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Revelation

John Tells About This Book

1 This is the revelation* of Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus these things to show his servants what must happen soon. Christ sent his angel to show these things to his servant John. **2** John has told everything that he saw. It is the truth that Jesus Christ told him; it is the message from God. **3** The person that reads the words of this message from God is blessed (*happy*). And the people who hear this message and do the things that are written in it are blessed. There is not much time left.

John Writes Jesus' Messages to the Churches

4 From John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia*:

Grace (*kindness*) and peace to you from the One (*God*) who is, who [always] was, and who is coming; and from the seven spirits before his throne; **5** and from Jesus Christ. Jesus is the faithful witness. He was first among those to be raised from death. Jesus is the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Jesus is the One who loves us. And Jesus is the One who made us free from our sins with his blood (*death*). **6** Jesus made us to be a kingdom. He made us to be priests who serve God his Father. To Jesus be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.*

7 Look, Jesus is coming with the clouds! Every person will see him, even the people

who pierced* him. All people of the earth will cry loudly because of him. Yes, this will happen! Amen.*

8 The Lord God says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega.* I am the One who is, who [always] was, and who is coming. I am the All-Powerful."

9 I am John, and I am your brother [in Christ]. We are together in Jesus, and we share these things: suffering, the kingdom, and patient endurance. I was on the island of Patmos* because I was faithful to God's message* and to the truth of Jesus. **10** On the Lord's day the Spirit* took control of me. I heard a loud voice behind me. It sounded like a trumpet. **11** The voice said, "Write in a book all these things you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

12 I turned to see who was talking to me. When I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands. **13** I saw someone among the lampstands who was "like a Son of Man."* He was dressed in a long robe. He had a golden sash (*belt*) tied around his chest. **14** His head and hair were white like wool—wool that is white as snow. His eyes were like flames of fire. **15** His feet were like brass that glows hot in a furnace. His

pierced When Jesus was killed, he was stuck with a spear in the side. See Jn. 19:34.

Alpha, Omega The first and last letters in the Greek alphabet, meaning the beginning and the end.

Patmos A small island in the Aegean Sea, near the coast of modern Turkey.

message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

like a Son of Man These words are from Dan. 7:13. "Son of Man" is a name Jesus used for himself.

revelation An opening, uncovering, or making known of truth that has been hidden.

Asia The western part of modern Turkey.

Amen To say "Amen" means to agree strongly.

voice was like the noise of flooding water. ¹⁶He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged sword came out of his mouth. He looked like the sun shining at its brightest time.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He put his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am the One who lives. I was dead, but look: I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.* ¹⁹So write the things you see. Write the things that happen now and the things that will happen later. ²⁰Here is the hidden meaning of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and the seven golden lampstands that you saw: The seven lampstands are the seven churches. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.

Jesus’ Letter to the Church in Ephesus

2 “Write this to the angel of the church in Ephesus:

“The One who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands is saying these things _{to you}. ²I know what you do. You work hard, and you never quit. I know that you don’t accept evil people. You have tested those people who say that they are apostles* but are really not. You found that they are liars. ³You continue to try without quitting. You endured _{troubles} for my name. And you have not become tired of doing this.

⁴“But I have this against you: You have left the love you had in the beginning. ⁵So remember where you were before you fell. Change your hearts and do the things you did at first. If you don’t change, I will come to you. I will take away your lampstand from its place. ⁶But there is something you do _{that is right}: You hate the things that the Nicolaitans* do. I also hate what they do.

⁷“Every person that hears these things should listen to what the Spirit* says to the churches. To the person that wins the victory I

will give the right to eat _{the fruit} from the tree of life. This tree is in the garden of God.

Jesus’ Letter to the Church in Smyrna

⁸“Write this to the angel of the church in Smyrna:

“The One who is the First and the Last is saying these things _{to you}. He is the One who died and came to life again. ⁹I know your troubles, and I know that you are poor. But really you are rich! I know the bad things that some people say _{about you}. Those people say they are Jews. But they are not true Jews. They are a synagogue (*group*) that belongs to Satan (*the devil*). ¹⁰Don’t be afraid of the things that will happen to you. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison. He will do this to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But be faithful, even if you have to die. If you continue faithful, then I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹“Every person that hears these things should listen to what the Spirit* says to the churches. The person that wins the victory will not be hurt by the second death.

Jesus’ Letter to the Church in Pergamum

¹²“Write this to the angel of the church in Pergamum:

“The One who has the sharp two-edged sword is saying these things _{to you}. ¹³I know where you live. You live where Satan (*the devil*) has his throne. But you are true to me. You did not refuse to tell about your faith in me even during the time of Antipas. Antipas was my faithful witness* who was killed in your city. Your city is where Satan lives.

¹⁴“But I have a few things against you: You have people there _{in your group} who follow the teaching of Balaam. Balaam taught Balak how to make the people of Israel* sin. Those people sinned by eating food offered to idols* and by doing sexual sins. ¹⁵It is the same _{in your group}. You have people who follow the

Hades Place where people go after they die.

apostles The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

Nicolaitans Religious group that followed wrong ideas.

Spirit The Holy Spirit. He brings God’s message (truth) to God’s people.

faithful witness A person that speaks God’s message truthfully, even in a time of danger.

Israel The Jews—God’s chosen people in the Old Testament.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

teaching of the Nicolaitans.* ¹⁶So change your hearts! If you don't change, I will come to you quickly and fight against those people with the sword that comes out of my mouth.

¹⁷“Every person that hears these things should listen to what the Spirit* says to the churches!

“I will give the hidden manna* to every person that wins the victory. I will also give that person a white rock. On this rock a new name is written. No person knows this new name. Only the person that gets the rock will know the new name.

Jesus' Letter to the Church in Thyatira

¹⁸“Write this to the angel of the church in Thyatira:

“The Son of God is saying these things. He is the One who has eyes that blaze like fire and feet like shining brass. This is what he says _{to you}: ¹⁹I know the things you do. I know about your love, your faith, your service, and your patience. I know that you are doing more now than you did at first. ²⁰But I have this against you: You let that woman named Jezebel do what she wants. She says that she is a prophet.* But she is leading my people away with her teaching. Jezebel leads my people to do sexual sins and to eat food that is offered to idols.* ²¹I have given her time to change her heart and turn away from her sin. But she does not want to change. ²²And so I will throw her on a bed _{of suffering}. And all the people who do the sin of adultery* with her will suffer greatly. I will do this now if they don't turn away from the things she does. ²³I will also kill her followers. Then all the churches will know that I am the One who knows what people feel and think. And I will repay each of you for the things you have done.

Nicolaitans Religious group that followed wrong ideas.

Spirit The Holy Spirit. He brings God's message (truth) to God's people.

manna Food from heaven that God gave his people in the desert. See Ex. 16:4–36).

prophet Jezebel was a false prophet. She claimed to speak for God, but she didn't really speak God's truth.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

²⁴“But you other people in Thyatira have not followed her teaching. You have not learned the things that they call Satan's (*the devil's*) deep secrets. This is what I say to you: I will not put any other burden on you. ²⁵Only continue the way you are until I come.

²⁶“I will give power to every person that wins the victory and continues until the end to do the things I want. I will give that person power over the nations:

²⁷ ‘He will rule them with an iron rod.
He will break them to pieces like clay pots.’

Psalm 2:9

²⁸This is the same power I received from my Father. I will also give that person the morning star. ²⁹Every person that hears these things should listen to what the Spirit* says to the churches.

