

## REVELATION

1:1-3:22 The cover letter which is attached to the vision.

X 1:1 What does "revelation" mean? What is being revealed? (Jesus Christ, central to understanding book. Not book about people, but about Christ. The end ~~of~~ which John refers is not a time, but a person. The "Alpha and Omega.")

X What would soon take place? (Persecution.)

1:3 What emphasis on reading aloud? (Used for worship. Read in congregation.)

What does it mean that the people will be blessed? (~~They~~ <sup>They will</sup> understand nature of suffering and its place in God's eternal purpose.)

*Note: vs 4. John claims authority*

1:4 How does John describe God? ("Who is, and who was, and who is to come.")

What does this mean? Seven spirits. (Fulness of God)

1:5 ~~Why~~ is Jesus called the first born of the dead? (Resurrection.)

What does John mean by "ruler?" How did Christ free us from our sins?

1:6 What did Christ make by His crucifixion? (A kingdom, priests.)

What is a priest? (One through whom God exercises His redeeming work.)

1:7 What does John mean by "he is coming?" (John not really concerned with parousia. Christ is always coming to man. - "Maranatha." Note liturgical stance.)

1:8 Note vs. 4. What do we mean by calling God almighty? (Note limited coercion, but the power of invincible love. Must combine God's sovereignty and God's mercy in some way. This is how John does it.)

1:9 Where does John find himself? Why?

1:10 What does this mean? ". . . in the spirit on the Lord's Day?" (A period of vision on Sunday.)

Do we acquaint this with Jean Dixon? Problem of ESP. Prophets and apocalyptists are concerned with historical situation. They were not aware of ESP. Dixon is, and she lays claims to its validity. If ESP was not respectable one doubts she would be able to suggest such notions.

1:12-13 Who was speaking to John? (Son of Man.)

What does Son of Man mean?

1:13-16 How is Christ described? Why? (Photographi art. Time to emphasize art of book.)

1:17-18 How does Jesus describe Himself? (First, last, and living.)

What are Death and Hades? (Grave.)

1:20 *Earthly & heavenly beings.*

2:1-3:22 (Break into 7 teams and answer: What is quality of Christ described? What is the record of the church John praises? What are its deficiencies? What are the promises?)

2:1-7 Ephesus:

2:1 Qualities of Christ: Holds church in His hand.

2:2-3,6 Church Record: Patience with false apostles  
Hate Nicolaitans.

2:4-5 Deficiency: Lack of love. Intolerant of pagan religions and heretics.

2:7 Promise: Who is Conqueror? What was the Tree of Life in the paradise of God? Were there not some problems with this for Adam and Even in the Genesis story?

208-11 Smyrna

2:8 Qualities of Christ: First born - resurrection.

2:9-10 Church Record: Who is the devil? (Rome)  
For what should they prepare? (Persecution.)

2:11 Promise: Second death. (Note 20:6, 14; 21:8)  
What is it? (Eternal destruction.)

Must be seen within context of John writing to the martyrs-to-be as a pastor.)

2:12-17 Pergamum

2:12 Qualities of Christ: What is Two-edged sword?  
(Word of God.)

2:13 Church Record: Where does Satan dwell? (Rome.)

2:14-16 Deficiencies: Idolatry and immorality.  
(Former is problem and latter is deficiency.)

Denied faith so they would not be recognized as Christians. Tolerated pagan religions.

2:17 Promise: Stones - admission to public occasion  
- the heavenly banquet.

2:18-29 Thyatira

2:18 Quality of Christ: Local guild of bronze smith  
Christ described as one opposite of sun god worshiped in Thyatira.

2:19 Church Record

2:20-23 Deficiencies: Sensuality. They believed it was all right to practice immorality and still be followers of Christ.

2:24-29 Promise: (Note Psalm 2) What is role of conqueror? (Rule and smash pagan controls.)

3:1-6 Sardis

3:1 Quality of Christ: The Fulness of God and the Church.

3:2-3 Deficiency: Mediocrity.

3:4 Church Record: Some faithful people.

3:5-6 Promise: Book of Life (Note 20:12, 15, 21:27.)

Those who will be citizens of heaven. One cannot earn heaven. But one can blot out his own name.

3:7-13 Philadelphia

3:7 ~~Quality~~ Quality of Christ: Opens door for conversion of Jews.

