# Poems on Revelation



# By Rex H. Hendram

The book edition of these poems is available from the author at a modest price. Interested parties please contact <a href="mailto:rexermalee@earthlink.net">rexermalee@earthlink.net</a>

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#### **Christ Pre-eminent**

Above all earthly kings or lords, The first born from the dead, Superior in all distinctions Displays his Father s love.

By cradle and the cross, now risen, But now exalted in glorification, Unveiling the Father and his love To suffering sinners for eternity.

With a message of grace and peace, A royal destiny with access to the Almighty God, an everlasting Kingdom abiding for ever.

Through the Son the Father speaks Let us hear him who reveals his Coming, judgment and assurance Who has come, who is, and is to come.

# John the Apostle

John the aged and honored was Banished from Ephesus to Patmos For denying emperor worship, And for saying, Jesus is Lord.

While on the Isle of Patmos, He suffered scorn, hatred and Hard labor, a partaker in tribulation With is brothers in Asia Minor.

But he was in the hands of One Who stills the tumults of the people As well as the waves of the sea that Beat upon the rocky coast of Patmos.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord & day, Sunday the first day of the Christian Week, commemorating the risen and Glorified Savior when he heard and saw.

#### **A Grotesque Figure**

Through symbolism we see the Full meaning of the vision and Assurance of God s blessings. There stood the triumphant Christ.

In humanness of our Lord s Person, Amidst the glory that surrounds Him, We are to think of him as a man; But what a man! What a figure!

Attired in a robe, hair White as wool. His eyes like blazing fire. His feet Like bronze glowing in a furnace And a voice of rushing water.

Holding seven stars, out of his mouth Came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun. What an intriguing figure!

He was clothed as a priest and king. His white hair meant holiness, The fiery eyes symbolized penetrating Vision. Bronzed feet symbolize strength.

The voice; authority over people And nations. His face *like the sun* Refers to his majesty. The stars are Pastors; Lamp-stands the churches.

# **The Living Christ**

A living, holy, majestic, omniscient, Authoritative, powerful Christ stands In the midst of the churches, and Holds their destiny in his hand.

And says stop fearing, I am the Living One; I was dead. And behold I am alive forever and ever! And I Hold the keys of death and the grave.

One should not fear to go any place Where Christ holds the key. We may Be persecuted, but He is still our king. Christ is alive and in control.

This glorified Christ dominates the Movement of the entire book of Of Revelation. Christ, the redeeming Lamb, is the victor in every sense.

#### The Church at Ephesus

Ephesus was a city of culture, A famed center of pagan Worship and the ancient Temple Of Artemis known everywhere.

But Christ Jesus, omnipotent and Omnipresent, was aware of the Church in Ephesus which received Praise, complaint and promise.

She had been active and loyal to To the Faith, but in time had lost her *First Love;* love for God and each Other while fighting over doctrine.

Many churches have lost their Pristine purity and love while Scrapping and needling over Strict doctrinal concerns.

They had fallen, and the journey Back was to *repent and do the things They did at first*, or they will die out. Churches can be half-dead and live.

The risen Christ makes a great Promise to those who overcome; They enter into the blessedness Of the righteous kingdom of God.

#### The Poor Rich Church

The Smyrna Church by persecution Lost all their material possessions, But Christ brings encouragement And declares, *They are rich*.

The Jews in the city daily Taunted the church because They hated Christianity, and The persecution was great.

Christ said, *I know the slander*Of those who say they are Jews
And are not, but are a synagogue *Of Satan*; the Devil s people.

While this church suffered a deluge Of temptation to renounce their Religion, they remained loyal And faithful to their blessed Lord.

If they continue faithful even to the Point of death, the Lord **will** *give* Them *the crown of life*. Death is Not to be feared.

The unbeliever dies to face another death. A believer dies and finds eternal life.

#### Hell s Headquarters

The city of Pergamum was the Headquarters for emperor worship, And therefore unrelenting in the Persecution of Christians.

The church is commended for Honoring Christ as their Lord Rather than saying Caesar is lord. It was a real test of loyalty.

But the teaching of Balaam, making Material gain at the cost of spiritual Loss, and there was emperor worship Plus the heresy of Nicolaitans.

The Lord comes with the sword of Mouth; keen and accurate judgment On the ones who deal with false Teachers and their iniquity.

Christ warns the church to repent of It s'toleration of sin. In overcoming, I will give them hidden manna and A white stone with a new name written.

# Wait for the Morning Star

The same heresy at Pergamum Affected the church at Thyatira. The Lord with piercing eyes like A flame of fire speaks to the church.

He sees the services rendered To God, their faith, love, fidelity, Patience and for progress in their Work since their beginning.

The church is growing in grace, But the Lord has a complaint for They harbor one guilty of heresy Suffering the woman Jezebel.

This corrupt woman was misleading Christians and seducing them to Fornication and breaking vows with God. She will meet destruction.

The true church is not guilty of heresy, But they condone it. Overcoming, The morning star, Jesus Christ, will Guide in the dark hours of trials.

The heathen element clouded the sky But the clouds shall disappear and Jesus And the church shall shine together with It s'peaceful light forever.

#### Sardis: Dead or Alive?

There was little to commend and Much to complain. I know your deeds; You have a reputation of being alive, But you are dead. Wake up!

There was no life, no real zeal, but Organization. Someone has said, there Are few things better organized than Graveyards. Christ said they were dead.

Their deeds were not complete in In the sight of God, and they must Obey and repent. If not, I will come *Like a thief in a time you know not.* 

However, there was a faithful Nucleus who had not defiled Their garments. The faithful were To be arrayed in *white garments*.

Those who overcome will be given White robes as a symbol of purity. There names will never be blotted From the book of life.

#### The Church with an Open Door

The Lord King, Jesus Christ, holds The keys to the kingdom of God. Which means the keys of power To open the Lord s house for refuge.

Philadelphia, a small church, had Little power and influence, but It had an *open door* as a refuge for Saving sinners from spiritual death..