Jesus' Letter to the Church in Sardis

3“Write this to the angel of the church in Sardis:

“The One who has the seven spirits and the seven stars is saying these things _{to you}. I know the things you do. People say that you are alive. But really you are dead. ²Wake up! Make yourselves stronger while you still have something left. Make yourselves stronger before it dies completely. I find that the things you do are not good enough for my God. ³So don't forget what you have received and heard. Obey it. Change your hearts and lives! You must wake up, or I will come to you _{and surprise you} like a thief. You will not know when I will come. ⁴But you have a few people _{in your group} there in Sardis who have kept themselves clean. Those people will walk with me. They will wear white clothes, because they are worthy. ⁵Every person that wins the victory will be dressed in white clothes like these people. I will not take away that person's name from the book of life. I will say that he belongs to me. I will say this before my Father and before his angels. ⁶Every person that hears these things should listen to what the Spirit* says to the churches.

Jesus' Letter to the Church in Philadelphia

⁷“Write this to the angel of the church in Philadelphia:

“The One who is holy and true is saying these words to you. He holds the key of David.* When he opens something, it cannot be closed. And when he closes something, it cannot be opened. ⁸I know the things you do. I have put an open door before you. No person can close it. I know that you are weak. But you have followed my teaching. You were not afraid to speak my name. ⁹Listen! There is a synagogue (*group*) that belongs to Satan (*the devil*). Those people say they are Jews, but they are liars. Those people are not [true] Jews. I will make those people come before you and bow at your feet. They will know that you are the people I have loved. ¹⁰You followed my command to endure patiently. So I will keep you from the time of trouble that will come to the whole world. This trouble will test the people who live on the earth.

¹¹“I am coming soon. Continue the way you are now. Then no person will take away your crown (*reward*). ¹²The person that wins the victory will be a pillar* in the temple* of my God. I will do that for the person that wins the victory. That person will never again have to leave God’s temple. I will write the name of my God on that person. And I will write the name of the city of my God on that person. That city is the new Jerusalem.* That city is coming down out of heaven from my God. I will also write my new name on that person. ¹³Every person that hears these things should listen to what the Spirit* says to the churches.

Jesus’ Letter to the Church in Laodicea

¹⁴“Write this to the angel of the church in Laodicea:

“The Amen* is the One saying these things [to you]. He is the faithful and true witness. He is the ruler of all that God has made. This is

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

pillar One of the tall, carved stones used to hold up the roof of a building.

temple God’s house—the place where God’s people worship and serve him.

Jerusalem The spiritual city God built for his people.

Spirit The Holy Spirit. He brings God’s message (truth) to God’s people.

Amen Used here as a name for Jesus, it means to agree strongly that something is true.

what he says: ¹⁵I know what you do. You are not hot or cold. I wish that you were hot or cold! ¹⁶But you are only warm—not hot, not cold. So I am ready to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷You say you are rich. You think you have become wealthy and don’t need a thing. But you don’t know that you are really terrible, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I advise you to buy gold from me—gold made pure in fire. Then you can be truly rich. I tell you this: Buy clothes that are white. Then you can cover your shameful nakedness. I also tell you to buy medicine to put on your eyes. Then you can truly see.

¹⁹“I correct and punish those people that I love. So start trying hard! Change your hearts and lives! ²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If a person hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person. And that person will eat with me.

²¹“I will let every person that wins the victory sit with me on my throne. It was the same with me. I won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²²Every person that hears these things should listen to what the Spirit* says to the churches.”

John Sees Heaven

4 Then I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.” ²Then the Spirit* took control of me. There before me was a throne in heaven. Someone was sitting on the throne. ³The One who sat on the throne looked like precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow with clear colors like an emerald. ⁴Around the throne there were 24 other thrones. There were 24 elders* sitting on the 24 thrones. The elders were dressed in white, and they had golden crowns on their heads. ⁵Lightning flashes and noises of thunder came from the throne. Before the throne there were seven lamps burning. These lamps are the seven

elder(s) Elder means “older.” These are probably great leaders of God’s people. They may be the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups plus Jesus’ twelve apostles.

Spirits of God. ⁶Also before the throne there was something that looked like a sea of glass. It was clear like crystal.

In front of the throne and on each side of it there were four living things. These living things had eyes all over them, in front and in back. ⁷The first living thing was like a lion. The second was like a cow. The third had a face like a man. The fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸Each of these four living things had six wings. These living things were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day and night these four living things never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God
All-Powerful.

He [always] was, he is, and he is coming.”

⁹These living things give glory and honor and thanks to the One who sits on the throne. He is the One who lives forever and ever. And every time the living things do this, ¹⁰the 24 elders* bow down before the One who sits on the throne. The elders worship him who lives forever and ever. The elders put their crowns down before the throne and say:

¹¹ “Our Lord and God!
You are worthy to receive glory and
honor and power.
You made all things.
Everything existed and was made
because you wanted it.”

Who Can Open the Scroll?

5 Then I saw a scroll* in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. The scroll had writing on both sides. The scroll was kept closed with seven seals. ²And I saw a powerful angel. The angel called in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” ³But there was no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth who could open the scroll or look inside it. ⁴I cried and cried because there was no one who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵But one of the elders* said to me, “Don’t cry! The Lion

elder(s) Elder means “older.” These are probably great leaders of God’s people. They may be the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups plus Jesus’ twelve apostles.

scroll A long roll of paper or leather used for writing on.

(Christ) from Judah’s family group has won the victory. He is David’s* descendant.* He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶Then I saw a Lamb standing in the center of the throne with the four living things around it. The elders* were also around the Lamb. The Lamb looked like it had been killed. It had seven horns and seven eyes. These are the seven spirits of God that were sent into all the world. ⁷The Lamb came and took the scroll* from the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. ⁸After the Lamb took the scroll, the four living things and the 24 elders bowed down before the Lamb. Each one of them had a harp.* Also they were holding golden bowls full of incense.* These bowls of incense are the prayers of God’s holy people.* ⁹And they all sang a new song [to the Lamb]:

“You are worthy to take the scroll*
and to open its seals,
because you were killed;
and with your blood (*death*) you
bought people for God
from every tribe, language, race of
people, and nation.

¹⁰ You made these people to be a kingdom,
and you made these people to be
priests for our God.
And they will rule on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels. The angels were around the throne, the [four] living things, and the elders.* There were thousands and thousands of angels—there were 10,000 times 10,000. ¹²The angels said with a loud voice:

“[All] power, wealth, wisdom and strength
belong to the Lamb (Jesus) that
was killed.
He is worthy to receive honor, glory,
and praise!”

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

descendant(s) The people born in a person’s family after that person dies.

harp A musical instrument with strings.

incense Special dried tree sap used for a sacrifice. It was burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke.

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

¹³Then I heard every living thing that is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. I heard every thing in all these places. I heard them all saying:

“All praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever to the One that sits on the throne and to the Lamb!”

¹⁴The four living things said, “Amen*!” And the elders* bowed down and worshiped.

The Lamb Opens the Scroll

6 Then I watched while the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. I heard one of the four living things speak with a voice like thunder. It said, “Come!” ²I looked and there before me was a white horse. The rider on the horse held a bow. The rider was given a crown. And he rode out, defeating the enemy. He rode out to win the victory.

³The Lamb opened the second seal. Then I heard the second living thing say, “Come!”

⁴Then another horse came out. This was a red horse. The rider on the horse was given power to take away peace from the earth. He was given power to make people kill each other. This rider was given a big sword.

