

THE REVELATION TO JOHN

{**NOTA BENE:** *I have entitled this "The Revelation To John" since this title seems to describe the book better than the traditional title "The Revelation of John". Heinz W. Cassirer in his translation of the New Testament, God's New Covenant calls this book, "The Revelation Which John Revealed."*}

{*This book describes the struggle between good and evil and the triumph of Christ and His Church. Often called "The Apocalypse" it is given over entirely to apocalyptic passages. The writer is called John though scholars are unable to determine whether this is the writer of the Gospel, the writer of the Epistles or another person named John. Written in a time of persecution it presents verbal "cartoons" that offer hope during difficult times. Scholars divide into several schools of interpretation ranging from "it has all already been fulfilled" to "it will only be fulfilled in the future when the end time takes place" with other interpretations between these extremes.*}

INSCRIPTION

{*"The Revelation of John" Aleph & A. "The Revelation of Saint John" many minuscules. "The Revelation of John the Theologian" the Majority Text. "The Revelation of John, the Theologian and Evangelist" 046 and several minuscules.*}

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND SALUTATION

<Revelation 1:1-8>

¹ This is the revelation that was given to Jesus Christ which God had bestowed upon Him to be made known to His servants concerning what was destined soon to take place. Christ revealed this by means of a message through His angel to His servant John <*The name means "the Lord has been gracious".*> ² who is making a faithful record of all that he witnessed (*or, vouches for everything he saw*) and testifying to the Word (*or, Message*) that came from God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the reader and blessed are those who hear the messages of this prophecy, who are attentive to what is recorded, for the time is near at hand.

⁴ John, to the seven churches that are in Asia: <*Asia here signifies Asia Minor or Turkey.*> Grace and peace to you from Him who is and who was and who is coming, <*In other words, the one who is eternal.*> and from the seven spirits which stand in the presence of His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness and the firstborn (*or, sovereign, ruler*) of the dead and of the earthly kings.

To Him who loves us and has [released (*or, loosed*) us from] ¹ our sins by means of His blood ⁶ -- and has made us royalty (*literally, kings*) and priests of God, His Father -- <*The dashes appear in Ahland's 27th edition. One dash in Westcott & Hort and other printed Greek texts.*> to Him be ascribed glory and might [eternally (*literally, for ever*).] ² Amen.

⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds

1 {B} So: P18, Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, C, 1, 2020, 2081 & Armenian. "loosed from" Aleph in the original hand, minuscules 1611 & 2344 and one Old Latin manuscript. Other manuscripts say "loosed us" but use different words to express the thought.

2 {C} So: P18, A, P & Bohairic Coptic. "for ever and ever" Aleph, C, 046, many minuscules, Old Latin, Palestinian & Harclean Syriac, Armenian & Ethiopic.

and every eye will see Him
Even those who pierced Him will see Him,
and all the races (*or, nations*) of the earth
will look at Him and mourn.
Even so. Amen.

⁸ I am the Alpha and the [Omega] ³

<*The first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet "A" and "Ω" thus the beginning and the end.*>
the one who is, who was and who is coming,
the Omnipotent (*or, almighty, all powerful*) One.

THE VISION OF CHRIST

<Revelation 1:9-20>

⁹ I, John, your brother and fellow sharer with you in the sorrows of the Kingdom and the patient endurance of Jesus, found myself on the island named Patmos <*An Aegean island off the southwestern coast of Asia Minor or Turkey.*> as a result of my loyalty to the Word (*or, Message*) of God and the testimony that came from Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day the Spirit took hold of me and behind me I heard a loud voice that was like a trumpet blast. ¹¹ It told me, 'Whatever you see (*or, your vision*), write it down in a book. Send it to the seven Churches: to those in Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia and to Laodoea.' <*These cities were located in Asia Minor, present day Turkey, located near the western shore of that country.*>

¹² I turned to see who it was who was addressing me, and, upon turning I saw seven golden lamp stands ¹³ and in the midst of the lamp stands one who resembled the Son of Man, wearing a robe that reached to His feet, having a golden girdle across His breast. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white as wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like shiny bronze when it is [melted (*literally, red hot*)] ⁴ in a furnace. His voice was like the sound of many waters. <*cf. Daniel 7:9 ; 10:8*> ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars. Out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face shone like the sun when it shines with all it's power.

