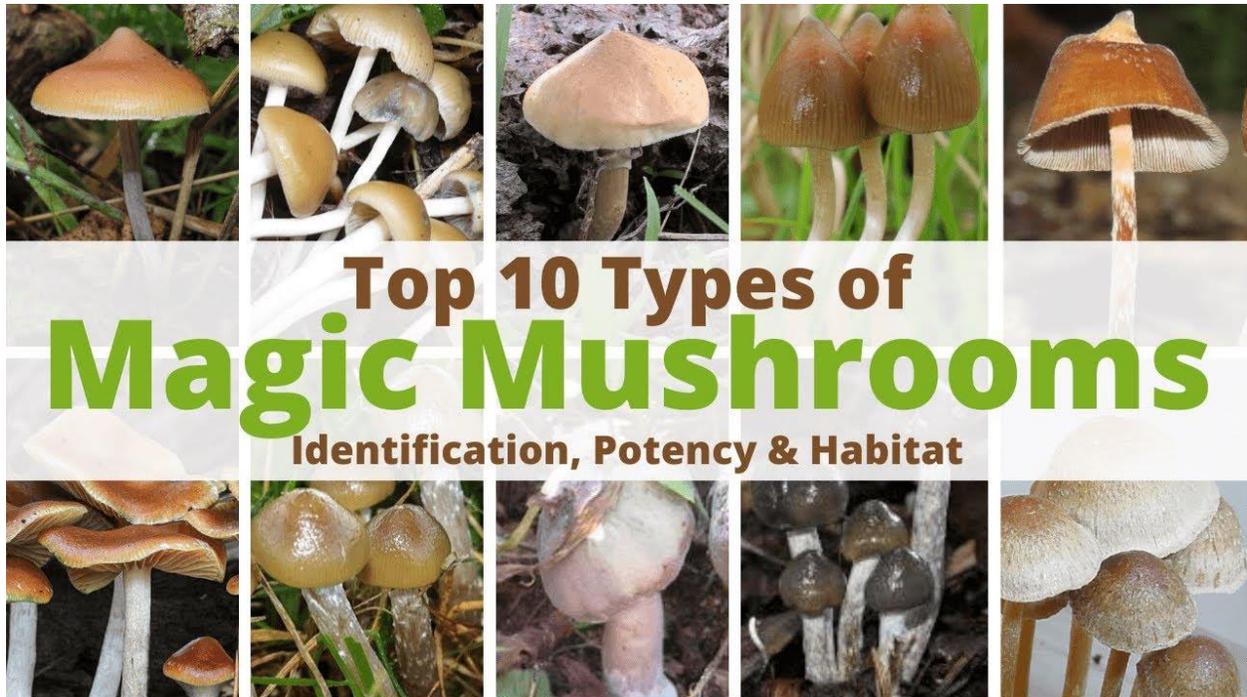


Book of Revelation Introduction

What was that guy smoking? (OK, so he took a roadtrip to Colorado, first, no biggie!) And/or eatingõ can you say %magic mushrooms?+



Oh, sorry, I am just trying to guess what you'll be thinking after you finish reading the **Book of Revelation**.

Come on. Lighten up. It will be fineõ

Just say NO!

One toke over the line, sweet Jesus
One toke over the line
Sitting downtown in a railway station
One toke over the line

Waiting for the train that goes home, sweet Mary
Hoping that the train is on time
Sitting downtown in a railway station
One toke over the line

Who do you love? I hope it's me
I've been changing, as you can plainly see
I felt the joy and I learned about the pain
That my momma said
If I should choose to make a part of me
Would surely strike me dead

And now I'm one toke over the line, sweet Jesus
One toke over the line
Sitting downtown in a railway station
One toke over the line

Waiting for the train that goes home, sweet Mary
Hoping that the train is on time
Sitting downtown in a railway station
One toke over the line

I sail away a country mile
And now I'm returning and showing off my smile
I met all the girls and I loved myself a few
And to my surprise
Like everything else I've been through
It opened up my eyes

And now I'm one toke over the line, sweet Jesus
One toke over the line
Sitting downtown in a railway station
One toke over the line

Don't you know I'm just waiting for the train that goes home, sweet Mary
Hoping that the train is on time
Sitting downtown in a railway station
One toke over the line

Don't you know I'm just waiting for the train that goes home, sweet Mary
Hoping that the train is on time
(Sitting downtown) Sitting in a railway station
One toke over the line

I want to be one toke over the line, sweet Jesus
One toke over the line
(Sitting downtown) Sitting in a railway station
One toke over the line

Waiting for the train that goes home
Hoping that the train is on time

(Sitting downtown) Sitting in a railway station
One toke over the line
Sitting downtown in a railway station
One toke over line
One toke, one toke over the line

A story about a guy who claims to receive a message from God about the end of the world? A message that includes visions of angels of destruction, seven headed beasts, and rivers of blood? You're not the only one who suspects there's something ~~is~~ a little trippy+about the last book of the Bible.



Even some of the early bishops didn't like Revelation **(they thought it was too hard to understand** um, yep).

Martin Luther said that it was "**neither apostolic nor was it prophetic,**" which was a pretty big burn back in the 16th century.

Thomas Jefferson thought Revelation was so weird that he didn't even bother to include it in **his re-edited Jeffersonian Version of the Bible** (which probably earned him some side eyes from those angels of destruction). So, you didn't know that Thomas Jefferson did his very own version of the Scriptures, hey? Stick with me kid, there's more to come.

And George Bernard Shaw called it "**a peculiar record of the visions of a drug addict.**" Hmmm.



I have always liked George!

But before we stage an intervention, let's figure out just what Revelation's deal is.

Probably more than any book in the Bible, Revelation requires ~~hundreds~~ of historical and theological know-how.

Sorry, it is not for beginners

See, the author was banished for being a Christian (which was illegal back in the good old days of the Roman Empire).

So he's not only got a bone to pick with Rome, but he also wants to encourage and uplift other Christians who might be facing the same thing.

Trouble is, he's got to be crafty about how he criticizes the Roman Empire.

He can't just go around calling the Emperor a demon beast from the pits of hell or throwing "**Romans, go home**" graffiti on every wall he sees.



So he writes a message in code. A code you can only crack if you've got the right skills.

A ● -	J ● - - -	S ● ● ●
B - ● ● ●	K - ● -	T -
C - ● - ●	L ● - ● ●	U ● ● -
D - ● ●	M - -	V ● ● ● -
E ●	N - ●	W ● - -
F ● ● - ●	O - - -	X - ● ● -
G - - ●	P ● - - ●	Y - ● - -
H ● ● ● ●	Q - - ● -	Z - - ● ●
I ● ●	R ● - ●	

Yep, that's Morse Code, alright! see still learning new stuff! check out your name in Morse, baby! Remember, dot/dash!

Don't worry, you don't have to spend tons of time and money studying early Christian literature and painstakingly learning how to translate Koine Greek on your own.

Just take a stroll with your old friend, Pj. (Sorry, shameless plug.) I will get you some of the latest research in this arena!

I promise by the time you're done, this whole thing will make a lot more sense. Maybe.

Just maybe! and then, again, maybe NOT AT ALL!

And if it doesn't, just remember: always say **NO** to drugs.



What is Book of Revelation About and Why Should I Care? Right?

Umm, cuz its in the Bible and all kinds of people are always talking about it...and preachers use it, to scare the hell out of people...and people think its creepy and scary...and it really is not...well kinda it is.

Being uncool got you down? Do you find yourself with nothing to do on a Friday night (or a Saturday night)? Does no one truly appreciate the awesomeness of your *Star Wars* fan blog? You're not alone.

In the first century, Christians were ~~re~~ally unpopular, +too.

We're talking sitting-by-themselves-at-lunch, spit-balls-in-their-hair, no-one-will-go-to-prom-with-them unpopular.

You know, getting stuffed in their lockers and getting swirlees in the boys bathroom ã kind of unpopular.

And like many nerds and geeks throughout the ages, their bullies only made things worse.

Unfortunately for them, their bullies just happened to be the Roman Empire.

These guys didn't just push nerds into lockers or dole out wedgies in the hallway. They beheaded people. Yep. And you thought preps and jocks could be brutal.

They also threw you to lions, literally. Chow down boys, but remember to pray before your meals

That's where the Book of Revelation comes in.

The whole thing is kind of one big **"It Gets Better"** video.

It's a message for these geeky Christians: Hey, guys, don't worry! We've actually got the coolest deity around (Jesus!) and he's going to sort this whole mess out soon. When this world is over we're all going to go on to bigger and better things. Those bigger and better things included an eternity living in a sparkling city in Heaven with God. So, yeah, they were really looking forward to graduation and BEYOND

As for the bullies?



Revelation predicted that they were going to end up in God's burn book.

Literally.

Trashed.

Gone.

Say bub-bye!

Because if you get on God's bad side, you end up burning. For all eternity. In a Lake of Fire. I feel a Johnny Cash coming on

Hope those meanies like screaming and writhing in pain, because that's their new after-school activity.

So, if you've ever been left out, or picked on, or made fun of, the Book of Revelation might just be for you.

And the next time those jerks come after you for wearing your "**Han Shot First**" shirt in gym class, just think of



Revelation.

Sure, the armies of Heaven probably aren't going fly down and smite them, but don't worry. Revenge is a dish best served with a side of **irony**.

Book of Revelation Resources

Websites

Beastly Numbers

Check out this funny collection of Beast-inspired numbers. The Dragon would not be amused.

666	Biblical Number of the Beast
660	Approximate Number of the Beast
DCLXVI	Roman Numeral of the Beast
665	Number of the Beast's Older Brother
667	Number of the Beast's Younger Sister
664 or 668	Number of the Beast's Next-Door Neighbors
999	Number of the Australian Beast
333	Number of the Semi-Beast (also "Halfway to Hell")
66	Number of the Downsized Beast
6, uh..., I forget	Number of the Blond Beast
666.0000	Number of the High Precision Beast
665.9997856	Number of the Beast on a Pentium
0.666	Number of the Millibeast
X / 666	Beast Common Denominator
0.00150150...	Reciprocal of the Beast
-666	Opposite of the Beast
666i	Imaginary Number of the Beast
6.66×10^2	Scientific Notation of the Beast
25.8069758...	Square Root of the Beast
443556	Square of the Beast
1010011010	Binary Number of the Beast
1232	Octal of the Beast

29A	Hexidecimal of the Beast
2.8235	Log of the Beast
6.5913	Ln of the Beast
1.738 x 10²⁸⁹	Anti-Log of the Beast
00666	Zip Code of the Beast
666@hell.org	E-mail Address of the Beast
www.666.com	Website of the Beast
1-666-666-6666	Phone & FAX Number of the Beast
1-866-666-6666	Toll Free Number of the Beast (which could also be written 18-666-666-666!)
1-900-666-6666	Live Beasts, available now! One-on-one pacts! Only \$6.66 per minute! (Must be over 6+6+6 years old!)
666-66-6666	Social Security Number of the Beast
Form 10666	Special IRS Tax Forms for the Beast
66.6%	Tax Rate of the Beast
6.66%	6-Year CD Interest Rate at First Beast Bank of Hell (\$666 minimum deposit, \$666 early withdrawal fee)
\$666/hr	Billing Rate of the Beast's Lawyer
\$665.95	Retail Price of the Beast
\$710.36	Price of the Beast plus 6.66% Sales Tax
\$769.95	Price of the Beast with accessories and replacement soul
\$656.66	Wal-Mart Price of the Beast (next week \$646.66!)
\$55.50	Monthly Payments for Beast, in 12 easy installments
Phillips 666	Gasoline Used by the Beast (regular \$6.66/gal)
Route 666	Highway of the Beast (where he gets his kicks!)
666 mph	Speed Limit on the Beast's Highway
6-6-6	Fertilizer of the Beast
666 lb cap	Weight Limit of the Beast
666 Minutes	Weekly News Show about the Beast (airs daily from Midnight to 11:06 a.m., on Cable Channel 666, of course)
666° F	Oven Temperature for Cooking "Roast Beast"

666k	Retirement Plan of the Beast
666 mg	Recommended Minimum Daily Requirement of Beast
Lotus 6-6-6	Spreadsheet of the Beast
Word 6.66	Word Processor of the Beast
Windows 666	Bill Gates' Personal Beast Operating System
#666666	Font Color of the Beast (the gray in this table, no kidding!)
i66686	CPU of the Beast
666-I	BMW of the Beast
IAM 666	License Plate Number of the Beast
Formula 666	All Purpose Cleaner of the Beast
WD-666	Spray Lubricant of the Beast
DSM-666 (rev)	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the Beast
66.6 MHz	FM Radio Station of the Beast
666 KHz	AM Radio Station of the Beast
66 for 6	A Beastly Score for an Innings (in cricket)
6 for 66	Bowling Figures of the Beast
6/6/6	Birthday of the Beast (but in which century?)

The Brick Testament: Revelation

Sure, everyone loves Bible scenes acted out by little Lego men, but their take on Revelation is particularly worth a scroll. ☐ Heheheheõ .yep, it really does exist!

Movie or TV Productions

The Apocalypse

Okay, somebody had to make a movie about the Book of Revelation, right? This film isn't much for historical accuracy, but it makes up for it with awesome low-budget dramatizations of scenes right from John's letter.

Left Behind: The Movie

Staring born-again Christian actor, Kirk Cameron, this movie portrays the beginning of a modern-day apocalypse.

Historical Documents

The Book of Revelation

Check out the full text of Revelation, so you can relive all the freaky visions first-hand.

Revelation on Frontline

Here's all kinds of informative coverage from PBS on the last and creepiest book of the Bible.

Video

Who You Gonna Call?

Ghostbusters actually quotes the Book of Revelation. Well, misquotes it. The passage Ray and Winston mean to cite is Revelation 6:12. But we're impressed anyway.



Worthy Is the Lamb

There are many hymns based on Revelation 5:12. Sung with loveliness by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir and every other choir around the world



[Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain, from Messiah](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch>

Go ahead put it in your browser, you may enjoy it and end up going öyowzwer.ö
Then again,
Probably not.
But all of this stuff is fur-real, I kid you not.

Audio

Interview with Elaine Pagels

Biblical scholar Elaine Pagels sits down with Terry Gross to discuss her work, *Book of Revelation: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics*. Smart people talking about cool stuff- doesn't get much better than that.

June 6th, 2006

Nothing terrible happened on this date (6/6/06), but that didn't stop people from freaking out just a little. Oh, so you missed it, and never gave it a thought, while I was hiding under my bed all day!!!! Shaking. Crying. Weeping.

Impact of the Book of Revelation

Another NPR story about the impact Revelation has had on our culture. Hint: a lot.

Images

Patmos

Check out this map of Patmos, just in case you want to explore the home of our visionary narrator. Then, I decided not to post it. Lol

Look real hard.

Can you see the map now?

Try closing one eye.

Maybe both of them.

It is a magic map.

It can only be seen by those who read the book in its entirety.



Not a bad place for a penal colony+is it? And don't get me started on the word penal!+But you know I want to.

The Roman Empire

This is what it looked like in the wayback days.



The Cave of the Apocalypse

Check out the little spot in Patmos where John is rumored to have seen all his heavenly visions.



The Four Horsemen

Here's a cool, modern take on those ancient apocalyptic riders.



The Number of the Beast

This is a classic Far Side comic, which demonstrates that work in Hell doesn't always go as planned.



Yep, this is where my strange mind went.

Marquis Who's Who is an American publisher of a number of directories containing short biographies.

The books usually are entitled Who's Who in... followed by some subject, such as **Who's Who** in America, **Who's Who** of American Women, **Who's Who** in the

World, Who's Who in Science and Engineering, Who's Who in American Politics, etc.

Often, Marquis Who's Who books are found in the reference section of local libraries, at corporate libraries, and are also used for research by universities.

In 2005, while Marquis was owned by News Communications, Inc., publishers of The Hill; The New York Times referred to the sixtieth edition of Who's Who in America as "a librarian's Vanity Fair".

Marquis states in its preface that Who's Who in America "endeavors to profile the leaders of American society; those men and women who are influencing their nation's development".



Entries in Marquis **Who's Who** books list career and personal data for each biography, including birth date and place, names of parents and family members, education, writings and creative works, civic activities, awards, political affiliation, religion, and addresses.

The content also is provided online to libraries and other paid subscribers.

So, it would probably be **a little helpful**, if I did a **WHO'S WHO** of the Book of Revelation. Let's see, where's a good place to start?

Let's just go straight to the top— not a bad place to begin— but when could I possibly say about **HIM**? Hmmmm.

GOD AND JESUS!

God and Jesus are two sides of one pretty amazing divine coin. How's that for starters?