⁵The Lamb opened the third seal. Then I heard the third living thing say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse. The rider on the horse held a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶Then I heard something that sounded like a voice. The voice came from where the four living things were. The voice said, “A quart of wheat for a day’s pay. And three quarts of barley for a day’s pay. And don’t hurt the oil and wine!”

⁷The Lamb opened the fourth seal. Then I heard the voice of the fourth living thing say, “Come!” ⁸I looked and there before me was a pale-colored horse. The rider on the horse was death. Hades* was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth. They were given power to kill people by

using the sword, by starving, by disease, and with the wild animals of the earth.

⁹The Lamb opened the fifth seal. Then I saw some souls under the altar.* They were the souls of those people who had been killed because they were faithful to God’s message* and to the truth they had received. ¹⁰These souls shouted in a loud voice, “Holy and true Lord, how long until you judge the people of the earth and punish them for killing us?” ¹¹Then each one of those souls was given a white robe. They were told to wait a short time longer. There were still some of their brothers in the service of Christ who must be killed like they were. Those souls were told to wait until all of this killing was finished.

¹²Then I watched while the Lamb opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun became dark like [black] cloth made from hair. The full moon became red like blood. ¹³The stars in the sky fell to the earth like a fig tree drops its figs when the wind blows. ¹⁴The sky was divided. It was rolled up like a scroll.* And every mountain and island was moved from its place.

¹⁵Then all the people hid in caves and behind the rocks on the mountains. There were the kings of the world, the rulers, the army commanders, the rich people and the powerful people. Every person, slave and free, hid himself. ¹⁶The people said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us. Hide us from the face of the One who sits on the throne. Hide us from the anger of the Lamb!” ¹⁷The great day for their anger has come. No person can stand against it.”

The 144,000 People of Israel

7 After this happened I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth. The angels were holding the four winds of the earth. They were stopping the wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ²Then I saw another angel coming from the east. This angel had the seal of the living God. The angel called out with a loud voice to the four angels.

Amen To say “Amen” means to agree strongly.

elder(s) Elder means “older.” These are probably great leaders of God’s people. They may be the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups plus Jesus’ twelve apostles.

Hades Place where people go after they die.

altar Place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God.

message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

scroll A long roll of paper or leather used for writing on.

These were the four angels that God had given the power to hurt the earth and the sea. The angel said to the four angels, ³“Don’t hurt the land or the sea or the trees before we put the sign on the people who serve our God. We must put the sign on their foreheads.” ⁴Then I heard how many people were marked with the sign. There were 144,000. They were from every family group of the people of Israel.*

⁵	From Judah’s family group	12,000
	from Reuben’s family group	12,000
	from Gad’s family group	12,000
⁶	from Asher’s family group	12,000
	from Naphtali’s family group	12,000
	from Manasseh’s family group	12,000
⁷	from Simeon’s family group	12,000
	from Levi’s family group	12,000
	from Issachar’s family group	12,000
⁸	from Zebulun’s family group	12,000
	from Joseph’s family group	12,000
	from Benjamin’s family group	12,000

The Great Crowd

⁹Then I looked, and there were many, many people. There were so many people that a person could not count them all. They were from every nation, tribe, race of people, and language of the earth. These people were standing before the throne and before the Lamb (*Jesus*). They all wore white robes and had palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They shouted with a loud voice, “Victory belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” ¹¹The elders* and the four living things were there. All the angels were standing around them and the throne. The angels bowed down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God. ¹²They said, “Amen*! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength belong to our God forever and ever. Amen!”

¹³Then one of the elders* asked me, “Who are these people in white robes? Where did they come from?”

¹⁴I answered, “You know who they are, sir.”

Israel The Jews—God’s chosen people in the Old Testament.

elder(s) Elder means “older.” These are probably great leaders of God’s people. They may be the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups plus Jesus’ twelve apostles.

Amen To say “Amen” means to agree strongly.

And the elder* said, “These are the people who have come out of the great suffering. They have washed their robes* with the blood of the Lamb. Now they are clean and white. ¹⁵So now these people are before the throne of God. They worship God day and night in his temple.* And the One (*God*) who sits on the throne will protect them. ¹⁶They will never be hungry again. They will never be thirsty again. The sun will not hurt them. No heat will burn them. ¹⁷The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of water that give life. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Seventh Seal

8 The Lamb opened the seventh seal. Then there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels who stand before God. They were given seven trumpets.

³Another angel came and stood at the altar.* This angel had a golden holder for incense.* The angel was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all God’s holy people.* The angel put this offering on the golden altar before the throne. ⁴The smoke from the incense went up from the angel’s hand to God. The smoke went up with the prayers of God’s people. ⁵Then the angel filled the incense holder with fire from the altar. The angel threw the incense holder on the earth. Then there were flashes of lightning, thunder and other noises, and an earthquake.

The Seven Angels Blow Their Trumpets

⁶Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their trumpets.

⁷The first angel blew his trumpet. Then hail and fire mixed with blood was poured down on the earth. And one third of the earth and all the green grass and one third of the trees were burned up.

washed their robes Meaning they believed in Jesus so that their sins could be forgiven.

temple God’s house—the place where God’s people worship and serve him.

altar Place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God.

incense Special dried tree sap used for a sacrifice. It was burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke.

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

⁸The second angel blew his trumpet. Then something that looked like a big mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea. And one third of the sea became blood. ⁹And one third of the living things in the sea died, and one third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰The third angel blew his trumpet. Then a large star, burning like a torch, fell from the sky. The star fell on one third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood.* And one third of all the water became bitter. Many people died from drinking the water that was bitter.

¹²The fourth angel blew his trumpet. Then one third of the sun and one third of the moon and one third of the stars were struck. So one third of them became dark. A third of the day and night was without light.

¹³While I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying high in the air. The eagle said with a loud voice, “Trouble! Trouble! Trouble for the people that live on the earth! The trouble will begin after the sounds of the trumpets that the other three angels will blow.”

9 The fifth angel blew his trumpet. Then I saw a star fall from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the deep hole that leads down to the bottomless pit. ²Then the star opened the hole leading to the bottomless pit. Smoke came up from the hole like smoke from a big furnace. The sun and sky became dark because of the smoke from the hole. ³Then locusts* came down to the earth out of the smoke. They were given the power _{to sting} like scorpions.* ⁴The locusts were told not to hurt the grass on the earth or any plant or tree. They could hurt only the people who did not have the sign of God on their foreheads. ⁵These locusts were given the power to give pain to the people for five months. But the locusts were not given the power to kill the people. And the pain that the people felt was like the pain that a scorpion gives when it stings a person. ⁶During those days people will look for a way to die, but they

will not find it. They will want to die, but death will hide from them.

⁷The locusts* looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore things that looked like crowns of gold. Their faces looked like human faces. ⁸Their hair was like women’s hair. Their teeth were like lions’ teeth. ⁹Their chests looked like iron breastplates. The sound their wings made was like the noise of many horses and chariots hurrying into battle. ¹⁰The locusts had tails with stingers like scorpions.* The power they had to give people pain for five months was in their tails. ¹¹The locusts had a ruler. The ruler was the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in the Hebrew language is Abaddon.* In the Greek language his name is Apollyon (*Destroyer*).

¹²The first great trouble is past. There are still two other great troubles that will come.

¹³The sixth angel blew his trumpet. Then I heard a voice coming from the four horns on the golden altar* that is before God. ¹⁴The voice said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Free the four angels who are tied at the great river Euphrates.” ¹⁵These four angels had been kept ready for this hour and day and month and year. The angels were freed to kill one third of all the people on the earth. ¹⁶I heard how many troops on horses were in _{their} army. There were 200,000,000.

