is the identical course of the world of human events.

THE REVELATION was written to be read and heard and kept, by the living, just as were the Law and the Gospels.

The first four seals (Revelation 6:1-6:8) correspond generally to the life of mankind on earth, and specifically to "Follow me" (i.e. "Take, eat" and "Feed my sheep"). The white, red, black, and pale horses are God's, not Satan's, and they are presented for you to understand and figuratively to ride as Jesus did.

Each of the four horses is introduced --- **for you to ride** during your life time, up to and including your death. The four horses are introduced to you in order by the four living creatures -- the lion (white horse), the calf (red horse), the face of a man (black horse), and the flying eagle (pale horse) of Revelation 4:7 --- the same as the chariot which carries the Word of God (Ezekiel 1:4-28) --- the powers by which the physical universe consists, in full and complete attendance to the one who sits on the throne now having the seal of God (Hebrews 8:1; 12:2; Revelation 5:1-10; 7:2; 9:4) --- also having the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18) --- and the key of David (Revelation 3:7). **You are to carry the Word of God in you, hidden but present.** On a personal level, the horse is your body, your spirit is the rider, and the reins are the thoughts of your heart. All men are created upright (white horse), but there is violence or sacrifice (red horse) and corruption or holiness (black horse) along the way ... until death (pale horse) ... but the fifth seal is resurrection.

The first four seals were addressed by Jesus from his birth in Bethlehem (Genesis 35:19; 1 Samuel 17:15; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1) to his death on the cross (John 19:30), his death being when he rode the fourth horse (Revelation 6:8), which each must ride at least once:

Hebrews 2:14-16 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

At the fifth seal the scene changes to from earth to heaven (Revelation 6:9). The resurrection of Christ was at the fifth seal, but others must wait "a little while" (Revelation 6:11), all things in due order:

I Corinthians 15:50-57 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on

immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Time is currently allowed for mankind to become horsemen (figuratively speaking of course) and the horsemen to do their work (messengers carrying the Word of God). From one perspective, your heart is the horse which you must train and ride, while from another you become the horseman carrying the Word of God in the same sense that the children of Israel carried the Word of God in the wilderness (Exodus 13:18). The fifth seal corresponds to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus (when death was defeated and the bottomless pit was opened and smoke filled the whole earth at Revelation 9:2 -- the fifth trumpet (Revelation 9:1), the first of the three woes (Revelation 8:13) ... the fifth vial being poured out on the seat of the beast, which is based on force and violence and fear of

death -- captivity taken captive (Psalms 68:18; Ephesians 4:8) -- death defeated through hope of resurrection just as Jesus Christ was resurrected the firstfruit (Roman 11:16; I Corinthians 15:20-23; James 1:18; Revelation 14:14) ... now by his mercy allowing time for the sealing of his followers (Revelation 7:3) -- all provided for by design.

After his resurrection from the dead, Jesus was seen by and taught the apostles for 40 days (Acts 1:3). He commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, then on the fortieth day he ascended from earth into heaven in their sight. Pentecost was 10 days later.

Acts 1:1-11 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was

taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The sixth seal corresponds to the spiritual warfare that occurred in heaven after Jesus Christ ascended and took the little book out of the hand of the one who sat on the throne, opening the seven seals. Which also corresponds to Revelation 12:9 when Satan was cast out of heaven, for **now** **“the accuser”** **could no longer say** “Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?” (Revelation 5:2).

Jesus Christ ascended, prevailed to open the seven seals and now sits on the right hand of the Father ... and it is Jesus Christ who now sends the Holy Spirit, the third witness to mankind to reveal the meaning of the seven seals to those who “Come” ... “Follow me”, “Take, eat” and “Feed my sheep”. He will remain seated until events run their course and the work of the third witness is completed (i.e., that of the Holy Spirit hid in you). The sixth seal is the conviction of the whole world as deceived and the salvation of the followers of Christ:

Revelation 1:3 Blessed 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.

Those waiting on the sixth seal to be opened are waiting on a past event. Satan has already been defeated. The earth has already been “shaken” (Matthew 27:51; 28:2; Hebrews 12:25-29; Revelation 6:12), and mankind is already turning to governments of men and churches made up of the traditions of

men -- paying tribute to and praying to that which is not God
--- for salvation.

This is the character of mankind and the predictable, typical course of events depicted throughout the scriptures (Jeremiah 7:9-10), which always results in a loss of direction and purpose secondary to being cut off from knowledge of the holy (the abomination of desolation).

In this generation (Daniel 12:4), mankind is quite capable of destroying the whole world in several different ways (war, famine, pestilence, genetics, biological, chemical, environmental) --- and consequences are cumulative (Matthew 24:33), much like birth pangs (Isaiah 13:8).

Luke 23:30-31 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Revelation 6:16 And 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:

Mankind is already on course to self-destruct without the intervention of the second coming. The second coming is the third woe for the inhabitants of earth because Jesus Christ ("The Word of God" of Revelation 19:13) returns as the Destroyer **to destroy those destroying the earth** (Revelation 11:18). Jesus Christ has already defeated Death and Hell. Psalms 21 depicts the difference in the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. As conditions worsen in this generation, due to the usual **eyes of men that can not see and ears that can not hear**, increasing power is attributed to the governments and institutions of men in a spiraling escalation of violence and fear in the pursuit of safety and security --- and the pursuit of pleasure and self-esteem, all **at the expense of others** (Proverbs

1:19, 22). Yet conditions during the sixth seal are described as the same as those at the time of Noah and the flood:

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

It is after the silence in heaven for about the space of half an hour (Revelation 8:1) - after the opening of the seventh seal that the mystery of God is over:

Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

An intended parallel is the fall of Jericho at the shout (Joshua 6:16).

Thus, at the beginning of the sound of the seventh trumpet the seven thunders utter their voices (Revelation 10:3), the door is closed, and Christ returns as the third woe --- i.e. the consequence at the end of the third witness.

