

The Revelation of John the Apostle

A New Rendition

Michael D. Rhodes
and
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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY



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About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary, a project by a group of Latter-day Saint specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to Latter-day Saint general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of Latter-day Saint scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers.

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these features

distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefitted from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisors, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling this a new “rendition” clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the New Rendition in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”

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The Revelation of John the Apostle

Opening of the Vision (1:1–2)

1 A revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants events that must soon take place; and he made it known and authenticated it by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ concerning all the things that he saw.

Blessed Are They Who Understand (1:3)

3 Blessed is he who reads, and they who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it, for the time is near.

The Almighty (1:4–8)

4 John to the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from him who is and was and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the trustworthy witness, the first-born of the dead and ruler of the kingdoms of the earth. Glory be to him who loves us, and who freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to God and his Father. To him be glory and power forever and ever, amen. 7 Look, he is coming with the clouds. And every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the peoples of the earth will mourn him. Yes, amen. 8 “I am Alpha and Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and was and is coming, the Almighty.”

The Vision of the Son of Man (1:9–18)

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation, kingdom, and patient endurance that is in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day and I heard a loud voice behind me, like a trumpet, 11 saying, “Write what you see in a scroll and send it to the

seven churches, to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamum, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” 12 And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And after I turned I saw seven gold lampstands. 13 And in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, dressed in a robe reaching to his feet, and he wore a gold sash around his chest. 14 Now his head and hair were white as white wool or as snow, and his eyes were like a bright flame, 15 and his feet were like shining bronze that had been heated in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of great waters, 16 and he was holding seven stars in his right hand, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as if dead, and he put his right hand on me saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and he who lives. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and hell.

John’s Final Commission (1:19–20)

19 “So write the things you have seen, both which are and which are going to happen afterwards. 20 This is the mystery of the seven stars that you saw on my right hand, and the seven gold lampstands. The seven stars are the leaders of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

Message to the Church at Ephesus (2:1–7)

1 Write to the leader of the church at Ephesus: He who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven gold lampstands says the following: 2 “I know your deeds—your hard work and steadfastness, and that you cannot endure evil men, and that you investigated those who claimed to be apostles (and were not), and found them to be liars. 3 You have held steadfast and endured much for my name but have not become discouraged. 4 However, I do have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 So remember from where you have fallen and repent and do what you did formerly. Otherwise, I will come to you and move your lampstand out of its place, if you do not repent. 6 But this you do have in your favor, that you hate what the Nicolaitans do, which I also hate. 7 Let him who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will let him who overcomes eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.”

Message to the Church at Smyrna (2:8–11)

8 Write to the leader of the church at Smyrna: He who is the first and the last, who was dead and became alive again, says the following: 9 “I know your trials and poverty, but you are actually rich. I also know the slander of those who claim to be Jews and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are going to suffer. See, the devil is going to throw some of you in prison to be tried, and you will suffer for ten days. Be faithful even until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 Let him who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will absolutely not be harmed by the second death.”

Message to the Church at Pergamum (2:12–17)

12 Write to the leader of the church at Pergamum: He who holds the sharp, two-edged sword says: 13 “I know you live where Satan’s throne is, and yet you hold fast to my name and have not denied your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was killed while he was among you, there where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have some among you who continue to adhere to the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to set a trap for the children of Israel so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed fornication. 15 You also have some who have likewise adopted the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. 16 So repent. If you do not, I will come quickly against you and make war with them by the sword of my mouth. 17 Let him who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is written that no one knows except the one who receives it.”

Message to the Church at Thyatira (2:18–29)

18 Write to the leader of the church at Thyatira: The Son of God, who has eyes like a bright flame and whose feet are like shining bronze, says the following: 19 “I know your deeds—your love and faith and service and endurance, and your more recent deeds are greater than your former. 20 But I have something against you because you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who claims to be a prophetess. She teaches and leads my servants astray to commit fornication and to eat food

offered to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to repent of her fornication. 22 Now I will cast her into prison, and those who have had intercourse with her into great suffering if they do not turn from the things she is doing. 23 I will surely kill her children, and all the churches will know that I examine each heart and mind, and I will reward each of you according to your works. 24 And I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who have not accepted this doctrine, who have not learned the deep things of Satan as it is called; I will not place any other burden on you. 25 Just hold on to that which you have until I come. 26 And I will give authority over the nations to him who overcomes and who keeps my works until the end, 27 (and he will shepherd them with an iron rod, like clay pots they are shattered), even as I have received from my Father, 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 Let him who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Message to the Church at Sardis (3:1–6)