¹⁷In my vision* I saw the horses and the riders on the horses. They looked like this: They had breastplates that were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow like sulfur. The heads of the horses looked like heads of lions. The horses had fire, smoke, and sulfur coming out of their mouths. ¹⁸One third of all the people on earth were killed by these three bad things coming out of the horses’ mouths: the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur. ¹⁹The horses’ power was in their mouths and also in their tails. Their tails were like snakes that have heads to bite and hurt people.

²⁰The other people _{on the earth} were not killed by these bad things. But these people still did not change their hearts and lives and

Wormwood Name of a very bitter plant, used here to give the idea of bitter sorrow.

locusts Insects like grasshoppers. Sometimes many locusts came and ate all the plants. See Ex. 10.

scorpions Insects that sting with a strong poison.

Abaddon In the Old Testament this was a name for the place of death. See Job 26:6 and Ps. 88:11.

altar Place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God.

vision(s) Visions are something like dreams that God used to speak to people.

turn away from the things they had made with their own hands. They did not stop worshiping demons* and idols* made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—things that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹These people did not change their hearts and lives and turn away from killing other people. They did not turn away from their evil magic, their sexual sins, and their stealing.

The Angel and the Little Scroll

10 Then I saw another powerful angel coming down from heaven. The angel was dressed in a cloud. He had a rainbow around his head. The angel's face was like the sun, and his legs were like poles of fire. ²The angel was holding a small scroll.* The scroll was open in his hand. The angel put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ³The angel shouted loudly like the roaring of a lion. After the angel shouted, the voices of seven thunders spoke. ⁴The seven thunders spoke, and I started to write. But then I heard a voice from heaven. The voice said, "Don't write what the seven thunders said. Keep those things secret."

⁵Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶The angel made a promise by [the power of] the One who lives forever and ever. He (*God*) is the One who made the skies and all that is in them. He made the earth and all that is in it, and he made the sea and all that is in it. The angel said, "There will be no more waiting! ⁷In the days when the seventh angel is ready to blow his trumpet, God's secret plan will be finished. This plan is the Good News* God told to his servants, the prophets.*"

⁸Then I heard the same voice from heaven again. The voice said to me, "Go and take the open scroll* that is in the angel's hand. This is the angel that is standing on the sea and on the land."

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

scroll A long roll of paper or leather used for writing on.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

prophets People that spoke for God.

⁹So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll.* The angel said to me, "Take the scroll and eat it. It will be sour in your stomach. But in your mouth it will be sweet like honey." ¹⁰So I took the little scroll from the angel's hand. I ate the scroll. In my mouth it tasted sweet like honey. But after I ate it, it was sour in my stomach. ¹¹Then I was told, "You must prophesy* again about many races of people, many nations, languages, and rulers."

The Two Witnesses

11 Then I was given a measuring rod as long as a walking stick. I was told, "Go and measure the temple* of God and the altar,* and count the people worshiping there. ²But don't measure the yard outside the temple. Leave that alone. That has been given to the people who are not Jews. Those people will walk on the holy city for 42 months. ³And I will give power to my two witnesses. And they will prophesy* for 1,260 days. They will be dressed in sackcloth.*" ⁴These two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵If a person tries to hurt the witnesses, fire comes from the mouths of the witnesses and kills their enemy. Any person that tries to hurt them will die like this. ⁶These witnesses have the power to stop the sky from raining during the time they are prophesying. These witnesses have power to make the water become blood. They have power to send every kind of trouble to the earth. They can do this as many times as they want.

⁷When the two witnesses have finished telling their message, the animal will fight against them. This is the animal that comes up from the bottomless pit. The animal will defeat them and kill them. ⁸The bodies of the two witnesses will lie in the street of the great city.

prophesy To speak or teach things from God.

temple God's house—the place where God's people worship and serve him. Here, John sees it pictured as the special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

altar Place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God.

sackcloth A rough cloth made from animal hair. People sometimes wore it to show sadness.

This city is named Sodom* and Egypt. These names for the city have a special meaning. This is the city where the Lord was killed. ⁹People from every race of people, tribe, language, and nation will look at the bodies of the two witnesses for three and a half days. The people will refuse to bury them. ¹⁰People who live on the earth will be happy because these two are dead. They will have parties and send each other gifts. They will do these things because these two prophets (*witnesses*) brought much suffering to the people who live on the earth.

¹¹But after three and a half days God let life enter the two prophets again. They stood on their feet. All the people who saw them were filled with fear. ¹²Then the two prophets heard a loud voice from heaven say, “Come up here!” And the two prophets went up into heaven in a cloud. Their enemies watched them go.

¹³At that same time there was a great earthquake. One tenth of the city was destroyed. And 7,000 people were killed in the earthquake. The people that did not die were very afraid. They gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴The second great trouble is finished. The third great trouble is coming soon.

The Seventh Trumpet

¹⁵The seventh angel blew his trumpet. Then there were loud voices in heaven. The voices said:

“The kingdom of the world has now become the kingdom of our Lord [God] and of his Christ.*
And he will rule forever and ever.”

¹⁶Then the 24 elders* bowed down on their faces and worshiped God. These are the elders who sit on their thrones before God.

¹⁷The elders said:

Sodom A town where very bad people lived. God punished them by destroying their city.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen of God.

elder(s) Elder means “older.” These are probably great leaders of God’s people. They may be the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups plus Jesus’ twelve apostles.

“We give thanks to you,
Lord God All-Powerful.

You are the One who is
and who [always] was.

We thank you because
you have used your great power
and have begun to rule!

¹⁸ The people of the world were angry;
but now is the time for your anger.
Now is the time for the dead people
to be judged.

It is time to reward your servants,
the prophets,*
and to reward your holy people,*
the people, great and small, who
respect you.

It is time to destroy those people
who destroy the earth!”

¹⁹Then God’s temple* in heaven was opened. The Holy Box of the Agreement* [that God gave to his people] could be seen in his temple. Then there were flashes of lightning, noises, thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

The Woman and the Giant Snake

12 And then a great wonder appeared in heaven: There was a woman who was clothed with the sun. The moon was under her feet. She had a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²The woman was pregnant. She cried out with pain because she was about to give birth. ³Then another wonder appeared in heaven: There was a giant red snake there. The giant snake had seven heads with a crown on each head. The snake also had ten horns. ⁴The snake’s tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and threw them down to the earth. The giant snake stood in front of the woman who was

prophets People that spoke for God.

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

temple God’s house—the place where God’s people worship and serve him. Here, John sees it pictured as the special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Holy Box of the Agreement In the Most Holy Place of the Old Testament temple, there was a box that had in it the agreement God gave to his people. See Ex. 25:10–22; 1 Kings 8:1–9; Heb. 9:4.

ready to give birth to the baby. The snake wanted to eat the woman's baby when it was born. ⁵The woman gave birth to a son, a male child. He will rule all the nations with an iron rod. And her child was taken up to God and to his throne. ⁶The woman ran away into the desert to a place that God prepared for her. In the desert she will be taken care of for 1,260 days.

⁷Then there was a war in heaven. Michael* and his angels fought against the giant snake. The snake and his angels fought back. ⁸But the snake was not strong enough. The giant snake and his angels lost their place in heaven. ⁹The snake was thrown down out of heaven. (The giant snake is that old snake called the devil or Satan. He leads the whole world into the wrong way.) The snake with his angels were thrown to the earth.

