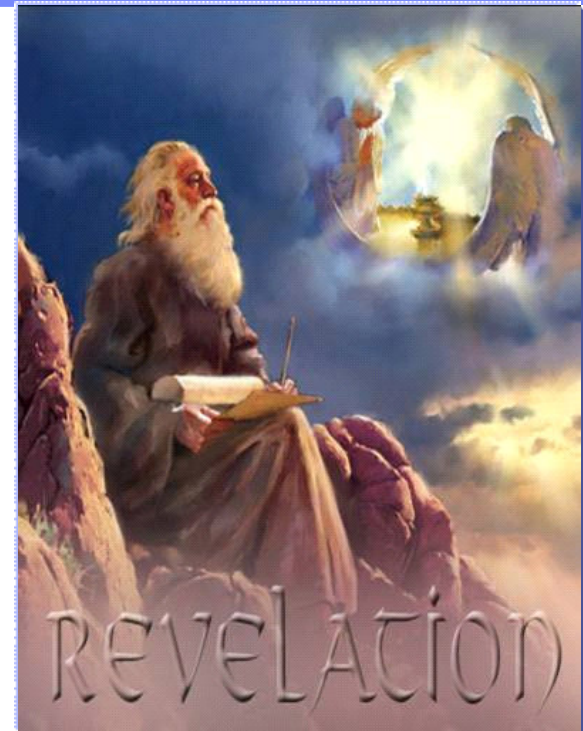




St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church

## Overview of Revelation

26<sup>th</sup> April 2008



## Introduction

<b>Title</b>	Revelation (Gr. Apocalypsis) = unconceal, unveil or reveal
<b>The Writer</b>	<b>St. John the beloved</b> while he was tortured and exiled at Patmos
<b>Date</b>	<b>~95 AD</b>
<b>The Place of Writing</b>	<b>Patmos' Island</b> Small and rocky island about 25 miles off the coast of Asia Minor (Turkey)
<b>Major Theme</b>	<b>Final Victory of Jesus and His people over Satan, His second coming, the final judgement and the new heaven</b>
<b>To Whom it is written</b>	<b>To the persecuted church at the first century and in all generations</b>

## Interpreting the Book of Revelation

**Interpreting Revelation is considered difficult for the following reasons:**


1. Prophetic book
2. Words cannot express Heavenly Spiritual facts so it uses numbers, symbols (300), colours and similes
3. It should not be clear enough for us to estimate times

***“The book of Revelation presents to us the events with the amount that makes the heart burn with fervour, and get filled with hope without being concerned with times”***

**Fr. Tadros Malaty**

## What are your thoughts on Revelation?

*“This night is the passing over from death to life”* Fr. Bishoy Kamel



*“The secrets of the book of Revelation are as many as its words...I praise what I understand and what I don’t”* St. Jerome

*“...the book of Revelation makes the believer feel as if the doors of Heaven are opened before him”* Fr. Tadros Malaty

*“The book of Revelation opens the heart of man to the Mind of God”* Dan Fanous

*“I never refuse what I don’t understand, but instead, I stand amazed before it”*  
Pope Dionysius

# The Seven Visions of the book of Revelation

*Final Victory of Jesus and His people over Satan  
His second coming, the final judgement and the  
new heaven*



