

# REVELATION

## **John's revelation (1:1-11)**

**1** <sup>1-2</sup>Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to show His servants what must soon take place. He revealed it by sending His angel to His servant, John, who bears witness to all that he saw through God's Word and personal revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Anyone who reads the words of this prophecy, hearing what God says and believing what is written, is blessed because the time is near.

<sup>4-5</sup>From John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

May grace and peace be imparted to you from He who is and was and is to come, and from the seven spirits that are before the throne, and from Jesus Christ the Faithful Witness, the first to be raised to heaven from the dead and the Ruler of the kings of the earth.

Eternal glory and might be to Him, for He continues to love us and has freed us from our sins by His blood. <sup>6</sup>He has made us to be a Kingdom and priests for God His Father. Amen! It shall be so.

<sup>7</sup>Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, including those who nailed Him to the cross. And all people everywhere will grieve because of Him. Amen! It shall be so!

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and Omega," says the Lord, "the First and the last, the One who is and was and is coming again, the Almighty."

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother who shares with you in the suffering, the Kingdom and the patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was detained on the island of Patmos because of God's Word and for bearing witness to Jesus. <sup>10-11</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, when I heard a loud voice behind me that sounded like a trumpet, saying: "Write on a scroll what you see and distribute it to the seven churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

## **An encounter with Jesus (1:12-20)**

<sup>12-13</sup>I turned to see who had spoken to me and saw seven golden lampstands and among them was Someone 'who looked like a son

of man'. He was clothed in a robe that went down to His feet, with a golden sash around His chest. <sup>14-16</sup>The hair on His head was as white as wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire and His feet were as bronze that glowed in a furnace. His voice sounded like the rushing of many waters and in His right hand He held seven stars. From His mouth came a sharp, double-edged sword and His face shone like the sun at its brightest.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw Him I fell at His feet as though dead. But He placed His right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last, the Living One. <sup>18</sup>I was dead and, see, I am alive for all eternity; and I have the keys of Death and Hades. <sup>19</sup>Therefore write down what you see, both what is now and that which is to take place in the future.

<sup>20</sup>"The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is easily explained: The seven stars are the angels, who are My messengers to the seven churches and the lampstands are the seven churches themselves.

### **To the church at Ephesus (2:1-8)**

**2** "To the angel of the church at Ephesus write: 'These are the words of the One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup>I know what you have done, your hard work and your endurance: that you cannot stand evil men and have dismissed the teaching of those who call themselves apostles but are not, because you discovered them to be false deceivers. <sup>3</sup>You have persevered through all you have suffered because of My Name and you have not grown tired in the process.

<sup>4</sup>But I have this against you: you have departed from the love you had in the beginning. <sup>5</sup>Remember, then, that place from which you have fallen. Turn back to Me and to the works you did at first. If you fail to do this, I will come among you and will remove your lampstand from its appointed place.

<sup>6</sup>However, you have this in your favour that, like Me, you hate what the Nicolaitans do, teaching and practising what is immoral.

<sup>7</sup>Let anyone with spiritual understanding hear what the Spirit says to the churches. I will allow anyone who is victorious to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.'

### **To the church at Smyrna (2:8-11)**

<sup>8-9</sup>"To the angel of the church at Smyrna write this message: 'These are the words of the First and the Last, who died and was raised to

life again: I know of your suffering and your poverty, yet you are rich. I know how you are slandered by those who call themselves Jews but are not, for they belong to Satan's synagogue.

<sup>10</sup> 'Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Be warned, the devil is about to have some of you thrown into prison. This will be a severe test that will last for ten days. Remain faithful, even to the point of dying for what you believe, and I will give you the crown of life.

<sup>11</sup> 'Let anyone with spiritual understanding hear what the Spirit says to the churches. No-one who is victorious will be harmed by the second death, the lake of fire.'

### **To the church at Pergamum (2:12-17)**

<sup>12-13</sup> "To the angel of the church at Pergamum write this message: 'These are the words of He who has the double-edged sword: I know where you live, where Satan has established his throne. You remained true to My Name, and did not deny your faith in Me, even when Antipas was martyred for faithfully bearing witness to Me in that place where Satan lives.

<sup>14</sup> 'Nevertheless, I have a few things that I hold against you. Some of you follow the teachings of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block in the way of the sons of Israel by encouraging them to eat sacrifices made to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

<sup>15</sup> As a result, some of you followed the teaching of the Nicolaitans who promote such immorality.

<sup>16</sup> 'Repent of this. Turn away from all such evil, or I will come among you speedily and will deal with those concerned by the sword of My mouth.

<sup>17</sup> 'Let anyone who has spiritual understanding hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

'To he who is victorious I will give the hidden manna and a white stone of complete forgiveness. On this stone a new name will have been written, which no one will know except the one who receives it, signifying that he has a completely new inheritance.'

### **To the church at Thyatira (2:18-29)**

<sup>18</sup> "To the angel of the church at Thyatira write this message: 'These are the words of God's Son, who has eyes that flame with fire and feet that glow like brass in the furnace. <sup>19</sup> I know all you have accomplished; I know of your love, your faith, your acts of service and the way you have persevered. I know that what you do now exceeds what you did at first.

<sup>20</sup>‘Yet I hold this against you, that you have given room to that woman, Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess although she deceives many, teaching my servants to commit sexual sins and to eat food dedicated to false gods. <sup>21</sup>I gave her time to repent but she has no desire to turn away from her immorality. <sup>22</sup>See, I am now putting her on a bed of suffering and those who commit adultery with her share in the great affliction, unless they repent by turning away completely from her false ways. <sup>23</sup>And I will strike her children dead and then all the churches will know that I am He who searches minds and hearts and deals with each one according to his deeds.