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "The victory and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority (*power*) of his Christ* have now come. These things have come, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown out. He is the one who accused our brothers day and night before our God. ¹¹Our brothers defeated him by the blood (*death*) of the Lamb and by the message [of God,] they told people. They did not love their lives too much. They were not afraid of death. ¹²So be happy you heavens and all who live there! But it will be bad for the earth and sea, because the devil has gone down to you! The devil is filled with anger. He knows he doesn't have much time."

¹³The giant snake saw that he had been thrown down to the earth. So he chased the woman who had given birth to the boy child. ¹⁴But the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle. Then she could fly to the place that was prepared for her in the desert. In that place she would be taken care of for three and one-half years. There she would be away from the snake. ¹⁵Then the snake poured water out of its mouth like a river. The snake poured the water toward the woman so that the flood would carry her away. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its mouth and

swallowed the river that came from the mouth of the giant snake. ¹⁷Then the snake was very angry at the woman. The snake went away to make war against all her other children. Her children are those people who obey God's commands and have the truth that Jesus taught.

¹⁸The giant snake stood on the seashore.

The Two Animals

13 Then I saw an animal coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. There was a crown on each of its horns. It had a bad name written on each head. ²This animal looked like a leopard, with feet like a bear's feet. It had a mouth like a lion's mouth. The giant snake [on the seashore,] gave the animal all of his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of the heads of the animal looked like it had been wounded and killed. But this death wound was healed. All the people in the world were amazed, and they all followed the animal. ⁴People worshiped the giant snake because he had given his power to the animal. And the people also worshiped the animal. They asked, "Who is as powerful as the animal? Who can make war against him?"

⁵The animal was allowed to say proud words and very evil things. The animal was allowed to use his power for 42 months. ⁶The animal opened his mouth to say bad things against God. The animal also said bad things against God's name, against the place where God lives, and against all those who live in heaven. ⁷The animal was given power to make war against God's holy people* and to defeat them. The animal was given power over every tribe, race of people, language, and nation. ⁸All the people who live on earth will worship the animal. These are all the people since the beginning of the world whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life. The Lamb is the One who was killed.

⁹If a person hears these things, then he should listen to this:

10 If any person is to be a prisoner,
then that person will be a prisoner.

Michael The archangel—leader of God's angels. See Jude 9.

Christ The "anointed one" (Messiah) or chosen of God.

holy people Literally, "saints" or "holy ones." God's people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

If any person kills with a sword,
then that person will be killed
with a sword.

This means that God’s holy people* must have patience and faith.

¹¹Then I saw another animal coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he talked like a giant snake. ¹²This animal stands before the first animal and uses the same power that the first animal has. He uses this power to make all the people living on the earth worship the first animal. The first animal was the one that had the death wound that was healed. ¹³This second animal does great miracles.* He even makes fire come down from heaven to earth while people are watching. ¹⁴This second animal fools the people that live on the earth. He fools them by using the miracles that he has been given the power to do. He does these miracles to serve the first animal. The second animal ordered people to make an idol* to honor the first animal. This was the animal that was wounded by the sword but did not die. ¹⁵The second animal was given power to give life to the idol of the first animal. Then the idol could speak and order all the people who did not worship it to be killed. ¹⁶The second animal also forced all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to have a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. ¹⁷No person could buy or sell without this mark. This mark is the name of the animal or the number of his name. ¹⁸A person that has understanding can find the meaning of the animal’s number. This requires wisdom. This number is the number of a man. It is 666.

God’s People Sing a New Song

14 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb. He was standing on Mount Zion.* There were 144,000 people with

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

miracles False miracles—powerful acts done by the power of the devil.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

Mount Zion Another name for Jerusalem, here meaning the spiritual city where God’s people live with him.

him. They all had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a sound from heaven like the noise of flooding water and like the sound of loud thunder. The sound I heard was like people playing their harps.* ³The people sang a new song before the throne and before the four living things and the elders.* The only people that could learn the new song were the 144,000 who had been redeemed (*saved*) from the earth. No one else could learn the song. ⁴These 144,000 people are the ones who did not do wrong things with women. They kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb every place he goes. These 144,000 were redeemed (*saved*) from among the people of the earth. They are the first people to be offered to God and the Lamb. ⁵These people were not guilty of telling lies. They are without fault.

The Three Angels

⁶Then I saw another angel flying high in the air. The angel had the eternal Good News* to announce to the people that live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and race of people. ⁷The angel said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him praise. The time has come for God to judge [all people]. Worship God. He made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water.”

⁸Then the second angel followed the first angel and said, “She is destroyed! The great city of Babylon is destroyed! She (*Babylon*) made all the nations drink the wine of her adultery* and of God’s anger.”

⁹A third angel followed the first two angels. This third angel said in a loud voice: “It will be bad for the person that worships the animal and the animal’s idol* and gets the animal’s mark on his forehead or on his hand. ¹⁰That person will drink the wine of God’s anger. This wine is prepared with all its strength in the cup of God’s anger. That person will be

harps Musical instruments with strings.

elder(s) Elder means “older.” These are probably great leaders of God’s people. They may be the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups plus Jesus’ twelve apostles.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

tortured (*hurt*) with burning sulfur before the holy angels and the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke from their burning pain will rise forever and ever. There will be no rest, day or night, for those people who worship the animal and his idol or who get the mark of his name.” ¹²This means that God’s holy people* must be patient. They must obey God’s commands and keep their faith in Jesus.

¹³Then I heard a voice from heaven. The voice said, “Write this: From now on, the dead people who were in the Lord when they died are blessed (*happy*).”

The Spirit* says, “Yes, that is true. Those people will rest from their hard work. The things they have done will stay with them.”

The Earth Is Harvested

¹⁴I looked and there before me was a white cloud. Sitting on the white cloud was One that looked like a Son of Man.* He had a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle* in his hand. ¹⁵Then another angel came out of the temple.* This angel called to the One who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and gather [from the earth]. The time to harvest has come. The fruit of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶So the One that was sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth. And the earth was harvested.

¹⁷Then another angel came out of the temple* in heaven. This angel also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸And then another angel came from the altar.* This angel has power over the fire. This angel called to the angel with the sharp sickle.* He said, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the bunches of grapes from the earth’s vine. The earth’s grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹The angel swung his sickle over the earth. The angel gathered the earth’s grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s anger. ²⁰The

grapes were squeezed in the winepress outside the city. Blood flowed out of the winepress. It rose as high as the heads of the horses for a distance of 200 miles.

The Angels with the Last Plagues

15 Then I saw another wonder in heaven. It was great and amazing. There were seven angels bringing seven troubles. These are the last troubles, because after these troubles God’s anger is finished.

²¹I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. All the people who had won the victory over the animal and his idol* and over the number of his name were standing by the sea. These people had harps* that God had given them. ³They sang the song of Moses,* the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

“Great and wonderful are the things you do,
Lord God All-Powerful.

Right and true are your ways,
Ruler of the nations.

⁴ All people will fear you, O Lord.
All people will praise your name.
Only you are holy.

All people will come and worship
before you,
because it is clear that you do the things
that are right.”

⁵After this I saw the temple* (the holy place of God’s presence*) in heaven. The temple was opened. ⁶And the seven angels bringing the seven troubles came out of the temple. They were dressed in clean, shining linen cloth. They wore golden bands tied around their chests. ⁷Then one of the four living things gave seven golden bowls to the seven angels. The bowls were filled with the anger of God, who lives forever and ever. ⁸The temple was filled with

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

Spirit The Holy Spirit. He brings God’s message (truth) to God’s people.