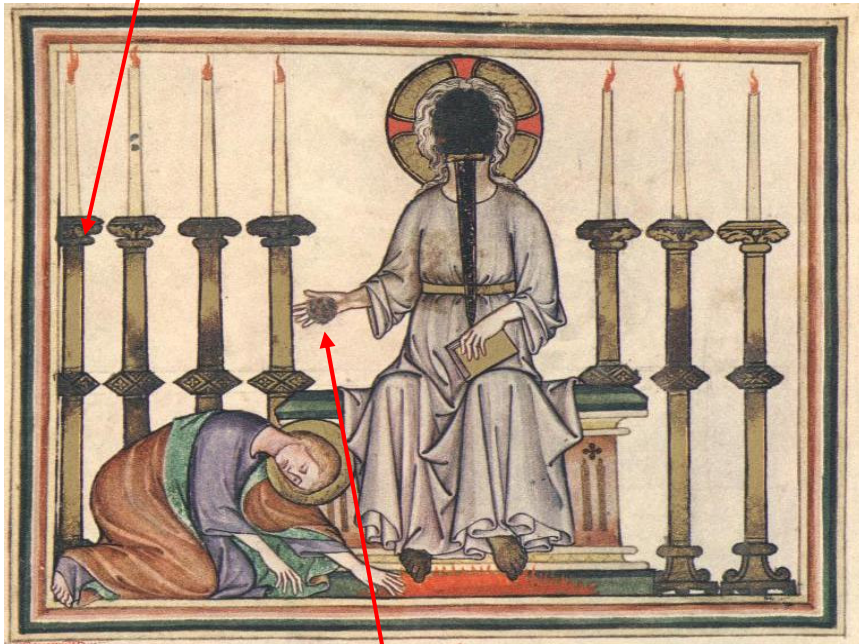
Different periods of the **church history** or  
different **spiritual conditions**

# Vision #1: The 7 Churches (Ch 1-3)

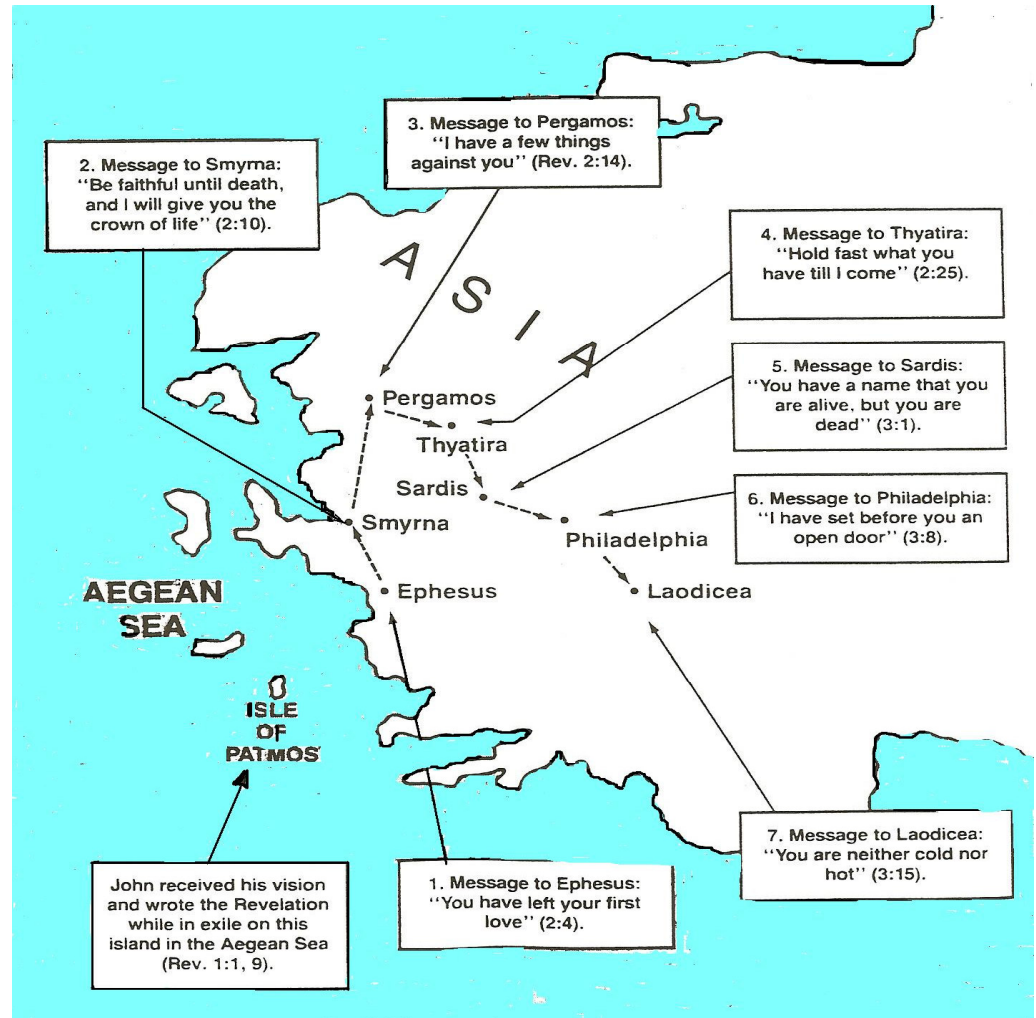
Spiritual condition of the 7 Churches in Asia minor