<sup>24-25</sup>‘But to the rest of you at Thyatira, those who reject such teaching and so do not know of Satan’s so-called deep things, I say this: I am not laying on you another burden, but keep hold of what you have until I return.

<sup>26-27</sup>‘To him who is victorious, who keeps My ways until the end, I will give authority over the nations, just as I received authority from My Father. ‘He will shepherd them with an iron rod that breaks clay pots into pieces.’ <sup>28</sup>I will also give the morning star Myself to everyone who is victorious.

<sup>29</sup>‘Let he who has spiritual understanding hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

### **To the church at Sardis (3:1-6)**

**3** “To the angel of the church at Sardis write this message: ‘The words of He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know all you do, that you have a reputation for being lively while in reality you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up and strengthen what remains but which also is about to die; for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of My God. <sup>3</sup>So remember what you have received and put into practice what you have heard. Repent, turn away from anything that conflicts with that.

‘If you fail to wake up I shall come like a thief and you will not know at what time I shall come upon you. <sup>4</sup>But you do have a few among you in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with Me in white robes because they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>He who is victorious will be clothed in a white robe and I will not remove his name from the Book of Life. Instead I will acknowledge him before My Father and His angels.

<sup>6</sup>‘Let he who has spiritual understanding hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

### To the church at Philadelphia (3:7-13)

<sup>7</sup>“To the angel of the church at Philadelphia write this message: ‘These are the words of the one who is Holy and True, who possesses the key of David, the authority of kingship. What He opens no-one can shut and what He shuts no-one can open.

<sup>8</sup>‘I know what you have done. Look, I have set before you an open door which no one can shut. You have little power but you have kept my Word and have not denied My Name.

<sup>9</sup>‘There are some who belong to Satan’s synagogue, who call themselves Jews but who lie because they are not true Jews. See, I will cause them to come and humble themselves before you and they shall know that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Because you have obeyed My Word with patient endurance, I will keep you from the time of trial that is coming on the whole world to test everyone who lives on the earth.

<sup>11</sup>‘I am coming soon. So keep hold of what you have so that no-one steals your crown. <sup>12</sup>I will make the one who is victorious a pillar in the temple of My God. He shall never leave that temple and I will write on him the Name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, that will descend from heaven from My God. And I will write on him My own new Name!

<sup>13</sup>‘Let he who has spiritual understanding hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

### To the church at Laodicea (3:14-22)

<sup>14</sup>“To the angel of the church at Laodicea write this message: ‘These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Ruler of God’s creation. <sup>15</sup>I know what you have done, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. <sup>16</sup>But because you are only lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup>You say, ‘I am wealthy: I have acquired riches and need nothing.’ Yet you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

<sup>18</sup>‘I advise you to buy from Me gold that has been refined by fire so that you may be truly rich, and white robes to wear that will prevent your nakedness from being exposed, and a salve for your eyes to enable you to see clearly.

<sup>19</sup>‘I correct and discipline all those I love. So repent and become hot! <sup>20</sup>Look, I am standing at the door and am knocking. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with Me.

<sup>21</sup>“To the one who is victorious, I will give the privilege of sitting with Me on My throne, in the same way that I was victorious and sat with My Father on His throne.

<sup>22</sup>“Let the one who has spiritual understanding hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

### **Before the throne (4:1-11)**

**4** After this I looked and clearly before me a heavenly door stood open. And I heard the voice that had spoken before, and that sounded like a trumpet, speaking to me saying: “Come up here and I will show you what must happen after this.” <sup>2</sup>Immediately I was in the Spirit and I saw a heavenly throne with Someone sitting on the throne. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like jasper and carnelian. And an emerald coloured rainbow surrounded the throne.

<sup>4</sup>Around the central throne there were twenty-four thrones upon which twenty-four elders sat, all clothed in white robes with golden crowns on their heads. <sup>5</sup>From out of the throne came flashes of lightning, voices and peals of thunder.

Seven lamps of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, were burning before the throne.

<sup>6</sup>In front of the throne was a sea of glass that gleamed like crystal. Around the throne on each side were four living creatures that were full of eyes, both in front and behind. <sup>7</sup>The first of these living creatures was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had a face like that of a man and the fourth was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup>Each of the four living creatures had six wings and were full of eyes around and within. Day and night they say repeatedly: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is coming.”

<sup>9-11</sup>Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to the One who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before Him and place their crowns before the throne saying:

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honour and power, because You created all things and it is by Your will that they came into existence and were created.”

### **The victorious Lamb (5:1-14)**

**5** To the right of the One sitting on the throne I then saw a scroll with words written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup>And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice: “Who is

worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup>But there was no-one in heaven or on earth or under the earth that was able to open the scroll, or to see what was written on it. <sup>4</sup>I cried because no-one was found worthy to open the scroll or to see what was written.

<sup>5</sup>One of the elders said to me: "Do not cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has been victorious. So He is able to open the scroll and break its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw in the centre of the throne, surrounded by the four living creatures and the twenty four elders, a Lamb standing and yet looking as if He had been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God released over the whole earth. <sup>7</sup>The Lamb took the scroll from the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. <sup>8</sup>When He took it, the four living creatures and the twenty four elders fell before the Lamb. Each was holding a lamp and a golden bowl full of incense which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>They sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break open its seals because You were slain, and by Your blood You purchased for God men of every tribe and language, from all people groups and every nation. <sup>10</sup>And You made them to be a Kingdom and priests to serve our God; and they will rejoice on the earth."

<sup>11-12</sup>Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels that were around the throne, the living creatures and the elders. There were thousands and even millions of them, saying loudly again and again:

"Worthy is the lamb who was slain to continue to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing."