On the one hand, you have God— creator of the universe and the mastermind behind all the wrath and destruction that is Revelation.

On the other, you have Jesus. He's the Savior of the world and the vanquisher of evil—so that's means he's a hands on kind of guy. Kinda sounds like good cop/bad cop.

Revelation has (big theological idea alert!) **a high Christology**. I know, sorry, sometimes I just throw these words around— and like totally expect you to know what a

CHRISTOLOGY isō break it down in its two halvesō Christ or %anointed one+and logos or %word.+A Christology is like %**the final word**+on Jesusō and this is %high Christology,+so expect it to be full of **praise, awe, and wonder.**

This just means that the book sees God and Jesus as being %equal in divinity **and awesomeness.**+

Unlike, say, the **Gospel of Mark**, where Jesus is portrayed as pretty human (**the “Son of Man”**) and separate from God.

In **Revelation**, Jesus also has a **special saving role** to play (NO, he doesn't use coupons, they weren't invented yet!) in the world as the Son of God. He wasn't just some cool guy who walked around and said a bunch of interesting things. I laugh when I think of Jesus clipping out couponsō oh guys, check out this one, a dollar off on two!

He is God himself in human form. **INCARNATE. In the flesh!**

Still, it's pretty clear from Revelation that God and Jesus have **very different roles to play** in the end of the world.

Jesus always get to wear a %white hat+kind of like the pope!

Nearer, My God, to Thee

(Wasn't that the song they were playing on the Titanic when it was going down?)

Asking for a friend.

The Christian Life

223 **HORBURY.** 6.4.6.4.6.6.4. (FIRST TUNE.) J. B. DYKES.

My soul thirsteth for God.

<p><i>mf</i> NEARER, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!</p> <p><i>p</i> E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me,</p> <p><i>cr</i> Still all my song shall be, <i>dim</i> Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!</p> <p><i>p</i> 2 Though, like the wanderer, The sun gone down, Darkness be over me, My rest a stone;</p> <p><i>cr</i> Yet in my dreams I'd be <i>dim</i> Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!</p> <p><i>f</i> 5 Or if on joyful wing Cleaving the sky, Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly,</p> <p><i>cr</i> Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,</p> <p><i>dim</i> Nearer to Thee! Amen.</p>	<p><i>mf</i> 3 There let the way appear Steps unto heaven: All that Thou send'st to me, In mercy given; Angels to beckon me <i>dim</i> Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!</p> <p><i>mf</i> 4 Then with my waking thoughts Bright with Thy praise, Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise; So by my woes to be <i>dim</i> Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!</p>
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SARAH FLOWER ADAMS.

For the most part, God kind of hangs back. He's kind of chill.

He's just the "one seated on the throne" (4:2). John never describes God, except to say he "appeared like jasper and carnelian" (4:3), but he does talk an awful lot about his throne.

But, come on, it's a rainbow that shoots thunder and lightning out of it (4:3-5), so how do you not talk about it? When I think of the throne, I think of the porcelain one, and God is seated on it, and WHITE CLOUD doesn't feel like toilet paper. I know, I watch way too many commercials.

Gods also got a bit of a, well, God complex.

Up in Heaven, he's the head honcho and he's surrounded himself by yes-angels. Literally everyone in Heaven is crazy for the Big Guy (4:9-11). Even when he violently murders most of the people on Earth, God can't go wrong. Rivers of blood? Great idea, Lord! Giant hailstones? High fives all around!

Speaking of violent murders, God is also the one who judges all the dead.

He's the record-keeper for the Book of Life (and I'm guessing he keeps pretty good records).

If your name is in the Book, you're golden.

If God can't quite seem to find your name on the list, you get bounced to the Lake of Fire. (Johnny Cash, where are you?)

Sorry, try calling ahead for reservations next time ã but never on a Friday night when the fishfrys are working ã because they don't take reservations, then!

First come, first served.

Personal Jesus

Jesus gets to do a little more than just sit around on a throne. (FLUSH!) Sorry I had to ã

Now wash your hands ã use soap!

White CLOUD is (whisper) toilet paper ã

Jesus on the throne, get it?

He also gets to work undercover. In the beginning, John sees him as "**one like the son of man**," standing **in the middle of seven candlesticks** (1:13).

Then Jesus appears to him as the **slaughtered Lamb** with seven horns and seven eyes (5:6).

Is he Houdini or what?

At times, he's just **a random trumpet** voice speaking to



John (1:12).

What can we say? He's **mysterious like that**. Creepy!

And John just grabbed another roach. A really big roach this time. Or maybe just a little CBD ã



Just a little dab will do yaq

But, later, Jesus gets in on the action:

He's the only one with enough skills to open the seven seals (5:12-13).

He teaches the Elect a lovely little tune (14:3).

He brings the faithful up to Heaven (14:14).

He rides out on a white horse and stabs the Sea Beast with his sword. Awesome (19:19-21). Go, Jesus!

It's pretty clear that God is kind of **the mastermind+** behind the end of the world and Jesus is more of the **"doer"** in the relationship.

Doobie, doobie, doo...

But What Are They Up To?

God and Jesus are probably **the two most important figures in this book**, if only because they set all the events in motion.

Not only are they **the source** of the whole story (or so John tells us), but they also pretty much destroy the world **together**.

That's no small task.

What do we make of that? God, the **DESTROYER!**

Are God and Jesus just great guys/deities who want to bring the message of love and salvation to the world, or are they kind of jerky?

Is it cruel to destroy the world, torture the non-believers of the Earth, and then cast them all down into the Lake of Fire? Where's Johnny Cash?

I fell into a burning ring of fire, I went down, down, down while the flames got higher...the ring of fire
Johnny Cash!

Love is a burnin' thing
And it makes a fiery ring
Bound by wild desire
I fell into a ring of fire

I fell into a burnin' ring of fire
I went down, down, down
And the flames went higher

And it burns, burns, burns
The ring of fire, the ring of fire

I fell into a burnin' ring of fire
I went down, down, down
And the flames went higher
And it burns, burns, burns
The ring of fire, the ring of fire

The taste of love is sweet
When hearts like ours meet
I fell for you like a child
Oh, but the fire went wild

I fell into a burnin' ring of fire
I went down, down, down
And the flames went higher
And it burns, burns, burns
The ring of fire, the ring of fire

I fell into a burnin' ring of fire
I went down, down, down
And the flames went higher
And it burns, burns, burns
The ring of fire, the ring of fire
And it burns, burns, burns
The ring of fire, the ring of fire
The ring of fire, the ring of fire...

And is it **wrong** to do it, even if you're **God**?

Revelation is very clear that God and Jesus did give the world **fair warning**.

After all, this book takes place over an entire millennia. A thousand years notice aint bad!

If the **rivers of blood** and **giant hailstones** didn't convince the people to start listening to Jesus, what was going to?

Maybe they deserved God's wrath and judgment, if only for being **incredibly thick**.

We also get the idea that really **only God** could pull something like this off. In fact, he's **the only one** who has the right given that he's the author of all creation. We guess in Heaven the rule is, "You bought it— feel free to break it." And God's not shedding any tears over these broken pots.

Different Deities

In Revelation, God and Jesus are **a bit different** than they are in other parts of the Bible— especially the New Testament. Sure, God gets a lot of play as a vengeful, wrathful guy:

think **Genesis 4:15, Deuteronomy 32:3, Isaiah 35:4, Luke 21:22, Romans 12:19**. But he also has **a soft side**.

Jesus, on the other hand, is pretty much entirely different from any of the portraits we have of him in the gospels. Instead of **kind and gentle teachings**, he's leading the armies of Heaven into battle and smiting sinners left and right. Go, Jesus! Get ~~em~~!

Sure, Jesus occasionally engages in some apocalyptic talk in the gospels. But, even **Matthew 13:41-2**. "The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and **throw them into the furnace of fire**; there men will weep and gnash their teeth". looks downright quaint when compared to what Jesus is up to in this story.

Revenge of the Gods

(Yep, that's my take-off on the Revenge of the Nerds)

Though most people prefer the “**lovey-dovey God**,” judgmental and vengeful versions of God pop up all over the place, too.

Jonathan Edwards' famous sermon ***Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*** depicts a divine authority who might cast the wicked into hell at any minute (but with good reason).

In ***Catch-22***, Yossarian complains that God can be kind of a “**warped and twisted jerk at times.**”

Some research even shows that a belief in a vengeful God (as opposed to a loving God) makes people more **moral** overall. **Fear**, apparently, is good. Maybe Revelation had the right idea, after all?

But I say, “**give me peace, love and tie-dyed shirts anyday!**”

My preference is for a God of **justice and fairness**, a God of **love and warmth and caring**. A God who **understands** our plight and everything we go through ã yeah, I'd take **lovey-dovey**, any time ã but then, this is my **WHO'S WHO** cuz, I'm writing it ã so I win. Vengeful God loses! Yay, me!

What about that guy – named John, he should be in this WHO'S WHO, right?

John is our **faithful narrator** on this journey through Heaven and Hell. He's a **prophet** and a **seer** of sights, a man of great faith and even greater vision.

Well, that or he's an **insane person**. You know, **a real nut job!**



Take your pick.

Or, he's just this guy on a **PENAL ISLAND** called **PATMOS** with nothing to do all day long except explore and check out the island and its various vegetation. I wonder what would happen if I smoked this? I wonder if these mushrooms would be good to digest?

Look at all this hemp. I could make ropes. Or, I could try smoking the hemp? No one would ever know, I am on this little bitty island all by my lonesome.

Hemp rope was used during the age of sailing ships as part of the sails rigging and anchor cord. It is one of the strongest natural ropes in the world.





Here's Johnny

Even though he **claimed to have** spoken directly with God, Jesus, and various choirs of angels, overall John of Patmos is actually a pretty humble guy.

After all, he managed to write a whole book of the Bible about his **visions**, but he hardly talked about himself at all. The only things we know about him for sure are:

he's Christian (1:9).

he lives on a Greek island called Patmos (1:9).

he saw **tons of crazy stuff** (1:1-22:21).

And that's about it. We don't know what his position was in the church, how exactly he found himself living on a Greek isle, or why God chose this particular guy to write down all the details about the end of the world.

That said, we can do some pretty good guessing.

Brother Christian

Not to be confused with Sister Christian...yep I feel another song coming on...

Sister Christian

**Oh the time has come
And you know that you're the only one
To say okay
Where you going
What you looking for
You know those boys
Don't want to play no more with you
It's true**

**You're motoring
What's your price for flight
In finding mister right
You'll be alright tonight**

**Babe, you know
You're growing up so fast
And mama's worrying
That you won't last
To say let's play
Sister Christian
There's so much in life
Don't you give it up
Before your time is due
It's true
It's true yeah**

**Motoring
What's your price for flight
You've got him in your sight
And driving through the night**

**Motoring
What's your price for flight
In finding mister right
You'll be alright tonight**

**Motoring
What's your price for flight
In finding mister right
You'll be alright tonight**

Motoring
What's your price for flight
In finding mister right
You'll be alright tonight

Sister Christian
Oh the time has come
And you know that you're the only one
To say okay
But you're motoring
Yeah motoring

It's pretty clear that **John is a Christian**, though he probably would have thought of himself as more **Jewish**. Back in the early days of Christianity, lots of Jesus' followers were Jewish (like the man himself).

That's probably why John seems to know the Hebrew Bible forward and backward. But does he know **GREEK?**

It's also probably why he pays homage to Jewish apocalyptic literature left and right. He's kind of like the **Quentin Tarantino** of the end of the world.

Quentin Jerome Tarantino born March 27, 1963 is an American filmmaker, film director, screenwriter, producer, film critic, and actor. His films are characterized by nonlinear storylines, dark humor, stylized violence, foot fetishism, eek! extended dialogue, ensemble casts, references to popular culture, alternate history, and neo-noir. Tarantino's films have garnered critical and commercial success, as well as a cult following...just like John of Patmos!!!!

In the 1st century, there were lots of conflicts and differences between **Jewish Christians** and their gentile friends who had converted.

But, though their backgrounds were different, they both had the same big problem.

See, today Christianity is one of the most popular religions in the entire world, but that was definitely not the case way back in the 1st century of the common era.

Nope. Christians were a tiny-teeny-little-bit-of-a-minority and most were under the control of those big baddies the Roman Empire.

The Romans controlled a major chunk of the world at this time.

They liked to pick wars with people, and when they won, they would take the land, enslave some of the people, and force them to assimilate into the Roman way of life. Not so nice. Kind of like the Borg! Come on, you have to watch



some StarTrek. **You know, the Borg. You will be assimilated. Resistance Is FUTILE. Come, join the collective of happy cyborgs!**

This meant that people who were under the thumb of Rome were supposed to be doing what Rome wanted them to do, i.e., worshipping **Roman gods**.

Because Christians only recognized **one true God-
Jebus** they absolutely refused to do this.

So they were in a bit of a pickle and that's how John finds himself in his new home.

Patmos Sweet Patmos

One, two, three
Turn it up

Big wheels keep on turnin'
Carry me home to see my kin
Singin' songs about the south-land
I miss Alabamy once again and I think it's a sin, yes

Well I heard Mister Young sing about her
Well I heard ol' Neil put her down
Well I hope Neil Young will remember
A southern man don't need him around anyhow

Sweet home Alabama
Where the skies are so blue
Sweet home Alabama
Lord I'm comin' home to you

In Birmingham they love the governor (boo-hoo-hoo)
Now we all did what we could do
Now Watergate does not bother me
Does your conscience bother you?
Tell the truth

Sweet home Alabama
Where the skies are so blue
Sweet home Alabama (oh yeah)
Lord I'm comin' home to you
Here I come, Alabama

Now Muscle Shoals has got the Swampers
And they've been known to pick a song or two (yes they do)

Lord they get me off so much
They pick me up when I'm feelin' blue
Now how about you?

Sweet home Alabama
Where the skies are so blue
Sweet home Alabama
Lord I'm comin' home to you

Sweet home Alabama (oh, sweet home)
Where the skies are so blue
And the governor's true
Sweet home Alabama (lordy)
Lord I'm comin' home to you, yeah, yeah
Montgomery's got the answer

John has taken up residence on the island of **Patmos**. A nice enough place, though it doesn't seem like he really wants to be there.

Some scholars think he might have either **fled to Patmos** to avoid being arrested as a Christian or been **exiled there**. (Have you seen **the travel brochure**? It's a pretty sweet place to be in exile.)

“Nestled in an unparalleled tropical setting. Offering that luxurious blend of sun-kissed beaches and calm, turquoise seas. World-renowned for dining, snorkelling and diving, the Patmos Island offers an adventure for people of all ages – and interests. With such a diverse range of pursuits to enjoy and explore, your visit here can be filled with activity, day and night. Do it all. Or do nothing at all, except savour the delicious view, the warmth of the people and the perfect weather. Either way, one thing is certain,

your time in the Island of Patmos will be one you'll treasure forever. Endless possibilities. And did we mention...the mushrooms and the cannabis?"

John is actually in pretty good company among the banished.

Some of the greatest writers in the world did their best work once they were forced from their homes.

Ovid wrote ***The Metamorphoses***.

Dante completed the ***Divine Comedy***.

And Victor Hugo cranked out a little masterpiece known as ***Les Misérables***.

Being banished can be a powerful thing

For John, he's away from **other Christians**,+so, naturally he chooses to write to them (and for them)

He's also clearly got **lots of time to think**

I mean a lot Tons of time More time than money

That probably explains the next bit

Vengeance Is Mine

When it comes down to it, Revelation reads like one big long **revenge fantasy**+

Boy friend revenge/girl friend revenge/husband revenge/wife revenge...how about religious revenge?

Here you have a guy who's been banished for his beliefs (he's lucky, others have been killed), and he's looking for some payback.

The entire Book of Revelation is basically what John hopes **God will do** to all those anti-Christian tormentors out there.

So, is this **JOHN'S VIEW**? Or, is it **God's view**? Hmmm. Surely he's not the only one who wants to see Romans **crushed like grapes in a giant wine press** until their savory juices flow out on the ground.

Christians all over the Empire must have been **scared** and **hopeful** that God would somehow **intervene** on their behalf.

That's **probably** why the letter became popular enough that it wound up in the Bible. Hmmm.

People kept passing it along and crossing their fingers that **it would all come true**. Or wouldn't!

Onward Christian Soldiers

(Grew up singing it, but it was way to militaristic and was thrown out of most hymnals) today it is not considered to be "Politically Correct!")

But John isn't just in **the revenge game**, he's also trying to **lift some spirits**.

As long as reading about **the bloody, graphic death of your oppressors is what lifts your spirits**, that is ã .

He wants to encourage his fellow Christians to just **hold on** a little longer.

Don't give into the Roman authorities.

