

## *A New Look at the Book of the Apocalypse*

# **The Book of Revelation UNCLOAKED at Last!**

Mystery of mysteries! Who can understand the book of Revelation? Scholars and ministers differ in their interpretations. Why is it that almost no one really seems to understand the prophecies of this book? It's time you knew the truth! Here is a NEW LOOK at the amazing prophecies of the book of Revelation!

William F. Dankenbring

Mystery of mysteries! No book of the Bible has been more fraught with misunderstanding than the incredible prophecies of the Book of Revelation. When I first studied this book as a teenager in Taiwan, while my father was stationed with the American Military Advisory Group, it baffled me and intrigued me at the same time. I prayed to God for understanding, but I knew at that time I had a long way to go.

Then, a few short years later, I read a booklet written by Herbert Armstrong on the KEY to the Book of Revelation. For the first time, the book of Revelation seemed to make sense to me! I had never thought of "inset chapters" before, and Herbert Armstrong made plain the truth that the Bible interprets its own symbols. He showed there is a "story flow" through the book of Revelation, and my understanding increased immensely. It was a significant breakthrough in Biblical understanding, and I was very thankful to God for it. However, problems still remained.

### ***Remaining Problems***

One major problem, which dogged at the back of my mind over the years, was the interpretation by Herbert Armstrong that the seven last plagues of Revelation 16 are all poured out in "one day," at the very day Jesus sets foot on the Mount of Olives! If you read through this chapter very carefully, you will find that very powerful, significant plagues are mentioned here. It seemed incongruous that they would all occur in one day -- including the "gathering" together of all the world's armies and kings to the battle of Armageddon!

Stop and think a moment! Could all these plagues occur in just "one day"? In this article, we will examine the evidence. But first, let's proceed chapter by chapter, as we begin to explore the mysterious book known as "Revelation."

### ***A Revealing -- Not a "Concealing"***

The apostle John writes, "The *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, which God gave Him to *show His servants -- things which must shortly take place*" (Rev.1:1).

Notice! This book was written for the Church of God -- to **SHOW** us things which are soon going to come to pass -- things which will occur in the last generation leading up to the second coming of the Messiah -- Jesus Christ Himself! The book is called a "Revelation" -- that is, a "revealing." It is not meant to be a "concealing," or hiding of the truth. Nevertheless, like all prophecy of the Bible, it is *hidden* from those who do not believe or obey God -- those who are not His servants! To them, it is "closed up and sealed" (compare Dan.12:9-10). They have no understanding because they do not obey! However, the arcane and mysterious "symbols" of the book of Revelation become plain and understandable to those who are yielded to God and who keep His commandments!

Let us read through this amazing book, now, and understand what it is talking about -- and what its message is for **OUR** generation!

### ***The Story Flow of Revelation***

To understand the book of Revelation, we must first understand that it is written as a story. It flows logically, from beginning to end. The first three chapters are introductory chapters, setting the stage, and providing warnings to the Church of God, given in seven letters to the seven (end-time) branches of God's true Church (Rev.2-3).

Chapter four begins the major part of the prophecy, introducing the throne of God, and chapter five reveals that the Lamb of God -- Jesus Christ -- is given the book of prophecy sealed with seven seals, for only He is worthy to open it.

Chapter six, then, begins the unveiling of the prophecy for the end-time -- the last days, just before and concluding with the return of the Messiah! Thus, the story-flow of the book of Revelation brings us through the opening of the seven seals (Rev.6), the first four of which are the four horsemen of the Apocalypse (Rev.6:1-8); the fifth seal is the great tribulation and martyrdom of saints (Rev.6:9-11); the sixth seal describes heavenly signs which will occur at the end of the tribulation period (vs.12-14); and the seventh seal constitutes the **WRATH OF GOD** which is poured out during the **DAY OF THE LORD** (Rev.6:15-17; 7:1-3; 8:1-6).

Now let's explore the opening of the first four "seals" that seal the prophecy of the book of Revelation.

### ***The FOUR HORSEMEN of the Apocalypse***

The book of Revelation holds chilling, spine-tingling descriptions of events which will occur in the last days of this present age, leading up to the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The time-sequence of events begins with the "four horsemen" of the apocalypse.

Notice! We read here of four horses and their riders. They are, in order, white, red, black, and "pale." What are they?

"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" (Rev.6:2).

A parallel prophecy in Zechariah 6 tell us also of four chariots of horses -- red, black, white, and "bay." This prophecy identifies the four with the four parts of the earth -- the red is connected with the east, the black with the north, the white with the west, and the "bay" with the south (Zech.6:1-7; check the Tanakh). They walk through the earth. A "horse" is noted for its military prowess (Job 39:19-25). These, then, are four mighty military powers, in the four quarters of the earth!

"White" is a symbol of righteousness (Rev.19:8). The "white" horse is connected with the west (Zech.6:6, Tanakh). It represents a mighty military power in the "West" which has combatted the forces of fascism, Nazism, and Communism. Which nation or group of nations would that be? Why, the United States and Great Britain, and their allies! The United States, in the western hemisphere, was largely responsible for saving the world in World War I, World War II, fending off Communism in Korea and Vietnam, and leading the victory in the Gulf War.