<sup>13</sup>And I heard every creature in heaven, on the earth, under the earth, on the sea and all that is in this creation saying:

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing, honour, glory and might for ever and ever."

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said: "Amen! It shall be so." And the elders fell before Him in worship.

### **The seals are opened (6:1-17)**

**6** When I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice that sounded like thunder: "Come." <sup>2</sup>As I looked I saw a white horse. Its rider had

a bow; a crown was given him and he went forth as a conqueror to be victorious.

<sup>3</sup>When He opened the second seal I heard the second living creature say: "Come." <sup>4</sup>Another horse, red in colour, came out and its rider was commissioned to take peace from the earth, causing men to kill each other. A great sword was given him.

<sup>5</sup>When the Lamb opened the third seal I heard the third living creature say: "Come." As I looked I saw a black horse whose rider held a pair of scales. <sup>6</sup>And I heard what sounded like a voice coming from among the four living creatures, saying: "A quart of wheat, or three quarts of barley for a day's pay; but do not damage the oil or wine."

<sup>7</sup>When He opened the fourth seal I heard the fourth living creature say: "Come." <sup>8</sup>As I watched I saw a pale green horse, whose rider was called 'Death', and Hades followed him. They were given authority to kill a quarter of the earth's inhabitants with the sword, through famine and disease or by the earth's wild beasts.

<sup>9</sup>When the Lamb opened the fifth seal I saw the souls of those who had been martyred because of God's Word and for bearing witness to Him. <sup>10</sup>They were under the altar and cried out with loud voices: "Holy and true Master, when are you going to avenge our blood and judge those who live on the earth?"

<sup>11</sup>To each of them was given a white robe and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number was complete of their fellow servants and their brothers who, like them, were to be martyred.

<sup>12</sup>When the Lamb opened the sixth seal there was a great earthquake and the sun became as black as sackcloth and the moon looked the colour of blood. <sup>13</sup>The stars in the sky fell to earth like a fig tree shedding its unripe figs when shaken by a strong wind. <sup>14</sup>The sky vanished like a scroll being rolled up and every mountain and island was moved from their places.

<sup>15</sup>Then the kings of the earth, the great men, the generals, the rich, the strong and every slave and freeman, hid themselves in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16-17</sup>They called to the mountains and rocks: "Fall on us and hide us from the face of He who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their anger has come, and who is able to withstand it?"

### **Many to be saved (7:1-17)**

**7** Then I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind should blow on the earth, at sea nor on any tree. <sup>2-3</sup>And I saw another



angel coming from the east, having a seal of the living God. In a loud voice he said to the four angels, to whom was given the power to harm the earth and sea: "Do not damage the earth, the sea nor the trees until the servants of our God have received His seal on their foreheads."

<sup>4</sup>Then I heard a number of those who were to be sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand from all the tribes of Israel. <sup>5-8</sup>From the tribe of Judah twelve thousand received the seal, another twelve thousand from the tribe of Reuben. Each of the following tribes had twelve thousand who were sealed: Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin.

<sup>9</sup>Then, as I watched, I saw a crowd so great it was impossible to count, from every nation, tribe, people group and language. They stood before the throne and in front of the Lamb, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cried out with loud voices:

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb."

<sup>11-12</sup>All the angels standing around the throne, the elders and their four living creatures fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying:

"Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks and honour, power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. It shall be so."

<sup>13</sup>One of the elders asked me: "Where have they come from, all these who are clothed in white robes?" <sup>14</sup>I answered him: "Sir, you know." Then he told me: "They are those who have come out of the great tribulation, who have washed their robes in the Lamb's blood and made them white. <sup>15</sup>So they are before God's throne and serve Him day and night in the holy sanctuary, and He who sits on the throne will spread His canopy over them. <sup>16-17</sup>No longer will they hunger or be thirsty, neither will they be burned by the sun nor any scorching heat, because the Lamb in the centre of the throne will be their Shepherd. He will guide them to springs of living water and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

### **Prayers of the saints (8:1-13)**

**8** When the Lamb opened the seventh seal there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup>And I saw seven angels who stood before God and to whom seven trumpets were given.

<sup>3</sup>Another angel with a golden censer came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer with the prayers of the saints on the golden altar before the throne. <sup>4</sup>The smoke from the incense in the angel's hand descended before God with the prayers of the saints. <sup>5</sup>Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth. There were peals of thunder, flashes of lightning and an earthquake took place.

<sup>6</sup>Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their trumpets. <sup>7</sup>When the first blew his trumpet, hail and fire mixed with blood fell on the earth. A third of the earth was burnt up. A third of the trees and of all green grass was burned.

<sup>8</sup>The second angel blew his trumpet and a great mountain of burning fire was thrown into the sea. <sup>9</sup>A third of the sea turned to blood and a third of the living creatures in the sea died and a third of all ships were destroyed.

<sup>10</sup>When the third angel sounded his trumpet, a great burning star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky onto a third of the rivers and springs of water. <sup>11</sup>The star was called 'Wormwood', 'Bitterness'! A third of the waters became bitter and many men died from drinking this bitter water.

<sup>12</sup>The fourth angel blew his trumpet and a third of the sun was struck, together with a third of the moon and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light was extinguished. A third part of the day had no light and likewise a third part of the night.

<sup>13</sup>As I watched I saw a flying eagle crying aloud in mid-air: "Cursed, cursed, cursed, are those who live on the earth at the sound of the trumpets of the remaining three angels."

### **The opening of the bottomless pit (9:1-21)**

**9** When the fifth angel blew his trumpet, I saw a star that had fallen to the earth from the sky. The star was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. <sup>2</sup>He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit and smoke billowed out of it like smoke from a great furnace, causing the sun and the whole atmosphere to be darkened by this smoke. <sup>3</sup>Out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. They had been given power like that of earthly scorpions. <sup>4</sup>They were told not to damage the grass nor the green vegetation nor the trees of the earth, but they had authority to harm those people who did not have God's seal on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>They were not to kill those they harmed, but only torture them for a period of five months. Their sting was like the agony of a scorpion sting.