3:8-11 Church Record: What is their characteristic? (Patient Endurance.)

3:12-13 Promise: New heaven is present in faithful.

3:14-22 Laodicea

3:14 Quality of Christ: Alpha and Omega

3:15-20 Deficiencies: Repulsive indifference.

3:21-22 Promise: Sit upon throne with Christ.

4:1-8:5 The Court of Heaven and the Seven Seals - John's philosophy of history.

4:1-11 The beginning of the description of the visio

What one idea does this chapter portray? (Worship of God the creator. We stand in awe of God.)

5:1-14 Who is qualified to open the scroll by breaking the seals? (Lion and Lamb is crucified and risen Lord. Christ is the agent. The agent in the small scroll is the martyr.)

What is contained in the scroll? (God's redeeming purpose, especially in Jesus Christ.)

6:1-8 What do four horsemen symbolize? (White - war; red - rebellion; black - famine; pale - disease and pestilence. They are not intended to destroy but to carry out God's redemptive plan. This must be understood in light of the cross.)

6:9-11 <sup>5th Seal</sup> Who are the souls under the altar? (Previous martyrs.)

How is their question answered? (They are given the symbol of victory, but must wait till the rest of the martyrdom is completed.)

6:12-17 <sup>6th Seal</sup> To what does the earthquake refer? (The overthrow of a worldly political power which is rebellious toward God.)

7:1-8 Pause in breaking of seals. Sealing of the martyrs. Why are the martyrs sealed? (Protect them from terror. Compare to Passover seal - blood on door posts.)

7:9-17 Who are these people in white robes? (Martyrs.)

8:1-5 <sup>7th Seal</sup> What is the seventh seal? (The end, but is it? This is prelude for the Seven Trumpets where we get a more refined view of the great martyrdom.)

Summary: What is philosophy of John? (There will be a persecution through which God reigns. God's judgment is through the death of the martyrs, like the cross, though this appears as a judgment of the government upon the martyrs. God will overthrow the Roman Empire.)

8:6-11:19 The Seven Trumpets - Leads up to view of great martyrdom.

8:6-11:19 Symbolism of trumpets. (Escort for the ark of the covenant, proclamation of divine sovereignty - accession of a King to the throne, summons to general repentance, and a close association with worship.)

8:6-12 First four trumpets deal with natural plagues (Affect earth, salt water, fresh water, and sky.)

What natural plagues are you reminded of elsewhere in Scripture? (Plagues in Egypt. Cf. Exodus 9:23-25) What is purpose of these natural events? (Repentance) The plagues are God's judgment upon sin. However, not a final judgment. Note close parallel with previous activity in Egypt before the Exodus.

8:13-9:12 The first woe and fifth trumpet.

In vss. 1-3 what is being described? (Evil.)

To what extent, in vss. 4 and 5, can evil prevail?  
(To the end God wills. Remember, God uses evil to do good!)

What is cause of evil? (Human sin - human faces on ~~serpents~~.)

9:13-21 Sixth trumpet.

What does this passage describe? (The vast resources of evil.)

How come, since we must assume the Gospel is present, evil has such accomplishments? (The preaching of the Gospel does cause the hardening of hearts.)

10:1-11 What are the contents of the little scroll? (The redeeming purposes of God effected through the martyrs. The large scrolls regarded Christ and His redeeming purposes)

In vs. 6 when should the martyrdom be expected? (Soon. Gives indication that John wrote before persecution.)

What is scroll bitter and sweet? (Persecution and promise.)

What does it mean to prophesy in Vs. 11? (Work out God's redemptive plan - to die the death of a martyr.)

11:1-3 The temple is the house of God and the holy city is the great martyrdom. Period of time, months or days, refers to Daniel. Period of persecution. (CF. Daniel 12:7)

11:4-14 Who are the two olive trees and two lampstands? (The church.)

Shall any harm befall them? What is Sodom and Egypt? (Rome.)

What is the earthquake? (The overthrow of idolatry - the basic sin of the people.)

11:15-19 The seventh trumpet.

Proclaims enthronement of king. All rebellion ends. And God's sovereignty complete. Here begins the interpretation of Psalm 2. Though there is a finality with this trumpet, John starts all over again.