"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 to him a GREAT SWORD" (v.4)

The "red horse" is connected with the *east* (Zech.6:7, Tanakh). It is *Communism* -- remember "Red Square," in Moscow? The "red flag" of Communism? The red star, the "Reds," etc.? The Jewish Tanakh in Zechariah 6:7 shows the red horses are connected with the "east." Communism rose up in 1917, overthrew the Czars in Russia, and set about seeking to enslave and conquer the world. Millions lost their lives in Stalin's purges. Millions more lost their lives in the purges of Mao Tse-tung, in Red China. And now, once again, the "red horse" in the East is threatening to rise up, and bloody revolution may well occur throughout the former lands of the Soviet Union!

"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 . . . 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" (Rev.6:5-6).

The third horseman -- the black horse -- is connected with the north country (Zech.6:6) -- that is, modern Europe and Germany. The black horse -- Germany -- attacked Poland in 1939 and initiated World War II with the aggression of Adolph Hitler and the "Third Reich." Germany is today once again the political and economic powerhouse of Europe. This "horse" represents a United Europe -- the European Union -- which is "north" of Israel, or Palestine. When this horse rides, especially in the future, it is connected with famine, scarcity, and hunger.

"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" (Rev.6:8).

The fourth horseman -- the pale horse -- represents the "king of the south" -- the Muslim world -- and the threat that it poses to the world (Zech.6:6). The leader of this world grouping would be Egypt, identified in the book of Daniel as the "king of the south" (Dan.11). Led by Egypt, fueled by the billions of Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, this horseman will "push" at the king of the north, leading to a terrible round of World War. Notice!

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the SOUTH *PUSH AT HIM*: and the king of the north shall come against him like a WHIRLWIND, with chariots [tanks], and with horsemen, and with many ships [including the U.S. and British navies]; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow, and pass over. He shall enter into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown" (Dan.11:40-41).

Note that by the time this happens, the Western and Northern kingdoms have "merged" and have become part of a New World Order! The "ships" referred to here can only be a reference to the ships of the world's greatest navies, today, those of the United States, Britain, and Europe! The implication is that by this time the New World Order has been established, but the Moslem world rebels against it -- and war breaks out in the Middle East!

Interestingly, the "pale horse" of the apocalypse could also represent the growing power of the ecological movement! The Greek word translated "pale" in this verse is *chloros* which means "greenish, i.e., verdant, dun-colored -- green, pale." We get our word "chlorophyl" from this word. The "Green movement" is part of the ecological movement. Mikhail Gorbachev is prominent in this area. He is the head of Green Cross, International. At the State of the World Forum, held at the Presidio, in San Francisco, Gorbachev told the assembled world leaders, "The environmental crisis is the cornerstone of the New World Order." In a speech in Indiana in October, 1996, he openly declared, "World civilization as we know it will soon end. We have very little time and we must act." By working with Maurice Strong and the United Nations, Gorbachev has been leading the way to prepare for a New International Order, and said his final push would be launched in 1998. "By the year 2002," he said, "we will be presenting the final draft of the Earth Charter" -- a kind of global "bill of rights" which will be imposed on the world's inhabitants by a system of world government.

In order for these things to happen, however, the United States in particular, must be brought into complete conformity with this new world thinking. America must be an integral part of the New World Order, if not the actual leader of it. Massive changes, therefore, are being orchestrated for the United States, to bring it into alignment with globalism.

What happens next in the prophecy of Revelation? Notice!

During the years ahead of us, it appears that the United States and other nations of the "lost ten tribes" of Israel, together with Judah (the land known as "Israel" in the Middle East), will somehow lose their national sovereignty, and become absorbed into the "New World

Order." This has already begun to occur, with the passage of legislation forcing NAFTA, GATT, and trade agreements upon our nations, leading to loss of jobs, and suffering. At the present, the United States is the leader in this movement toward Globalism. We are part of the end-time "Babylon the Great." Read my article entitled, "Who Is Modern Babylon the Great?"

However it comes about -- via internal strife and violence, economic collapse, or simply a silent "coup" -- a cunning "takeover" by the forces of the New World Order -- our western nations will end up subjugated by a World Government -- the end-time "Babylon"! National sovereignty will be a thing of the past. Our enslavement will become complete as our nations become trodden down by and merged into the New World Order. Our resources and military will then be used on the behalf of that World Government.

When that international New World Order is complete, its first order of business, following the conquest of rebellious nations, will be revealed in the mysterious "fifth seal" of Revelation. Notice!

### *The Martyrdom of Saints*

After the four horsemen of the apocalypse begin to ride, dealing death and destruction, there will be great persecution upon Christians and Jews -- known as the "Great Tribulation." The book of Revelation continues the story:

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the SOULS OF THEM THAT WERE SLAIN *for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.* . . . And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, *until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be KILLED AS THEY WERE, should be fulfilled*" (Rev.6:9-11).

This great persecution and martyrdom and oppression will occur at the hands of the "Beast" power of Revelation -- the "New World Order" -- modern "Babylon the great" -- after it has come into existence! It will oppress and rule for three and one half years (Rev.13:1-5). The apostle John writes:

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to MAKE WAR with him? . . . and power was given unto him to continue FORTY AND TWO MONTHS. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God . . . And it was given unto him to MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, *and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations*" (Rev.13:4-7).

