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The Oxford Stud

B I B L E

REVISED ENGLISH BIBLE
WITH THE APOCRYPHA

EDITED BY

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Lamb broke the sixth
lamb earthquake; the sun
erual pall and the moon
e starts in the sky fell to
own off a tree in a gale;
ke a scroll being rolled
ain and island was dis-
ce.¹⁵ The kings of the
f the commanders, the
il, and all men, slave or
s in caves and under
they called out to the
ags, "Fall on us, hide us
sits on the throne and
e Lamb,¹⁷ for the great
as come, and who can

Death, and Hades (in 1.18) the fifth seal discloses the souls of those who died for Christ's sake. "34. Acts 7:60. Beneath the altar, the throne of glory." *Until the* the seal brings cosmic catastrophe (Joel 2:11; Mal. 3:2).

⁹After that I looked and saw a vast throng, which no one could count, from all races and tribes, nations and languages, standing before the throne and the Lamb. They were robed in white and had palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and they shouted aloud:

¹¹ All the angels who stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures prostrated themselves before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² crying:

¹³One of the elders turned to me and asked, "Who are these all robed in white, and where

vidices is translated as "Death's domain", compare Ezek. 31:17. The cry of the martyred dead crying out for vengeance; see Ps. 137:1. The number should be complete: compare 2 Esd. 4:35–37. **the 12:** See Joel 2:31. **14:** Isa. 34:4. **15:** Isa.

The seven trumpets

³Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer. He was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all God's people on the golden altar in front of the throne, ⁴and the smoke of the incense from the angel's hand went up before God with his people's prayers. ⁵The angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it down on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, lightning, flashes, and an earthquake.

The first angel blew his trumpet. There came hail and fire mingled with blood, and

the plagues in Egypt, as in Exod. 7:17–21; 9:23, 25; 10:21–23 (6–7); in connection with several trumpet blasts, *a third of creation is affected*: 8–9; The volcanic island of Thera, visible from Patmos, may have suggested *a blither drug*; see Jer. 9:15; 23:15. **13:** The three cows correspond to the last three trumpet blasts: 9, 11. Since stars were identified as angels (1:20), a star that *had fallen* may refer to Satan as a fallen angel; see v. 11; [Isa. 14:12–15; 10:18–19].

⁸ The second angel blew his trumpet. What looked like a great mountain flaming with fire was hurled into the sea; a third of the sea was turned to blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in it died, and a third of the ships on it were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel blew his trumpet. A great star shot from the sky, flaming like a torch, and fell on a third of the rivers and springs; ¹¹ the name of the star was Wormwood. A third of the water turned to wormwood, and great numbers of people died from drinking the water because it had been made bitter.

¹²The fourth angel blew his trumpet. A third part of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third part of them turned dark and a third of the light failed; to appear by day or by night.¹³ As I looked, I heard an eagle calling with a loud cry as it flew in mid-heaven: 'Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth at the sound of the other trumpets which the next three angels must now blow!'

9 The fifth angel blew his trumpet. I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth, and the star was given the key to the shaft of the abyss.² He opened it, and smoke came up from it like smoke from a great furnace and darkened the sun and the air.³ Out of the smoke came locusts over the earth, and they were given the powers of scorpions.⁴ They were told not to do damage to the grass or to any plant or tree, but only to those people who had not received God's seal on their foreheads.⁵ They were given permission to torment them for five months

REVELATION 9:6

with torment like a scorpion's sting; but they were not to kill them. ⁶During that time people will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

⁷In appearance the locusts were like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were what looked like gold crowns; their faces were like human faces ⁸and their hair like women's hair; they had teeth like lions' teeth ⁹and chests like iron breastplates; the sound of their wings was like the noise of many horses and chariots charging into battle; ¹⁰they had tails like scorpions, with stings in them, and in their tails lay their power to injure people for five months. ¹¹They had for their king the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek Apollyon, the Destroyer.

¹²The first woe has now passed; but there are still two more to come.

¹³The sixth angel blew his trumpet. I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that stood in the presence of God. ¹⁴To the sixth angel, who held the trumpet, the voice said: "Release the four angels held bound at the Great River, the Euphrates!" ¹⁵So the four angels were let loose, to kill a third of mankind; they had been held in readiness for this very year, month, day, and hour. ¹⁶And their squadrons of cavalry numbered twice ten thousand times ten thousand; this was the number I heard.