"Cancelled Conclusions" - martyrdom, like the cross, is the price of divine forbearance.

12:1-14:20 The true nature of the conflict. This passage expands ideas from previous passage.

12:1-6 Who is being born? (Christ.)

What constitutes the date of his birth? (His crucifixion, the day of enthronement.)

Note the role of the city in Genesis 4:17. Wilderness is security. Crucifixion is Christ's ascension to the throne.

12:7-12 Passage expands 12:4-5.

Michael and events are the heavenly counterpart to what earthly event? (Crucifixion.)

The word "SATAN" means "Adversary." Nature of battle is legal opposition. Satan wrongfully accuses the

faithful (Vs. 10). Satan now divested ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> position will be responsible in the next two chapters for the mistreatment of Christians as he goes through his death throes.

12:13-17 Expands 12:6. Satans war upon the Christians. The river of lies.

13:1-10 Who is the monster? (Rome.)  
Why is Rome a monster? (Tyranical government.)

13:11-18 Who is this second monster? (Hard to define. May be Nero in relation to the "Nero Alive" myth, but highly unlikely.)

Point of passage is what happens to the Church?  
(The legal aspects are that the Christians could be killed, but this is not necessarily their fate. This is what forms heathen hostility can take.)

14:1-5 The soldiers of Christ.

14:6-13 Who are the blessed? Is the world doomed? (Yes, but the martyrs are to do something about it. Bring about man's repentance.)

14:14-20 The judgment of God in the acts of hostility by the enemy. God's way is won despite evil. God is ~~so~~vereign and merciful.

15:1-16:21 The Seven Bowls - the fall of B~~ab~~ylon announced. (Rome)

17:1-19:4 Explanation of cause of fall.

19:5-20:15 The r~~ai~~gn of God.

19:5-10 Three images: bride, feast, sanctity (purity). Refers to the Church.

19:11-21 Who is the image? (Christ.)  
Christ's accomplishments are due both to Christ's deeds as well as the martyr's. What is His weapon? (Two edged sword - proclamation of Gospel.)

20:1-10 Passage not really important. Emphasizes triumph of Christ and martyrs. However, evil is shown in its resiliency. Resurrection meant to be released into the world, as in Christ's resurrection. Not necessarily a bodily resurrection (which apparently is meaning of second resurrection.).

20:11-15 Nature of book described under scroll. Final victory is over death.

~~21:1-22:5~~

21:1-22:5 The New Jerusalem.

21:1-8 Comparison of Rome with new Jerusalem. The end is not an event but a person, the omega point, Jesus Christ.

21:9-22:5 The temple - God's claim on the secular world. Heaven - living eternally in God's presence.

22:6-22:21 Epilogue.



17:1-19:4

Explanation of Cause of Fall. (The Last Chrysalis of Babylon)

17:1-6

The Great Whore.

Rome was called this because she had seduced all nations to the worship of that which is not God.

Two counts John has laid Rome:

1. Idolatry

2. Persecution of those who refuse to participate in it.

17:7-18

The Interpretation of the Whore & the Monster.

Monster's name is parody on the divine title.

The many terms for Rome are brought together in this chapter.

The sack of Rome follows directly as a direct consequence of the victory of the Lamb.

18:1-8

The Judgment of Heaven.

The glories of Rome were obvious to John. The worship of man became her downfall & the downfall of her empire.

The punishment is the crime being allowed to take its destructive course.

18:9-19

The Judgment of the Earth

The bottom has dropped out of the world market.