1 And to the leader of the church in Sardis write: He who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says the following, “I know your deeds, that you have a reputation that you are alive, and yet you are dead. 2 Be vigilant, and strengthen the others who are going to die, for I have not found your works finished before God. 3 So remember that you have received and heard, and be obedient and repent. Now if you are not vigilant, I will come like a thief, and you will have no idea at what hour I will come upon you. 4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not defiled their garments. They will walk with me in white garments, because they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments, and I will never erase his name from the scroll of life, and I will acknowledge him before my Father and before his angels.” 6 Let him who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Message to the Church at Philadelphia (3:7–13)

7 And to the leader of the church in Philadelphia write: The Holy One, the True One, who holds the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says the following: 8 “I know your deeds. See, I have placed an open door before you, which no one can shut, because you have little strength, and yet you have kept my

word and not denied my name. 9 Look, I will cause those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews and are not, but are liars—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept my word concerning endurance, I will also keep you from the time of trial that is going to come upon the entire world to try the inhabitants of the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one can take your crown. 12 I will make him who overcomes a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never again go out, and I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the City of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down from heaven from my God, even my new name.” 13 Let him who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Message to the Church at Laodicea (3:14–22)

14 And to the leader of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the trustworthy and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation, says the following: 15 “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot! 16 So because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am going to spit you out of my mouth. 17 Because you say, ‘I am rich and wealthy and have need of nothing,’ but do not recognize that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from me gold tested by fire so that you might truly be rich, and white garments so that you might be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness might not be seen, and eye ointment to put in your eyes so that you might see. 19 I correct and discipline all those I love, so be earnest and repent. 20 Look, I am standing at the door and knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he with me. 21 I will let him who overcomes sit with me on my throne, even as I overcame and sat with my Father on his throne.” 22 Let him who has an ear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Things Which Must Come Hereafter (4:1)

1 After this, I looked, and there was a door opened in heaven, and the first voice that I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you the things that must happen after this.”

The Throne in Heaven (4:2–3)

2 Immediately I was in the spirit, and there was a throne placed in heaven, and someone was sitting on the throne. 3 And the one sitting there was similar in appearance to a stone of jasper and carnelian, and there was a rainbow surrounding the throne similar in appearance to an emerald.

The Twenty-Four Elders and the Sea of Glass (4:4–6)

4 And surrounding the throne there were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones twenty-four elders were sitting, dressed in white clothing, and on their heads were golden crowns. 5 And from the throne came lightnings and rumblings and thunderings, and seven lampstands of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. 6 And in front of the throne was like a sea of glass similar to crystal. And in the center, that is, around the throne, there were four animals full of eyes in front and back.

The Four Living Creatures (4:7–8)

7 And the first animal was like a lion, and the second animal was like a calf, and the third animal had a face like a man, and the fourth animal was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four animals each had six wings, and were filled with eyes all around on the inside. And day and night they never ceased saying, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming.”

The Scene of Praise (4:9–11)

9 And whenever the animals give glory and honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever, and throw their crowns in front of the throne saying: 11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and by your will they came into existence and were created.”

The Scroll of Destiny (5:1–5)

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sits on the throne a scroll with writing on the inside and outside, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to

open the scroll by breaking its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven, or on earth, or under the earth could open the scroll or look into it. 4 And I wept bitterly, because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. See, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, even the branch of David, has overcome so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

The Lamb Slain (5:6–7)

6 And I saw standing before the throne and the four animals, and among the elders, a lamb that had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God who have been sent forth to all the earth. 7 And he came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

The New Song (5:8–14)

8 And when he took the scroll, the four animals and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one having a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, chanting, “You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slain and have purchased people for God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation of the earth. 10 And you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” 11 And I looked, and heard the voices of many angels around the throne, and of the animals, and of the elders. And the number of them was tens of thousands of tens of thousands, and thousands of thousands, 12 chanting with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.” 13 And I heard every creature in the sky and on the earth and below the earth and on the sea, even every one of them chanting, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever.” 14 And the four animals kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshipped.

The First Seal (6:1–2)

1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four animals saying with a voice like thunder, “Come.” 2 And I looked, and there was a white horse, and he who was sitting on it had

a bow, and he was given a crown, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

The Second Seal (6:3–4)

3 And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second animal saying, “Come.” 4 And another horse, fiery-red, came forth, and he who was sitting on it was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter each other, and he was given a large sword.

