

The victors



**Victors over
(the power of)
sin and satan
in the last days.**

1. **Satan has been definitely defeated by the Lamb of God, by His death and resurrection.
What still has to be defeated now are our personal sins, and those of the Church, on the basis of our faith in the victory of Jesus Christ!**

2. **Victors over (the power of) satan and sin are they,**
 - **that, notwithstanding temptation, no matter how strong, remain pure in their thinking, in their speech, and in their actions;**
 - **that, against pressure of circumstances, remain in the peace and joy of God;**
 - **that, notwithstanding all opposition and persecution of the enemy, continue to go forwards in their witnessing and Christian growth.**

General note:

1. In principle the Bible texts have been taken from the Authorized Version. One could, of course, when so desired, use any other Bible translation.
2. We have **frequently** added text between brackets in the Bible verses **to clarify the meaning of the Bible verses.**
3. In most cases where **he** or **him** is mentioned to point to **males** it also counts for **females.**
4. It is allowed to copy the study, on which way, when the source is mentioned.
5. If this study is a blessing for you, it's our wish that the message shall be passed on to others. We ask you in the first place to attend other people on our website. But you could also, as far as we are concerned, copy it (many times), and hand it out. A margin for profit is **not** allowed hereby. See note 4, above.

New make-over: January 2009

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I

God's judgement over sin begins at the House of God.

1 Peter 4:17 *"For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God (the Church): and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"*

At present we live in a very sinful world, the world of the last days; a world that defies God with its sinful way of life. It is a world that, in this end-time, will let itself **be led and inspired in ever increasing measure by satan, the power of evil!**

Ephesians 2:1-3 *"And you hath he quickened, who were (spiritual) dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."*

The least in this society up to the highest in position allow themselves to be led by this increasing unrighteousness, and thus **defy the Most High God.**

Psalms 2:1-5 *"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure."*

This is why God will have to come over this world with **His judgements**, which we see take place in **ever increasing measure** in this world now. But before these judgements will break out in all fullness over this world of the last days, He will first **call His servants**, and assemble them and strengthen them, **for them to proclaim His word of warning to this world.**

Revelation 7:1-3 *"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."*

All, who are called by God and have proved to be willing to serve Him as bringers of His Word in this world, will **be sealed on their foreheads, in their thinking**, where He will reveal God's Word, **His eternal Gospel**, by opening their understanding to it. For it is especially this Word of God, that through satan's influence, has been damaged in ever increasing measure, from the beginning; because it is only through **this pure Word of God** that His power and holiness are worked out and revealed.

This is why God begins with His judgements at **the House of God, the Church!** His servants are to be the first to hear and **understand the Word, that judges sin**, and they are to be **cleansed** by it, in order that they, being cleansed by it, would pass on this Word to the Church and the world.

In Revelation 5 we read, **that satan closes this Word with seven seals**, which is why no one can understand this saving Word **in the proper sense**. Only the Lamb of God can help and deliver manhood from **this satanic blindness**, by freeing the true Gospel, which the Word calls **the Eternal Gospel** (Revelation 14:6), from all satanic and human deception and deterioration. One by one the sevenfold seal of satan will be opened, destroyed, through as many judgements the Lamb will send over this sinful world.

The first seal judgement.

Thus, the first seal judgement is to bring about **a break-through of the Truth of God's admonishing Word**. This will happen through the return **of the Spirit of Truth on earth**, in the willing person, in the willing servant of God. The **baptism in and by the Spirit of God** is so introduced again in the Church. This spiritual feast began around the turn of the former age, approx. in the year 1906, when the event of Pentecost manifested itself in the Churches. The "Pentecost Gospel", the Full Gospel, was then preached, which urged Christianity to prepare for the coming return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom and King. It was a Gospel, which was still very incomplete in those days.

Matthew 25:1 *"Then (in the beginning of the 20th century, around 1906) shall the kingdom of heaven (the Church, on earth) be likened unto ten (the number of completion) virgins (congregations), which took their lamps (their [life of] testimonies in the darkness of the end-times), and went forth to meet the bridegroom."*

The "maranatha" message of the end-times (this is the message that the Lord Jesus will return soon) started to be heard with emphasis then. But the Word of Truth was breaking through out of **the "deep-rooted" dogmatic errors (wrong teachings)** of the Church, and it will break through until **God's Eternal Gospel** (God's true Gospel) will be proclaimed to the world in all its **purity**, and mankind will understand God's promises and demands **clearly**: how and by Whom they could be delivered **completely** from the power of sin and satan.