Son of Man This name is from Dan. 7:13–14. Jesus used this name for himself.

sickle Farming tool with a curved blade used to cut grain.

temple God’s house—the place where God’s people worship and serve him.

altar Place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

harps Musical instruments with strings.

Moses One of the most important leaders of the Jewish people during the time of the Old Testament.

holy place of God’s presence Literally, “tent of the testimony.” In the Old Testament this was a name for the room inside the Holy Tent where the Ten Commandments written on flat stones were kept. These were the “testimony” or “proof” of God’s agreement with his people. This room is where God lived among his people. Read Ex. 25:8–22.

smoke from the glory and the power of God. No one could enter the temple until the seven troubles of the seven angels were finished.

The Bowls Filled with God's Anger

16 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple.* The voice said to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the seven bowls of God’s anger on the earth.”

²The first angel left. He poured out his bowl on the land. Then all the people who had the mark of the animal and who worshiped his idol* got sores that were ugly and painful.

³The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea. Then the sea became blood like the blood of a dead man. Every living thing in the sea died.

⁴The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and the springs of water. The rivers and the springs of water became blood. ⁵Then I heard the angel of the waters say \lrcorner to God \rceil :

“You are the One who is
and who \lrcorner always \rceil was.

You are the Holy One.

You are right in these judgments
that you have made.

⁶ The people have spilled the blood
of your holy people*
and your prophets.*

Now you have given those people
blood to drink.

This is what they deserve.”

⁷And I heard the altar* say:

“Yes, Lord God All-Powerful,
your judgments are true and right.”

⁸The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun. The sun was given power to burn the people with fire. ⁹The people were burned by the great heat. Those people cursed the name of God. God is the One who had control over

these troubles. But the people refused to change their hearts and lives and give glory to God.

¹⁰The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the animal. And darkness covered the animal’s kingdom. People bit their tongues because of the pain. ¹¹People cursed the God of heaven because of their pain and the sores they had. But the people refused to change their hearts and turn away from the \lrcorner bad \rceil things they did.

¹²The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates. The water in the river was dried up. This prepared the way for the rulers from the east to come. ¹³Then I saw three unclean (*evil*) spirits that looked like frogs. They came out of the mouth of the giant snake, out of the mouth of the animal, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.* ¹⁴These evil spirits are the spirits of demons.* They \lrcorner have power to \rceil do miracles.* These evil spirits go out to the rulers of the whole world. They go out to gather the rulers for battle on the great day of God the All-Powerful.

¹⁵“Listen! I will come, \lrcorner and it will be a surprise, \rceil like when a thief comes! Happy is the person that stays awake and keeps his clothes with him. Then he will not have to go without clothes, and people will not see the things he is ashamed for them to see.”

¹⁶Then the evil spirits gathered the rulers together to the place that is called Armageddon in the Hebrew language.

¹⁷The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. Then a loud voice came out of the temple* from the throne. The voice said, “It is finished!” ¹⁸Then there were flashes of lightning, noises, thunder, and a big earthquake. This was the worst earthquake that has ever happened since people have been on earth. ¹⁹The great city split into three parts. The cities of the nations were destroyed. And God did not forget \lrcorner to punish \rceil Babylon the Great. He gave that city the cup filled with the wine of his terrible anger. ²⁰Every island disappeared and

temple God’s house—the place where God’s people worship and serve him.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

prophets People that spoke for God.

altar Place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God.

false prophet A person that says he speaks for God but does not really speak God’s truth.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

miracles False miracles—powerful acts done by the power of the devil.

there were no more mountains. ²¹Giant hailstones fell on the people from the sky. These hailstones weighed about 100 pounds each. People cursed God because of this trouble of the hail. This trouble was a terrible thing.

The Woman on the Animal

17 One of the seven angels came and spoke to me. This was one of the angels that had the seven bowls. The angel said, “Come, and I will show you the punishment that will be given to the famous prostitute.* She is the one sitting over many waters. ²The rulers of the earth sinned sexually with her. The people of the earth became drunk from the wine of her sexual sin.”

³Then the angel carried me away by the Spirit* to the desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a red animal. The animal was covered with bad names written on him. The animal had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴The woman was dressed in purple and red. She was shining with the gold, jewels, and pearls she was wearing. She had a golden cup in her hand. This cup was filled with terrible (*evil*) things and the uncleanness of her sexual sin. ⁵She had a title written on her forehead. This title has a hidden meaning. This is what was written:

THE GREAT BABYLON
MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES
AND THE EVIL THINGS OF THE EARTH

⁶I saw that the woman was drunk. She was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people.* She was drunk with the blood of those people who told about [their faith in] Jesus.

When I saw the woman, I was fully amazed. ⁷Then the angel said to me, “Why are you amazed? I will tell you the hidden meaning of this woman and the animal she rides—the animal with seven heads and ten horns. ⁸The animal that you saw was once

[alive]. But that animal is not [alive] now. But that animal will [be alive and] come up out of the bottomless pit and go away to be destroyed. The people that live on the earth will be amazed when they see the animal. They will be amazed because he was once [alive], is not [alive] now, but will come again. These are the people whose names have never been written in the book of life since the beginning of the world.

⁹“You need a wise mind to understand this. The seven heads on the animal are the seven hills where the woman sits. They are also seven rulers. ¹⁰Five of the rulers have already died. One of the rulers lives now. And the last ruler is coming. When he comes, he will stay only a short time. ¹¹The animal that was once [alive] but is not [alive] now is an eighth ruler. This eighth ruler also belongs to the first seven rulers. And he will go away to be destroyed.

¹²“The ten horns you saw are ten rulers. These ten rulers have not yet received their kingdom. But they will receive power to rule with the animal for one hour. ¹³All ten of these rulers have the same purpose. And they will give their power and authority to the animal. ¹⁴They will make war against the Lamb. But the Lamb will defeat them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings. He will defeat them with his chosen and faithful followers—the people that he has called.”

¹⁵Then the angel said to me, “You saw the water where the prostitute* sits. These waters are the many peoples, the different races, nations, and languages [in the world]. ¹⁶The animal and the ten horns (*ten rulers*) you saw will hate the prostitute. They will take everything she has and leave her naked. They will eat her body and burn her with fire. ¹⁷God made the ten horns want to do his purpose: They agreed to give the animal their power to rule. They will rule until the things God has said are completed. ¹⁸The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

Babylon Is Destroyed

18 Then I saw another angel coming down from heaven. This angel had much power. The angel’s glory made the earth bright. ²The angel shouted with a powerful voice:

prostitute(s) Women paid by men for sexual sin.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

- “She is destroyed!
The great city of Babylon is destroyed!
She (*Babylon*) has become a home
for demons.*
That city has become a place for every
unclean spirit to live.
She has become a city filled with all
kinds of unclean birds.
She has become a city for every unclean
and hated animal.
- 3 All the peoples of the earth have drunk
the wine of her sexual sin
and of [God’s] anger.
The rulers of the earth sinned sexually
with her,
and the merchants* of the world
grew rich from the great wealth
of her luxury.”
- 4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say:
“Come out of that city, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins.
Then you will not get any of the bad things
that will happen to her.
- 5 That city’s sins are piled up as high
as heaven.
God has not forgotten the wrong things
she has done.
- 6 Give that city the same as she gave to others.
Pay her back twice as much as she did.
Prepare wine for her that is twice as strong
as the wine she prepared for others.
- 7 She (*Babylon*) gave herself much glory
and rich living.
Give her that much suffering and sadness.
She says to herself, ‘I am a queen
sitting [on my throne],
I am not a widow*;
I will never be sad.’
- 8 So these bad things will come to her
in one day:
death, sad crying, and great hunger.
She will be destroyed by fire,
because the Lord God who judges her
is powerful.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.
merchants People who earn their living by buying and
selling things.
widow A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

- 9 “The rulers of the earth who sinned sexually
with her (*Babylon*) and shared her wealth will
see the smoke from her burning. Then those
rulers will cry and be sad because of her [death].
10 The rulers will be afraid of her suffering and
stand far away. The rulers will say:

‘Terrible! How terrible, O great city,
O powerful city of Babylon!
Your punishment came in one hour!’