Revelation 10:3-7 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and

ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Revelation 22:10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

I Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The book was **already opened** and its seven seals loosed when John was told to "take it, and eat it up", and that he would have to prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings (Revelation 10:8-11). Jesus Christ had already opened the seals (Revelation 5:5). His followers are to **consume** the word and do as he did. Note that the book **must be taken** before it can be eaten ... it is not given when asked for, but when taken. "Take, eat" (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; I Corinthians 11:24).

The seven seals are essentially translated in Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, corresponding respectively to the messages to the angels of Ephesus (Revelation 2:1), Smyrna (Revelation 2:8), Pergamos (Revelation 2:12), Thyatira (Revelation 2:18), Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7), and the church of the Laodiceans (Revelation 3:14) . At the end of each of these messages is the instruction "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches ... " Angels are messengers, horsemen are messengers. Horsemen deliver

the king's post. And the king's messengers deliver the king's word as spoken or written, and a written decree (e.g. the Law, the four gospels, and the Revelation) is binding to all in the kingdom. The book of Esther gives a good overview of the king's word, seals and horsemen.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

“Follow me”: Matthew 4:19; 9:9; 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 9:23-27; 9:57-62; John 10:27; 12:26; 13:36; 21:15-22.

The key to understanding the first four seals (Revelation 6:1-8) is to understand the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15), which relates to basic human nature and matters of life and living common to mankind. Jesus himself interprets the parable of the sower for his disciples because it is a key to understanding all parables (Mark 4:13). Jesus only spoke to people in parables and he did so not to make the meaning clear and simple, but **to hide the truth** from the **spiritually blind** and **spiritually deaf** of this world system (Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:11-12; Luke 8:10).

The general context and every detail of the intentionally acted-out parable of the sower is important, including the ordered events immediately preceding and following. In brief, Jesus entered a ship and “**sat in the sea**” (Matthew 13:2; Mark 4:1) to teach the multitude that gathered on the shore of the sea --- i.e., on the sands of the sea. Jesus Christ was spiritually "fishing" the mankind on the land. [Those with ships in the sea today (Revelation 18:19) make merchandise of the people, and lend support to the god of this world, the Devil, Satan, who is the "God of forces" (Daniel 11:38), worshipped by mankind in the form of the beast that rose up out of the sea at Revelation 13:1] In translating the parable of the sower to his disciples, Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, confirms the first words given to the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:9-10) immediately following Isaiah's awesome vision of the future structure and pattern of the kingdom of God, which was after the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ

(Isaiah 6:1-5). Isaiah's vision is of the future kingdom of God, in full fruition of the earth (Isaiah 6:3), of which he particularly reports the events of Revelation 4:6-8 and Revelation 5:9-4. In Isaiah's encounter, the seraphims had three sets of wings (three written testimonies of blessings and curses), whereas the cherubim encountered by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:6) had two sets and the cherubim shadowing the mercy seat had one set (Exodus 25:18; Hebrews 9:5). Isaiah's commission to speak to the people (Isaiah 6:8-10) looks forward to fire at the altar being cast to the earth, which was done by the resurrected Jesus Christ (Revelation 8:5). Through the mouths of both Isaiah and Jesus Christ (two witnesses) it is crystal clear that the words they spoke were given to them to speak and their words are a witness **against** the people. This same word of testimony against the people was spoken by many other prophets (Deuteronomy 29:4; Psalms 135:15-18; Jeremiah 5:21; 6:10; 17:23; Ezekiel 12:2; Zechariah 7:12) and the apostle Paul (Acts 28:25-28; Romans 11:8).

Each of the four horses is introduced with the invitation "Come ..." (Revelation 6:1; 6:3; 6:5; 6:7). This is the same invitation and instruction given by the Spirit and bride:

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

THE FIRST SEAL: The way of the white horse

Revelation 6:1-2 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. 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.

The first seal (Revelation 6:1), corresponds to the way of the white horse, as introduced by the first beast, the lion (Revelation 4:7); the seal being interpreted and the nature of the way of the white horse being clarified in the message to the angel of the church of Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7).

Jesus Christ was the "sower of the word" (Matthew 13:1-23) who went forth "conquering, and to conquer", to become the Faithful and True witness who judged and made war in righteousness (Revelation 3:14; 19:11; 21:5; 22:6). Jesus Christ was the first and last of mankind to endure life unto Death without spot or blemish (Psalm 14; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Romans 3:10; I Peter 1:17-25), being rejected as king of Israel and offered up to be crucified without cause by the gentiles (Matthew 20:18-19).

In following the will of the Father unto Death (Hebrews 10), both "Death" and "Hell" were named (Revelation 6:8), and thus defeated (Ephesians 1:21; Hebrews 2:14-15; Revelation 1:18; Revelation 20:13-14). It is the white horse that Christ and all of his followers (his army ... a cloud of witnesses dressed in white) will ride when he returns to destroy those destroying the earth (Jeremiah 4:13; Matthew 24:30-31; Hebrews 12:1; Jude 14; Revelation 1:7; 11:18). This is the cloud in which he returns, a cloud of witnesses of which he is the head, just as he ascended from the cloud of witnesses on earth (Acts 1:9-11).

Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

The way of the white horse was introduced by the first beast --- i.e., the **spiritual lion**, a meat eater (I Corinthians 3:1; Hebrews 5:12; Psalms 104:21) --- and the **spiritual meat** of Jesus was to do the will of his Father (Psalms 111:5; Isaiah 62:8-12; John 4:34). The spiritual lion goes in the **spiritual strength** of the Word of God (Judges 14:18; II Samuel 1:23; Proverbs 19:12; Proverbs 20:2; Proverbs 30:30), confidently (I Samuel 17:37; Proverbs 28:1) faithfully walking into and in the court of God (Zechariah 3:7).

It was Jesus, **the lion of the tribe of Judah** (Genesis 49:8) who was without blemish, prevailed for all of mankind, to open the book and loose the seven seals thereof (Revelation 5:5-10). It is the lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ, who stands at the time of the end and cries with his loud voice "as when a lion roareth", which is followed by the voices of the seven thunders (Revelation 10:3) --- which is the end of this system of things (Jeremiah 25:30; Ezekiel 3:12-21; Revelation

1:10-11) --- corresponding to the fall of Jericho (Joshua Chapter 6; Hebrews 11:30-31).