¹⁷ When I beheld Him I fell at His feet as if I were dead. He, however, laid His hand on me and declared, 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the ever-living one. I was dead and now I am alive forever and ever and I hold the keys of death and the realm of the dead (*literally, Hades*).¹⁹ Write down what you have seen: the things which are and the things which will be hereafter. ²⁰ The secret meaning of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand along with the seven golden lamp stands is this: the seven stars are the angels of the seven Churches and the seven lamp stands are the seven Churches.'

CHAPTER II

THE MESSAGE TO EPHESUS

<Revelation 2:1-7>

¹ 'Write this to the angel of the Church in Ephesus: <*Ephesus was a cosmopolitan city with fabulous wealth. The Temple of the Greek goddess, Artemis, who was also the Latin goddess Diana, cf. Acts 19, was located in Ephesus and this temple was considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The city was located three miles from the Mediterranean on the left bank of the Cayster river. The city was an important transportation center.*> These are the words of Him who

³ {B} So: Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, C, P, 046, a number of minuscules, Old Latin, Palestinian & Harclean Syriac, Armenian & Ethiopic. "Omega, the first and the last" Aleph in the original hand, a number of minuscules & Old Latin. Other variants occur.

⁴ {D} The word varies in form in the manuscripts.

holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks back and forth in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands. ² I am aware of your deeds (*literally, works*), [labor] ⁵ and your steadfastness (*or, endurance*). I am aware that you are unable to tolerate those who are evil and that you have put those to the test who have called themselves apostles even though they are themselves impostors (*literally, false*). ³ In addition you have been patient and have been bearing up to burdens for my sake (*literally, because of my Name*). ⁴ However, I have this against you: You have lost the love you first had. ⁵ Call to mind from what heights you have fallen. Repent immediately and act as you did at first (*or, live as you previously did*), or else I will certainly come and remove the lamp stand from its place if you do not repent. ⁶ However, you do have this in your favor: You despise the works of the Nicolaitans, *<Nicolaitans were a sect in the churches of Ephesus and Pergamum which might have been followers of Nicolaus of Antioch. They rejected obedience to the decisions made by the Council in Jerusalem. cf. Acts 15:22-29. They are perhaps also rebuked in Jude and I John.>* which I also despise. ⁷ Let all those who have ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches. I will give the victor the privilege of eating from the tree of life which stands in the midst of the Paradise of God.'

THE MESSAGE TO SMYRNA

<Revelation 2:8-11>

⁸ 'Write this to the angel of the Church in Smyrna: *<In Smyrna the people were apparently rich. Since Christians would not recognize the worship of the Roman emperor they suffered social ostracism and therefore the Christians were poor in material things. The present day site of the city of Smyrna is the city of Izmir, an important Aegean port of West Anatolian Turkey.>* These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹ I am aware of your sufferings and of your poverty -- yet you are rich. I am aware of the slander that has been directed against you by those who say of themselves that they are Jews, but are not, but rather are from satan's synagogue. ¹⁰ [Do not] ⁶ be afraid of the things you are going to suffer. I tell you, the devil is about to [throw] ⁷ some of you into prison, so you will be tested for ten days but you will endure the persecution. Be faithful! Even though it might mean death, I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ Let all those who have ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches. The victorious ones will not be hurt in any way by the second death.'

THE MESSAGE TO PERGAMUM

<Revelation 2:12-17>

¹² 'Write this to the angel of the Church in Pergamum: *<The modern day city on the site of Pergamum is Bergama in Western Anatolian Turkey. Satan's throne is mentioned. This was perhaps the altar of the temple of Zeus which stood nearly fifty feet high in a colonnaded enclosure, having a base of more than one hundred square feet. The shrine of Aescalapeus, the god of medicine, was also located in Pergamum.>* These are the words of Him who possesses the sharp double-edged sword. ¹³ I am aware of where you dwell. It is the location of satan's throne. You are holding fast to my name [and] ⁸ you did not renounce your faith in me, [not even in the days of] ⁹ Antipas,

⁵ {C} So: A, C, P, 94, 1854, 2053, 2073 & Old Latin & Harclean Syriac. 'your labor" Aleph, 046, 1, 1006, 1611, 1828, 1859, 2020, 2042, 2065, 2081, 2138, 2344, 2432, Palestinian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. Other variants occur.