<sup>6</sup>During that time people will want to die but will be unable to do so. Even though they long for death, it will elude them.

<sup>7</sup>These locusts looked like horses ready for battle with what appeared like golden crowns on their heads, but their faces appeared human. <sup>8</sup>Their hair was long like women's hair and their teeth were like lion's teeth. <sup>9</sup>They had breastplates that appeared to be made of iron and the sound of their wings was like the roar of many horse-drawn chariots charging into battle. <sup>10</sup>They had tails and stings like scorpions and in these tails they possessed the power to torture people for five months.

<sup>11</sup>The angel of the bottomless pit ruled as king over them. His name in Hebrew is 'Abaddan', in Greek 'Apollyon'; meaning 'Destruction.'

<sup>12</sup>After the first curse had ended, two further curses were to follow.

<sup>13-14</sup>When the sixth angel blew his trumpet I heard a voice speak from the four horns of the golden altar that stood before God, saying to this sixth angel with the trumpet: "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." <sup>15</sup>So the four angels were released. They had been held ready for the appointed hour, day, month and year when they should kill a third of mankind. <sup>16</sup>I heard the number of their mounted troops: two hundred million!

<sup>17</sup>I saw in the vision the horses and their riders, who wore breastplates the colour of fire, of sapphires and of sulphur. The heads of the horses looked like lions' heads and from their mouths streamed fire, smoke and sulphur. <sup>18</sup>By these three plagues of fire, smoke and sulphur that streamed from their mouths, a third of mankind was killed. <sup>19</sup>The horses' power was in their mouths and their tails, which were like snakes with heads that could wound.

<sup>20</sup>The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, still refused to repent of their sinful deeds. Nor did they stop worshipping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone or wood, idols that cannot see, nor hear nor walk. <sup>21</sup>Neither did they repent of their murders, witchcraft, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

### **A mighty angel and the scroll (10:1-11)**

**10** Then I saw another mighty angel descend from heaven enfolded in a cloud with a rainbow over his head. His face shone like the sun and his legs were like pillars of fire. <sup>2-3</sup>In his hand he held an open scroll. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land and shouted in a loud voice that sounded like a roaring lion. When he spoke, the voices of the seven thunders were

heard. <sup>4</sup>When the seven thunders had spoken, I was about to write but I heard a voice from heaven saying: “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write that down.”

<sup>5-6</sup>The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and the land lifted his right hand towards heaven and swore by He who lives for ever and ever, who created heaven and all in it, the earth and all on it, the sea and everything in it, that there should be no further delay. <sup>7</sup>In the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled, as He announced to His servants the prophets.

<sup>8</sup>Then the voice I heard from heaven spoke again to me saying: “Go and take the scroll from the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” <sup>9</sup>So I went towards the angel, telling him to give me the little scroll. And he told me: “Take it and eat it, and although in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey, it will be bitter in your stomach.”

<sup>10</sup>So I took the little scroll out of the angel’s hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. <sup>11</sup>I was told: “You must prophesy again before different peoples and nations, those of other languages and before many kings.”

### Two witnesses (11:1-19)

**11** And I was given a reed for a staff with the instructions: “Stand up and measure God’s holy sanctuary, the altar and those worshipping there. <sup>2</sup>But do not measure the court outside the temple for it was given to the nations and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. <sup>3</sup>And I will give authority to My two witnesses to prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

<sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. <sup>5</sup>Anyone who wishes to harm them will be consumed by the fire that comes from their mouths to devour their enemies. So anyone wanting to harm them must be killed.

<sup>6</sup>They have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain may fall during the period that they prophesy. They also have authority over the waters, with the power to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.

<sup>7</sup>When they have finished their testimony, the beast that will come out of the abyss will go to war against them, will conquer and kill them. <sup>8</sup>Their bodies will lie openly in the street of the great city

which is called, figuratively, Sodom and Egypt, where the Lord was crucified.

<sup>9</sup>People from different tribes, languages and nations will see them lying there for three and a half days and they will not allow them to be buried. <sup>10</sup>Those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and will be glad. They will exchange gifts, because these two prophets had tormented them.

<sup>11</sup>But after three and a half days, a breath of life from God entered them and they stood to their feet, causing great fear to fall on those who had seen them. <sup>12</sup>The two heard a great voice from heaven tell them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud in front of their enemies.

<sup>13</sup>At that time a great earthquake occurred, destroying a tenth of the city, killing seven thousand men and causing the rest to be so terrified that they gave glory to the God of heaven.

<sup>14</sup>The second curse has now taken place and the third will follow soon afterwards.

<sup>15</sup>The seventh angel blew his trumpet and there were loud voices in heaven saying: "The kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever."

<sup>16-17</sup>The twenty-four elders who were sitting on the thrones fell on their faces and worshipped Him, saying: "Lord God, the Almighty, who is and was, we thank You because You have taken Your great power in order to reign. <sup>18</sup>The nations were angry but Your wrath has come and it is time for the dead to be judged. It is time for Your servants the prophets and the saints, all who fear Your Name both small and great, to receive their reward. It is time also to destroy those who destroy the earth."

<sup>19</sup>Then God's heavenly sanctuary was opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen in His sanctuary. And then there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

### **The woman and the dragon (12:1-17)**

**12** And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon beneath her feet. On her head was a crown with twelve stars and she was pregnant. <sup>2</sup>She cried out with her labour pains, longing to give birth.

