

Wake Up America Seminars  
P O Box 273  
Bellbrook, OH 45305  
[www.wake-up.org](http://www.wake-up.org)  
(937) 848-3322

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Webinar Series #300:17

Today's Study:  
Revelation 17, Prophecies 14 & 15

Hello! I'm Larry Wilson.

This is Webinar #17 discussing my book, "Jesus' Final Victory."

My motto for this webinar series is simple:

"The more you know about apocalyptic prophecy, the more you will benefit from it."

We begin with Revelation 17. This is a chapter in Revelation that millions of Christians find impossible to understand....

However, when valid rules of interpretation are used, the confusion and mystery will disappear!

In a nutshell, Revelation 17 contains information about [the last three trumpets](#).

Of course, if a person doesn't properly understand the seven trumpets, Revelation 17 will not make much sense.

Repeating....Do you remember that the fifth, sixth and seventh trumpets are called three woes (curses) in Rev 8:13?

Rev 8:13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "[Woe! Woe! Woe](#) to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other [three angels](#)!"The last three trumpets are called curses because these judgments will befall wicked people.

In a number of ways, the last three trumpets will be more devastating than the first four trumpets. If you already understand the devastation caused by the first four trumpets, I know this sounds impossible, but it is true.

Therefore, the last three trumpets are highly important and to make sure that we properly understand them, Jesus sent an angel to John with very detailed information about events that will transpire during the last three trumpets.

#### [The Fifth Trumpet](#)

The physical appearing of Lucifer and his angels at the fifth trumpet is a profoundly important topic that most Christians know nothing about.

The devil will take control of the world at the sixth trumpet and this topic is even bigger than the fifth trumpet!

Both trumpets should be a subject of paramount importance to Christians today. But alas.... very few Christians are concerned. Jesus sent an angel to explain things to John [for the benefit](#) of the final generation that would live on Earth and this visit is recorded in Revelation 17. The angel explained a number of things to John in Revelation 17 and here are four topics for your

consideration:1. John was shown a beautiful but evil woman riding [the composite beast](#).

The beast with seven heads and ten horns is [the same beast](#) which John saw come up from the sea in Revelation 13:1.

The beautiful woman is wealthy, a well-dressed whore.

She is beautiful, but cruel. She is as deadly as she is seductive. She has no emotion. She has seducing power and countless victims.

She rides the composite beast in the same way a rider would ride a horse. She is in control. She dictates the direction and actions of the composite beast.

If you recall, the composite beast in Revelation 13 represents a crisis government that will be created to appease God's wrath.

In other words, during the fourth trumpet, the religious and political leaders of Earth will humbly unite and together they will create a world-wide government called Babylon (in the book of Revelation) and Babylon's mission will be that of appeasing God so that His wrath will cease.

The composite beast will be a diverse beast. It has seven heads (seven religious systems) and ten horns (ten kings).

On the other hand, the whore is will not be diverse. She will be a new creation that happens during the sixth trumpet.

The whore represents a one-world-church- state which Lucifer will establish during the sixth trumpet.

In other words, the whore represents a consolidated government, a government without diversity, a theocracy which Lucifer will establish during the sixth trumpet. Masquerading as Almighty God, Lucifer sit enthroned on Earth as king of kings (political power) and lord of lords (religious power).

Lucifer's one-world-church-state government is represented as a [seductive whore](#) for three reasons.

First, in God's sight a whore is a wicked, vulgar and immoral person. A whore does things that are an abomination to God.

Lucifer's government will be a wicked and immoral government. There will no justice or integrity within Lucifer's government. Lucifer's government will do things that are an abomination in God's sight.

Second, a whore is a woman [willing to sell](#) her body and soul to get whatever she wants or needs.

The parallel will be simple: Those [willing to submit](#) to Lucifer's government will do so fully knowing the evil they are doing. They will do it to obtain the necessities of life.

Third, a whore does not know love. She is not loving. She has no virtue. She is emotionally shallow, self-seeking and according to Solomon, a deep pit. (Proverbs 23:27) Those who reject the gospel of Jesus will be surprised to find themselves in a very difficult situation.