The first seal corresponds to the message to the angel of the church of Ephesus (Revelation 2: 1-7). It concerns the very name of God and his kingdom, the beginning and guiding principles of eternal life --- hearing and doing the will of God (I Kings 8:56-61; Revelation 1:3). The beginning was presented in Genesis, and each individual has their own Genesis. The rider of the white horse is much like the sower, going forth conquering and to conquer. As all mankind, Jesus had a bow, the promise of the Father, which is now through the Holy Spirit to all who have eyes that see and ears that hear, and a heart to understand and keep the Word of God (Hebrews 4:1-12). And, a crown was given to him, a name to be fulfilled, as the only begotten Son of God, doing the will of his Father. The **Son of God** becoming The **Son of Man** to experience being mankind and to preach the kingdom of God by revealing the will of the Father to mankind, suffering both as and for mankind, thereby fulfilling the law and the prophets until John the Baptist (Daniel 3:25; Matthew 4:3; 14:33; 23:63-64; Mark 1:1; 3:1; Luke 1:35; 4:41; John 1:34; 5:25-27; 20:31; Acts 9:20; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:13; Hebrews 4:14; 6:6; 7:3; 10:29; I John 3:8; 4:15; 5:5; 5:10; 5:13; 5:20; Revelation 1:13; 2:18; 14:14).

A great and wonderful mystery of the king-priest of mankind (Genesis 14:8; full context of Hebrews 7:1; Revelation 1:6; 5:10) is revealed in the meanings of the **spiritual bow** and the **spiritual crown**. The spiritual bow is the promise of the Father (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:23; Romans 4:16-18; Galatians 28:2; Hebrews 11:9-10), which includes the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the witness of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual bow is the basis of faith, which is worship of the Father. Jesus Christ is the Faithful and True witness. Note at Revelation 6:2 that the rider of the white horse already had a

bow when the first seal was opened! And the rider was given a **Spiritual crown** before “he went forth conquering and to conquer” --- i.e., to fight in a **Spiritual war** of words (verbal) and images (nonverbal), fought in the domain of the imagination of the thoughts of the hearts of mankind. Jesus was the king of the Jews, of the house of David, of the tribe of Judah ... he was also the seed of the promise, of the house of Israel.

Jesus, the **Son of Man**, already had the bow, the promise of the Father (as we all have), and he exercised his legitimate authority as king, the **Son of God**, by willfully offering himself in complete service and obedience in preaching the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14; Luke 1:8; 4:43; 9:2; 9:60; 16:16) --- which is in marked contrast to mankind’s natural tendency to use of force and violence to command (Matthew 20:25-28) and lies and deception to persuade (John 8:44; Revelation 13:10).

Jesus was the promised seed of the woman, Eve, that was to bruise the head of the serpent, Satan (Genesis 3:15). Jesus was the seed of the woman Mary --- but he was only half Jewish! His bloodline as the Son of Man was through the Jewish woman, his mother Mary. All Jews are by definition of the DNA of the tribe of Judah, who was only one of Jacob’s twelve sons (Genesis 35:22-26; 46:8-27) who collectively make up the children of Israel or house of Israel (Jacob was renamed Israel by the angel of the LORD at Genesis 32:12). King David and all of his house (i.e., descendants) were and are Jews --- Jesus was also a Jew of the house of David through his mother, Mary (Luke 3:23-38), not through her husband, Joseph (Matthew 1:1-17), for Mary conceived through the power of the Spirit, not through the sperm of her husband.

The conception of Jesus was by the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23-25; Luke 1:26-38). When Jacob blessed his sons (Genesis 49), he made it clear that he knew that Jesus, the prophetic

“son of David”, king of the Jews, would be born through the bloodline of his son Judah. However, he also made it clear that he knew exactly what he was doing when he blessed his second born grandson Ephraim (Genesis 48:1-22) and **blessed his son Joseph (Genesis 49:22-26) with a greater blessing than the blessing of Judah (Genesis 49:8-12)**. Judah’s blessing was according to blood and the Law, Joseph’s according to grace and the Spirit. Joseph was born of Jacob’s love of Rachel, Judah was born of duty (Genesis 29:1-30). Jacob fully understood that Joseph was blessed with a greater promise --- **the promise of the Spirit through faith** (Galatians 3:14). **This is the BOW of Revelation 6:2 and Genesis 49:24**. Joseph, the son of Jacob, was not a warrior, “But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (“from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)” This bow is faith in the promise of the Father --- i.e. in His Name and His Word. Joseph’s blessing by “Israel” forecasts the new and better covenant of the New Testament. This is the way of the great multitude that came out of great tribulation (Revelation 7:9-17). These had washed their garments white in the blood of the lamb (i.e., believed, repented, and followed the way of Jesus) were **sealed IN their forehead** (Revelation 7:3) --- i.e., thoughts and beliefs --- sealed from the time the Comforter was poured out upon mankind (Acts chapter 2) until the door in heaven is shut, on the last day, at the last hour, at the end of this system of things (Ephesians 1:13). At the second coming of Christ, **all of mankind will have either the seal of the living God or the mark of the beast** in their foreheads (Revelation 13:16; 14:9; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).

This Jesus of the tribe of Judah, of the house of David, was and is Faithful and True in thought, word and deed --- and his name is “The Word of God” ... by whom we are made kings and priests now, to day, if we have ears to hear and eyes to see (Hebrews 3:7; Revelation 1:6), because he is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Psalms 24; Luke 19:38; I

Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16), a king-priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18; Psalms 110:4; Hebrews chapters 5-7).

