

# THE REVELATION

JANUARY 14, 2024

## The People/Characters

### II. The People of the Book (In Order of Appearance)

#### Jesus Christ (1:1)



Jesus is the main character in this book and we meet Him in the first verse of the first scene in this story. It is His story. It is about His Second Coming. It is about His coming to earth to be the King of kings and LORD of lords. One day in the future, He will return to the Mount of Olives to establish His kingdom on earth. He will arrive and place His foot on the same place from which He ascended in 30 AD. This story is about the events that will take place before, during, and after His Second Coming. They are in exact chronological order.

#### John (1:1)



When Jesus lived on earth, John was His biological cousin. John was the youngest of the twelve Apostles, and by 95 AD, he was the sole survivor of the twelve. In this story, John's job was to describe exactly what he saw played out in living color before his eyes. The story he saw occurred exactly as it will take place someday in the future.

John's task was to describe what he had seen even though he might not know what it was. Even today, there is a good possibility that some of the things John saw, described, and wrote about have not been invented yet.

#### Angel Attendant (1:1)



This angel was sent to attend John as the story was presented to him. He will be with John through the whole production.

#### Membership of Seven Churches (1:4)



Within the REVELATION, letters to members of seven Churches are included. John had discipled the seven pastors who were serving in those seven Churches. It is also believed that he sent them to those Churches to be their pastors. For that reason, John had a special relationship with each of them. These were not the only Churches in the world. By 95 AD, thousands of Churches were in existence. But these seven Churches were

important because each of their stories acts as a time marker. In other words, the events that start in chapter 4 cannot begin until these seven Churches cease to exist in their towns.

The seven Churches were in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. In the story, we will see these seven Churches presented first as seven candlesticks, lights for the Gospel of Jesus in those towns.

#### Seven Stars (1:16)



When John described Jesus' appearance, he mentioned the seven stars that he saw in Jesus' hand. These stars represented the seven angels or messengers to the seven Churches. We can think of them as seven angels who guarded the Churches, but, perhaps, it is better to think of them as the seven pastors who led those Churches. Either way, and we do not know for sure which is correct, we can be assured that these seven messengers were in direct contact with members of those seven Churches in that day.

#### Seven Spirits (1:4)



These seven spirits were created by Jesus in the beginning and were assigned to be in front of His throne forever, fulfilling His commands. In this story, they will blow the seven trumpets and pour wrath from the seven bowls. They are angels.

#### Nicolaitans (2:6)



In the letters to the Ephesus and Pergamum Churches, the Nicolaitans are mentioned. The Church of Ephesus hated the Nicolaitans; the Church of Pergamum accepted the Nicolaitans. They were counterfeit Christians who had taken charge of some of the churches in the area and were including immoral acts in their worship practices and were guilty of putting stumbling blocks in front of non-believers to lead them astray so that they would not believe the true Gospel of Jesus.

#### Jews of the Synagogue of Satan (2:9)



In Smyrna and Philadelphia, Jewish Synagogues existed that were composed of members who were non-Jews. These non-Jews claimed to be real Jews. As Jews and fake Jews, they rejected Jesus. Therefore, He called them Synagogues of Satan.

#### Satan (2:13)



We all know about Satan. We met him in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. In this story we find Satan still up to his old tricks and he is mentioned in the letters to Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira and Philadelphia. Through his efforts, he will cast some Church members into prison, he will kill others, he will live among the church members and he will convince them to practice his rituals and believe his teachings. He actually had an earthly throne and base of operation in Pergamum. As the story develops, Satan shows himself as the major instigator of all evil rebellion just before the time of Jesus' Second Coming.

**Antipas (2:13)**

This was not King Herod Antipas. It was another Antipas who was a faithful witness for Jesus, but he had been killed in Pergamum before the writing of this REVELATION.

**Jezebel (2:20)**

This immoral woman had taken charge of Thyatira claiming to be a prophetess of God. She had her own doctrines that she taught in the Church. Those teachings were called the “deep things” of Satan.

**David (3:7)**

We met this same David in the Old Testament. He was the second king of the Nation of Israel. He followed Saul as king. Solomon was his son who followed him as king. The “key of David” mentioned in the letter to Philadelphia was also called the “key to death and Hades” later on. In this story, David holds a special position in Jesus’ kingdom with an office in a special place in the new earthly Temple during Jesus’ thousand-year reign on earth. For all practical purposes, in the thousand-year reign of Jesus, David will be second in charge.