Habakkuk 2:14 *"For He shall fill the earth with the knowledge and the glory of YaHWeH as the waters cover the bottom of the sea." (literal translation)*

Revelation 14:6 "And I (John) saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and **to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.**"

And by this light of the Gospel breaking-through in the Church, the true believers will (in and through the power of the Holy Spirit, and through the Lamb's victory on Calvary) come **to the full victory over satan and sin** in this dark, sinful world.

Revelation 12:11 "And they (the victors) overcame him (satan and power of sin) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (whereby also others will share this victory); and they loved not their (earthly, sinful) lives unto the death (until their sinful life - already here on earth - has died, so that they may live faultless; without spot or wrinkle, see Ephesians 5:27).

Let us now read, what God's Word says about the first seal judgement.

Revelation 6:1-2 "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold, a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer (this is Gods triumphant worker in the Holy Spirit)."

We see here **God's overcomers/victors of "the last hour"**, fulfilled and glorified by the pure Word of God, the Eternal Gospel (Rev. 14:6), travel victoriously through the world. They ride (spiritually) on **the white horse of God's righteousness** and they have on their heads the **victor's crown** (the laurel wreath); in their hands they have **the bow** as a symbol of the true Word of God that preaches the victory, on Calvary, over satan by the blood of the Lamb of God. And through the preaching of this Word and their own justified lives, they travel through the world of the last days, conquering sin, until the **full victory** is reached by repentant manhood: **the countless crowd**, saved out of all nations, peoples and languages, standing before the throne of God and the Lamb, wearing long white clothes and having palm branches in their hands (Revelation 7:9).

Some teach wrongly that the rider on the white horse is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an error, because Jesus Christ already conquered the enemy on Calvary, almost 2000 years ago.

Again: others teach, that this rider is the antichrist. This too is an error, because the antichrist has not (and will not) conquere(d) at all, and from God's point of view, he will wear his ruler's crown illegally.

Ezekiel 21:25-27 "And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel (the antichrist, here is called the 'prince of Israel', because he claims to be the returned Christ, the King of Israel), whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he (Jesus Christ) come (as King) whose right it is; and I will give it him."

God's Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, namely, in the end-times, will, by the breaking of the seals of the Gospel, lead His true disciples into **perfect victory over sin**, in order to form His Bride, the Bride of the Lamb, who is to be **without spot or wrinkle, and faultless in holiness.**

Ephesians 5:26-27 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish."

II

Leading the individual believer to his victory over (the power of) sin and satan.

Jesus built this way, this highway of salvation, by sacrificing Himself on Calvary, and in so doing He defeated satan for all eternity.

Hebrews 9:11-15 "But Christ became an high priest of good things to come (namely the spiritual goods the New Testament believer will receive), by a greater and more perfect tabernacle (namely the heavenly), not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building (i.e. Moses' earthly tabernacle); Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **eternal redemption** for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first (the old) testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

Now that satan is defeated forever through this sacrifice of Christ, and the price for the sin of man has been paid, He, by His Spirit, can lead de individual convert on this way, this way of the cross, which the individual believer, as Jesus' disciple, must follow faithfully, in order to be able, through participation in Jesus' death and resurrection, to come to participation in the victory He won as the Lamb of God. This process of the cross **does not happen automatically** after we are saved and have put our faith in Him, and go to Church.

What we have to do.

We spiritually have to eat and drink of His sacrifice.

We will come to participation in His victory over sin and satan, if we spiritually eat and drink of this sacrifice, after we have repented of our sins in confession of guilt, and submitted ourselves to Him.

John 6:48-58 "I (Jesus) am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread, which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

Eating and drinking of His flesh and blood implicates voluntary acts, and also deep commitment with His death and resurrection.

Taking up our cross.

The same we find in Luke 9:23-25, where we are invited to take up **our** cross:

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?"

