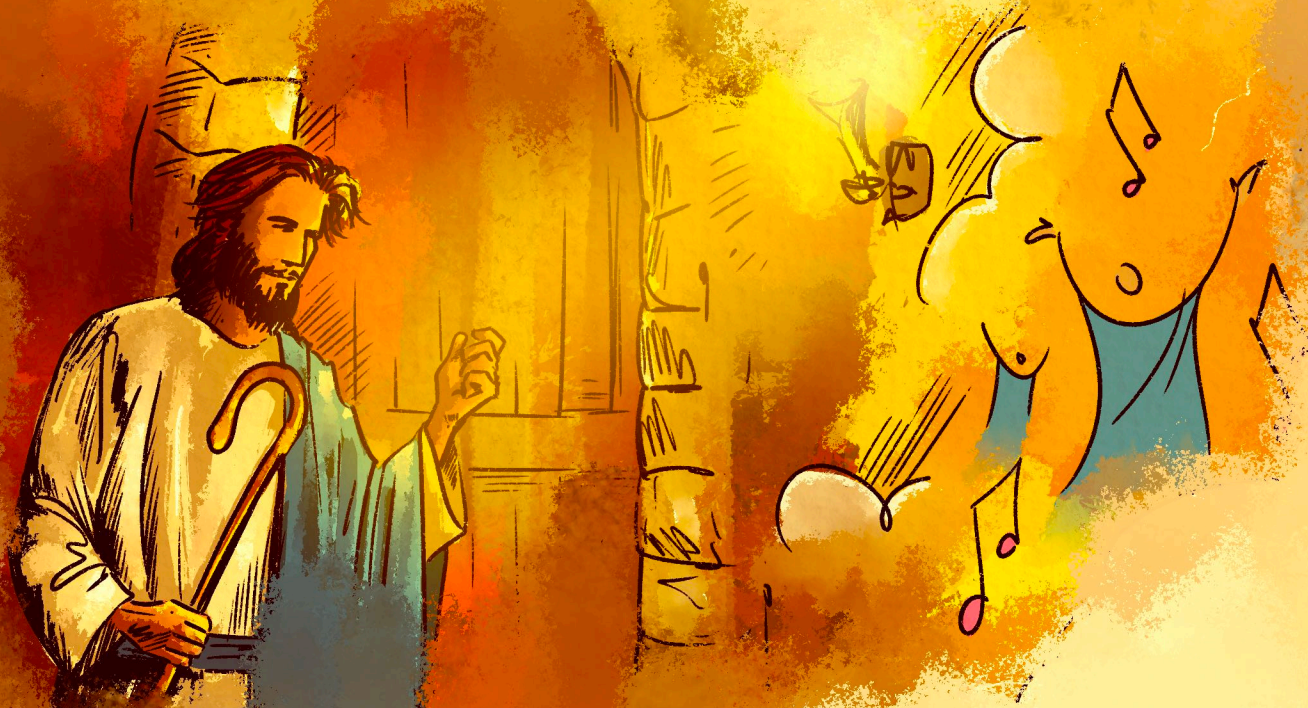


Through the Bible

# REVELATION - II

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

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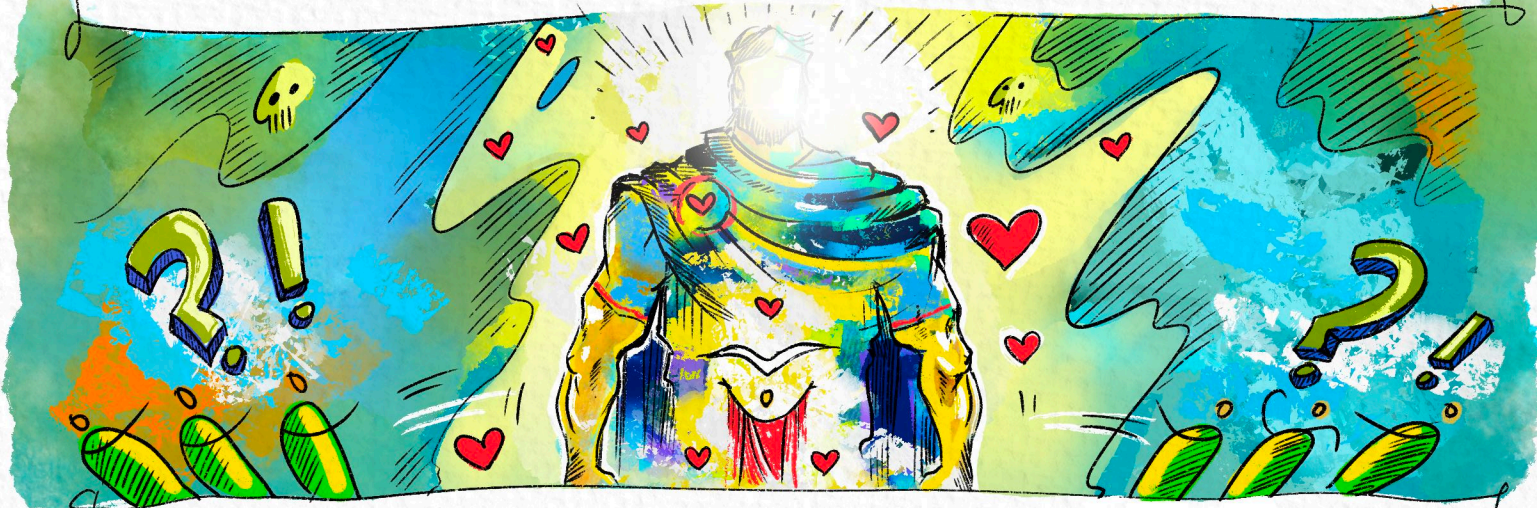
**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