They had not denied his name Jesus Christ which meant savior, God s' Anointed one. They had been faithful. But warned; to keep their *crown*.

Hold fast to His name, his word, His patience, his promise to return. *Hear what I say, I am coming soon.* The Lord will admit her to His house.

And he will make her a pillar in His Father s house. Jesus dies no more, And they who have born His cross Shall wear the crown of victory.

#### The Church with a Closed Door

Of the seven churches there is nothing Good said about Laodicea. Their Spirituality was lethargic. *I know Your deeds; Neither hot nor cold.* 

With your attitude of indifference, *I will spit you out of my mouth*. A tepid church is the most difficult. It Is easier to deal with a frozen church.

They were proud, arrogant, rich, and Therefore had need of nothing. You Say I am rich, but you are wretched, Pitiful poor, blind and naked.

Spiritually, they were poverty stricken. But didn t know it. Blind but knew it not. Naked and cared not. Christ stood knocking And calling, but the door was closed.

He that overcomes will sit with me In my Father s house. He who has An ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

#### The Glory of God

Now comes the echo of the majestic Tread of the conquering Christ as He Marches in triumph through the ages, And now swings open a celestial door.

John sees the glory and majesty of God sitting on a throne appearing in *Jasper*, pure white, and *carnelian*, blood red Symbolizing holiness and righteousness.

A rainbow giving hope, and Twenty-four Elders on thrones symbolized comfort For persecuted Christians facing Cruel and imminent death.

From the throne came flashes of lightning, Rumblings and peals of thunder which shows God s'displeasure at the enemies of the cross. The seven lights refer to the Holy Spirit.

These visions brought fresh courage To churches. Though the enemies Of the Cross might rage, and heresy rife, Yet there was hope because God reigns.

#### **Glory to God the Creator**

This section gives glory to God From created beings. Redemption Has not appeared in the drama. It is unapproachable majesty.

The crystal sea before the throne Bars the way to God. It symbolizes The transcendence of God. In Revelation 21:1 *the sea is no more*.

And Christians are in direct fellowship With God. The persecuted Christians Were separated from God, but this Was not always to be.

The four living creatures around the Throne, means all God s'creatures Are worshipping him. They are ever Watchful to praise and adore Him.

Day and night they never stop saying,

Holy, holy, holy

Is the Lord God Almighty,

Who was, and is, and is to come.

# **The Song of Creation**

The praise is twofold. First the Living creatures speak of glory And honor, and thanks unto the Sovereign eternal God.

Then the twenty-four elders Representing redeemed humanity Fall before the throne of God, and Remove their crowns and praise

Him for his great creative power.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.

The invincible sovereign God is the Point of emphasis in this chapter. Encouragement is given all Christians Since God is their defender.

# **The Redeeming Lamb**

John has seen the throne room of heaven Where all creation sang praises to God For the power of the Creator who made The universe out of nothing.

John sees the triumphant Christ Marching through the ages. The cradle, The cross and resurrection are behind. He is glorified and worthy of honor.

A roll is held in God s'strong hand Which was written within and without Close sealed. It appears the book is One of judgment against the sins of men.

Who is worthy to break the seals
And open the scroll? No such person
Can be discovered either in heaven,
Or on the earth, or under the earth.

And John wept loudly until an elder Forbade him to weep longer. For the Worthy One, the Lamb, cruelly pierced, And in dramatic perfect takes the scroll.

#### The Redeeming Lamb (2)

In the preceding poem we saw the Power of God who created the universe Out of nothing. This poem reveals The love of God as Redeemer.

The scroll written without and within, Was close sealed and held in God s' Strong right hand. But one like a slain Lamb came and took the book.

It appears to be a book of judgments Against sinful men. The destiny Of men is in the nail-pierced hands Of the Lamb who was slain.

All the inhabitants of heaven shouted And praised the Christ as they sang A new song.:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open it s'seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God .and they will reign on the earth.

# **The White Horse of Conquest**

Back of all history is God in Christ. In this book the hand of Christ opens The sealed book of God s'dealings With men. The seal denotes ownership.

The mystery of the Revelation Has begun to unfold dramatically. The first seal is opened by the Risen glorified Son of God.

Appearing on the stage is a White horse with his regal rider Wearing a crown and a bow in His hand which means *conquest*.

The rider is to be identified, And there are two main views: The rider represents Christ, or A military conquest.

Conquest always brings oppression. But the vision to the Christian Means that victory is coming. In God s hand there is deliverance.

#### The Blood-Red Horse

This flame-colored, blood-red Horse refers to strife and war, Slaying each other for the Purpose of removing peace.

This is what war does to perfection, It makes cannon fodder of men. The Jewish concept for the end time Was complete disintegration.

Brother against brother, neighbor Against neighbor, kingdom against Kingdom, stirring up anger and hate; But they will perish in so doing.

Hatred based on competitive Ambition and selfish desire Is doomed; nation against nation Is hastening to its end.

When evil marches across the Breath of the earth and surrounds
The camp of God & people, fire will
Come down from heaven and devour them.
(Rev. 20:9)

#### The Black Horse of Famine

When a living creature summons
The rider on the black horse to *Come*, he rides silently across
The stage carrying a balance or scale.

The black horse and the scale denotes Famine which follows war. The famine Was so great, that a man might live In semi-starvation, but no more.

Wheat and barley was measured and Wheat sold at \$6.40 a bushel, and Barley about \$2.00 per bushel, Twelve times the normal price.

A day s'wages for a man was 20 cents. While there was a shortage of grain, There was superabundance of wine Which was not a necessity.

When food was scarce and hunger Was stalking the land, there was No room for a luxury-loving Minority to withhold grain.

#### The Pale Horse and Pestilence

A pale, grim, gruesome, livid horse Rode across the stage whose name Was Death and Hades, the Region Of the Dead, which sought the prey.

The Greek word for Death also means Pestilence which always follows war And famine. Pestilence can destroy More than conquest, war and hunger.