This religious persecution and Great Tribulation is prophesied to last 3 and one half years -- forty two months. It will be a fiendish time of hellish torment for God's people.

### *The Sixth Seal -- Signs in the Heavens*

Jesus Christ foretold that after that great tribulation, great heavenly signs will occur. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days," He declared, "shall the sun be darkened, and

the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Matt.24:29). The prophet Joel, on the other hand, informs us, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE *the great and terrible day of the LORD come*" (Joel 2:31).

These awesome occurrences in the skies and heavens will stagger mankind, causing terrible fright and anxiety. They are called the "sixth seal" in Revelation. Notice!

"And I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place . . ." (Rev.6:12-14, NKJV).

After this, then, comes the final "Day of the Lord" -- the time when God Himself begins to punish the nations, and bring His divine judgments of wrath and fury (Rev.6:15-17). It is called, "the great DAY of His wrath" (Rev.6:17).

### ***The 144,000 and Great Multitude***

Chapter 7 of Revelation is an inset chapter, showing that those who turn to God during the Great Tribulation will be sealed with God's protection during the remainder of the catastrophes and cataclysms which will befall the inhabitants of the earth. There will be 144,000 of each of the end-time tribes of Israel so protected, and an immense multitude of people from other nations (Rev.7:3-17). These people will become the flesh-and-blood *leaders among mankind* during the beginning of the Millennial Reign of Christ! After they live out their natural lives, they will be resurrected into the Kingdom of God, and will become the newborn members of God's Family! Be sure to read my article, "Who are the 144,000 of Revelation?"

Next -- the seven "trumpet plagues" of the wrath of God are poured out during the "day of God's wrath"!

### ***The Awesome Trumpet Plagues***

In Revelation, chapter 8, God says He will then send seven angels with seven trumpet plagues -- terrible ordeals -- which will in succession afflict the earth. Since a "day" is a year being fulfilled, and they are poured out during the "DAY of the Lord," it will evidently last one year (Num.14:34; Ezek.4:6).

Notice these awesome events. The first four of these will be incredible natural disasters, including hail and fire cast to the earth -- meteorite showers causing widespread devastation and destruction (Rev.8:7). The second plague will be a "great mountain" -- probably a "space mountain, or asteroid -- falling upon the sea, causing a third part of the sea to become greatly polluted, destroying ships and killing one third of sea life (Rev.8:8-9). The third plague will be "a great star" or comet which will fall from "heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon

the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; . . . and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter" (v.10-11).

### ***The Final Three "Woes"***

The last three of these trumpet plagues -- numbers 5, 6, and 7 -- are also known as the "three woes" (Rev.8:13). These represent the final three rounds of WORLD WAR, culminating in the return of Christ to settle the issue of who will rule the earth once and for all!

Notice! In Revelation 9, the first "woe" is described as "locusts" which utilize chemical warfare, "tormenting mankind for five months" (Rev.9:1-11). The head of this World Empire is Satan the devil, working through the "Beast" (v.11). "Locusts," in the Bible, are a type of soldiers (see Nahum 3:15). God compares the soldiers -- the military -- of this final World Government to "locusts," therefore. But these are peculiar locusts -- they use chemical and biological weapons to "torment" mankind. In appearance, these soldiers are described as "women" (Nahum 3:13; Rev.9:8).

This world power will inflict awesome calamities everywhere -- it is the "king of the north" (compare Daniel 11:41-45).

Following hard on the heels of this round of World War III, initiated by modern "Babylon," will be another terrible plague -- the "second woe." Notice! This woe consists of a massive army from the EAST which will number *200,000,000 men!* (Rev.9:12-21). This huge army will undoubtedly consist of millions of soldiers from China and India, and surrounding regions, including the Persians and Russians. This massive army, like the hordes of Ghengis Khan, will march westward, into Europe and the Middle East. These hordes come from "beyond Euphrates" (Rev.9:14-15; 16:12). They will slay the third part of men (v.15).

It is a fascinating fact, today, that the nation of China has an excess of men over women in the younger generation. Men outnumber women in that age group by *9 to 1 -- with an excess of almost 150,000,000 men!* This fact is due to the Chinese governmental policy of limiting each family to having only one child. Since most Chinese families, by culture and tradition, desire to have a male offspring, someone who can take care of them in their old age, young girl babies are often aborted, or killed shortly after childbirth.

Growing up lonely, frustrated, and miserable, these young men will become part of that huge army that will attack towards the West!

### ***The "Third Woe"***

This brings us through Revelation, chapter 9. Chapter 10 is an inset chapter, about a mysterious "little book" and the "seven thunders." For their explanation, read our article, "What Is the Little Scroll and the Seven Thunders of Revelation?"

In the beginning of chapter 11 of Revelation, John tells us that a future temple of God is to be rebuilt in Jerusalem (verses 1-2), and that God will raise up two prophets -- two witnesses

-- who will preach and prophesy in Jerusalem for 3 1/2 years, during the same 3 1/2 years that the "beast" will rule the earth, causing the Great Tribulation (Rev.11:2-13). This will complete the "second woe" (v.14).

