

Lesson 11 The Seven Personages of Revelation before the Seventh Trumpet 12- 16

Let Me Sum Up

The Mystery of God

What will the seventh trumpet signal about the mystery of God, according to **Revelation 10:7**?

“...but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished as He preached to His servants the prophets.”

What is this mystery of God, preached to His servants the prophets?

Could it be more details about the second coming of Christ not previously revealed?

Could it be that all of the prophecy given to the Prophets in the past has finally been revealed in these last judgments and there is no more prophecy to fulfill?

How do we know that the last bowl judgments will come fast and furiously? See **Revelation 10:6**.

The angel whom John saw standing on the sea and on the land with his right hand lifted up to heaven...declared that there would be “delay no longer.”

The Little Book

How do you know that the angel with the little book is or is not Jesus Christ?

Clues:

1. Read **Revelation 1:12-17**.
2. How is the angel introduced in **Revelation 10:1**?
3. In **Revelation 5:2** we are introduced to a “strong” angel; here we are introduced to another strong angel or a “mighty” angel (some translations); seems these two angels have more in common than in comparison with Christ

Is this little book the angel is holding, the same as the scroll of **Revelation 5**?

If not, then what is it? And why does it cause sweetness in John's mouth, but bitterness in his stomach?

Could this little book be the written Word of God?

There are many wonderful (sweet) promises God has made to us in the written Word of God, but there is also a bitter side. There are passages that deal with divine judgments. There are passages that tell us there are those Believers who will suffer and some who will become martyrs. What John had been given to write was certainly bitter. He was to write about the various judgments and the effects of those judgments to those earth dwellers that were the recipients of God's wrath against their wickedness.

Do we experience this bitterness of the Word of God? John Walvoord says this in his Every Prophecy of the Bible, page 572: "though the bitterness may appear at times in life and in this world, the ultimate glory of God will be the portion of all those who put their trust in Christ." So, yes, we do experience bitterness, but what comes afterwards, well...let's just say, there will be no comparison.

The Measuring of the Temple

How long will the Gentiles be trampling underfoot this Holy City, Jerusalem? See **Revelation 11:2**.

At the beginning of the Tribulation, the antiChrist enables Israel to rebuild their Temple. For 42 months into the Tribulation, the Jews will have control of Jerusalem and their Holy place. At the mid-point of the Tribulation, the Gentiles will take control of Jerusalem and the Holy Place again and for the next 42 months. Something will happen at the mid-point of the Tribulation that will cause the Jewish people to flee to the mountains leaving their city Jerusalem and vacating their Temple. We will look at this something later on in our text. Controlling their own city and building their Temple again will be a big thing for the Israelis for ever since 600 BC., the Jews have not fully controlled Jerusalem. Even though there have been brief periods of time Israel has been in control of Jerusalem, it will not be fully theirs until after Christ returns. What do I mean by the Holy Place?

The Two Witnesses

These are the two lampstands and the two olive trees of **Zechariah 4:1-14**. Please read again this week about these two lampstands and the two olive trees of **Zechariah 4**.

Whose witness was empowered by the oil (the Holy Spirit) in **Zechariah 4**?

Why would these two witnesses of **Revelation 11** and **Zechariah 4** be a problem to those operating the world government?

When will God allow these two witnesses to be overcome? See **Revelation 11:3-7**.

What does the resurrection of these two witnesses after they have lay dead for three days tell those operating the government of the anti-Christ? And what does it tell those watching on international television or the Internet?

God is still in control. The government and the rest of the world must be furious.

What happens within the hour of these two witnesses being resurrected and taken up into heaven? See **Revelation 11:13**.

It says 7000 were killed in this great earthquake and 1/10 of the city fell. What does it say about those who were not killed in the earthquake? See **Revelation 11:13**. It looks to me that God has another harvest here and those who were not killed and those who were terrified, gave glory to the God of heaven. Those who were not killed were Jewish and most probably saved?

The Seventh Trumpet – Revelation 11:15-19

What announcement is made from heaven at this time (after the 7th Trumpet is sounded) in **Revelation 11:15**?