Military Conquest, War, Famine, And Pestilence are forces God can Use to destroy the oppressors of His people. He protects His own.

The wicked are sunk down in the Pit that they made: in the net which They hid is their own foot taken.
This is the end of the first four seals.

# The Souls of the Martyrs

When the Lamb opens the fifth seal, The symbolism changes. We have been Observing the means of judgment: we Now look at the reason for judgment.

John sees the vision of the souls of the Martyrs who had died for their faith. Then shall they deliver you up to be **Afflicted and they shall kill you.** 

But the life-blood of the martyrs had Been poured as an offering and a Sacrifice to God. They cry out How long until you avenge our blood?

Wrath against sin is an essential Part of the righteousness of God And will not allow such evil to Go unavenged.

The martyrs were given white robe Symbolic of their victory and purity, And were told to be patient that Time wasn t ripe for retribution.

#### **The Shattered Universe**

God will shake the heavens and earth and the sea and the dry land, The earth will open, and fire will burst forth.

The sun becomes dark, the moon Blood-red, stars fall like figs, the Heavens fold up, mountains and Islands are removed.

And the rulers, the rich and slaves Hid in the caves wishing the rocks Would fall on them was preferable To facing an angry God.

Who ever escapes war will die In the earthquake; and whoever Escapes the earthquake will die In the fire or perish in the famine.

When time is coming to an end, This is a graphic way of God Expressing his wrath, and Judgment, On those oppressing his people.

#### Safely through the End Time

God s'people are not exempt from The terrible days ahead, but are Brought safely through it. Until the saints are sealed for

Eternal glory and protection, The forces of destruction are Held in restraint. The seals Bear the mark of God.

For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors

Through him who loves us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor

any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### The Seal of God

God s'people, brought through tribulation, Had God s'seal upon their foreheads In Ezekiel the man with the inkhorn Marked the forehead of those faithful.

Eastern kings wore a signet ring, A seal to mark their personal Documents and property. Here, the mark of the seal indicated

They belonged to God s power and His authority. Paul wrote about Being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit meant belonging to God.

The number 144,000 stands for Completeness of the Church of God Which is the new Israel. It includes Jews and Gentiles who are saved.

The number 144,000 means the Number of the saved will be Very, very great. It stands for Completeness and perfection.

#### The Praise of Angels

The martyrs have just sung their Shouts of praise to God, and the Angels take that song of praise and Make it their own. *So let it be.* 

Every syllable of praise answers To the greatness of God. They praise Him for *blessings*, goodness, and Kindness in creation and redemption.

They ascribed *glory* to God which Means giving gravity and seriousness To his Person, and for his works, and For being our Father and Lord of all.

He is praised for his fountain of *Wisdom*. They gave *Thanks for* Salvation and grace, and they gave *Honor* to His majesty.

They recognized God for his *power*; It s'use in loving men. They ascribe *Strength* to God *forever and ever*. Have you chosen that strength for life?

#### **Martyrs and Angels in Praise**

Early Jews who faith God is standing Around the throne, but also there are Those *from every nation, tribe, people And language wearing white robes.* 

As one they rejoice and everyone Around the throne join in praise: Salvation belongs to our God, who Sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

The elders, and the four living Creatures fell face down in worship. Saying: "Amen!" Praise and glory And wisdom and honor, power and

Strength belongs to our God. For these have come out of great Tribulation. Their robes are made White in the blood of the Lamb.

And God will wipe away every Tear from their eyes. A question Needs answering: will you allow God to wipe away your tears?

#### **Cleansing from Sin**

These are they who have come out of of the great tribulation; They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The point of this vision grants John To see beyond that terrible time, And the glory that will follow it; The tribulation of the end time.

The blessed ones around the Throne Were dressed in *white robes as opposed* To soiled robes. Isaiah writes, *All have Become unclean* ... *like filthy rags*.

The Psalmist prays to God to wash Him thoroughly until he is Whither than snow. *Made white In the blood of the Lamb.* 

It is the blood of Christ which cleanses us from all sin. We are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ purifies us from all sin.

#### The Blood of the Lamb

Much is said about the *blood* in The New Testament. The word blood Indicates death; the death of Jesus Christ. The word also means life.

The life and death of Jesus go Together. The blood stands for all Christ did for us in life and death. Through His blood we are cleansed.

It makes propitiation for us. Through the blood we are justified. We are redeemed by His precious blood. Through His blood we have peace.

It purges our conscience from dead Works to serve the living God. The shedding of his blood is based On *sacrifice designed* to restore.

It wins forgiveness of sins, Peace with God, enables us to Live a new life, and equips us For Heaven s'wonderful home.

# **Sacrifice and Acceptance**

They washed their robes and made *Them white*. The metaphor accents Man's part in salvation, but he Has to apply it, and how?

By turning from sin in Godly Sorrow, and believing that *Christ Died for our sins according to The Scripture*.

One must believe that Jesus died For our sins, and turning from sin, Ask Him to save you. *Everyone Who calls on the Lord will be saved.* 

The sacrifice has been made, but it Remains for a man to appropriate That sacrifice to himself. Only then Will you be saved and justified.

#### The Bliss of the Blessed

For many this is the passage For which the Revelation exists. Numerous people have found Comfort in the hour of death.

Jesus said, *I am the bread of life;* he that comes to me shall never hunger. If any man thirsts, let him come unto me and drink.

O Christ in you my soul has found, And found in you alone, The peace, the joy, I sought so long, The bliss till now unknown.

Now none but Christ can satisfy, No other name for me! There & love, and life, and lasting joy, Lord Jesus, found in you.

In Isaiah 49:10 is an Old Testament Dream finding it s perfect fulfillment In Jesus Christ. The ache of the body And heart is soothed in Him.

#### The Divine Shepherd

The Psalmist wrote, *The Lord is My Shepherd*. Isaiah pictured God Feeding his flock like a shepherd, And holding the lambs in his arms.

This was the title Jesus took for himself *I am the good shepherd*. Hebrews speaks Of Jesus that great shepherd of the sheep. Of the sheep. Do you know Him?