They will have a choice: Death or join up with Lucifer's one-world-church-state. Those who join will become "spiritual whores" -- soulless people willing to silence their conscience and the voice of the Holy Spirit in order to stay alive.

Jesus said:

Mat 16:25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

Mat 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

Circumstances during the Great Tribulation will push everyone into a decision:

Obey Jesus and suffer the wrath of the devil

or

Obey Lucifer and suffer the wrath of God

The idea of a spiritual whore may be new to you. Here's a current example of what I am talking about:

We all know that Hollywood is an evil town and an evil business and out of this evil empire a new definition has been created. The title is "publicity whore."

In a nutshell this scathing title is used to describe people who "buy" attention by doing stunts and vulgar things that draw attention to themselves. These stunts include wardrobe malfunctions (clothing falls off), showing up for a widely televised event and exposing far more flesh than should be seen in public or going to the beach to be seen in a near naked condition by the paparazzi.

There are many ways to be a publicity whore:

Creating and publishing defamatory rumors, and saying crude or insulting things for "shock value." This is good for headline magazine sales and distribution, etc.

Everyone scrambling for money in Hollywood knows that business opportunities are directly linked to notoriety and in Hollywood, there is no such thing as evil notoriety because the whole empire is desperately evil to begin with!

So, for business reasons, men and women do all kinds of evil and vulgar things to get notoriety because the publicity generates money.

During the sixth trumpet, people will do evil in order to survive, fully knowing that what they are doing is evil. This makes them a spiritual whore.

God's use of a richly bejeweled whore in Rev 17 to represent Lucifer's theocracy says so much with very few words.

When the time comes, the devil's government will appear to be attractive and seducing, but do not forget, it will also be fatal.

The whore is described as a great city in Rev 17:18: "The woman you saw is [the great city that rules](#) over the kings of the earth."

Why is the whore called a great city?

Let's go back to the fifth trumpet:

When the fifth trumpet occurs, Lucifer and his demons will be released from the spirit realm where they are now confined.

For five months, the devil and his angels will tour the whole world, putting on a really big show every day, to deceive and convince mankind that Almighty God

now lives among men.

When the sixth trumpet occurs, Lucifer will suddenly and change character and mission because God will give him power to kill a third of mankind. Lucifer will declare himself God and acting as Almighty God, he will use "divine authority" to tear down (outlaw) the religions and governments of the world. He will do this in order to set up his government -- a one-world-church-state.

As Almighty God, Lucifer will rule over the entire world. His theocracy will be cruel, manipulative and everyone will be insecure.

(A theocracy is a type of government where God Himself rules as king of kings and lord of lords.)

During the sixth trumpet, the devil will demand that everyone worship him as Almighty God and everyone must wear a tattoo on his right hand -- this tattoo will be a sign showing that its owner voluntarily promised loyalty and allegiance to Lucifer's one-world-church-state government.

Notice how this "voluntary" process will work:

For purposes of logistics, the devil will do as people did in Bible times. The devil divide the people of Earth into groups of 1,000.

From each group, the devil will select and appoint a captain. The devil will then say to his captains, "The first 666 people to voluntarily receive the tattoo "666" on their right hand will be permitted to live. Everyone else is to be killed."

I am not making this up. The Bible clearly says the devil's forces will kill 1/3 of mankind. (Revelation 9:15)

So, 1,000 people minus the captain of the host leaves 999 people per group. When 1/3 of 999 people are killed, 666 "privileged" people will remain alive.

Of course, everyone living on Earth at that time will know that wearing the "666" tattoo on his right hand is evil. But, people will justify their immoral behavior because it will be necessary for survival, to buy and sell.

After all, those refusing the tattoo will be shut off from the necessities of life and they will be killed as they are found.

The killing of 1/3 of mankind during the sixth trumpet aligns with the martyrdom described in the fifth seal. There will be millions of Christian martyrs, and yes, many rebellious people will also perish because of stubborn wickedness.

Thus, the great whore in Rev 17 is called a city because Lucifer's one-world-church-state will be "a city" full of male and female prostitutes, people wearing the mark of the beast, a tattoo which proves they willingly sold their bodies and souls to the devil for survival.

On more point....