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

I want to give you the understanding of the entire section of **Revelation 10** through **Revelation 14** that I have received from reading both commentaries of John Walvoord and Harry Ironside: Time wise there has been no advancement of the book of Revelation except this brief section on the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet. In other words, we have been and will be on the backside of the scroll that had previously been sealed with seven seals from **Revelation 10** to **Revelation 14** (except for the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet).

What does the announcement above mean for what is coming on the earth from the last seven judgments? Are these ominous sounds coming from heaven alluding to the catastrophes that are yet to befall the earth and the earth dwellers at the end?

In one of the Chronicles of Narnia series written by C.S. Lewis, the entirety of Narnia’s inhabitants hears the roaring of the Great Lion, Aslan. It was loud, long, penetrating, but yet soothing, and peaceful. Each of those who heard his roar, heard something different. Some were frightened out of their wits because they knew their

time had come, others were comforted for their losses of loved ones. The earth dwellers still living on the earth at this point in Revelation will take away a different tune (from the announcement above) than do those who are in Christ at this time.

Now, make sure you are on the back side of the scroll. Here we are going to take a look at seven persons or personifications first before we turn that scroll around to the front again. These are:

1. The Woman representing Israel
2. The dragon, or ha-Satan
3. The Man-Child which is Christ
4. Michael the Archangel who represents the angelic host
5. The 144,000 witnesses
6. The First Beast out of the Sea or the anti-Christ from amongst the Gentiles
7. The Second Beast from out of the Land or the False Prophet from amongst the Jewish people.

Day 1 **The Woman with Child and the Dragon.**

The Woman with Child

Please read **Revelation 12: 1-5**

Describe this woman in Revelation **12:1-2**.

This woman was a great and wondrous sign that appeared in Heaven. She was clothed with the sun. She had the moon under her feet. She wore a crown of 12 stars on her head. She was pregnant, crying out in pain, as the time had come for her to give birth.

Is the woman, Israel or the Church or Mary?

Give your reasoning as to why you think it is the Church?

Give your reasoning as to why you think it is Israel?

Someone once told me, "If the literal makes sense, seek no other sense." Period. The woman here is Israel; I am sure of it. Let me give you a flashback to Genesis when Joseph had several dreams and he told those dreams to his brothers. Now, remember, Joseph and the coat of many colors? Read **Genesis 37:3-11**.

Who do the sun and the moon refer to in Joseph's second dream? See **Genesis 37:9-11**.

In Joseph's dream, 11 stars were bowing down to him. Who were those 11 stars? In **Revelation 12:1-2**, there are 12 stars on the woman's head. If this represents Israel in **Revelation 12:1-2**, why are there 12 stars instead of 11 stars on the woman's head like in the **Genesis 37:9-11** account?

To which gender is the Nation of Israel referred to in the Bible (most of the time)?

The Church in the New Testament is referred to as the Bride of Christ. To what is the Nation of Israel referred?

Interestingly enough, also in the Scripture, Jezebel, a woman, is used to refer to false religion. The harlot, also a woman, who we will look at in **Revelation 17**, will be the apostate church of the end time.

What significance to Israel is the woman being pregnant and in pain (a think question)?

Is Israel today, still looking for her Messiah?

Can you think of how Israel has suffered in History?

Who does the child represent, the one the woman with the seven stars in her crown is holding?

The Dragon

Please read **Revelation 12:3-6**

What is the second sign that will appear in Heaven?

Describe this dragon.

The dragon is the second sign given. The dragon is enormous and red. It has ten horns and seven diadems on its seven heads. To whom, does this creature refer? Please cross-reference and read **Daniel 7:7-8** and **Revelation 13:1**.

What do the ten horns represent?

If the ten horns represent ten countries forming the core of an empire, then to whom do the seven heads and seven diadems refer? Could it be the seven of ten kings who are not killed by the antiChrist at the midpoint of the Tribulation?

What is the dragon doing in this passage in **Revelation 13:1**?

Who does he see coming up **out of the sea**, having ten horns, and seven heads, and on his ten horns, ten diadems, and on his seven heads, blasphemous names?

What did this dragon do in **Revelation 12:4a**?

Who are the stars of heaven? Remember the stars from **Revelation 1**?

