



A Study in Revelation

How good is
your memory???



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

BRAD
THOR

SHADOW
OF DOUBT

A THRILLER

I keep rereading
chapter 11



N SERIE

CRASH LANDING ON YOU

The Great Prostitute and the Beast

Rev. 17:1 Then ^οone of the seven angels who had ^αthe seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of ^αthe great prostitute ^οwho is seated on many waters, ² ^αwith whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and ^αwith the wine of whose sexual immorality ^οthe dwellers on earth have become drunk." ³ And ^οhe carried me away in the Spirit ^οinto a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and ^οit had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman ^οwas arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand ^αa golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵ And on her forehead was written a name ^οa mystery: "Babylon the great mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." ⁶ And I saw the woman, drunk ^αwith the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs ^οof Jesus.

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. ⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you ^οthe mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. ⁸ The beast that you saw ^οwas, and is not, and ^οis about to rise from ^αthe bottomless pit² and ^οgo to destruction. And ^οthe dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in ^αthe book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because ^οit was and is not and is to come. ⁹ ^οThis calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven

Rev. 17:1 Καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς ^οἐκ τῶν ἑπτὰ ἀγγέλων τῶν ἔχόντων τὰς ἑπτὰ φιάλας καὶ ἐλάλησεν μετ' ἐμοῦ λέγων ^τ· δεῦρο, δεῖξω σοι τὸ κρίμα τῆς πόρνῆς τῆς μεγάλης τῆς καθημένης ἐπὶ ^τὑδάτων πολλῶν, ² μεθ' ἧς ^τἐπόρνευσαν οἱ βασιλεῖς τῆς γῆς καὶ ἐμεθύσθησαν οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν γῆν ἐκ τοῦ οἴνου τῆς πορνείας αὐτῆς. ³ καὶ ἀπήνεγκέν με εἰς ἔρημον ^οἐν πνεύματι.

Καὶ εἶδον γυναῖκα καθημένην ἐπὶ θηρίον κόκκινον, ^τγέμον[τα] ^οὄνόματα βλασφημίας, ^τἔχων κεφαλὰς ἑπτὰ καὶ κέρατα δέκα. ⁴ καὶ ἡ γυνὴ ἦν περιβεβημένη πορνεύσασα καὶ κενὸν ^οκαὶ κερυχισμένη ^τχρυσίῳ καὶ λίθῳ ἡμίμας καὶ μικροῖς ἰτίσι, ^τἔνευσά τῳ θηρίῳ χρυσίου ἐπὶ τῇ χειρὶ αὐτῆς ^τγέμον βδελυγμάτων καὶ τὰ ἀκάθαρτα τῆς πορνείας ^ταὐτῆς ⁵ καὶ ἐπὶ τὸ μέτωπον αὐτῆς ὄνομα γεγραμμένον, μυστήριον, Βαβυλὼν ἡ μεγάλη, ἡ μήτηρ τῶν πορνῶν καὶ τῶν βδελυγμάτων τῆς γῆς. ⁶ καὶ εἶδον τὴν γυναῖκα μεθύουσαν ^εἐκ τοῦ αἵματος τῶν ἁγίων ^οκαὶ ἐκ τοῦ αἵματος τῶν μαρτύρων ^οἸησοῦ. Καὶ ἐθαύμασα ^οἰδὼν αὐτὴν θαῦμα μέγα.

Rev. 17:7 Καὶ εἶπέν μοι ὁ ἄγγελος· διὰ τί ἐθαύμασας; ἐγὼ ^εἔρῳ σοι² τὸ μυστήριον τῆς γυναικὸς καὶ τοῦ θηρίου τοῦ βαστάζοντος αὐτὴν τοῦ ἔχοντος τὰς ἑπτὰ κεφαλὰς καὶ τὰ δέκα κέρατα.

Rev. 17:8 Τὸ θηρίον ὃ εἶδες ἦν καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν καὶ μέλλει ἀναβαίνειν ἐκ τῆς ἀβύσσου καὶ εἰς ἀπώλειαν ^τὑπάγει, καὶ ^οθαυμασθήσονται οἱ κατοικοῦντες ^εἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ^{ὧν} οὐ γέγραπται ^ατὸ ὄνομα ^εἐπὶ τὸ βιβλίον ^ττῆς ζωῆς ἀπὸ

A blue, textured suitcase is shown overflowing with a variety of colorful clothing items, including a bright pink shirt, a blue shirt, a green shirt, a yellow shirt, and a dark blue shirt. A hand is resting on top of the suitcase, suggesting it is being packed or handled. The scene is set against a plain white background.

How do I cram it all in?



A fast but important review



A fast but important review



Highlights of the end



A fast but important review



Highlights of the end



Points for home



A fast but important review



Highlights of the end



Points for home

WE NEED TO GO BACK IN TIME!