¹⁷This was how I saw the horses and their riders in my vision: they wore breastplates, fiery red, turquoise, and sulphur-yellow; the horses had heads like lions' heads, and from their mouths issued fire, smoke, and sulphur. ¹⁸By these three plagues, the fire, the smoke, and the sulphur that came from their mouths, a third of mankind was killed. ¹⁹The power of the horses lay in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails had heads like serpents, and with them they inflicted injuries.

²⁰The rest of mankind who survived these

7:3 n. 7: Like horses: see Joel 2:4. 8: Teeth like lions': Joel 1:6. 9: Chariots: Joel 2:5. 11: Abaddon (or, Destruction) in the OT is equivalent to Sheol or Hades; see Job 26:6; 28:22; Prov. 15:11. 13: Golden altar: see Exod. 30:1-3. 14: The four angels (not those in 7:2) are here at the Euphrates, whence Rome feared a Parthian invasion; compare "the kings from the east" in 16:12. 20: Compare the view of idolatry here with Ps. 115:4-7; 135:15-17; Dan. 5:23. As frequently in the Bible, idolatry leads (v. 21) to further sin. 10:1-11:14: The little scroll and the two witnesses. This section falls between the sixth and seventh trumpets. 4: Put under seal . . . do not write: see Dan. 12:4, 9. 5-6: The angel . . . swore: Dan. 12:7. 8-10: On the eating of the scroll compare Ezek. 2:8-3.3. 11: The writer's sweet-sour (vv. 8-10; sweet for the faithful,

[The seven trumpets]

plagues still did not renounce the gods; their hands had made, or cease their worship of demons and of idols fashioned from gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk; ²¹nor did they repent of their murders, their sorcery, their fornication, or their robberies.

10 I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was wrapped in cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face shone like the sun and his legs were like pillars of fire. ²In his hand he held a little scroll which had been opened. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left on the land, ³and gave a great shout like the roar of a lion; when he shouted, the seven thunders spoke. ⁴I was about to write down what the seven thunders had said, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Put under seal what the seven thunders have said; do not write it down." ⁵Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and the land raised his right hand towards heaven ⁶and swore by him who lives for ever, who created heaven and earth and the sea and everything in them: "There shall be no more delay; ⁷when the time comes for the seventh angel to sound his trumpet, the hidden purpose of God will have been fulfilled, as he promised to his servants the prophets."

⁸The voice which I had heard from heaven began speaking to me again; it said, "Go and take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and the land." ⁹I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He answered, "Take it, and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will taste as sweet as honey." ¹⁰I took the scroll from the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it did taste as sweet as honey, but when I swallowed it my stomach turned sour.

¹¹Then I was told, "Once again you must utter prophecies over many nations, races, languages, and kings."

7:3 n. 7: Like horses: Joel 2:4. 8: Teeth like lions': Joel 1:6. 9: Chariots: Joel 2:5. 11: Abaddon (or, Destruction) in the OT is equivalent to Sheol or Hades; see Job 26:6; 28:22; Prov. 15:11. 13: Golden altar: see Exod. 30:1-3. 14: The four angels (not those in 7:2) are here at the Euphrates, whence Rome feared a Parthian invasion; compare "the kings from the east" in 16:12. 20: Compare the view of idolatry here with Ps. 115:4-7; 135:15-17; Dan. 5:23. As frequently in the Bible, idolatry leads (v. 21) to further sin. 10:1-11:14: The little scroll and the two witnesses. This section falls between the sixth and seventh trumpets. 4: Put under seal . . . do not write: see Dan. 12:4, 9. 5-6: The angel . . . swore: Dan. 12:7. 8-10: On the eating of the scroll compare Ezek. 2:8-3.3. 11: The writer's sweet-sour (vv. 8-10; sweet for the faithful,

[The seven trumpets]