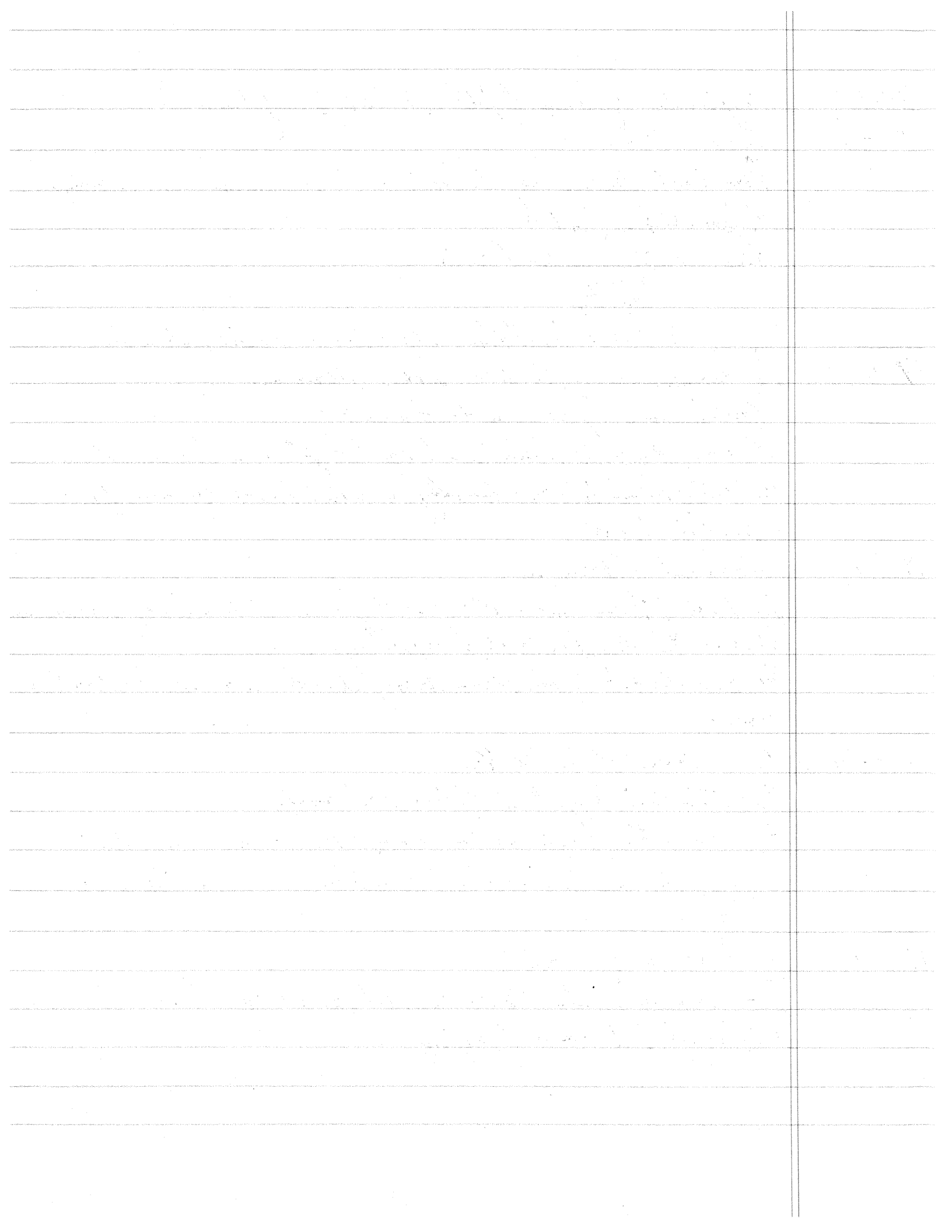
There was nothing sinful as the commodities which made up Rome's luxury trade, until she used them to seduce mankind into utter materialism.

18:20-19:4

The Judgment of Babylon

Two scenes: 1) Michael & Satan in combat; 2) martyrs & Rome.

Rome is judged because of perjury.





15:1-16:21 The Seven Bowls - Fall of Babylon Announced.

15:1-8 The Exodus - Introduction

Sea compared to Red Sea. vs. 7 - Bowls full of O's wrath.

16:1-9 The Natural Plagues

Similar to 4 plagues in the trumpet series

1st Bowl - Sores (Trumpets - earth)

2nd Bowl - Sea of blood. Salt water

3rd Bowl - Fresh water turned to blood.

4th Bowl - Scorching (Trumpets - sky)

O's providential ordering of history:

1. O makes the whole creation a weapon to repel his enemies  
The bowls of wrath do not destroy the natural order, but subvert them into the divine retribution.

2. Medium of men's sin is also the medium of their punishment.  
Eg. Mark of the Beast - symbol of man's idolatry - because we

3. The very means by which their enemies were punished were used to benefit O's people in their need.

The scorching sun doesn't affect the martyrs.