If someone wants to be His follower, His disciple, he must do this: namely deny himself first, not doing what God does not want, and then voluntarily take up his cross and spiritually follow Jesus to Calvary to die to his sinful life. It is the cross of the sinner himself, the will to die to his own sinful life on the basis of his faith in the finished work of God's Lamb on Calvary in and through the power of the redeeming work of the Holy Spirit, in and through His purifying fire, or in other words, in and through the washing in the shed blood of Jesus, the Lamb.

We must invite the Spirit of Jesus to this personally.

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart), and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup (spiritually) with him, and he with me (I will share with him My death and resurrection - see Romans 6:5)."

We must invite the Spirit of Jesus Christ to purify us in His fire.

Matthew 3:11-12 "I (John the Baptist) indeed baptise you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptise you with **the Holy Ghost**, and with **fire**: whose fan (a basket to separate the uneatable, and so worthless chaff) is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

We must have Him cleanse the threshing floor of our heart with the fire of His Holy Ghost, so that all the chaff (our old and sinful life) will be burned to ashes.

We must let Him voluntarily come into our inner man, so that Jesus, the King of our heart and life, could finish His blessed and powerful work there.

Revelation 2:26 "And he that overcometh, **and keepeth my works (taking part in his death and resurrection) unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations."

Continually die.

We must be willing to continually die to our sinful self, and continually want to (spiritually) partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb (taking part in his death and resurrection).

Revelation 19:9 "And he (the messenger angel) saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

2 Corinthians 4:10 "Always bearing about in the body (in our heart and life) the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."

We must continually live in the washing of His blood.

We must continually be willing to stand in His complete blood covenant, so that our feet (our walk) are continually cleansed of all stains and power of sin, until sin in our body, our soul, and our spirit is **completely dead and gone**.

1 Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree (2000 year ago), that we (now), being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness (through Him): by whose stripes ye were healed."

We also must flee sin ourselves.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 *"Be ye not unequally yoked together (i.e. do not form an unequal relation-/partnership) with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth (in common) with an infidel (unbeliever)? And what agreement (what common foundation) hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell **in** them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse **ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

We must kill sin ourselves.

We not only must flee sin, and sinful places, and locations, we also, in the name of Jesus, must kill sin and the power of sin in our flesh and our spirit in the power of Jesus and on the basis of His perfect sacrifice, and so gain the victory.

Romans 8:13 *"For if ye live after the flesh (the sinful human nature), ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit** do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."*

Colossians 3:5 *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry."*

This is why the Word says in Luke 13 verse 24: **"Strive to enter in at the strait gate..."**, and in Hebrews 12 verse 4: **"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."**

We must submit ourselves completely to Him.

We must submit ourselves completely to Him, so that He could work and complete in our body, soul and spirit His deliverance, His work on the cross, and sanctification; for He has given us a free will, and He will not torpedo this will.

Colossians 1:13 *"Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son,"*

There we can share in the inheritance of the saints in His light (Colossians 1:12).

We have to follow Him obediently.

We have to follow Him obediently on the highway of the cross until complete redemption, victory, and sanctification are gained. Then He will also lead us in His perfect divine nature: in the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (see Ephesians 4:13).

2 Peter 1:3-4 *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

Then He shall lead us into His holy place, step by step to our heavenly Father.

Recapitulation

- Jesus Christ has defeated satan for all eternity.
Now He can share with the convert His victory over satan and sin, and lead him on the way of the cross to the dying of his personal sins.
The convert's process of the cross does not happen automatically.
- **What we have to do:**
 - to eat His flesh, drink His blood (i.e. to take part in His death and resurrection);
 - take up our cross (dying to our old sinful life);
 - do this voluntarily;
 - invite the Spirit (to do this);
 - invite the Spirit to purify us in His fire;
 - do this continually; we must continually be willing to sit at His supper until we are (completely) dead to our sins;
 - we must flee sin;
 - we must cleanse ourselves daily in His blood, in His power, of all stain of sin;
 - we must fight and overcome sin in His power;
 - we must completely submit to Him;
- Then He will sanctify us completely (body, soul and spirit), and lead us in His divine nature and bring us, spiritually, in God's holy place, to our heavenly Father.

Let us now have a closer look at some aspects of our warfare against sin in ourselves.

1. The sin of our eyes.

Especially in our last days, a world of unrighteousness could enter our body, our soul and our spirit through our eyes: through TV, Internet or beach life.