He became a sacrifice for us. He leads to fountains of living water. The trusting Psalmist said, *With thee Is the fountain of life*.

And God will wipe away every tear From their eyes. As he nourishes our Bodies, he also comforts our hearts, Or the sorrows would be unbearable.

God s'people possess peace, joy and Victory. Every want is supplied; Every sorrow healed, and every Tear is wiped away.

#### **Silence and Thunder**

Already John has seen the instruments Of judgment, the demand for it, terror Of the wicked, and provision for God s'people during judgment.

The trumpets are to announce the Next happening, But there is a Silence of breathless expectation, A trembling suspense and reverence.

The silence of Heaven's music And the thunder of revelation Is stilled while the whispered Prayers of the saints go up.

A man may be sin stained, with No sacrifice to bring to God, but Prayer is an excellent sacrifice On the altar of sincerity.

The prayers of the saints return *To the earth in wrath*. And there was Thunder, lightning and an earthquake, A partial judgment to wicked men.

# **Trumpets, Woes and Warnings**

The first four trumpets signals the Forces of nature hurled in judgment Against the world. The destruction Speaks of partial destruction.

John may have used the plagues That fell on Egypt and Pharaoh To allow the people to go, as his Imagery to convey warnings.

The rain looking like blood was Probably caused by the fine red Sands of the Sahara Desert caught In the upper air falling to earth.

The flaming mass falling into the Sea may be a volcanic eruption. So in this picture of terror man Has a preview of woes to come.

Remember this is figurative Language and not to be taken Literally, but God is revealing His judgment upon his enemies.

# **The Flying Eagle**

With great anticipation during
The quiet pause at midday, a lone
Eagle flew across mid sky screaming
In a loud voice *Woe! Woe!* 

Indicating that the next trumpet Blast would announce judgment Upon mankind. This announcement Came with dramatic effect.

Here we have a strange, dramatic Eerie picture of an empty sky And one solitary, winging eagle Giving a warning of doom to come.

The readers, while looking upon The charred waste before them, Senses the very worst to come. But God gives his warning to men.

#### **Demonic Horror**

The fifth trumpet brings the scourge Of locust. A huge star personified As *Destruction* opens the yawning Abyss, and smoke darkens the sun.

In *Revelation* the abyss is the Place of intermediate punishment For fallen angels, the beast, the False prophets and Satan.

The smoke which had darkened the Sun, turns out to be locust with Stingers like scorpions to torment Men until they desire to die.

They were told to harm only the Enemies of God, and to injure not God s'marked people. These are safe, While evil suffers their last chance.

God is faithful to the just and unjust. Believers are marked with God s'seal. In the visions the unjust have suffered, And given time but repent not.

Remember all the visions are Symbolic, and not to be taken Literally. They are a piling of Demonic horror upon horror.

## The Cavalry of Vengeance

Under the cruel, persecution Of Christians, at the hands of The Roman emperors, God sends Horrifying vengeance upon Rome.

First the demonic locusts were Allowed to injure, but not to kill. Now come the squadrons of demonic Cavalry with fierce vengeance.

As the sixth trumpet sounds, two Hundred million troops were Unleashed to kill a third of mankind. No one can withstand God s'wrath.

In the days of Noah a tremendous Flood took care of the antediluvians. We must remember that God s' Judgments accomplishes his will.

This vision symbolizes the *hellish Rottenness of the Roman Empire* Which brought about their downfall. God s'enemies will be destroyed.

# **The Feared Cavalry**

In John s time the Parthian Cavalry from the Euphrates Was the most destructive and Dreaded warriors in the world.

They seem to be armoured in flame For their breastplates were fiery red, And sulphurous yellow like the Brimstone from the pit of hell.

The horses breathed out destructive Fire and smoke and brimstone, with Serpent tails to hurt and harm. Part of the human race is destroyed.

One would think that the remainder Would take warning and repent. But they continued in demon and Devil worship, promoting evil.

# The Unutterable Revelation Between verses 10:1 and 11:15

There is a long interlude between The sixth and seventh trumpets With terrible things happening That ungodly men may repent.

John sees a strong angel radiantly Clad coming down out of heaven From the very presence of God With a message of warning.

The angel stands on sea and land Meaning he has a message for the Entire universe. He cries out Like the roar of a lion.

But first the seven thunders utter Their voices. Thunder is a warning, A premonition of judgment of Divine wrath. Then the angel speaks.

There shall be delay no longer. The warning of the sixth trumpet Had been sufficient. Since men Refused to repent, delay is over.

## **Delay No Longer**

John would have written more, But the angel said, *Stop writing*. Enough warnings have been given, *And Time shall be no more*.

Time is about to be ended, and Eternity is about to begin. Likely The meaning is the Antichrist Is about to burst upon the scene.

The hour has struck when the Antichrist will invade the earth. The scene is being set for Good And evil to face each other.

Final and total victory will Be won, and questions will Be answered, problems will Find solutions and wrongs righted.

Beyond the weirdness stands the truth That history is moving toward The inevitable triumph of God, And evil will be annihilated.

## **Joy and Sorrow**

John is told the second time to Take the *little book*, and he does. God s'revelation is never forced On any man. He must take it.

God s'messenger must be a willing Messenger, one who puts his Hand to the task, takes it into his Life and being part and parcel.

John takes the *little book*, and is Told to eat it assured of it s' Sweetness, *but bitter in his belly*. The word was true; it tasted sweet.

Then came a commission to prophesy From the book of woes and judgment, And it became bitter. The message From God was rejected.

It s'sweet to receive a message From God, but a message of warning, A threat, a foretelling of doom, Can become a bitter thing.

# **Measuring the Temple**

With the measuring rod John was To measure the Temple, the altar, And the worshipers for protecting The true spiritual Israel.

This is a vision of consolation For God s'own in contrast to the Condemnation for their oppressors. How wonderful the grace of God!