Books come in different genres





This was true in Antiquity

Fables





This was true in Antiquity

Fables



Satires





This was true in Antiquity

Fables



Satires



Romances





This was true in Antiquity

Apocalyptic Literature





Symbolism

An Age to
Come

Peculiar
use of
numbers

Visions
and
Dreams

Coming
Cataclysm

Angels and
Demons



Symbolism

An Age to
Come

Peculiar
use of
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Demons



Symbolism

An Age to
Come

Peculiar
use of
numbers
3, 4, 7

Visions
and
Dreams

Coming
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Angels and
Demons



Symbolism

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3, 4, 7

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Visions
and
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Demons



This changes how we read Revelation

Apocalyptic
Literature



NOT a timeline

a

b



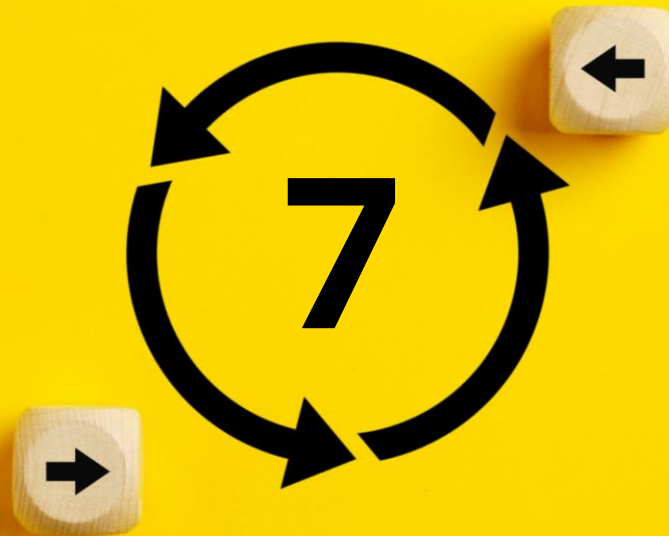


This changes how we read Revelation

Apocalyptic
Literature



A series of vignettes



A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

1 Rev. 1-3



The world's in darkness

The church is the light

Jesus is ever present



Live right!

Jesus will return!

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

2 Rev. 4-7



- God's people are persecuted by the world
- They are subjected to many trials and tribulations
- But God will save his people in the end

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

3 Rev. 8-11



- God warns the world of coming judgment
- God gives the chance to repent
- Most fail to move in repentance
- God will bring final judgment

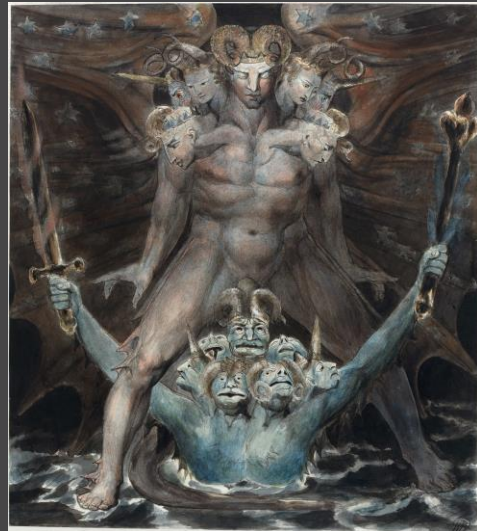
A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

4 Rev. 12-14



- There is fundamental warfare between:
 - Jesus and Satan
 - Satan and the church
- Satan has his minions
- But Jesus wins in the end

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

5 Rev. 15-16



- The wicked won't have to wait for future punishment
- It starts in this life
- Then Jesus completes it in the end



A fast but important review



Highlights of the end



Points for home



A fast but important review



Highlights of the end



Points for home

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

6 Rev. 17-19

Rev. 17:1

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters



Rev. 17:11

Καὶ ἦλθεν εἷς ἐκ τῶν ἑπτὰ ἀγγέλων τῶν ἔχόντων τὰς

A series of vignettes



A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

5 Rev. 15-16



- The wicked won't have to wait for future punishment
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- Then Jesus completes it in the end

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

6 Rev. 17-19

- A new vignette
- Meet Babylon...



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Rev. 17:1-6

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

Rev. 17:1-6

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.” And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

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Babylon: Lust for power,
selfish autonomy, human
greed, rampant idolatry,
unbridled hedonism



A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

6 Rev. 17-19



- A new vignette
- Meet Babylon... the lust for power, selfish autonomy, human greed, rampant idolatry, unbridled hedonism
- She feeds on the church

Rev. 17:1-6

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A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

6 Rev. 17-19



- Meet Babylon... the lust for power, selfish autonomy, human greed, rampant idolatry, unbridled hedonism
- Meet the beast...