Now we come to the "third" woe -- the final woe that is prophesied. John records:

"Then the *seventh angel* sounded: And there were voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! . . . . The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth" (Rev.11:15-18).

This is the second coming of Christ! This is the *seventh* trumpet plague -- the final woe - - and the culmination of the seventh seal of the book of Revelation!

### ***"Armageddon" -- At Our Doors***

At this point, after billions have already died in natural disasters and worldwide wars, the devil and his demons will bring all the armies of the earth together, for one final "battle" -- to fight against Jesus Christ at His return!

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of demons, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, TO GATHER THEM TO THE BATTLE OF THAT GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY. . . .

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, ARMAGEDDON . . ." (Rev.16:13-16).

Armageddon! Finally, it will happen. The battle of the ages -- the greatest conflict -- the final tremendous, awesome battle at the end of this age! We read about the leading armies in this final rallying cry for mankind to oppose the rule of God:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall MAKE WAR with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Rev.17:12-14).

These "ten kings" give their power to the "Beast" for just "ONE HOUR" -- prophetically speaking. Jesus Christ said that there are "twelve hours in a day" (John 11:9), and there are 12 months in a year, so "one hour" evidently equals ONE MONTH in being fulfilled!

Thus this final "alliance" refers to a final union of the world -- its "New World Order" -- which will, apparently under the auspices of the United Nations, FIGHT AGAINST CHRIST! All the world will be gathered together to resist Him. All nations will fight against Him,

thinking that He is an "invader from outer space," some "alien intelligence" seeking to overthrow the earth!

They will not succeed, however. For when Christ returns, "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" (Rev.19:11-16).

### *The Valley of Megiddo*

"Armageddon"! The very word sends chills and shivers down the spine. Think of it! "*Armageddon!*" Will it really happen? Can it really happen? Will the nations of the world unleash their combined military resources upon the returning Son of God, when He and His armies descend from heaven?

Let's read the rest of the prophecy:

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue ARMAGEDDON. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a GREAT HAIL out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent [60-120 pounds]; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" (Revelation 16:16-21).

The word "Armageddon" actually refers to an archaeological ruin of an ancient fortress located north of Jerusalem, at the edge of the plain of Esdraelon, a vast plain where armies used to gather and fight in historical times. Egyptian, Assyrian, Hittite, Syrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman, and other armies, fought there for control of the Middle East. Its actual name is "Har Megiddo," or the fortress of Megiddo.

But notice! There is no mention here of any "battle of Armageddon." Rather, the Scriptures simply state that the armies of the world will once again be GATHERED there. The actual name of the battle is revealed in verse 14 -- it is called "*the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*"

But once the nations are gathered, where will the actual battle be fought? The prophet Joel declared,

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; PREPARE WAR, wake up the mighty men, let ALL the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. ASSEMBLE YOURSELVES, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause your mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and

come up to the VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT: for there will I sit to judge the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down: for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

"MULTITUDES, MULTITUDES IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice FROM JERUSALEM; and the heavens and the earth shall SHAKE: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel" (Joel 3:9-16).

The battle of that great day of God Almighty, when the nations gather at Har Megiddo, will be fought over JERUSALEM! The "valley of decision" or "valley of Jehoshaphat" is another name for the Kidron Valley, a valley or depression which runs north-south along the eastern side of Jerusalem. It is called the "valley of decision," or "judgment," for there God will judge the heathen round about.

### *The Battle for JERUSALEM*

The prophet Zechariah tells us this great battle will be fought over *Jerusalem*. God says:

"And in that day will I make **JERUSALEM** a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be CUT IN PIECES, though ALL the people of the earth be GATHERED AGAINST IT. In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will SMITE every horse of the people with blindness" (Zechariah 12:3-4).

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that *I will seek to DESTROY ALL THE NATIONS that come against Jerusalem*" (verse 9).

Zechariah continues his remarkable prophecy:

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and the spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. *For I will GATHER all nations AGAINST JERUSALEM TO BATTLE*, and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. *THEN SHALL THE LORD GO FORTH, AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS*, as when he fought in the day of battle. **AND HIS FEET SHALL STAND IN THAT DAY UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH IS BEFORE JERUSALEM ON THE EAST**, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" (Zech.14:1-4).

This great, climactic battle will be the consummation of the age. It will be fought just outside the walls of Jerusalem. Christ Himself will return from heaven, to the Mount of Olives, just on the east side of the Temple Mount, and all the angels of heaven with him, in a

vast army. As Zechariah wrote, "The LORD my God shall come, and all the *saints* with thee" (Zech.14:5). The word "saints" here means "holy ones." It is a description of the angels of heaven, as well as the resurrected saints made immortal, who will join Christ's army (see Jude 14-15, Psalm 149:5-9).

### ***Back to the Story Flow of Revelation***

We have gotten a little ahead of ourselves, perhaps, in exploring the book of Revelation. In the story flow, we have covered through the seventh seal (Rev.7-9), and the 7 trumpet plagues (Rev.9-11).