Jesus is coming back **very soon**, pretty soon, maybe soon and he's going to make everything right ã when he does **EVENTUALLY COME BACK!**

People are generally **suspicious** of anyone who claims to have seen a **vision**.

See the Virgin Mary in your grilled cheese?



Might want to keep that to yourself, because your friends and family might think you've gone **off your rocker** a bit.

But **visions** can also be another word for the **imagination**.

When J.K. Rowling had the idea for the **Harry Potter** series she said, "It came into my mind when I was on a train to London. Harry as a character came fully formed."

What does that mean?

Was it a **vision**, in the same way a view of Heaven came into John's mind?

When John says, "I saw" does he really mean, "I imagined"? Or did he see? As in see/saw?

Can God speak to people through **the imagination**?

Loads of people have had **visions**.

They're all over the Bible for starters.

Daniel.

Ezekiel.

John the Baptizer.

They all see visions that they claim are from God.

Even **Descartes** had a vision that inspired him to study



science.

This vision is awesome, gotta love the high-tech murderous weapon in the dudes hand and the light on his cranium, wed leave a light on for you

So maybe- just maybe- John and Revelation **aren't all that weird? I cant believe I wrote that! They are that weird. They are.**

Nahõ heç **still a certifiable nut job! Certifiable, I tell you!**

NEXT

In our WHO's WHO Will be the Angels!

There are **so many angels** in Revelation, we lost count way back in Chapter 4.

God likes to have **an entourage**, what can we say? There are angels of destruction, angels of death, messenger angels, warrior angels, and angels who just love playing the trumpetõ kind of like Louis Armstrong!

So what's the deal with **all these angels?**

Archangels, Cheribim and Serraphimõ and all the company of heavenõ it almost sounds liturgical, doesn't it?

Angelic Deeds Done Dirt Cheap

No matter what their job in Heaven, **all the angels** are servants of God himself.

That means they take **their orders** directly from %the **Big Guy**.+In essence, the angels' role is to keep God from getting his hands dirty.

Seriously, does the Lord and Creator of the Universe have time to hold back the four corners of the Earth?

No.

So he outsources a bit. By-the-wayõ Who in the heck is Bobby Vinton? Ask your parents or maybe even your grandparents Hehehe ☐

You are my special angel Sent from up above
 The Lord smiled down on me
 And sent an angel to love
 You are my special angel Right from paradise
 I know you're an angel Heaven is in your eyes
 The smile from your lips brings the summer sunshine
 Tears from your eyes bring the rain
 I feel your touch, your warm embrace
 And I'm in heaven again
 You are my special angel
 Through eternity I'll have my special angel Here to watch over me
 A smile from your lips brings the summer sunshine
 The tears from your eyes bring the rain
 I feel your touch, your warm embrace
 And I'm in heaven again
 You are my special angel
 Through eternity I'll have my special angel
 Here to watch over me Here to watch over me

Angels are also obedient to a fault. And **they do not** question God. Ever. It must be in the **angelic handbook** or something. Here are just a few of the things they do with absolutely no argument:

Appear before John to tell him he's going to write Revelation (1:1)

Sound trumpets of destruction all over the Earth (8:7-10:7)
 Gather non-believers and crush them in a giant wine press (14:19)

Pour out bowls of plague and death on the people of Earth (16:2-17)

So angels basically **kill a lot of people**. BOO!!! BOO!!!
 Hiss! Hiss! Whoop a thought?

Sure, they kill non-believers, but still, they're people, at least, the last time I checked...

Part of God's creation and all that.

Are the angels **REALLY cool with that?**

Revelation never says they're anything but **loyal** and perfectly **happy to kill** in the name of God. EWWW, just sayingõ

They even **dance and sing for joy** as the people of Earth are tortured and die. Nice! Maybe I don't want to be an angel, after all.

They're "No Angels"

Revelation ever so briefly mentions "the angel of the bottomless pit" (9:11).

This angel is apparently **so evil** that he is cast into the core of the Earth.

Out of his bottomless pit come freaky-looking locusts that terrorize the Earth. Again, nice!

But if you think this angel is just a disobedient rebel, think again. The angel of the pit still does everything God asks him to.

Sure, the **angel** and his **minions** really seem to like terrorizing the people of Earth, but when their time is up, they go back into the pit without so much as a whimper.

Ah **Minions**, you know I had toõ



The Hebrew term **Abaddon**, and its Greek equivalent **Apollyon** appear in the Bible as both a place of **destruction** and **an archangel of the abyss**. In the Hebrew Bible, **abaddon** is used with reference to a **bottomless pit**, often appearing alongside the place **Sheol**, meaning **the realm of the dead**.

**I thought this was going to be “LITE” Reading...
Can I get my quarter back? NOW?**

Actually, the Greek name that's given for this angel—**"Apollyon"**—might even be another coded stab at Rome. The name means **"Destroyer"** and might be a reference to the God **Apollo** (take that, other deities!).

It might also be a bit of a slam against **Nero**, who claimed to **be a manifestation of Apollo**. Oooh, first-century biblical burn. **Take that, Nero and that, and that!!!!**

There is also a brief mention of other angels that fight with the Dragon.

Again, the story doesn't explain how these angels found themselves on the side of evil, or why they thought they could get one over on the armies of Heaven.

But, kudos for trying anyway, **Fallen Angel Army**.

Speaking of Angel Armies

Revelation also ~~name~~ drops **Michael the Archangel**.

He leads the angelic heavenly army into battle against the Dragon (12:7), and he manages to toss the Dragon's butt out of Heaven (yet again, if you believe **Jude** 1:9).

It's only one of a handful of times Michael is even mentioned in the Bible, so it's clear that John is bringing out **the big guns** for this **all-out divine war**.

Angels Explain It All

All night/All day

Angels watchin' over me my Lord.

All night/All Day

Angel's watchin' over me...

Sing it with me!



No, Not Charlie's Angels!

Not only do they destroy the world and battle evil, angels also tend to **move the story forward**. Good job!

Sometimes they **ask questions** that prompt important answers (like, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" [5:2] Never mind, it's Jesus. No worries.).

Sometimes **they explain tough concepts** to John (for example, what's the deal with that whole %Whore of Babylon thingy?+[17:7]).

I guess, when-in-doubt-**ask-an-angel**õ

In this way, they're kind of **all around players**.

They're more than willing to **pass the ball**, but they're also not afraid **to go to the rim and dunk** when it's needed.

Especially when the ball is actually a severed head of some Roman creep. Hehehehe ☐

Way to play, Angels.

Time to **hit the showers** and wash off all that blood.

Don't forget to use deodorant, just saying

Revelation's Angels

Angels of death, destruction, and war pop up all over the place.

Including in

In ***Pilgrim's Progress*** Apollyon himself battles Christians. John Travolta plays Michael the Archangel who comes to Earth (but doesn't go to battle with anyone) in the movie ***Michael***.

And in ***Dogma***, Loki is a fallen angel of death who decides to challenge God on his policy of killing sinners and is cast out of Heaven and exiled to **pre-historic Wisconsin**.

Patmos is looking better and better.

I suppose if this is really a WHO'S WHO we should probably mention the dragon, right?

The Dragon

The Dragon is the big bad guy in this story. He's the one trying to bring all our good Christian heroes down. He's also really freaky-looking. Let's just get a quick mental picture, shall we?

He's huge and red (12:3). He's got ten horns and seven heads (with crowns on each one) (12:3).

His tail also knocks down a bunch of stars on his way to devour a baby (12:4). How rude.



This guy is our antagonist. He is the supreme manifestation of evil that drops down to Earth to wreak havoc on God's faithful followers. And unlike the angels who destroy Earth, the Dragon hasn't been sent by God to unleash destruction. He's acting on his own power. And, get this, he actually thinks he can take God. Oh, silly Dragon.

Running with the Devil



So who is **the Dragon**, really?

Well, that's easy.

Revelation comes right out and tells us that he's actually "that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world" (12:9).



Whoa, this is big time.

Van Halen, Running with the Devil!
Awesome dude! So did John listen to music on the island of Patmos, as well?



Apparently, Satan is **a pretty busy guy**, too, so he enlists two beasts to do his bidding later in the story (13:2, 11).

But they aren't much match for God either and, before the story is over, all three of them are burning in the lake of fire (20:10). I know, I will get to Johnny Cash one of these daysõ

Going Through Hell

The Dragon actually has an interesting fate.

Though he's defeated by one of God's angels, he only gets chained up and thrown in the bottomless pit for **1,000 years** (20:2). At the end of that time, God lets him out

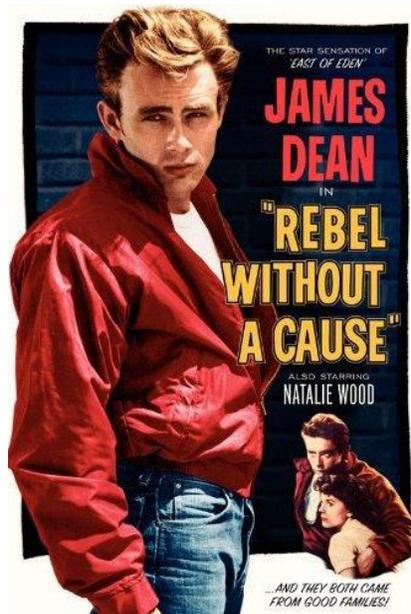
again to wreak havoc on the Earth once more. Um, is that



the best plan, Lord?

Of course, **the Dragon** is defeated super easily the second time, but this also begs the question: Why? Was God just toying with him? Rubbing it in? Trying to show the Dragon who was the boss? Or does God simply have some unfinished destroying that he thinks the Dragon can take care of in about **1,000 years** or so?

Devil Without a Cause?



Um,

Isn't that supposed to be **REBEL**, without a cause?

For that matter, we never really get an explanation of why **the Dragon** does what he does.

Sure, he's the manifestation of supreme evil, but what is he hoping to gain?

He's tried to **enslave the people** of the world (he's been doing a pretty good job so far getting them to turn their backs on Jesus) and destroy the One True God.

All in a day's work, right? But, what happens then?

Unleash the Dragon

Evil red Dragons, like the one in Revelation, show up in other places, too. In the book ***Red Dragon***, the serial killer takes his name from the Dragon himself.

In ***The Inheritance Cycle***, Thorn is a red Dragon who is enslaved by Galbatorix and forced to hunt Eragon. He's not red, but **Draco Malfoy's** name means "Dragon," which is why he might not be such a very nice guy. Not all red Dragons are bad though. In **Chinese culture**, red Dragons are symbols of **goodness and power**.

I would tell you that I am done with the dragon, but that wouldn't be exactly true because you see I still have something up my proverbial sleeve ☐

Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honah Lee
Little Jackie Paper loved that rascal Puff
And brought him strings and sealing wax and other fancy stuff

Oh, Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honah Lee
Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honah Lee

Together they would travel on a boat with billowed sail
Jackie kept a lookout perched on Puff's gigantic tail
Noble kings and princes would bow whene'er they came
Pirate ships would lower their flags when Puff roared out his name

Oh, Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honah Lee
Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honah Lee

A dragon lives forever, but not so little boys
Painted wings and giant's rings make way for other toys
One gray night it happened, Jackie Paper came no more
And Puff, that mighty dragon, he ceased his fearless roar

His head was bent in sorrow, green scales fell like rain
Puff no longer went to play along the cherry lane
Without his lifelong friend, Puff could not be brave
So Puff, that mighty dragon, sadly slipped into his cave
Oh, Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honah Lee
Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honah Lee

There, now I am spent!

**I get so caught up in the moment, I completely forgot
this is supposed to be a WHO'S WHO of the Book
of Revelation!**

The Sea Beast and the Earth Beast

Next! Hehehehe

The **Sea Beast** and **Earth Beast** are two of a kind. Best buds forever! (BBFs) Partners in the fight against all

things good. They're also just as ugly as their boss, the **Dragon**.

The Sea Beast

He's got seven heads and ten horns, just like the Dragon, but he's sporting crowns on each of his horns. He's also scarlet red and has blasphemous names written all over his body. He kind of looks like a cross between a leopard, a bear, and a lion (13:1-2).

The Earth Beast

This guy only gets two horns, but he speaks like the Dragon (13:11). His favorite number is 666 (13:18).

These two are the minions of the Dragon. His henchbeasts, if you will! ☐ When the Dragon finds out he's been cast down to Earth and wants to cause a ruckus, he raises these two out of the sea and Earth, passes along some of his power, and sends them to work. Like true underlings, they're brought down pretty easily, while the real fight is left for their boss.

Da Beastie Code

So who do these baddies stand for? Well, it's clear that here, like with everything else in Revelation, John wants to take a stab at some real people. Except, he can't come right out and say who they are (that would be illegal and very dangerous). So he takes some inspiration from some beasts mentioned in **Daniel** 7:1-8 and breaks out secret codes yet again. Bible decoder rings outõ hahahaha

Beast If by Sea

The Sea Beast probably represents the Roman Emperors, specifically Nero, who was the first to persecute Christians and who also claimed that he himself was God (oh, not a good idea). I thought that was one if by land, two if by sea.

One if by Land Two if by Sea?

The Origin of the Phrase

“One, if by land, and two, if by sea” phrase was coined by the American poet, Henry W. Longfellow in his poem, Paul Revere’s Ride. It was a reference to the secret signal orchestrated by Revere during his historic ride from Boston to Concord on the verge of American Revolutionary War. The signal was meant to alert patriots about the route the British troops chose to advance to Concord. Once a history teacher, always a history teacher, I guess!

SO, the Sea Beast has seven heads wearing seven crowns, which represents the line of seven emperors of Rome (Nero is actually #7).

This is kind of a weird, twisted parody of the Lamb because these emperors are evil kings, not pure, good ones like Jesus and God.

The blasphemous names written all over the Sea Beast's body are probably the titles the emperors took for

themselves. Just things like "Son of God" or "Lord and God." Again, not a very good idea, guys!

Beast If by Land

The Earth Beast probably corresponds to the Roman religious authorities.

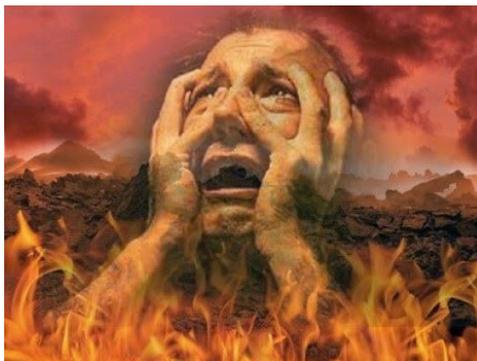
They would have been like priests, but representing the **Roman gods** (which is a big no-no in the eyes of Christians).

The Earth Beast doesn't look so bad. He has two horns, like a normal creature might- but appearances can be deceiving.

This guy is out to lure you into a phony faith. That's why he's also known as the False Prophet.

Like the Elect, the Earth Beast gets a mark, but this one indicates his evil status. 666 is the number of the Beast. It's also the value of "Nero Caesar" as written in Hebrew letters. Check and mate. See, secretive, stuff!!!

Oh, the Places You'll Go (to Burn for Eternity)





It's really no shock when the two beasts get hurled into the Lake of Fire where they end up burning for all eternity. The Dragon follows about a thousand years later. Sure, these guys had a good run. They controlled the whole Roman Empire and almost wiped out Christianity. But they were really no match for the awesome powers of God and Jesus combined. Better luck next time. Oh wait, there won't be a next time.



Other Beastly Interpretations

Given the time John's writing in and the situation, the beasts probably correspond to Rome, right? Well, sure, but that hasn't stopped people from thinking the beasts were other people.

After the **Reformation** began, Protestants started to pretty quickly think the Pope was the Beast.

Anti-Muslim commentators thought the Beast was Muhammad.

Seventh Day Adventists think the mark of the Beast is Sunday worship. no surprise, they go to church on Saturday.

The lesson here: if there's someone or something you don't like, just tell them they're actually one of the beasts from Revelation. That'll open up %a healthy dialogue.+
(Read: don't actually do this.)

Do the Monster Mash

I was working in the lab, late one night
When my eyes beheld an eerie sight
For my monster from his slab, began to rise
And suddenly to my surprise

He did the monster mash
(The monster mash) It was a graveyard smash
(He did the mash) It caught on in a flash
(He did the mash) He did the monster mash

From my laboratory in the castle east
To the master bedroom where the vampires feast
The ghouls all came from their humble abodes
To get a jolt from my electrodes

They did the monster mash
(The monster mash) It was a graveyard smash

(They did the mash) It caught on in a flash
(They did the mash) They did the monster mash

The zombies were having fun (Wa hoo, tennis shoe)
The party had just begun (Wa hoo, tennis shoe)
The guests included Wolfman, Dracula and his son
The scene was rockin', all were digging the sounds

Igor on chains, backed by his baying hounds
The coffin-bangers were about to arrive
With their vocal group, 'The Crypt-Kicker Five'

They played the monster mash
(The monster mash) It was a graveyard smash
(They played the mash) It caught on in a flash
(They played the mash) They played the monster mash

Out from his coffin, Drac's voice did ring
Seems he was troubled by just one thing
He opened the lid and shook his fist and said
"Whatever happened to my Transylvania Twist?"