Forty-two is an indefinite number, An uncertain time of turmoil for The Christian Church who are Living stones, a spiritual house.

Know you not that you are the temple Of God . a holy temple? **These are to** Be preserved in the time of trial. Those Outside are doomed to destruction.

#### The Two Witnesses

John is writing in a time of Supreme and urgent need, and A message is needed to meet The severe circumstances.

The two witnesses whether Elijah And Moses is difficult to tell. But they would represent a witness Of powerful testimony.

It is assured that Gospel preaching Will be maintained even in the Face of fierce adversity when Power arose to crush the witness.

The two witnesses were killed, And left unburied that all may Gape at them. Was Christianity Crushed never to rise again?

Life was restored to the two Witnesses by divine power. It evidences the triumph of Christianity over a sinful world.

#### **Things to Come**

The witnesses were killed, but Restored by God s power. If a Sinful world is won to Christ, it Cannot be by force, but by love.

It must be by the acceptance of Suffering in the name of Christ. Here is the story of the Cross and Of the resurrection.

The seventh trumpet sounds and Heaven rejoiced. The kingdom Of the world has become the kingdom Of our Lord and of His Christ.

The twenty-four elders fell on their Faces and worshipped God.
Then comes the final attack of hostile Powers who will be defeated forever.

John knew victory belonged to our Lord and announces it ahead of time. He has used this method many Times —always very effectively.

#### The Mother and Her Child

John took all the signs of divinity And beauty and added them together In the mother s'description attired In the radiance of the sun.

The moon was her pedestal, and There were twelve stars for a crown. The child born to her was destined To rule the nations with a rod of iron.

He, the messiah, was caught up to Heaven as a protective measure And the woman fled to a place Of protection in the wilderness.

Then there is the great, scarlet, Flame colored dragon. His seven Heads and the ten horns signifies The mighty powers of the dragon.

The picture is man fallen in sin But always reaching for higher life, But evil frustrates his desire. The culmination is on the Cross.

#### The Forces at War

The dragon, the devil, leads the The forces of evil. His allies are The first and second beasts. The first Beast represents Domitian.

The Second beast represents the Committee to enforce emperor Worship. The Lamb symbolizes The *redeeming*, *victorious Christ*.

The dragon is so large with the dash Of his tail he can knock down the Stars from the heavens. Before a Helpless, pregnant woman he stands.

And makes efforts to destroy the Child. The devil appeared to be the victor When Christ was nailed to the Cross. But the devil lost that conflict.

This is apocalyptic imagery. A Battle is raging. Next, Satan Tries to invade heaven to destroy The Christ Child the son of God.

#### War in Heaven

As Satan tries to invade heaven, Michael and his angels fight. The battle raged. The devil was Defeated, and cast down to earth.

Heaven celebrates the victory
Of the Lamb for they overcame
Satan by the blood of the Lamb,
And by the word of their testimony.

Therefore rejoice, you heavens, But woe to the earth and sea Because the devil was hurled Down to earth.

Satan enraged makes war against The off spring of the woman who Had given birth to the Christ Child, But God gave her protection.

Satan who had lost three battles Now seeks to destroy the Church, the Body of Christ, and this persecution Has spread agony to all Christendom.

#### The Devil and the Beast

The dragon is the devil and the Roman Empire is symbolized by A beast which was like a leopard With bear s'feet and a lion s'mouth.

The Empire has the catlike vigilance, The craft and cruelty of the leopard Ready to spring upon its prey, and Strength of a bear to squeeze to death.

The Empire is like a lion whose roar Terrifies the flock. The symbolism Suits Rome in its attack upon the Christian Church. It is anti-God.

The dragon gave authority and Power to the beast and men worshipped It, and asked who is like the beast And who can make war against him?

The devil is always looking for a Hand to use. In this world a man And a nation have the choice between Satan and the instrument of God.

## The Christian s Only Weapons

In times of persecution, the Christian Has only two weapons steadfastness And loyalty. Jesus said, *they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.* 

Christians must accept all that being A Christian involves. It means taking Up a cross involving trial, scourging Imprisonment and even death.

Right can never be defended By doing wrong. An intolerable Paradox is using force to defend The Gospel of love.

The Christian has two weapons he Can use, steadfastness and loyalty. It means accepting the worst And turning it into glory.

Christian must present to all men The steadfastness and the loyalty To Jesus Christ which is not moved By fear or favor of men.

#### **The Second Beast**

In league with the dragon (devil), And the first beast (emperor) to To enforce emperor worship. Severe consequence followed.

Those who would not worship the first Beast were marked and forbidden to buy, Or sell in the market place. Let s'gaze at the second beast.

He had two horns like a lamb an Outward religious appearance; The lamb was a religious symbol. He speaks with diabolical authority.

His power was derived from the Roman state or the Emperor. He was to enforce state religion With power to enforce homage.

So we see tree members of the forces Of evil. There is the dragon identified With the devil. The first beast identified As the wicked emperor Domitian.

The second beast is identified With state religion to enforce Emperor worship. There is a force Which overcomes the forces of evil.

#### The Father s Own

In this chapter we look upon a scene Bright and glorious as the last One was dark and portentous. Now, We see God and the heavenly hosts.

The devil had two instruments to Use in battle: the first and second Beast, but God has the Lamb, Christ, and The sickle, God s judgment.

The Lamb standing on Mount Zion. Refers to the triumph of Christ Safe with his redeemed who have Godly marks on their foreheads.

With exceeding joy, they sang A new victory song, known only By the redeemed with the Lamb Who had kept themselves undefiled.

There is no doubt of the outcome Of the battle when the Lamb is safe On Mount Zion with a perfect number Of the redeemed with him.

#### **The Imitation of Christ**

The company of the Lamb are Those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. A Christian is to follow Jesus Christ. *Follow me* were His words.

He said to Philip and to Matthew, Follow me. Follow me He said To the rich young rule. He left us An example, said Peter, follow Him.

John says three things about the company Of the Lamb: They are a sacrifice To God. They speak no guile. And they are without blemish.