Different churches representing different periods of the church history

7 lamp stands = 7 churches



7 stars = 7 bishops



## Vision #1: The 7 Churches (Ch 1-3)

### Message to the 7 Churches

Short description of Christ suited to each Church individually for their needs

Summary of the state of the Church with a praise and/or rebuke

Exhortation is given

Promise is given

*“He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches”*

# REPENT

## Vision #1: The 7 Churches (Ch 1-3)

Church	Positives	Problem	Advice	Reward
<b>1. Ephesus</b> (Beloved) [church of the apostle]	1. Hard Labour 2. Patience 3. Perseverance 4. Not Weary 5. Hate the deeds of Nicolaitans	Left your first love	1. Remember 2. Repent 3. Do the first works	Eat from the tree of life
<b>2. Smyrna</b> (Persecuted) [the era of Martyrdom]	1. great work 2. Poverty 3. Blasphemy of the Jews	Expected tribulations for 10 days (10 circles of the Pagan Roman Empire)	1. Do not fear 2. Be faithful to death	1. Not hurt by the 2nd. Death 2. Crown of life



## Vision #1: The 7 Churches (Ch 1-3)

Church	Positives	Problem	Advice	Reward
<b>3. Pergamos</b> (Compromising) [Church associated with the Emperors since Constantine]	1. Hold fast to the name of Christ 2. Did not deny the faith 3. The church dwell in Satan's place	1. Doctrine of Balaam 2. Doctrine of Nicolaitans	REPENT	1. Eat from the hidden Manna 2. White stone with a new name
<b>4. Thyatira</b> (Corrupt) [5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> century]	Works, love service, faith, patience and increasing works	Allow Jezebel to teach and seduce believers to commit moral immorality & sacrifice for idols	Hold fast to what you have till Jesus comes	1. Authority over the nations 2. Morning star

## Vision #1: The 7 Churches (Ch 1-3)

Church	Positives	Problem	Advice	Reward
<b>5. Sardis</b> (Dead) [Middle age Church]	Few names have not defiled	1.False appearance as alive but really dead.  2. Not perfect works before the Lord	1. Remember what you receive and heard  2. Hold fast  3. REPENT	1. White garments 2. His name will not blot out from the book of life 3. Confess his name before the Father
<b>6. Philadelphia</b> (Faithful – loving the brethren) [the recent centuries]	1.Acceptable work 2. Kept Jesus word 3. Not deny His name 4. Kept Jesus command to persevere	N/A	Hold fast to what to what you have , I am coming quickly	To be a pillar in the temple of God inscribed by the name of God, new Jerusalem and Jesus new name

## Vision #1: The 7 Churches (Ch 1-3)

Church	Positives	Problem	Advice	Reward
<b>7. Laodicea</b> (Lukewarm) [church of the last days]	N/A	1. Not hot not cold but lukewarm. 2. Pretend to be rich, wealthy	1. to buy gold, clothe and anoint your eyes . 2. be zealous and REPENT.	will be granted to sit with Me on My throne.