It's now the monster mash
(The monster mash) And it's a graveyard smash
(It's now the mash) It's caught on in a flash
(It's now the mash) It's now the monster mash

Now everything's cool, Drac's a part of the band
And my Monster Mash is the hit of the land
For you, the living, this mash was meant too

When you get to my door, tell them Boris sent you

Then you can monster mash
(The monster mash) And do my graveyard smash
(Then you can mash) You'll catch on in a flash
(Then you can mash) Then you can monster mash

Easy Igor, you impetuous young boy (Wa hoo, monster mash)
(Wa hoo, monster mash)
(Wa hoo, monster mash)
(Wa hoo, monster mash)
(Wa hoo, monster mash)

**Sometimes, I am so transparent, you
know what's coming right?**



People are pretty obsessed with these guys, that's for sure.

The unseen force terrorizing the island in ***The Lord of the Flies*** is simply called **The Beast**, and that book is *filled* with religious imagery.

The number of the Beast- **666**- is a favorite for artists and writers, too.

It's been featured in movies like ***The Omen***, where the number appears as a birthmark on a (very evil) child's head.

It's also the combination to the glowing case in ***Pulp Fiction***. Hmmmmõ what's inside?

And the number for God is **777**, the number of **perfection, wholeness, completeness**, three times for emphasis sake.

Wanna be on God's side, try a tat on inner thigh or behind your ear, God will see you coming or maybe **NOT!**



Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"



Look it's a game...like "Where's Waldo" find the hidden 777!
Do you realize I have done 62 pages and have not even started the study of Revelations yet?

Why not start NOW?

The book opens with our narrator, John.

Ok

That sounds like a plan or somethingõ

He's just a mild-mannered Christian guy living in exile when- pow!- God hits him with a doozy of a revelation (hey, that's not a bad idea for a title).

John is told to write down **everything** God shows him, and boy is God going to show him some strange things.

First, John sees a vision of Heaven. There he meets God and Jesus and all sorts of other angels, elders, and weird six-winged creatures that inhabit the heavenly realms.

After a brief how-do-you-doodo, John sees Jesus come forward (in the form of a seven-eyed lamb) and open seven seals.

Each of the seals lets loose God's fury on the Earth. We're talking rivers of blood, plagues of locusts, giant hailstones, twenty more seasons of *Jersey Shore*.





The last seal unleashes seven angelic trumpeters, which in turn unleashes seven bowls of God's judgment.



Apparently, not that kind of a seal, sorry!

Yep, God really has a thing for sevensí and pouring down his wrath on non-believers.



As a matter of fact, there are those who see seven acts and seven scenes in this writing of this script.

Was it meant for primetime? The stage? Broadway?
Hollywood?

Rivers of blood not freaking you out enough? While all this is happening, John sees some pretty hideous creatures lurking around.

A giant red dragon, a beast with seven heads, and another beast who also happens to love the number 666.

John is told that these baddies have been busy convincing the people of Earth to worship them instead of God.

They also like to kill Christians and just generally be evil. Things are not going to go well for them.

After God sends all the plagues to Earth and loads of people die (eek!), he has the armies of Heaven wipe the dragon and the two beasts off the face of the Earth.

Literally. They get thrown in the Lake of Fire along with all their followers who refuse to worship God.



As for all **the faithful** Christians who stayed strong and kept faith in Jesus, they get to go to a splendid city in the sky where the streets are paved with gold and diamonds and nothing bad ever happens to anyone ever again.

It's all sunshine and lollipops and the eternal light of God.

With flying unicorns in purple and pink bedroom slippers!

John ends the whole book by assuring us that everything he saw is **totally and 100% true** and that it's all going to happen for real **very, very soon**. The hour is at hand, so

repent, y'all. Don't say that a seven-eyed lamb didn't warn you.

So all of thisō and I am just getting warmed upō

Introduction

It's about time, just sayin'

The book **ACTUALLY** opens with a pretty big claim: what you're about to read **is the revelation of Jesus Christ**.

So, yeah. **Start paying attention.**

It was all revealed to a man named John. God sent an angel to him to tell him all this and he wrote it all down in this **handy dandy little guide**. How nice of him.

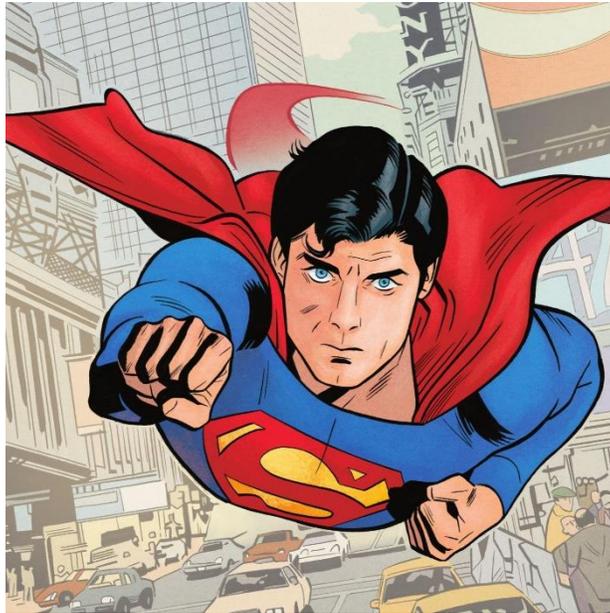
John tells the reader that they are blessed if they listen to what he has to say. Okay, so you may want to start taking notes.

He tells us that time is running very short. Something big is about to happen (i.e. Jesus is going to return to Earth for a second time).

People need to hear what John has to tell them and start getting **their stuff together**. Hahaha, I coulda said something else, but didn't! I am so good!!!!

That's why he wrote this down **in a letter**. He's planning on sending it to seven of the Christian churches in Asia.

It's a Bird, It's a Plane



Look over there! It's Jesus! John sees a vision of Jesus **coming down on clouds**.

He tells us that **soon** everyone is going to see him. Even the people who hate Jesus and his followers are going to see him floating on down from Heaven. And, boy, are they going to feel stupid that they ever doubted him.

When this happens, God will tell everyone "I am the **Alpha and the Omega**." This just means that he is the first and the last. The head honcho. The **big cheese** in the universe.

It Gets Better, John

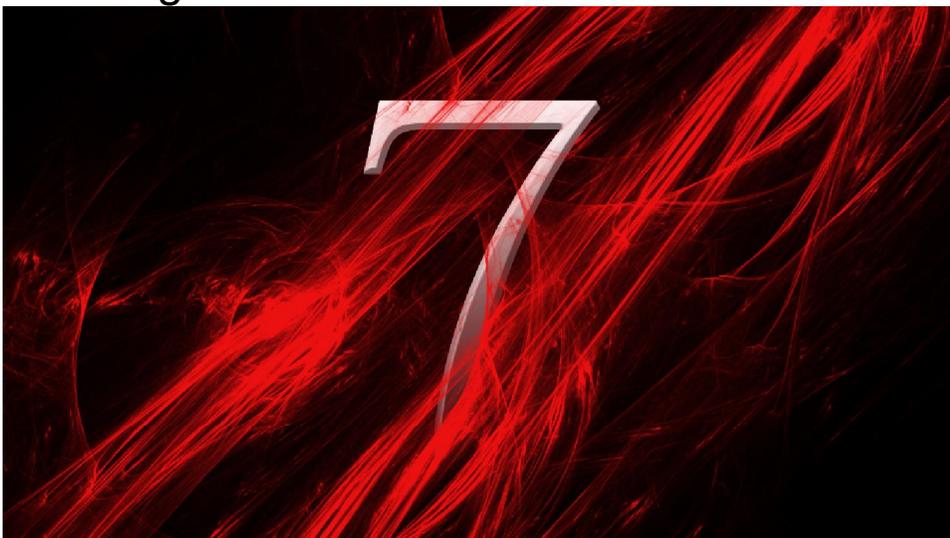
John tells the Christians he is writing to that he understands that they are being bullied because they believe in Jesus. And by bullied, he means imprisoned or killed by Rome for the crime of being Christian. Yikes. We have it so easy!

John has actually **suffered** some of this bullying first hand. He is currently living on an island called Patmos. This is either because he was banished for being a Christian or he's gone into hiding. Tough break, John. Gotta love the island life! **Flipflops forever!**

Jesus Comes in Style

John tells us that he is under the influence of the spirit. No, he's not drunk- he means the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, he hears a voice like a trumpet commanding him to write to the **seven** churches in Asia. They are in **Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea**. I am counting seven citiesō



When John looks around to see who's talking, he sees Jesus.

What a coincidence. Look who's coming to dinner!

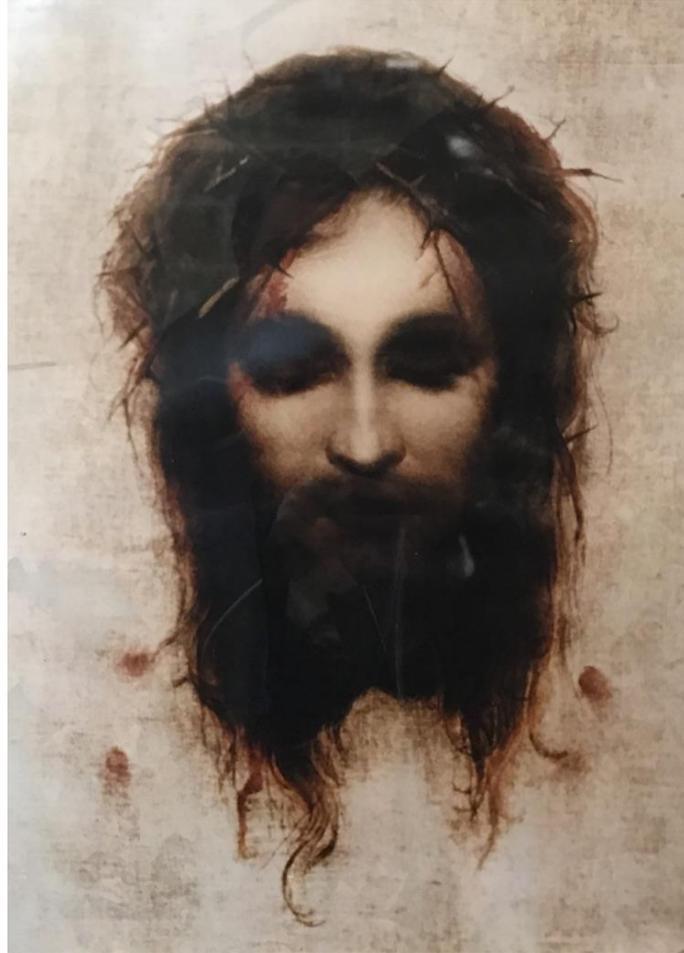
And Jesus is lookin' good.

He's standing in the middle of seven tall candlesticks and wearing a long robe with a golden sash. **Miss Universe?** It's the sash that really makes the outfit work. Did you note the seven candlesticks?

His hair is white like snow and his eyes look like flames. Okay, a little creepy.

Hey wait just a minute, you cant type that Jesus looks creepy and get away with it.

Jesus could never look creepy, just ask sister Margaret mary.



His feet are made of bronze and his voice sounds like running water.

How soothing ã except the flaming eyes are still freaking us out.

In addition to being a **sharp-dressing guy** with flames for eyes, Jesus carries seven stars in his right hand (how's that for accessorizing?). **SEVEN STARS?**

A sharp sword **comes out of his mouth**, too. Oh, sword-swallowing! It's like a carnival!

His face also shines like the sun. Overall, he's looking pretty awesome.



Write It Down

When John sees Jesus, he falls down at his feet. We don't blame him. Prayerfully, we will, as well.

But Jesus tells him **not to be afraid**. Hmm. If he doesn't want people to be afraid of him, he could try **toning down those flaming eyes a little.**

Jesus tells John to write down everything he sees. And don't forget to include **all the stuff** about the number **seven**.

Sevens are pretty big in this story.

Chapter 2

Now John begins to address each of the **seven** churches individually. 7 not 6 or 8 but 7!

A Message for Ephesus



The first is for the folks in **Ephesus**. John relays everything Jesus says to him.

Jesus wants these Christians to know that **he's seen** what they're doing.

The city was famous in its day for the nearby Temple of Artemis (completed around 550 BC), which has been designated one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Its many monumental buildings included the Library of Celsus and a theatre capable of holding 24,000 spectators.

Ephesus was also one of the seven churches of Asia cited in the Book of Revelation; the Gospel of John may have been written there; and it was the site of several 5th-century Christian Councils (see Council of Ephesus).

Jesus is keeping his eye on EPHESUS!

(He does see everything, after all!) He knows when you've been sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness' sake! You better watch out!

Just like Santa Claus and that little Elf on the shelf!

He knows they've been doing **good work**. Or up to nasty stuff, thinking nobody's watching!

They're staying faithful and patiently waiting for him to come again. Yay you guys!

He knows they don't tolerate evil and that they've even outed some false prophets, too.

High five, guys. Woo Hoo! Woot! Woot!

But he does have one bone to pick with them-
they've **lost that loving feeling**. Uh, oh, you know
what is coming nowõ

In the beginning, they were filled with love, and now
they've kind of lost their passion **for him and each
other**.

Threats of death or banishment will do that to you.

You never close your eyes anymore when I kiss your lips
And there's no tenderness like before in your fingertips

You're trying hard not to show it
But baby, baby I know it

You lost that lovin' feelin'

Whoa, that lovin' feelin'

You lost that lovin' feelin'

Now it's gone, gone, gone, whoa-oh

Now there's no welcome look in your eyes when I reach for you

And now you're starting to criticize little things I do

It makes me just feel like crying

'Cause baby, something beautiful's dyin'

You lost that lovin' feelin'

Whoa, that lovin' feelin'

You lost that lovin' feelin'

Now it's gone, gone, gone, whoa-oh

Baby, baby, I'd get down on my knees for you

If you would only love me like you used to do, yeah

We had a love, a love, a love you don't find everyday

So don't, don't, don't, don't let it slip away

Baby, baby, baby, baby

I beg you please, please, please, please

I need your love, need your love

I need your love, I need your love

So bring it on back, so bring it on back

Bring it on back, bring it on back

Bring back that lovin' feelin'
Whoa, that lovin' feelin'
Bring back that lovin' feelin'
'Cause it's gone, gone, gone
And I can't go on, whoa-oh

Bring back that lovin' feelin'
Whoa, that lovin' feelin'
Bring back that lovin' feelin'
'Cause it's gone, gone, gone

He wants them to remember how good things used to be and go back to that.

If they don't do this, Jesus is going to take **their candlestick and chuck it out**. Too bad, those looked expensive, too. They sell them at Stemper's on the near Southside offa Bay Street. But come with **BIG BUCKS!**

But if they do they the right thing, they're going to eat from the tree of life in Paradise with God.

Is anybody this old to remember when Tony Bennett sang this song? No! That's ok, you can still look it up on YouTube for sharts and giggles or ask your great-great-grandparents about it

Take my hand,
I'm a stranger in Paradise
All lost in a wonderland
A stranger in paradise
If I stand starry eyed,
That's a danger in Paradise
For mortals who stand beside
An angel like you
I saw your face,
And I ascended

Out of the common place
Into the rarest somewhere in space
I hang suspended
Until I know
There's a chance that you care
Won't you answer this fervent prayer?
Of a stranger in paradise
Don't send me in dark despair
From all that I hunger for
But open your angel's arms
To this stranger in paradise
And tell him that he need be
A stranger no more

So, a pretty nice reward. So then, there's that!

A Message for Smyrna

Jesus knows the people in Smyrna **aren't rich**. But, hey, **mo' money, mo' problems**, right?