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KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149  
INDIA

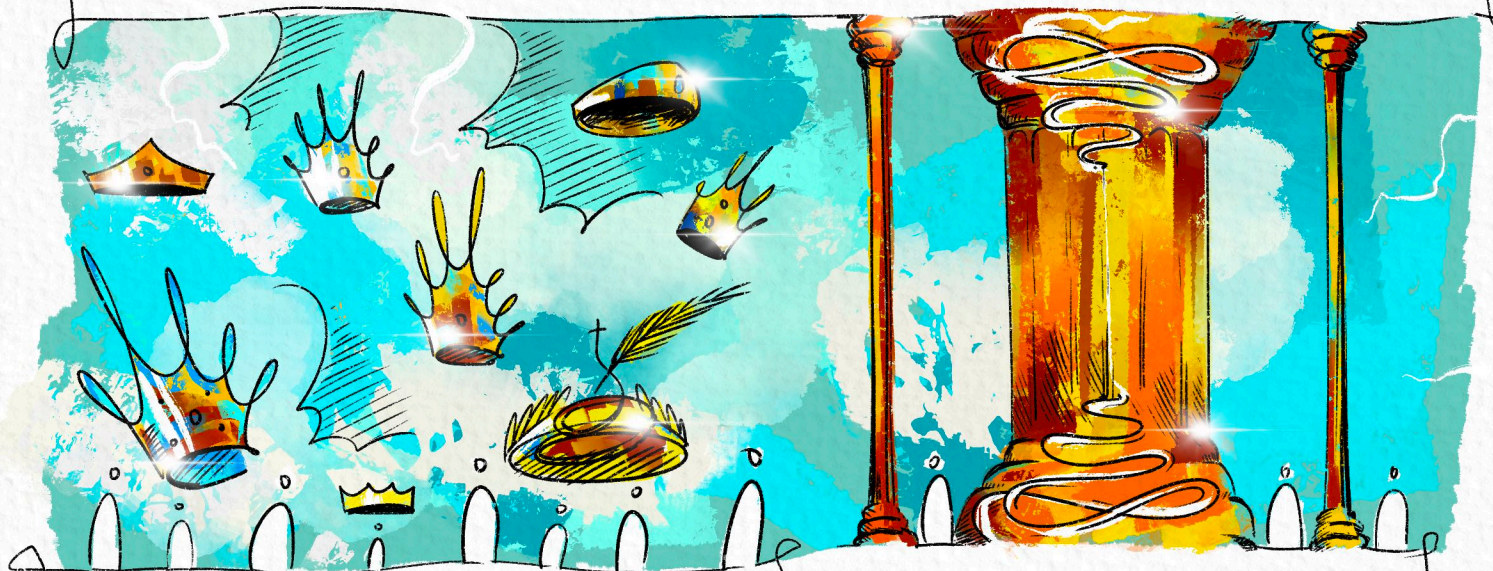




ARE YOU **TRYING** TO OPEN SUCH A DOOR FOR **YOURSELF** OR LOOKING TO SOME **INFLUENTIAL MAN** TO OPEN THAT DOOR FOR YOU? ARE YOU **COVETING** THE MINISTRY THAT SOMEONE **ELSE** HAS? THAT IS **EVIL**. BE FAITHFUL TO GOD IN THE **LITTLE THINGS** AND HE WILL OPEN THE **RIGHT DOORS** OF MINISTRY FOR YOU AT THE **RIGHT TIME**.



LIKE THE ONES IN PHILADELPHIA, YOU MAY HAVE JUST A **LITTLE** STRENGTH. BUT IF YOU KEEP **GOD'S WORD** AND DO NOT DENY HIS NAME, THE LORD WILL MAKE EVEN YOUR **ENEMIES** RECOGNISE THAT HE HAS **LOVED** YOU (3:8, 9).



THEN THE LORD TOLD THIS CHURCH, "I AM COMING **QUICKLY**. **HOLD FAST** WHAT YOU HAVE SO THAT **NOBODY** TAKES YOUR **CROWN**" (3:11). WHEN THE LORD GIVES US A MINISTRY, WE MUST BE **FAITHFUL** IN **FULFILLING** IT.

THE LORD WILL MAKE THOSE WHO OVERCOME "**PILLARS** IN HIS **CHURCH**" (3:12). **PILLARS** ARE WHAT **HOLD UP** A BUILDING. YOU CAN BE A **PILLAR**, IF YOU SEEK TO **OVERCOME SIN** IN YOUR **PRIVATE LIFE** AND IN YOUR **THOUGHTS**.



# Laodicea

THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA WAS A **PROUD** CHURCH. HERE WAS AN ELDER AND A CHURCH THAT WERE TOTALLY **CONTENT** WITH THEMSELVES, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE THOROUGHLY **DEAD** SPIRITUALLY.