The Church must be like the Lamb Without sport or blemish. Life is A gift, a sacrifice, an offering To God, and by necessity be clean.

## **The Angels Bring Good Tidings**

Tree angels have exciting messages. One speaks of *eternal good tidings* Of God s victory. Men are to fear God and give Him glory.

The second angel announces the Doom of imperial Rome. Babylon Is used to represent evil and Rome As if it had already fallen.

The third angel announces the Destruction of those who have Worshipped the emperor. These Are marked for the wrath of God.

The undiluted wrath of God consist Of torment with fire and burning Sulphur. The smoke of their torment Goes up forever, day and night.

There is more about hell in the Bible than there is about heaven. That is God s'warning to men Who are on the wrong road.

#### A Voice from Heaven

One with divine authority speaks from Heaven; It is God s'statement not Just John s.' It is a beatitude concerning Death and rest for the Christian.

Having toiled under great adversity, They shall rest from their labors, They shall be refreshed. Jesus said, Come unto me... and I will give you rest.

Thomas Gray wrote with anticipation Of home, and finding refreshment from Labors, *The plowman homeward plods his weary way*. He is promised rest.

We do not go home empty handed For it is said, *Their works do follow With them.* When we die triumphantly In the Lord we do not go empty-handed.

We have not lost our works, nor saved As by fire. We make an abundant Entrance with genuine Christian Works for our blessed Lord.

## The Harvest of Judgment

There are three things one cannot Escape, taxes, death and judgment. *Daniel* 7:13,14 depicts judgment So John uses the same picture.

Judgment is crafted in terms of Harvesting. The sickle symbolizes Divine judgment. The sickle reaps The clusters of the ripe grape harvest.

The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered it s grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God s wrath, and He trampled them in His fury.

The blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses bridle
For a distance of two hundred miles.
Terrible, but it describes full judgment.

Truth is spoken, but do not take literally. The risen Christ collects his own for Glory, and the avenging angel collects The wicked for judgment.

#### **The Victors of Christ**

Before the seven bowls of wrath Are poured out, an interlude Comes between symbols six and Seven but only for a brief period.

Now there is an interlude of praise And thanksgiving of the redeemed As they sing the song of Moses and The Lamb. The martyrs are safe.

They died the most savage and cruel, And agonizing deaths. To them death Was a greater victory than survival. Now they are seen as victors.

The real victory is to face the worst That evil can do, and if need be, Be faithful unto death and the Merciful Father will give glory.

Jesus said, Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. Now the martyrs rejoice in heaven.

## The Song of Victory

The triumphant martyrs about the throne sing the song of Moses And the Lamb (Ex. 15:1-18). It Was stamped upon their memory.

There is not a single word in it About their own victory and their Achievement. The whole song is An outburst on the greatness of God.

## In the perfect vision of God, self

Is wholly forgotten. And they Sing this grand doxology of His Presence and superb greatness.

Heaven is heaven because in it Self and self importance are lost In the presence of the greatness And the glory of God.

## The Unapproachable Glory

Glory carries with it the gravity, The weigh, the majesty and the Grace of God eternal. His glory Was symbolized by concealing smoke.

The glory of God filled the *Tabernacle*, and *Moses was unable* To enter the tent of the congregation *Because of the glory of God*.

The holiness and the glory Of God are such that man in his Own right and in his own merit Can never approach God.

No man could come into the temple Until the plagues have worked their Judgment. The righteousness of God Must go out in avenging justice.

And there is nothing that can be Done to halt it or to turn it back, Until it has completed it s purpose. Prayer can not halt the judgment.

## **Retributive Justice**

These seven bowls of wrath are Poured out in the final vindication Of God's retributive justice with woes Upon nature and woes upon man.

These bowls are for final retribution *The great voice out of the temple,* God s voice of authority, summons The visitation of divine wrath.

The first bowls of wrath affect nature: A plague upon the land, upon the sea, Upon the fresh water and the fourth Upon the sun. These cover all of nature.

The heartless persecutors were Compelled to drink the blood they Had so ruthlessly shed. John saw Them as blood-thirsty monsters.

The fifth bowl was poured out upon
The throne of the beast. His kingdom
Was darkened; Great pain was suffered.
They gnawed their tongues in great anguish.

The sixth bowl was emptied upon the Euphrates River which dried the river, And hordes of eastern enemies brought Horror to pagans and Christians.

#### Satan & Recruiting Agents

These frogs were unclean spirits coming Out of the mouths of the evil forces, Satan the Devil, the beast, the Roman Empire, and the false prophet.

The name false prophet covers a Whole class: magic-vendors, religious Impostors, fanatics, and deceivers Falsely interpreting the mind of God.

True religion has no worse enemies, And Satan no better allies. He introduces worship of other gods And seduce men from true worship.

These three frogs, Satan s'allies, Went out and stirred up the kings Of the earth to fight against the Parthians who are invading Rome.

This paragraph is symbolical. It pictures the devil, the emperor. The first and second beasts to do Battle against the righteous forces.

#### Armageddon

The forces of evil gather to Armageddon located on the planes Of Esdraelon or the Mountain of Megiddo for the final battle.

On the Armageddon battlefield Great Hebrew battles were fought: Gideon defeated the Midianites, King Saul was defeated by the Philistines.

Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanite king, Jabin. John foresees The final battle between God and Evil on this famous battlefield.

Righteousness and evil engage in Deadly combat. Remember, this is Not a material sword and spear battle. It would go against the New Testament.

Jesus s'word is the sword of the Spirit, The Word of God. If one expects This to be a material battle, he must Think the army heads are frogs.

#### The Seventh Bowl

The seventh bowl is poured out, Revealing that all the forces of evil Cannot defeat the cause of righteousness. And John heard a voice, *It is done!* 

In this final manifestation of Divine wrath —thunder, lightning, Voices, and an earthquake-- the city Of Rome was overthrown.

Babylon, known as Rome, was the Supreme anti-divine world power. The earthquake, God s'destructive power, Leveled Rome s'strongholds.