She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right
She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right
Onetta there in the corner stand
And she wonders where she is
And it's strange to her
Some people seem to have everything
Nine a.m. on the hour hand
And she's waiting for the bell

And she's looking real pretty
Just wait for her clientele

She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money

So you better treat her right

She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right

Twenty-eight years have come and gone
And she's seen a lot of tears
Of the ones who come in
They really seem to need her there

It's a sacrifice working day to day
For little money, just tips for pay
But it's worth it all
Just to hear them say that they care

She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right

Already knows
She's seen her bad times
Already knows
These are the good times

Never sell out
She never will
Not for a dollar bill
She works hard

She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right

Hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right, alright

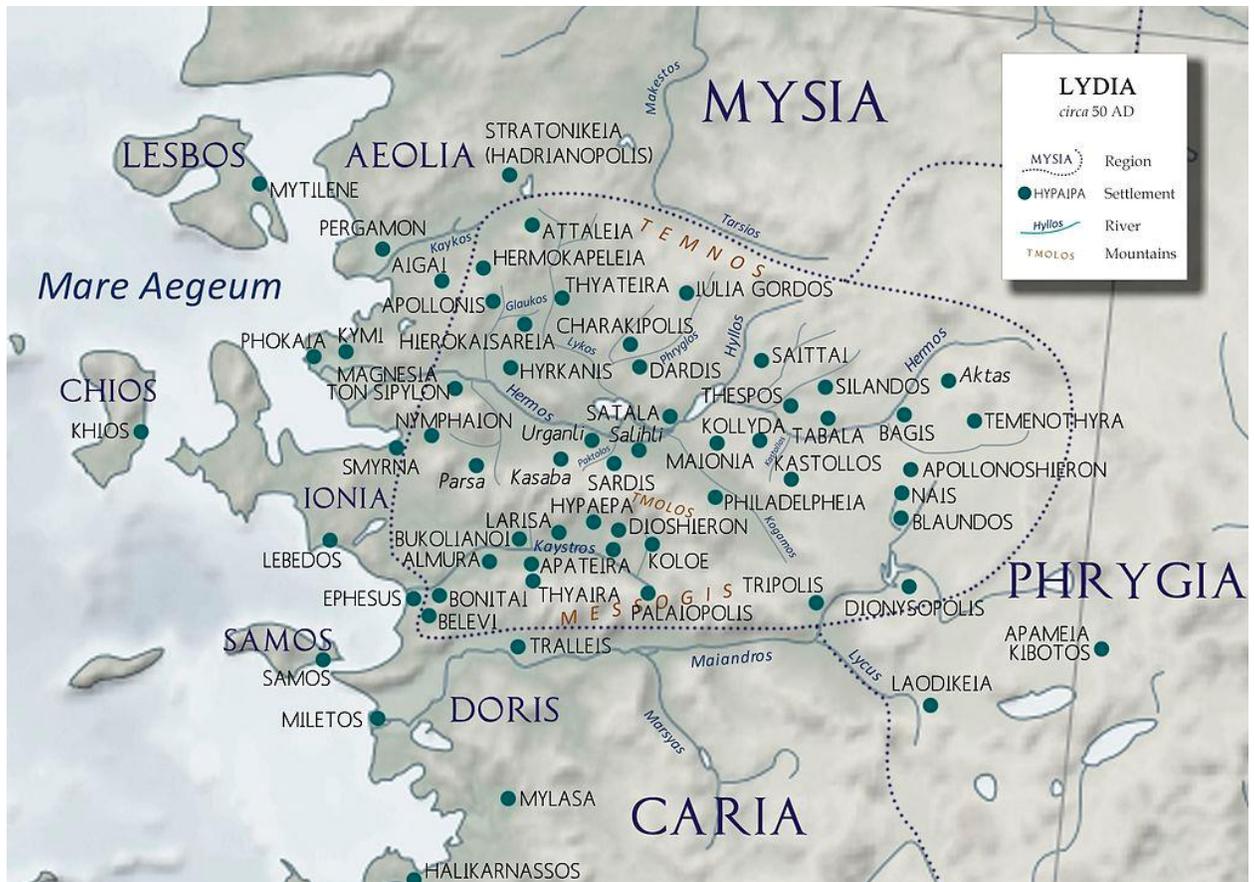
**She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right**

**She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works so hard for the money
So you better treat her right, alright**

**She works hard for the money
So hard for it, honey
She works hard for the money
So you better treat her right**

He knows they've been turned into the Roman authorities by some of the Jewish people (because Jews don't consider Christians as part of the synagogue anymore).





This is bad, but they shouldn't worry about what's about to happen next.

Some of them are going to be **thrown in jail**- oh, sure, nothing to worry about.

The warden threw a party in the county jail
 The prison band was there, and they began to wail
 The band was jumpin', and the joint began to swing
 You should've heard them knocked out jailbirds sing

Let's rock
 Everybody, let's rock
 Everybody in the whole cell block
 Was dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock

Spider Murphy played the tenor saxophone
 Little Joe was blowin' on the slide trombone

The drummer boy from Illinois went crash, boom, bang
The whole rhythm section was the Purple Gang

Let's rock
Everybody, let's rock
Everybody in the whole cell block
Was dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock

Number forty-seven said to number three
"You're the cutest jailbird I ever did see"
"I sure would be delighted with your company"
"Come on and do the Jailhouse Rock with me"

Let's rock
Everybody, let's rock
Everybody in the whole cell block
Was dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock

Sad Sack was sittin' on a block of stone
Way over in the corner weepin' all alone
The warden said, "Hey, buddy, don't you be no square
"If you can't find a partner use a wooden chair"

Let's rock
Everybody, let's rock
Everybody in the whole cell block
Was dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock

Shifty Henry said to Bugs
"For Heaven's sake"
"No one's lookin', now's our chance to make a break"
Bugsy turned to Shifty and he said, "Nix nix"
"I wanna stick around awhile and get my kicks"

Let's rock
Everybody, let's rock
Everybody in the whole cell block
Was dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock

Dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock
Dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock
Dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock
Dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock
Dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock



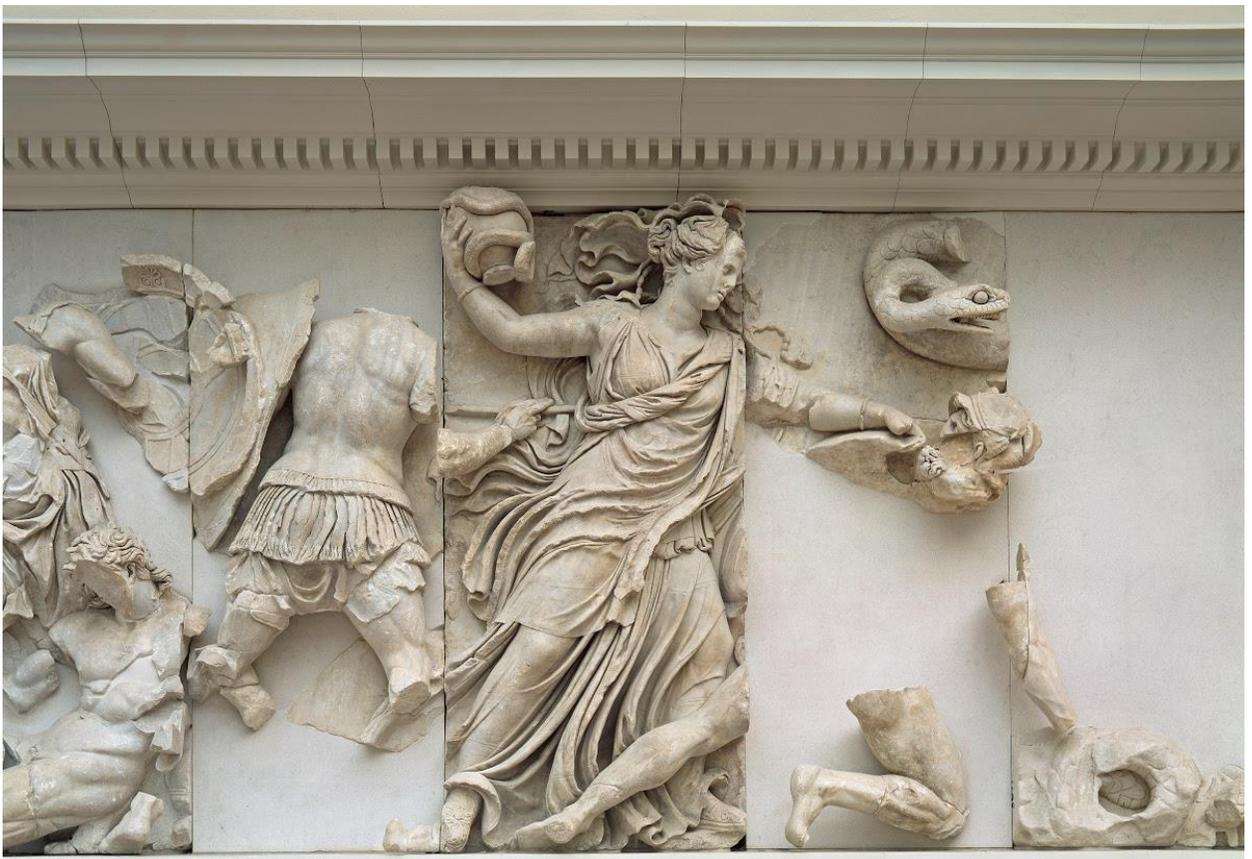
If they're faithful 'til death (wait, so now they're going to be **arrested and killed?**), Jesus will give them a crown of life to wear. Well, maybe it's **a really fancy crown. He will make it all worth it!**

But if they don't stay faithful to him, they're going to receive **eternal punishment**. That crown is starting to look better and better. So is faith and faithfulness, and that is the point!

A Message for Pergamum

Jesus understands that they're living near Satan's throne. (Pergamum is by the seat of the Roman government- **subtle, Jesus.**) Kind of o

Pergamon or Pergamum, also referred to by its modern Greek form **Pergamos**, was a rich and powerful ancient Greek city in Mysia. It is located 26 kilometres from the modern coastline of the Aegean Sea on a promontory on the north side of the river Caicus and northwest of the modern city of Bergama, Turkey.



Is that guy throwing a head? Is that a leg? An arm? A butt? Hehehehe What is that thing over thereõ .

But, he knows they're keeping the faith anyway. They didn't pretend **not to be Christians** when one of them was killed a while back.

Nice job, guys!



Howeverō there are some people in the church who are still following **false prophets**. These guys are teaching that **it's okay to make sacrifices to the Roman gods**.

But, Jesus clarifies, it is most definitely not. **BIG NO-NO!**

This stuff needs to stop immediately. Otherwise, Jesus is going to have to come down there and sort this out. And, **it will not be pretty.**

But if the people get back on the straight and narrow, Jesus will give them **manna and a white stone** which has a new name written on it.

Manna and stones- just what they've always wanted!

Manna is that bread stuff, right? The stuff that came down from Heaven that the Jews complained about eating for 40 years straight

And, the stones are they gall or kidney and does it



really matter?

Both stones will bend you over in much pain. If you are smart, you will call 911 and get to the hospital stat. A kidney stone is a solid mass made up of tiny crystals from the minerals calcium, oxalate and uric acid. Gallstones are hard, pebble-like cholesterol or pigment deposits that form inside the gallbladder. They can be as small as a grain of sand or as large as a golf ball. Sure, go ahead and try and pass one of those suckers on your own.

Can you say, “Ouch?” You wanna see my gallstones?
Let’s play “SHOW AND TELL!”

Seriously only I would put a picture of kidney stones
in a study on Revelations!

A Message for Thyatira

A massage would be better!

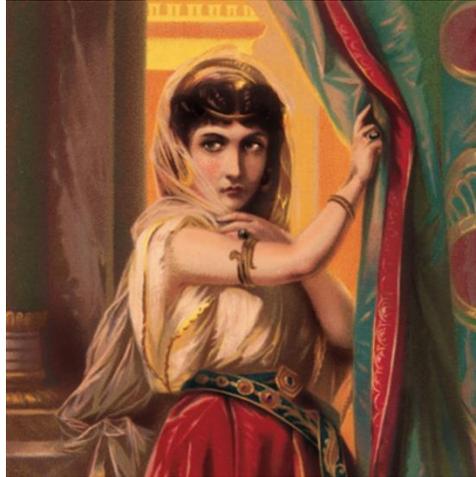
Jesus knows that they're doing good works. But not
so fastõ



They are also wrapped up with this **Jezebel woman**
(probably not her actual name, but a shout-out to **2 Kings 9:22**). She's been telling them that it's fine to

sacrifice to Roman gods (again, **it is not**). Not to mention that she's also kinda **promiscuous**.

That's with a capital "P!"



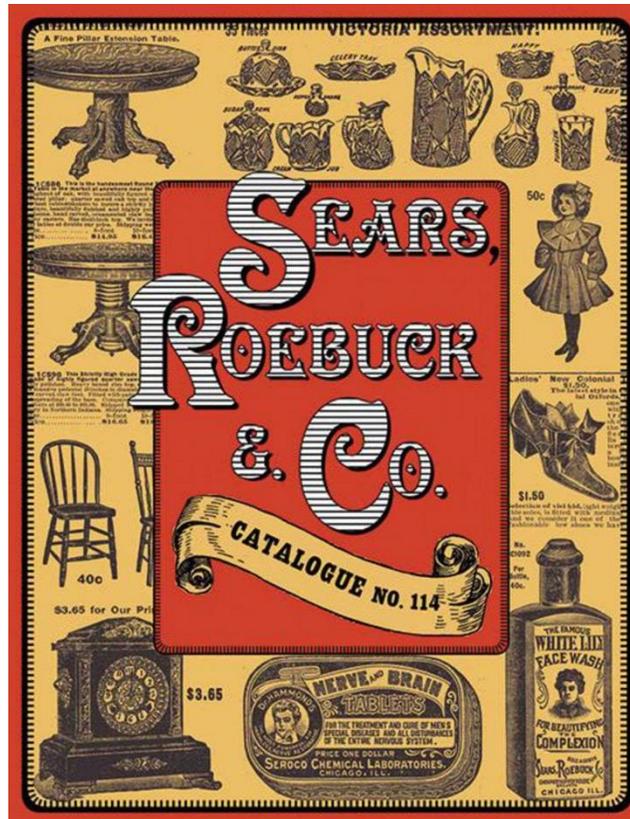
Jesus has tried to get Jezebel to repent, but it's no use. Soon, she and the people she's sleeping with are going to be in **a world of hurt**.

Even her children are going to be struck dead because of her adultery and idolatry. What do you expect for **a commandment breaker** like that?

Not everyone is following this woman, though, and **that's good**.

The people that do listen to Jesus will receive two **lovely parting gifts**- authority over every nation and the morning star.

What **catalog** is Jesus getting this stuff from?



Is there any other?

Finally, we come to the smallest and least important town of the seven, called **Thyatira**. Little is known about it, because little still exists that mentioned it. Yet this is also **the longest** letter of the seven. Don't assume small means insignificant, or unworthy of careful attention.

This also is the **fourth**, and therefore **middle**, letter of the seven - which in the ancient way of structuring a sequence could indicate that this may be **the heart** or the **center** of the message to the seven (7) churches.

So, **Thyatira** is at the heart - the center - four letters down, three to go - We could boil it down to this: the problem in the church in **Thyatira** was **“worldliness.”**

He's got the whole world in his hands he's got the whole wild world in his hands
He's got the whole wild world in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the little bitty baby in his hands he's got the little bitty baby in his hands
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got you and me brother in his hands he's got you and me sister in his hands
He's got you and me brother in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands...

It is actually something MORE like ~~compromise~~ with the world.+

And what was especially **perilous** is that someone in the church was teaching what likely was a **sophisticated form of compromise**.

Maybe that alone speaks volumes, why Thyatira is the fourth letter

It is in a ~~compromise~~ situation.++

~~Neither~~ left or right.+

~~But~~ smack dab in the center.+

Ah, ~~the~~ art of compromise,+it can be a pretty tricky business.

Chapter 3- Don't say we are that far already!

A Message for Sardis...I really like Sardines! Do they come from Sardis?



Jesus tells this church that, sure, **technically they're alive**, but they're starting to look **a little bit dead**. It's time to **wake up** and get back on the right path. That or find **a good mortician**õ

Anyone but CHURCH & CHAPELõ **they are awful!**

Sorry, not sorry!

If they don't ~~re~~resurrect themselves, +Jesus is going to come like a thief in the night. They won't know when or where. This is getting kinda spooky!

Boo! Stick ~~em~~em up! Surprise! **Guess who is coming for dinner?**

Some of them are dressed in **dirty clothes**+and some of them are wearing “**fresh white highly bleached robes** and **pressed** too!+Don't just take that wash out of the dryer and throw it on! the use of a **hot iron** goes a long way!!! Don't forget the spray starch!

The ones in the **nice clean clothes** are actually **walking with Jesus**.+So much for Jesus, take the wheel! That guy really has an eye for fashion. He likes his clothes done at **HAND CLEANERS** in OAK CREEK!

So, are you **walking with Jesus**?



If they repent, though, he'll give them **all clean white clothes to wear**.