In ancient times, cities were formed for purposes of security and commerce. People discovered they could better protect themselves against bands of warriors and rogue tribal nations by working together and putting up some walls. They also discovered that employment opportunities were better in a city than in the wilderness.

Of course, there is a downside to living within the security of a city. A city requires a government and a government requires a king and a king requires taxes to pay for his ambitions and a standing army.

The whore in Revelation 17 is called "the great city that rules over the kings of the Earth" because she represents **the wicked people of Earth** who will "move into" Lucifer's city when it is set up. They will seek employment and protection, but they have to surrender to his authority as Almighty God and wear his tattoo -- the mark of the beast.

Now that you know about the great whore....

2. The second thing you need to know from Revelation 17 is the identity of **the seven heads** on the composite beast -- this beast is seen by John in Revelation 13 and Revelation 17.

Rev 13 helps us identify the seven heads by first indicating **the heads are religious** in nature. How do we know they are religious in nature? They have names of **blasphemy** written on them. (They are insulting to God.)

Then, Rev 13 tells us one head received a fatal wound, but the fatal wound **"had been healed"** when the beast rises from the sea.

Since there are seven heads, there are seven of **the same thing**. For reasons beyond today's study, we know the wounded head represents the papacy (a religious system), so the other six heads must also be religious systems.

We will discover in Rev 17 that the seven heads represent the seven religious systems of the world.

When Lucifer appears, he will **belong** to them (e.g., he will be a religious power, he will proclaim himself to be Almighty God) and his religious government (his one-world-church-state-theocracy) will be **the last religious system**, the eighth religious system of the world and he will be it's king.

The significance of Lucifer belonging to the seven heads and becoming the eighth king is derived from Daniel 7. (Prophecy 2)

Do you remember how the fourth beast in Daniel 7 (the Roman empire) was brought down by the ten horns in 476 A.D.?

Then, a little horn power arose (the papacy) and in so doing, it plucked up three horns and became the **eighth** horn.

The math: 10 horns - 3 horns = 7 horns  
7 horns + 1 horn = 8 horns

Over time, the papacy (the eighth horn) **abolished** the authority of the seven horns and ruled over them.

So it will be.

Lucifer will physically appear at the fifth trumpet. He will appear to be benevolent and trustworthy. He will convince **billions** of people that he is a gracious and generous Almighty God.

Then, at the sixth trumpet, the devil will change character overnight. He will demand the end of religious diversity. He will abolish the authority of the seven heads to set up his own theocracy.

Rev 17 tells us the seven **heads** are also seven **hills** and seven **kings**. How does this work?

(See pages 425-427.) Why are they given these **qualifiers**?

Because the seven heads have two additional qualifiers, the intended meaning

becomes very distinct and narrow.

Here's a short example showing how three qualifiers can be very effective:

Suppose you enter a room having 25 people in it. Your job is to listen to three qualifications and correctly identify a specific person.

Qualifier #1. A person says to you, the person you seek is a male.

This specification eliminates 15 people because 15 people in the room are females.

Qualifier #2: A person says to you, "The person you seek wears glasses." This specification eliminates 5 males because 5 males are wearing glasses.

Qualifier #3: Then, the person says, "The person you seek is wearing a blue shirt." Of the five remaining people in the room, only one is wearing a blue shirt. Bingo!

Three qualifiers leave no wiggle room!

You found **the only** male wearing glasses and a blue shirt in the room.

This example illustrates why God identifies the seven heads seven hills and seven kings.

When all of the specifications are applied, there is no wiggle room.

A final specification is added to the seven heads/hills/kings: "The beast from the Abyss **belongs** to the seven heads and is an eighth king!"

Notice how this works:

Hills/mountains (the Greek word is the same) in John's day were reserved as places for worship. The "high places" were believed to be the dwelling place of deity.

Psa 121:1 ". . . I will lift up mine eyes unto **the hills**, from whence cometh my help.

Psa 121:2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."

1 Ki 12:31 Jeroboam built shrines on **high places** and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites.

2 Ki 21:3 He [Manasseh] rebuilt the **high places** his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down **to all the starry hosts** and **worshiped them.**"

In ancient times hills/mountains were called "holy mountains" because they were believed to be the dwelling places for deity. Dan 9:20 "While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his **holy hill...**"

The high places were holy because hills were the dwelling places of deity. Do you remember that God's temple was located at the top of Mt. Moriah -- not in the valley of Jehoshaphat?