16:10-21 The Political Plagues

5th Bowl - Internal anarchy

6th Bowl - Invasion fr. W/S

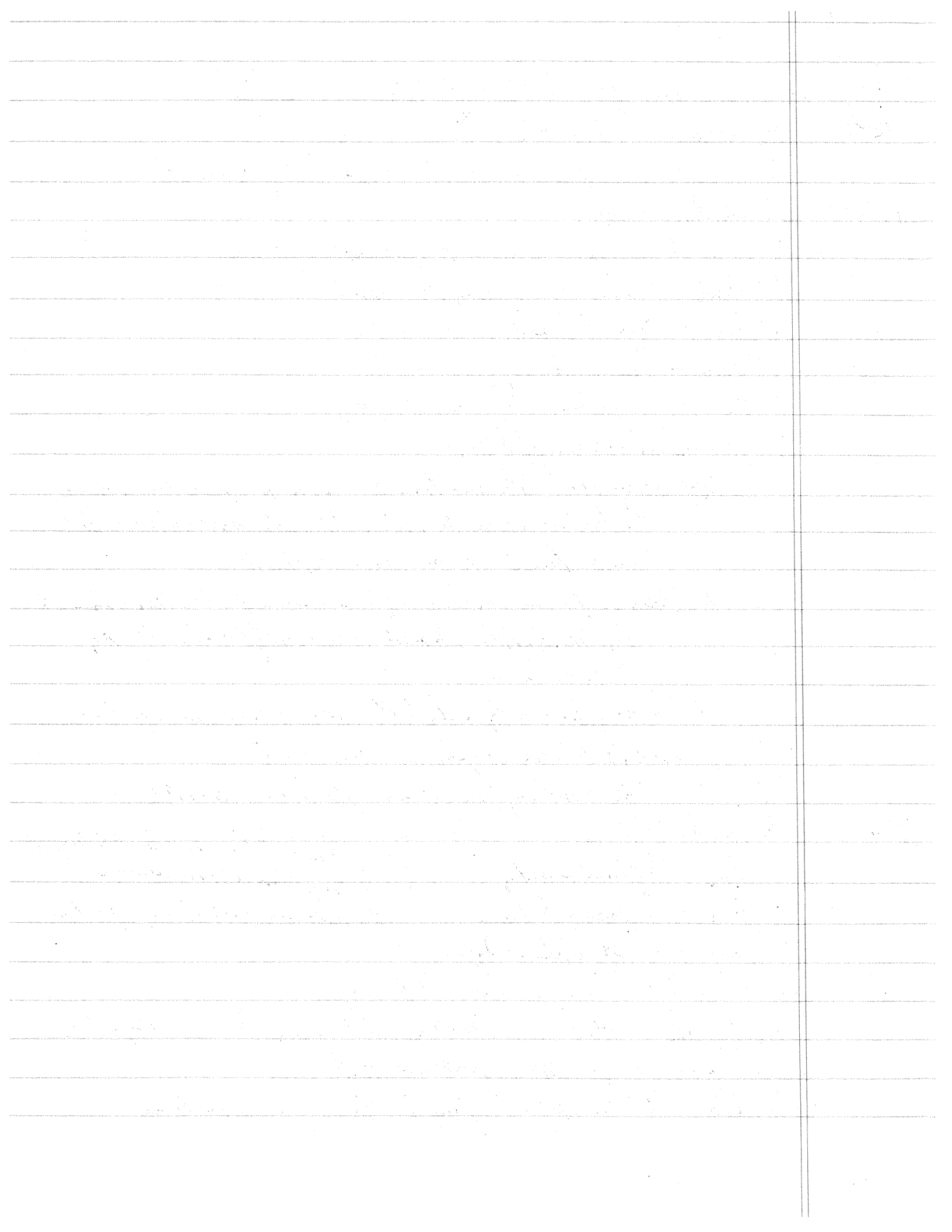
7th Bowl - Inevitable collapse

} Similar to 3 woes w/ last 3 trumpets.  
The trumpets were more dramatic.  
The bowls are more historical & political.

vs. 15 - Coming of X seen in crisis of history

End of Rome clothed in eschatological language to give depth to the theological insights & historical truths.

The end isn't interrupted by a period of time for repentance.