## Vision #2: The 7 Seals (Rev 4-8:1)

Different events related to the suffering church,  
from the its establishment to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming (4-8:1)



1

White  
Horse



2

Red  
Horse



3

Black  
Horse

4

Pale  
Horse



5 Souls of the martyrs  
under the altar



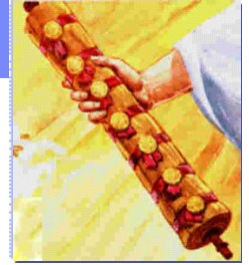
6 Great wrath of the Lord



7 Silence in heaven for  
about 1/2 hr



## Vision #2: The 7 Seals (Rev 4-8:1)



### 1 White Horse



Jesus is the rider who went out conquering and to conquer

Era of Christ and **Apostolic** Church

### 2 Red Horse



Satan is fighting back using the sword of the emperors and rulers

The church of **Martyrs**

## Vision #2: The 7 Seals (Rev 4-8:1)



### 3 **Black Horse**



Satan the rider fighting the church through heresies from within the church

**Internal heresies**  
eg. Arius

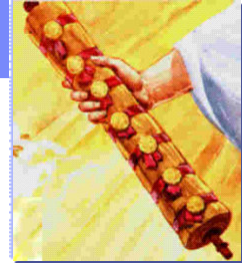
### 4 **Pale Horse**



Satan is fighting the church through external heresies that causing 1/4 of earth to be killed

**External heresies**  
eg. Islam

## Vision #2: The 7 Seals (Rev 4-8:1)



5



**Souls of the martyrs  
under the altar asking  
for justice**

- The Lord comforts them by the white robes
- They will not be completed without us

6



**Great wrath of the  
Lord**

- Punishments of God. Most probably time of anti-Christ
- The Lord Jesus seals His children to protect them from the coming wrath

7



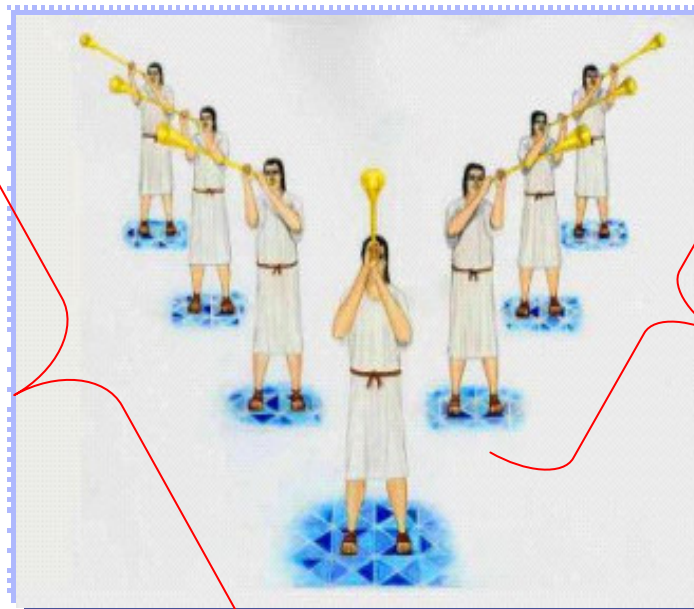
**Silence in heaven for  
about 1/2 hr**

- Short period of time for people to repent before the coming wrath

## Vision #3: The 7 Trumpets (Rev 8-11)

*God's warnings, since the creation of the Church to Judgment Day.  
Only effecting 1/3 because they are warnings*

warnings from our  
God to all the  
humans in every  
generation and  
specially in the  
period before the  
anti-Christ



time of anti-Christ  
period



## Vision #3: The 7 Trumpets (Rev 8-11)

*God's warnings, since the creation of the Church to Judgment Day.  
Only effecting 1/3 because they are warnings*



1



Hail and fire, mingled with blood, are thrown on the **earth**  
*(trees and grass)*

The warning affects the resources of living.  
*eg. Famine and hunger*

2



A great mountain burning with fire is thrown on these **seas** causing 1/3 to be blood  
*(marine life, ships)*

Communication, Trade and Economy is affected  
*eg. Poverty*

## Vision #3: The 7 Trumpets (Rev 8-11)

*God's warnings, since the creation of the Church to Judgment Day.  
Only effecting 1/3 because they are warnings*



3



A great star falls on the 1/3 of the **rivers** causing it to be bitter (**sources of water**)

Affecting great spiritual leaders and spiritual life  
*eg. Arius, Nestorius*

4



A third of the **sun (God)**, the **moon (church)** and the **stars (leaders)** darkens

Life darkens in the eyes of people / affecting the whole church *eg. Islam, Jehovah witness, homosexually etc*

## Vision #3: The 7 Trumpets (Rev 8-11)

*God's warnings, since the creation of the Church to Judgment Day.  
(Time of antichrist)*



### 5 Locusts



#### 1<sup>st</sup> Woe

Star (devil) fallen from heaven to the earth - was given the key to the bottomless pit - opening for the **locusts** to come out.