THEY HAD NOT BECOME **COLD** (THAT IS, THOROUGHLY **WORLDLY**), BUT THEY WERE **NOT** ON **FIRE** FOR GOD EITHER. THEY WERE **HALF-HEARTED** AND **LUKEWARM**, WHICH MEANS THEY HAD A **CASUAL** ATTITUDE TO **SIN**.



THE LORD **SPITS** SUCH ELDERS AND CHURCHES **OUT** OF HIS MOUTH (3:15, 16).


WE MUST LIVE **TOTALLY** FOR THE LORD OR FOR THE **WORLD**. WE CANNOT BE **HALF** HERE AND **HALF** THERE.




THE LORD WAS **OUTSIDE** ITS DOOR AND **KNOCKING** TO GET **ENTRY** (3:20). MOST CHRISTIANS QUOTE THAT VERSE TO **UNBELIEVERS**. BUT IT WAS **ACTUALLY** SPOKEN BY THE LORD TO THE **ELDER** OF A **CHURCH**.

THEY WERE **SINGING** SONGS OF PRAISE AND **PREACHING** GOD'S WORD **INSIDE** THAT CHURCH. BUT THE LORD WAS WAITING **OUTSIDE** ITS DOOR!

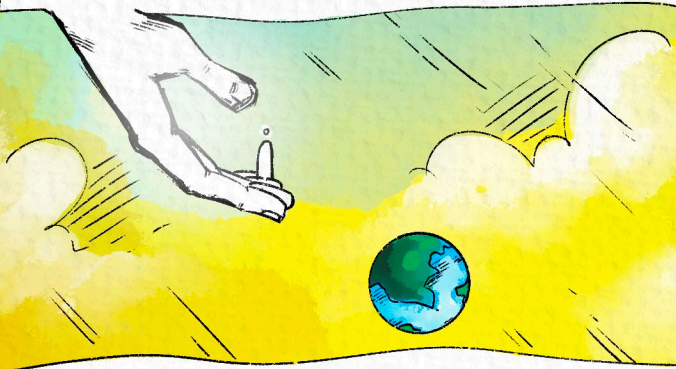




THE OVERCOMER IS PROMISED A PLACE ON JESUS' THRONE EVEN AS **JESUS ALSO OVERCAME** AND SITS WITH HIS FATHER ON HIS THRONE (3:21).



JESUS FACED **BATTLES** IN HIS EARTHLY LIFE AND HE **CONSISTENTLY OVERCAME** IN EVERY BATTLE. THEREFORE HE WAS **EXALTED** TO SIT WITH HIS FATHER ON HIS **THRONE** (3:21).



IN 4:1, THE LORD TELLS JOHN, "**COME UP HERE** AND I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE." THIS TELLS US TO **LOOK AT EVERYTHING** FROM THE **HEAVENLY VIEWPOINT**. THEN WE WON'T BE AFRAID.



IF HOWEVER, WE LOOK AT THINGS FROM AN **EARTHLY VIEWPOINT**, THEN WE CAN BE **GRIPPED WITH FEAR**.



IN CHAPTER 4, WE SEE THE FIRST OF **SEVEN GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN** FOUND IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION. IN REVELATION, WE READ OF **SEVEN SPIRITS**, **SEVEN TRUMPETS**, **SEVEN SEALS**, **SEVEN BOWLS**, AND WE ALSO SEE **SEVEN GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN**.



IN EVERY GLIMPSE THAT WE SEE OF HEAVEN HERE, WE FIND EVERYONE **PRAISING** AND **WORSHIPPING** THE LORD THERE. THAT IS WHAT **HEAVEN** IS LIKE.





THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY IS ON HIS THRONE. THE ELDERS ARE **FALLING DOWN, CASTING THEIR CROWNS** BEFORE GOD AND WORSHIPPING HIM SAYING, "**YOU ALONE ARE WORTHY, O LORD.**" (4:10).



IN CHAPTER 5, JOHN SEES A **SCROLL**. HE HEARS A VOICE SAYING, "**WHO CAN OPEN THIS BOOK AND **BREAK THE SEALS?****" THIS IS REFERRING TO OUR **REDEMPTION**.

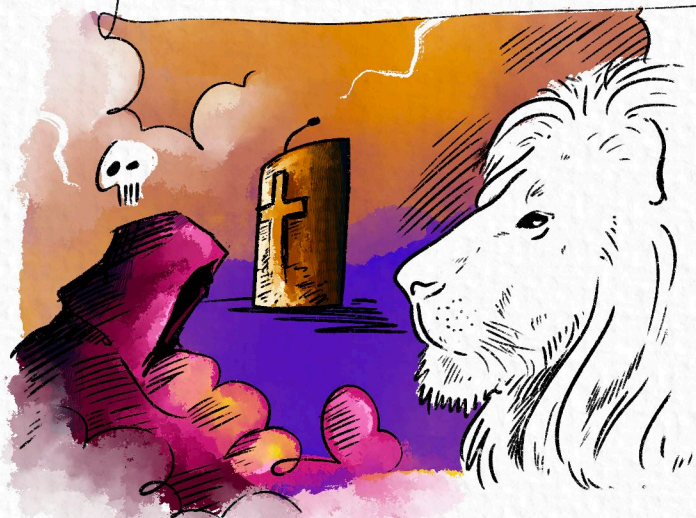
THE **OLD TESTAMENT** LAW STATED THAT IF A MAN BECAME SO POOR THAT HE **SOLD HIMSELF AS A SLAVE**, HIS BROTHER (OR CLOSE RELATIVE) COULD **PAY THE REDEMPTION MONEY** AND **REDEEM** HIM (LEVITICUS 25:47, 48).