- 11 “And the merchants* of the earth will cry
and be sad for her (*Babylon*). They will be sad
because now there is no one to buy the things
they sell. 12 They sell gold, silver, jewels,
pearls, fine linen cloth, purple cloth, silk, and
scarlet cloth, all kinds of citron wood, and all
kinds of things made from ivory, expensive
wood, bronze, iron, and marble. 13 Those
merchants also sell cinnamon, spice, incense,
frankincense, myrrh, wine, and olive oil; fine
flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, carriages,
and the bodies and souls of men. [The
merchants will cry and say:]

14 ‘[O Babylon,] the good things you wanted
are gone from you.
All your rich and fancy things have
disappeared.
You will never have those things again.’

- 15 “The merchants* will be afraid of her
suffering and stand far away from her
(*Babylon*). These are the people who became
rich from selling those things to her. The
people will cry and be sad. 16 They will say:

‘Terrible! How terrible for the great city!
She was dressed in fine linen;
she wore purple and scarlet cloth.
She was shining with gold, jewels,
and pearls!

17 All these riches have been destroyed
in one hour!’

- “Every sea captain, all the people who
travel on ships, the sailors, and all the people
who earn money from the sea stood far away
from Babylon. 18 They saw the smoke from
her burning. They said loudly, ‘There was
never a city like this great city!’ 19 They threw
dust on their heads. They cried and were sad.
They said loudly:

‘Terrible! How terrible for the great city!
All the people who had ships on the sea
became rich because of her wealth!

But she has been destroyed in one hour!

- 20 Be happy because of this, O heaven!
Be happy, God’s holy people* and
apostles* and prophets*!
God has punished her because of the
things she did to you.”

21 Then a powerful angel picked up a large
rock. This rock was as big as a large millstone.*
The angel threw the rock into the sea and said:

“That is how the great city of Babylon
will be thrown down.

That city will never be found again.

- 22 The music of people playing harps* and
other instruments, flutes and trumpets,
will never be heard in you again.

No workman doing any job will ever be
found in you again.

The sound of a millstone* will never be
heard in you again.

- 23 The light of a lamp will never
shine in you again.

The voices of a bridegroom* and bride
will never be heard in you again.

Your merchants* were the world’s
great people.

All the nations were tricked by your magic.

- 24 She (*Babylon*) is guilty
of the blood (*death*) of the prophets,*
of God’s holy people,* and of all the
people who have been killed
on earth.”

People in Heaven Praise God

19 After this I heard what sounded like
many, many people in heaven. The
people were saying:

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are
called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and
they belong only to God.

apostles The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

prophets People that spoke for God.

millstone A large, round stone used for grinding grain.

harps Musical instruments with strings.

bridegroom A man ready to be married.

merchants People who earn their living by buying and
selling things.

“Hallelujah (*Praise God*)!
Victory, glory, and power
belong to our God.

- 2 His judgments are true and right.
Our God has punished the prostitute.*
She is the one who made the earth evil
with her sexual sin.
God has punished the prostitute
to pay her for the blood (*death*)
of his servants.”

3 Those people in heaven also said:

“Hallelujah (*Praise God*)!
She is burning and her smoke will rise
forever and ever.”

4 Then the 24 elders* and the four living
things bowed down. They worshiped God,
who sits on the throne. They said:

“Amen,* Hallelujah (*Praise God*)!”

5 Then a voice came from the throne. The
voice said:

“Praise our God, all you people
that serve him!
Praise our God, all you people
small and great that honor him!”

6 Then I heard something that sounded like
many, many people. It sounded like the noise
of flooding water and like loud thunder. The
people were saying:

“Hallelujah (*Praise God*)!
Our Lord God rules.
He is the All-Powerful.

- 7 Let us rejoice and be happy
and give God glory!

Give God glory, because the wedding
of the Lamb (*Jesus*) has come.
And the Lamb’s bride (*the church*)
has made herself ready.

- 8 Fine linen was given to the bride
for her to wear.
The linen was bright and clean.”

prostitute(s) Women paid by men for sexual sin.

elder(s) Elder means “older.” These are probably great leaders of
God’s people. They may be the leaders of the twelve Jewish
family groups plus Jesus’ twelve apostles.

Amen To say “Amen” means to agree strongly.

(The fine linen means the good things that God’s holy people* did.)

⁹Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Those people who are invited to the wedding meal of the Lamb are blessed (*happy*)!” Then the angel said, “These are the true words of God.”

¹⁰Then I bowed down before the angel’s feet to worship him. But the angel said to me, “Don’t worship me! I am a servant like you and your brothers who have the truth of Jesus. So worship God! Because the truth of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*”

The Rider on the White Horse

¹¹Then I saw heaven open. There before me was a white horse. The rider on the horse is called Faithful and True. He is right in his judging and in making war. ¹²His eyes are like burning fire. He has many crowns on his head. He has a name written on him, but he is the only one who knows the name. No other person knows the name. ¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood. His name is the Word of God. ¹⁴The armies of heaven were following him. They were riding white horses. They were dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵A sharp sword comes out of the rider’s mouth. He will use this sword to defeat the nations. He will rule the nations with a rod of iron. He will squeeze [the grapes] in the winepress of the terrible anger of God the All-Powerful. ¹⁶On his robe and on his leg was written this name:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun. The angel said with a loud voice to all the birds flying in the sky, “Come together for the great supper of God. ¹⁸Come together so that you can eat the bodies of rulers and army commanders and famous men. Come to eat the bodies of the horses and their riders and the bodies of all people—free, slave, small, and great.”

¹⁹Then I saw the animal and the rulers of the earth. Their armies were gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his

holy people Literally, “saints” or “holy ones.” God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

prophecy A message or teaching from God.

army. ²⁰But the animal was captured. Also the false prophet* was captured. This false prophet was the one who did the miracles* for the animal. The false prophet had used these miracles to trick the people who had the mark of the animal and worshiped his idol.* The false prophet and the animal were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹Their armies were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse. All the birds ate these bodies until the birds were full.

The 1000 Years

20 I saw an angel coming down out of heaven. The angel had the key to the bottomless pit. The angel also held a large chain in his hand. ²The angel grabbed the giant snake (that old serpent). The giant snake is the devil (or Satan). The angel tied him [with the chain] for 1,000 years. ³The angel threw the snake into the bottomless pit and closed it. The angel locked it over the snake. The angel did this so that the snake could not trick the people of the earth until the 1,000 years were ended. After 1,000 years the snake must be made free for a short time.