The Third Seal (6:5–6)

5 And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third animal saying, “Come.” And I looked, and there was a black horse, he who was sitting on it held scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice among the four animals saying, “A quart of wheat for a day’s pay, and three quarts of barley for a day’s pay, and do not harm the olive oil and the wine.”

The Fourth Seal (6:7–8)

7 And when he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth animal saying, “Come.” 8 And I looked, and there was a pale horse, and the name of him who was sitting on it was Death, and Hell followed after him, and they were given power over a quarter of the earth to kill with the sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

The Fifth Seal (6:9–11)

9 And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they had. 10 And they cried with a loud voice saying, “How long, Holy and True Master, until you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?” 11 And each of them was given a white robe and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brethren, who were going to die even as they had, should be complete.

The Sixth Seal (6:12–17)

12 And I saw when he opened the sixth seal that there was a great earthquake, and the sun turned black as sackcloth made of hair, and the entire moon was like blood. 13 And the stars of the sky fell to the earth,

like a fig tree drops its figs when it is shaken by a strong wind. 14 And the sky split like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the magnates, and the generals, and the rich, and the powerful, and every slave and freeman hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains. 16 And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the anger of the Lamb, 17 Because the great day of their anger has come, and who is able to stand?”

The Four Angels (7:1)

1 After this I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth so that the wind would not blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

The Angel of the East (7:2–3)

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east holding the seal of the living God, and he shouted with a loud voice to the four angels who had been appointed to damage the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

The 144,000 (7:4–8)

4 And I heard the number of those who had been sealed, one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed from all the tribes of Israel. 5 From the tribe of Judah twelve thousand sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, 6 From the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manassa twelve thousand, 7 From the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, 8 From the tribe of Zebulon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand sealed.

The Countless Multitude of the Saved (7:9–17)

9 After this I looked, and there was a great crowd, that no one was able to count, of every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb dressed in white robes and

they had palm leaves in their hands. 10 And they shouted with a loud voice saying, "Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four animals, and they fell before the throne on their faces and worshipped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever, amen." 13 And one of the elders answered and said to me, "Who are these who are dressed in the white robes and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "My Lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple, and he who sits on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will not be hungry or thirsty any more, nor will the sun or any heat afflict them, 17 because the Lamb who is on the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living springs of water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Opening the Seventh Seal (8:1–5)

1 And when he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about a half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar having a gold incense burner, and he was given a great quantity of incense to offer for the prayers of all the saints upon the gold altar that was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense for the prayers of the saints arose from the hand of the angel before God. 5 And the angel took the incense burner and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it to the earth, and there were peals of thunder and rumblings and lightning flashes and an earthquake.

The First Four Trumpet Blasts (8:6–12)

6 And the seven angels who held the seven trumpets got ready to blow them. 7 And the first angel blew his trumpet. And there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it fell upon the earth, and a third of the earth was burned up and a third of the trees were burned up and all the green grass was burned up. 8 And the second angel blew his trumpet. And

something like a great mountain, burning with fire, fell into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. 10 And the third angel blew his trumpet. And a great star fell from the sky, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 And the name of the star was called Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters because they had become bitter. 12 And the fourth angel blew his trumpet. And a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck so that a third of them were darkened, and a third of the day was not light, and the night likewise.

The Three Woes (8:13)

13 And I looked and heard an eagle as it flew in the midst of the sky crying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth because of the remaining trumpet blasts of the three angels that are about to sound.”

The Fifth Trumpet Blast and the First Woe (9:1–2)

1 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet. And I saw a star fallen from the sky to the earth. And he was given the key to the shaft of the abyss. 2 And he opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke rose out of the shaft like the smoke of a large furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the shaft.

The Locusts (9:3–11)

3 And out of the smoke came locusts onto the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. 4 And they were told not to harm the grass of the earth, nor any green plant or tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not permitted to kill them, but to torture them for five months. Their torture was like the pain of a scorpion when it stings someone. 6 And in those days people will seek for death and will not find it. They will yearn for death but death will flee from them. 7 And the locusts looked like horses ready for battle, and on their heads they seemed to have crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces. 8 They had hair like a woman, and their teeth were like a lion's. 9 They

had breastplates like iron, and the noise of their wings was like the sound of chariots pulled by many horses into battle. 10 They had tails like a scorpion with a stinger, and they had the capability in their tails of causing people pain for five months. 11 They had the angel of the abyss as king over them, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek Apollyon.