⁶ {C} Variants in the Greek word for "do not" occur in the manuscripts.

⁷ {C} Variants in the Greek word for "to throw" occur in the manuscripts.

⁸ {C} So: A, C, several minuscules, Palestinian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic. Omitted by Aleph, P, 046, many minuscules, Harclean Syriac, Armenian & Ethiopic.

⁹ {C} So: A, C, several minuscules, Old Latin, Palestinian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic. "the days in which" Aleph in the original & first corrective hands, P, many minuscules, Harclean Syriac & Ethiopic.

<An early Christian martyr.> My faithful witness was killed there, where satan dwells. 14 Even so: I have a few things against you. You have in your midst those who hold to the teaching of Balaam who taught Balak <cf. Numbers 25 and 31. Balaam means "destroyer of the people". Balak means "empty".> to put temptation (*literally, throw a stumbling block*) into the way of the descendants of Israel to entice them to eat what had been sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication. 15 In the same manner there are some among you who adhere to the teachings of the Nicolaitians <cf. note, verse 6> 16 Repent immediately! If you do not repent I will soon come to you and will wage war upon you with the sword that is in (*or, of*) my mouth. 17 Let all those who have ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches. To the victorious ones I will give some of the hidden manna. <cf. Numbers 11:1-9 Heavenly food provided during the wandering of the Israelites after they left Egypt.> I will give to each of them a white stone <This is tantamount to "a favorable vote".> which is inscribed with a new name, known (*or, understood*) only by the recipient.'

THE MESSAGE TO THYATIRA

<Revelation 2:18-29>

18 'Write this to the angel of the Church in Thyatira: <Thyatira was located on a highway and was a commercial city with weavers and dyers of wool and linen. There were also leather workers and metal craftsmen. Lydia, cf. Acts 16:14 came from Thyatira. It's location is the present day Turkish city of Akhisar in the Lycus river valley, south east of Pergamum and north west of Sardis.> These are the words of the Son of God whose eyes are like flames of fire and whose feet resemble burnished (*or, white hot*) bronze. I am aware of your deeds, your love, your faith, your patient service and am further aware that recently you have done more good deeds than you did at first. 20 However, I have this against you: You are tolerating [the] ¹⁰ woman Jezebel, <The evil wife of king Ahab. The name means "unmarried" or "chaste". cf. I Kings 16-19, II Kings 9, Hosea 1:4.> who declares herself to be a prophetess and whose teaching seduces my servants, so that they commit fornication and eat what has been sacrificed to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent but she refuses to be repentant of her fornication. 22 I will cast (*literally, throw*) her on a [bed] ¹¹ of pain (*or, affliction*) and I will hurl great distress upon those who committed adultery with her unless they repent of [the practices in which she engages.]¹² 23 I will also cause her children to die. All of the Churches will know that I am the searcher of minds and will reward each one of you in accordance with [your] ¹³ deeds. 24 Now: to the rest of you who are in Thyatira: All of you who do not accept the teachings and have not learned the 'deep secrets of satan', as they call them, to you I say: I impose no additional demands (*or, no additional burden*) on you. 25 Hold fast to what you possess until I come. 26 The victorious ones obey my commands to the end! Upon them I will bestow authority over the nations <perhaps implying the Gentiles>. 27 He will be the shepherd for them and rule them with an iron staff. Just as clay jars are shattered into broken bits of pottery, His power over them will be like the authority I, myself, received from my Father. 28 I will bestow upon him the morning star. 29 Let all those who have ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches.'

CHAPTER III

THE MESSAGE TO SARDIS

<Revelation 3:1-6>

10 {C} Manuscript A has "your".