Do you remember that God spoke from the top of Mt. Sinai and during the days of Elijah, God proved His superiority on top of Mt. Carmel?

Early on, the devil saw this association and his counterfeit was identical.

Mountains/hills/high places became holy places dedicated for the worship of false gods.

So, there is a reason the seven heads are described as seven hills.

Each head is a holy hill to its worshipers.

Here's how:

We know from Rev 13:1 that each head had a blasphemous name written on it.

This means the seven heads are insulting to God.

To blaspheme God is to misrepresent God.

Ezek 36:20 And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name. . . The seven heads are blasphemous and so are the seven hills and so are the seven kings.

What is the connection between heads and hills?

A religious system is "a top to bottom" organization. Decisions are made "at the top" and "passed down" to the laity "from on high." The chief government building in the United States is called "Capital Hill." Why?

The laws of our nation come from this high place. Government is a "top down" organization.

When it comes to religious matters, religious leaders cannot be told they are in error by laymen. The clergy are the experts.

They control "the high ground" (pun intended) and they will do whatever it takes to maintain their authority.

This is why Jewish leaders wanted Jesus crucified. A miracle working layman threatened their authority over the people!

Laymen "look up" to their religious leaders for information concerning God and His will. If a layman has a spiritual question, who does he ask? Whom does he trust? His clergy.

Religion is like a hill/mountain. It cannot be moved. It cannot change with advancing light. Religion is thought to be honorable if it is changeless and traditional.

The association between blasphemous heads and holy hills is not hard to see. But wait! There's more.

The seven heads are also described as seven kings because every religious system has subjects.

When a person joins a religious body, he takes an oath. He promises to live within the teachings of that organization. This oath gives the religious body authority over its subject.

A Muslim is subject to teachings of Mohammed and a Jew is subject to the teachings of Moses, even if they live on the same street, same city and same country.... they have different kings!

A Catholic is not a Protestant even if he marries a Protestant. They have different kings.

A Hindu is not a Christian even if he works at the same place with a Christian.... they have different kings.

The world is made up of three types of kingdoms: There are nations, political parties and religious groups.... and each has its own king.

The Catholic church has the pope  
The Jews have Moses  
The Muslims have Mohammed  
The Hindus have Buddha  
The Tibetans have the Dali Lama  
etc.

Let's prove there is "a king" within a religious system:

What happens when a member of a religious body insults (blasphemes) the religious system to which he belongs? Depending on the place and circumstances (and prevailing laws governing religious liberty), blasphemy can lead to death as a heretic, punishment with lashes or prison, excommunication, shunning, public defamation and/or removal from the organization, etc. Do not treat the topic of religious authority with casual interest.

As Americans, long enjoying religious liberty and the freedom to worship as we choose, we should not underestimate the exercise of religious authority once it gains control over civil power.

Each religious system has its king and this is easily proven when a member "gets out of line." When the authority of a religious body is contested or insulted, the results can be painful.

What have we learned about the seven heads/hills/kings? They are the seven religious systems of the world.

At the present time, everyone on Earth belongs to one of the seven religious systems.

There is one final specification about the seven heads we must discuss:

The angel told John in A.D. 95 that five heads/hills/kings were fallen (exposed as false). What did the angel mean?

The birth, ministry and death of Jesus proved five religious systems were false:

Atheism -- There is no God

Paganism -- God is created by man

Eastern Mysticism -- Man can become God

Judaism -- Salvation comes through works

Islam\* -- Salvation comes through works  
(Arabic religion -> Mohammedism)

The angel also said, "One is:"

Catholicism -- Salvation comes through the church

And then he said, "one is yet to come:"

Protestantism -- Salvation is freedom from works They are all false!

They are blasphemous!

Lucifer has overtaken each one!



This is why he will belong to them, he is a liar, the False Prophet and a false god.

When Lucifer sets up his one-world-church-state, he will abolish the seven religions of the world so there can be one religious system.

The devil also has to abolish all political parties and eliminate the distinction of nations. The whole world will belong to him.