The Sixth Trumpet Blast and the Second Woe (9:12–19)

12 One woe has passed, but there are still two woes coming after this. 13 The sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a single voice from the horns of the altar of gold in front of God, 14 saying to the sixth angel, who held the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 And the number of cavalry troops was two hundred million; I heard their number. 17 And so I saw the horses in the vision and their riders, who had breastplates the color of fire and sapphire and sulfur, and the horses’ heads were like lions, and out of their mouths came fire, and smoke, and sulfur. 18 From these three plagues, a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and the smoke and the sulfur that came from their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails were like snakes that had heads, and with them they caused injuries.

The Rest of the Men Repented Not (9:20–21)

20 Now the rest of mankind, who had not been killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands so that they did not worship the demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, that cannot see, hear, or walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders, witchcraft, immorality, or stealing.

Another Mighty Angel (10:1–7)

1 And I saw another mighty angel descending from the sky enveloped in a cloud. There was the rainbow on his head and his face was like the sun, and his legs were like columns of fire. 2 He held a small, open scroll in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the earth. 3 He shouted with a loud voice like a lion roaring. And when

he shouted, the seven thunders spoke with their own voices. 4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things that the seven thunders have spoken; do not write them.” 5 And the angel that I saw standing on the sea and the earth raised his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and everything in it, and the earth and everything in it, and the sea and everything in it, that there will be no further delay. 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound the trumpet, then the mystery of God will be fulfilled, even as he proclaimed to his servants the prophets.

The Little Scroll (10:8–11)

8 And the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke with me again, saying, “Come take the open scroll in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and the earth.” 9 And I went up to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take and eat it, and it will be bitter in your stomach, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” 10 I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth, and when I had eaten it was bitter in my stomach. 11 Then they said to me, “You must again prophesy about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”

Measuring the Temple (11:1–2)

1 And I was given a reed like a stick and was told, “Come and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship in it. 2 But omit the outer courtyard of the temple—do not measure it, because it is given over to the gentiles, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

The Ministry and Death of the Two Witnesses (11:3–10)

3 “And I will appoint my two witnesses to prophesy one thousand two hundred sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 They are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that are standing in front of the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in that manner. 6 They have power to seal up

the sky so that it will not rain during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with any plague they want. 7 And when they have completed their testifying, the beast that came out of the abyss will make war with them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their corpses will lie in the main street of the great city that is called spiritually Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9 And some of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they will not allow their corpses to be buried in a tomb. 10 And the inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and send gifts to each other, because these two prophets had tormented the inhabitants of the earth.

The Resurrection and Ascension of the Two Witnesses (11:11–14)

11 And after three and a half days, the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and a great fear fell on those who were looking at them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up into the sky in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. 13 And in that very hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed, and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is finished. Now the third woe comes quickly.

The Seventh Trumpet and the Last Woe (11:15–19)

15 And the seventh angel blew his trumpet. And there were loud voices in heaven saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ, and he will rule forever and ever.” 16 And the twenty-four elders sitting in the presence of God on their thrones fell before him and worshipped God, 17 saying, “We thank you, Lord God Almighty, who was and is, because you have taken up your great power and begun to rule. 18 And the nations were angry, but your anger has come, even the time for judging the dead and giving a reward to your servants the prophets, and to the saints and those who fear your name, both small and great, and to destroy those who are destroying the earth.” 19 And the temple of God in heaven opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple, and there were lightning bolts, and rumblings, and thunderclaps, and an earthquake, and large hail.

The Woman and the Man Child (12:1–2)

1 And a great sign appeared in the sky, a woman dressed in the sun, and the moon was under her feet, and on her head was a crown of twelve stars. 2 And the woman was pregnant, and cried out in pain and agony of giving birth.

The Great Red Dragon (12:3–6)

3 And another sign appeared in the sky, a great, fiery-red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4 And his tail dragged off a third of the stars of the sky, and he threw them to the earth. And the dragon was standing in front of the woman who was about to give birth, to devour her child after it had been born. 5 And she gave birth to a male child, who was destined to shepherd all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was taken away to God and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that she could be taken care of there for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

The War in Heaven (12:7–12)

7 And there was a war in heaven—Michael and his angels fighting with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought against Michael, 8 and the dragon did not prevail, and there was no longer place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was driven out, even the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was driven out to earth, and his angels were driven out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the governing authority of his Christ have now been confirmed, because the accuser of our brothers has been driven out, who accused them before our God day and night. 11 They have overcome him through the blood of the Lamb and through the word of their testimony, and they did not love their own life even unto death. 12 Therefore, rejoice you heavens and all that dwell in them. Woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has come down against you with great rage, knowing he has little time.”