11 {A} So: Aleph, C, P, 046, many minuscules, Old Latin, Palestinian & Harclean Syriac & Bohairic Coptic. "into an earthenware vessel (*or, oven*)" <used to prepare bread for baking> 2071 & Armenian. "illness" 1597 & Sahidic Coptic.

12 {B} Minor variants occur.

13 {B} Minor variants occur.

1 'Write this to the angel of the Church in Sardis: *<Sardis was a city of commerce with the manufacture of textiles and gold jewelry. Under Croesus the first gold coins ever to be made were minted in Sardis. In Sardis there was also a cult of Cybele. This cult claimed to have the power to restore life to the dead. The city was located fifty miles east of Smyrna. It was founded as early as 1200 B. C. along a trade crossroads.>* These are the words of the one who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars. I am aware of [your] ¹⁴ activities (*or, works*), how you are supposed to be alive. 2 You are, in fact, dead. Therefore see to it that you wake up and stay wide awake, for what remains is at the point of death for I have found that none of your activities (*or, works*) meet the perfection required by my God. 3 Keep in mind, therefore, the lessons you have received and heard. Obey and repent! However, if you fail to keep wide awake I will come suddenly like a thief and you will not know at what hour I will be coming to judge you. 4 Yet, you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments. These will be walking with me dressed in white clothing, since these are deserving. 5 The victorious[one] ¹⁵ will also clothe himself in white clothing. I will never erase his name from the Book of Life. I will confess his name in the presence of my Father and His angels. 6 Let all those who have ears listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.'

THE MESSAGE TO PHILADELPHIA

<Revelation 3:7-13>

7 'Write this to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia: *<Philadelphia was an important commercial center located on main trade routes. The present day city located at that site is Alashehir. It was twenty-eight miles from Sardis, founded by Attalus Philadelphus of Pergamum prior to 138 B.C.>*

These are the words of the one who is holy and true
who holds the key of David.

When He opens, no one will shut,
and when He closes no one can open.

8 I am aware of the works you have done. I have provided a door that is wide open before you, which no one can close, because, while you have little power, you have been obedient to my message (*literally, word*) and have not disowned me. 9 I will make some of those who belong to the synagogue of satan, who declare that they are Jews, but are not, for in fact they are impostors, to come and bow themselves before your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you, 10 because you have held fast to the Message (*literally, Word*) for which I suffered. I will also preserve you from that hour of trial which is soon coming on the entire world. This will test all of the inhabitants of the earth! 11 I am coming soon! Hold fast to that which you already have so that no one might rob you of the crown of victory. 12 As for the victor, I will cause him to be a pillar in the sanctuary of my God. He will never again leave it. I will also inscribe on him the Name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem, *<Since the name Jerusalem means "city of peace" the "New Jerusalem" would be the new city of peace in heaven.>* which comes down out of heaven from my God as well as inscribing him with my new name. 13 Let all those who have ears listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.'

THE MESSAGE TO LAODICEA

<Revelation 3:14-22>

14 'Write this to the angel of the Church in Laodicea: *<Laodicea was a center for rich*

14 {C} So: Aleph, P, 046 & many minuscules. "the works" Old Latin, Palestinian & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic. Omitted by 2344. "works" A, C & Armenian.

15 {C} Minor variants occur. Different words are used for "one".

bankers who financed leaders in many areas of the empire. The city was well known for the eye ointment that was manufactured there and sold all around the Mediterranean world. There were natural hot springs in the city. It was strategically located at the cross roads of two major trade routes.> These are the words of him who is the Amen, <Amen means, "it will truly and surely be".> who is the faithful and true witness and the moving cause (or, the beginning) of God's creation. 15 I am aware of your works. You are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot! 16 Therefore, because you are tepid and not hot or cold I am going to spit you out of my mouth (or, because you are tepid you make me sick). 17 You declare that 'you are rich, that you have amassed wealth and standing in need of nothing'. You are not even aware that you are wretched and pitiable, poor, blind and naked. 18 Because of this I would counsel you to buy gold from me that has been refined (literally, fire tested) in order that you might become wealthy, along with having white robes to wear, to hide your disgraceful nudity and eye ointment to put on your eyes so that you might be able to see. 19 As for me, I correct and discipline the ones I love! Because of this, be zealous in your faith and repent! 20 Pay attention! I am standing at the door and am knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will enter (or, be a guest) and we will feast together. 21 The victorious one I will grant to sit down beside me on my throne just as I have also conquered and have been seated beside my Father on His throne. 22 Let all those who have ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches.'