That kind of sounds like **BAPTISMAL GOWNS** or dresses or, you are a **member of the choir**! Nice!

He'll also write their names in the Book of Life- and that's a Book you want to be in. (Again, think Baptism!)

So you know, I have this book, right? I have had it since the year **May 23rd, 1976**, Every member, Every Confirmation, Every First Communion, Every Funeral, Every House Blessing, Every Act is in there. It is considered to be the **Book of Life**. **But you have to be a member to get your name in the book! You have to be baptized. Are you in? Where is your name recorded? What about your children? Your Family? Just so you know, it is best, if all names are in the same place.**

A Message for Philadelphia NOT “THAT” PHILADELPHIA!



**Click your red heels together three times and repeat,
“We are not in Pennsylvania anymore!”**

“We’re not in Pennsylvania anymore!”

“We’re not in PA., anymore!”

And just like that, you will find yourself in TURKEY!

Jesus has given them **“a door”** that no one can shut. It's their entryway to the kingdom of God. Just make sure to sweep off the welcome mat every once in a while.



He knows that they don't have a lot of power where they're at, but he's glad they've **stayed faithful** to him.

People have been **telling lies** about the Christians in this church, but soon those same people are going to bow down at their feet.

Just as soon as they get a taste of the “**humble pie**” **Jesus is planning to serve up.**



Just **keep the faith**, Jesus tells them. If they do, they'll all get God's name written on them. **Coollest tattoo ever!**

A Message for Laodicea

This church is kind of **lukewarm.**



Kind of????

Or, IT IS, **LUKEWARM!**

If they were “**hot or cold**” at least they'd have some taste, but they're just “**room temperature.**” Jesus is getting ready to spit them out onto the floor and demand to see the chefõ NOW!

Some of the people here are **bragging** about how **spiritually rich** they are. In reality, they're poor and blind and naked.

Talk about **getting it wrong.**

They need to **turn to Jesus** to be truly rich. He's standing at the door knocking.



They just have to let him in. Maybe they can get him to tell some great “**knock-knock**” **jokes** while they're waiting. If they do all this, they're going to get a place beside him on his throne. **Best seat in the house. Tell me you don't know what is coming!!!!**

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Oink oink. Oink oink who? Make up your mind—are you a pig, or an owl?!

Q: Knock, knock. A: Who's there? Q: Wooden shoe. A: Wooden shoe, who? Q: Wooden shoe like to know!

Knock, Knock! Who's there? Ken Ken who? Ken I come in? It's cold out here.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Radio. Radio who? Radio not, here I come! Knock!

Knock! Who's there? Wooden shoe. Wooden shoe who? Wooden shoe like to hear another joke?

Knock! Knock!

Who's there?

Robin.

Robin who?

Robin *you*—hand over the cash!

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Art Art who? R2-D2, of course.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Opportunity That's impossible. Opportunity doesn't come knocking twice!

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Honeybee Honeybee who? Honeybee a dear and open the door, please.

Yes, I did just include knock, knock jokes in a serious adult study of the **BOOK OF REVELATION.**

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Spell Spell who? W-H-O

And, I am done...but just so you know, I crack myself up!

For the record it is now 10:47 P.M. on a Sunday night and the Soviet Union still has not invaded Ukraine yet, thank God!

Stairway to Heaven

There's a lady who's sure all that glitters is gold
And she's buying a stairway to heaven
When she gets there she knows, if the stores are all closed
With a word she can get what she came for
Ooh, ooh, and she's buying a stairway to heaven

There's a sign on the wall, but she wants to be sure
'Cause you know sometimes words have two meanings
In a tree by the brook, there's a songbird who sings
Sometimes all of our thoughts are misgiven
You know

There's a feeling I get when I look to the west
And my spirit is crying for leaving
In my thoughts I have seen rings of smoke through the trees
And the voices of those who stand looking
That's you

And it's whispered that soon, if we all call the tune
Then the piper will lead us to reason
And a new day will dawn for those who stand long
And the forests will echo with laughter
Remember laughter?

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah...

And it makes me wonder
If there's a bustle in your hedgerow, don't be alarmed now
It's just a spring clean for the May queen

Yes, there are two paths you can go by, but in the long run
There's still time to change the road you're on

Your head is humming and it won't go, in case you don't know
The piper's calling you to join him
Dear lady, can you hear the wind blow, and did you know
Your stairway lies on the whispering wind?

And as we wind on down the road
Our shadows taller than our soul
There walks a lady we all know
Who shines white light and wants to show
How everything still turns to gold

And if you listen very hard
The tune will come to you at last

**When all is one and one is all, that's what it is
To be a rock and not to roll, oh yeah
And she's buying a stairway to heaven**

After John tells us all this, he looks and sees a door
opening up in Heavenõ

I see a red door
And I want it painted black
No colors anymore
I want them to turn black

I see the girls walk by
Dressed in their summer clothes
I have to turn my head
Until my darkness goes

I see a line of cars
And they're all painted black
With flowers and my love
Both never to come back

I've seen people turn their heads
And quickly look away

Like a newborn baby
It just happens everyday

I look inside myself
And see my heart is black
I see my red door
I must have it painted black

Maybe then, I'll fade away
And not have to face the facts
It's not easy facing up
When your whole world is black

No more will my green sea
Go turn a deeper blue
I could not foresee this thing
Happening to you

If I look hard enough
Into the setting sun

My love will laugh with me
Before the morning comes

I see a red door
And I want it painted black
No colors anymore
I want them to turn black

I see the girls walk by
Dressed in their summer clothes
I have to turn my head
Until my darkness goes

I wanna see it painted
Painted black
Black as night
Black as coal
I wanna see the sun
Blotted out from the sky
I wanna see it painted, painted, painted
Painted black, yeah

DID YOU SEE THAT ONE COMING? Again, sometimes I crack myself up!

Jesus tells him to come on in and stay awhile. He'll give John the tour. Nice! 3 hots and a cot!

Inside, John sees **%God on his throne.**+ Nope, not going there, went there once already, but once you've seen **it**, you cannot **unsee it** ã □ F-L-U-S-H!

Big old porcelaine pot with WHITE CLOUD in close proximity.

But the question is: in **GOD's TERLET** which way does the toilet paper hang up and over or down and under? I'm an up and over kinda guy, and I hope **the BIG GUY** is too!

Inquisitive minds want to know?

Around him is a shining rainbow. Oh, the rainbow
people must be so happy! Sparkles galoreõ shiney
things that make you stareõ brightõ sparkleyõ

Sunshine, lollipops and rainbows
Everything that's wonderful is what I feel when we're together
Brighter than a lucky penny
When you're near the rain goes, disappears, dear
And I feel so fine
Just to know that you are mine

My life is sunshine, lollipops and rainbows
That's how this refrain goes
So come on, join in, everybody

Sunshine, lollipops and rainbows
Everything that's wonderful is sure to come your way
When you're in love to stay

Sunshine, lollipops and rainbows
Everything that's wonderful is what I feel when we're together
Brighter than a lucky penny
When you're near the rain goes, disappears, dear
And I feel so fine
Just to know that you are mine

My life is sunshine, lollipops and rainbows
That's how this refrain goes
So come on, join in everybody

Sunshine, lollipops and rainbows
Everything that's wonderful is sure to come your way

'Cause you're in love
You're in love
And love is here to stay

God really knows “**how to decorate**”õ with a flair!

Love what you've done to the place, Lord, classy very
classy! **Steinhafels????**



There are also **24 other thrones** with **24 elders sitting on them**. They're wearing **white robes** and golden crowns. More **porcelaine pots!** Is this a thing? In heaven is everybody on the go? Is that all they do up there is sit **on their thrones?**

Their thrones have **thunder** and **lightning** coming from them.

Um, awesome.

OK. A Joke as a child. A mouse falls into a toilet. He lives to tell his story. First he says, it was dark and cold and wet, then, it rained. Then, it poured. Then, a log fell on me. But the good news is, I got out and lived to steal cheese another day!

But, back to **God's throne**. You know, **the really big one...**

The Big Guy knows how to draw attention to himself- his seat has seven **flaming torches** (Count them, there are seven again!) around it and in front of it is **a sea of crystal**.

Around him are **a lion, an ox, a human, and an eagle**. I bet you didn't know that all of this is symbolic and has its own special meaning. **+Get this:** I did some research:

The lion was the ensign of the tribe of Judah, the ox was of Ephraim, the man was the ensign of the tribe of Reuben and the eagle was of Dan.

Judah, the Lion, camped on the east, opposite Ephraim, the ox, on the west. Dan, the eagle, camped to the north, opposite Reuben, the man, to the south. And just why is any of this significant or important you ask?

Good question, Weston!

What do the man the Ox Lion and the eagle represent?



The man, the ox, the lion and the eagle represent the four Apostles who wrote the Books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

So God is surrounded by the four evangelists, the four gospel writers...ah boys, back off and give him some privacy here...

– the Book of Kells says --- When the simple peasants contemplated the shortening days of winter and what seems to be the triumph of darkness over light, they thought of the long centuries of twilight that preceded the coming of Christ, and they understood that in the divine drama both light and darkness have a Shamrock place.

It was at the winter solstice, when the light begins to reappear and the days to lengthen, that the Son of God was born.

Those silly Kells! (Well maybe!)

In the event that you do not know – WHO – the KELLS refers to, they would be the Irish.

You know:

The Blarney Stone.

The TRINITY.

St. Patrick.

The Shamrock

Irish Whiskey

Irish Coffee

Leprechauns

The Emerald Island

Three leaf Clovers...

What about the RIVER DANCE

**Or, shades of green...
And, the Lord of the Dance...
what fun!**



Or, at least they look like those animals.

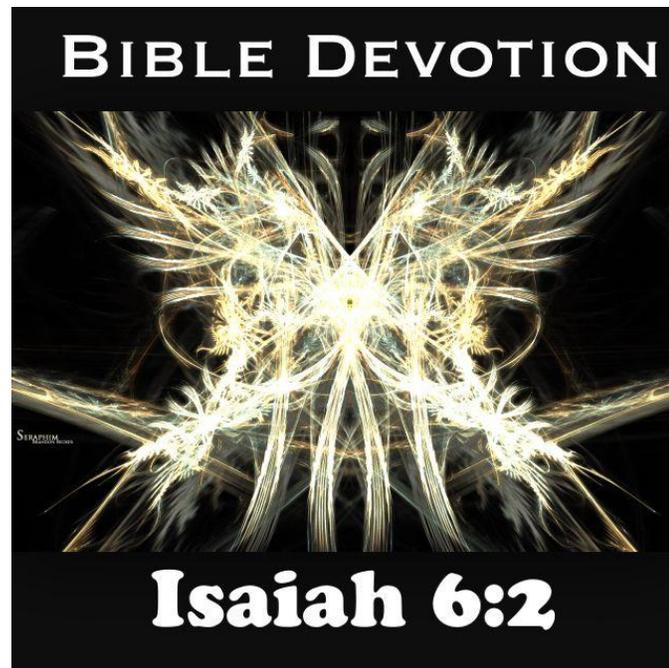
Um, God couldn't you just roll in a big screen TV to divert your attention?

They all have six wings and eyes **all over their bodies, so it's kind of hard to tell...**

Why are these guys here?

What are they all about?

Can we talk about this whole thing?



YOU looking at **ME**? Yeah, **YOU!**

These weird-looking creatures hang around God and sing his praises all day and all night. They're like God's own personal **iPod**. Cool! Neat! Awesome?

But in the bathroom? (**Shaking my head**)

I am thinking camera\$ in the bathroom, are not a good thing!

Can you say, **S-T-A-L-K-E-R-S?**

Chapter 5

Signed, Sealed, Delivered

Oh yeah, baby

Like a fool, I went and stayed too long
Now, I'm wondering if your love's still strong

Ooh baby, here I am
Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours
Then that time I went and said goodbye
Now, I'm back and not ashamed to cry
Ooh baby, here I am
Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours
Here I am, baby
You got my future in your hands
Here I am, baby
You got my future in your hands
I've done a lot of foolish things
That I really didn't mean, yeah, yeah, didn't I?
Oh baby, seen a lot of things in this old world
When I touch them, they mean nothing, girl
Ooh baby, here I am
Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours, I'm yours
Oowee baby, you set my soul on fire
That's why I know you're my heart's only desire
Ooo baby, here I am
Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours
Here I am, baby
You got my future in your hands, baby
Here I am, baby
You got my future in your hands, baby
Yeah, I've done a lot of foolish things
That I really didn't mean
I could be a broken man
But here I am
Watch out with my future babe
Here I am, baby
Here I am, baby, get it
Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours
Ooh baby
Here I am, baby
Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours
Here I am, baby
Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours

(That's a little Stevie Wonder, in the event that you have forgotten!)

Next up, John notices that God is holding a scroll with **seven seals** in his hand. I told you (many, many, many times) this book has a thing for **sevens**.

Sevens are like everything.

What Does The Number 7 Mean In Numerology? In numerology, the number seven represents “a quest for knowledge,” and it’s actually considered “significant” in virtually every “major religion” — consider the seven days of creation in the Bible or the seven basic chakras in eastern traditions.

An angel starts to fret that no one in all of Heaven and Earth is awesome enough to open the seal.

I am guessing it takes a pretty big letter opener to get through **seven seals**.

This makes little John a little sad, but then one of the elders reminds him about **Jesus**. Eureka, I tell you!

Jesus can do it, if any one can, Jesus can!

EUREKA
VACUUM CLEANERS

Eureka! (Not the Vacuum Sweeper!)



John sees a lamb that has been slaughtered standing in front of the throne.

It has **seven** (not 6 or 8) horns and **seven** eyes (why are all the **animals** in Heaven so freaky?). Maybe they have always been there!

The **Lamb** takes the scroll from God and instantly everyone in Heaven falls down to worship the **Lamb**. We're talking elders and angels and all manner of **crazy-looking creatures**. Cool!

THE TWILIGHT ZONE!



ONE STEP BEYOND!



Thousands and thousands of beings singing, cheering, shouting, rejoicing.

It's like a party in the heavenly realms.

Da Da, ooooo

Well, my friends, the time has come
To raise the roof and have some fun
Throw away the work to be done
Let the music play on (play on, play on, play on...)
Everybody sing, everybody dance
Lose yourself in wild romance
We're going to Party, Karamu, Fiesta, forever
Come on and sing along!
We're going to Party, Karamu, Fiesta, forever
Come on and sing along!

All night long (all night), All night (all night)
All night long (all night), All night (all night)
All night long (all night), All night (all night)
All night long! (all night), Ooh, yeah (all night)

People dancing all in the street
See the rhythm all in their feet
Life is good, wild and sweet
Let the music play on...(Play on, play on, play on...)
Feel it in your heart and feel it in your soul
Let the music take control
We're going to Party, Liming, Fiesta, forever
Come on and sing along
We're going to Party, Liming, Fiesta, forever
Come on and sing my song!

All night long (all night), oooh, (all night)
All night long (all night), yeaz, (all night)
All night long (all night), yeah, (all night)
All night long (all night)...(all night)

Yeah, once you get started you can't sit down
Come join the fun, it's a merry-go-round
Everyone's dancing their troubles away
Come join our party, See how we play!

Come on! Come on!
Everybody dance like Jimmy
Come on!

Tam bo li de say de moi ya
Hey Jambo Jumbo
Way to parti o we goin'
Oh, jambali
Tam bo li de say de moi ya
Yeah, Jambo, jumbo

Oh, O, O, O, yes
We're going to have a party! (Yeah... ugh)

All night long (all night), All night, (all night)
All night long (all night), All night, (all night)
All night long (all night), All night, (all night)
All night long (all night)...

Everyone you meet (all night)
They're jamming in the street (all night)
All night long! (All night)

Everyone you meet (all night)
They're jamming in the street (all night)
All night long! (All night)

Everybody come on!
Feel good! Feel good!
Come on!

Come on!

Sing about here, everybody!

All night long (all night), All night, (all night)
All night long (all night), All night, (all night)
Come on now
All night long (all night), All night, (all night)
That was a little Lionel Richie for you!



Chapter 6 (That's all?) The Four Horsemen

So, the Lamb opens the first of the **seven** seals.
Did you get that? **seven** seals?
Seven churches?
Seven lampstands?
Seven stars?
Seven pieces of toilet paper?
Seven bowls of the plagues?
We are really rolling the 7¢ here!

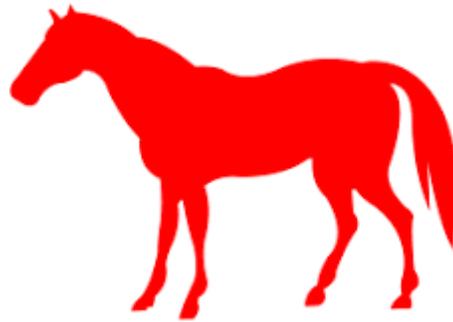
Immediately, John sees **a white horse**. Its rider has a bow and is wearing **a crown**. He has clearly come to conquer something very important. Doesn't everyone wear a crown when doing their conquering?