#### **Heresies**

E.g. Sins, worshipping the devil, new age religion

### 6 Great War



This is a **great war** (200 million horsemen, war machinery) - 2/3 did not die, but also did not repent



#### **A physical war**

E.g. one of the major wars

## Vision #3: The 7 Trumpets (Rev 8-11)

*God's warnings, since the creation of the Church to Judgment Day. 8:2-11  
(Time of antichrist)*



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe



Don't write  
John ate a small  
book



Elijah and Enoch  
Appeared supporting  
the believers



The Antichrist  
will kill them

In 3.5 days,  
they were resurrected



A destruction  
took place

7

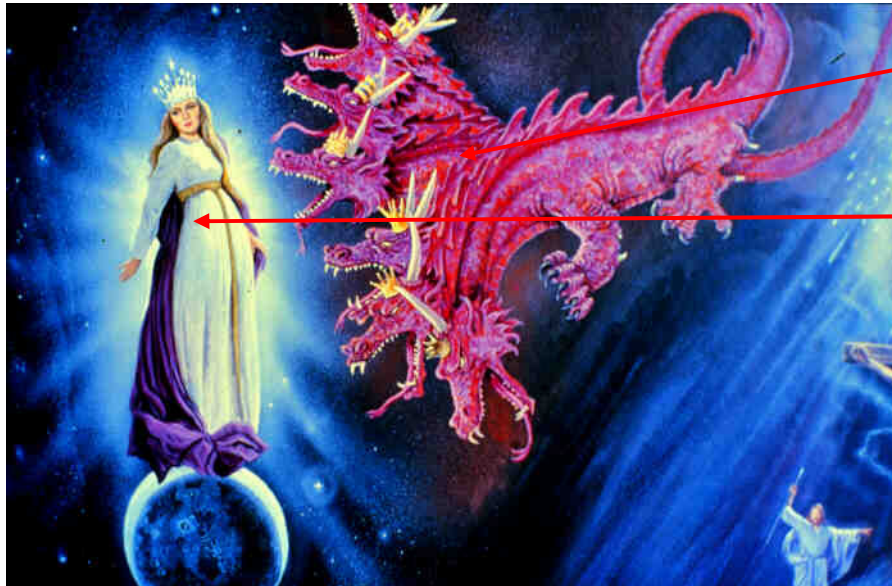


And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! ▽

**God's coming for judgment is announced & eternal happiness verified.**

## Vision #4: The Women, Dragon and 2 Beasts (Rev 12-14)

A war declared between the defiled trinity (the dragon, the sea beast and the earth beast) and Jesus Christ through His church.



Dragon waiting to devour the Child

Woman with Child = Church & Jesus

Dragon, Sea beast, Earth beast = False Trinity



## Vision #4: The Women, Dragon and 2 Beasts (Rev 12-14)

A war declared between the defiled trinity (the dragon, the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth) and Jesus Christ through His church.