From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. They turned not to God, but cursed Him, and repented not.

The most terrible situation in life Is when almighty God is powerless To gain an entry into the human heart. Men can lock their hearts against God.

Each person has the tremendous Responsibility for their own soul. How about yours? Have you opened Your heart to God s'saving grace?

#### Rome Becomes a Harlot

Rome is described as the great Harlot. In the Old Testament Heathen, immoral, godless cities Are described as harlots.

Nineveh was called the well Favored harlot. It is said of, Jerusalem, *How is the faithful city become a harlot*.

Ezekiel charged: *Thou didst trust* in thine own beauty and playest the harlot. Rome is called a harlot. Because she prostituted herself with devils.

When we give something other than God the first place in our lives, it Is sin against love. It is infidelity. It thinks of God as the lover.

Rome is called the great harlot, Because she is *an allurement To Godlessness and immorality*. She invites and seduces others to sin.

Nations shared in the idolatries, And in the vices of Rome, because She taught them to sin, and that Is why her judgment is so complete.

#### The Vision in the Wilderness

For John to see clearly this great Vision, an angel carries him away To a desert place to see the vision. Like this, great men saw their vision.

It was Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, And Jesus who regained courage and Faith when in the desert. In the Wilderness Jesus settled his ministry.

It could well be that there is not Enough quietness and loneliness In our lives to receive the message Which God is eager to give to us.

When a man lives in the Spirit, His horizons are widened to see The trends of history in the dim Future because they live in the Spirit.

#### The Scarlet Woman

Here Rome is pictured as a great Harlot, one of many scenes to Portray the fate of Rome who is Guilty of spiritual fornication.

She practices her fornication With kings of the earth, and they Drink from her cup of evil, and Are seduced to emperor worship.

She is seated upon a scarlet-Colored beast, the Empire which Supports this wicked city, and attired In luxurious haughty splendor.

Her name is written upon her Forehead, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and Of abominations of the earth.

She is the great harlot responsible For the idol-emperor worship, and The mother of a family of harlots Delighting to drink the blood of martyrs.

#### The Beast the Harlot Rode

John points to Domitian as a re-Incarnation of Nero. He was the first Emperor after Nero to persecute the Christians, and he goes into perdition!

The beast was, and is not; and is About to come up out of the abyss, And go into perdition. This is the Reincarnation of Nero.

The ten horns of the beast represent The power of the empire. Rome s' Power was in her provinces. The ten Kings received no kingdom.

There is war with the Lamb, but the Lamb Is victorious because he is *Lord of lords*, *And King of kings*, and the unhappy Provinces turn to destroy the harlot.

The harlot who met this destruction, Was the great city that lorded it over The kings of the earth. The doom of Rome Is the first Triumph for the Christians.

#### The Fall of Babylon

The great harlot, Rome, called Babylon boasted about herself. Full of pride she said, *I shall Never have occasion to mourn.* 

Now she is to receive double Punishment for all her evil. Very quickly plagues, famine, Mourning, and death will come.

Her allies suffer also. The kings Of the earth who had entered into Spiritual fornication mourn her loss. The merchants also lament.

The burning of Rome under Nero Was a small matter compared to God s wrath against the Empire And all allies for doom comes soon.

The curtains fall on the second Triumph of the pageant. It is a Desolate scene but one of joy For Christians seeing God s'rescue.

#### **The Final Desolation**

First the Empire, then the allies, Now with one blow the imperial City falls. Symbolic action begins With a mill stone hurled into the sea.

As the sea closed over the stone, So will Rome will be no more. The sound of music, business, and Home life will all cease.

Rome is to become a grim and Terrible silent desolation, Devastated, and obliterated, Silenced once and for all.

Those who oppose this view Point out the fact that Rome still Stands. That is true, but not the Persecuting Rome of John s'day.

The Christian movement which Rome Tried to stamp out still stands, and will Stand when all other *Romes* have fallen To decay even as ancient Rome fell.

## The Rejoicing Saints

This scene opens with a great host In heaven singing the Hallelujah Chorus attributing deliverance, Glory and power to God.

Above the wails and lamentation of Fallen kings, merchants and mariners, And above the noise of crashing walls And flaming streets is heard the singing.

The four and twenty elders and the Four living creatures join the song Of triumph saying, *Amen(So be it) Hallelujah*, praise be to God.

John heard the redeemed, a great Multitude, singing Hallelujah for *The Lord our God, Almighty, Reigns* forever and ever.

They are thinking of the marriage Of the Lamb and the bride, but The time of that union has not Come yet. What happy anticipation.

#### **The Victorious Warrior**

Until now Christ has been pictured As a Lion, Lamb, Judge, and now a Victorious Warrior. He is riding On a white horse a symbol of victory.

He is called the faithful and true, The Word of God, and written on His garment King of kings, and arrayed In a garment sprinkled with blood.

Heavenly armies follow Him on White horses. Nothing is said About them being armed, but their Leader is armed with a sharp sword.

The sword is a spiritual weapon Of resistless might. With it he wins The battle. In this pageant an angel Invites the birds of heaven to a feast.

As the birds flock to the battlefield, They feast on the carnage of kings, Military captains, and men small And great, enemies of God.

#### The Victorious Warrior (2)

The first and second beasts and false Prophet were no match for Jesus Christ. They were cast alive into the The lake that burns with brimstone.

The lake that burns with fire and Brimstone is symbolical of their Destruction. Christ overcomes Them; the conflict is a spiritual battle.

This is a vivid symbolical Representation of the final Victory of Christ's cause and people Over that pagan empire.

The message in Revelation comes To us in terms of the persecuting Government of Rome. Just as Rome Fell, we are assured of victory.

I believe the antichrist is a Principle rather than a person. He is a Christ-defying government, Or a movement seeking to repudiate Christ.

He appears in different forms. In the first epistle of John he is Gnostic heresy and in Revelation Roman persecution.