The Dragon and the Woman (12:13–18)

13 And when the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he drove off the woman who had borne the male child. 14 And

to the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so she could fly into the wilderness to her own place, where she was sustained for a time, times, and a half time, away from the presence of the serpent. 15 And the serpent spit water like a river out of his mouth toward the woman to sweep her away with the stream. 16 And the earth helped the woman and opened her mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had spit out of his mouth. 17 So the dragon was angry because of the woman and went away to make war with the rest of her offspring who kept the commandments of God and had a testimony of Jesus. 18 And he stood upon the seashore.

The Beast from the Sea (13:1–10)

1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and upon his horns were ten diadems, and upon his heads was a slanderous name. 2 The beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like a bear's, and his mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 One of his heads was as if it had been dealt a death wound, and his death wound was healed. And the whole world marveled at the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon, because he had given power to the beast, and they worshipped the beast saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against him?" 5 And he was given a mouth that spoke great things and reproaches. And he was given power to act for forty-two months. 6 He opened his mouth in reproaches against God, slandering his name and his dwelling place, and those who dwell there. 7 And he was allowed to make war with the saints and to conquer them. He was given authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the scroll of life of the Lamb who had been slain from the founding of the world. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him listen. 10 If anyone is allotted for captivity, then into captivity he goes. If anyone is to be killed by the sword, he is to be killed by the sword. Here is manifest the endurance and faith of the saints.

The Beast from the Land (13:11–17)

11 I saw another beast rising out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast in its behalf, and it made the earth and those living in

it worship the first beast, whose death wound had been healed. 13 He performed great wonders such that he even made fire come down out of the sky onto the earth in front of mankind. 14 He deceived those who dwell on earth because of the wonders which he was allowed to do in behalf of the beast, telling those who dwell on earth to make an image for the beast, who had the sword wound, and remained alive. 15 He was allowed to put a spirit into the image of the beast so that the image of the beast spoke, and he caused anyone who would not worship the image of the beast to be put to death. 16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to put a mark on their right hand or upon their forehead. 17 He also made it so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark—the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

The Number of the Beast (13:18)

18 Here is wisdom. Let he who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is a human number, and its number is six hundred sixty-six.

The Virgins (14:1–5)

1 I looked, and the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 people who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. 2 I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The sound that I heard was like the sound of lyre players playing their lyres. 3 They sang a new song in front of the throne and the four animals and the elders. No one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 people who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 These are they who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are morally clean, these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from among mankind as the first offerings to God and the Lamb. 5 In their mouths no lie is found—they are blameless.

The Message of the Three Angels (14:6–11)

6 I saw another angel flying in the middle of the sky, having an everlasting gospel to preach to those that dwell on earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. 7 With a loud voice he said, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

8 Then a second angel followed, saying, “She has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen, that provided all nations with drink from the wine of her passionate lust for fornication.”

9 And a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 then he will also drink of the wine of God’s wrath poured out unmixed into the cup of his anger, and he will be tortured by fire and burning sulfur in the presence of holy angels and the Lamb. 11 The smoke of their torment rises up forever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image or who receive the mark of his name.”

A Message and Promise to the Saints (14:12–13)

12 This will require the steadfast endurance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and who have faith in Jesus.” 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, the Spirit says that they will rest from their labors, for their works will follow them.”

The Harvest of the World (14:14–20)

14 I looked and there was a white cloud, and on the cloud sat one like a Son of Man. He had a gold wreath on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Wield your sickle and begin reaping. The hour for reaping has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.” 16 And the one sitting on the cloud wielded his sickle on the earth, and it was harvested. 17 And another angel came out of the temple that is in heaven who also had a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came from the altar, who had power over fire, and he shouted with a loud voice to the one holding the sharp sickle saying, “Wield your sharp sickle and harvest the grape-clusters from the grapevine of the earth, because its grapes are ripe.” 19 And the angel wielded his sickle on the earth and harvested the grapevine of the earth, and put the grapes into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 The winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress as high as a horse’s bridle for one thousand six hundred stadia.