CHAPTER IV **THE HEAVENLY WORSHIP**

<Revelation 4:1-11>

1 Following this I had another vision. A door in heaven stood open and the same voice I had previously heard, like a trumpet blast, spoke to me, saying, 'Come up here and I will show you things that are destined to happen.' 2 At once I found myself in the Spirit and I saw a throne standing in heaven and there was one seated on the throne. 3 His appearance, as the one seated there, resembled the appearance of jasper. <The Greek word "ιασπις" is for a green precious stone, i.e. an opaque quartz. We usually think of jasper in reddish, yellow or brown forms of cryptocrystalline quartz.> or sardius (or, sard.) <Sardius, "Σαρδιον" is a hard, deep orange-red variety of chalcedony.> A rainbow having the appearance of an emerald <A dark green, transparent variety of beryl.> encircled the throne. 4 In addition, around the throne there were twenty-four thrones with twenty-four elders who were seated on the thrones, dressed in white robes, having golden crowns on their heads. 5 Emanating from the throne came flashes of lightning and voices (or, perhaps, rumblings) as well as thunder claps while in front of the throne there were seven blazing lamps (or, torches) which represent (or, are) the seven Spirits of God. 6 In front (or, before) the throne there appeared to be a sea of glass which bore the resemblance of crystal.

Around the throne, at the center of each side, were four living creatures covered with eyes both in front and behind. 7 The first of these living creatures bore the resemblance of a lion; the second creature that of an ox; the third creature had [a face (or countenance) like that of a human being.]¹⁶ The fourth of the creatures resembled an eagle in flight. 8 Each of these four creatures had six wings and they were covered with eyes all around their bodies and even under their wings. They did not cease, day and night, to say,

'Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord, God, the Almighty One

16 {C} Some manuscripts differ in the wording. Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic say, "a face like that of the Son of Man".

Who was and who is and who is coming (*or, the Eternal One.*)'
9 Whenever these living creatures render praise, honor and thanksgiving to the One who occupies the throne and lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before the One who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever and they lay down their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 'You are worthy, you who are the Lord our God,
to receive glory, honor and power,
for you were the Creator of all things,
and by your will everything came into existence and was created.'

CHAPTER V THE SCROLL AND THE LAMB

<Revelation 5:1-14>

1 I saw at the right hand of Him who was seated upon the throne, a scroll (*or, book*) <The Greek word "βιβλιον" is the root for our word "Bible".> covered with writing [on both sides]¹⁷ of the pages and was sealed with seven seals. 2 I also saw a mighty angel who made an announcement in a loud voice, 'Who is deserving (*or, worthy*) to open the scroll (*or, book*) and to break the seals?' 3 No one, whether in heaven or on earth or under the earth was capable of opening the scroll (*or, book*) or to inspect (*or, see what was in*) it. 4 While [I]¹⁸ was weeping bitterly because no one was found to be deserving (*or, worthy*) of opening the book or to inspect it, 5 one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. The Lion from the Tribe of Judah, the Offspring (*or, Root*) of David has won (*or conquered*) the right to open the scroll (*or, book*) and to break the seven seals.'

6 It was then that I saw a Lamb looking as if it had been sacrificed, standing in the middle, near the throne, along with the four living creatures and the elders. I also saw that it had seven horns, and seven eyes which are the [seven]¹⁹ Spirits of God who have been dispatched over the entire world. It <*i.e. the Lamb*> came 7 and took the scroll (*or, book*) from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne. 8 Having taken the scroll (*or, book*), the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down in front of the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls filled with incense which represents the prayers of the saints. 9 They sang a new song, saying,

'You are deserving (*or, worthy*) to take the scroll (*or, book*),
and to break the seals.