How many of the stars did the dragon's tail sweep away from Heaven to the earth?

What else did this dragon do in **Revelation 12:4b**?

Who is the child? Is the child the church? Is the child, the Christ-child?

Revelation 12:5 says she gave birth to a male child. If the child were, "the Church," John would have probably referred to the child in the feminine.

How does this correlate to when Jesus was born?

What did Mary and Joseph have to do to escape Herod in his desire to destroy the infant Jesus? Please read **Matthew 2:16-18**.

Revelation 12:5 also says this male child will rule all the nations with a rod of iron. Cross-reference and read **Psalms 2:9** and also **Luke 1:32-33**. This male child will rule over the entire earth during the Millennial Kingdom, including ruling over His own people Israel.

What does it mean that her male child is "caught up" to God and His throne? I'll give you a big hint, the word for "caught up" here is the same word used for the Rapture of the Church in **1 Thessalonians 4:17**, the same word used for when Paul was caught up to Heaven in his vision in **2 Corinthians 12:2,4**, and also the same word used for "catching up" of Philip by the Spirit of God in **Acts 8:39**.

To what is the statement referring, “The woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for 1260 days?” Please read **Jeremiah 30:7**. How does the 1260 days correlate to the length of the Great Tribulation? The Great Tribulation here means the last half of the Tribulation Period?

So, if the woman flees into the wilderness for 1260 days, when does Israel leave Jerusalem to be protected by God in the wilderness? What will be the trigger for her to leave Jerusalem and the land of Israel? See **Matthew 24:15**.

Though many of Israelis will die, Israel as a nation will be preserved through the Great Tribulation and be rescued at the end of it, by the coming of Christ. Please refer to **Zechariah 13:8** where 2/3 of the Jews will perish in the end time. Going back to **Matthew 24**, can you now see that Jesus is speaking to His disciples here for sure, but also to the Jewish nation? When He says in **Matthew 24:13**, “But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved,” He is talking about the 1/3 of the Jews who will endure to the end. Those will be saved.

Day 2 Michael the Archangel and the Heavenly Host

Please read **Revelation 12:7-12**

What is going on in Heaven in verse 7? Who is warring against whom?

Michael and his angels are fighting ha-Satan and his angels.

I think as we grow in our faith, we have a tendency to think, “bam,” and God brings about His will. The fight is over within a moment, and that certainly will be the way it is in the Battle of Armageddon when Christ returns. He will open His mouth and this awful sword will come out. He will speak and then it will be all over. He will have neutralized His enemies with one word. However, there are times when He uses His own to fight that which was His own and has rebelled against Him. Why does He use His angels to fight ha-Satan and his angels here? This is another think question. There is no right or wrong answer.

Who was not strong enough in the battle?

Who could no longer have access to Heaven and also no longer have access to God in Heaven? What does this mean for those Believers on the earth when this battle has been won? This is another think question, but let me give you an idea for what I am looking. Please reference **Job 1:6-12**.

What happens to the great dragon, that serpent of old, called the devil, or ha-Satan, which lead the whole world astray? Where was the great dragon and his angels hurled?

I thought this happened to the great dragon a long time ago at Creation. Or how about when the 70 returned to Jesus after they had experienced the subjection of demons to them in Jesus' name, and Jesus said to the 70, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."⁴¹ So, how could it be happening here in the time of Jacob's trouble?

Who will be in control of the world government at this period before the Second Coming of Christ?

Until this battle is fought and the angels of God are victorious over ha-Satan and his angels, ha-Satan is allowed in heaven and he accuses the Believers before God as he did in Job's case above. As we will find out soon, since ha-Satan has been thrown to the earth with his angels, this begins the most awful period of time on the earth in human existence. It is the awful day of Jacob's trouble. It will mark the mid-point of the Tribulation Period. The earth has now entered the Great Tribulation or the last ½ of the Tribulation Period, 1260 days, 3 ½ years, 42 months, or times, time, and ½ of time. This opens up the last seven bowl judgments to be poured out on the earth in rapid succession. Remember, the judgments keep speeding up. They occur closer and closer to one another just like birth pangs.

Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

I want you to look at the bolded type of this lesson as it is above. There are three markers: **Revelation 10:7**, **Revelation 11:12** and **Revelation 12:10**. These are all markers as to the progression of Jesus reclaiming the earth. Remember, He is the only One who was found worthy to open the seals that began this whole judgment thing. He is the Kinsman Redeemer who will reclaim the earth's dominion to Mankind from ha-Satan.

Please read **Revelation 12:11-12** again now.

⁴¹Some Preterists believe this was ha-Satan's expulsion out of heaven.

Who overcame ha-Satan because of the blood of the Lamb....and who overcame ha-Satan by the word of their testimony ...and who did not love their life even when faced with death?

For what reason were the heavens (plural) to rejoice? And for what reason were those who dwell in the heavens (plural) to rejoice?

What is the third woe?

Is the third woe, the “woe” to the earth and the sea, because the devil has been kicked out of heaven...and he can't go back ... and he is **mad, mad, mad**? He has been thrown to the earth, knowing he has only a short time and he is going to spare no expression of his anger.

Please read **Revelation 12:13-17**

What are the activities of ha-Satan now that he has been thrown out of heaven?

Who is ha-Satan going to go after on the earth?

Who is the woman who gave birth to the male child? Is it the Church? Is it Israel?

We find out later on that a great eagle helps this woman who gave birth to the male child and so in his rage for the woman, ha-Satan goes after the rest of her children. Who are the rest of her children?

What is the time period in which the great eagle helps the woman to flee away from the presence of the serpent and into the wilderness where she will be nourished? See **Revelation 12:14**.

What activity did the serpent do to the woman in order to destroy her?

What did the earth do for the woman?

It looks like the serpent has tremendous power here in his anger, but so do the Believers who conquer the hour through the blood of the Lamb and through their testimony of Jesus.

This is what John Walvoord says about the timing of this chapter, “This chapter from the standpoint of time has to be considered as occurring before Revelation 6 if this is the time of the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Parenthetic sections (the back of the scroll) which deal with specific subjects are not chronological in their presentation but give a broad view of the activities of the period.”⁴²

Days 3-4 **The Beast from the Sea and the Beast from the Earth**

The Beast from the Sea, the anti-Christ

Please read **Revelation 13**

In Revelation 13, we have the dragon of chapter 12 standing on the sand of the seashore. John the Revelator must have seen the beast coming up out of the sea while standing somewhere close beside the dragon. I think I would have been shaking in my shoes to have just seen what the dragon had done in chapter 12. This dragon will be the head of the coming world government. He will be behind the power that the antiChrist and the False Prophet will possess. Remember he is a “strong” and “mighty” angel. One evening, my small home group discussed what an angel visit might look like. I remember from that discussion imagining how big that angel would appear. How would you feel if the angelic being before you was ten times your size? I have never seen an angel. I have never even had a vision of one of them. Quite frankly, I am not sure I want to see an angel. This is what those already in hell say of this mighty and strong angel who we know to be the dragon of **Revelation 12** in **Isaiah 14:3-21**. This may be familiar to you because we looked at this passage in part 1 of this study. This is written to the King of Babylon. It is also evident from **Isaiah 14:12-13** that it is written about another. The person who is being described in these verses is none other than ha-Satan, himself. Please read **Isaiah 14:3-21** and record your thoughts below:

Ha-Satan has only a short time. He is angry. He has not been able to destroy the Jewish people. Yes, God is preserving the Jewish people. He is protecting them, putting a hedge around them (like Job) so that ha-Satan cannot get through to them to destroy the final one-third who will make it to the end and who will be saved. Those who make it to the end are the “Remnant of Israel” here. And ha-Satan is no match for who is coming.

What did the dragon and John see coming out of the sea in **Revelation 13:1**?

⁴² Every Prophecy of the Bible, John F. Walvoord, Chariot Victor Publishing, Colorado Springs, CO, 1990, 1999, p. 580.

Describe below this beast coming up out of the sea from the first verse:

Notice that this beast has ten horns with ten diadems and only seven heads and no blasphemous names on the heads. The dragon had ten horns and seven heads, too. But the dragon had only seven diadems whereas the beast coming out of the sea had ten diadems. What is the difference between these two characters?