The Great and Marvelous Sign (15:1)

1 I saw another great and marvelous sign in the sky, seven angels who had the seven final plagues, for with them the wrath of God was completed.

The Saints of God (15:2–4)

2 I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, also those who had overcome the beast and his image and the number of his name. They were standing on the sea of glass holding lyres of God. 3 They were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. 4 Who will not, O Lord, fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy, so that all nations will come and worship before you, because your righteous deeds have been revealed.”

The Seven Angels (15:5–8)

5 After this I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened. 6 The seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple dressed in pure, bright linen with gold sashes around their chests. 7 One of the four animals gave the seven angels seven gold bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 The temple was filled with the smoke of God’s glory and power so that no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

The Bowl Plagues Begin (16:1)

1 I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

The First Three Bowls (16:2–7)

2 The first angel departed and poured out his bowl onto the earth, and a foul and painful sore appeared on those people who had the mark of the beast and who worshipped his image. 3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it turned into blood like the blood of a dead man, and every living thing that was in the sea died. 4 And the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs

of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "You are just, you who are and were, the holy one, because you have imposed these punishments. 6 Because they shed the blood of saints and prophets, you have given them blood to drink, which they deserve." 7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."

The Fourth and Fifth Bowls (16:8–11)

8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 And they were severely burned, and cursed the name of God who had control over these plagues, and would not repent to give to him glory. 10 And the fifth angel poured out his bowl onto the throne of the beast, and its kingdom turned dark, and they were gnawing their tongues in agony. 11 They cursed the God of heaven because of their afflictions and because of their sores, and yet they did not repent of the things they were doing.

The Sixth Bowl (16:12–16)

12 And the sixth angel poured out his bowl into the great river Euphrates, and its water dried up to prepare the way of the kings of the east. 13 Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are demonic spirits who perform signs, who go forth to the kings of the whole world to gather them together for battle on the great day of God Almighty. 15 See, I come like a thief. Blessed is he who watches and takes care of his clothing so that he does not have to walk around naked, and people see his shame. 16 And the spirits gathered the kings together at a place called in Hebrew Armageddon.

The Seventh Bowl (16:17–21)

17 And the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were lightning bolts, and rumblings, and thunder claps, and also a great earthquake. Such a great earthquake had not happened since people had been on the earth. 19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. God remembered Babylon

the great to give her the wine cup of the fury of his wrath. 20 Every island disappeared and no mountains were found. 21 Large hail stones weighing about ninety pounds fell from the sky on people, and they cursed God because the plague of hail was so severe.

The Woman and the Beast (17:1–3)

1 And one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come, let me show you the condemnation and punishment of the great whore that sits on the many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have become drunk from the wine of her fornication.” 3 He carried me in the spirit to a deserted place, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored beast that was filled with blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

The Great Whore (17:4–6)

4 And the woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls, with a gold cup in her hand filled with abominations and the impurities of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written, “Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Whores and of the Abominations of the Earth.” 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And I was greatly amazed when I saw her.

The Mystery of the Beast (17:7–13)

7 And the angel said to me, “Why are you amazed? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and the beast carrying her that has seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw was, and [now] is not, and is going to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And the inhabitants of the earth, whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will be amazed when they see the beast, because he was, and [now] is not, and will come. 9 This calls for a mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are hills, on which the woman sits. Also they are seven kings. 10 Five have fallen, one [now] is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come, he must remain only a little while, and then go to destruction. 11 And the beast who was, and [now] is not, is the eighth, and it is of the seven, and is [also] headed

for destruction. 12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they [will] receive royal power for a short time from the beast. 13 These kings have unanimously agreed to turn over their power and authority to the beast.

The Fall of the Harlot (17:14–18)

14 “These kings will fight against the Lamb, and the Lamb will defeat them, because he is the Lord of lords and the King of kings, and those who are with him are the chosen, and elect, and the faithful.” 15 And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the whore resides, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast will hate the whore and make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God will put it into their hearts to carry out his plan and be united in their purpose to give their kingdom to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled.¹ 18 And the woman that you saw is the great city which holds royal authority over the kings of the earth.”

Sins That Reach unto Heaven (18:1–8)

1 After these things I saw another angel descending from the sky having great authority. And the earth was illuminated by his glory. 2 He shouted with a loud voice saying, “She has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen, and has become the dwelling place of demons and a haunt for every unclean spirit, and a haunt for every unclean and despised bird, and a haunt for every unclean and despised beast. 3 Because all nations have drunk of the wine of her passionate desire for fornication and kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich through her excessive luxury.” 4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out from her, O my people so that you will not take part in her sins, and so that you will not share in her plagues. 5 Because her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. 6 Render to her as she herself has rendered and pay her back double according to her deeds, in the cup in which she has mixed, mix her a double portion. 7 Just as she has glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of suffering and grief.