<sup>3</sup>And another sign was seen in heaven: a great red dragon with seven heads, ten horns and seven diadems on its heads. <sup>4</sup>Its tail

dragged down a third of the stars of the sky and threw them to the earth.

The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth so that it might devour her child as soon as it was born. <sup>5-6</sup>She gave birth to a male child who would rule all the nations with a rod of iron. Her child was seized and taken up to God's throne and the woman fled into the desert, to a place prepared for her by God, where she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

<sup>7-8</sup>And there was war in heaven as Michael and his angels fought with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels retaliated but were defeated. There was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>That great dragon was thrown down to the earth – that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, who had deceived the whole world. And his angels were thrown out of heaven and cast down to the earth with him.

<sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven: "Now the time of salvation power, of God's Kingdom and Christ's authority, has come because the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accused them before God day and night. <sup>11</sup>But they overcame him through the Lamb's blood, because of the word of their testimony and because they loved not their own lives, even to the point of death.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice then, heaven and all who live there! But cursed is the earth and sea because the devil has come down to you in his great anger, knowing that he has but a short time.

<sup>13</sup>When the dragon saw that it had been thrown down onto the earth, it pursued the woman who had borne the male child. <sup>14</sup>And the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle so that she might fly to her place in the desert, where she was protected from the serpent for a time and times and half a time.

<sup>15</sup>Then a serpent spewed a river of water out of its mouth to sweep her away in the flood. <sup>16</sup>But the woman was helped by the earth that opened up and swallowed the river that the dragon had spewed out of its mouth. <sup>17</sup>Then the dragon was furious with the woman and went to make war against her other children, those who kept God's commandments and were faithful to Jesus.

### **The two beasts (13:1-18)**

**13** As the dragon stood on the seashore, I saw a beast emerge from the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with a diadem

on each horn and blasphemous names on its head. <sup>2</sup>This beast that I saw was like a leopard with the feet of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave its power, its throne and great authority to the beast. <sup>3</sup>One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but this fatal wound had been healed. The whole earth was astonished by the beast and followed it. <sup>4</sup>People worshipped the dragon because he had given his authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast saying: "Who is like the beast and who can fight against it?"

<sup>5</sup>The beast was given a mouth that it used to speak proud and blasphemous things. And it was given authority to act for forty-two months.

<sup>6</sup>It opened its mouth and spoke blasphemies against God, cursing His Name, His holy sanctuary and those living in heaven. <sup>7</sup>It was allowed to fight against the saints and to defeat them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people group of different languages and over the nations. <sup>8</sup>All who live on the earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name had not been written in the Book of Life that belonged to the Lamb, who was slain before the beginning of the world. <sup>9-10</sup>Let anyone with understanding hear what is said: "If anyone is destined for captivity, into captivity he goes. If anyone is destined to be killed by the sword, he must be killed by the sword." This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw another beast emerge from the earth. It had two horns like those of a lamb but spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup>It exercised the authority of the first beast on its behalf and forced the earth and all those living in it to worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed. <sup>13</sup>It performed great signs, even causing fire to descend to earth from heaven in the sight of men. <sup>14</sup>Through the signs it was allowed to perform in the presence of the first beast, it deceived all those living on the earth, commanding them to make an image to honour the beast, which had been fatally wounded by the sword and yet lived.

<sup>15</sup>This second beast was then allowed to breathe life into the image of the first beast, so that this image could speak, causing all those who would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. <sup>16</sup>And it caused all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both freemen and slaves, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads. <sup>17</sup>No one could buy or sell anything unless they had this mark which bore the name of the beast or its number. This needs wisdom. Let everyone with ability calculate the beast's number. Its human number is six hundred and sixty-six.

**The mark of God (14:1-8)**

**14** As I watched, I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion together with one hundred and forty-four thousand who had His Name and His Father's Name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a sound coming from heaven like that of cascading water and as the sound of loud claps of thunder. And I heard what sounded like many harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup>And they sang a new song before the throne, the four living creatures and the elders. Nobody except for the one hundred and forty-four thousand could learn this song.

<sup>4</sup>These are the ones who had been saved from all those on the earth. They had not defiled themselves with women, but had remained pure. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These are those redeemed as the first fruits among men for God and the Lamb. <sup>5</sup>They never lied and remain spotless.

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in mid-air, with an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, people of every nation, tribe and language. <sup>7</sup>He was saying in a very loud voice: "Fear God and give Him glory, for the time has come for Him to judge. Worship Him who created heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

<sup>8</sup>A second angel followed saying: "Fallen, Babylon the great has fallen! She made all the nations drink of the wine of her anger and immorality."

**The mark of the beast (14:9-13)**

<sup>9-10</sup>A third angel followed them saying in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or hand, he shall drink the wine of God's anger, poured undiluted into the cup of His wrath. He will be tortured by fire and sulphur before the holy angels and the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>The smoke of their torment ascends eternally, and they have no rest by day or night because they worship the beast and its image, and received the mark containing its name."

<sup>12</sup>This means the saints need to endure, persevering in keeping God's commandments and maintaining their faith in Jesus.

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard a voice from heaven saying: "Write this: 'Blessed are the dead who from this time die in the Lord.'"

"Yes," says the Spirit, "So they can rest from their hard work, for their good deeds follow them!"



**The earth's harvest (14:14-20)**

<sup>14</sup>Then as I watched I saw a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was Someone who looked like Jesus, the Son of Man. He had a golden crown on His head and held a sharp sickle in His hand. <sup>15</sup>Another angel emerged from the holy sanctuary, calling out with a loud voice to the One sitting on the cloud: "Wield your sickle and reap; the earth's harvest is ripe." <sup>16</sup>And the One sitting on the cloud wielded His sickle over the earth and the earth was harvested.