THE FIRST LUTHERAN MESSENGER  
The First Lutheran Church of Berwyn, Illinois  
Euclid Avenue at 31st Street

The Rev. John E. Swanson, Pastor  
The Church Office  
Vol. XIX, No. 16

749-0888  
788-4132  
July 15, 1969

SERIES OF SERMONS ON BOOK OF REVELATION

Several Sundays ago the Pastor asked for suggestions from the congregation on topics the members of the congregation would be interested in. There was a strong interest indicated for the book of Revelation. Other topics were also suggested such as the purpose of God in our lives, how our creed differs from other creeds, how to be concerned citizens in our community, and the reason for the friction between the races. Having pondered the requests it seems that to deal with Revelation would deal with these other topics.

Beginning on Sunday July 13 we will give ourselves to examining the book of Revelation. The best way to work this out will be to do some homework and be sure to bring your Bibles to church. The outline will be as follows:

- |           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| July 13   | Introduction |  |
| July 20   | 1:1-3:22     | The cover letter which is attached to the vision.                                  |
| July 27   | 4:1-8:5      | The Court of Heaven and the Seven Seals - John's philosophy of history.            |
| August 3  | 8:6-11:19    | The Seven Trumpets - leads up to view of great martyrdom.                          |
| August 10 | 12:1-14:20   | The true nature of the conflict. This passage expands ideas from previous passage. |
| August 17 | 15:1-16:21   | The Seven Bowls - the fall of Babylon announced.                                   |
| August 24 | 17:1-19:4    | Explanation of cause of her fall.  |
| Sept. 7   | 19:5-20:15   | The Reign of God.  |
| Sept. 14  | 21:1-22:5    | The New Jerusalem.   |
| Sept. 21  | 22:6-22:21   | Epilogue.  |

Each week we will insert blank sheets in the bulletin so you can ask questions. Hopefully they can be answered in both the sermon and through the "Messenger." Opportunities for dialogue will also be created.

Please read the passages in preparation and be sure to bring your Bibles to the worship service.

REMEMBER SUNDAY SERVICE IS 9:00 A.M.

THANKS TO PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The new section of the basement has been completely repainted. Thanks for the good job.

#### NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

The following new members were received on June 15.

by Baptism - Dennis Berry, 7128 West 34th Street, PI9-0958

by Confirmation - Miss Gail Braun, 1109 Ridgeland, PI9-0953

Mr. John Sabo, 6511 Windsor, 484-0186

by Reaffirmation - Mrs. John Sabo, 6511 Windsor, 484-0186

Miss Laura Stahle, 3401 Oak Park, PI9-1073

#### MEETING OF JOINT BOARDS

On Wednesday, July 30, 7:30pm the First Lutheran Church Council and the Berwyn Presbyterian Church Session will meet at our church. What brings these two groups together is the desire to have dialogue and share concerns as we deal with our community. We are hopeful that other church boards can get involved. This is not a decision making group, but in this informal and unofficial setting the business of being the church in Berwyn can be creatively discussed.

#### PASTOR SWANSON AND FAMILY AT CAMP AUGUSTANA

July 20-26 Pastor Swanson will be the dean of the Senior High Week at Camp Augustana. This is an experimental camp program which the Illinois Synod Camping committee asked the Pastor to conduct this year due to the transition in camp directors.

#### LAYMEN TO CONDUCT SERVICE

There was such a fine response to the laymen conducting the service while the Pastor was at Synod that the Pastor has requested and the laymen have accepted to do it again. This will be on Sunday, August 17.

SENIOR CONFIRMATION meets Wednesday, July 16, at 1:00pm.

#### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AFTER SERVICE

After the 9:00am services on July 27 and August 10 there will be coffee and conversation. Hopefully you can plan to stay. On July 27 Peter Digre and Ronald Musil of the YMCA have been invited to tell their concerns regarding the total YMCA program for Cicero and Berwyn.

On June 29 we had an opportunity to hear from Dr. Robert Gentry who is on the YMCA board. There was a short time for questions, but certainly more has to be discussed.

#### GIDEONS TO BE REPRESENTED

On Sunday, July 27, the Gideon International will be represented by a speaker who will describe some of the work of the Gideons. The Church Council has approved that the Gideons receive a Retiring Offering.