1. Note that the JST appears to correct the future passive indicative to a grammatically correct aorist passive subjunctive.

Because she says in her heart, I sit enthroned as a queen. I am no widow and I will never see sorrow. 8 Because of this, in a single day plagues will come upon her—death and sorrow and famine—and she will be consumed by fire, because mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

The Three Dirges (18:9–19)

9 “And the kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and lived with her in luxury will weep and mourn for her, when they see the smoke of her burning. 10 They will stand at a distance out of fear of her torment saying, ‘Alas, alas, the great city, Babylon, the mighty city, for in a single moment your condemnation and punishment has come.’ 11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, because no one buys their cargo anymore— 12 cargo of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen, purple clothing, silks, scarlet cloth, and every kind of scented wood and every sort of object of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon, spice, incense such as myrrh and frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses and carriages, slaves, and human lives. 14 And the fruit which your soul craved has departed from you, and all riches and splendor are lost to you, and people will never find them again. 15 The merchants of these commodities who have become rich because of her will stand at a distance out of fear of her torment weeping and mourning, 16 saying, ‘Alas, alas, the great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls. 17 For in a single moment such great wealth has been laid waste.’ And every ship’s captain and every sea traveler and sailors and those who work on the sea, stood at a distance, 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city was like this great city?’ 19 And they threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Alas, alas, the great city in which all who owned ships in the sea grew rich on her abundance of costly things, for in a single moment she has been laid waste.’

The Great Rejoicing (18:20–24)

20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven and you saints, apostles, and prophets, for God has given judgment against her for you.” 21 And a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea saying, “Thus Babylon, the great city, will be violently thrown down, and will no longer be found. 22 And the sound of harpists, singers, flutist, and

trumpeters will never be heard in you, and artisans of any trade will never be found in you, and the sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. 23 And lamplight will no longer shine in you, and the voice of a bridegroom and bride will no longer be heard in you. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery. 24 And in her the blood of prophets and saints was found, and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

In Praise of a God of Judgment (19:1–5)

1 After these things I heard a loud sound like a large crowd in heaven saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation, glory and power belong to our God. 2 For his judgments are true and just. For he has judged the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has taken vengeance on her for the blood of his servants.” 3 And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! The smoke goes up from her forever and ever.” 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four animals fell down and worshipped God who sat upon his throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” 5 And a voice came forth from the throne, saying, “Praise our God all you who are his servants and who fear him, both small and great.”

The Marriage of the Lamb (19:6–10)

6 And I heard a sound like a large crowd and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty has begun to reign. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad, and let us give glory to him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has prepared herself. 8 And to her it has been granted to be clothed in splendid, pure linen. For the linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.” 9 And he said to me, “Write. ‘Blessed are those who have been invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb.’” And he told me, “These words are true and of God.” 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, “Look, do not do that! I am your fellow servant and one of the brethren who have a testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

The Rider on the White Horse (19:11–16)

11 And I saw the heavens opened, and there was a white horse, and he who rode on it is called faithful and true, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were a flame of fire, and on his head

were many diadems, and he had a name written which no one but he himself knows. 13 And he was dressed in a robe dyed with blood, and his name is called “The Word of God.” 14 And the armies in heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in pure, white linen. 15 And out of his mouth went forth a sharp sword,² and with it he will strike down the nations, and he himself will shepherd them with a rod of iron,³ and he treads the winepress of the fury and wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his cloak and on his thigh he has a name written, “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

The Battle of the Warrior-king (19:17–21)

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried with a loud voice speaking to every bird that flew high in the sky, “Come, gather for the great feast of God, 18 so you can eat the flesh of kings and of generals and of mighty men and of horses and of those who ride them, even the flesh of all, both slaves and freemen, both small and great.” 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and the false prophet with it who performed miracles on its behalf, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped its image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Satan Is Bound for a Thousand Years (20:1–3)

1 And I saw an angel coming down from heaven holding the key to the abyss and a large chain was in his hand. 2 And he seized the dragon, the old snake, who is the devil, even Satan, and he bound him for a thousand years. 3 And he threw him into the abyss, and he locked and sealed it over him so that he would no longer deceive the nations until a thousand years had passed. Afterwards, he must be released for a short time.