The woman with the sun and moon under her feet

The dragon wanting to devour the child  
(*false father*)

<b>Women</b>	Christ's Church
<b>Child</b>	Jesus Christ
<b>2 Wings</b>	faith and love OR love to heavenlies & indifference to earthelies
<b>Wilderness</b>	World
<b>3.5 yrs</b>	7 yrs (completeness) / 2 = temporary time

## Vision #4: The Women, Dragon and 2 Beasts (Rev 12-14)

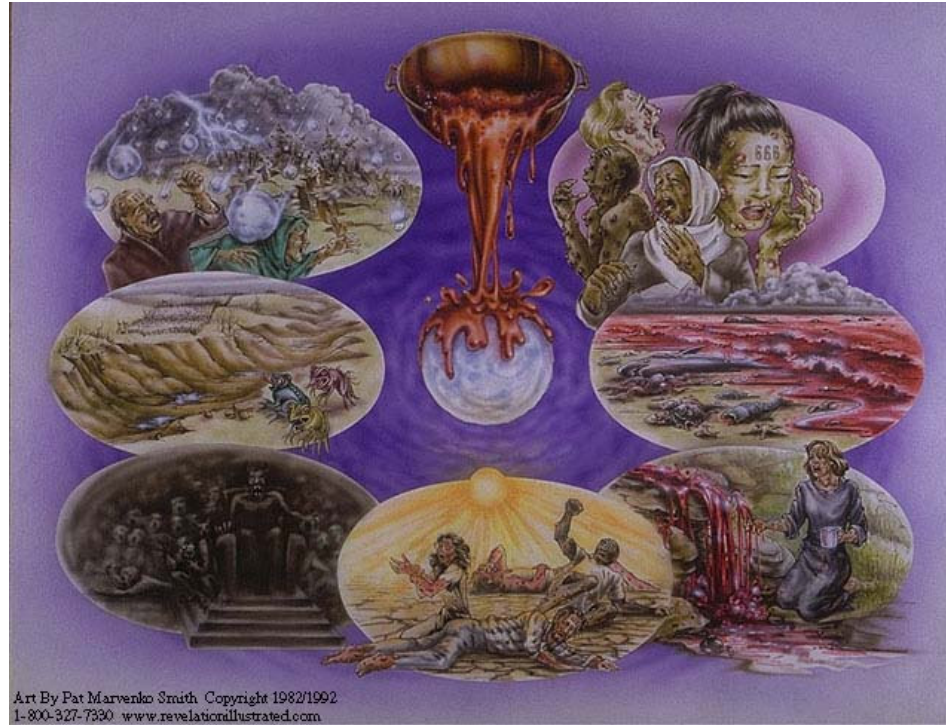
A war declared between the defiled trinity (the dragon, the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth) and Jesus Christ through His church.



<b>Dragon</b>	<b><i>(Satan = false father)</i></b> The dragon wanting to devour the child
<b>Sea beast</b>	<b><i>(antichrist = false son)</i></b> given to make a war with the Saints and to overcome them
<b>Earth beast</b>	<b><i>(false prophet = false holy spirit)</i></b> cause everyone to have a mark on their forehead and right hand .His number is 666

## Vision #5: The Seven Bowls (Rev 15-16)

Gods anger to punish mankind at the time of the antichrist  
(no longer 1/3)






**“the temple was filled with smoke...  
and no one was able to enter” (15:8)**

**=**





**no one may enter to intercede for the  
earth**



## Vision #5: The Seven Bowls (Rev 15-16)

#	Bowl	Poured on:	Meaning
1 	Sores on all men who have mark of beast	Earth	Illness/disease related to sin with no cure e.g. AIDS
2 	Sea turns to blood and all sea creatures dies	Sea	- Water represents sinners who will all die - no merchandise trading via the sea = economic destruction
3 	Rivers and springs turn to blood & all drink it	Rivers	- Rivers represent Christians who are not real believers e.g. Lukewarm - literally no water 4 drinking

## Vision #5: The Seven Bowls (Rev 15-16)

#	Bowl	Poured on:	Meaning
4	 Sun scorches all people	Sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical burning from the sun e.g. ozone.</li> <li>- Symbolically burnt by the wrath of God</li> </ul>
5	 Darkness and pain on the beasts kingdom	Antichrist	The teachings of the antichrist will be darkness e.g. homosexuality
6	 River Euphrates dried up	River Euphrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- War will happen because it separates kingdoms.</li> <li>- Authority of the antichrist is dried up</li> </ul>
7	 Noises, thunder, lightning, earthquake	Air	Signs of the second coming