Chapter 12 is another inset chapter, dealing with the history of the Church, and Israel, and culminating with the church being persecuted during the Great Tribulation (Rev.12:13-17). This chapter describes a final "war in heaven," in which Michael and his angels cast the devil and his angels out of heaven to the earth, whereupon they initiate an onslaught of mayhem and persecution against God's true people on the earth (Rev.12:1-9).

Chapter 13 is another inset chapter, describing the end-time beast power -- one world government -- New World Order -- which will persecute the saints, and cause people to receive a "mark" of identity permitting them to buy or sell during that time (Rev.13:1-18). Read our article on "What Is the Mark of the Beast?" and "The Devil and William J. Clinton," for more information about this chapter.

Chapter 14 is another inset chapter, filling in more of the "blanks," left out in the portrayal of the "seven seals," from chapter 6 to chapter 11. In this chapter, we read of another group of 144,000, standing on Mount Zion, with Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. They are called "the firstfruits" of the Lamb and of God -- those who will be in the first resurrection! (Rev.14:1-4). They are the "redeemed" (v.4). This chapter goes on to describe the destruction of this end-time world system, the punishment upon its followers, and the judgment Christ will pour out upon His enemies (vs.14-20).

Chapter 15 goes on to tell us about "seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete" (Rev.15:1). What are these seven final plagues? What is their relationship to the seven trumpet plagues of Revelation 8-11?

### ***How Long Will the Seventh Trumpet Sound?***

When Christ returns, WAR will be waged against the kingdoms of the world. His return is pictured by the seventh trumpet. But notice! How long will this trumpet sound?

We read, "But in the DAYS of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the *mystery of God would be finished*, as He declared to His servants the prophets" (Rev.10:7). *It will sound for a number of "DAYS"!*

When Christ returns, His presence will be accompanied by the pouring out of SEVEN LAST PLAGUES. They are mentioned in Revelation 15-16. The pouring out of these plagues

will take TIME! Notice!

Let's compare these plagues, so we can understand and grasp this truth!

### *Revelation 16 Examined*

The apostle John writes, "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the SEVEN ANGELS, Go your ways, and pour out the VIALS OF THE WRATH OF GOD upon the earth." Notice, first of all, these vials contain the undiluted WRATH OF GOD -- that is, they ARE, they CONSTITUTE, the wrath of God!

Now, continue: "And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image" (v.2). This is, of course, a mighty plague of God. It is important to note, at this point, how these end-time plagues of God parallel, and were typified, by the ancient plagues of God on Egypt, just prior to the Exodus of Israel!

In Exodus 9 we read of one of those ancient plagues: "And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a BOIL BREAKING FORTH WITH BLAINS UPON MAN, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a BOIL breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon ALL THE EGYPTIANS" (Exo.9:8-11).

Now notice!

This plague upon ancient Egypt was not merely of a few hours duration. Undoubtedly, it lasted for several days, while the Egyptians suffered pain and torment from this noisome disease and its excruciating pain. Then, the *next morning* God told Moses to tell Pharaoh He would smite his people with additional pestilence (verses 13,14, and 15) and plagues. Moses was to tell Pharaoh, "Behold, TOMORROW about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail. . . ." (v.18).

So, just from the time the plague of boils was sent till the coming of the plague of hail, was at least *three days* duration! Yet, these plagues were TYPES or FORERUNNERS of the end-time plagues! Therefore, this implies that the end-time plagues will also cover a span of time lasting at least many days and weeks, and will not all be poured out in one single day, as Herbert Armstrong thought!

But there is much more evidence of this new truth!

Let us proceed through the chapter of Revelation 16, and discern exactly what God is

telling us through His servant John. John writes, "And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood" (Rev.16:3-4).

### *Comparison of Ancient and End Time Plagues*

The first plague God sent upon ancient Egypt was the plague of blood. We read: "And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt" (Exo.7:19-21).

How long did this particular plague last? "And *seven days were fulfilled*, after that the Lord had smitten the river" (Exo.7:25). For the effect of the plague to sink in, and to be appreciated, and properly felt, it had to last for many days -- an entire week! God wanted to give the people a chance to REPENT, before sending another plague!

Do you think God has changed? Is He any different, today? Do you think He will send one plague right after the other, all within one 24-hour period, in the end-time? Of course not! Each plague will be a measured punishment from a loving God, followed up by a chance or opportunity for those people to repent who are willing to do so -- even if the vast majority do not decide to repent, but become even more hardened, as Pharaoh himself did (Exo.7:22-23).

### *The Purpose of the Plagues*

John records: "And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory" (Rev.16:8-9).

This verse implies plainly that the purpose of these plagues is, in part, to bring men to repentance -- to give them an opportunity to repent. This would be impossible if all the plagues were poured out in one day! The people would still be numb, reeling, and bewildered by the preceding plagues -- they would hardly be able to even think, let alone repent, if all these plagues were poured out within a 24-hour period. They would be dazed -- stunned -- stupefied -- too numb to even think. They would be in a catatonic state of mind, the full impact of what was happening unable to register in their febrile minds. Time is required for repentance, and for the full meaning and import of each plague to sink in to its recipient!

The plague of the scorching sun may parallel the plague of "very grievous hail" which

God sent upon Egypt. We read, "And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the FIRE RAN ALONG UPON THE GROUND; and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt" (Exo.9:23).