11 I was given a long cane to use as a measuring rod, and was told: "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshippers." ²But leave the outer court of the temple out of your measurements; it has been given over to the Gentiles, and for forty-two months they will trample the Holy City underfoot. ³I will give my two witnesses authority to prophesy, dressed in sackcloth. ⁴They are the two olive trees and the two lamps that stand in the presence of the Lord of the earth. ⁵If anyone tries to injure them, fire issues from their mouths and consumes their enemies; so shall anyone who tries to do them injury. ⁶These two have the power to shut up the sky, so that no rain falls during the time of their prophesying; and they have power to turn water into blood and to afflict the earth with every kind of plague whenever they like. ⁷But when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war on them and will overcome and kill them. ⁸Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, whose name in prophetic language is Sodom, or Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹For three and a half days people from every nation and tribe, and race, and people, will gaze on their corpses and refuse them burial. ¹⁰The earth's inhabitants grieve over them; they celebrate and exchange presents; for these two prophets were a torment to them. ¹¹But at the end of the three and a half days the breath of life from God came into their bodies, and they rose to their feet, to the terror of those who saw them. ¹²A

sour for the faithful) prophecies (see Jer. 1:10) unfold in chs. 12-22. 11:1-14: The scene 1: Measure the temple: see Ezek. 40:3-42:20; Zech. 2:1-5. 2: Forty-two months is equivalent or three and a half years, or "a time and times and half a time"; see Dan. 7:25 n.; 9:27 n.; 12:7. seven years in half, with three and a half years of acute persecution prior to 168 B.C.E. (who be regarded as foreshadowing the time of the Antichrist. 3-6: Two witnesses: probably Elijah (Mal. 4:5-6) and Moses (see Exod. 7:17-21; Deut. 18:15-18). compare Mk. 9:11-13. I trees and lamps (though in Zech. ch. 4 these symbols represent Zerubbabel and Joshua). 7: The abyss: see 17:7-8 n. 8: The great city . . . Sodom, or Egypt, is here Jerusalem; see Isa. 1:9-11. 11:15-19: The seventh trumpet brings the heavenly proclamation of God's sovereignty, indicating the final woe of chs. 12-19. 15: Our Lord and his Christ: note v. 18.

REY

loud voice from heaven to them, "Come up here!" and heaven in a cloud, in full view. ¹³At that moment I saw a great earthquake, and a tenth of the earth was thrown down. Seven thousand people were killed. ¹⁴The second woe has now come. ¹⁵Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl. Voices in heaven were heard, saying:

"Sovereignty over the world has now come to our Lord and his Christ; for ever!"

¹⁶The twenty-four elders, who were seated around the throne before God, prostrated themselves before him in adoration, saying:

"O Lord God, sovereign and you were; we give you glory and honor and power upon your reign. ¹⁸The wrath, but your day of wrath is now. Now is the time for reward and for the punishment of your servants; the prophet people, and to all who honor both small and great, now destroy those who destroy you."

¹⁹God's sanctuary in heaven was seen within his sanctuary was seen covenant. There came flashes

11:1-14: The scene 1: Measure the temple: see Ezek. 40:3-42:20; Zech. 2:1-5. 2: Forty-two months is equivalent or three and a half years, or "a time and times and half a time"; see Dan. 7:25 n.; 9:27 n.; 12:7. seven years in half, with three and a half years of acute persecution prior to 168 B.C.E. (who be regarded as foreshadowing the time of the Antichrist. 3-6: Two witnesses: probably Elijah (Mal. 4:5-6) and Moses (see Exod. 7:17-21; Deut. 18:15-18). compare Mk. 9:11-13. I trees and lamps (though in Zech. ch. 4 these symbols represent Zerubbabel and Joshua). 7: The abyss: see 17:7-8 n. 8: The great city . . . Sodom, or Egypt, is here Jerusalem; see Isa. 1:9-11. 11:15-19: The seventh trumpet brings the heavenly proclamation of God's sovereignty, indicating the final woe of chs. 12-19. 15: Our Lord and his Christ: note v. 18.

