

In the End

Revelation Revealed

# Overview

- ◆ A series of visions given by an angel to John on the island of Patmos
- ◆ 7 lamp stands surround and receive messages from one like the Son of Man
- ◆ 24 elders & 4 living creatures surround One seated on a throne and a slaughtered lamb with 7 horns and spirits. The One gives the Lamb a scroll with 7 seals. The Lamb breaks the seals; the last seal leads to 7 angels blowing trumpets, the last blast leads to 7 angels pouring out bowls of wrath
- ◆ The scroll, trumpets, and bowls contain visions of 7-headed 10-horned dragons and beasts, with people following - and being marked by - either a beast or the Lamb
- ◆ A war between a dragon and a woman, and between the angels and the beasts, culminating in a final war and judgment at the end of the world. Oh, and a wedding!
- ◆ ETA for the end times: soon.

# 7 Lampstands

- ◆ 7 lamp-stands = the 7 churches of Asia Minor that John wrote to. They surround one like the Son of Man (brilliant figure, voice like rushing water, bright robe, golden sash, holding a 2-edged sword)
- ◆ messages to each “angel” (bishop?) of the 7 churches: rewards and punishments for those cities’ people who “conquered” (obeyed God); the disobedient (persecutors, sinners) will be replaced by others
- ◆ Cities are called seats of Satan (emperor-worship)
- ◆ encouragement in persecution, for he has already conquered death. He is the alpha & omega

# 24 elders and 4 living creatures

- ◆ 24 elders in bright white robes (12 tribes of Israel + 12 apostles) and 4 living creatures (angelic man, lion, ox, and eagle) (the 4 evangelists)
- ◆ surrounding One on a throne (God the Father)
- ◆ slaughtered lamb before him (Jesus)
- ◆ Angels offer incense with the prayers of the saints (heavenly liturgy)
- ◆ Angel asks "Who is worthy to break the 7 seals?" One of the elders answers: The Lamb!
- ◆ Time to open...

# The Scroll with 7 seals

- ◆ Seals 1- 4: the 4 horsemen: bow & a white horse (Parthians); sword & a red horse; scales & a black horse; Death / Hades on a green horse, killing 1/4 of the earth (|| Rome) (sword, famine, pestilence, wild animals)
- ◆ Seal 5: martyred souls under an altar crying "how long must we wait for vengeance?" A: until the allotted number (martyrs / 144,000 marked and in bright white robes)
- ◆ Seal 6: earth, sun, and moon are blackened, the sky scrolled close; rich and poor alike hide in fear "Hide us from the Lamb!" while the 144,000 are free from suffering, every tear wiped away, worshipping the Lamb day and night
- ◆ the great multitude; and then... silence... it's time for...
- ◆ Seal 7: An angel again offers incense with the prayers of the saints, then 7 angels are given...

# 7 Trumpets

- ◆ Trumpets 1 - 4: hail, fire, blood, mountains into the sea; star "Wormwood" + 1/3 of the stars thrown down; 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened
- ◆ Trumpet 5: another star falls, this one with the keys to a bottomless burning pit of fire & brimstone; monstrous scorpions (Parthian fireballs?)
- ◆ Trumpet 6: angels of destruction; 200 million troops on dragonlike horses kill 1/3 of the world; even with this, people are unrepentant! (Not just Romans. Sins listed)
- ◆ John given bittersweet little scroll to eat (Church suffering / enemies' judgment); 2 witnesses killed by the key-holding beast, people boast of the killing, but the witnesses rise 3 days later, terrify everyone, and ascend
- ◆ Trumpet 7: The Temple is opened, revealing the ark, and a vision of a woman standing on the moon, clothed with the sun, giving birth to a child

# Dragon Tale

- ◆ A great dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns sweeps with its tail 1/3 of the stars; the dragon is ready to devour the child of the woman but the child is snatched up
- ◆ Great war between Michael the archangel and the dragon and his fallen angels; Satan is cast down - "no place in heaven for the Accuser of God's children" - and pursues the woman but she is taken up on eagle's wings; the angered dragon starts a war on the woman's children (Israel || Church || children of Mary)
- ◆ On the seashore, the dragon empowers a beast with 10 horns and blasphemous names on its heads; the beast has a recovered wound from a mortal blow
- ◆ The world is fooled into following this beast. Another comes to convince the world to worship the first beast, branding them with their mark: 666
- ◆ Meanwhile the 144,000 and the Lamb sing a song of Moses! After singing, they swing their sickles, and the vintage is thrown into the wine press of God's wrath
- ◆ The 4 living creatures then give 7 angels...

# 7 bowls of wrath

- ◆ Bowls 1 - 6: various plagues culminating in a final battle of Armageddon
- ◆ Bowl 7: "It is done!" is shouted from the Temple
- ◆ a scarlet beast with 7 heads and 10 horns: Babylon, the Mother of Whores, is exposed and destroyed (Jerusalem 70? Rome's future?)
- ◆ Before finishing the battle: a Heavenly Wedding between the Lamb and his Bride! (spotless Jerusalem!)
- ◆ Alleluia! The "Word of the Lord"
- ◆ Back to the battle...

# Pre- & Post- Tribulation

- ◆ Angel with the keys to the burning pit locks up Satan for 1000 years - the martyrs reign (ie, the Church Militant = Kingdom on earth); a "1st resurrection"; immune from "2nd death"
- ◆ Satan released for a while; the beast and his false prophets surround the "beloved city" (ho no mo) & are thrown into the fire
- ◆ Great One on the throne: heaven & earth flee! All the dead appear & are judged by their actions written in the Book of deeds
- ◆ Death itself thrown into the lake of fire
- ◆ New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem; no death, no suffering, "Behold! I make all things new!" No Temple (Lord Himself IS the Temple); Pearl Gates; Water / Tree of life
- ◆ Let the sinner keep on sinning, the righteous keep being righteous. Jesus: root AND descendant of David; Let the Spirit and the Bride say "Come!" I am coming soon! Maranatha!

# What does it all mean?

- ◆ Apocalyptic genre ~200BC - 200 AD. "Resistance Literature": Current persecutions described in terms of past and future persecution; familiar Ezekiel and Daniel imagery (II Antiochus persecuting Jews)
- ◆ John is given the meanings: beasts and horns = different rulers of Rome (ie, 7 hills, 666/616) (Sorry, Hollywood)
- ◆ People follow the beasts, burn for their sins, and yet are not repentant!
- ◆ dragons and beasts are allowed authority but don't even like playing their role; God is always in control
- ◆ Babylon / Egypt = Rome / unfaithful Jerusalem
- ◆ "Exodus ideal achieved" (NJB notes) (ie final victory)
- ◆ Wedding - renewed pure Jerusalem; GOD MARRIES US
- ◆ "soon" (Jon, RIP); against laxity & conformity: perseverance & confidence

# ON EAGLE'S WINGS

by Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:  
under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.

(refrain)

For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

(refrain)

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