LETTERS FROM AROUND THE NATION

The Pastor received five letters in response to the recent article in "The Lutheran" and wishes to share them with you. Four of them were most encouraging. A fifth letter was from a person who apparently didn't understand the article and has an ax to grind with clergy in general and the Lutheran Church in particular. Unfortunately it is too long to quote in the "Messenger," but it is available in the church office for those who care to read it.

From the mayor of Bangor, Pennsylvania:

"Just a quick note to say I hope your "Tempest" about the coffee house has died down. Unfortunately the quiet about my attempt to have a YDC in our area, as described in the May 7 issue, is only quiet because the project never (or hasn't yet) come about.

You have my best wishes for success!"

From a lady in Traverse City, Michigan:

"I have just read in the July 2 Lutheran of the harassment to your church because of your attempting to be "Christian" more than in name or solely on Sunday morning. I hope your church council and congregation will remain firm in supporting your project of welcoming the coffee house.

My small offering is to provide sugar at least for one of their evenings."

From a college student in Allentown, Pennsylvania:

"In reading the Lutheran I came across the article discussing the harassment of you and your congregation because of YMCA coffee house held at your church. Being a student myself, I'll be a senior at Thiel College in the fall, I know how important it is to have such a meeting place for young people. May I commend you and your congregation for your firm stand on this issue. For too many years Christians for the most part have been afraid to stand up on any issues. May your faith continue to be strengthened through your ordeal."

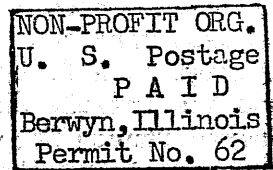
From the Associate Pastor who works with Dr. O.V. Anderson in Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

"We got our LUTHERAN yesterday, and as I turned to the second page I was dumbfounded to see your face behind the cross hairs of a scope. After reading the article concerning the situation that you have found yourself in I wanted to drop you this line congratulating you on a fine piece of work and the guts that it takes to maintain one's principles and beliefs. You are also to be commended for having a church council that has some foresight. But this type of vision, I am sure, has been instilled into your council by the type of ministry you have been carrying on at First Lutheran Church. Your preaching has had to be very relevant for the council and the people to catch the spirit of what it means to be in the church of today.

I know the anxieties and turmoil that such a situation can put one in, but keep your chin up, for when you know you are right you can accomplish a great deal, especially when you know that you have got the spirit of God with you.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6720 W. 31st Street  
Berwyn, Illinois 60402

Return Requested



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CONGRATULATIONS...

To the William Campbell family on the birth of a baby boy, Michael Sean, born July 1.

CLARIFICATION ON DECISION MAKING IN THE COFFEE HOUSE

At the last meeting of the Church Council it was indicated that the Pastor should stress a point with the congregation that apparently has not been made clearly regarding the decision making for the "Coffee House."

Regardless of what the "Berwyn Life" says, the Pastor is not the decision maker for the "Coffee House" activities. It has been the Church Council who has voted on whether the YMCA can use the church facilities. It is the "Coffee House" staff (the young people in the group with adult leaders) who plan the programs and activities of the "Coffee House." The Pastor in his own right has not made any decisions on these matters in and of himself.

We must learn to understand that when radical groups attack they can't attack a group of people. They go after one individual and attempt to smear him. They would want you to think this is the work of one individual, and apparently they have succeeded in doing this with the Pastor's name.

It is the present feeling of the Church Council that if the YMCA requests to use our facilities again the decision to approve their request will be brought to the congregation at a specially called meeting.

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Outline of book to help you read.