#### **Victory Over Satan**

Satan is chained for a thousand Years. From Chapter 12 to this Point three enemies are allied In opposition to Christ and people.

The two beasts and the false prophet Were overcome by the Victorious Christ. Satan also must be dealt with. The saints were robbed, exiled or slain.

Here John sets forth ultimate victory And triumph of the cause of Christ. Satan is bound for a thousand years, An indefinite time, not literal.

The devil was cast into the bottomless Pit for a thousand years, and afterward he Was loosed for a short time and goes Back to his old tactics deceiving nations.

Fire came down out of heaven and Destroyed them. The devil was cast Into the lake of fire where the beast And false prophet had been cast.

The thousand years is a complete number. It represents not a period of years before, Or after the second coming of Christ The saints are completely victorious.

## The Triumph of the Martyrs

In this vision John sees Christ on His throne, and the martyred saints Seated on thrones around him for A period of great duration.

Upon these highly figurative verses, 4-6, Christian communities have been Torn asunder, fellowship disturbed, And friendships destroyed.

All because of insistence upon a Literal interpretation. Upon these Three verses alone rests the whole Millenial theory.

The martyred saints of the Domitian Persecution, beheaded for the Testimony of Jesus, these only *lived and Reigned with Christ a thousand years*.

The first resurrection is that of the Martyred saints. They are blessed And holy and the second death has No power over them.

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#### The Overthrow of Satan

Just when it appears that the devil Is forever bound he continues to Deceiving the nations into lining Up with the emperor rather than Christ.

Gog and Magog were ancient enemies Of God s'people. They are a symbol Of barbarous people who rally with The Devil about the camp of the saints.

But fire came down from heaven and Devoured them. And the devil who Deceived them was cast into the lake Of burning sulfur; tormented day and night.

It is not worldly power, but heavenly Power which destroyed the devil. It is *Ligntning that falls from heaven*, God ordered; God s Judgment.

Satan is cast into the lake of fire And brimstone to writhe forever With Domitian and leaders of Enforced state worship.

The forces of evil and good have Met; the battle fought. The redeeming Lamb has triumphed over the devil, And marches to eternal victory.

#### **Eternal Destinies**

This is the last act of redemption Picturing judgment and redemption. There are two divisions: the destiny Of the unredeemed and the redeemed.

Around the great white throne, John Sees the dead small and great standing In judgment *and books were opened*. Before the holy justice of God.

There are two kinds of recording Books in heaven; the books we Ourselves make day by day, And the Lamb s Book of Life.

The cowardly, the unbelieving, The vile, the murders, the sexually Immoral...and all liars will be in the Fiery lake of burning sulfur.

The names of the wicked were not Found in the Book of Life and were Cast into the lake of fire, This is the second death.

#### The New Creation

Behold. Said God to Isaiah, I Create new heavens and a new Earth; and the former shall not be Remembered, nor come into mind.

Sorrow is to be forgotten; sin Is to be vanquished; darkness Is to be at an end; temporary Time is turned into eternity.

It is a witness of man s inherent Sense of sin, and a witness to Man s faith in God Almighty, And that God s promises come true.

Men dreamed that God who created Would also recreate, even though the Sin and sorrow are altogether the Fault of men. His grace covers it all.

Man needs to know that there is going To be a resurrection, a judgment, Eternal life after death, and that God has prepared a place for his own.

## The Destiny of the Redeemed

The tabernacle is emblematic Of perfect fellowship with God. It was a symbol of God s'presence With Israel in the wilderness.

Behold the tabernacle of God Is with men, and He shall be with Them. In this fellowship we are to be Free from suffering and trials.

Even in this life, that which helps most And makes earth seem more like heaven Is the sense of fellowship with God. In heaven there is intimate fellowship.

The Holy City, New Jerusalem Was seen coming down glorious And beautiful as a bride adorned For her husband in marriage.

The new Jerusalem is a tabernacle Where God dwells with his people, Wipes their tears away and erases Forever crying, pain and death.

When He takes me by the hand, and leads me through the Promised Land, What a day, glorious day, that will be.

#### The Destiny of the Redeemed (2)

The new heaven and new earth must Have a capital city in accordance With it s'splendor. John saw the New Jerusalem glorious as a bride.

The high walls symbolize protection. The 12 gates, an abundant entrance, And are never closed. The 12 foundations Means the City could not be shaken.

There will be perfect room for all the Redeemed. The entire description Presents a strong, spacious, perfect, And beautiful City of God.

There is no temple in the city where Sacrifices were made for sin. It was Not needed in the New Jerusalem Because there is no sin to atone for.

The gates of the city will never be Closed to those who are purified By the blood of the Lamb, and their Names are in the Lamb s book of life.

The beloved City is now the Lamb s' Bride and God s'eternal city.
Remember this is apocalyptic Figurative literature.

#### The Destiny of the Redeemed (3)

The symbolism for all our needs and Perfect enjoyment is God s'garden. All a man needs to sustain basic Life are water, food, and health.

This vision symbolizes the supply Of all three: the water of life, perpetual fruit of the tree, and leaves with their healing powers.

How can a man live forever? The answer, it comes from *the throne Of God and the Lamb*. Man tried to Live on earth, but O the handicaps.

They shall see his face. When earth Is passed and a man finds himself In the eternal presence of God, then He will see him face to face.

What a day that will be When Jesus I shall see, And I look upon his face... Who saved me by His grace.

## The Conclusion of the Pageant

Time has run out. The pageant comes To a close. The curtain is drawn, But the Redeemer steps in front Of the curtain for the final word.

John declares this writing to be By divine authority. The words Are *faithful and true* that came to Him on the Isle of Patmos.

The glorified and risen redeemer Gives a parting message to Sinning multitudes: Come! Take of the water of life freely.

Whosoever will are bidden to Come by repentance and faith Accepting Jesus Christ as Savior And Lord. Come is the final plea.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, And has redeemed us to God by his blood, To receive power, and riches, and wisdom, And might, and honor, and glory, And blessing, and dominion, Forever and ever. Amen!