In some cultures, white horses **stand for the balance of wisdom and power**. In others, like Christianity, the **white horse is a symbol of death**. The horse is a **universal symbol of freedom without restraint, because riding a horse made people feel they could free themselves from their own bindings**. Also linked with riding horses, they **are symbols of travel, movement, and desire**.

The Lamb opens the **second** seal.
John sees a bright **red** horse. The guy riding this horse has a huge sword, and by sword, you mean? At first, this doesn't seem so bad, but then we find out that he also takes peace from the Earth so that

everyone will kill each other. Yikes! I'm thinking this is



not a good scenario.

Then, the Lamb opens the **third** seal.

Out comes a **black** horse. Its rider has a pair of scales in his hand- the better to judge you with.



Next, the **fourth** seal is opened.

John sees a pale green horse whose rider is **Death** himself. Okay, we're officially freaked out now. Death is given authority to **kill people** all over the Earth. Things are not looking good for US! Killing people is never a good thing, just sayingõ



The Seals Just Keep Getting Crazier

But it's not over yet. Yay, what fun!!!!

The Lamb goes on to open **the fifth seal**. (Might I suggest that now is a good time to stop opening these scary seals?)



The fifth seal that is opened was called Jameson! And it wasn't even close to St. Paddy's day, yet!

John sees **the souls** of all the Christians who have been martyred so far.

They cry out to God asking that he bring down the hammer on the people who murdered them. Apparently being martyred makes you really vengeful.

God tells them they're going to need to wait a little longer. He gives them some nice **white robes** to tide them over though. OMG, again with the white robes, is this a thing or not?

The Lamb then opens the **sixth seal**. **DUN, DUN, DUN... Suddenly the heavens go crazy.**



When we think of **white robes**, we think of baptismal gowns again—washed white in the blood of the lamb—sins being washed away in the waters of baptism—or we think of a stay at the **HOLIDAY INN!** Don't steal the robes—Steal the red Bible tucked away and hidden away in the bottom drawer of the dresser. The Gideon's International will rejoice that another soul was saved by them leaving Bibles in those bottom drawers all the time. Go ahead, **make their day!**

Partner with The Gideons International and reach lost souls in 200 nations with Bibles and New Testaments.



Gideons International is an Evangelical Christian association for men founded in 1899 in **Janesville, Wisconsin. Bet you never knew that before!**

There's an earthquake and the sun becomes black. The moon turns to blood and the stars fall out of the sky. **All the kings** and rich guys and other powerful people on Earth try to run and hide from **the Lamb**. They're a little bit worried about what he's going to do to them. I can't say I blame them. **Some of you guys** are in so much trouble!

Chapter “7”

The Elect Get Their Tickets to Heaven

After this, John sees **four angels** standing at the **four corners of the Earth**. The angels must not realize Earth is actually **round** and doesn't have any corners. But back then, it was flat.

Sorry folks, from Illinois, you flatlanders, had it right all along! Hehehehe IT IS CIRCULAR! AND NOT FLAT!

They're holding back the winds, and another angel tells them to make sure not to damage the Earth – at least **not yet**.

The angel tells them that they still need to mark the foreheads of the Elect.

More tattoos!



They go through and seal **144,000 people**, a remarkably small and a very specific number – at that!

That's 12,000 for each of the tribes of Israel (remember them from **Genesis**).

Jacob and his boys – for us –

Then, John sees **tons of people** from all over the world standing around God's throne. All these people are wearing **white robes** (it's the fashion in Heaven) and holding palm leaves.

WHITE ROBES has gotta be a thing!+

They praise God and the Lamb along with the elders and the angels and all the creepy-looking creatures in Heaven.

One of the elders tells John that these people have been through a huge ordeal, but they made it through and that's why they're here. They won't be hungry or thirsty ever again. The Lamb is going to be their shepherd and lead them where they need to go. So things are looking pretty good for them.

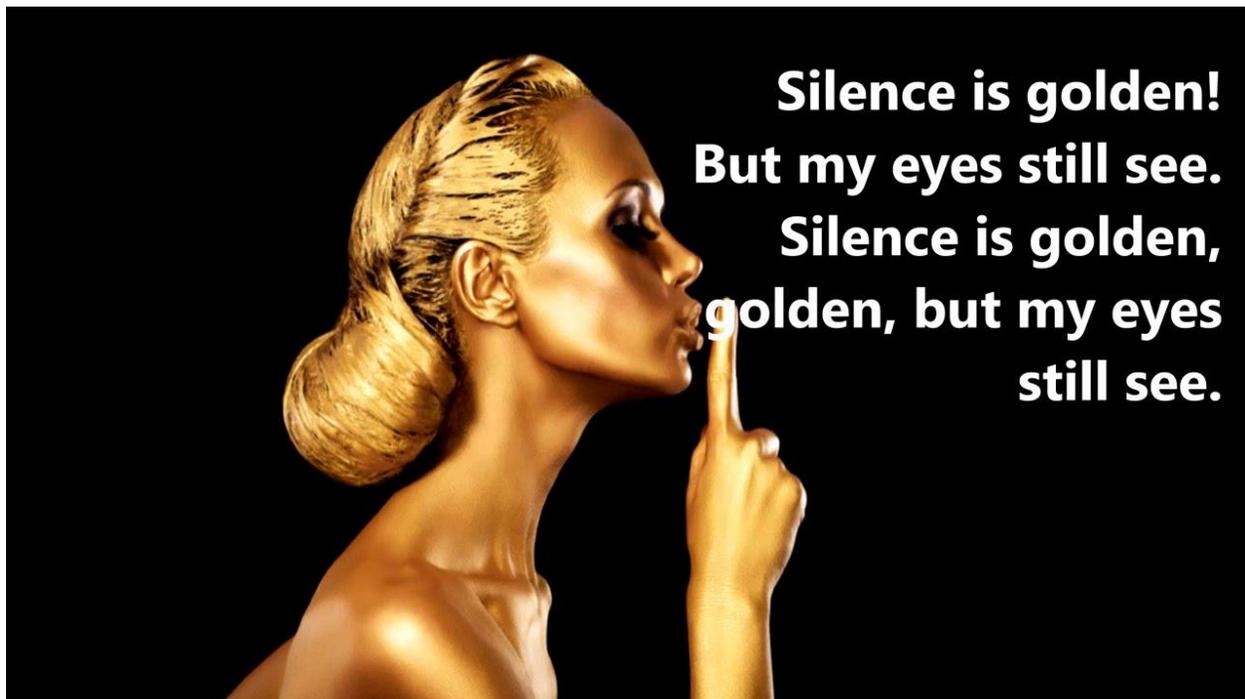
Chapter 8

The Seventh Seal

Next, John sees the Lamb open the **seventh seal**.

YAY!

Nothing happens. There's just silence.



But don't get too hopeful. It's just the **calm** before the **storm**.

After about a half hour of quiet, John sees **seven** angels with **seven** trumpets standing in front of God.

Seven, seven, seven, are you guys done with this yet?

Blow, Angels, Blow

The angels all start to blow their trumpets **one by one**. Think we're about to hear a delightful **jazz septet**? Think again.

Let list some Jazz guys ã

Who are popular jazz artists? According to the internetí for whatever that is worthí



The 10 best jazz musicians

- **Charles Mingus 1922-79. Most people know Mingus as a pioneering bass player, but to me he's the most raucous and inventive composer of his era. ...**
 - **John Coltrane 1926-67. ...**
 - **Mary Lou Williams 1910-81. ...**
 - **Herbie Hancock 1940- ...**
 - **Nat King Cole 1919-65. ...**
 - **Miles Davis 1926-91. ...**
 - **Keith Jarrett 1945- ...**
 - **Kurt Elling 1967-**

When the first angel trumpets, hail and fire mixed with blood starts to rain down on the Earth.

Eek.

The second angel blows his horn and a burning mountain falls into the sea. So things are getting worse.

Much worse. The third angel takes his turn and a star named Wormwood falls from the sky and pollutes the water even more.

The fourth angel finishes off this attack on the Earth when he blows his horn and the sun, moon, and stars get dimmer. But how will the people of Earth have enough light to see the rivers of blood around them?

Then the creepy eagle sums up the whole cheerful segment, saying, "Woe to the inhabitants of the Earth!" Woe indeed.

Chapter 9

Do the Locust Commotion

Everybody's doin' a brand new dance, now
Come on, baby, do the Loco-Motion
I know you'll get to like it if you give it a chance, now
Come on, baby, do the Loco-Motion
My little baby sister can do it with ease
It's easier to learn than your ABC's
So come on, come on, and do the Loco-Motion with me
You got to swing your hips now
Come on, jump up, jump back
Oh, babe, I think you got the knack, whoa whoa

Now that you can do it, well let's make a chain now
Come on, baby, do the Loco-Motion
A chugga-chugga motion like a railroad train now
Come on, baby, do the Loco-Motion
Do it nice and easy, now, and don't lose control
A little bit of rhythm and a lot of soul
Well, come on, come on, and do the Loco-Motion with me

Now it's time to go after some humans.

The fifth angel blows his horn and a bottomless pit opens up in the Earth.

Out of the pit comes a whole swarm of terrifying locusts. They have human faces and hair, but teeth like lions, iron scales, and huge, creepy wings. How charming. The freaky locusts are told to leave the Elect alone (those folks with God's mark on their forehead). But they get the green light to go on and torture everyone else for a few months. Must have been awkward for the Elect.

My Little Apocalyptic Pony

Once the locusts are done doing their thing, the sixth angel blows his trumpet. Guess what? More bad news for non-believers.

Four angels of death are released. They're told to kill a third of the humans still living on Earth. At this point, maybe we should start calling these dead guys the lucky ones.

Then about **two hundred million horses** storm the Earth. They have **heads like lions** and breathe smoke, fire, and

sulfur. Their **tails are like scorpions**, because regular ponytails are just boring.

They also kill a whole lot more people- another third, in fact.

Probably the weirdest part of all of this is that the people that are left over still aren't convinced. They refuse to repent and put their faith in Jesus. Guys, what about fire-breathing death ponies do you not understand?

Chapter 10

Scroll de Jour

Then John sees another awesome angel coming down from Heaven. He has a rainbow for a halo and his face shines like the sun- you know, the usual.

Johnny Angel

You're an angel to me (Sha dum da dum, sha dum da dum)

Johnny Angel (Sha dum da dum)

How I love him (Sha dum da dum)

He's got something that I can't resist (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)

But he doesn't even know (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)

That I exist (Sha dum da dum dum, sha dum da dum)

Johnny Angel (Sha dum da dum)

How I want him (Sha dum da dum)

How I tingle when he passes by (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)

Everytime he says hello (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)

My heart begins to fly (Sha dum da dum)

I get carried away

I dream of him and me

And how it's gonna be

(Other fellas)

Call me up for a date

But I just sit and wait (Da dum)

I'd rather concentrate

On Johnny Angel (Johnny Angel)
'Cause I love him ('Cause I love him)
And I pray that someday he'll love me (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)
And together we will see (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)
How lovely Heaven will be (Sha dum da dum)

I get carried away
I dream of him and me
And how it's gonna be
(Other fellas)
Call me up for a date
But I just sit and wait (Ooh ooh ooh ooh)
I'd rather concentrate (Ooh ooh ooh ooh)

On Johnny Angel (Johnny Angel)
'Cause I love him ('Cause I love him)
And I pray that someday he'll love me (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)
And together we will see (Ah, da dum, da dum dum)
How lovely Heaven will be (Johnny Angel)

Johnny Angel (Johnny Angel)
You're an angel to me (Ooh)

Johnny Angel (Johnny Angel)
You're an angel to me (Ooh)

Johnny Angel

The angel hands John a tiny scroll and tells him to eat it. Fair warning: The scroll will taste like honey going down, but is going to leave a bitter taste in John's stomach.

John, of course, gobbles up the scroll, because when a magnificent angel with a face like the sun tells you to eat a scroll, you eat it.

Chapter 11

Two Candlesticks Walk Down to the Earth...

Another voice tells John that two witnesses are going to go out into the world- two candlesticks to be exact. (If you remember from Chapter 1, these guys represent the church.)

So **the candlesticks go down to Earth**, (is this guy, high or what????) but then a beast comes up from the bottomless pit and attacks them.

Candlesticks don't stand much of a chance against a hideous beast from a bottomless pit, so it kills them.

Aw, now we have dead candlesticks!!!!

Their bodies lie in the streets of Jerusalem while all the non-believers gloat and rejoice. You see, they didn't much like those pesky candlesticks and are pretty glad to see them gone. Good riddance, right?

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye
He'll never love you
The way that I love you
'Cause if he did, oh no, he wouldn't
Make you cry
He might be thrilling baby but my love's
So doggone willing so kiss him
(Wanna see you kiss him)
Go on and kiss him goodbye
Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye
Na na na na
Na na na na

Hey hey hey
Goodbye
He's never near you
To comfort and cheer you
When all those sad tears
Are falling baby from your eyes
He might be thrilling baby but my love's
So doggone willing so kiss him
(Wanna see you kiss him)
Go on and kiss him goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye

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Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na

Hey hey hey
Goodbye

Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye
Na na na na
Na na na na
Hey hey hey
Goodbye...

Almost as many na na na's as 7's in this letter!

But, the people push their luck a little by refusing to bury them and throwing a huge party to celebrate the fact that they're dead.

And are they? Of course not! After three and a half days, **the candlesticks get right back up** (yep, it's the drugs, its gotta be the drugs, what else could it be) and start living again.

The people, naturally, freak out.

Then, the candlesticks fly up into Heaven and let loose a huge earthquake. **Seven** thousand people are killed, but the rest, wisely, repent and put their faith in Jesus. Finally, some people are catching on.

Lucky Number Seven

Finally, the *seventh* angel goes ahead and blows his trumpet.

John hears voices announcing that God's reign on Earth has begun. Time to crack open the champagne.



Drinking for Jesus!

The 24 elders start to worship God and let everyone know that it's almost time to start judging some people. **HUH?**

The faithful are going to be rewarded big time (You get a crown! You get a crown, and YOU get a crown! Apparently OPRAH is in town!), but non-believers— well, just wait and see.

Then, God's temple up in Heaven opens and everyone can see inside and there's thunder and lightning and hail. It's a total mad house up there.

Chapter 12

The Girl with the Dragon Snafu

Suddenly, John sees **an omen**— it's a woman. She is clothed with sun, the moon is under her feet, and she

wears a crown of stars. Yawn.



The woman is in the middle of giving birth and she's screaming in pain.

Um, yeahõ

Or she may be screaming at the sight of a huge red dragon- it appears with **seven** heads with crowns on each of them and ten horns.

The Dragon heads over to the woman. He's planning to gobble her up once she finishes giving birth. How rude.

The woman delivers **a baby boy** and it just so happens that he's going to rule all the nations of the world.

The best REVEAL THE GENDER PARTY ever!

He is promptly taken up into Heaven and the woman runs away before the Dragon can get his teeth around her. Close call. Was her name, by any chance, Mary?

This Means War

Then war breaks out in Heaven.

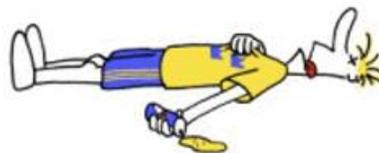
Michael the Archangel and his band of angel soldiers attack the Dragon and manage to throw him out of Heaven. So Heaven is goodō

But the Earth isn't so lucky. The Dragon lands down there and decides to wreak a little havoc.

He finds the woman who gave birth to the son and chases after her. But she sprouts wings and flies away. **Was she drinking too much Red Bull?**

Red bull gives you wings...

Red Bull



Then he opens his mouth and floods the Earth, trying to drown her. But the Earth comes to her rescue and swallows up the water. Thanks, Earth.

Okay, now the Dragon is really ticked.

He decides to go off and attack the woman's other children- the followers of Jesus. Yikes. Watch out, guys!

Run!

Chapter 13

Just Beastly

John sees a huge beast rising out of the sea and, boy, is this sucker ugly.

It has **seven** heads and ten horns with a crown on each one. It looks kind of like a leopard, but has feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion. (Again, with the magic mushrooms?)

It also loves to say terrible and blasphemous things about God. So, it's all-around awful.

The Dragon gives the Sea Beast its power and, naturally, everyone on Earth is totally amazed by it.

They all worship the Sea Beast and the Dragon and don't think there's anyone in the world who can beat them.