7/20	1:1- 3:22	The cover letter which is attached to the vision.
7/27	4:1- 8:5	The Court of Heaven and the Seven Seals - John's philosophy of history.
8/3	8:6-11:19	The Seven Trumpets - leads up to view of great martyrdom.
8/10	12:1-14:20	The true nature of the conflict. This passage expands ideas from previous passage.
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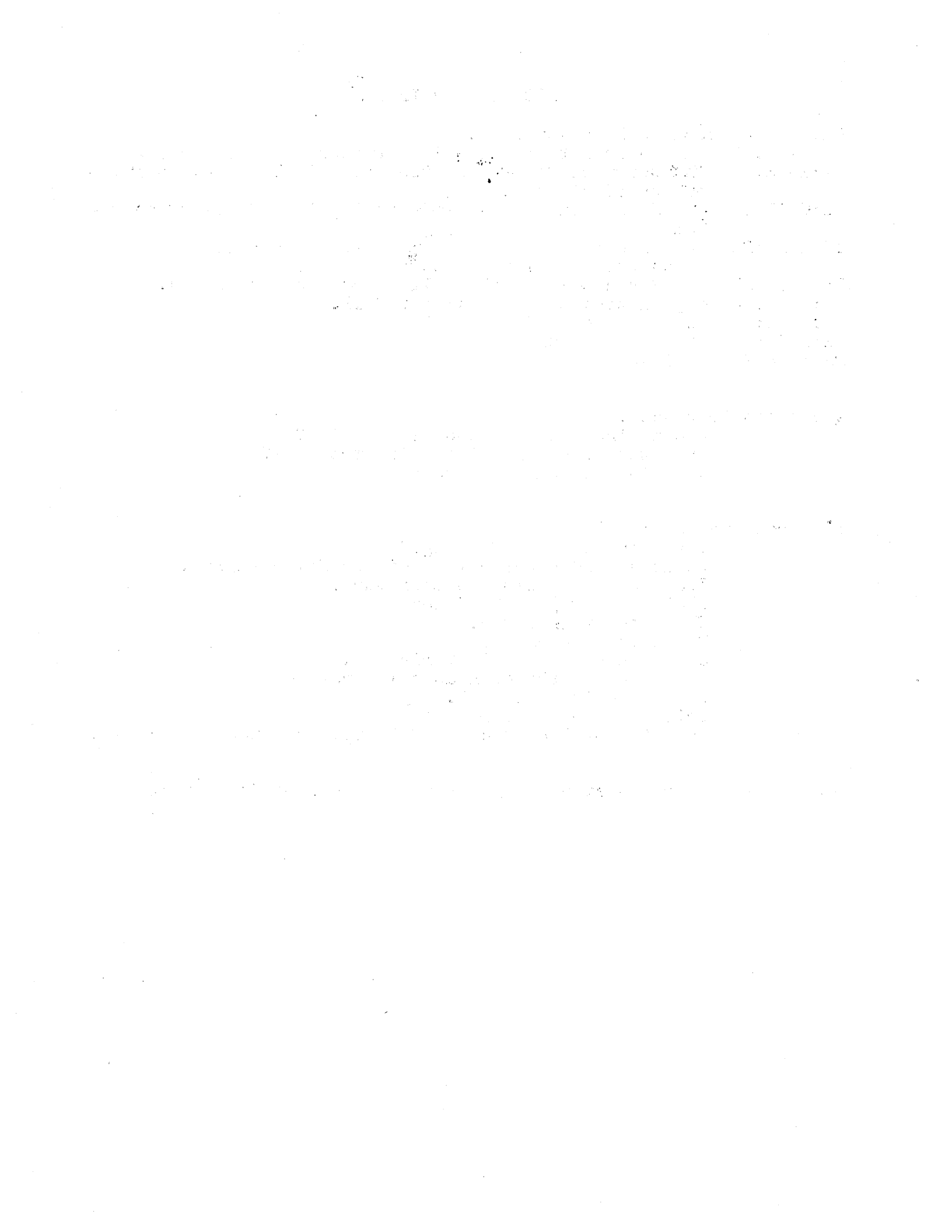
Questions to ponder:

Who is the author? What is he like?  
What were the historical circumstances?  
What is the theme of the book?

Research projects:

The meaning of "suffering."  
Domitian and other rulers of the Roman Empire.  
The use of "angels" in Scripture.  
What does "Son of Man" mean?  
The concept of Satan.  
Words for atonement.  
Concepts of heaven in Scripture.  
What does "myth" mean as a literary device?  
Look up origin of evil.  
Brief knowledge of Daniel.  
What is moral character of "city," see Genesis 4:8-17.

List below your questions as you read the book of Revelation.





# Session Agenda

1. Begin to discuss questions. Let them be raised? Do you have solutions?
2. 1:1-3:22 Cover letters.
3. 4:1-8:5 John's philosophy of history.
4. 8:6-11:19 The great martyrdom.
5. 12:1-14:20 The nature of conflict.
6. What does this all mean to us?

Day	Time	Session
Fri.	10:30	1
Sat	9:00	2
	10:30	3
	1:00	4
	6:30	5
Sund	11:00	6

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