1 earthquake, and a

visions

appeared a great woman robed with the moon, and on the stars.² She was d in the anguish of it to be delivered. reared in heaven: a ith seven heads and ere seven diadems, down a third of the t them to the earth. t of the woman who that when her child r it.⁵ But when she, who is destined to d of iron, the child and to his throne. into the wilderness, ed after for twelve n a place prepared in heaven; Michael against the dragon. is fought back,⁸ but y lost their place in agon was thrown t who led the whole e is the Devil, or to the earth, and

d, and dragon. The struggle between Satan and God's people is described in a widespread ancient myth. 1: Here, the woman represents Israel from whom the twelve tribes. 2: *The anguish of her labour*: see Isa. 66:7; Mic. 4:9–10. (see v. 9; compare descriptions of the beast in 13:1). *Ten horns*: see Dan. 2:31; *ascribed to rule all nations* (see 2:27, 19:15; Ps. 2:9); reference is made only to women, now probably seen as Jewish Christians, is to be safe during the three execution (see v. 14; 11:2 n.; compare Mk. 13:14–20; 7–17: Though still active in dragon is portrayed as defeated (see Lk. 10:18; Jn. 12:31). 7: The archangel (see Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1). 9: *That ancient serpent*: an allusion to Gen. 3:1, v. see Job 1:6–12; Zech. 3:1. 11: *Sacrifice of the lamb*: lit. blood; see 5:9 n. 12: v. Isa. 44:23; 49:13. 14: *Wings of a mighty eagle*: see Exod. 19:4, 17: The rest title Christians; Jewish Christians are 'sealed' but others must bear 'the great

[Seven visions]

¹⁰ I heard a loud voice in heaven proclaim: 'This is the time of victory for our God, the time of his power and sovereignty, when his Christ comes to his rightful rule! For the accuser of our brothers, he who day and night accused them before our God, is overthrown. ¹¹ By the sacrifice of the Lamb and by the witness they bore, they have conquered him; faced with death they did not cling to life. ¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you that dwell in them! But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, knowing that his time is short!' ¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But she was given the wings of a mighty eagle, so that she could fly to her place in the wilderness where she was to be looked after for three and a half years, out of reach of the serpent. ¹⁵ From his mouth the serpent spewed a flood of water after the woman to sweep her away with its spate. ¹⁶ But the earth came to her rescue: it opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon spewed from his mouth. ¹⁷ Furious with the woman, the dragon went off to wage war on the rest of her offspring, those who keep God's commandments and maintain their witness to Jesus. ¹⁸ He took his stand on the seashore. Then I saw a beast rising out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads; on the horns

12:11 the witness they bore: or the word of God to which they bore witness.

[Seven visions]

were ten diadems, and on each head was a blasphemous name. ² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but its feet were like a bear's and its mouth like a lion's. The dragon conferred on it his own power, his throne, and great authority. ³ One of the heads seemed to have been given a death blow, yet its mortal wound was healed. The whole world went after the beast in wondering admiration, ⁴ and worshipped the dragon because he had conferred his authority on the beast; they worshipped the beast also. 'Who is like the beast?' they said. 'Who can fight against it?' ⁵ The beast was allowed to mouth bombast and blasphemy, and was granted permission to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ It uttered blasphemies against God, reviling his name and his dwelling-place, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was also allowed to wage war on God's people and to defeat them, and it was granted authority over every tribe, nation, language, and race. ⁸ All the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, all whose names have not been written in the book of life of the Lamb, slain since the foundation of the world.

⁹ You have ears, so hear! ¹⁰ Whoever is to be made prisoner, to prison he shall go; whoever is to be slain by the sword, by the sword he must be slain. This calls for the endurance and faithfulness of God's people. ¹¹ Then I saw another beast; it came up out of the earth, and had two horns like a lamb's, but spoke like a dragon. ¹² It wielded all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship this first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed. ¹³ It worked great miracles, even making fire come down from heaven to

earth, where people could see it. ¹⁴ By the miracles it was allowed to perform in the presence of the beast it deluded the inhabitants of the earth, and persuaded them to erect an image in honour of the beast which had been wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ It was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that it could even speak and cause all who would not worship the image to be put to death. ¹⁶ It caused everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free man and slave, to have a mark put on his right hand or his forehead, ¹⁷ and no one was allowed to buy or sell unless he bore this beast's mark, either name or number. ¹⁸ (This calls for skill; let anyone who has intelligence work out the number of the beast, for the number represents a man's name, and the numerical value of its letters is six hundred and sixty-six.)