<sup>17</sup>Then another angel emerged from the heavenly sanctuary. He also had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup>Another angel, who had authority over the fire, emerged from the altar. He spoke with a loud voice to the angel with the sharp sickle saying: "Wield your sharp sickle and gather the bunches of grapes on the earth, for they are now ripe."

<sup>19</sup>So the angel wielded his sickle over the earth and gathered the bunches of grapes from the earth and threw them into the winepress of God's great anger. <sup>20</sup>The winepress was outside the city. As the fruit was crushed, blood flowed from the winepress as deep as horses' bridles, for almost one hundred and eighty miles.

**Seven angels with seven plagues (15:1-8)**

**15** Then I saw another great and awesome sign in heaven: Seven angels with the seven last plagues, for with them God's anger has ended. <sup>2</sup>And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mingled with fire. Those who had conquered the beast, its image and the number of its name, stood beside the sea of glass with harps given them by God. <sup>3</sup>They sang the song of God's servant Moses, and the Lamb's song, saying:

"Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God Almighty.  
Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations.  
<sup>4</sup>Who will not fear You, Lord, and glorify Your Name? For  
You alone are Holy and all the nations will come and  
worship before You because Your judgments have been  
revealed."

<sup>5</sup>After this I saw the heavenly sanctuary open. This is the tent of the testimony in heaven. <sup>6</sup>Seven angels emerged out of the holy sanctuary, carrying the seven plagues. They wore clean, bright linen clothes with golden sashes around their chests. <sup>7</sup>One of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the anger of God, who lives for ever and ever.

<sup>8</sup>And the holy sanctuary was filled with the smoke of God's glory and with His power. No-one could enter the holy sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were ended.

### The seven bowls of anger (16:1-21)

**16** Then I heard a loud voice coming from the holy sanctuary saying to the seven angels: "Go and pour out the seven bowls of God's anger on the earth."

<sup>2</sup>The first went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and foul malignant sores came upon those who had the mark of the beast and who worshipped its image.

<sup>3</sup>The second poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became like the blood of a dead man and every living creature in the sea died.

<sup>4</sup>The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they were turned to blood. <sup>5</sup>And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are right in these judgments, for You are the Lord who is and who was, the Holy One. <sup>6</sup>For those who shed the blood of Your saints and prophets are now given by You blood to drink. It is what they deserve." <sup>7</sup>And I heard the altar reply: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, Your judgments are just and true."

<sup>8</sup>The fourth angel poured out his bowl onto the sun and it was given power to scorch men with fire. <sup>9</sup>They were burnt by its great heat and blasphemed God's Name, who had control over the plagues; for they refused to repent or give Him glory.

<sup>10-11</sup>The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the beast's throne and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men chewed their tongues in agony and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and their sores; but they still did not repent of their evil deeds.

<sup>12</sup>The sixth angel poured out his bowl onto the river Euphrates and its water dried up to prepare the way for the coming of the kings from the east. <sup>13</sup>And I saw three foul spirits looking like frogs coming from the dragon's mouth, the beast's mouth and from the mouth of the false prophet. <sup>14</sup>They are demonic spirits performing signs and they go to all the kings of the earth to assemble them for battle on the great Day of God, the Almighty. <sup>15</sup>He says: "Look, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is he who is on the watch with his clothes ready, so that he will not go about naked, his shame exposed to others."

<sup>16</sup>These evil spirits gathered the kings together at the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

<sup>17-18</sup>The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air and a loud voice came from the throne out of the holy sanctuary, saying: "It is

done!" and there were flashes of lightning, voices, claps of thunder and a great earthquake took place, such as there has never been since men inhabited the earth, so great was that earthquake.

<sup>19</sup>The great city was split into three parts and the cities in the nations were destroyed. And God remembered the greatness of Babylon and made her drink the cup filled with the wine of His anger. <sup>20</sup>Every island disappeared and the mountains could not be found. <sup>21</sup>Great hailstones, each weighing a hundred pounds, fell from heaven on men. And they cursed God because of the plague of hailstones, so terrible was that plague.

### **The woman on the beast (17:1-18)**

**17** <sup>1-2</sup>Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke to me: "Come, I will show you the judgment that befalls the great prostitute who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have indulged in sexual immorality. The earth's inhabitants have become drunk from the wine of her adulteries."

<sup>3</sup>The angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast covered with blasphemous names. It had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup>The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She had a golden cup in her hand that was filled with abominations and the filth of her sexual exploits. <sup>5</sup>On her forehead was written the name of a mystery: 'BABYLON THE GREAT. THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF EARTHLY ABOMINATIONS.'

<sup>6</sup>I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and from the blood of those martyred for Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>I was greatly surprised to see her. And the angel said to me: "Why are you so surprised? I will tell you the secret of this woman and of the beast on which she sits, the beast with seven heads and ten horns. <sup>8</sup>The beast that you saw, that was, and is no more, is about to emerge from the abyss and go to its destruction.

"The earth's inhabitants, whose names were not written in the Book of Life at the beginning of creation, will be astonished to see the beast that was, is not and is to come. <sup>9</sup>This needs a wise mind.

<sup>10</sup>"The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits and seven kings. Five of them have already fallen, one exists now and the other has not yet come. When he does come, he will not remain for long.

<sup>11</sup>“The beast that was and is not now is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and goes to his destruction.

<sup>12</sup>“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority to be kings together with the beast, but only for one hour. <sup>13</sup>They agreed together to give their power and authority to the beast.

<sup>14</sup>“They will fight against the Lamb and the Lamb will defeat them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called chosen and faithful.”