THE SECOND SEAL: The Way Of The Red Horse

Revelation 6:3-4 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 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 seal (Revelation 6:3-4), corresponds to the way of the red horse, as introduced by the second beast, the calf (Revelation 4:7); the second seal being interpreted and the nature of the way of the red horse being clarified in the message to the angel of the church of Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11):

The calf or ox treads out the corn, which must be done to make the bread in order to “Feed my sheep” --- and you don’t muzzle the ox that treads out the corn (Deuteronomy 25:4; Proverbs 4:14; I Corinthians 9:9-12; I Timothy 5:18). The ox will be fed as he works. The ox is laboring in the truth and the workman is worthy of his hire. The ox is obedient in service to the truth, providing the bread of life to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness sake. The worldly ox is strong, stupid, sexually potent in the flesh, and completely fulfilled by self-gratification. The ox in the Spirit works the Word of God, churns out and bruises the corn to make bread, willingly suffering at the hand of the master to do the Master’s hard work.

The second seal (Revelation 6:3-4) corresponds to the second message (i.e., to Smyrna at Revelation 2:8-11), -- it is the riding of the red horse (Revelation 6:4). To the world it is about war, to a Christian it is about sacrifice ... the blood of

Christ (and thus the blood of his followers) -- i.e., the suffering in his place without complaint or personal defense or fear of physical consequences, yet trembling at the Word, and fully asserting -- in good conscience -- the will of the Father (with no respect of person added in the process), always defending the ancient boundaries and current manifestations of His name ... in full obedience & confidence that all things are ordered and will progressively reveal His name and justify His followers ... being certain that His ways and His followers will be revealed in the due course of time and related circumstance. Such a state of mind combined with a similar state of "being --- i.e., becoming" generates power and fuels the lake of fire. But the followers of Jesus Christ have no need to fear the coals of fire or the lake of fire, they are "lively stones" (I Peter 2:5) ... brimstone ... and their God is a God of fire (I Kings 18:24; Zechariah 3:7; Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:3; Hebrews 12:29; Revelation 2:18; 4:5; 15:2).

The great sword of the second seal of Revelation 6:4 is the same as Matthew 10:34 "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." The same as Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The same as Revelation 1:16 "And 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." The same as Revelation 19:15 "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." It is a matter of spiritual warfare, not a war in the flesh. It is a war for the hearts and minds of mankind and the battle is now: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

The red horse and the message to Smyrna concerns **self-sacrifice** and obedience to God in an unjust world --- **suffering rather than taking vengeance** --- obediently following the word of God even when it appears that the body of Christ has turned into the synagogue of Satan (Revelation 2:9; 3:9).

The followers of Jesus must expect to be persecuted as he was (Matthew 5:11-12; Luke 21:12; John 15:20; I Corinthians 4:12; II Timothy 3:13; Revelation 12:13-17), but they are to exercise the patience and faith of the saints (Revelation 13:10). Even when faced with lifelong conditions of suffering, they are to **WAIT** for the justice of God to be manifested ... the war is with principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:12) ... a spiritual war, not physical war as men war in the flesh. The war is to conquer our own fears, to fear God rather than mankind or Death.

It is hearts and minds that are to be conquered, our own first, through studying, understanding, applying, and teaching by what we do, what we do not do, what we allow and do not allow --- patiently **waiting** and living our lives in good conscience with respect to the truth, having **no respect of persons** (II Chronicles 19:7; Proverbs 24:23; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; James 2:1; I Peter 1:17), **always deferring vengeance to God** (Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19).

The red horse corresponds to the deeds of **self-sacrifice**, the suffering for the sake of peace and life, the peace for which Jesus suffered and his followers suffer ... It is this peace, this suffering, this waiting that fuels the fires of justice in the court of God, and **it is Jesus who treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God** (Revelation 19:15).

Wisdom is a defense, and the Spirit of Truth is a weapon of Peace for those who take hold of it. The Peace is to be taken back if the words of Truth are rejected -- the destruction caused by this sword occurs when it is taken away (Matthew 10:13-14; 10:34). And the world is being judged by its treatment of the people of God.

THE THIRD SEAL: The Way Of The Black Horse

Revelation 6:5-6 And 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. 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.

The third seal (Revelation 6:5-6), corresponds to the way of the black horse, as introduced by the third beast which had a face as a man (Revelation 4:7); the seal being interpreted and the nature of the way of the black horse being clarified in the message to the angel of the church of Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17):

For those who follow after Jesus Christ, the third seal (Revelation 6:5-6) is about feasting not starving to death. Jesus, the living bread when he walked the face of the earth, now nourishes his sheep through the most holy manna from heaven, the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:9-13). The third seal is an invitation to those who have an ear to hear to partake of holy communion, an intimate and ongoing feast in the darkness of this present wilderness (John 14:16-26), and an invitation to the marriage feast of the Lamb. The third seal corresponds to the third message -- to Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17).

The **balances** are the same as the balances of Daniel 5:27. They weigh your individual values and value judgments against the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. These balances relate to the cross --- to the cross beam of your yoke ... to your evaluation of your self related to others. These balances measure the pride of your self-esteem

--- having ultimately to do with the self you have created and are creating by your thoughts, words, and deeds. These balances measure the essence of your decision-making to do or not to do, your personal risk and opportunity management. This is the pair of balances that are the standard of measurement for the imagination of the thoughts of your heart (Genesis 6:5; I Chronicles 28:9; Psalms 26:2; 139:23; Jeremiah 17:10; Hebrews 4:12)--- and whether it is exercised with or without “respect of person” (Leviticus 19:15; 19:36; Deuteronomy 1:17; Proverbs 16:11; 24:23; 28:21; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; James 2:1-9; I Peter 1:17).

The **voice** heard from the midst of the four beasts is the same as the still small voice of I Kings 19:12.