2. The JST changes “a sharp sword” to “the word of God.”

3. The JST changes “a rod of iron” to “the word of his mouth.”

The First Resurrection and the Lord's Reign (20:4–6)

4 Then I saw some thrones, and they sat upon them and were given the authority to pass judgment, even the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark upon their foreheads or their hands. And they came to life again and ruled with Christ a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead were not brought to life again until the thousand years were over. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Upon them the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The Battle of Gog and Magog (20:7–10)

7 And when the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 And he will go forth to deceive the nations who are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for war, whose numbers are as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up upon the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from the sky and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet also are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Last Judgment (20:11–15)

11 And I saw a great, white throne, and one sitting upon it, from whose presence the earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before the throne. And the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life, then the dead were judged on the basis of what was written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and hell gave up the dead that were in them, and each one was judged according to his works. 14 And death and hell were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

The People of God (21:1–4)

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the former heaven and the former earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. 2 And I saw the holy city of New Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride who is adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See the dwelling place of God with men, and he will dwell with them, and they will be his very own people, and God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more; neither shall there be sorrow nor wailing nor grief any more. Former things have passed away.”

He That Sat upon the Throne (21:5–7)

5 And he who sat on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” And he said, “Write, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “They are done! I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to those who are thirsty freely from the fountain of living water. 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things and I will be his God, and he will be my son.

The Second Death (21:8)

8 “But as for the cowardly, the unfaithful, the sexual perverts, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idol worshippers, and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

The New Jerusalem (21:9–14)

9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven final plagues came and spoke with me saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit onto a great and high mountain, and he showed me the holy city of Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God. 11 It had the glory of God. Its radiance was like a very precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a massive, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates were twelve angels, and inscribed upon the gates were names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 On the east were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the walls of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The City—Its Walls and Gates (21:15–27)

15 And the angel who was talking with me held a golden ruler to measure the city and its gates and its walls. 16 And the city was laid out as a square—its length being equal to its width. And he measured the city with the ruler and it was twelve thousand stadia, the length, width, and height being equal. 17 And he measured its wall, and it was one hundred forty-four cubits by human measurement, which the angel was using. 18 And the wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold as clear as glass. 19 The foundations of the walls of the city were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation of jasper, the second of sapphire, the third of chalcedony, the fourth of emerald, 20 the fifth of sardonyx, the sixth of carnelian, the seventh of chrysolite, the eighth of beryl, the ninth of topaz, the tenth of chrysoprase, the eleventh of hyacinth, the twelfth of amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates being made of a single pearl. And the main street of the city was pure gold like transparent glass. 22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty is its temple, as is the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or the moon to provide light for it, for the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory to it. 25 The gates of the city will never close by day, indeed there will be no night there. 26 And they will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. 27 And nothing unclean will come into it, nor anyone who does anything detestable, nor any liar, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Tree and the Waters of Life (22:1–5)

1 And he showed me a river of living water, shining like crystal that flowed out from the throne of God and the Lamb 2 down the center of the main street of the city. A tree of life extended over the river on both sides producing twelve kinds of fruit, each month bearing a different kind of fruit, and the leaves of the tree are for healing the nations. 3 There will no longer be any accursed thing. And the throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be upon their foreheads. 5 And there will no longer be night, and they will have no need of lamp-light or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illuminate them, and they will reign forever and ever.

Conclusion to the Vision (22:6–15)

6 And the angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, and the Lord God of the spirits of the prophets has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon happen. 7 And, look, I am coming soon. Blessed is he who obeys the message of this prophetic book.” 8 And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 And he said to me, “See here, do not do that! I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” 10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let those who do evil continue to do so, and let the filthy remain filthy, and let the righteous continue to act righteously, and the saint continue to be holy. 12 Look, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to pay to each according to his deeds. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 Blessed are they who wash their robes so they will have the right to the tree of life and will enter into the city through the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the fornicators and the murderers and the idol worshippers and everyone who loves and tells a lie.

Final Witness, Warning, and Exhortation (22:16–21)

16 “I am Jesus who sent my angel to testify to you all concerning these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendent of David, the bright morning star.” 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who is thirsty come. Let him who wants it receive living water freely. 18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book. 19 And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share of the tree of life and of the holy city, which are written in this book. 20 He who is a witness of these things says, “Yes! I come soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all of you.