SO JESUS CAME IN THE **FLESH** AND BECAME OUR **BROTHER** SO THAT HE COULD **REDEEM** US.



IN 5:5, WE SEE ONE OF THE ELDERS TELLING JOHN, "**DON'T WEEP. THE LION OF JUDAH HAS **OVERCOME.****" JOHN **TURNED** TO SEE THE LION, BUT WHAT HE SAW WAS A **LAMB** (5:6).



A **TRULY GODLY** MAN IS BOTH A **LION** AND A **LAMB**. A **PREACHER** MUST BE A **LION** AGAINST **SATAN** IN THE **PULPIT** AND AS A **LAMB** AMONG THE **PEOPLE**.

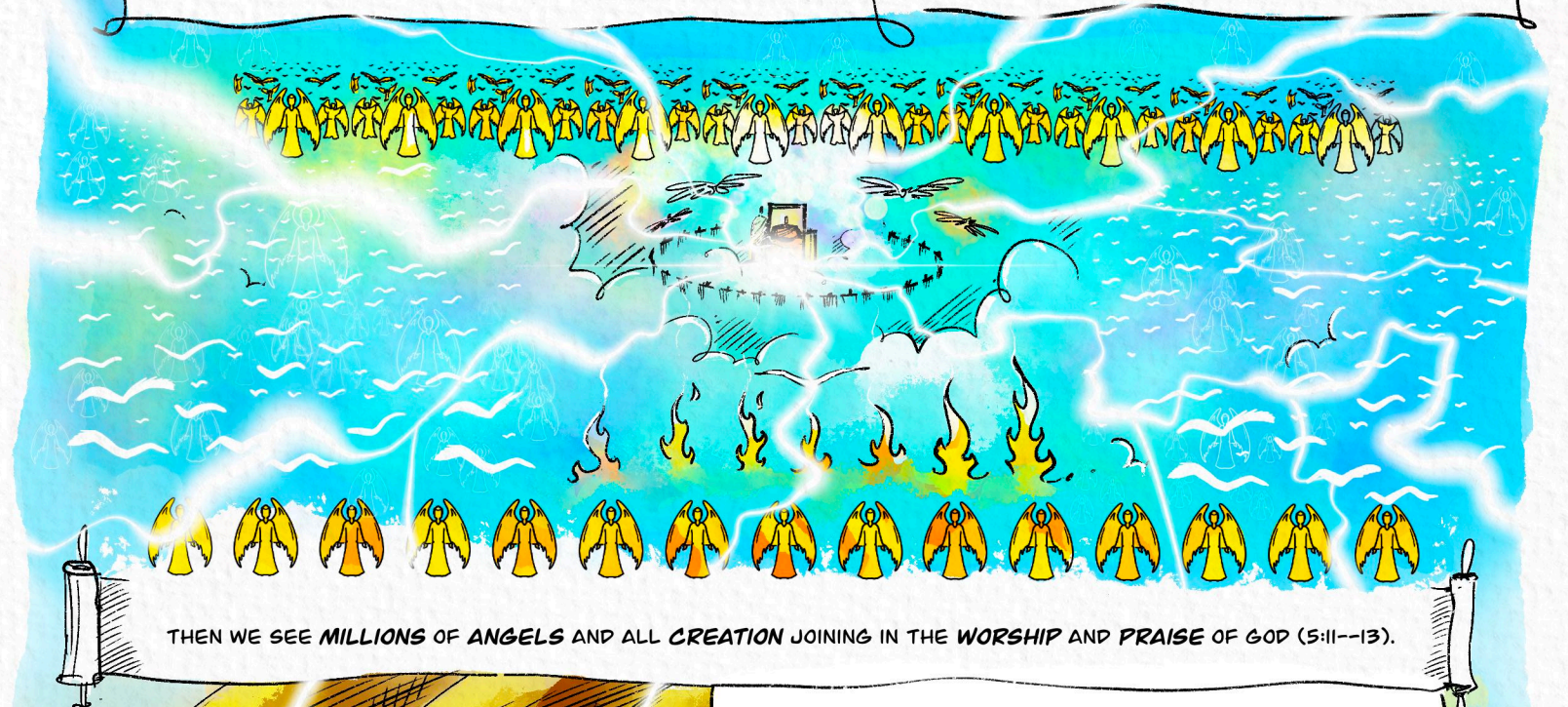






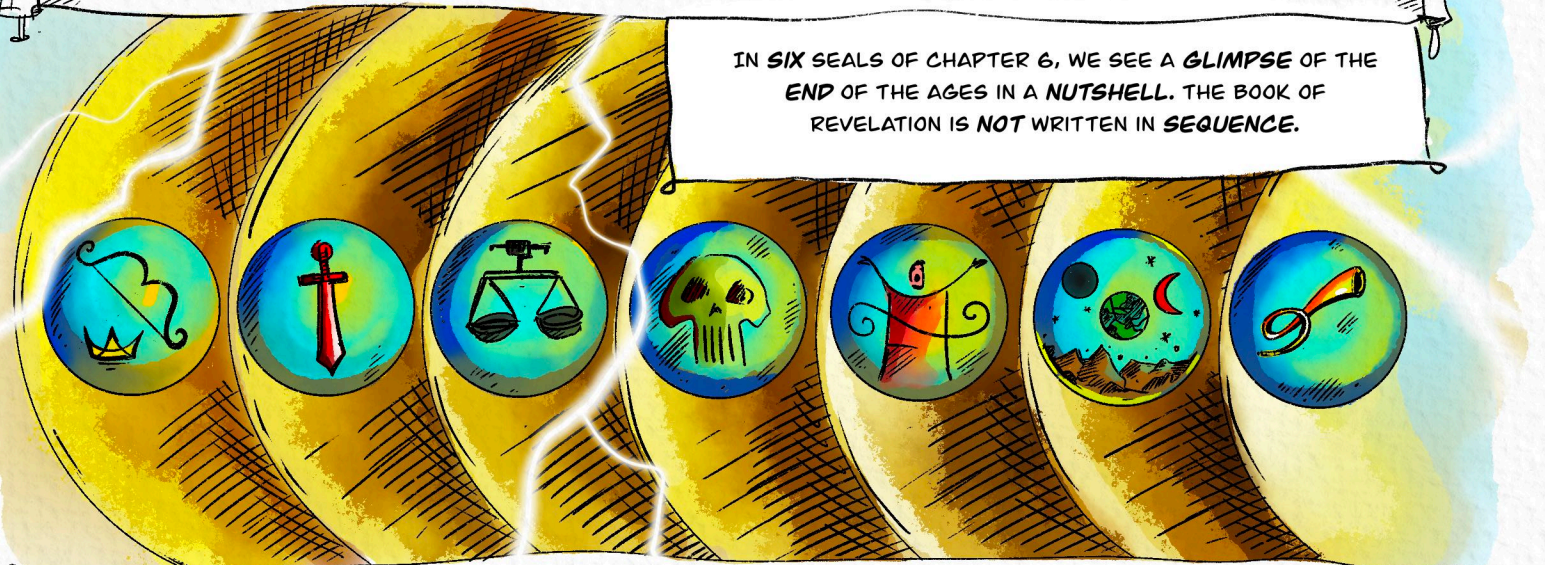
JESUS TOOK THE BOOK. YOU SEE THERE THE RESULT OF THE **PRAYERS** OF **MANY** OF THE **SAINTS** FOR **HUNDREDS** AND **HUNDREDS** OF YEARS (5:8). IT ALL GOES UP LIKE **INCENSE** BEFORE **GOD** AND **FINALLY** THE **ANSWER** COMES.

THEY THEN SING A **NEW** SONG, "**THOU ART WORTHY.**" "**NEW**" MEANS "**EVER FRESH**". IN HEAVEN, THEY ARE **NEVER TIRED** OF **SINGING** THAT **JESUS' BLOOD** HAS **PURCHASED** THEM. THE **HOLY SPIRIT** CAN KEEP THIS **FRESH** FOR US **ALWAYS**.



THEN WE SEE **MILLIONS** OF **ANGELS** AND ALL **CREATION** JOINING IN THE **WORSHIP** AND **PRAISE** OF **GOD** (5:11--13).