The **penny** is your daily wages for work in the vineyard (Matthew 20:2), the wages for your **daily bread** (Matthew 6:11), always more than enough for you and yours (Deuteronomy 25:4; I Corinthians; I Timothy 5:18). The general scene of the third seal is a parallel to II Kings 6:24-7:20, and the price of the wheat and barley at II Kings 7:16 is actually more costly than at Revelation 6:6 --- which is about a feast, not a famine. The workers of the vineyard always receive of the field of their labors, thus they also have daily access to **oil and wine**, the same oil and wine used by the good Samaritan (Luke 10:34), and in the preparation of the meal offering of the feast of the Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:13). Note that by commandment even the poor and the stranger always had free access to oil and wine (Leviticus 23:22). The **bread** is the living bread, the manna from heaven, the body of Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; I Corinthians 11:24; Revelation 10:9-11), which represents his words, which are the holy words of His and Our Father (John 6:32-64). The third seal is about holy communion (Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:24) --- the feast in the wilderness (Revelation 12:14) --- and the marriage feast of the Lamb (Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13;

Revelation 19:7-9; 21:2-22:6; 22:17) -- the hidden manna (Revelation 2:17) --- gold tried in the fire.

The book at Revelation 10:2 was open and the seven seals already loosed when John was told to "take it, and eat it up" (Revelation 10:9), and that he would have to prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings (Revelation 10:11). Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, had already opened the seven seals by his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. His followers are to drink the cup he drank and to eat the bread he ate, to do his will as he did the will of "Our Father" --- to consume and be consumed by the words of the Father as he did and was. Note that the book must be taken before it can be eaten ... it is not given when asked for, but when taken. **Take, eat** (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; I Corinthians 11:24).

THE FOURTH SEAL: The Way Of The Pale Horse

Revelation 6:7-8 **And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And 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 fourth seal (Revelation 6:7-8), corresponds to the way of the pale horse, as introduced by the fourth beast which was “like a flying eagle” (Revelation 4:7); the seal being interpreted and the nature of the way of the pale horse being clarified in the message to the angel of the church of Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29):

The pale horse is continuing in faith until the end --- i.e., the end of life is “**Death**”. From the point of view of those who dwell on the earth, “**Death**” is the expiring of the life from the body --- which is followed by the corruption and consuming away of the body one way or another (e.g., in the grave). From the perspective of those who dwell in heaven, death precedes resurrection, which is a resurrection to life (Luke 20:35-36) OR a resurrection to **the second death** (John 5:25-29; Acts 24:15), which is “**Hell**” (Revelation 2:11; 20:6; 20:14; 21:8).

In the garden east of Eden, God said “...thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17). The serpent said “Ye shall not surely die” (Genesis 3:4). God spoke the truth - Satan lied. Mankind’s eyes were opened to Satan’s kingdom and the darkness of this world system (Genesis 3:7). Now, it is appointed to all men to die once (the fourth seal), which is followed by resurrection (fifth seal) and judgment (Hebrews 9:27-28), unless they happen to

be alive at the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, (Revelation 19:13), in which case the followers of Christ will be “changed” in the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians 15:52).

But Jesus Christ, the Creator of the world (John 1:1-5; Ephesians 3:9; Revelation 3:14), willingly came into the darkness of this system to enlighten mankind to the way back to a holy relationship with the Father (Revelation 1:6; 2:27; 3:5; 3:21). Figuratively speaking, Jesus Christ rode the fourth horse at his death --- *when he became the Passover for mankind* on the cross at Calvary (Luke 23:33; I Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 10:12-18). By his suffering murder without cause at the hands of mankind (John 18:39-19:19), in full obedience to the will of the Father (Matthew 6:10; 26:42; Luke 11:2; John 18:11), a willing sacrifice (Exodus 12:1-27; Matthew 26), without spot or blemish, he “*named*” “**Death**” (Ephesians 1:21; Philippians 2:8-11) when his life expired on the cross (Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30), and *he* “*named*” “**Hell**” when he was resurrected by the Father (Romans 6:3-9; Revelation 20:5-6). I Corinthians 15:21-26 gives an overview:

“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

“**Power was given unto them**” --- i.e., to Death and Hell --- when mankind chose to *act against God* (Genesis 2:16-17), resulting in mankind being cut off from the Tree Of Life

(Genesis 2:9; 3:22-24; Revelation 2:7; 22:2; 22:14). Mankind literally *trespassed against the words of God* by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6). The wages of sin are death (Romans 6:23); sin is transgression of the law (Romans 4:15; I John 3:4); the law and the prophets are the words of God (I Kings 17:13; Zechariah 7:12; Matthew 22:40; Luke 16:16; 24:44) --- and, the words spoken by Jesus Christ *are the words of God the Father* (Isaiah 1:10; 2:3; 5:24; 8:20; Micah 4:2; John 14:23-24; 15:25; Galatians 5:14; Hebrews 7:28). The words of God (Revelation 5:1-9) are not spoken or written by his messengers (Hebrews 1:1-7; Revelation 2:1; 2:8; 2:12; 2:18; 3:1; 3:7; 3:14) in vain (Isaiah 45:23; 55:11; Matthew 5:17-18; Revelation 19:13; 22:18-20).

The fourth horse is introduced by the fourth beast, **the flying eagle**. The flying eagle represents the spoken and written words of God, words of prophesy full of blessings and curses --- i.e., the Word of God (Old Testament law and the prophets) and the testimony of Jesus Christ (the New Testament Gospels and **THE REVELATION**) --- all of which are holy, and all of which will be fulfilled (Revelation 22:10). Figuratively speaking, it was **on eagles' wings** that Israel was brought out of Egypt to God (Exodus 19:4-6) --- i.e., *by the fulfillment of prior prophesy* for Israel and judgment against Egypt, the event which is memorialized in the Passover (Exodus chapter 12). At Revelation 12:14, the woman (the church) is given **two wings of a great eagle**, that she might fly into the wilderness (the current world system), into her place (the hearts and minds of those who follow after Jesus Christ), where she is nourished (by the written words of God through the Holy Spirit) for a time, and times, and half a time (until the end of the time of the Gentiles), from the face of the serpent (the dragon, Satan, the Devil). And, the **eagles will be gathered together** at the carcass (the body of Christ, the church) at the second coming (Matthew 24:28; Luke 17:37) --- a blessing for his followers who wait on the Word of God, which is Jesus Christ

(Revelation 19:3), but a curse for the rulers of this system (Revelation 11:18) --- the marriage supper of the lamb (Revelation 19:7-9) is THE SAME EVENT as the supper of the great God --- the world's **Armageddon** (Revelation 16:16; 19:15-21), which is a matter of prophesy.