What is a diadem?

Merriam Webster's online dictionary defines "diadem" in two ways:

1. a crown; specifically, a royal headband; implies having power
2. something that adorns like a crown

Do you suppose the difference between the seven and ten crowns has to do with the power over the nations that either one of them has?

How else is this first beast coming up out of the sea described in **Revelation 13: 2**?

John goes on to say that the beast he saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like a lion. U G L Y! Can you illustrate this beast below? If you cannot illustrate this beast, look for an illustration in one of your Bibles.

What did the dragon give to this first beast that came out of the sea in **Revelation 13:2**?

What did God the Father give to God the Son? Check out **Matthew 28:18-20**.

In the same passage, what did Jesus give to His disciples? Refer to **Matthew 28:20**.

God is called Jehovah Shammah, the "God who is there" with you. What will the name of the New Jerusalem be in the New Heaven and the New Earth? See **Ezekiel 48:35**.

What is the interpretation of the next verse, **Revelation 13:3**?

What is going to happen to this first beast, albeit right at the middle of the Tribulation Period? Who raised this first beast from the dead? How is this the anti-thesis of God the Father bringing God the Son back to life?

How did the earth dwellers respond to this apparent resurrection of the first beast or the anti-Christ? See **Revelation 13:4**.

The earth dwellers worshiped the dragon and also the anti-Christ as a result of this beast's apparent resurrection of the dead. Who worshiped Jesus as God in the first century?

What did the antiChrist say when he opened his mouth to speak after his apparent resurrection? How long would God allow the anti-Christ to act this way? **Revelation 13:5**

What is 42 months when compared elsewhere in the Scripture?

Who were the blasphemers against in **Revelation 13:6**?

Who does he blaspheme by blaspheming God's tabernacle that is in Heaven?
Revelation 13:6

Please read **Revelation 13:7-10**.

Additionally, what was given to the antiChrist to do in **Revelation 13:7**?

Ultimately, God the Father had to give the dragon the authority to give the antiChrist the authority to make war with the saints and overcome them. Anything that happens to God's saints has to filter through the fingers of the sovereign God before He allows it to touch them. That does mean you and me, too! God has allowed his own to be overcome by the anti-Christ. Why would He do this? This is another think question. There is no right or wrong answer.

At this time and according to **Revelation 13:10**, what happens to those who worship the Antichrist?

How long has God known each one of these who worship the Antichrist? How long has God known they will not worship Him ever?

Do you think, at the beginning, before any of this has happened, that everyone's name was written in the Lamb's book of life? What does it say here in **Revelation 13:8**?

Did Jesus die for all sin for all men for all of time, past, present, and future?

If your answer is yes to the last question, then you must realize that Jesus also died for those whose name has never been in the Lamb's book of life? How can you work this out in your mind? Is it all rigged? Are we predestined, ahead of time, to either accept Him or reject Him?

There are problems with the interpretation of verse 8 as you can imagine. If you read **Revelation 3:5** you are promised that those who are overcomers will not be blotted out of the book.

John Walvoord said this about the identity of the first beast coming out of the sea, "...it represents the revived Roman Empire and its ruler in the end time. Revelation here corresponds to the description given in **Daniel 7:7-8, Revelation 12:3, 17:3, and 17:7**. This passage makes plain that the beast, the future world ruler, will come out of the Mediterranean situation with the sea representing the mass of Humanity."⁴³

Walvoord goes on to say in the next paragraph that "the empire is seen here in the form it will take after three of the ten nations that form its beginning are overthrown and come under the power of the beast." See **Daniel 7:8**. "The ten horns represent ten governments (ten kings) as the horn is the symbol of political power as illustrated in **Daniel 7-8**. The crowns are diadems or of governmental authority. Their blasphemous names indicate that they are opposed to God."⁴⁴

This is so good, girls, that I have to include it here, because I have never seen this before. This is also from Walvoord's commentary:

John recorded, "The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion" (**Revelation 13:2**). In Daniel's description of the four great world empires preceding the kingdom from heaven in **Daniel 7**, the four great empires are described as beasts. The Babylonian power was represented as the lion (Daniel 7:), the Medo-Persian Empire as the bear (**Daniel 7:5**), the leopard was Alexander the Great in his conquest (**Daniel 7:6**), and the beast of **Revelation 13:17**, who is not named, represented the future Roman Empire.⁴⁵

⁴³ Ibid, p. 581.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Do you see this terrible beast of Revelation is the conglomeration of all the other kingdoms of the earth, the first above in historical order being the Babylonians, then the Medo-Persians, then the Greeks (Alexander), and then the Roman Empire in its revised form. This UGLY beast gathers into his corner all the power of the preceding rulers and their territory.