14 I looked, and there on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him were a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. ² I heard a sound from heaven like a mighty torrent or a great peal of thunder; what I heard was like harpists playing on their harps. ³ They were singing a new song before the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, and no one could learn it except the hundred and forty-four thousand ransomed from the earth. ⁴ These are men who have kept themselves chaste and have not defiled themselves with women; these follow the Lamb wherever he ^{13:8 written ... world: or written, since the foundation of the world, in the book of life of the slain Lamb. 13:10 whoever ... slain by the sword: or whoever takes the sword to slay. 13:18 the numerical ... letters: lit. his number.}

REVELATION 14:4

claimed by the emperor. 2: On the animals, see Dan. 7:4–6. *The dragon ... conferred ... power*: i.e. Satan works through the beast. 3: *Death blow ... wound was healed* (see v. 12, 14) points to Nero's rumored survival of suicide and return (see 17:8; compare with Jesus in 1:18; 5:6). 5: *Bombast*: boastful words (see Dan. 7:8). *Forty-two months*: see 11:2 n. 7: Compare with Jesus in 1:18; 5:6. 8: *Book of life*: see 3:5 n. ('roll of the living'). 9–10: This may indicate that Christians are not to strike a blow in their own defense, compare Matt. 26:52; Jer. 15:2. 11–18: The second beast (called 'the false prophet' in 19:20) may refer to the priesthood that supported emperor worship (see v. 12); compare Dan. 3:1–7, 2 Thess. 2:9–10. 16: *A mark put on*: compare the marking of the faithful (see 7:3, 14:1). 18: In Heb. the letters of the name 'Nero Caesar' have numerical values which total six hundred and sixty-six. **14:1–20: Three visions of reassurance, admonition, and the harvest.** 1–5: The ransomed (v. 3). 1: *Mount Zion*: the heavenly Jerusalem; see Heb. 12:22. *A hundred and forty-four thousand*: here, not Israel (as in 7:4–8), but those ransomed from the earth (v. 3). 3: *A new song*: see 5:8–10. 4: *Chaste*: lit. virgins. It may mean celibacy, either literally or symbolically (see 2:20–22; compare 2 Cor. 11:2; Matt. 19:12); it could refer to abstinence from such pollutions as are prohibited in Deut. 27:20–30. *Firstfruits*: see Exod. 23:19; Jas. 1:18.

REVELATION 19:2

Hallelujah! Victory and glory and power belong to our God,² for true and just are his judgements! He has condemned the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication; he has taken vengeance on her for the blood of his servants.

Once more they shouted:

Hallelujah! The smoke from her burning will rise for ever!

HERE came a voice from the throne saying: raise our God, all you his servants, you that sit him, both small and great!^e And I heard at sound like a vast throng, like the und of a mighty torrent or of great peals of under, and they cried:

Haile Selassie, the Lord our God, sovereign over all, has entered on his reign!¹⁷ Let us rejoice and shout for joy and pay homage to him, for the wedding day of the Lamb has come! His bride has made herself ready,¹⁸ and she has been given fine linen, shining and clean, to wear.

he fine men signifies the righteous deeds
(God's people.)

He again said to me, "Write this: 'Happily those who are invited to the wedding banquet of the Lamb!'" He added, "These are the very words of God." 101 Prostrated myself to worship him, but he said, "You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your brothers who bear their witness to Jesus. It is God you must worship. For those who bear witness to Jesus have the spirit of prophecy."

19.6–10: The marriage of the Lamb. 7–8: The OT bride of the Lamb is the church (compare 2 Cor. 11:2). There is to be no worship of angelic beings; see 22.8–9; C

ment dyed in blood: see Isa. 63.1–6. The word of iron: Ps. 2.9. *Winepress*: see 14.10 n. 17–18. Compare Ezek. 39.17–20. 19: The final battle anticipated in 12.1–15: The events of the last judgment. 2–4: W. v. 5) are to rise and reign with Christ (following a

[The destruction of Babylon]

More visions

¹¹I saw heaven wide open, and a white horse appeared; its rider's name was Faithful and True, for he is just in judgement and just in war. ¹²His eyes flamed like fire, and on his head were many diadems. Written on him was a name known to none but himself. ¹³He was robed in a garment dyed in blood, and he was called the World of God. ¹⁴The armies of heaven followed him, riding on white horses and clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵Out of his mouth came a sharp sword to smite the nations; for it is he who will rule them with a rod of iron, and tread the winepress of the fierce wrath of God the sovereign Lord. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh was written the title: 'King of kings and Lord of lords.'