"So there was HAIL, AND FIRE MINGLED WITH THE HAIL, VERY GRIEVOUS, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation" (v.24). What was this fire, mingled with hail-stones?

As I explain in the article "Who Was the Pharaoh of the Exodus?", this was very likely a terrific meteor bombardment, a meteor shower, which fell upon the land of Egypt. It may well have been accompanied with great heat, causing fire to even run along upon the ground -- something never before seen in the earth! This was certainly not your normal, everyday thunderstorm with hail!

This coming plague of scorching heat from the sun is also prophesied in the book of Isaiah. The prophet declares, "Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be SEVENFOLD, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound. Behold, the name of the Lord cometh from afar, BURNING with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a DEVOURING FIRE: and his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err" (Isa. 30:26-28).

### *The Plague of Darkness Probed*

"And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of DARKNESS; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds" (Rev.16:10-11). This plague, also, was paralleled by the plagues upon ancient Egypt. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be DARKNESS over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a THICK DARKNESS in all the land of Egypt three days: they saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings" (Exo.10:21-23).

Again, I discuss this plague more fully in the article, "Who Was the Pharaoh of the Exodus?" In that article, I quote ancient Egyptian sources which were eye-witnesses to the plagues upon ancient Egypt! Suffice it to say that this "thick" darkness lasted three days, but other sources show that the entire period of darkness was seven days in duration. Regardless of the total length of darkness, however, the plague of darkness which will be poured out in the future will also last several days. Of what point would a plague of darkness be if it were only a few hours in duration? Yet if all seven of these plagues in Revelation 16 were poured out in one 24-hour period of time, obviously these severe plagues would be greatly shortened and ameliorated in power and severity. It makes no sense for them to all occur at once -- in fact, the very fact that they are given *consecutively, one after another, shows that they are NOT*

*simultaneous!*

It makes no sense whatsoever for the rivers and water to be turned to blood for only a few hours; and the sun to scorch men for only a few hours; to be followed by a plague of darkness for only a few hours!

It should be obvious, by now, that each of these plagues is of several days or even weeks duration, or even longer.

### ***The Time Element of the Sixth Plague of Revelation***

An expanse of time is obviously indicated by the sixth plague of Revelation 16.

Notice!

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the **KINGS OF THE EAST** might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils (demons), working miracles, which **GO FORTH UNTO THE KINGS OF THE EARTH, AND OF THE WHOLE WORLD**, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon*" (Rev.16:12-16).

Notice! This sixth plague is essentially "human"-caused, in that it is not supernatural devastation from heaven, but rather signifies **WAR** and the convergence of armies to do **BATTLE**. It involves the gathering of nations, their mobilization, and marching across hundreds, or even thousands of miles, to come together at Armageddon, or Har Megiddo, to the north of Jerusalem. This plague alone would very likely involve at least several days of time -- not just a few hours! Many of the world's armies will already be in the Middle East at this time. But mobilization would not occur overnight!

These "kings of the east" represent the vast hordes of Asia and Russia, and their allies, including Japan and China!

### ***The Seventh and Final Plague***

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a **GREAT EARTHQUAKE**, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague of it was exceeding great" (Rev.16:17-21).

A "light" talent equaled 60 manehs, and a maneh was equivalent to a Roman pound. Thus a "light" talent, used in weighing metals, was about 60 pounds. A "heavy" or double

talent was 120 pounds.

Thus these "hail stones" will weigh from 60-120 pounds! As in the case of ancient Egypt these hail stones could also refer to meteorite showers peppering the earth at the time when Christ returns!

An example of such a meteorite shower, which destroyed an army fighting against God's people, occurred in the days of Joshua. We read: "And the Lord discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah. And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the Lord CAST DOWN GREAT STONES FROM HEAVEN UPON THEM unto Azekah, and they DIED; they were more which died with HAILSTONES than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword" (Josh.10:10-11).

A portion of this final mind-defying plague will be a parallel phenomenon -- a massive, earth-wrenching orogeny -- an incredible earthquake that will cause the entire planet to ring like a bell, and shake like a house in a hurricane. Mountain ranges will be leveled; islands will sink beneath the waves of the sea; new islands will rise up. Volcanoes will outflow lava on massive scales.

Just as in the days when God led Israel out of Egypt, and God Himself -- the One who became Christ -- descended to Mount Sinai, to speak with Moses and to give the Ten Commandments, and the mountains melted -- so it will be when Christ returns to the Mount of Olives. Notice these two *parallel* accounts:

"Lord, when thou wentest *out of Seir*, when thou marchedst out of the *field of Edom*, the EARTH TREMBLED, and the heavens dropped (meteor showers), the clouds also dropped water. The MOUNTAINS MELTED from before the Lord, even that Sinai from before the Lord God of Israel" (Judges 5:4-5).

Isaiah prophesies,

"Who is this that *cometh from Edom*, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people, there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come" (Isa.63:1-4).

### ***The Awesome Return of the Messiah***

Christ Himself will return in glory, and punish the rebellious nations gathered against Him, who will be assembled at Armageddon and then march toward Jerusalem! God says through Zechariah, "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be

taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and FIGHT against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zech.14:1-3).