<sup>15</sup>Then the angel said to me: “The waters you saw in the place where the prostitute sits are people, crowds, nations of many tongues. <sup>16</sup>The ten horns and the beast that you saw will hate the prostitute. They will ruin her and strip her naked. They will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. <sup>17</sup>For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His purpose by making them agree to give the beast their kingly power, until God’s words are fulfilled. <sup>18</sup>The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

### **The fall of Babylon (18:1-24)**

**18** After this I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great authority. His glory brought light to the earth. <sup>2</sup>He cried out in a loud voice: “Fallen, Babylon the great has fallen! It has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison for every evil spirit and of every unclean and hateful bird. <sup>3</sup>For all the nations have drunk the detestable wine of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed adultery with her. The earth’s businessmen have become rich through her power and luxurious lifestyle.”

<sup>4</sup>Then I heard another voice from heaven saying: “Come out of her, my people, come out of her, lest you share in her sins and so receive a share in her plagues. <sup>5</sup>For the pile of her sins reaches up to heaven and God has remembered her iniquity. <sup>6</sup>Give back to her what she deserves; repay her double for her evil deeds. Mix for her a double portion of what she has mixed for herself in her cup. <sup>7</sup>She glorified herself and spoilt herself with every luxury; so give her as much in torture and grief, for she says in her heart: ‘I sit as a queen; I am not a widow nor shall I ever know grief.’

<sup>8</sup>“Therefore plagues will come upon her in a single day; death, grief and famine. And she will be consumed by fire, for the Lord God who judges her is mighty.

<sup>9</sup>“The kings of the earth, those who committed adultery with her and shared in her luxury, will weep and wail with grief over her

when they see the smoke from her burning. <sup>10</sup>They will stand at a distance in fear of her torture saying, 'Cursed, cursed, is the great city, Babylon the mighty city, because your hour of judgment has come.'

<sup>11-12</sup>"And the businessmen of the earth weep and grieve over her because no one trades with them anymore; there is no trade in gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, expensive silks of rare colours, scented wood and articles made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron or marble. <sup>13</sup>There is no trade in cinnamon, spices, incenses, ointment, frankincense, wine, oil, flour and wheat. There is no trade in cattle, sheep and horses; in carriages, slaves and human lives.

<sup>14</sup>"The fruit for which your soul longed has disappeared from you. All the luxuries and attractive things have vanished, never to be seen again. Those who trade in these things have vanished, never to be seen again. <sup>15-18</sup>Those who trade in these things, who gained their wealth from her, will also stand at a distance for fear of sharing in her torture. They will weep with grief, saying, 'Great city; you are cursed, you are cursed. Once you were clothed in fine linen of purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls; but in one hour your great wealth disappeared and you became desolate.'

"Every sea captain, sea-farer and sailor, all who work at sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What can compare with this great city?' <sup>19</sup>They threw dust on their heads, wept with sorrow and cried out saying, 'You are cursed, great city, you are cursed, for all who had ships at sea were made rich from her wealth. Yet in one hour you have been made desolate.'

<sup>20</sup>"Heaven, rejoice over her. Saints, apostles and prophets rejoice, because God has passed judgment on her on your behalf."

<sup>21</sup>Then a mighty angel lifted up a great millstone and threw it into the sea saying: "Babylon, the great city, will be destroyed with such violence and shall no longer exist. <sup>22</sup>No longer shall the sound of harpists, musicians, flautists or trumpeters, be heard in you. No craftsmen will ever be found in you again, and the sound of the millstone at work shall never be heard in you again. <sup>23</sup>No light shall ever shine in you again and the voice of the bride and bridegroom shall never be heard in you again. Your traders were great men of the world because all the nations were deceived by your witchcraft, <sup>24</sup>and in her the blood of martyred prophets and saints is found, together with all who have been killed on the earth."

**A great multitude celebrate (19:1-10)**

**19** Then I heard the mighty sound of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

“Hallelujah! Salvation, glory and power belong to our God because <sup>2</sup>His judgments are true and just. He has judged the great prostitute who defiled the earth with her sexual immorality and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants.”

<sup>3</sup>Again they shouted: “Hallelujah! Her smoke ascends for ever and ever.” <sup>4</sup>And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God who is seated on His throne, saying: “Amen! Hallelujah!” <sup>5</sup>And a voice came from the throne saying:

“Praise our God all His servants, those who fear Him, both small and great.”

<sup>6</sup>And I heard the sound of a great multitude that sounded like cascading water and like a sound of great claps of thunder, saying:

“Hallelujah, because the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. <sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and exalt Him, giving Him glory, because it is time for the Lamb’s wedding and His Bride has prepared herself. <sup>8</sup>She has been given fine, clean linen to wear, signifying the righteous deeds of the saints.”

<sup>9</sup>And the angel said to me: “Write this: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the Lamb’s wedding banquet.’” And he said to me: “These are the true words of God.” <sup>10</sup>And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me: “Don’t do that, for I am a fellow servant and one of your brothers who continues to maintain witness about Jesus. Worship God. For the witness of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

**Rider on a white horse (19:11-21)**

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw heaven opened and look, a white horse! He who sat on it is called Faithful and True. He judges justly and makes war. <sup>12-13</sup>His eyes are as a flame of fire and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that He alone knows and He wears a robe that has been dipped in blood. He is called by the name, ‘The Word of God.’

<sup>14</sup>The heavenly armies followed Him on white horses, all dressed in fine, clean linen. <sup>15</sup>Out of His mouth came a sharp sword with which to smite the nations and He will rule them with an iron sceptre. He will tread the winepress that produces the wine of His anger, the wrath of God, the Almighty.

<sup>16</sup>On His robe and on His thigh a name was written: "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.'

<sup>17-18</sup>Then I saw a single angel standing in the sun who cried out in a loud voice to all the birds that were flying in mid-air: "Come, gather together for God's great banquet so that you might eat the flesh of the kings and their armies, the flesh of strong men, of horses and their riders, of the flesh of both freemen and slaves, both small and great."