The devil will divide the world into ten sectors and appoint ten puppet kings to rule over them as "task masters."

These ten kings are represented as the ten horns on the composite beast and the ten toes in Daniel 2.

Lucifer will decree: "There will be one Lord, one faith and one baptism because God lives among men. There is no room for diversity or dispute about the will of God! I have spoken."

3. The third thing you need to know from Revelation 17 is (a) when Lucifer appears, only the wicked will be astonished (dazzled) and (b) the Father foreknew thousands of years ago who would be astonished!

Carefully consider this text:

Rev 17:8 The [great red dragon] beast, which you [John] saw, once was [visible], now is not [visible], and will come up out of the Abyss [and be visible] and go to his destruction.

The inhabitants of the Earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was [visible], now is not [visible], and yet will come [up from the Abyss and be visible]."

Why will the wicked be astonished when the Antichrist himself appears? He will be a miracle working giant! The world has no idea that the coming Antichrist will be a fallen angel attended by millions of fallen angels.

These fallen angels have been alive for thousands of years. They know each human being and they know where we live. What is the significance of declaring the Father foreknew who would be among the wicked thousands of years ago? The answer is profoundly important:

Ever since sin began, God has done and will continue to do everything possible to save sinners until the door of mercy is closed.

God is love and He loves us. Through Christ, He has made salvation freely available to every person.

The Bible declares that God foreknows who will reject His efforts, but this does not deter Him or affect His love. Repeat....

God loves every sinner equally and He has done and will continue to do everything possible to save the maximum number of sinners!

Unfortunately, billions of people do not care to understand or absorb God's love. They will not listen to the Holy Spirit because they love rebellion.

4. Finally, Revelation 17 indicates Lucifer's one-world-church-state empire will implode.

At the moment, this doesn't mean much, but when Lucifer rules Earth with absolute power, this prediction will become very important.

It will happen this way:

A huge surprise will overtake the wicked at the [fifth bowl](#) (1305th day). Jesus will dismantle Lucifer's one-world-church-state in a single day by blinding everyone working for Lucifer's government.

Lucifer's theocracy will crumble immediately.

The rest of the wicked will see this phenomenon and reluctantly come to their senses. They will have to admit that (a) "God" could not protect His own government from destruction, (b) "God" would not do this to His own people and (c) there is a higher power! When the truth unfolds, the wicked will be outraged with Lucifer and they will loathe themselves -- but it will be too late. The wicked will be forced into admitting that Lucifer is the devil.

And once the devil is unmasked, his lies and deceptions will be clearly understood. Bitterness and rage will then burn in the hearts of the wicked. Rev 17:16 "The [composite] beast [with seven heads] and the ten horns you saw [will hate the prostitute](#). They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire." If you don't understand the profound importance of the 5th bowl, please see pages 406 to 409 in my book....

So, Revelation 17 tells us four major things:

1. The great whore will be Lucifer's creation, a one-world-church-state full of people who sold their bodies and souls to the devil.
2. Lucifer will be the eighth king and to establish his kingdom, he will abolish the authority of the seven heads/hills/kings.
3. When Lucifer appears, the wicked will be astonished and yes, long ago the Father foreknew who would choose rebellion and wickedness, but that does not deter His efforts to save sinners.
4. Lucifer will be exposed as the devil and the wicked will hate him and loathe themselves for allowing him to deceive them. Lucifer, the stern-faced king, will come to his end, but not by human power. (Daniel 8:25)

Prophecy 14

OK, let's look into Prophecy 14....

This prophecy has three main elements:

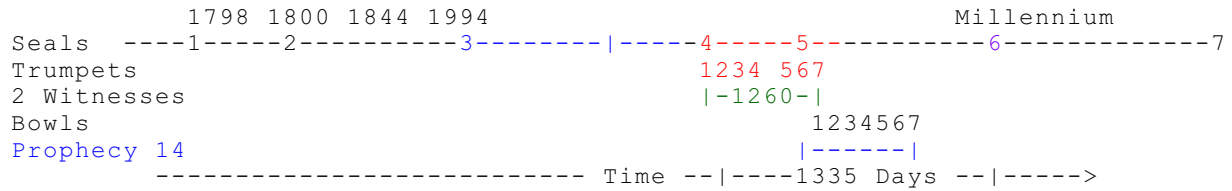
- (1) the fourth angel's message -- the final message which the 144,000 will deliver to the wicked during the sixth trumpet
- (2) The 144,000 are seen in Heaven [before](#) the Second Coming
- (3) The destruction of the wicked at the Second Coming

Last month, I spoke about the close of mercy and the destruction of the wicked at the Second Coming, so we will not review this topic today. But, I do want to briefly examine the fourth angel's message and the resurrection and arrival of the 144,000 in Heaven before the seven bowls begin.