IN **SIX** SEALS OF CHAPTER 6, WE SEE A **GLIMPSE** OF THE **END** OF THE **AGES** IN A **NUTSHELL**. THE BOOK OF **REVELATION** IS **NOT** WRITTEN IN **SEQUENCE**.



WE SEE A NUMBER OF **SEALS** BEING **OPENED** -- AND **VARIOUS** EVENTS **TAKING** PLACE, **SIMILAR** TO WHAT **JESUS** SAID WOULD **HAPPEN** IN THE **LAST** DAYS (IN **MATTHEW** 24 AND **LUKE** 21:25, 26).





WHEN THE **FIRST SEAL** IS BROKEN, A MAN COMES FORTH ON A **WHITE HORSE** AND A **CROWN** IS **GIVEN** TO HIM (6:2). THIS **CANNOT** SYMBOLISE **CHRIST**, BECAUSE **CHRIST** COMES WITH **MANY CROWNS** OF HIS **OWN**, WHEREAS THIS MAN IS **GIVEN** A CROWN. THIS IS THE **ANTICHRIST**, **PRETENDING** TO BE THE **CHRIST**, BY COMING ON A **WHITE HORSE**.

WHEN THE **SECOND SEAL** IS BROKEN, WE SEE A **RED HORSE** -- A PICTURE OF **WAR** (6:4). **PEACE** WILL BE **TAKEN** FROM THE EARTH IN THE LAST DAYS.

WHEN THE **THIRD SEAL** IS BROKEN, WE SEE A **BLACK HORSE** WITH A PAIR OF **SCALES** IN HIS HAND SAYING, "THIS IS THE PRICE OF **WHEAT**, THIS IS THE PRICE OF **BARLEY**. THE **OIL** AND **WINE** WE WILL **NOT TOUCH**" (6:5, 6). THIS IS A PICTURE OF **FAMINE**. THE **INTERESTING** THING WE SEE HERE IS THAT DURING THE **FAMINE**, THE **WHEAT** AND **BARLEY** (**NECESSITIES**) WILL BE **EXPENSIVE**.



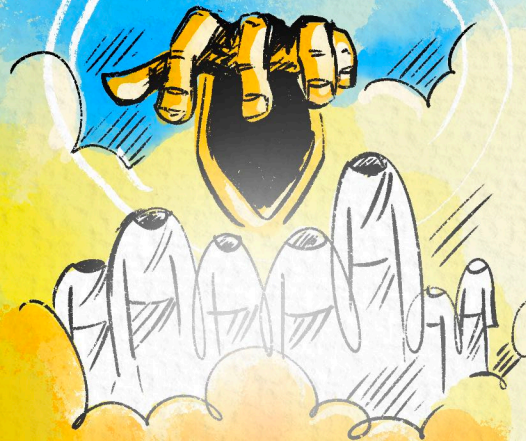
WHEN THE **FOURTH SEAL** IS BROKEN, WE SEE AN **ASHEN HORSE**, SYMBOLISING **DEATH**, COMING FORTH, **KILLING** MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE (6:8).

BUT THE PRICE OF THE **LUXURIOUS** ITEMS (**OIL** AND **WINE**) WILL **NOT** BE AFFECTED. THAT MEANS THAT IN THE TIME OF **FAMINE**, THE **RICH** WILL **NOT SUFFER** BUT THE **POOR** WILL. WE SEE THAT HAPPENING AROUND US TODAY. THE **RICH** ARE GETTING **RICHER** EVERYWHERE AND THE **POOR** ARE GETTING **POORER**.





WHEN THE **FIFTH** SEAL IS BROKEN, JOHN SEES THE SOULS OF THE **MARTYRS** -- THOSE **GODLY** PEOPLE WHO WERE **PERSECUTED** AND **KILLED** FROM THE TIME OF **ABEL** ONWARDS.



THEY WERE TOLD TO **WAIT** A LITTLE LONGER, BECAUSE A FEW MORE **MARTYRS** HAD TO SHED THEIR BLOOD.

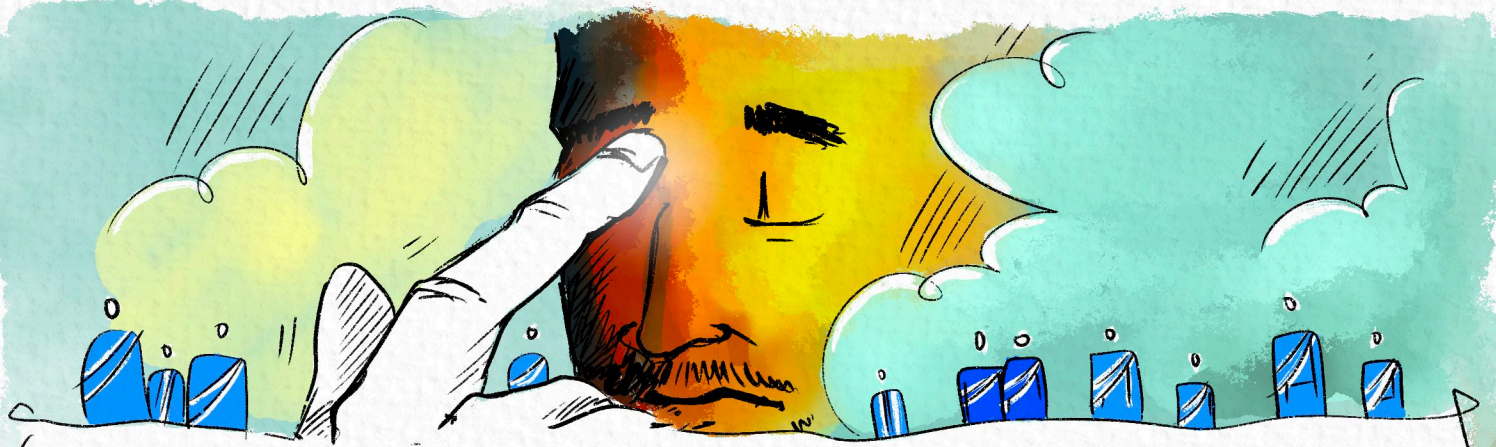


JUST LIKE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE TO BE **SAVED** (WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE BOOK OF LIFE), BEFORE CHRIST RETURNS, THERE IS A **SECOND** LIST -- OF CHRISTIAN **MARTYRS** WHO HAVE TO BE **KILLED**.



WHEN JESUS BROKE THE **SIXTH** SEAL THERE WAS A GREAT **EARTHQUAKE**, THE **SUN** BECAME **BLACK**, THE **MOON** BECAME LIKE **BLOOD**, THE **STARS** OF THE SKY **FELL**, THE **SKY** WAS **SPLIT**, THE **MOUNTAINS** AND THE **ISLANDS** WERE **REMOVED**, AND THE **KINGS** OF THE EARTH BEGAN TO **HIDE** IN THE **CAVES** (6:12--16). THE **STRONG** PEOPLE ON EARTH SUDDENLY BECAME **FEARFUL** AND **WEAK** -- BECAUSE THE TIME HAD COME FOR **GOD** TO **JUDGE**.

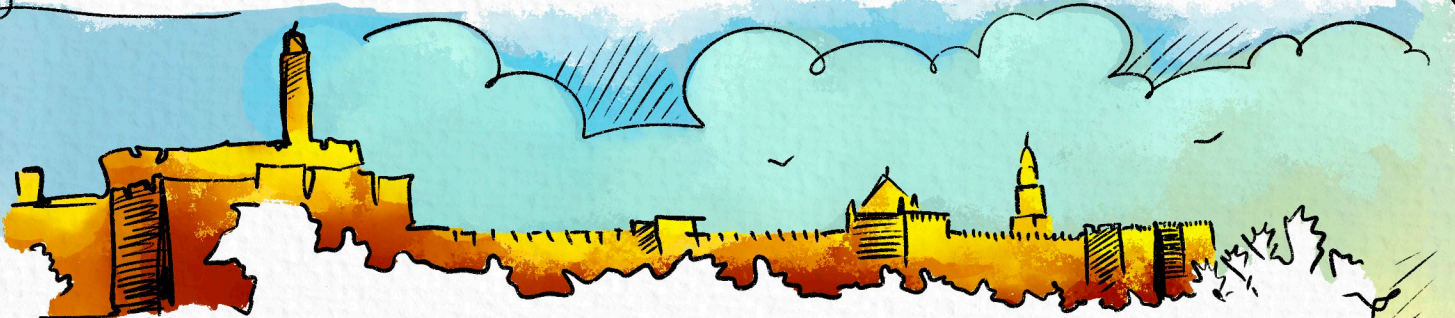




CHAPTER 7 REFERS TO THE TIME WHEN THE **TRIBULATION** IS ABOUT TO **BEGIN** -- AND IS DIVIDED INTO **TWO** PARTS. THE **FIRST** PART REFERS TO **ISRAEL** (7:1--8). A **REMNANT** FROM ISRAEL, WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR, BUT WHO ARE **GOD-FEARING**, IS REPRESENTED HERE BY **144,000**, **SEALED** BY GOD, FROM DIFFERENT TRIBES.



IN **1948**, ISRAEL CAME **BACK** TO THE LAND THAT GOD HAD **PROMISED** TO THEIR FOREFATHER ABRAHAM. JESUS SPOKE OF THE **FIG TREE** (A SYMBOL OF **ISRAEL**) PUTTING FORTH **LEAVES**. THERE WILL BE **NO FRUIT** THERE BUT **ONLY LEAVES**.




THAT BEGAN IN **1948** AND MOVED ONE STEP **FURTHER** IN **1967**, WHEN **JERUSALEM** WAS **RETAKEN** BY ISRAEL. WHEN **JESUS** WAS IN JERUSALEM, THE **ROMANS** RULED THAT CITY. FROM THEN ON, UNTIL **1967**, JERUSALEM WAS ALWAYS RULED BY SOME **FOREIGN POWER** (AS **JESUS** HAD PREDICTED (LUKE 21:24)).

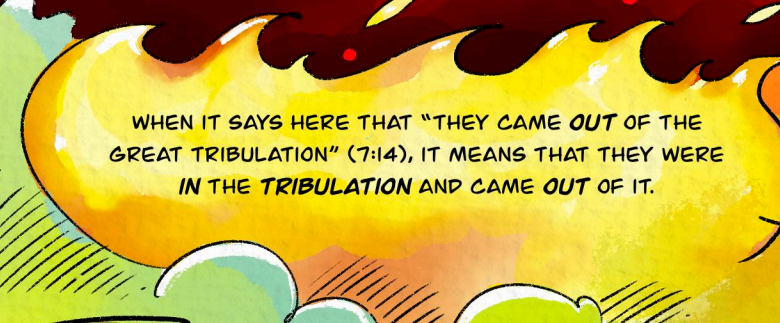


THEN IN 7:9--17, WE SEE **ANOTHER GROUP** -- A **GREAT MULTITUDE** FROM **EVERY TRIBE, TONGUE AND NATION** CRYING OUT SAYING, "OUR **SALVATION** IS DUE TO OUR **GOD** AND THE **LAMB** ON THE **THRONE**,"

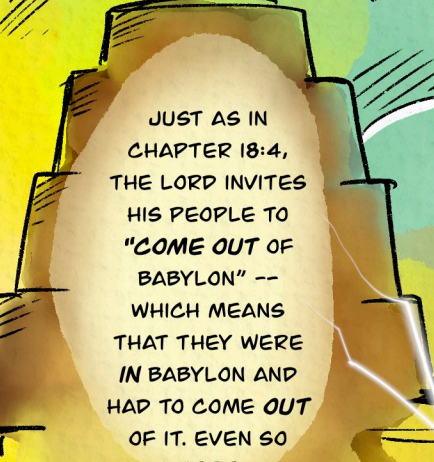





THEY ARE CLOTHED IN **WHITE ROBES** -- ROBES THAT WERE **WASHED** AND MADE **WHITE** IN THE **BLOOD** OF THE **LAMB**. THESE ARE **BELIEVERS**. THIS IS A **GREAT MULTITUDE** BECAUSE IT INCLUDES ALL THE BABIES THAT DIED IN **INFANCY** AND THAT WERE **ABORTED** BEFORE BIRTH, IN **EVERY TRIBE** AND **NATION** ON **EARTH**.




WHEN IT SAYS HERE THAT "THEY CAME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION" (7:14), IT MEANS THAT THEY WERE **IN THE TRIBULATION** AND CAME **OUT** OF IT.



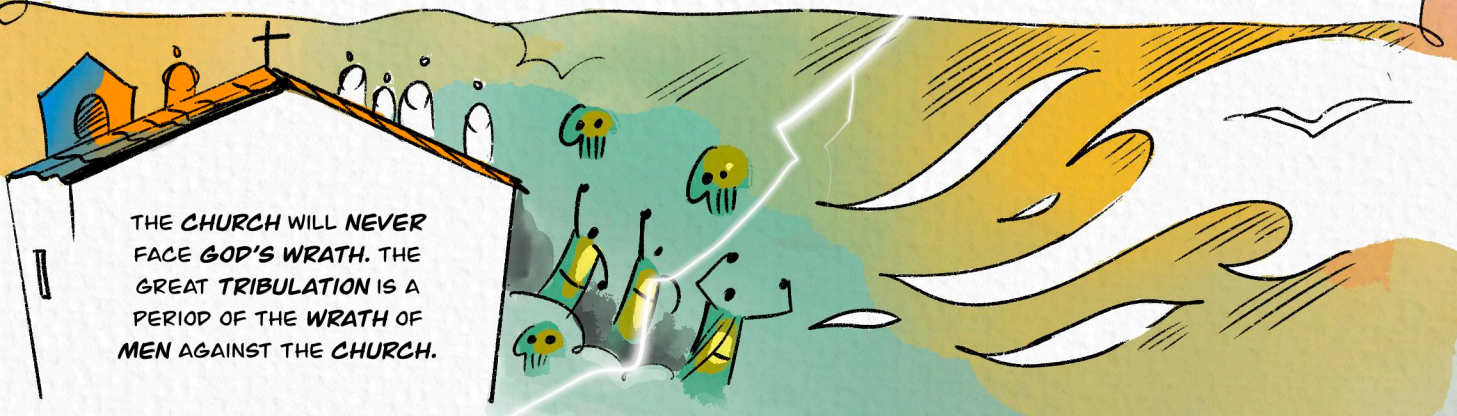
JUST AS IN CHAPTER 18:4, THE LORD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO "**COME OUT OF BABYLON**" -- WHICH MEANS THAT THEY WERE **IN BABYLON** AND HAD TO **COME OUT** OF IT. EVEN SO **HERE**.



IN CHAPTER 8:1, WE READ THAT THERE IS **SILENCE** IN HEAVEN FOR HALF AN HOUR. THIS INDICATES THAT GOD IS NOW GOING TO DO SOMETHING THAT HE DOES **NOT LIKE** TO DO -- **POUR OUT HIS WRATH** UPON THOSE WHO **REBEL**. IT IS A "**STRANGE WORK**" (ISAIAH 28:21)



THEN "THE **SEVEN ANGELS** STOOD TO SOUND THEIR **SEVEN TRUMPETS**" (8:2). THIS IS THE **SEVENFOLD LAST TRUMPET**, AFTER WHICH THE **DEAD IN CHRIST** WILL **RISE** AND **WE** WHO ARE **ALIVE** WILL BE **RAPTURED** TOGETHER WITH THEM TO MEET THE **LORD** IN THE **AIR**. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:52 ALSO STATES THAT THE **DEAD** WILL BE **RAISED** AND WE WILL BE **CHANGED** AT THE **LAST TRUMPET** -- **NOT BEFORE** THAT.



THE **CHURCH** WILL NEVER FACE **GOD'S WRATH**. THE **GREAT TRIBULATION** IS A PERIOD OF THE **WRATH** OF **MEN** AGAINST THE **CHURCH**.





THEN JOHN SEES **INCENSE** BEING ADDED TO THE **PRAYERS** OF THE SAINTS, **ASCENDING** TO **GOD** (8:4). THE **INCENSE** SYMBOLISES THE **NAME** OF **JESUS** ADDED TO THE **PRAYERS** THAT MAKE OUR **PRAYERS** **ACCEPTABLE** TO **GOD**.

WHEN THE FIRST TRUMPET SOUNDS, THERE IS **HAIL** AND **FIRE**.

WHEN THE SECOND ONE SOUNDS, THE **MOUNTAINS** ARE **THROWN** INTO THE **SEA** (8:8).

WHEN THE THIRD ONE SOUNDS, A **GREAT STAR** FALLS FROM **HEAVEN**;

WHEN THE **FOURTH** TRUMPET SOUNDS A **THIRD** OF THE **SUN**, THE **MOON** AND THE **STARS** ARE **SMITTEN**.

WHEN THE **FIFTH** ANGEL SOUNDS HIS TRUMPET, MANY **DEMONS** ARE RELEASED FROM THE **BOTTOMLESS PIT** (9:1--11). THEY COME TO EARTH AND **TORTURE** PEOPLE FOR FIVE MONTHS (9:5). MEN WILL SEEK FOR **DEATH** IN THOSE DAYS BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DIE (9:6). **JESUS** ONCE WARNED HIS DISCIPLES THAT IF ANYONE DID NOT **FORGIVE** HIS **BROTHER** FROM HIS HEART, **GOD** WOULD HAND HIM OVER TO THE **TORTURERS** (MATTHEW 18:33--35). THOSE **TORTURERS** ARE **DEMONS**.