Notice further!

"And his feet shall stand in that day UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES . . . and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee toward the valley of the mountains . . . yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the EARTHQUAKE in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee" (vs.4-5).

Again, it should be obvious that this final plague -- which includes meteor showers, massive tectonic upheavals around the globe, disappearing islands, enormous tsunamis or tidal waves, and tremendous warfare between the armies of the earth and the returning Christ -- also describes events which will last much more than merely a few hours duration. Days, weeks, even a month or more could well be described here! How long will it require for the armies of the Lord to march through the land, and punish the wicked?

The wicked will be cast "into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" (Rev.14:19-20) -- or two hundred miles!

### ***Mystery of the Seven Trumpet Plagues and Seven Last Plagues***

First of all, then, we now know of a certainty that the seven last plagues are not all poured out in one 24-hour day. In fact, a careful study of these plagues, and the plagues on ancient Egypt which were types and forerunners, reveals that these plagues, taken together, from the first to the last, undoubtedly last several weeks. When, then, do they occur?

Evidently, they will be poured out during the "30" day period beginning with the return of Christ to the Mount of Olives (Dan.12:11).

It has been assumed, in the past, that the seventh trumpet sounds, and THEN the seven last plagues are poured out as Christ descends from heaven. However, that assumption is invalid. If that were the case, then the seven last plagues are poured out in one literal day, and we have just seen how impossible and self-contradictory such an interpretation really is.

### ***A Plague-by-Plague Rundown***

The first of the seven last plagues is a *grievous sore* upon the worshippers of the beast. When the first of the seven angels with trumpets sounds his trumpet, "there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burned up, and all green grass was burned up" (Rev.8:7). This plague clearly differs from the

first of the trumpet plagues of Revelation 8.

The second of the seven last plagues is the sea becoming like *blood*, and sea life perishing. The second trumpet plague is "as it were a great mountain burning with fire" that is "cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became *blood*; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and a third part of the ships were destroyed" (Rev.8:8-9). Both of these plagues are similar and involve *blood*! *But this plague doesn't just kill one third of sea life, and ships, but "EVERY LIVING CREATURE in the sea DIED"* (Rev.16:3). This plague is many times worse than the one in Revelation 8!

The third of the seven last plagues is *rivers and fountains* of waters becoming *blood* (Rev.16:4). The third of the angelic trumpet plagues is "a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the *RIVERS*, and upon the *FOUNTAINS OF WATERS* . . . and a third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter" (Rev.8:10-11). These plagues are also similar in nature! But in Revelation 8, the waters become like wormwood – here they become as blood – much worse!

"Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to **SCORCH MEN with FIRE**" ('Rev.16:8). The fourth of the last plagues is scorching heat from the *sun*. When the fourth trumpet plague was announced, "the third part of the *sun* was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise" (Rev.8:12). Note that both of these plagues involve the *sun*. *Yet they are still much different in scope and nature! The first one diminishes solar energy, but the last one intensifies it!*

The fifth of the last plagues was "darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of their pains" (Rev.16:10), and "blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores" (v.11). The fifth trumpet plague was the sun and moon being darkened, but nothing like this horrifyingly painful plague! "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a *smoke* out of the pit, as the *smoke of a great furnace*; and the **SUN AND THE AIR WERE DARKENED** by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the pit locusts" (Rev.9:1-3).

The *sixth* of the seven last plagues is the *gathering of armies* to fight the final round of World War III -- at Armageddon (Rev.16:12-16). The *sixth trumpet plague*, interestingly enough, was also the massing of a huge army, numbering 200,000,000 men at arms. The angel during the sixth of the last plagues dries up the river *Euphrates*, to prepare the way of the "kings of the east" to approach Jerusalem (Rev.16:12, 14).

This plague is also similar to the sixth trumpet plague of Revelation 9. The angel who blows the sixth trumpet was told: "Loose the four angels which are bound in the *great river Euphrates*. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, to slay the third part of men" (Rev.9:13-16). In this plague, however, the armies from the East devastate and kill one third of mankind as they attack the Western

nations. But here, they are gathered to fight against Christ – and HE will be the winner!

### *The Seventh Plagues Compared*

When the *seventh of the seven last plagues* occurs, there is a great voice in heaven, and thunders, and lightnings, and a great earthquake, and great hailstones from heaven, which occur at the time Christ sets foot on the Mount of Olives. "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were *voices*, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a *great earthquake*, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. . . . And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a *great hail* out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent . . ." (Rev.16:17-21).

Notice what happens when the *seventh angel* with the seventh of the trumpet plagues blows his trumpet: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were *great voices in heaven*, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. . . . And the nations were angry, and **THY WRATH** is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest **DESTROY** (fight against and annihilate in battle) them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven . . . and there were **LIGHTNINGS**, and **VOICES**, and **THUNDERINGS**, and an *EARTHQUAKE, and GREAT HAIL*" (Rev.11:15-19). Notice how precisely and exactly this "seventh trumpet plague" dovetails with and matches the "seventh last plague"!