Jesus Christ *fulfilled the words* of the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17-18; 24:34-35; 26:56; Luke 21:32-33; 24:44; Acts 3:18; 13:29), which leaves his spoken words (all of which are the Father's), and his written words, which includes **THE REVELATION** (Revelation 1:1-3; 1:11; 1:19; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5; 22:7; 22:10). His words will be fulfilled by his followers through the power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:14; Colossians 1:25-29; Revelation 6:11; 10:8-11) and by the natural cumulative consequences of human nature as manifested in government, religion, and economics (Revelation 13; Revelation 17). Note that *the testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophesy* (Revelation 19:10). When his prayers are answered, the kingdom of God will be on earth as it is in heaven and God's will will be done (fulfilled) on earth as it is in heaven.

Mankind was **WARNED** in the beginning (Genesis 2:17), has been repeatedly warned since (Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:1-20), and is being warned today (Revelation 1:10-3:22). But mankind continues on a course of self-desolation and self-destruction, subject to dying and death. Note that **“Death”** is his *name* that sat on the fourth horse (the pale horse), but **“death”** is only one of the four ways of the power that was given over the fourth part of the earth --- i.e., the **power to kill** --- the other three ways of **“Death”** being to kill with sword, AND with hunger, AND with the beasts of the earth. It is clear that **“Death”**, the rider, is not **“death”** for **“Death”** includes **“death”** AND three other categories. Yet **“Death”** and **“death”** are the same Greek word translated into the same English word. ***The “death” is only the fourth part of “Death”.*** The **“death”** is the natural death that occurs when aging ends,

fulfilling in the flesh that which occurred in the spirit in Eden (“... thou shalt surely die”), unless you are killed prematurely by mankind, whether by accident or on purpose --- i.e., by sword (man made violence, including wars and murder), by hunger (man made famine, including the earth and the sea), or by the beasts of the earth (including man made disease and pestilence). All four of **“Death’s”** ways are the natural consequences of mankind’s rejection of God. These natural consequences escalate and intensify according to the same pattern as a woman giving birth, except the birth is Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), which is interrupted by the second coming of Christ.

There are multiple meanings of **“the fourth part”**, all addressing the same process and outcome. Each of the four ways of Death (sword, hunger, death, beasts of the earth) is a fourth part, making one whole --- i.e., the nature of life since Genesis. The power of Death has been exercised over all of mankind (Hebrews 2:14-15), but not all at the same time. It is only in these latter days (Daniel 12:4) that mankind has developed the knowledge and power to destroy the whole earth through all four of the ways of Death (e.g., nuclear, chemical, biological, environmental destruction, genetic, drug resistant viral infections). Additionally, just as there are four winds and four quarters of heaven (Jeremiah 49:36; Ezekiel 37:9; Daniel 11:4; Zechariah 2:6; Matthew 24:31; Mark 13:27; Revelation 7:1), and four corners or quarters of the earth (Isaiah 11:12; Ezekiel 7:2; Revelation 20:8), **“the fourth part”** is also the utmost part, the latter part, or the last part of an event or a time --- i.e., the end of the event or time. And finally, **“the fourth part”** of the seed sown fell into the good ground (Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15), the other three parts did not. All conditions have been met for the second coming, but the fifth seal (Revelation 6:9-11) instructs that **“a little season”** is being allowed **“until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”** This is the fulfilling of the **golden cup** (Jeremiah

51:7; Revelation 17:4), which is the basis for the jealousy and vengeance of God (Revelation 14:19; 19:15). Death and dying continue until they are cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14), which also makes it clear that the lake of fire is not the same as Hell.

SUMMARY OF THE SEVEN SEALS

The first seal relates to faith and the name of God. The spiritual rider of the white horse relates to WISDOM --- i.e., the **truth and mercy** of Jesus Christ, **not the lies and self-esteem** of the Serpent. The rider of the white horse corresponds to the sower that soweth the word --- i.e., “going forth conquering, and to conquer,” judging and warring in righteousness based on the promise of the Father; not warring after the “God of forces” (Daniel 11:38) or the self-tribute that mankind worships (I Kings 10:14; Revelation 13:18). The rider of the white horse *conquers in the name of God*, with the words of God, all *who have an ear to hear* --- i.e., the good ground (Matthew 13:8).

The second seal relates to the kingdom and will of God. The **kingship** and testimony of Jesus Christ. The spiritual rider of the red horse relates to JUSTICE --- i.e., the **obedience and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, not the revenge and war** of the Devil --- i.e., sacrifice and suffering for Christ’s sake, **drinking the cup that he drank** (Matthew 26:27; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; John 6:53-58; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34) **and picking up your cross daily** in obedient service (Luke 9:23), which is in marked contrast to the seed falling on stony places.

The third seal relates to the holiness and power of the words of God, spoken and written ... the **priesthood** of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:20-7:3) and the testimony of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:15-17) to the church, the body of which Christ is the head. The rider of the black horse relates to Desire and the Values of JUDGMENT --- i.e., to the **feast and revelation of Jesus Christ, not the famine and darkness** of Satan. The **daily bread of life** (Matthew 6:11) leavened with the leaven of God, the Holy Spirit (Matthew 13:33) --- which enlightens the

way and nourishes the spirit of mankind, calling to remembrance understanding --- the knowledge of the holy --- the "gold tried in the fire", freely available to all who ask, seek and knock (Matthew 7:7; Revelation 3:18-20). This is the holy communion in the wilderness of this world system, a communion which reveals sound doctrine, beliefs and values according to God's desire, clarifying choices for mankind --- i.e., well balanced value judgments, in marked contrast to the seed that fell among thorns.