Proverbs 4:25 "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee."

Many use, especially on the beach, sunglasses ("sin-glasses") to hide sinful glances. If we are raised with Christ, so let us seek and think these things, which are above, and not of the earth (Colossians 3:1-2), especially in these last days, when unrighteousness is multiplied (Matthew 24:12).

Let our eyes not be adulterous.

Matthew 5:28-29 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

Let us fight the sin of our eyes in the power of Jesus, and His victory, also as far as TV and Internet (porno and naked images) are concerned.

Let our eyes not sin by lusting after sinful desires, neither by desiring whatever belongs to your neighbor.

Deuteronomy 5:21 "Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's."

2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Other sins of our eyes.

Another sin of our eyes is haughty eyes (pride/arrogance), looking down on others:

Proverbs 6:16-17 "These six things does the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood."

An evil eye:

Matthew 6:22-23 "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

James 3:14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

Your tongue quarrels, because envy and/or jealousy has filled the heart, so you slander in order to pull down your neighbor. Read also Mark 7:21-22.

The eye can further sin through boundless desires for wealth and material possessions, or through envy of someone because of his possessions.

Finally, our eyes can sin through tempting glances, through making eyes at someone, and flirting.

Isaiah 3:16-17 "Moreover the Lord saith; Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts."

This is why those are caught in a sinful spirit of adultery, whoredom and fornication.

We can only be delivered from the sin of the eyes through **confession, participation in the death of the Lamb of God, and fleeing from evil circumstances.**

2. The sin of our tongue.

Another aspect of our redemption, sanctification and victory over sin, deserving special attention, concerns our tongue. Overcome the sin of the tongue, and put it expressly in God's hand for sanctification.

Proverbs 4:24 "Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee."

Let us not judge our neighbor as we do not know the motivations of his heart.

Matthew 7:1-5 "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

Romans 2:1-6 "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgement of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgement of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the

goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds."

1 Corinthians 4:5 "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

James 3:1-6 & 8-11 "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?"

Let the Lord sanctify your mouth through the fire of His Spirit.

Isaiah 6:5-7 "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphim (this is a holy class of angels) unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

Seek deliverance from the demon of gossip and slander and lies!

Before God's face one hears two kinds of voices:

- The voice of judgement, gossip, lies and slander, ignited from hell and satan; and
- The voice of intercession/supplication, on the basis of Jesus' finished work, which is fed by Jesus.

Ephesians 4:25 "Wherefore putting away lying (also so-called white lies), speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."

Matthew 5:37 "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

Have nothing to do with slandering your brother and sister!

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven."

Have nothing to do with the talk of the godless and mockers of this world!

Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

Turn away from the anger of the tongue and pray to Jesus to sanctify your tongue in and through the power of His Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17-21 "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Be filled with the Spirit of Truth and forsake all lies.

He shall guide you into all truth (John 16:13), the divine truth of His Word; but also into a life of truth. He shall give you strength in your inner man to resist and overcome satan and lies.

Ephesians 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

He it is Who will sanctify us, also our tongue.

1 Peter 1:1-2 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through **sanctification of the Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

Romans 1:4 "And (the Son) declared to be the Son of God with power, according to **the spirit of holiness**, by the resurrection from the dead (namely Jesus Christ, our Lord)."

James 3:8-11 "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of

the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?"

Proverbs 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

Matthew 12:35-37 "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Romans 3:11-18 "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Romans 14:4; 10-13 "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother"

He is mighty to deliver us completely (also of our sinful tongue).

Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now unto him (the Father) that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he (Jesus Christ) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Jesus has given us helpers on this way of the cross:

*Ephesians 4:11-16 "And He (Christ) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in (divine) love."*

Jesus Christ is the (only) Way, the (only) Truth and the Life.

Only by Him do we come in God's heaven and **He alone guides us to our Holy Heavenly Father, Who lives in heaven (John 14:6).**

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

We do not have to walk the Lamb's way of salvation alone. Jesus Christ is our Supreme Leader (Guide) and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2); He is our Good Shepherd (Psalm 23; John 10:11), our Wonderful Counsellor, our mighty God, our everlasting Father, our Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5) until we arrive at last in heavenly glory at Father's Home. Amen.