Because you have been sacrificed (*or, slain*),
you have purchased them from [God]²⁰
by means of your blood,
persons (*literally, men*) from every tribe, language (*literally, tongue*)
and people and nation.

10 You have formed them into a Kingdom
in the service of your God.

You have made them into a Kingdom (*or, perhaps, royalty*)
to be priests for our God
and they will [reign]²¹ (*or, possess regal authority*) over the earth.'

17 {B} Manuscripts vary in their use of words to describe "inside and outside".

18 {C} Omitted by Aleph, P, several minuscules, Palestinian, & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic.

19 {C} Omitted in some manuscripts.

20 {C} Several manuscripts say "your God".

21 {C} The wording varies but provides no difference in meaning.

11 Then I looked and heard the voices of many angels on every side of the throne as well as the living beings and the elders. These were myriads upon myriads, thousands upon thousands in number. 12 In loud voices they were saying,

'Deserving (*or, worthy*) is the Lamb who has been sacrificed (*or, slain*),
to receive all power and wealth
wisdom, strength, honor, glory and thanksgiving.'

13 I then heard every created being (*or, creature*) in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea and everything that encompasses these, saying,

'To the One who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb
be ascribed praise, honor, glory and dominion (*or, power*)
for ever and ever.'

14 And the living creatures said, 'Amen' and the elders fell down and worshipped.

CHAPTER VI

THE SEALS ²²

<Revelation 6:1-17>

1 I saw the Lamb break open the first of the seven seals and I heard one of the four living beings speak with a thunderous voice (*literally, voice like thunder*), saying, 'Come!' 2 I looked and a white horse appeared with a man riding on it. He was holding a bow. A crown was given him and he rode out conquering and to conquer.

3 Then the Lamb broke the second seal and I heard a second living creature saying, 'Come!'

4 Another horse appeared that was fiery red. Its rider had been given the power to take away peace [from]²³ the earth so that people would slaughter one another. He had a great sword that had been given him.

5 When He, *<i.e. the Lamb>* was breaking the third seal I heard the third living creature call out, 'Come!' I looked and a black horse appeared. Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6 I was unable to clearly hear a voice that appeared to be speaking in the midst of the four living beings but it seemed to say, "A quart *<The Greek word "χοινιξ" is used for a dry measure that comprises 1.92 pints.>* of wheat for an entire day's wages. (*literally, a denarius*, "δηναρριον" *which was the usual pay per day for a laborer.*) An entire day's wages for three quarts of barley *<Actually 2.88 quarts in three "χοινιξ".>* Do not harm (*or, spoil*) the oil or the wine. *<These would be exorbitant prices!>*

7 When He opened the fourth seal I heard the voice of the fourth living being say, 'Come [and see.]'²⁴ 8 I then looked and saw a yellowish green (*or, pale*) horse. *<Perhaps "a deathly pale color" would describe the horse best.>* The name of the rider was Death and Hades *<i.e. the abode of the dead>* followed close behind. They were granted the authority over one fourth of the earth, to put people to death by means of the sword, disease or wild beasts of the earth.

9 When He opened the fifth seal I saw, at the foot of the altar, the souls of those who had been slaughtered on behalf of the Word of God and because of the testimony which they had borne. 10 With loud voices they cried out, 'How long, O holy and true sovereign Lord, do you delay passing

22 {C} In many verses in this entire chapter there are differences in the various manuscripts in the word that is used for "see".
the sense, however, is not changed.

23 {C} In this chapter there are also insignificant differences in the words used for "from".