**Twenty-four Priests/Elders (4:4)**

These twenty-four priest/elders sit in front of the throne of Jesus in heaven. They wear crowns, hold bowls of incense, and have harps. Their main job is to continually give praise to the LORD. Some speculate that these twenty-four elders are comprised of the twelve sons of Jacob and the twelve Apostles, but that is speculation. If it did include the twelve Apostles, surely John would have said that he saw himself, but he did not. Some say that this was the smaller group of the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem that made special decisions, but that cannot be true either. Others say that they were the original priests who were appointed by David to minister in the Tabernacle and Temple, but that cannot be so either. Because they worshiped the LORD, cast their crowns at His feet, and offered the incense of prayers, these priest/elders were probably created on the first day and had been giving praise to the LORD since the foundation of the world.

**Four Living Creatures (4:6)****A lion, A calf, A man, An eagle (4:7)**

These four living creatures, also found in Ezekiel 1, 3 and 10, are cherubim (Ezekiel 10:20). They are a specific form of angels who normally stayed in front of Jesus’ throne and join the elders in singing praises to the LORD. In this story, they will warn of danger and of divine justice. Each creature has a different face and each has six wings.

### The Lion of Judah (5:5)



The Lion is a symbolic title that refers to Jesus. The first prophecy of this title occurred in Genesis 49:9.

### Lamb of God (5:6)



The Lamb is a symbolic title that refers to Jesus. John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God (John 1:29). When Jesus offered Himself on the cross, He was slain as a lamb for the sins of all the people of the world. Because He did that, He holds the title of the Lamb of God.

### Strong Angel (5:15)



This angel has the unique privilege of asking, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" One elder gives the answer – it is Jesus, the Lion, the Lamb.

### White Horse Rider (6:2)



At the right time, this white horse rider will come forth to attempt to peacefully take control of the world. Although he will have weapons of war, he will not have or use ammunition. Once this horse rides, it will continue to wreak havoc with society until the LORD returns.

### Red Horse Rider (6:4)



After the white horse rider has successfully taken control of the world, this red horse rider will seek to take peace from all the people of the world, pitting man against man to begin killing people all over the world. Because the Revelation foretells even the symbols a country will be known by in the future, more than likely, being the red horse, this threat will come from Red China. However, we cannot discount it could come from what is called the "Red Zone" where wars are constant. The "Red Zone" does not make sense in this context. China will more likely be the originator of this rider. Be that as it may, once it is here, it will continue to do its destruction until the LORD returns.

### Black Horse Rider (6:5)



The destruction caused by the red horse rider will bring great heartache to the world. With food resources depleted, the black horse rider will arrive with a great famine. As with the previous horses, once the black horse rides, it will continue to do its damage until the LORD returns. We will have to wait to see from where this horse originates. Nevertheless, when it initiates its run, something about it will have a major "black" component.

**Ashen Horse Rider (6:8)****Death and Hades (6:8)**

Once the effects of the black horse rider begin, the ashen horse rider will arrive to bring the logical conclusion of starvation, physical death, and a trip to the underworld and place of the dead called Hades. We will have to wait to see from where this horse originates, but because “Ashen” is a pale green color, it may originate from all the countries that make up the Nation of Islam because their symbolic color is green.

**The Souls Under the Altar (6:9)**

In heaven, under the altar of the LORD, living quarters have been established for the eternal souls of people who died because they would not change their testimony about the love of Jesus in their lives. They died as martyrs. From heaven, these souls see the increasing turmoil of death occurring on earth before the Second Coming of Jesus, and they wonder and ask, “how long will the trouble on earth continue?”

**Four Angels of the Four Corners of the Earth (7:1)**

These four angels control the movement of the winds upon the earth. At just the right time, they will stop the winds from blowing for just a short time.

**One Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand (7:4)**

At the appropriate time, while the angels have stopped the wind from blowing, Jesus will put a mark on the heads of 144,000 Jews to protect them from Satan and his crew who are working with him to take over the world. These Jews are extremely important to this story because they are the Jews on earth who will finally recognize and accept Jesus as their intended Messiah.

**Another Angel (8:3)**

This angel holds the censer (firepan) that contains the prayers of the saints. When he casts it down on earth, a great earthquake will occur.

**Wormwood (8:11)**

Wormwood is a star that will fall to the earth. When it hits the earth, one-third of the fresh waters will turn bitter – bitter enough to bring death. In the Old Testament, wormwood is called *hemlock* (Amos 6:12).

**Locusts (9:3)**

John describes these animals as locusts. It is the best description he can give. He sees them coming from the east to bring judgment on mankind.

**Four Angels (9:15)**

These four angels have been bound at the Euphrates for centuries. At the proper time, Jesus will release them, and they will kill one-third of the humans. The army coming with them will include 200 million warriors.