So, does this sovereignty “thing,” mean that God ultimately raised this beast from the dead after his fatal wound? None of the commentaries I have read have answered this question for me satisfactorily. I don’t know the answer either. However, I don’t think that ha-Satan has been given the power to raise the dead. I think this is a God thing only. This necessitates a different explanation for the apparent resurrection of the antiChrist after a fatal wound. Here are a couple of thoughts for you to ponder:

1. What is described as a resurrection of the antiChrist is actually the resurrection of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire should have received a fatal blow, but the vestiges of the European world today have somehow survived, and the Roman Empire will be resurrected to power in the end time.
2. The antiChrist may suffer a wound that normally would be fatal. Since ha-Satan has been given the power to heal, it is possible that ha-Satan will heal this wound and restore him to life.
3. The antiChrist will only be mostly dead. It’s a fake resurrection because he didn’t really die.

In any case, we learn that the supernatural powers of this world ruler are revealed and sufficient to get the earth dwellers’ attention.

In Summary of this day’s lesson on the first beast who came out of the sea, he is able to become a world leader and rule for the last 3 and ½ years, 42 months, 1260 days or time, times, and half a time

The Beast from the Earth, the False Prophet

Please read **Revelation 13:11-18**.

Describe the second beast below:

This second beast comes up out of the earth. He has two horns like a lamb and he speaks as a dragon. He has all the authority of the first beast in his presence. He makes the earth and the earth dwellers to worship the first beast. Who does this sound like in the Holy Trinity? This second beast will come out of the earth. So, some say he will come from inside Israel. He will be able to bring fire down from heaven

in the presence of the earth dwellers. This is something that only Elijah was allowed to do in OT times. The text goes on to say that he fools the earth dwellers because of the signs he can perform in the presence of the anti-Christ and he tells the earth dwellers to make an image to the beast. I hope you are thinking at this time that this is too similar to the image of the beast in Daniel, to not know there is a connection. This false prophet, the second beast possibly from inside Israel, will cause the earth dwellers to worship the image of the beast. The false prophet will also give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast will speak. (I can't help but think of the great and powerful Oz in the Wizard of Oz). Along with this speech enabled image comes the power from the image to kill all those who will not worship him. The False Prophet forces the earth dwellers to take a mark on the right hand or the on the forehead if they wish to buy and sell. This mark is the number of the beast's name or the number 666.

What do you think the number 666 stands for? Write down some of your ideas.

How are cats, dogs, birds and cattle marked today? In the past, cattle were branded. I know that that my dog has a chip. Birds are banded. Do you know there is technology out there that can put our entire medical history and financial history on a chip that goes in to your wrist or forehead?

Who are the classes of people for whom this mark is intended? See **Revelation 13:16**. Which people class is not covered in this list?

Do you think the False Prophet will be successful in getting everyone chipped before the Lord comes back? This is a think question.

We've spoken of this before, the Hebrew alphabet, is alphanumeric. What does this mean?

See what you can find out in your commentaries or reference books or through Internet access, as to the different interpretations of the number 666. It's extensive. Write your findings below: This can be a fun activity; please don't skip it.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ The Preterists believe that the number of the Beast is 666 and the Beast is Nero. The name "Nero Caesar" in Hebrew adds up to 666. This goes along with their interpretation that the book of Revelation was written around AD68 and not AD95.

What do we know about the number 666 from the Scripture in **Revelation 13:18**?

On day 6, God created Mankind. Is there something about this number that is connected to Man? Verse 18, says, “for the number is that of a man; and his number is 666.” What comes to my mind immediately is that it stands for the unholy trinity because there are three sixes.

What is the number seven stand for in the book of Revelation? There are seven lampstands, seven seal judgments, seven trumpet judgments, seven bowl judgments, seven angels, seven thunders, seven stars, and the list goes on and on. We discovered in Part 1 of this study that the number “seven” always stands for completion and sometimes stands for perfection. Only God is perfect. Does the number, therefore stand for God? Do we have the Holy Trinity with the number 777? What does this mean for the number 666? Is this number less than 777? Although ha-Satan was created in the image and likeness of God, he is still short of deity.

These are important revelations that come from this chapter:

1. These two characters, the antiChrist and the False Prophet, dominate world history leading up to the second coming of Christ.
2. The church in the end times will be the apostate church. It will have at its center of worship this antiChrist and ha-Satan himself. Again, this is another anti-thesis of worshipping the One True God.

Day 5 **The 144,000 Witnesses**

Please read **Revelation 14:1-5**

We are still dwelling on the backside of the original seven-sealed scroll. This entire chapter 14 of Revelation can be summarized as Christ, in His ultimate triumph. In chapter 12 we encountered four of the important characters of this end time scenario, Israel (the Woman with Child), Christ (the Child), ha-Satan (the dragon), and Michael the Archangel. In chapter 13, we were introduced to the coming world dictator, the first beast who came out of the sea, or the anti-Christ. A second beast arose out of the earth in chapter 13. He was the False Prophet, whose main duty was to cause the populace to worship the first beast. Now we will look at our final character, the 144,000 witnesses.

To what is Mt. Zion a reference in **Revelation 14: 1**? Is Mt. Zion in Heaven or is Mt. Zion on Earth? Whichever way you are thinking, give me some reasoning as to why you are thinking one way over the other.

I think that Mt. Zion is in heaven and John sees these 144,000 in a vision of Heaven following His second coming. Here the 144,000 are like memorials of Christ keeping his power throughout all of this. After all, Zion is another name for Jerusalem. I believe the 144,000 will then follow him to the earth to reign during the Millennial Kingdom.

But my interpretation doesn't hold much water. Others believe that the 144,000 will be preserved throughout the Tribulation Period (as their sealing on their foreheads was to preserve them) and they will enter the Millennial Kingdom in their mortal bodies or in other words they will go into the MK without dying. We will find this out later, but the New Jerusalem will be raised above everything else. All the rest of the land around Mt. Zion will be flat and stretched out, so that others will be able to see the city of God, high and lifted up.

Are these the same 144,000 who are sealed in chapter 7?

How likely would there be two groups numbered at 144,000?

How was this number arrived at in **Revelation 7**?

What do the 144,000 in chapter **14:1** have on their foreheads? Is this the same for the 144,000 in chapter 7?

Are these 144,000 Jews or are they 144,000, twelve thousand from each of the tribes of Israel, who are also Messianic Believers?

Are these 144,000 evangelists or are they prophets or is their role one of illustrating the keeping power of God in this dreadful time of the Tribulation?

Who can learn this song that the 144,000 are singing?

What does John hear in **Revelation 14:2**?

Do you suppose the heavens were tuning their instruments up in anticipation of the song of the 144,000?

How are these 144,000 described in **Revelation 14:3-4**?

These are those who had been purchased from the earth. They have not been defiled with women; they have kept themselves chaste or have remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as First Fruits to God and to the Lamb.

Does this say that the married state is less than the virginal state? Give me reasoning why it would be better for those 144,000 to remain unmarried during this awful time on earth.

What does this say about the rest of us, living in this world today? How should we act? How should we witness to others?

Please read **Leviticus 23:9-14** to have more of an understanding concerning these First Fruits. Write your thoughts below that you glean from this passage.

What day were the Israelites to celebrate first fruits? Is it a Sabbath day?

In the Jewish temple or tabernacle, the priest would provide a wave offering of a sheaf from the first harvest. God required this offering. Why?

How does this correlate with Jesus being raised from the dead as First Fruits? See **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**.

What did the people offer as their first fruits? Why did they do this? What was this symbolically saying to God?

What does this say about the 144,000 as first fruits?