Rev. 17:7-14

But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of

Rev. 17:7-14

whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Rev. 17:7-14

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Rev. 17:7-14

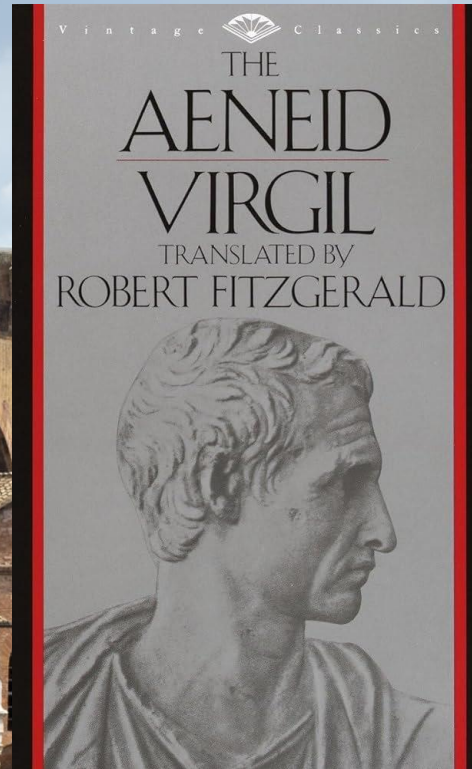
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Rome: “The City of seven hills”

- Palatine Hill
- Capitoline Hill
- Quirinal Hill
- Viminal Hill
- Esquiline Hill
- Caelian Hill
- Aventine Hill



“And she [Rome] will
enfold seven hills
with a single wall”
- Book 6, line 783

Rome: “The City of seven hills”

- Palatine Hill
- Capitoline Hill
- Quirinal Hill
- Viminal Hill
- Esquiline Hill
- Caelian Hill
- Aventine Hill

Sextus Propertius Elegies



translated by C. John Holcombe

ocaso press 2009

“The city high on
seven hills, which
presides over the
whole world”
- Book 3, Elegy 11

Rev. 17:7-14

But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. **The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction.** And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because **it was and is not and is to come.** This calls for a mind with wisdom: **the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of**

Rev. 17:7-14

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A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

6 Rev. 17-19



- Meet Babylon... the lust for power, selfish autonomy, human greed, rampant idolatry, unbridled hedonism
- Meet the beast... the world's systems that support Babylon that which allures, tempts, seduces, and draws people from God

1 Jn. 2:15-16

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1 Jn. 2:15-16

Μὴ ἀγαπᾶτε τὸν κόσμον μηδὲ τὰ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ. ἐάν τις ἀγαπᾷ τὸν κόσμον, οὐκ ἔστιν ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ πατρὸς ἐν αὐτῷ· ὅτι πᾶν τὸ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἡ ἐπιθυμία τῆς σαρκὸς καὶ ἡ ἐπιθυμία τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν καὶ ἡ ἀλαζονεία τοῦ βίου, οὐκ ἔστιν ἐκ τοῦ πατρὸς ἀλλ' ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου ἐστίν.

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

6 Rev. 17-19



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So how do we live?

With open eyes!



Rev. 18

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."

So how do we live?

With open eyes!

With godliness!



Rev. 18

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

So how do we live?

With open eyes!

With godliness!

Remember
who wins!



Rev. 18

...her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her”... Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!”... Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more...

So how do we live?

With open eyes!

With godliness!

**Remember
who wins!**

**See what awaits
the family of God!**



Rev. 19

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God” ... Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”

Ancient Jewish wedding

- 1) Betrothal ...
- 2) Dowry paid ...
- 3) Wedding with marriage feast



So how do we live?

With open eyes!

With godliness!

Remember
who wins!

See what awaits
the world!

See what awaits
the family of God!



Rev. 19

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule

Rev. 19

them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords... And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

6 Rev. 17-19



- Meet Babylon... the lust for power, selfish autonomy, human greed, rampant idolatry, unbridled hedonism
- Meet the beast... the world's systems that support Babylon that which allures, tempts, seduces, and draws people from God

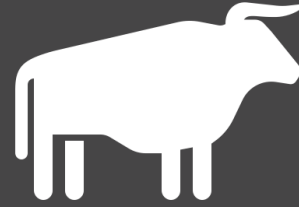
What's left to be said?



Those who wear the
mark of the beast
meet judgment
(Rev 15-16)



Babylon is fallen
and judged
(Rev 17f)



Christ defeats
the beast
(Rev 19:11f)



A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

7 Rev. 20-22

- Jesus wins it all...



How good is
your memory???



“all that is in the world—the
desires of the flesh and the
desires of the eyes and pride
of life—is not from the Father
but is from the world”
(1 Jn. 2:16)



See truth!



“Do not love the world or the things in the world.”
(1 Jn. 2:15)



Live right!



“Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the
Lamb has come”
(Rev. 19:7)



Don't lose
heart!



A Study in Revelation