⁴Then I saw some thrones and people sitting on them. These were the people who had been given the power to judge. And I saw the souls of those people who had been killed because [they were faithful to] the truth of Jesus and the message* from God. Those people did not worship the animal or his idol.* They did not receive the mark of the animal on their foreheads or on their hands. Those people became alive again and ruled with Christ for 1,000 years. ⁵(The other dead people did not live again until the 1,000 years were ended.) This is the first raising of the dead. ⁶Blessed (*happy*) and holy* are those people who share

false prophet A person that says he speaks for God but does not really speak God’s truth.

miracles False miracles—powerful acts done by the power of the devil.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

holy God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

in this first raising of the dead. The second death has no power over those people. Those people will be priests for God and for Christ. They will rule with him for 1,000 years.

The Defeat of Satan

⁷When the 1,000 years are ended, Satan (*the devil*) will be made free from his prison in the bottomless pit. ⁸Satan will go out to trick the nations in all the earth—Gog and Magog. Satan will gather the people for battle. There will be so many people that they will be like sand on the seashore. ⁹Satan’s army marched across the earth and gathered around the camp of God’s people and the city that God loves. But fire came down from heaven and destroyed Satan’s army. ¹⁰And Satan (the one who tricked those people) was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur with the animal and the false prophet.* There they will be tortured (*punished*) day and night forever and ever.

People of the World Are Judged

¹¹Then I saw a large white throne. I saw the One who was sitting on the throne. Earth and sky ran away from him and disappeared. ¹²And I saw the people that had died, great and small, standing before the throne. And the book of life was opened. There were also other books opened. These dead people were judged by the things they had done. These things are written in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead people that were in it. Death and Hades* gave up the dead people that were in them. Each person was judged by the things he had done. ¹⁴And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵And if a person’s name was not found written in the book of life, then that person was thrown into the lake of fire.

The New Jerusalem

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. ²And I saw the holy city coming down out of

heaven from God. This holy city is the new Jerusalem.* It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. ³I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, “Now God’s home is with people. He will live with them. They will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone.”

⁵The One that was sitting on the throne said, “Look! I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted.”

⁶The One on the throne said to me: “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega,* the Beginning and the End. I will give free water from the spring of the water of life to any person that is thirsty. ⁷Any person that wins the victory will receive all this. And I will be his God, and he will be my son. ⁸But the people who are cowards, people who refuse to believe, people who do terrible things, people who kill, people who sin sexually, people who do evil magic, people who worship idols,* and people who tell lies—all those people will have a place in the lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

⁹One of the seven angels came to me. This was one of the angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last troubles. The angel said, “Come with me. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰The angel carried me away by the Spirit* to a very large and high mountain. The angel showed me the holy city, Jerusalem. The city was coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹The city was shining with the glory of God. It was shining bright like a very expensive jewel, like a jasper. It was clear as crystal. ¹²The city had a large, high wall with twelve gates. There were twelve angels at the gates. On each gate was

new Jerusalem The spiritual city where God’s people live with him.

Alpha, Omega The first and last letters in the Greek alphabet, meaning the beginning and the end.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

false prophet A person that says he speaks for God but does not really speak God’s truth.

Hades Place where people go after they die.

written the name of one of the twelve family groups of Israel.* ¹³There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. ¹⁴The walls of the city were built on twelve foundation stones.* On the stones were written the names of the twelve apostles* of the Lamb.

¹⁵The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod made of gold. The angel had this rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶The city was built in a square. Its length was equal to its width. The angel measured the city with the rod. The city was 12,000 stadia* long, 12,000 stadia wide, and 12,000 stadia high. ¹⁷The angel also measured the wall. It was 144 cubits* high. (The angel was using the same measurement that people use.) ¹⁸The wall was made of jasper. The city was made of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹The foundation stones* of the city walls had every kind of expensive jewels in them. The first foundation stone was jasper, the second was sapphire, the third was chalcedony, the fourth was emerald, ²⁰the fifth was onyx, the sixth was carnelian, the seventh was yellow quartz, the eighth was beryl, the ninth was topaz, the tenth was chrysoprase, the eleventh was jacinth, and the twelfth was amethyst. ²¹The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each gate was made from one pearl. The street of the city was made of pure gold. The gold was clear like glass.

²²I did not see a temple* in the city. The Lord God All-Powerful and the Lamb (*Jesus*) are the city's temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it. The glory of God gives the city light. The Lamb (*Jesus*) is the city's lamp. ²⁴The peoples of the world will walk by the light given by the Lamb. The

rulers of the earth will bring their glory into the city. ²⁵The city's gates will never close on any day, because there is no night there. ²⁶The greatness and the honor of the nations will be brought into the city. ²⁷Nothing unclean will ever enter the city. No person that does shameful things or tells lies will ever enter the city. Only the people whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city.

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. The river was bright like crystal. The river flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. ²It flows down the middle of the street of the city. The tree of life was on each side of the river. The tree of life makes fruit twelve times a year. It gives fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing all the people. ³Nothing that God judges guilty will be there in that city. The throne of God and the Lamb (*Jesus*) will be in the city. God's servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face. God's name will be written on their foreheads. ⁵There will never be night again. People will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun. The Lord God will give them light. And they will rule like kings forever and ever.

⁶The angel said to me, "These words are true and can be trusted. The Lord is the God of the spirits of the prophets.* God sent his angel to show his servants the things that must happen soon."

⁷"Listen! I am coming soon! The person that obeys the words of prophecy* in this book will be blessed."

⁸I am John. I am the one who heard and saw these things. After I heard and saw these things, I bowed down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed these things to me. ⁹But the angel said to me, "Don't worship me! I am a servant like you and your brothers the prophets.* I am a servant like all the people who obey the words in this book. You should worship God!"

¹⁰Then the angel told me, "Don't keep secret the words of prophecy* in this book.

Israel The Jews—God's chosen people in the Old Testament.

foundation stones The large rocks that are used as the bottom part or first part in a building.

apostles The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

stadia One stadion was a distance of about 200 yards. It was one-eighth of a Roman mile.

cubits A cubit is the length of a man's arm from the elbow to the tip of the little finger, about half a yard.

temple A building where people worship God.

prophets People that spoke for God.

prophecy A message or teaching from God.

The time is near [for these things to happen].
 11 Let the person that is doing wrong continue to do wrong. Let the person that is unclean continue to be unclean. Let the person that is doing right continue to do right. Let the person that is holy continue to be holy*.”

12 “Listen! I am coming soon! I will bring rewards with me. I will repay each person for the things he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega,* the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

14 “Those people who washed their robes* will be blessed. They will have the right to [eat the food from] the tree of life. They can go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside the city are the dogs (*bad people*), people who do evil magic, people who sin sexually, people who murder, people who worship idols,* and people who love lies and tell lies.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to tell you these things for the churches (*groups of*

believers). I am the descendant* from the family of David.* I am the bright morning star.”

17 The Spirit* and the bride say, “Come!” Every person that hears this should also say, “Come!” If a person is thirsty, let him come; that person can have the water of life as a free gift if he wants it.

18 I warn every person that hears the words of the prophecy* of this book: If a person adds anything to these words, then God will give that person the troubles written about in this book. 19 And if any person takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, then God will take away that person’s share of the tree of life and of the holy city, which are written about in this book.

20 Jesus is] the One who says that these things are true. Now he says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen.* Come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace (*kindness*) of the Lord Jesus be with all people.

holy God’s people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

Alpha, Omega The first and last letters in the Greek alphabet, meaning the beginning and the end.

washed their robes Meaning they believed in Jesus so that their sins could be forgiven.

idol(s) Idols are statues or other objects that people worshiped as gods.

descendant(s) The people born in a person’s family after that person dies.

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

prophecy A message or teaching from God.

Amen To say “Amen” means to agree strongly.