The "seventh angelic plague" of Revelation 8-11, then, **INTRODUCES THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES!** It is not the same thing as the seventh vial of God's wrath, but introduces all seven of the vials of wrath which are poured out when Christ returns, and for the next 30 days!

During this end time, the seven trumpet plagues will "soften up" mankind for the final punch – the power-packed seven last plagues which will be poured out **AS** Christ returns and goes to battle with the armies of the world!

Thus the first six of the trumpet plagues are poured out during the first eleven months of the "Day of the Lord" – the final year of the end of this age. The final and twelfth month will be the month of the "seventh trumpet" – when the seven last plagues are poured out and Christ returns in awesome power and glory!

At the beginning of the twelfth month the final and last trumpet -- the seventh trumpet -- is blown, and Christ returns to the Mount of Olives. A great earthquake rocks the entire framework of planet earth, and cities collapse everywhere. Christ goes to battle against those gathered against Him, and conquers them, and regathers His people Israel out of all nations where they are gathered (compare Matt.24:29-31; Rev.17:14; 19:11-15).

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the *great trumpet* shall be blown, and they

shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem" (Isa.27:13).

### **“One HOUR”**

The wicked will be cast “into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs” (Rev.14:19-20) -- a distance of 184 miles, extending from the east side of Jerusalem, the Kidron Valley, down to the Dead Sea, and southward to the Gulf of Aqaba!

How long will pouring out these plagues, and the final WAR that Christ will wage against the nations of the earth, require? Can we know? Yes, we can! Notice!

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tongue, tribe and people – saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, *for the HOUR of His judgment is come . . .*” (Rev.14:6-7, NKJV).

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for *ONE HOUR AS KINGS WITH THE BEAST*. These are of one mind, and They will give their power and authority to the beast. These will *MAKE WAR* with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Rev.17:12-14).

God’s period of “judgment” will last “*one hour.*” These ten kings give their power to the Beast for precisely “ONE HOUR.” How long is “one hour,” speaking prophetically? In “one hour’ end-time “Babylon” will fall (Rev.18:10, 17). How long is “one hour”?

Jesus Christ said that there are “twelve hours in a day” (John 11:9). Since a “day” equals a “year” in being fulfilled (Num.14:34; Ezek.4:4-6), and since there are 12 months in a year, this means that “ONE HOUR” equals *ONE MONTH* in being fulfilled! One month equals 30 days? Could this equal the 30 extra days revealed in Daniel’s prophecy?

Daniel wrote: ““I heard and did not understand, so I said, ‘My Lord, what will be the outcome of these things?’ He said, ‘Go, Daniel, for these words are **SECRET AND SEALED** to the **TIME OF THE END**. Many will be purified and purged and refined; the wicked will act wickedly and none of the wicked will understand; but the knowledgeable will understand. From the time the regular offering is abolished, and an appalling abomination is set up -- it will be a *thousand two hundred and ninety days . . .*” (Dan.12:8-11).

Christ returns at the end of 1260 days (the last half of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week – Dan.9:27). Could the seventh trumpet blow for the following 30 days as He puts down rebellion

throughout the earth? Could it be then that the blowing of the seventh trumpet occurs for a period of 30 days?

Isaiah writes: "So it shall be in that day: the great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who were about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt and shall worship the LORD at the holy mountain at Jerusalem" (Isa.27:13).

The seven last plagues, then, would be poured out upon mankind during this period of 30 days.

### *The Rest of the Story*

Chapters 17-18, also insets, describe in more detail the evil nature of modern Babylon the Great, and its punishment. Chapter 17 shows the religious side of the Beast Power, which persecutes the saints. Chapter 18 shows the economic power and might of the Beast -- the "New World Order" which is coming together before our very eyes at this moment!

Chapter 19 once again picks up the story flow, detailing the majesty of the second coming of Christ, when He returns from heaven on a white horse, with armies of angels, to "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" (verse 15). The bodies of those who oppose Him will be eaten by the fowl of the air and the beasts of the field (verses 17-18), and the beast leader dictator, and his sidekick the false prophet, will be cast into the lake of fire to perish (verses 19-20).

Chapter 20 goes on with the main story-flow of the book of Revelation, and describes the millennial reign of the saints under Christ (Rev.20:1-4), a short-lived rebellion on the earth after the millennium, led by the devil who is loosed from his prison for a season, and the fate of Satan (verse 10) and those who follow him in rebellion (verses 7-10). Chapter 20 then goes on to describe the period of the Great White Throne Judgment which follows the millennial utopia (verses 11-15), the time when all mankind will be resurrected to experience final judgment. Be sure to read our articles, "A New Look at the Resurrection from the Dead," and "The Holy Days of God Reveal the Plan of Salvation." The story-flow then continues with Revelation 21, which depicts the New Heavens and New Earth, and the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven above.

Chapter 22 summarizes the theme and purpose of the whole book, and gives a final warning of God's judgment and an exhortation to God's people to remain faithful and true. Christ declares, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev.22:12). Jesus says to all of us: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that DO HIS [GOD'S] COMMANDMENTS, that they may have right to the tree of life [eternal life!], and may enter in through the gates into the city" (verses 13-14). Jesus concludes: "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 is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (verses 16-17).