The fourth seal relates to the victory and glory of God ... the defeat of Death and Hell by Jesus Christ, who now gives others the opportunity to follow his lead. The rider of the pale horse relates to EQUITY --- i.e., the **life and "death" of Jesus Christ, not the Hell and Death** of the Dragon --- i.e., confident endurance (faith) in doing the will of the Father unto the end "without respect of person", most particularly one's SELF (pride or undue self-esteem) --- being a faithful and true witness until the end, even unto Death, thus naming and taking the power over both "Death" and "Hell" (Ephesians 1:21; Revelation 1:18) and further fueling the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10,14,15; 21:8).

It was by **faithfully sowing the word of the kingdom of God in the name of God** that Jesus was able to open the first seal. It was by **obediently suffering persecution "without cause" for the sake of the Father's will** that Jesus was able to open the second seal. It was by **desiring and teaching the words of God**, knowledge of the holy, the values of judgment, that Jesus was able to open the third seal. It was by being a faithful and true witness **unto the end, Death**, that Jesus was able to open the fourth seal, --- **defeating both "Death" and "Hell"** --- i.e., both dying and death. It was by **his resurrection by the Father** that Jesus was able to open the fifth seal. It was by his **ascension into heaven by the Father** that he was able to open the sixth seal. It was by **being allowed**

to take the book from the right hand of the Father that Jesus was able to open the seventh seal. When Jesus “looked thereon”, he silenced the seven thunders, and **he choose to sit on the right hand of the Father** instead of ending and judging this world system. It is because Jesus **took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth** (Revelation 8:5) that mankind has “a little time” to **follow** after Jesus before he stands, to finish the work of creation, the seventh seal (Revelation 10:7). **He will stand when the testimony of the Holy Spirit is done** (Revelation 6:11; 7:3) --- and his followers will be resurrected or "changed" in the twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal (John 5:24-29; I Corinthians 15:52-58; I Thessalonians 4:16-18) and Jesus Christ, the Word of God, will return KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS to judge the world (Revelation 11:18; 19:11-21).

NOTE: After his resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ offered up the prayers of the saints (Revelation 8:3-5) --- **included in those prayers were his own prayers and the prayer he prayed called “the Lord’s Prayer”**, which doomed Satan’s kingdom on earth (Matthew 6:9-13). Of necessity it must reflect the so-called four horsemen and the pattern and sequence of the seven seals:

The first seal

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

The second seal:

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

The third seal:

Give us this day our daily bread.

The fourth seal:

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

The fifth and sixth seals:

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

The seventh seal:

For thine is the kingdom, [the first seal]
and the power, [the second seal]
and the glory, [the third seal]
for ever. [the fourth seal]
Amen. [the seventh seal]

The following seven poems are interpretive of the seven seals
and seven messages to the angels of the seven churches ...

IN THE STRANGE LAND OF EPHESUS
Or
An Occult Warrior On His Own White Horse

Truly, love is as love does
And its joy has no bound,
But the first love of repentance is Mercy
Without which the lost can not be found.

Surely, working for Truth is honorable
And casting out scorners is good,
But sacrificing Mercy to Righteousness
Witnesses you forgot or never understood.

True enough, all men are sinners ...
Lovers of transgression to a flaw,
But pointing the finger at others
Sets one's own eyes as the Law.

Evermore hypocrites are viscous
And all narcissists court fools,
But self-serving judges
Have forgotten the reason behind the rules.

Certainly, one should warn a brother
Of every deviation and bane,
But lead some with compassion
And all to relief of Spiritual pain.

For Truth without Mercy is Death
And the Accuser's job is taken,
Yet you willfully break the bread of Truth
While the cup of Mercy you've forsaken.

So dig deep the well of your first love ...
Pure joy, when you first drew there!
And Keep in mind whose lot you tend
And what remembrance you're to share.

Come! Follow after both Faithful and True
As you go esteeming in the Way,
Offering the sacrifice of Mercy
With the Truth you learn each day.

SMYRNA, WHERE STRESS IS EXPECTED AND SELF-SACRIFICE RULES

Or

What Peace And Security?

While accusing man to God
And slandering God to man,
Satan works his devil-watch
Recruiting all he can.

Inflicting some through gains
And afflicting others with losses,
The Tempter most desires to sift
Those carrying their own crosses.

For what fulfills Faith more than Obedience
And what measure more the man,
Than the nature of his fears
And the losses for which he'll stand?

And what divining Sword is sharper
Than any well trained tongue,
And what Word more fitly spoken
Than the simple "Come!"?

Yet all must suffer life to live
Until the day they die,
And those who promise "Fear not" means stress-free
Testify to a lie.

Truly, it is appointed for each to die once
And sufferings must come each day,
But Patience fuels holy Vengeance
And self-sacrifice creates Justice a way.

For the God whose name is Jealous
Is generating a most vehement heat indeed,
For those corrupting with enticements
Or perverting the holy Seed.

Holy wars are waged with spiritual weapons
To capture each heart and mind ...
And the Spirit of Truth and self-sacrifice
Are the two He left behind.

THE WORDS AND IMAGES OF PERGAMOS

Or

Where The Dark Horse Rides

Many colored and divers garments
Hang on each day's Value rack,
But the one who hung for others
Dressed himself in black.

Thus darkness fulfills this present wilderness
Glorifying the doctrines of men,
Who are blind to the feast without the camp
And deaf to the still small voice within.

Evermore the Foolish dilute sound doctrine
And Scorners feast on the ears of men,
Teaching the Simple to chase after demons
And to crucify Christ again, again, again.

But the sword of the mouth is still the tongue
And words fitly spoken are decreed ...
And the balance of Judgment is a golden reed
Using the Just weights of the Sower's seed.

Though the Judgment of Justice is trampled daily in the court
And the Truth be clean cut from the vine ...
A day's wages in the LORD'S vineyard is still a penny
Plus the gleaning of the oil and the wine.

For men work for daily wages
And wages are consumed by Desire,
But the daily bread of Wisdom
Is the gold tried in the fire.

The quantum of thought is relative to behavior
And they are one in the imagination of men,
For the cognitive pathways one travels
Forms an image out of where one's been.