24 {C} So: Aleph & many minuscules. In the manuscripts two different words for "see" are used.

judgment and taking vengeance on the inhabitants of the earth, for our blood?' 11 Each of them was given a long white robe and they were told to wait quietly for a brief time until the number of their fellow servants along with their brothers who, just as they, were to be killed, had reached its [fullness (*or, was complete.*)] 25

12 When the sixth seal was opened there was a [violent earthquake.] 26 The sun became as dark as sackcloth. <*In those days sackcloth was made of horsehair and was black.*> The entire moon (*or, the full moon*) became like blood. 13 In addition the stars in the heavens fell to the earth as figs would fall from a fig tree that is shaken by a violent wind and drops its unripe figs to the ground. 14 The sky also vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up and every mountain and island was dislodged from its location. 15 The kings of the earth, the great ones and commanders, the rich and powerful, and for that matter, everyone whether slave or free, hid themselves (*or, took refuge*) in caves and among the rocks of the mountains 16 while they cried out to the mountains and rocks, saying: 'Fall on us and hide us from the presence of the One who sits on the throne and from the anger of the Lamb 17 for the great day of [His] 27 wrath (*or, retribution*) has arrived and who is able to withstand it?'

CHAPTER VII
THE 144,000 OF ISRAEL SEALED
<Revelation 7:1-8>

1 Following this I saw four angels who were standing at the four corners of the earth and holding back the four winds so that no wind should blow on the earth, the sea or on any tree. 2 I saw another angel ascending from the east and carrying a seal that belonged to the living God (*or, the living God's seal.*) That angel shouted in a loud voice to the four angels who had been empowered to ravage the land and the sea. 3 'Do not injure the land or the sea until I have placed the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' It was, when the placing of the seals was finished, 4 that I heard that the number of those sealed from all the tribes was one hundred forty-four thousand who had descended from Israel:

5 of the tribe of Judah,	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Reuben,	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Gad,	12,000 were sealed,
6 of the tribe of Asher,	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Naphtali,	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Manasseh,	12,000 were sealed,
7 of the tribe of Simeon,	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Levi,	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Issachar,	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Zebulun,	12,000 were sealed,
8 of the tribe of Joseph	12,000 were sealed,
of the tribe of Benjamin	12,000 were sealed.

THE MULTITUDE FROM EVERY NATION
<Revelation 7:9-17>

9 After this I looked and there was a great crowd of people that was so vast that no one was

25 {C} The word varies in the manuscripts but the sense is the same.

26 {B} Variants include: "violence and an earthquake" Aleph, P, 046 & many minuscules. "and behold an earthquake" A. "and a great earthquake took place" Sahidic Coptic.

27 {C} Minor variants occur.

able to count them, gathered out of every nation and from all tribes, peoples and languages, standing before the throne in the presence of the Lamb, clothed in long white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They shouted loudly,

'It is from our God who is seated
on the throne and from the Lamb
that our salvation comes!'

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne in a circle along with the elders and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne, worshipping (*or, doing homage*) to God ¹² and shouting,

'Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom,
thanksgiving, honor, power and strength
belong to God for ever and ever. [Amen.]'²⁸

¹³ One of the elders spoke to me and said, 'Who are these people who are in long white robes? From where have they come?' ¹⁴ I replied, 'My Lord, you are the one who knows.' He said, 'They are the ones who have come here from the great affliction (*or, persecution, tribulation*). They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ It is for this reason that they are standing before God's throne.

They render Him service
day and night in His sanctuary.
He is seated on His throne
and will spread His tent over them *<i.e. protect them>*.
¹⁶ They will never again be hungry nor thirsty.
The sun will never again beat down on them,
nor will any other scorching heat.
¹⁷ For the Lamb who is in the center
before the throne,
will be the shepherd.
He will guide them to the springs of the water of life.
God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

CHAPTER VIII

THE SEVENTH SEAL AND THE GOLDEN CENSER

<Revelation 8:1-5>

¹ When the Lamb broke open the seventh seal there was silence in heaven for about one half hour. ² Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God and they were given seven trumpets.

³ Then another angel, holding a golden censer, came and stood close to the altar. A large amount of incense was given to him that he might mingle (*literally, place*) it with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which stands in front of the throne. ⁴ The smoke from the incense in the angel's hand rose into the presence of God along with the prayers of His people. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filling it with fire from the altar and hurled it to the earth. Following this there were thunder claps and voices along with lightning flashes and an earth quake.

THE TRUMPETS

<Revelation 8:6-9:21>

²⁸ {C} Omitted by C.

⁶ The seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to blow the trumpets (*literally, them*).

⁷ The first angel blew its trumpet. Hail and fire mixed with blood were poured out on the earth