Timeline for Prophecy 14:

Not drawn to scale:

---Dan 7---|----- Courtroom Seated -----|  
---Dan 8 -2300-----|--- Dead --|- Living-|



I calculate the beginning of the sixth trumpet to be as follows:

1. I believe Lucifer and his demons will be released from the Abyss when 2/3's of the 1335 days expires.

(See pages 193, 194.)

Here's the math:

1335 days divides equally into thirds -- each third totals 445 days.

$$1/3 + 1/3 = 2/3$$

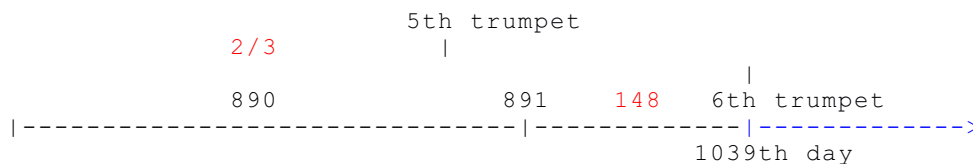
So, 445 + 445 = 890 days held back.

This means the devil and his angels will be physically present on Earth for 445 days (one year and 80 days).

This will be a **very long** time!

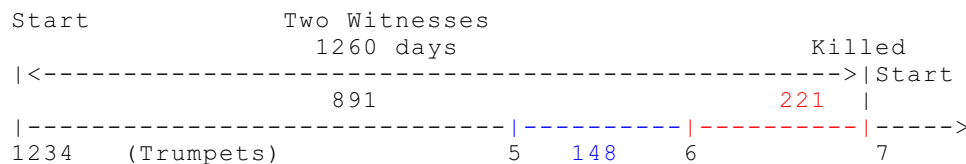
Since the fifth trumpet begins on day 891 and lasts 148 days (five lunar months), the sixth trumpet should begin on the 1,039th day of the Great Tribulation.

(891 days + 148 = 1,039 days since global earthquake)



Now, consider this:

We know the 144,000 will proclaim the gospel of Jesus for 1,260 days and then, mercy will end. Jesus will wave His sickle over the Earth and salvation's door will close.



During the sixth trumpet the 144,000 will proclaim the fourth angel's message :

Rev 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, **my people**, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

Rev 18:5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Rev 18:6 Give back to her as she has given; **pay her back double** for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

Rev 18:7 Give her **as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury** she gave herself. In her [delusional] heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

Rev 18:8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her."

When the people of Earth hear the fourth message, Lucifer will be compelling people to join his theocracy. Thus, the fourth message will inflame the whole word.

A few people will thoughtfully consider the evil ways of Lucifer and their need for salvation. At the last minute, they will refuse to receive the mark of the beast, they will repent of their sins, come out of Babylon and be saved.

Meanwhile, most, if not all, of the 144,000 will die while delivering the fourth angel's message because of its inflammatory nature.

Later on, when Lucifer's government is destroyed in the fifth bowl, Prophecy 14 contains language that describes the anguish which Babylon's leaders and merchants will feel. Even more, it describes the hopeless and utter despair which will overtake the wicked.

The next scene in Prophecy 14 changes focus to events transpiring in Heaven just before the Second Coming. Rev 19:1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of **a great multitude in heaven** shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

Rev 19:2 for true and just are his judgments. He **has condemned** the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He **has avenged** on her **the blood of his servants**."

Rev 19:3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."

Rev 19:4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"

Rev 19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, **all you his servants**, you who fear him, both small and great!"

We need to assemble a few things to make sense of these verses:

"He **has avenged** on her **the blood of his servants**."