**Two Witnesses - Two Olive Trees (11:3)**

Two witnesses will arrive in Jerusalem to proclaim the name of Jesus for 1,260 days. At the end of those days, they will be killed. Their bodies will lie in the street for three days. On the third day, they will rise from the dead, and everyone in the world will see it happen. They will then ascend into heaven. It is their witness that will change the minds of the Jewish leaders who have constantly rejected Jesus.

**Woman Clothed with the Sun (12:1)**

This woman is symbolically the surviving Nation of Israel. Even though this story is about the Second Coming of Jesus, it is also a story about the Nation of Israel accepting Him as the Messiah (Christ). Satan will attempt to destroy all the remnants of the Nation of Israel so they will not accept Him as LORD. This woman will be protected through the tribulation to the end.

**Great Red Dragon (12:3)**

This Great Red Dragon is none other than Satan. He is always portrayed in the Scripture as some form of reptile, whether the slithering snake in Genesis, the fire-breathing dragon in the Revelation, or the Leviathan in Job. He is always a reptile.

**Male Child (12:5)**

This *male child* is a reference to Jesus. It refers to Jesus as the Child of the Nation of Israel Who will one day rule all the kingdoms of the world with a rod of iron. In this passage, this Child, Jesus, has already been born and has returned to heaven to sit on His throne. After the mention of this Child in the story, the Nation of Israel will require protection for three and a half years or 1260 days.

**Michael (12:7)**

According to Daniel, Michael is one of the chief angels assigned to the Nation of Israel (Dan. 10:13, 21; Dan 12:1). He is the angel that always seems to lead the battles against Satan - the Devil, the old serpent, the red dragon.

**Beast Out of the Sea – The Scarlet Beast (13:1)**

A leopard, A bear, A lion (13:2)

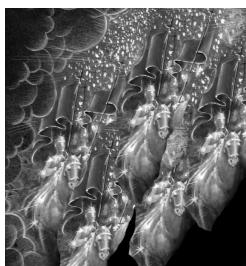
This beast is often called the anti-christ. Although he is an anti-christ, there are millions of other anti-christs who have and will live before this scarlet beast arrives. When he does arrive, he will have the characteristics of a leopard, bear, and lion. He will be the ruler who pulls the ten toes described in Nebuchadnezzar's prophecy together to fulfill it. In Daniel, he is presented as the "little horn that came up among the ten horns," (Daniel 7:8). Those countries are Britain, France, Spain, Italy, North Africa, Greece, Macedonia, Syria, Turkey, and Egypt. He will also be the chief earthly enemy of Jesus at that time. He will be called the ruler of the West. During his seven-year reign, he will fight the rulers of the north, south, and east. He will not be the ruler of the world but only of the ten nations that will be known as the revived Roman empire.

**Beast From of the Earth (13:11)**

This beast will be a minister but not a minister of Jesus. He is often called the *false prophet of the end times*, and that he is. Upon his arrival, he will require undying devotion to the first beast and the acceptance of the mark of the beast. He will be the religious leader of the majority of the people who make up the revived Roman Empire consisting of the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

**Woman Sitting on the Scarlet Beast (17:3)**

This woman is the religion led by the false prophet, the second beast. She sits on the scarlet beast and controls its government with her religious laws. The scarlet beast will put up with this religious woman as long he needs her, but then, in one hour, he will destroy her – a whole religion destroyed in one vote to make her laws illegal.

**The Bride (18:23)**

The Bride is the universal Church after she has gone through the marriage ceremony with Jesus in heaven.

### Angel Standing in the Sun (19:17)



This angel will call all the birds and invite them to assemble in the valley of Megiddo to dine at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb with the menu being the flesh of all of Satan's army.

### Angel from Heaven Holding the Key (20:1)



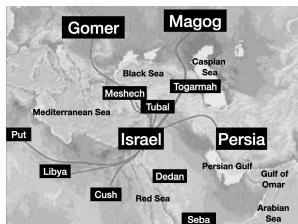
This angel has the key that locks and unlocks the door to a holding chamber at the bottom of the deepest ocean in the abyss. At the designated time, he will grasp Satan and lock him in the chamber for 1,000 years.

### Gog (20:8)



Gog is the ruler of the people of Magog. In the story, he and his people will see Jerusalem in a state of peace and attempt unsuccessfully to take it by force.

### People of Magog (20:8)



Magog is a country directly north of Israel and specifically, directly north of Jerusalem. After the Tower of Babel debacle, Japheth's second son, Magog, settled the land mentioned in this story. The people of Magog look to Gog as their leader. Three and a half years before Jesus' Second Coming, they will follow Gog in an unsuccessful attack on Jerusalem (Ezekiel 38:2; 39:1, 6).