19 I saw an angel standing in the sun. He cried aloud to all the birds flying in mid-heaven: 'Come, gather together for God's great banquet,¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, commanders, and warriors, the flesh of horses and their riders, the flesh of all the free and the slave, the small and the great!'

20 I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies mustered to do battle against the rider and his army.²⁰ The beast was taken prisoner, along with the false prophet who had worked miracles in its presence and deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire with its sulphurous flames.²¹ The rest were killed by the sword which came out of the rider's mouth, and the birds all gorged themselves on their flesh.

21 I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand.²² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the Devil, or Satan, and chained him up for a thousand years,³ he threw him into the abyss, shutting and sealing it over him, so that he might not

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...I saw infants, and on them sat those to whom sinning was committed. I saw the souls of those who, for the sake of God's word and their witness to Jesus, had been beheaded, those who had not worshipped the beast and its image or received its mark on forehead or hand. They came to life again and reigned with Christ for a thousand years,⁵ though the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in this first resurrection! Over them the second death has no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him for the thousand years.

When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be let loose from his prison,⁸ and he will come out to seduce the nations in the four quarters of the earth. He will mislead them for war, the hosts of Gog and Magog, countless as the sands of the sea.⁹ They marched over the breadth of the land and laid siege to the camp of God's people and the city that he loves. But fire came down on them from heaven and consumed them. Their seducer, the Devil, was flung into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been flung to be tortured day and night for ever.

¹¹ I saw a great, white throne, and the One who sits upon it. From his presence earth and heaven fled away, and there was no room for them any more. ¹² I saw the dead, great and

millennium' (from Latin *mille*, 'thousand,' and *annus*, 'year'; Matt. 9: 28; Lk. 22: 30). **6:** The second death: defined as follows by the Babylonian legend of Tiamat, the sea monster who was defeated again by Marduk, the god of light. **8:** To depict a final siege of the city, i.e., Jerusalem (*v.* 9), identified with the nations who gather for the final battle against the king of the North. **10:** The Devil, beast, and false prophet are depicted as attacking Jerusalem during the final assault on the books (see 3: 5 n.; compare Dan. 7: 9–10; Matt. 16: 16).

small standing before the throne; at once the doors were opened. Then another book, the book of life, was opened. The dead were brought up by what they had done, as recorded in the books.¹³ The sea gave up the dead it held in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead they held in their keeping. Everyone was judged according to his deeds.¹⁴ Then Death, Hades and those who were flung into the lake of fire were flung into the second death,¹⁵ into the lake of fire. But anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life.

21 I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished, and there was no any sea. ²² I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ready like a bride adorned for her husband. ²³ I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne: "Now God has his dwelling with men! He will dwell among them and be their God, and God himself will be with them and be with them." "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There shall be no end to their mourning and crying, and pain, for the order of the world has passed away."

[illegible]

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fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars of every kind, the lake that burns with sulphurous flames will be their portion, and that is the second death.⁹

The new Jerusalem

⁹One of the seven angels who held the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke to me. 'Come,' he said, 'and I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.'¹⁰ So in the spirit he carried me away to a great and lofty mountain, and showed me Jerusalem, the Holy City, coming down out of heaven from God.¹¹ It shone with the glory of God; it had the radiance of some priceless jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.¹² It had a great and lofty wall with twelve gates, at which were stationed twelve angels; on the gates were inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.¹³ There were three gates to the east, three to the north, three to the south, and three to the west.¹⁴ The city wall had twelve foundation-stones, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.¹⁵

¹⁵The angel who spoke with me carried a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.¹⁶ The city had four sides, and it was as wide as it was long. Measured by its rod, it was twelve thousand furlongs, its length and breadth and height being equal.¹⁷ Its wall was one hundred and forty-four cubits high, by human measurements, which the angel used.¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city itself was of pure gold, bright as clear glass.¹⁹ The foundations of the city wall were adorned with precious stones of every kind, the first of the foundation-stones being jasper, the second lapis lazuli, the third

chalcidony, the fourth emerald,²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth cornelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh turquoise, and the twelfth amethyst.²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate fashioned from a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like translucent glass.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple was the sovereign Lord God and the Lamb.²³ The city did not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.²⁴ By its light shall the nations walk, and to it the kings of the earth shall bring their splendour.²⁵ The gates of the city shall never be shut by day, nor will there be any night there.²⁶ The splendour and wealth of the nations shall be brought into it,²⁷ but nothing unclean shall enter, nor anyone whose ways are foul or false; only those shall enter whose names are inscribed in the Lamb's book of life.