Rev 7:3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of **the servants of our God**."

Rev 7:4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel."

Rev 10:7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, **just as he announced to his servants the prophets**."

During the Great Tribulation, God will have 144,000 servants.

These servants will be empowered by the Two Witnesses for 1,260 days. Then, the two lampstands and the two olive trees shall be killed. (The arms and legs of the Two Witnesses, the 144,000 will be killed.)

Rev 11:7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up

from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them."

Rev 11:11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.

Rev 11:12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on."1. Who is taken to Heaven after the fourth angel's message is given but before the Second Coming?

The 144,000

Why are they taken to Heaven first?

The 144,000 ". . . were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless." (Rev 14:4,5)

In Old Testament times, firstfruits were always presented to the Lord prior to the harvest.

Therefore, the 144,000 will be presented to the Lord prior to the harvest (Second Coming).

So, who is the great multitude of servants heard singing in Revelation 19?

The 144,000. They will be resurrected and taken to Heaven as their enemies watch!

Prophecy 15

A few words about Prophecy 15 are necessary:

This prophecy describes the great battle Armageddon. This battle includes the destruction of all life on Earth and the return of Lucifer and his demons to the Abyss. There is a lot of confusion about the battle of Armageddon, but when valid rules of interpretation are used, the confusion disappears.

After Lucifer is unmasked in the fifth bowl and the world beholds that Lucifer really is the devil, Lucifer will send out three miracle working demons to the ten kings.

Rev 16:13 "Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 16:14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty."

Lucifer is the dragon, the lamb-like beast and the false prophet.

The devil is given three qualifiers because each qualifier amplifies our understanding of his character and ambitions.

**Lucifer as the Great Red Dragon:**

Hates Jesus. Attempted to kill Jesus at birth.

**Lucifer as the Lamb-like Beast:**

Exalts Himself to be God. Kills a third of mankind.

### Lucifer the False Prophet:

The greatest liar of all time. A false prophet is someone who claims to speak for God, but in fact, he speaks for himself. A false prophet is a liar. There is no truth in him.

During his deceptive phase (the fifth trumpet), Lucifer promised the world a millennium of peace and happiness.

And what did the world receive in exchange for its submission and worship? Destruction.

The world was beguiled by a liar.

It turns out that Lucifer is not Almighty God, he is God's adversary.

He is also man's adversary.

When given the power, he became a dictator who abolished the religious systems of the world, he became a king who abolished the governments of the world, he became a murderer who killed a third of mankind and after he sat down to rule the world, he behaved like a rabid beast-- bent on the total destruction of mankind and the world.

Lucifer is the great red dragon, the lamb-like beast and the false prophet. Can you describe him any better than these three qualifiers?

During the sixth bowl, the devil will send out three miracle working demons to the kings of Earth for a purpose.

The devil wants to destroy Jesus at the Second Coming, so he "invites" the ten kings gather up their armies and join with him in this foolish endeavor.

The interesting point here is this:

The kings of the Earth will (a) know at this point in time that Lucifer is the devil and (b) they will realize that in order to save themselves from death, they have to destroy Almighty God!

This is the point to which rebellion and sin brings sinners.

Look at what sin has done to Lucifer and you have a mirror of what sin will do to any child of God.

In closing, please consider this:

Armageddon occurs during the seventh bowl, the final 10 days of Earth's history.

Armageddon occurs when Lucifer and the kings of the Earth attack Jesus and the host that will come with Him.

Armageddon *is not* a world war among men.

Armageddon is *a world at war with Jesus* and His angels.

Armageddon will be a literal war and the result will be a desolate Earth. All of the wicked will be killed and the devil and his angels will be returned to the Abyss.

When Armageddon is over, the righteous dead will be resurrected and the righteous living will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air on the 1,335th day. Dan 12:12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

One final point:

I believe the Bible indicates the saints are resurrected and lifted from Earth AFTER the destruction of the wicked.

In other words, the destruction of the wicked ends on the 1,334th day and the saints are removed from Earth on the 1,335th day.

Why is this important?

The experience of the Great Day of the Lord belongs to those who firmly put their faith in Jesus during the Great Tribulation.

May the Lord help each one of us to do this!