## Vision #6: The Destruction of Babylon (Rev 17-20)

The Lord dealing with the people that are against Him

**Destruction of Babylon symbolising disobedience & opposition towards God**



## Vision #6: The Destruction of Babylon (Rev 17-20)

“I will show you the judgement of the great harlot...” (Rev 17:1)



Harlot is Babylon who tries to kill the saints

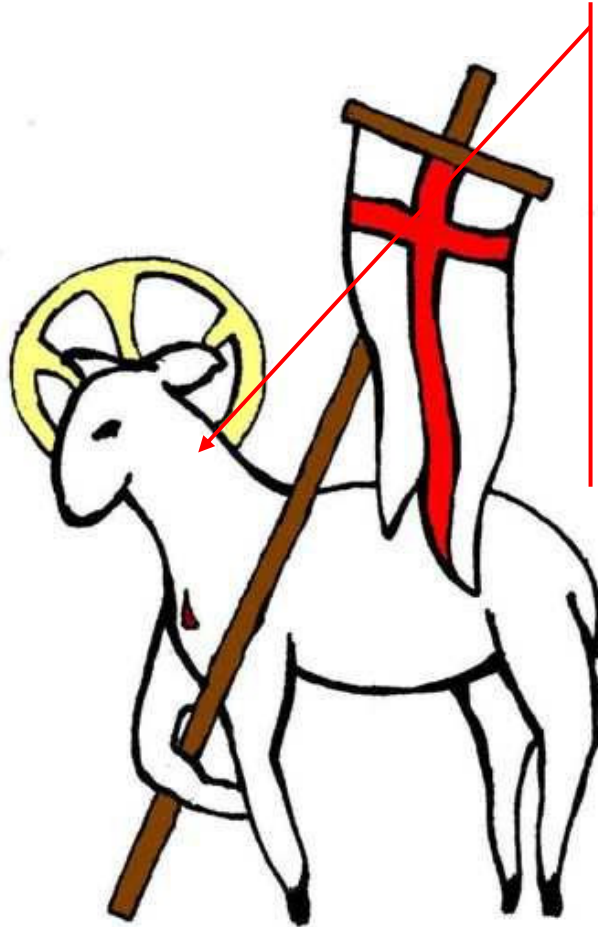
7 heads = Kingdoms on which the woman sits

10 horns = Kings with the best with authority for 1 hour

Beast who:

- was
- is not
- will be

## Vision #6: The Destruction of Babylon (Rev 17-20)



“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 17:14)

## Vision #6: The Destruction of Babylon (Rev 17-20)



“After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven saying, **“Alleluia!..”** (Rev 19:1)

Ch 19 - Babylon destroyed but we have our replacement

## Vision #6: The Destruction of Babylon – Satan Bound 1000 years



- Satan bound for 1000yrs
- Released for a little while
- Will go out to deceive the nations
- 1<sup>st</sup> death, 2<sup>nd</sup> death = those not of Christ
- Judgement day: "...books were opened and another book was opened which is the book of life...and anyone not found in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev 20:12)

## Vision #7: The Church in Heaven (Rev 21-22)

The new heaven and new earth revealed!



The Holy Bible is concluded by speaking about our eternal destiny, the heavenly Jerusalem prepared by the saviour for us!



## Vision #7: The Church in Heaven (Rev 21-22)

<b>A new Church</b>	“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth” (21:1) It is new and has never occurred to the thought of man
<b>Peace-filled Church</b>	“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; their shall be no more death, nor sorrow...for the former things have passed away” (21:4)
<b>Measurements</b>	12 gates – enter by the way of the apostles 3 gates on north, east, west, south – 4 corners of the earth through the Holy Trinity
<b>Materials</b>	“...jasper...pure gold...sapphire...emerald...” Shows how precious and beautiful.
<b>Entry requirements</b>	“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles...but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” (21:27)
<b>Urgency &amp; reward</b>	“And behold I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work” (22:12)
<b>Bride &amp; Groom</b>	Bride: “Come!” Groom: “Surely I am coming quickly” Bride: “Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus”