Revelation Commentary

The book of Revelation is the revealing of Jesus Christ. First century Christians are encouraged in it, as they see Jesus Christ on the throne ruling the nations (1:5), which was difficult to see in the midst of a horrific persecution, which to the natural eye, appeared not to be the case. All that was seen in the natural was this persecution being carried out by a beast on the throne. The Apostle John sees what’s really going on, as he is in this persecution, the tribulation (1:9), and is given heaven’s perspective. John is encouraged as he sees judgment and vindication (Luke 21:22), which is soon to be poured out upon the persecutors. The book of Revelation is a vision being recorded by John, “what thou seest, write in a book… (Revelation 1:11)”. Visions often contain much symbolism. Therefore, symbolism, and what R.C. Sproul refers to as “Apocalyptic Language” (Read, The Last Days According to Jesus), has to be highly considered when interpreting the book. The book brings us into a world of green horses (“Chloros”, 6:8), red dragons (12:2), an eagle (4:7), a women standing on the moon without astronaut attire (12:1), hippy locusts shaped like horses (Revelation 9:7, See 1 Chronicles 12:8 and Joel 1:6 for the meaning here), dogs (22:15), a harlot (17:1), a lion (5:5), a lamb (5:6, 14:1), a leopard, a bear (13:2) and a seven-headed beast with ten horns (13:1), oh my! So when we see, for instance, a sea beast rise from the sea (13:1), we must not entertain our Sci-Fi fancies in beholding Godzilla’s ascension. The sea itself, has to be understood metaphorically as the place of the Gentiles, or the barrier dividing them from the promised land people (Revelation 8:8, 13:1,16:3,21:1,Ephesians 2:12-14,Genesis10:5,Psalms 72:10,Isaiah 11:10,11,24:14-16,60:5). Charles Spurgeon comments on “The Sea” in Revelation 21:1, “Is not the text to be read as a metaphor?... There must be a spiritual meaning here… The sea separates nations and sunders peoples from each other”. So, in order to avoid the David Koresh commentary on Revelation, we must understand that there are many more such metaphors to be considered. For example, let’s consider the imagery conveyed when mountains are used in the vision (1:11). We see them in Revelation 8:8 and 16:20. One “mountain” is cast into the sea in the former, and one is not found in the latter. Because Revelation’s contents are primarily taken from the Old Testament, 278 out of its 404 verses are Old Testament
references, we must follow the interpretive method of, “Let Scripture interpret Scripture”, and not that of modern interpreters, which is, “Let newspaper headlines interpret Scripture”. So, for instance, how does the rest of the Bible communicate the word “mountains” in prophecy? Did John the Baptist interpret the prophecy from Isaiah 40:3,4, which he was fulfilling, as an excavation project in Israel, where , “Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low…” (Luke 3:4,5)? How does the rest of the Bible use “mountain” in prophecy, in a figurative sense? Daniel 2, a chief passage in Bible prophecy, communicates a mountain, as a kingdom, which fills the whole earth (Daniel 2:35). Psalm 46:2-6 communicates mountains synonymously with kingdoms as well, as does Hebrews 12:22, 27, 28. Galatians 4:24-26 communicates the two covenant kingdoms as mountains. While both Isaiah 41:15,16, and Daniel 2:35, speak of mountains /kingdoms being carried away by the wind. Isaiah 64:1-3 reveals “the mountains” as synonymous with “the nations”. Isaiah 51:24, 25 refers to the kingdom of Babylon as the “destroying mountain”. Jesus communicates this same figurative mountain in Matthew 21:21/Revelation 8:8, where he speaks of a mountain being removed (Hebrews 12:27) and cast into the sea.

APOCALYPTIC LANGUAGE is throughout Revelation, with much of it borrowed from the Old Testament. Consider sayings, such as coming in the clouds, and the sun, moon, and stars being darkened. Let’s examine the latter in Isaiah 13:10, quoted by Jesus in Matthew 24:29. Remember, that the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21) is a highlighted version of the book of Revelation. Isaiah describes the Lord coming (13:9) in judgment upon Babylon (13:1) by using these same words, “For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine (Isaiah 13:10).” Any sound scholar understands this judgment to be fulfilled by the Medes (13:17), bringing Babylon down (Daniel 2:39). All should understand, therefore, that nothing transpired in Babylon in regard to the physical heavens. The physical sun, moon, and stars, remained unchanged. Therefore, when Jesus quotes this same passage (Matthew 24:29), why do we then think that He is describing physical and astronomical occurrences? Yet, it was a judgment that was “astronomical”. We even describe large scale events in our day with such metaphorical words. To a Jew in
the first century, “The sun, moon, and stars” communicated astronomical events. In our day, we still use the sun, moon, and stars, in a figurative and symbolic sense. National flags commonly use the sun, moon, and stars, to signify ruling authority (Genesis 1:16-18). The sun rules the day, while the moon and stars rule the night. Joseph’s dream communicated this figurative understanding of the sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 37:9, 10). Consider the same metaphorical understanding when a judgment against Egypt (32:2) uses this same imagery, “And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud and the moon shall not give her light (Ezekiel 32:7).” It was lights out for Egypt (vs8)! Nothing to do with the firmament! So when Revelation 6:9,10 speaks of, “the sun becoming black, the moon as blood, and the stars of heaven falling to the earth”, we must see how the rest of the Bible interprets these things, including Matthew 24:29, in light of Isaiah 13:9,10. Physical stars, by the way, cannot plummet into the earth. It would take only one literal star to incinerate the earth before it ever fell to it. So when Revelation 6:9,10, and Acts 2:16-21, mention the sun, moon, and stars being darkened, astronomy is excluded. In fact, Acts 2:16-21 tells us that this passage, quoted from Joel 2:28-32, is fulfilled at that time in the first century! “But this is that (This event is that passage’s fulfillment) which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass (be fulfilled) in the last days (The last days of the old covenant)...The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon into blood....” Now as for Revelation 6:9, 10, “the sun became black...the moon became as blood, and the stars of heaven fell...” What’s astounding here is that verses 15 and 16 give us the clearest of time lines for this event! In Revelation 6:15, they go into the caves of the earth/land to hide, which is a quote from Isaiah 2:19. Josephus literally hid in one of these caves. In the next verse (Revelation 6:16), they call for the mountains to fall upon themselves, in order to be put out of their misery. This is a quote from Hosea 10:8, and is also quoted in Luke 23:30. Let’s let Scripture interpret Scripture. Luke 23:28-30 states, “…Daughters of JERUSALEM, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For behold the days (Matthew 24:19, Luke 21:22-same days) are coming in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck (same nursing going on as in Matthew 24:19).Then shall they (first century citizens of
These are the same citizens of Jerusalem, the same nursing mothers, calling for the same mountains to fall on them, in the same days! Those days were the days of the tribulation period. John tells us this when he says that he’s, “in the tribulation”, in the first century (Revelation 1:9)! Paul says the same in 1 Corinthians 7:26-31, where, because of “the present distress” (AD 57), Christians shouldn’t even be considering marriage!

HOW does the rest of the Bible interpret the Lord (Jesus) coming in the clouds in Revelation 1:7 and Matthew 24:30? To start with, Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold, he comes with clouds; and every eye shall “see” (Greek, Optanomai, word origin, Horao: To discern, perceive, experience, and understand something) Him, and they also which pierced Him (they’re not around today); and all the tribes (The 12 tribes are no longer in account) of the land (not the globe) shall wail because of Him.” See, ironically, Darby’s Translation, The Complete Jewish Bible, and Young’s Literal Translation for this exact wording in regard to the tribes and the land. Throughout the Bible the Lord comes in clouds (Isaiah 19:1), or it is a cloudy day (Ezekiel 30:3) for this, or that, nation, and it has nothing to do with a weather report. It is a time of judgment for that land, or even for an individual (Ecclesiastes 12:2). Jesus uses this same language concerning His coming judgment (Matthew 22:7) upon Jerusalem. In fact, the Greek word for Jesus’ coming (Matthew 24:3) is Parousia, which literally means, coming presence. It literally (for the literalist) does not mean to come bodily, physically, or visibly. Addressing Caiaphas, Jesus says, “Hereafter shall you (a first century individual) see (Optanomai / Horao-discrim) the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:64). Caiaphas was enraged (vs.65), because he understood that it was only “The Lord” who would come in clouds of judgment throughout the O.T., and that Jesus, therefore, was saying that He was that Lord who would be judging Caiaphas and the nation, rather than the current dynamics of Caiaphas judging Jesus!

WHEN would this coming (Revelation 1:7, Matthew 24:3) of Jesus occur? Revelation chapter one gives us the clearest of time lines (1:1, 3, 22:10), as does Matthew 24:34. The very first verse of the book tells us, “to show unto His servant’s things which must
Shortly come to pass (1:1).” Shortly (Greek, Tachos) is defined as, **Quickness, speed.** That’s it, no wiggle room to try to make this word mean something more than this. Tachos and its variations, Tachu, Tachista, Tachion, Tachinos, Tachoes, NEVER once suggests the idea that the subject being discussed is something that will happen a millennia or two later. The first and last chapter of Revelation has such clear time indicators. In 1:3, and 22:10, we see the word **at hand** (Eggus) used, “for the time is at hand”. This word is defined as, **near, imminent, soon to come to pass**. Now, for “the doctrine of imminence”, did this word (Eggus) mean the same thing in the first century as it does in the twenty first century? Was it imminent for them, or for us? Dispensationalists, against all logic and reasoning capacities, contend that it means imminent for both! Their own reasoning implodes upon itself, in that they claim that there are 7 eras, within a so called “Church Age”, and that we are now living in the final, seventh, era of “the church age”. Therefore, first century disciples could not have lived in a time to expect an imminent coming of Jesus, because they were in the first era of the seven stages of “the church age”. Once more, dispensationalists claim that Israel becoming a nation in 1948 had to occur, before the imminent rapture of the church, therefore, imminence could only be applied since 1948, and not for the previous centuries, including the first century, when John used the word “at hand/near” (Eggus)! These two words, **tachos** (quickness, speed) and **eggus** (near, imminent, soon to come to pass), are consistently used in the N.T. to mean what they say, and say what they mean. They NEVER communicate the idea of something that will take place some 2000 years from the time they were pinned. These words, their definitions and N.T. usages, exclude the possibility of “A THOUSAND YEAR”, mathematically speaking, reign!

**A THOUSAND mathematical years are not permitted within the definitions and usages of shortly (tachos) and at and/near/soon (eggus).** To allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, we can understand that “A THOUSAND” year reign is only used in Revelation chapter 20. It is used nowhere else in Revelation, nowhere in the epistles, gospels, prophets, psalms, or in the law!!! The rest of Scripture does tell us how “A THOUSAND” is used over and over again. It is used figuratively, to communicate completeness or totality of something. Consider the following passages, **Deuteronomy 7:9**, “…God, who
keeps covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to “A THOUSAND” generations.” Mathematics here gives us 36,000 years till any last day’s concepts. 1 Chronicles 16:15, “the word which He commanded to “A THOUSAND” generations”. Job 9:3, “If someone wanted to take God to court, would it be possible to answer Him once in “A THOUSAND” times?” So, mathematically speaking, after A THOUSAND times, one could answer God in Court and prove Him wrong? Psalm 50:10, “For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon “A THOUSAND” hills”. The thousand and first mathematic hill is His as well. This verse has nothing to do with cattle, “A THOUSAND”, or hills. It has everything to do with God’s total ownership of everything. Psalm 84:10, “Better is one day in Your courts, than “A THOUSAND” elsewhere…” After a thousand mathematical days, would a day in His courts still be better? No, a day there is completely better than anywhere else! Mathematics is not involved with this expression! Psalm 105:8, “the word which He commanded to “A THOUSAND” generations.” I can give “A THOUSAND” examples of mathematics being excluded from the usage of this expression, this phrase. For example, “I’ve told you “A THOUSAND” times, that this things weighs a ton.” I may have mentioned it a few times, and the thing actually weighs 40 pounds, not 2000 lbs.! So, in the book of Revelation, either shortly (tachos) and at hand/near (eggus) have to be taken figuratively, or “A THOUSAND” years has to be taken figuratively! Both cannot! Therefore, when we consider the Bible’s usages of tachos and eggus, and its usages of “A THOUSAND”, we must conclude that tachos and eggus are NEVER used figuratively throughout the Scriptures, and that “A THOUSAND” is virtually ALWAYS used figuratively! So when was this non-mathematical reign of Christ? When might the kingdom, in which He reigns, hit the earth, that is, the stone cut out without hands, which becomes a mountain and fills the earth (Daniel 2:35)? And, where does Revelation 20 say that Jesus is reigning bodily, physically, and visibly? Did His kingdom not hit at the time of the Roman Empire, according to Daniel 2:34? Is it not a kingdom that comes without observation (Luke 17:20,21)? Was not Paul, the Colossians, and John, in it (Romans 14:17, Colossians 1:13, Revelation 1:9)? Was there ever a promised earthly utopia to be involved with it, according to Luke 17:20,21, and Revelation 21:1/Isaiah 65:17-20, the latter involving people physically dying
under the new heavens and new earth, as dogs and murderers prowl outside the new covenant city (Revelation 22:15, Hebrews 12:22, Galatians 4:26, Matthew 5:14), as nations are still in need of healing (22:2), and while evangelism is still going on (22:17, Daniel 12:2,3)? How is this all describing a physical utopia? Did not this kingdom spread like leaven (Matthew 13:33)? Was it not preached to every creature under heaven, fulfilling Matthew 24:14 (Colossians 1:5, 6, 23, Acts 28:31, Romans 1:8, 10:18, 16:25, 26)? Did not the stone/ the rock/ the word of God smite the Roman Empire, turn it upside down (Acts 17:6), and crush Satan under the church’s feet in the first century (Romans 16:20)? Was not Satan bound through the free speech given by Claudius Caesar (Religio Licita), resulting in the gospel conquering an empire (Revelation 6:2, 19:11-16, Romans 8:37), even though he was loosed out of his prison for a short time thereafter (Revelation 20:7), when Nero changed that law (Daniel 7:25)? Is not the gospel the power of God (Romans 1:16)? Is not the power of God in the church greater than that of Satan’s (Luke 11:18, 19, Matthew 16:18, 19, 28:18-20, Ephesians 3:10, James 4:7, Romans 16:20, Revelation 2:26, 27-fulfilling Psalm 2)? Does not the kingdom of God bind the strong man (Matthew 12:29, Revelation 20:2)? Should not “THE THOUSAND ‘year reign be interpreted figuratively, just as are the key, the chain, and the serpent, in the very same passage (Revelation 20:2,3)? Revelation cannot be speaking of a steal key and chain, binding a slithering reptile! Neither can it be speaking of a mathematical “THOUSAND YEAR” reign! This reign is clearly spoken of by the Apostle Paul, as he quotes Isaiah 11:10 in Romans 15:12, “There shall be a root of Jesse, and He that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him shall the Gentiles trust”! Not also, that Isaiah states in the word before this, “AND IN THAT DAY, there shall be a root of Jesse…” What day? Paul’s day, the same day when the wolf, lamb, leopard, kid, calf, lion, fatling, a little child, a cow, and a bear, are all getting along just fine. The Gentile nations would miraculously be living together, along with the true Jews of Israel (Ephesians 2:12-14), as the Prince of Peace breaks down every barrier between them! This is also how Peter understood the various animals, that they were communicating the Gentiles in Acts 10! Noah’s ark is another example of a dwelling place of refuge, where miraculous peace existed between those who would otherwise be at one another’s throats!
TIMING is everything and the timing of the described events within the book of Revelation is never so clear as it is in the last chapter, 22:10, where John clearly instructs his first century readers to, “SEAL NOT THE sayings of the prophecy of this BOOK: for the time is at hand (Eggus).” Again, “A THOUSAND” mathematical years away contradicts at hand (Eggus). This verse creates a real problem for futurists as well as for Partial Preterists. With futurists, it’s evident with the New Testament usages of Eggus. For Partial Preterists, now they face the same problem, as well as the problem of thousands of years (Post Millennialism) stretching out the word “at hand” (Eggus)! Does this verse instruct us to, “Seal not some of the sayings of this book, or most of the sayings of this book?” Or, does it clearly say, and mean, “THE sayings” of the prophecy of this book?” Contrast this verse, with Daniel 12:4,9, where Daniel is instructed, with his vision/book, to do the opposite of John, and, “SEAL THE BOOK”, because its fulfillment would not be in Daniel’s own day (12:13), but at the time of the end (Note, that it doesn’t say, “the end of time”), that, “it refers to many days in the future”, (NIV), “the distant future” (Daniel 8:26). So Daniel’s contents were hundreds of years away, the five kingdoms in chapter 2, the Messiah being cut off in chapter 9, and the temple being left desolate, all prophecies that were considered to be in the distant future, not in Daniel’s day, its prophecy which is SEALED! These prophecies would all be fulfilled in less than six hundred years and they are labeled SEALED in Daniel’s day. However, John is told the opposite, “SEAT NOT the book, the time is AT HAND”, in John’s day (22:10)! Therefore, the prophecy of John’s book is much less than hundreds of years into the future, never mind A THOUSAND or two years into the future, it is in his day (John 21:23). Consider the contrast in another prophecy found in Ezekiel 12. Israel is corrected to realize that the pronounced judgment upon them was to occur “in your days” (vs.25), it was “AT HAND” (vs.23), it was not “far off” (vs.27), or “prolonged” (vs.22,25,28). Can “AT HAND” mean thousands of years away? Can “prolonged” and “far off” mean tomorrow? These words have to mean something in Bible Prophecy! Matthew 24 also gives us the clearest of timelines for the same events as Revelation. It states, “Verily I say unto you (You, meaning first century disciples, vs 3), THIS GENERATION shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.” Here are two words used together, “THIS GENERATION”, about a dozen and a half
times in the New Testament. Each and every time they’re used together, futurist teachers admit that they are communicating a first century generation of people. Every time, except for the time they’re used in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32). There, they claim that, it means something entirely different. Some futurist teachers actually change the words, in order to change the meaning. They will say, “The (changed word from this) generation that sees (that sees are added words) these things (changed sentence structure), shall not pass away till all these things be fulfilled.” Other futurist teachers claim that the Greek word for generation, Genea, can actually mean race, as in, “This Race shall not pass away, till all these things be fulfilled.” This doesn’t make any logical sense, so this race will pass away once these things are fulfilled? Once more, they have yet to come up with a single verse (there are none) where Genea is communicating race in the N.T.!

The only N.T. Greek word that could communicate race is Genos. This Watch Tower like denial will even go so far as to say that Genea, used nearly 40 times in the New Testament, is always referring to those living in that first century generation, that it’s not a race or distant generation, except for the one time it’s used in the Olivet Discourse! Consider the following verses using “THIS GENERATION.”

Matthew 11:16, “But whereunto shall I liken THIS GENERATION”, 12:41, Nineveh shall rise in judgment with THIS GENERATION”, 12:42, “The queen of the south shall rise in judgment with THIS GENERATION”, 12:45, “THIS wicked GENERATION”, 23:36, “All these things shall come upon THIS GENERATION”, 24:34, “THIS GENERATION shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled”, Mark 8:12, “no sign be given to THIS GENERATION”, 8:38, “THIS adulterous, and sinful GENERATION”, Luke 11:50, “blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of THIS GENERATION.”, 11:51, “blood of Abel unto Zacharias …shall be required of THIS GENERATION.”, 17:25, “be rejected of THIS GENERATION, Acts 2:40, “THIS perverse GENERATION.” See also, Matthew 3:7, 16:4, 23:33, Mark 9:19, Luke 7:31, 9:41, 11:30,31,32. “THIS GENERATION” lines up perfectly with John’s “AT HAND” (Eggus), “SHORTLY”, “QUICKLY” (Tachos), and “SEAL NOT”, all time indicators. It lines up perfectly with, “You shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come (Matthew 10:23).” And with, “There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death till
they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom (Matthew 16:28).” By the way, this is not referring to The Transfiguration in the next chapter, because that took place only six days later, and NONE of the disciples had died, but most had died by A.D. 66-70. Also, rewards weren’t handed out at The Transfiguration (16:27). These time indicators are consistent with nothing but a first century fulfillment!

WHO are the players in the book of Revelation? First off, who was the book written to? First century Christians, many of whom were Jewish, therefore, Audience Relevance must be understood. Who was the beast, whose number was six hundred and sixty six (13:18)? Again, first century Christians were commanded to apply wisdom and understanding, so as to the count the number of his name. The Hebrews actually used letters of the alphabet for their numbering system. The name Caesar Nero equates exactly to six hundred and sixty six using the Hebrew letter number calculation. His name can be spelled, in the Hebrew, Neron Kaiser NRWN QWR (N=50, R=200 W=6 N=50 Q=100 S=60 R=200), which equates to six hundred and sixty six, this is the exact way in which Jastow’s lexicon of the Talmud spells it. Or, it can be spelled Nero Kaiser NRW QSR (-50 without the extra N), equaling six hundred and sixteen. Many manuscripts use this number, rather than six hundred and sixty six, proving that there is no doubt as to whom the numbers were identifying! Nero was the sixth Caesar (17:10), six, signifying man who was created the sixth day (Genesis 1:31). He had his palace interior walls painted, which can be seen to this day, with hundreds of images of a half man half beast creature! He would cloth himself with animal skins and act out the role of an animal by doing unspeakable perversions and mutilations against political opponents, including Christians. Nero was often referred to by his political contemporaries as “THE BEAST”! God was not asking first century disciples to spend their precious time under persecution, being fed to lions, figuring out who a 21st century beast was! That would be the cruelest of hoaxes!

For more on the significance of the number of six, consider that man was created on the sixth day (Genesis 1:31). Consider that the beast Goliath’s height was six cubits and a span, six and grasping for more, who’s spear weighed six hundred shekels (1 Samuel 17:4,7). He also had six fingers. Remember also Nebuchadnezzar, another beast
(Daniel 4:16), who demanded the worship of an *image* of himself, which was *sixty* cubits high and *six* cubits wide.

**WHAT was the mark of this same beast** (13:16,17), which these first century disciples were warned to not take nor be deceived by (19:20)? Interpreting Scripture with Scripture, we understand that the rest of the Bible consistently speaks of a *mark* of ownership, separating those on the Lord’s side, and His ways, from those opposing Him. This *mark* in the *forehead* begins with Adam and the fall, whose *forehead* had turned away from the Lord’s blessing and would be cursed, covered with sweat (Genesis 3:19). Cane would become a *marked* man, a *mark* declaring the mercy of the Lord upon him (Genesis 4:15). Exodus 28:36-38 shows progression toward the restoration from the curse, where we see the mitre of gold placed on the Priest’s *forehead*, restoring from the glory that had been lost, “HOLINESS TO THE LORD.” The process continues in Numbers 6:25,26, when the priesthood is *blessed* by God with The Lord making *His face* (His *image*, contrasting Adams, mans, and the beasts in Revelation 13:14,15) to shine upon them, resulting in a change in their *countenance*, in their *forehead*. In Deuteronomy 6:8, *marking* the Lords *ownership* of Israel and covenant with them, they are instructed to bind His words upon their *hand*, and upon their *foreheads*, between their eyes as *frontlets* (Hebrew: *Towphaphah*, meaning Phylactery, *marks*). This same thing was said, concerning their *hand* and *forehead*, and *frontlets*, in Exodus 13:9,16. In Ezekiel’s day, those who were repentant in Israel were given a *mark* of ownership upon their *foreheads*, signifying that they were on the Lord’s side. Those without this mark were to be slain (Ezekiel 9:4-6). In Revelation 14:1, this same *mark* is written upon the *foreheads* of those belonging to, and were on the side of, the Lamb, as opposed to those belonging to, and on the side of, the beast with his *mark* (13:16). Note, that there are no tattoos or computer chips involved in the writing upon the *foreheads* in Revelation 14:1. Why then is such nonsense insisted upon, by today’s Sci-Fi prophets, just two verses prior to this in Revelation 13:17? By the way, the *mark* is “upon” (Gk: *Epi*) not “in”, such as a computer chip under the skin. We even say in our day, “He’s a marked man”, for this or that purpose. The *mark* of ownership, loyalty, and worship of the beast, is clearly seen in the Emperor and state worship dynamics of the first century.
Individuals were given a choice, “Is Caesar Lord, or is Jesus Lord?” This ultimatum could result in death, if one chose allegiance to Jesus over Caesar! The very minimum result would be the ostracizing of one from market activity. If one did not declare allegiance to Caesar by stating “Hail Caesar” (a statement of worship) with each transaction, one could not participate in the market place buying or selling (13:17)! The majority in Israel chose Caesar over Jesus, “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15). The persecution seen throughout the New Testament Scriptures reveal Jewish authorities working with the Roman government. The harlot, Israel (Isaiah 1:21) rode the beast that was Rome (17:3,7), manipulating the persecution, until the beast turns on her (in mid AD 66), makes her desolate (Matthew 23:38, 24:15, Luke 21:20), eats her flesh, and burns her with fire (Revelation 17:16, Leviticus 21:9). In fact, the Herods, who massacred the male children under 2 in Bethlehem, and murdered John the Baptist and James, were circumcised Jews! One cannot be more in bed (fornication-17:4, 18:3) with Rome than they! Israel chose the king of Rome over the king of Israel (John 19:15), the King of Kings (Revelation 17:14, 1 Timothy 6:15)! They rejected the name above names (Philippians 2:9) and received the one who came in his own name (John 5:43), whose name amounts to six hundred and sixty six! They chose to be marked for the service of the beast with their hand (signifying service), and the worship from their heart, soul, mind (forehead) and strength. Complete allegiance was given to emperor and state worship! Those choosing to serve and worship the Lamb were marked with His seal in their foreheads (Revelation 7:2, 3, 3:12, 9:4, 14:1, 22:4, 2 Corinthians 1:22)!

WHO IS BABYLON, THE GREAT CITY? Revelation 11:8 identifies “THIS GREAT CITY”, “…THE GREAT CITY, which spiritually is called Sodom (Isaiah 1:10) and Egypt, WHERE ALSO OUR LORD WAS CRUCIFIED.” Jesus was crucified in JERUSALEM (Luke 13:33, Matthew 16:21)! THE/THAT/THIS GREAT CITY IS MENTIONED ABOUT A DOZEN TIMES IN REVELATION, AND IS IDENTIFIED AS BABYLON. THEREFORE, BABYLON, THE GREAT CITY, IS JERUSALEM! Peter identifies it as well, writing from Jerusalem (Acts 15:2,7, Galatians 2:8, 1 Peter 1:1), he states, “The church that is at BABYLON…salutes you (1 Peter 5:13). The following is a complete list of references, with overwhelming proofs, which declares that THE GREAT CITY, BABYLON is unquestionably

Here are some more positive I.D.’s, pointing the finger at Jerusalem. “How has the FAITHFUL CITY become a HARLOT. It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it, but now MURDERERS (Isaiah 1:21)”, connect this with, “scribes and Pharisees…you build the TOMBS of the prophet, and garnish the SEPULCHRES of the righteous…BLOOD of the prophets, KILLED the prophets...you shall KILL and CRUCIFY…that upon you may come ALL THE RIGHTEOUS BLOOD SHED UPON THE EARTH...O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, you that KILL the prophets, and STONE them which are sent to you…” (Matthew 23:29-37 it was blood for blood with Jerusalem-Genesis 9:6), “And in her was found THE BLOOD of prophets, and of saints, and of ALL THAT WERE SLAIN UPON THE EARTH (Revelation 18:24)!” Jerusalem had become, “the HABITATION OF DEVILS...of every HATEFUL BIRD (Revelation 18:2, 1 John 3:15), “THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT...SEVEN OTHER SPIRITS...EVEN SO SHALL IT BE ALSO UNTO THIS WICKED GENERATION (Matthew 12:43-45)!”

THE GREAT CITY’S TEMPLE is clearly identified in chapter 18:11-24, where the “MERCHANTS” of the land, and their MERCHANDISE, are revealed (18:11-15). These are the same
temple MERCHANTS that we read of in John 2:16, “…make not My Father’s house a house of MERCHANTISE!” “THE MERCHANTISE of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all your wood, and all manner of vessels of ivory, and all manner of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odors, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil and fine flour, and wheat, and BEASTS, and SHEEP (the sacrificial system), and horses, and chariots (used for transporting the sacrifices), and slaves (They built and maintained the temple at the command of Herod), and souls of men (Revelation 18:11-13).” These are all things that were contained within the temple!

WHO is the Sea Beast of Revelation 13:1? Remember that the place of the Gentiles is “The Sea” (Genesis 10:5, Psalm 72:10, Isaiah 11:10, 24:14-16, 60:5), and that the Gentile rule at the time of Revelation’s penning was that of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:40-45), it had complete (seven heads), and total (10 horns, 10 provinces with the Roman Empire) authority. Rome is identified as the city of seven hills, upon which the harlot sits (Revelation 17:9). The harlot (Israel) works in unison with Rome, the beast (John 19:15), she rides the beast (Revelation 17:3), manipulating the beasts actions, until the beast turns on the harlot (Revelation 17:16) in mid A.D. 66, when Roman Armies invade Jerusalem. Rome had opposed Christianity, because of its proclamation of another king of kings and another Son of God, titles which Nero claimed for himself. In A.D. 64, Nero went completely mad in opposing Christians, and used the Coliseum fire as a political opportunity to turn the empire completely against them. By AD 66, Titus states, “The Temple is distinguished above all human achievements, its destruction will take care of the root (Judaism), and the offshoot (Christianity)”. Because Christianity’s temple existed in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:21,22, John 4:21-22), he could not destroy the true Jews (Romans 2:28,29, Revelation 2:9, 3:9) and their temple (Hebrews 9:8).

WHO is the Land Beast of Revelation 13:11? The people of the land are the people of the Promised Land. Again, they are in cahoots with Rome, the Sea Beast.
WHO is the *false prophet* of Revelation 16:13,19:20,20:10? 
Josephus speaks of many false prophets in Israel promising deliverance over the Romans. Those prophets were opposing the prophet of prophets, and were, of course, false prophets. Corporately, Old Covenant Israel was THE false prophet.

WHO are the *two witnesses* of Revelation 11? They are witnesses who would appear “shortly,” “quickly”, and “soon” (Revelation 1:1,3,22:10), within the generation of the Apostles (Matthew 24:34)! Revelation 11:9 states that, “The people, and kindreds, and tongues, and nations shall see their dead bodies...”, that is, those dwelling in Jerusalem would see their dead bodies, as identified in the previous verse (11:8). Jerusalem was an international city (Acts 2:5). Note, that the text says nothing about *every nation on the planet* seeing them through modern technologies as modern day Sci-Fi prophets proclaim. It simply, and *literally*, says that, “THEY OF (KJV)”, or “THOSE FROM (NASB)”, *various peoples, kindreds, tongues, and nations*, shall see them, and does not say that every nation on the planet would see them! Who then are these two witnesses? We know that fire proceeds from their mouths (11:5), and that those proclaiming the word of the Lord are described exactly in this way (Jeremiah 5:14), therefore, it is not the depiction of a circus act! The word they were preaching was THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS (ELIJAH AND MOSES’ ministries -11:6), which are *two witnesses*. It was the APOSTLES AND PROPHETS (Revelation 18:20), two witnesses, preaching that word, as well as THE SAINTS AND PROPHETS, two witnesses (Revelation 18:24). All of whom were thought to be completely stamped out through the intense persecution, yet all were resurrected after it had looked like complete defeat! They did not reach complete, seven days, defeat/death! That seven was broken, *three and a half days* (11:9), by the continued work of the Spirit through next wave of enduring and persevering saints! Take your pick; there were two witnesses at that time, including, some would contend, PETER AND JAMES, living in Jerusalem. This would categorize Peter’s alleged crucifixion in Rome as “Catholic Fiction”. If this be the case, Peter surely fits the Prophet mold (Elijah), and James the law (Moses). Both could very well have been raised and physically ascended out of Jerusalem, due to the fact that there would have been no witnesses to record such an event, being that they would all most likely have been slaughtered by
the Romans, or by the mad Jewish Zealots, who slaughtered fellow Jews by the thousands?

**WHERE (location, location, location) are the judgments in Revelation to occur?** Again, it’s a judgment upon the *land* (1:7), not the *globe*! The Greek word “Kosmos”, which *can* mean the entire earth, is never once used in describing the judgments in Revelation. The “earth” is always equated to the “land”. Young’s Literal Translation often gets this right in Revelation by using the “land”, rather than the “earth”. The “globe” wasn’t clearly established as a concept until Kepler in the 17th century. In fact, the book of Revelation even pinpoints the “land” which it is referring to. Three times, we see the word for “world”, which in the Greek is, “Oikoumene”, and defined as, “The inhabited Roman world”. This same word is used in Luke 2:1, where a census went throughout the “world”. The census went only throughout the Roman world. Therefore, “world” (Oikoumene), also used in Acts 17:5 where they turned the “world” upside down, is not used to describe the globe, or even nations outside the Roman Empire! We see the “Oikoumene” *world* used in Revelation 3:10, “the hour of trial, which shall come upon all the *world* (Oikoumene)”. Here we clearly understand that Revelation is not describing a global tribulation! Matthew 24:16 clarifies this, when believers in Judea are instructed to flee from there to the mountains for refuge. What good would fleeing from Judea to the mountains do in a global war, in an era of F-16’s and Hydrogen bombs? The “Oikoumene” world is also mentioned in Revelation 12:9, and 16:14. The latter, is where the whole “world” (Oikoumene) is gathered in a place called Armageddon (16:14,16). Therefore, Armageddon is not worldwide! In Revelation, A CITY, THE GREAT CITY (Revelation 17&18,16:19,11:8,13) is identified as the recipient of judgment, not the planet! The *city* is surrounded (Luke 21:20,21), and the inhabitants of it are warned to flee from it to the mountains.

**WHERE then is Armageddon and what is this name communicating in Revelation 16:16?** The name Armageddon comes from two Hebrew words, “Har”, meaning *a mountain, a mount, a mountainous range, sometimes used figuratively*, says Strongs. The other Hebrew word is “Megiddon” or “Megiddo”, *a plain in Israel, also referred to as “The valley of Jehoshaphat”*. Strongs first describes “Har-Meggidon” as, “A SYMBOIC NAME”! The very
meaning of the name makes this evident, “a mountain, plain”. Megiddo was the location of multiple judgments carried out by the Lord against Israel’s enemies, and upon Israel herself. Debra’s victory, Barak’s, and Gideon’s are just a few. Saul, Josiah, and Jehoshaphat himself, were all judged there. To the Jewish mind, the name Armageddon would stir up these memories, as would Waterloo for the French, or Pearl Harbor, Omaha Beach, and Valley Forge, would for Americans. The closest mountain to this plain is Mount Carmel, where Elijah was used to carry out the Lord’s judgment on, that unfaithful women, Jezebel’s (Revelation 3:20-22) false prophets. The dynamics of that event fit those of the first century dynamics like a glove! This unfaithful woman was thrown down and consumed by the dogs (Gentiles)! The judgment carried out at the battle of Armageddon was upon a city, “THE GREAT CITY”, Jerusalem, as we read forward three verses (16:19). “Armageddon’s” only usage in the Bible is in Revelation 16:16. And it is “the whole WORLD (Oikoumene) to gather” (Revelation 16:14) for this battle, THE WHOLE “OIKOUMENE” WORLD, THE ROMAN WORLD!

WHAT do the NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH communicate in Revelation 21:1? Let us allow Scripture to interpret Scripture here and consider a common understanding associated with the HEAVENS and the EARTH throughout the Bible. Consider the following passages. Deuteronomy 32:1, “Give ear O ye HEAVENS, and I will speak; and hear O EARTH, the words of my mouth.” Moses is addressing the covenant people, the congregation, in the verse prior (31:30). Isaiah 1:2, “Hear, O HEAVENS, and give earth, O EARTH, for the Lord has spoken...” Jerusalem, the covenant people are being addressed (1:1). Isaiah 49:13, “Sing, O HEAVENS; and be joyful, O EARTH; and break forth into singing O MOUNTAINS (of ISRAEL): for the Lord has comforted HIS PEOPLE...” The HEAVENS AND EARTH singing is ISRAEL, HIS PEOPLE! Isaiah 51:16, “…that I may plant THE HEAVENS, and lay the foundation of THE EARTH, and say unto ZION, THOU ART MY PEOPLE.” THE HEAVENS and THE EARTH are clearly ZION, his covenant PEOPLE.” The puritan theologian John Owen uses this verse to explain 2 Peter 3’s NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH. Hosea 2:18-21, “And in that day will I make A COVENANT for them...And I will BETROTH thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord. And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the Lord, I will hear THE
HEAVENS, and they shall hear THE EARTH.” Covenant is very clear here. Joel 2:30, “And I will shew wonders in THE HEAVENS and in THE EARTH, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.” Peter quotes this passage in Acts 2:16-21 and begins by saying, “This is that, which was spoken by the prophet Joel, and it shall come to pass in the last days…” This Scripture in Joel is fulfilled here and now in “the last days”, the last days of the Old Covenant, and the first days of the New Covenant. In fact, the words “blood” and “fire” and “smoke” are the exact words used by Josephus to describe the events of A.D.66-A.D.70! Joel 3:16, “The Lord shall roar out of ZION, and utter His voice from JERUSALEM; and THE HEAVENS and THE EARTH shall shake (Hebrews 12:26): but the Lord will be the hope of HIS PEOPLE, and the strength of THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.” The passage clearly speaks for itself. Zechariah 12:1, “The burden of the word of the Lord for ISRAEL, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth THE HEAVENS and layeth the foundations of THE EARTH…” Matthew 5:17,18, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till HEAVEN and EARTH pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Did Jesus fulfill the law and the prophets? If He did, HEAVEN and EARTH have then passed! That is, the Old Covenant law and the prophets have passed away, the OLD passes away, and all things become NEW in Christ, whose contractual words of the new covenant will never become dormant and pass away (2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 21:5, Matthew 24:35)!

2 Peter 3:10, “…THE HEAVENS shall pass away with a great noise, and the ELEMENTS shall melt with fervent heat, THE EARTH also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” The key here is in the Greek word for “elements”, which is “Stoichion”, defined as rudiments, principles and philosophies. Used only seven times in the New Testament, twice here in 2 Peter 3, twice in Galatians, “were in bondage under the elements of the age (Galatians 4:3)”, “the weak and beggarly elements (Galatians 4:9)”, twice in Colossians, “after the rudiments of the age (Colossians 2:8)”, “from the rudiments of the age (Colossians 2:20)”, and once in Hebrews, “the first principles of the oracles of God…(Hebrews 5:12)”. So, there was to be a forsaking of the “elements”, the principles, philosophies, and rudiments of the Old Covenant AGE, because they were all about to
go up in flames (Matthew 22:7)! Revelation 21:1,5, “And I saw a NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH, for THE FIRST HEAVEN and the FIRST EARTH were PASSED AWAY…” Did not the Old Covenant pass away entirely in AD 70, an event which first century Christians were longing for, “A New Covenant, He has made THE FIRST OLD. Now that which decayeth and waxes OLD is ready (Gk Eggus, Revelation 1:3) to VANISH/PASS AWAY (Hebrews 8:13)”!

WHEN was the book of Revelation written? It was written prior to AD 70. We know this, because Nero Caesar is identified as the sixth (sixth, how fitting) king (Emperor) in chapter 17:10. The book was written prior to the destruction of the temple, as the temple is discussed in detail by John in chapter 11. We know that the Apostles teaching always expounds on any prophecy which is fulfilled. John would never address the temple in Jerusalem without mentioning the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy concerning it. Given the eminency of the foretold events of Revelation, what occurred shortly, quickly, and was near, at hand (1:1,3,22:10) ,from the time Revelation was written? Nothing occurred in the late 90’s to fit the descriptions in the book, yet from mid A.D. 66 to A.D. 70 (3 ½ years), the tribulation (1:9) can be seen clearly. Also, the 90’s goes beyond the biblical definition of a generation (40 years), “this generation” in Matthew 24:34, which chapter describes the same events as those of Revelation. The Murdock Syriac Version of Revelation makes this clear, “The Revelation, which was made by God to John the Evangelist, in the Island of Patmos, to which he was banished by Nero the Emperor”. Nero committed suicide in AD 68 (he stabbed himself with a knife to prove he was God on earth in human form), therefore Revelation was written prior to this. Also, John would have many more nations to preach to (10:11), which would be impossible for a man to reach on horseback, if that man was so advanced in age, that is, if Revelation were written in AD 96. John did not write Revelation, or his gospel (John 5:2), after AD 70, because all Scripture would be fulfilled by this time (Luke 21:22). “Prophet and vision” are “sealed”, or fulfilled, at the point and time of the temples’ destruction (Daniel 9:24-27). Hundreds of Scholars have understood the early date of Revelation, contrary to the popular opinions of our day. Here is a brief list of early date scholars; Robert Young (Young’s Literal Translation), Sir Isaac Newton, Adam Clark, FW Farrar, FF
The book of Revelation does NOT contain a seven year tribulation period. Nor does it use the word “Antichrist”. Jesus is never revealed as reigning physically on the earth in chapter 20. A “church age” with seven eras, represented by the seven churches, is an entire fabrication forced into the text! A rapture is nowhere to be found in 4:1, John alone is told in the vision, to come up here, no one else is with him! There is no 200 million man army in 9:16, a Greek interlinear reveals the Greek words, “duos murias murias”, meaning two myriads of myriads, where murias is defined as an innumerable multitude, excluding any specific number. We see a similar description of an army, whose number was as the sand of the sea (20:8). It is not describing an army of quadrillions. There is not a Magog invasion before the thousand year reign, but after it (20:7,8). There are no satellites, tectonic plates, cobra helicopters, flame throwers, ICBM’s, or computer chips. These have all been ADDED TO THE, “DO NOT ADD LIST (22:18)”! The book may best be described as the story of two women, the harlot and the bride, or of two cities, the Old Jerusalem and the New Jerusalem.


Bruce, James Stuart Russell, Philip Schaff, R.C. Sproul, Hank Hanegraaff, David Chilton, Gary Demar, Steve Gregg, and Kenneth Gentry. Gentry examines the internal and external evidences for the date and puts the matter to rest in his book, Before Jerusalem Fell. Gary Demar adds historical evidence with his book The Early Church And The End of the World. Babylon is identified clearly as Jerusalem (See above), and 1st century Christians were exhorted to apply wisdom and decipher the number of the beast (13:18), not 21st century Christians! They which pierced Him, and the tribes of the land (1:7), are no longer with us today, but were about to see and experience the events described in the book in their day. Sir Isaac Newton makes the point concerning the book’s appeal and reach toward the Jewish nation, for example, interchanging of Greek and Hebrew words, and the fact that three fourths of its contents are quotes and references from the Old Testament, as proof positive that the book was written prior to Israel’s destruction in AD 70!