Precept upon precept ...
Unveiling the marvelous mystery within:
Fiery pathways to hidden manna,
Creating the souls of men.

THYATIRA: WHERE THE STREETS ARE LINED
WITH CONCESSIONS

Or

The Pale Horse's Fool

The Patience of Faith is forever
And its works are the labor of Love,
But Watching only comes with Waiting
And the Light only comes from above.

For there are fiery eyes posted
Seeing every-which-a-way,
Duly charged to mark the crossroads
Of each traveler's Yea and Nay.

They enflame foolish hearts with Justice
And simple minds with Judgment's way,
Carrying Wisdom into the wilderness
And giving Equity its say.

For the third woe surely comes quickly
And those who know now see,
That both the waiting and the watching is unto Death
For all who would obey and "Follow me!".

For foundational laws are unifying
And relative to the very end,
Even where words are ruminated
Creating images of men.

Truly, undue self-esteem is a mocker
And misguided love is destructive in deed,
But the most hated sowers of discord
Knowingly teach or allow false seed.

Some use power for desire
While others use desire for power,
Yet all have a little space of time
Which one day will be an hour.

And all who lead with enticing words
Or use force to exercise their will,
Know the depths of their father, Satan ...
Who is a liar and a murderer still.

SARDIS: WHERE LEPROUS SPIRITS ARE MADE
ALL WHITE

Or

The Washing Of Blood Soaked Feet

The Messenger of messengers
Spoke for eyes that see,
Images placed in due order
According to ancient decree.

And the Light of lights still penetrates
To the still small voice within,
Exploring the uttermost corners
Of the thoughts of the hearts of men.

For the outer garment of a living soul is its body
And inner garment of a spirit is a soul,
But 'tis the manner of each being's becoming
That's numbered in the final toll.

Surely, Death and dying are matters of Life
And disciplining the body shapes the soul,
But 'tis the broken heart of a contrite spirit
That invites the Comforter to make one whole.

Still the lost sheep walk about as leprous ...
Defiling repeatedly to the core,
Not understanding their abominations ...
Unable to call on His Name as before.

Yet seers still see and hearers still hear
And One's testimony is three-fold the same:
Yesterday, today and tomorrow —
The Almighty is His Name.

And the When, the Where, the How, and the Why
Are still answered by ancient decree:
Any leprous Who is made all white
By a simple bended knee.

So place your self under the alter
Where the most holy fires burn bright,
And pray the Father to know the Son
Who now casts the Holy Light.

PHILADELPHIA: WHERE THE GOOD GROUND
IS SANCTIFIED BY FIRE

Or

A Ring of Fire for the Bride To Be

The God who answers by Fire is God!
And His Word when sent spoke well!! ...
And when crucified, dead, and buried
He earned the keys of Death and Hell!!!

He now sits King-Priest
On the throne One set in heaven,
Holding back the destroying four winds
Till He works His work as leaven.

Evermore, the most vehement heat waxes
Even now, twilighting the crowning glory of the sun,
And the third woe will surely come quickly ...
When His third witnessing is done!!!

Yet, the door to the kingdom stands wide open
In the midst of the thick darkness within,
For fire of the alter is now cast to earth
Seeking sacrifices in the thoughts of the hearts of men.

Watch! ... For yet a little while ...
Wait! ... Rest yet for a little season ...
Hold fast! ... The Truth that convicts ears that hear ...
Work! ... The Light that quickens spiritual eyes with reason.

Let the nourishing in the wilderness flourish
In spite of the Desolation and Destruction without,
Remembering that each Holy Woe is a blessing
And the silence will end with a shout!!!

So "Fear Not!" the Destroyer's face ...
And call not on the rocks when He stands!
For it is but the Lamb of the tribe of Judah
Surveying all He commands.

For the third witness is the Holy Spirit
And all three testimonies are Holy and True,
And most relatively speaking ...
The land now sown is you.

THE DELUDED ECSTASY OF LAODICEA

Or

Blind Man's Bluff

The "Amen!" has been from the beginning
And will be tomorrow too,
Until the pain and suffering left
Fulfills what's Holy and True.

For the Master now sits on the right hand
With His Father's Most Holy Seal,
Impressing His healing Name
On the partakers of His meal.

And His trumpets call to remembrance
To all who "Take" and "Eat",
The nature of each lot cast
And the meaning of milk and meat.

For the lion is a meat eater
And the tribe of Judah has One,
But the Lamb remains the sacrifice
Until the patience of Faith is done.

But woe to the double-minded players
Who balance themselves in the middle,
For the simple, and the scorner, and the fool
Will be esteemed much less than spittle.

Lo! David learned how to draw deep
And he often went to the well,
And his contrite and humbled spirit
Has saved many a soul from Hell.

So seek the Truth without end
And do it once again,
Looking deep within yourself
For the event horizon of sin. Amen.

For where you look
And what you see ...
Shapes the self
You'll finally be. Amen Again.

DEAD IN THE STREETS

Or

My Two Witnesses

Compassion cries for want of suffering and discipline
While Justice weeps for lost truth and equity.
Are there none left who are willing
And are the able bodied forever silenced?

For want of suffering young men contend with ease
And tolerance becomes the sacrifice of fools.
For want of discipline children raise up their own selves
And where will the child lead when he is king?

Unspoken truths join hand in hand with lies
And equity is bent and twisted out of shape.
Justice becomes the watchword of corruption
And Compassion the new terror of the land.

Where does one search for lost truth
Or how does one even know it's missing?
Go to the streets of the city where the paths cross
And watch the ways of all the people.

Who's buying, who's selling and what measures are used
And what value is placed on this and that?
Pay attention to attention and note the settling of disputes
And translate time and energy and blood into money.

Do you see any deeds simply for equity's sake
Or hear any witnesses just for the truth?
Or do you see deeds of violence in every doorway
And hear lies whispered at every corner?

What price for a soul today
And how much will the flesh alone bring?
Check the balances carefully ...
For it is the measure of a man.

NOTES