²²Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb²³ down the middle of the city's street. On either side of the river stood a tree of life, which yields twelve crops of fruit, one for each month of the year. The leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations.²⁴ Every accused thing shall disappear. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants shall worship him; they shall see him face to face and bear his name on their foreheads.²⁵ There shall be no more night, nor will they need the light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will give them light; and they shall reign for ever.

Conclusion

⁶He said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord God who inspires the prophets has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.'⁷ And remember, I am coming soon!

Happy is the man who takes to heart the words of prophecy contained in this book!⁸ It was I, John, who heard and saw these things. When I had heard and seen them, I prostrated myself to worship the angel who had shown them to me.⁹ But he said, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your brothers the prophets and with those who take to heart the words of this book. It is God you must worship.'¹⁰ He told me, 'Do not seal up the words of the prophecy that are in this book, for the time of fulfilment is near.¹¹ Meanwhile, let the evildoers continue in their filth, but let the good persevere in their goodness and the holy continue in holiness.'

¹²I am coming soon, and bringing with me my recompense to repay everyone according to what he has done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

^{22:15} *perverts; lit. dogs.*

22:6-21: Final admonitions and promises. 6: Sent his angel; see 1.1, 22.16. 7: I am coming soon; see Introduction; 1.1, 4, 9, 9: You must not; see 19.10 n. 10: Do not seal up... 11: There is no time for change; compare Dan. 12.10. 12: Repay everyone; see 20.11. 13: Who wash their robes; see 7.14, 15. 14: Outside; compare Matt. 8.12. 15: I am coming soon; see 2.28; compare Num. 24.17. 17: The bride; see 19.7-8 n. 18: if anyone takes away; compare Deut. 4.2; 12.32. 20: Come, Lord Jesus; compare 1

¹⁴Happy are those who do these things, for they shall have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city.¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, the fornicators, the murderers, and all who love and practice falsehood.

¹⁶I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things for the church. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright star.¹⁷ 'Come!' let each hear who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes accept the water of life freely.¹⁸ I, John, give this witness to all who hear the words of this prophecy. If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues described in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the city, the Holy City, which is the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, which is the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, which is the New Jerusalem.

²⁰He who gives this testimony to all who hear the words of this prophecy.

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

10: Showed me... the Holy City; compare Ezek. 40.2, 12-14: The juxtaposition of twelve tribes (v. 12) and twelve apostles (v. 14) points to old and new covenant peoples; see 4.4 n. 15: A gold measuring rod; see Ezek. 40.5, 16: The dimensions correspond to the temple's Holy of Holies, but there is no longer to be a temple (see 21.22) and all (as priests; see 1.6 n.; Isa. 61.6), not only the high priest, have access to God. 18-20: Exod. 28.15-21; Isa. 54.11-12.
21.22-22.5: A city of light and life. 23: Did not need the sun; see Isa. 60.19, 24; Isa. 60.3, 5, 25; Isa. 60.11, 26; Isa. 60.3-9, 27: Nothing unclear; see Isa. 52.1, 22.1: The river of the water of life; compare Ezek. 47.1-12, where it flows from the temple; here it flows from the throne (see Zech. 1.4, 7-8). 2: A tree of life; see 2.7 n.; Ezek. 47.7: Healing of the nations; compare Ezek. 47.12, Sept.; also Isa. 49.6, 3: Every accused thing shall disappear; in Gen. 3.17-18 it is humanity that is accursed; now humankind is redeemed in a new paradise with access to the tree of life. 4: See... face to face; Ps. 17.15, 1 Cor. 13.12. Name on their foreheads; see 3.12 n.; in Exod. 28.36-38 the high priest has 'Holy to the Lord' on his forehead, but now all are priests and bear God's name.