<sup>19</sup>Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth and their armies, gathered to fight against He who sits on the horse and His army. <sup>20</sup>The beast was captured together with the false prophet who had done great signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. Both were thrown alive into the lake of fire and burning sulphur. <sup>21</sup>The rest were killed with the sword that proceeded from the mouth of the One mounted on the horse. And all the birds ate their fill of their flesh.

#### **The lake of fire (20:1-15)**

**20** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven who held in his hand the key of the abyss, the bottomless pit, and a great chain. <sup>2-3</sup>He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, the devil or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years and threw him into the abyss. He then shut up the entrance to it and sealed it so he could no longer deceive the nations until the thousand years had elapsed. Then he had to be released for a short time.

<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones. Those who sat on them had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their faith in Jesus and God's Word and who had not worshipped the beast or its image, nor had they received his mark either on their forehead or hand.

They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>The remainder of the dead did not come to life again until the thousand years had elapsed. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>He who shares in this first resurrection is blessed and holy! The second death has no power over them, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for the thousand years.

<sup>7-8</sup>When the thousand years have elapsed, Satan will be released from his prison and will go to every part of the earth to deceive the nations, like Gog and Magog, to assemble them for battle; numberless like the grains of the sand on the seashore. <sup>9</sup>And they marched

across the whole earth and encircled the camp of the saints and the beloved city. But fire fell from heaven and consumed them. <sup>10</sup>And the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had also been thrown, and they were tortured day and night for ever and ever.

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and the One who sat on it. From His presence the earth and sky fled; there was no place for them. <sup>12-13</sup>And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before the throne; and the books were opened. There was another book opened, the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

<sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

### **The new Jerusalem (21:1-27)**

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and the sea no longer existed. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending from heaven, from God, prepared as a Bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice coming from the throne, saying: "Look, the holy dwelling place of God is with men and He will remain among them. They will be His people and God Himself will be with them. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and there will be no more death, no more grief nor crying nor pain, for the old order has passed away."

<sup>5</sup>He who sat on the throne said: "Look, I make everything new." He added: "Write this down, because these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then He said to me: "It is accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup>The victorious shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. <sup>8</sup>But as for the cowardly, the unbelieving, the morally filthy, murderers, the sexually immoral and those who practice witchcraft, those who worship idols and all deceivers, their destiny will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, the second death."

<sup>9</sup>Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came and spoke to me saying: "Come and I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." <sup>10</sup>And he carried



me away in the spirit to a great high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, radiant with His glory. <sup>11</sup>It shone like a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup>It had a great high wall with twelve gates attended by twelve angels. The names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were written on the gates. <sup>13</sup>There were three gates on the eastern side, three on the north, three on the south and three gates on the west. <sup>14</sup>The city wall had twelve foundation stones, on which were written the twelve names of the Lamb's twelve apostles.

<sup>15</sup>The angel who was speaking to me had a measuring rod of gold with which to measure the city, its gates and wall. <sup>16</sup>The city was in the form of a square, the length being the same as the breadth.

He measured the city with the rod and the length, breadth and height were each fifteen hundred miles long. <sup>17</sup>When he measured the wall it was two hundred feet thick by human measurement that the angel was using. <sup>18</sup>The wall was built of jasper and the city of pure gold that was as clear as glass. <sup>19-20</sup>The foundations of the city wall were decorated with every kind of precious stone: on the first foundation jasper, on the second, sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth and the twelfth amethyst.

<sup>21</sup>The twelve gates were made from twelve pearls, each being made of a single pearl. The city street was of pure gold, as transparent as glass.

<sup>22</sup>I saw no sanctuary in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were its holy sanctuary.

<sup>23</sup>The city had no need of the sun or moon to give it light for it shone with God's glory and the Lamb is its light. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>The gates shall never be shut by day and no night shall exist there. <sup>26-27</sup>The glory and honour of the nations shall be brought into the city; but nothing unclean will be permitted to enter, nor anyone who does what is abominable or false. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life may enter.

### **Christ to return (22:1-21)**

**22** <sup>1-2</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the city's street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>No longer will any curse exist. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city and His servants will serve Him. <sup>4</sup>They will look upon His face and His Name will be written on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>The night shall no longer exist and they will have no need of the light from lamps or the sun because the Lord God will shed His light on them and they shall reign for ever and ever.

<sup>6</sup>Then the angel said to me: "These words are reliable and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show His servants what must happen soon."

<sup>7</sup>"Look, I am coming soon! He who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book is blessed."

<sup>8</sup>I, John, heard and saw these things. When I did so, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me all this. <sup>9</sup>But he told me: "Do not do that! I am your fellow servant, together with your brothers the prophets and all who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

<sup>10</sup>Then He told me: "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy in this book, for the time is near. <sup>11</sup>Let him who is evil continue to do what is evil; let the filthy continue to do what is filthy. But let the righteous continue to do what is right and the holy one what is holy."

<sup>12</sup>"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, to give to each person what his deeds deserve. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. <sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right of access to the tree of life, who may enter the city through the gates.

<sup>15</sup>"Outside the city are the dogs; those who practise the occult, the sexually immoral, murderers, those who worship idols and everyone who loves and does what is false.

<sup>16</sup>"I, Jesus, sent My angel to reveal these things to you for the benefit of the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star."

<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say: "Come." Let he who hears say: "Come." And let the thirsty come, he who wants to receive the free gift of the water of life.

<sup>18</sup>I warn all who hear the words of this prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. <sup>19</sup>And if anyone takes away from the words of the prophecy in this book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

<sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says: "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen! It shall be so! Come Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.