(Spoiler alert: **there is**...and we know who!)

John tells us that the Sea Beast loves to attack Christians and make them into martyrs. Not a good idea, Sea Beast.

He knows that the Sea Beast can be seductive at times (after all, those ten horns do look fetching), but John reminds Christians they'd be better off dead than worshipping the Sea Beast.

He means this literally, of course.

This Beast probably symbolizes the Roman Emperors, some of whom liked to persecute Christians, and all of whom promoted Roman religion instead of Christianity.

I am thinking the **10 hills of Rome** and the **7 Emperors that persecuted Christians...**

Even More Beastly

Next, another beast comes out of the Earth.

This one has two horns like the Lamb, but sounds an awful lot like the Dragon.

The Earth Beast is kind of like the right-hand creature of the Sea Beast. It makes everyone worship the Sea Beast. This sucker is bad news.

It tries to get you to turn your back on God. Um, some people are listening. Especially TODAY!

Maybe it even wants you to use some of those coins with the emperor's face on him.

You know, the ones that say the emperor is actually a god in human form.

But don't do it.

John gives us one final bit of info about this Beast- you can find out its true identity by knowing its number- **666**. Quick, get your Bible decoder ring!



Actually, this Beast probably represents the **priests** of Roman religion who supported the Emperors and increased the pressure on Christians to take part in the official religion of the Empire.

Chapter 14

Elect Boogaloo

John sees **the Lamb standing on Mount Zion**. (Hey, that's my former church! Good old Mt. Zion 12012 West North Avenue, Tosa!) With him are the **144,000 Elect**. They're the only ones that can learn a **special song** the Lamb is singing.

Everyone else is, apparently, a little tone deaf.

Then, John hears **several angels**. One tells them all to fear and worship God, otherwise there is going to be some serious judgment going on. Another tells them that **Babylon** has fallen. A third one lets everyone know that the people who worship the Beast are going to burn. Literally.

Don't Fear the Reaper



... Or Maybe Do

Next, John sees someone who **looks like the Son of Man** floating down on a cloud (could it be Jesus in disguise?). He's wearing a gold crown and holding a sickle.

JOHN FRED & HIS PLAYBOY BAND

Judy In Disguise Lyrics

Judy in disguise, well that's what you are
Lemonade pies with a brand new car
Cantaloupe eyes come to me tonight
Judy in disguise, with glasses

Keep a-wearing your bracelets
and your new bra

He takes the sickle and swings it to reap all the faithful people from the Earth.

Another angel comes down with a sickle and reaps all the not-so-faithful people (who are like ripe grapes). Then he throws them into a wine press of God's wrath. It squirts out blood all over the place. That's probably not something you'd want to bottle.

Chapter 15

Life Is Just a Bowl of Plagues

After this, John sees (you guessed it) seven angels carrying **seven** plagues. How many plagues? hehehe

He also sees that the people who brought down the Beast are sitting by a sea of glass playing harps and singing songs of praise to God.

Because there really is no better way to spend your off time than by a sea of glass. And you seriously don't think this guy is ~~on~~+anything?

Then John notices that one of those creepy creatures gives the angels **seven** golden bowls filled with hot steamy portions of God's wrath w/ a side of hashbrowns.

Delicious. Do they serve that at George Webbs?

Bowls of Mass Destruction

A voice tells the angels to go ahead and serve up a heaping helping of that wrath on the Earth. So, the angels pour out their bowls **one by one**.

The first angel dumps out his bowl, and all the non-believers who have the mark of the Beast on them break out **in painful sores**. Yikes! Not going to get rid of that with a **cream or ointment!** Just sayingõ

The second angel turns the sea into blood. Gross. Um didn't that happen to old Pharaoh in Egyptland, once upon a time?

The third angel turns the rivers into blood. Again, been there, done that. Old hat. Seen it beforeõ Nothing to look at here, u bunch of rubbernecks, keep movingõ

Double gross. Then the angels let God know how clever he is. After all, these people loved the blood of Christians so much, so now God has given them blood to drink. Good one, Lord!

Up top! Down low, too slow~

The fourth angel **turns up the heat on the sun** and burns all the people. Now might be a good time to put on that **SPF 10,000**. Someone **IS** smoking something, I tell you!!!!!!!

The fifth angel plunges the entire city of Rome into darkness. What did he do, blow out all the candles? Someone's seriously **gotta thing** for that city of Rome! The people there curse God, because they're still not getting the clue. Repent or there's worse to come. Seriously, guys.

The sixth angel dries up the **Euphrates River** (hey, we thought it had turned to blood). And doesn't that flow through Iraq?

The **seventh angel** pours his bowl out and a voice tells everyone that, "It is done!" Whew!!!! Finally!!!!

Um, what's done? Asking for a friend. So, is someone or something gonna tell us?

But, wait.

There's still lightning and thunder. Fireworks!

Oh, and an earthquake.

An earthquake that splits Rome into thirds.

And destroys every nation on Earth. Including Cleveland?

Oh, and hailstones.

Don't forget the hailstones.

They're so big they end up crushing people. And yet, the people still don't get it. They just keep cursing God and going about with their non-believing ways. Sigh.



Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing?
 Where have all the flowers gone, long time ago?
 Where have all the flowers gone?
 Young girls have picked them, every one
 Oh, when will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn?

Where have all the young girls gone, long time passing?
 Where have all the young girls gone, long time ago?
 Where have all the young girls gone?
 Gone for husbands, every one
 Oh, when will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn?

Where have all the husbands gone, long time passing?
 Where have all the husbands gone, long time ago?
 Where have all the husbands gone?
 Gone for soldiers, every one
 Oh, when will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn?

Where have all the soldiers gone, long time passing?
 Where have all the soldiers gone, long time ago?
 Where have all the soldiers gone?
 Gone to graveyards, every one
 Oh, when will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn?

Where have all the graveyards gone, long time passing?
Where have all the graveyards gone, long time ago?
Where have all the graveyards gone?
Gone to flowers, every one
Oh, when will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn?

Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing?
Where have all the flowers gone, long time ago?
Where have all the flowers gone?
Young girls have picked them, every one
Oh, when will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn?



**“How long can I listen to
the lies of prejudice? How
long can I stay drunk on
fear out in the wilderness?
Can I cast it aside, all this
loyalty and this pride?
Will I ever learn that
there'll be no peace, that
the war won't cease, until
He returns?”**

Bob Dylan - When He Returns

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Chapter 17

Beauty and the Beast

**Tale as old as time
True as it can be
Barely even friends
Then somebody bends
Unexpectedly
Just a little change
Small to say the least**

Both a little scared
Neither one prepared
Beauty and the Beast
Ever just the same

Ever a surprise
Ever as before
Ever just as sure
As the sun will rise

Ever just the same
Ever a surprise
Ever as before
Ever just as sure
As the sun will rise

Tale as old as time
Tune as old as song
Bittersweet and strange
Finding you can change
Learning you were wrong

Certain as the sun
(Certain as the sun)
Rising in the east

Tale as old as time
Song as old as rhyme
Beauty and the Beast
Tale as old as time
Song as old as rhyme
Beauty and the Beast

Beauty and the Beast
Beauty and the Beast



Next up, John gets to see the Whore of Babylon. She is a woman riding the Sea Beast (except this time it's scarlet-red) dressed in red and purple robes and dripping with gold and jewels and pearls. On her forehead, she has written: "Babylon, the great, mother of whores." Bet she regrets that tattoo.

She's also pretty drunk. John tells us she's been drinking the blood of the faithful. Eek.

John is pretty amazed, but one of the angels asks him why. Fair question. He has seen some pretty amazing things up until now.

The angel then goes on to explain what the deal is with this woman. Oh, do tell.

Basically, the short version is this: the woman represents Rome who seduces everyone with its beauty and charm, but is really just a prostitute.

The Beast she rides on is Rome as well, specifically one of its emperors, Nero, who was especially nasty to Christians and liked to have them executed.

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus; 15 December AD 37 . 9 June AD 68) was the fifth Roman emperor and the last emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty, reigning from AD 54 until his suicide in 68. He was adopted by the Roman emperor Claudius at the age of 13 and succeeded him to the throne. Nero seems to have been popular with the members of his Praetorian Guard, and with lower-class commoners in Rome and the provinces, but was deeply resented by the Roman aristocracy. Most contemporary sources describe him as tyrannical, self-indulgent and debauched. After being declared a public enemy by the Roman Senate, he committed suicide aged 30

I also hear he's pretty good with a fiddle, too.

Alas, Babylon

John sees yet another angel coming down from Heaven. This angel announces that Babylon (i.e., Rome) has fallen. So, high fives all around for that.

These angels sure do a lot of high-fiving!

However, some of the non-believers on Earth are too busy mourning the loss of Rome for high-fiving.

Kings are sad because Rome was so mighty. Might they be next?

Plus, they were kind of digging that whole Whore of Babylon thing.

Merchants and shopkeepers are bummed, too, because they really liked selling their goods to Rome.

Now, what are they going to do with all these unused chariots?+

Sailors are also feeling a bit melancholy because they were making a lot of money by working with Rome.

Sniff.

Think of all the lonely gold coins that won't be jingling in their pockets.

The angels aren't swayed much by this.

One of them picks up a **giant stone** (Gall or Kidney?) and throws it into the ocean.

Ha, ha, Rome! You got crushed!

Nothing is ever going to come out of you again. Not music, not art, not goods and services, not anything!

All this happened because Rome had to go and **kill the saints. That'll teach 'em.**

We are all traveling in the footsteps
Of those that'd come before
And we'll all be reunited
On that new and sunlit shore

When the Saints go marching in
When the Saints go marching in
Lord, how I want to be in that number
When the Saints go marching in

And when the sun refuses to shine
When the sun refuses to shine
Lord, how I want to be in that number
When the Saints go marching in

Oh, when the Saints go marching in
Oh, when the Saints go marching in
Oh, how I want to be there on that morning
When the Saints go marching in

When the trumpet sounds its call
When the trumpet sounds its call
Oh, how I want be in that number
When the trumpet sounds its call

Oh, when the Saints go marching in
When the Saints go marching in
Lord, how I want to be in that number
Oh, when the Saints go marching in

Now some say, some say this world of trouble
Is the only world we'll ever see
But I'm waiting for that morning
When the new world is revealed

Oh, when the new world is revealed
Oh, when the new world is revealed
Lord, how I want to be there on that morning
When the new world is revealed

Oh, when the Saints (oh, when the Saints)
Go marching in (marching in)
When the Saints go marching in
Lord, I want be in that number
When the Saints go marching in

Lord, how I want (Lord, how I want)
To be in that number (to be in that number)
When the Saints go marching in

Chapter 19

The Last Battle

Everyone in Heaven is losing their minds rejoicing and praising God for all this.

In the midst of the celebration, John sees **a white horse** with Jesus riding out on it. Again, he's got the flames for eyes going and the sword coming out of his mouth. But this time, he's wearing lots of crowns (because one crown is never enough) and his robe is dipped in blood (might be time to switch dry cleaners). Hans in Oak Creek will get that right out of thereõ

All the heavenly armies are there, too. They've got their **white clothes** and **white horses** and they're following Jesus in triumph. I'm thinking baptism again.

These must be the baptized children of God. The saints!

An angel tells everyone to gather for God's supper.

But before this big dinner party can happen, John spies the Sea Beast and his armies.

Jesus and his heavenly squadron get rid of the Beast pretty quickly.

They toss him into a Lake of Fire. All the other baddies are killed with Jesus's sword.

Heavenly fighters: 1,000,000,000. Beast army: 0.

Chapter 20

Satan's Last Stand

John sees that another angel has gotten hold of the Dragon and locked him in the bottomless pit. He's going to stay there for 1,000 years.

After that, he'll be let out for a little while. Um, angels, are you guys sure you thought that through? Is that **REALLY** a good idea?

So then John sees **thrones** with people seated on them. These people get to judge. Quick, we're going to need some **gavels**. Probably lots of them

Obviously, anyone who was killed for believing in Jesus is good to go. They will get to reign in Heaven for 1,000 years. Umm, but what about after that? Inquiring minds want to know

But remember, once that 1,000 years is up, the Dragon is going to be let out of the pit and gather another army to destroy Heaven.

But, don't worry, this war is going to end a lot like the first one- with the Dragon as the big loser. Except this time, he'll be thrown into the Lake of Fire **for good**. Much better plan this time.

Don't You Judge Me

Once this happens, everyone is going to be judged by God. Even people who have been dead for years are going to have to answer for their actions on Earth.

God will open up his Book and look over his records and give you either the thumbs up or the thumbs down. If God realizes you're not in his Book, it's the Lake of Fire for you, too.

Hey, hey, hey, hey
Ooh, woah

Won't you come see about me?
I'll be alone, dancing, you know it, baby

Tell me your troubles and doubts
Giving everything inside and out and
Love's strange, so real in the dark
Think of the tender things that we were working on

Slow change may pull us apart
When the light gets into your heart, baby

Don't you, forget about me
Don't, don't, don't, don't
Don't you, forget about me

Will you stand above me?
Look my way, never love me
Rain keeps falling, rain keeps falling
Down, down, down

Will you recognize me?
Call my name or walk on by
Rain keeps falling, rain keeps falling
Down, down, down, down

Hey, hey, hey, hey
Ooh, woah

Don't you try and pretend
It's my feeling we'll win in the end
I won't harm you or touch your defenses
Vanity and security, ah

Don't you forget about me
I'll be alone, dancing, you know it, baby
Going to take you apart
I'll put us back together at heart, baby

Don't you, forget about me
Don't, don't, don't, don't
Don't you, forget about me

As you walk on by
Will you call my name?
As you walk on by
Will you call my name?
When you walk away

Or will you walk away?
Will you walk on by?
Come on, call my name
Will you call my name?

I say
La, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
La-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
La-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
When you walk on by
And you call my name
When you walk on by

Chapter 21

Jerusalem in the Sky with Diamonds

Judy in disguise, well that's what you are
Lemonade pies with your brand new car
So, cantaloupe eyes come to me tonight
Judy in disguise, with glasses

Keep a-wearing your bracelets and your new rara's
And cross your heart, yeah, with your livin' bra
Chimney Sweep Sparrow with guise
Judy in disguise, with glasses

Come to me tonight, come to me tonight
Taking everything in sight
Except for the strings on my kite

Judy in disguise, hey that's what you are
A lemonade pies, hey, got your brand new car
So cantaloupe eyes come to me tonight
Judy in disguise, with glasses

Come to me tonight, come to me tonight
Taking everything in sight, except for the strings on my kite

(Oh, uh oh, uh)
Judy in disguise, what you aiming for?
A circus of a-horror, yea yea, well that's what you are
You made me a life of ashes

After all the pesky non-believers and manifestations of extreme evil are gone, it's time to bring about a new Earth.

John sees it happen- a New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven to Earth. And, no surprise, it's terrifically awesome.

The Elect will live there with God. No one will ever mourn or die or be in pain. It will simply be God and his children living together forever and ever.

But people who haven't led such upstanding lives will get thrown into the Lake of Fire. Sorry, guys. But God did try to warn you in the form of rivers turning to blood and such.

The city of New Jerusalem itself is probably the most incredible thing John has seen so far. This place is prime real estate.

John sees that the whole city is made of gold and glitters with all different kinds of jewels and gemstones.

It has twelve gates (with the names of the tribes of Israel written on them) and twelve foundations (with the names of the apostles written on them).

This New Jerusalem doesn't have a temple, though, because God himself is the temple. They also don't have to worry about lamps, because the presence of God provides all the light they need. It's always sunny in New Jerusalem.

Crime is also non-existent, because no one ever does anything even remotely bad there. Clearly, you never have to worry about property values going down.

Chapter 22

A River Runs Through It

An angel shows John a beautiful river flowing from God's throne. It's the water of life flowing in it. On the banks of

the river is the tree of life, which grows twelve kinds of fruit. Looks like another favorite number is emerging.

Nothing bad is ever going to happen in this new city. Everyone will just hang with God and rejoice and love each other all day. Sounds pretty good.

The Truth and Nothing but the Truth

The angel assures John that everything he's seen and heard is true. All of this is actually going to happen. For reals.

He also tells John to go ahead and share all this with the world. After all, Jesus will be coming very, very soon. People need this information because they need to do the right thing.

God's judgment is coming. People who lead good lives will be able to live inside the walls of an awesome city made of gold. People who don't will get to take a little swim in a Lake of Fire for all eternity.

John also tells us that if anyone changes what he's written down, God is going to include them in all those terrible plagues. (Oh now he tells us.)

But really, Jesus is coming soon, John tells us. He ends the book with this hope and a short prayer for the faithful.

John of Patmos, out.