Isaiah's description of the highway of God's mercy and delivery:

*Isaiah 35:1-10 "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall water break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called **The way of holiness**; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but **the redeemed shall walk there:** And the*

ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

The waste of the sinful heart will after repenting and complete surrender to Him, bloom as a rose. Blind eyes (also and specially spiritual eyes) will be opened and deaf ears (also and specially spiritual ears) will hear. The cripple (also the spiritual cripple) shall jump like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb shall speak. The thirsty land of the heart shall become like wells of water. The souls which are bought free by the Lord will have eternal joy, and will come to Sion, Gods' heaven, with joy.

The sanctification of body, soul and spirit of the individual believer.

An other expression for the dying of the power of sin in body, soul and spirit is the **sanctification** thereof.

The expression "dying to the power of sin" in body, soul and spirit is focused on the purification of our sinful being; "sanctification" focuses on the growth of the holy NEW Christ LIFE within our being, of body, soul and spirit, and so forms an addition to the lessons of our way of the cross; namely the dying of our old self.

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and your completely true spirit, soul and body (the complete human being) be preserved in the **presence** (literal translation) of the Lord Jesus Christ."*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour."

1 Thessalonians 4:7 "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

The sanctification of the inner man of the heart.

Ephesians 6:14 "Stand therefore, having your loins (of the mind) girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."

We are to wake up from our sleep of sin in and by the power of Jesus' victory over satan and sin.

Ephesians 5:14 "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that (spiritually) sleepest, and arise from the dead (the spiritual death), and Christ shall give thee light."

The Word further says that we are to gird up our loins with the Truth, with the Spirit of Truth, and the Word of Truth.

1 Peter 1:13 explains to us which loins are meant here, namely the loins of our understanding. We must be renewed in our dark and sinful thinking (Romans 12:2), so that we may test what is the good, and pleasant and perfect will of God is. And this renewal will take place when we gird about (strengthen) our understanding with the Word of Truth, in the power of the Spirit of Truth.

The soul of the Word of Truth is the Word of the cross, the victory of the Lamb of God over sin and satan by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross of Calvary. Through partaking of this Word, by eating this Word as our daily Bread, we partake in Jesus' victory over satan and personal sins; and the New Life of the risen Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ, will sprout in our heart and life as the divine branch of the divine Vine (John 15:5). In this way we will be born again of God and grow into His righteousness and holiness.

We put on spiritually, in everything, the inner armour, the breast shield of righteousness and holiness of God, and so share the victory of Jesus Christ over satan and personal sins for everything, according to the inner man of our heart. In this way the Kingdom of God begins within us (Luke 17:21).

Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

We must examine ourselves scrupulously to see, whether there might be, to God unacceptable, desires; whether there might be things in our heart with an idolatrous character that could make us stray away from God, because we give priority to them over the will of God, and the love towards God.

Zephaniah 2:1-3 "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth (before Gods judgement) , before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgement; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger."

Examine closely whether you still belong to Jesus, whether He still lives in your heart, whether you still truly love Him.

2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye (still) be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

Through the Word of God and the Spirit of God He comes into our heart, and does He examine and judge our thoughts and the meditations of our heart.

Hebrews 4:12-13 "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful (literally: active), and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

He divides in our soul and spirit the evil and the good thoughts and meditations of the heart, even unto the deepest parts of our subconsciousness. He searches and judges the outward and inner man, and He convicts us of sin.

He is able to completely sanctify us.

He is able to completely sanctify us, and thus make us holy, and He leads man to perfection, because He won eternal victory over satan and sin (Hebrews 9:12).

Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him (i.e. the High-priest, Jesus Christ), seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Colossians 1:27-29 "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Song of Solomon 8:6a "Set Me as a seal (the seal of ownership) upon thine heart (the inner man), as a seal upon thine arm (the outward man)."

Then He shall pour out the nature of Christ.

Then He shall pour out the nature of Christ, His nature, in us and shall be King over us, because we shall then be His property, and He shall baptise us in, and fulfill with His almighty Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16-21 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; the ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus through all ages, world without end. Amen."

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is (working), there is liberty (from sin). But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

2 Corinthians 4:16 "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

Romans 8:10-11 "And if Christ be in you (this is lives and thrones in you), the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteous-ness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Then we shall see Him as He is.

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

For all those that have not yet reached this inner purity, He lives in an INaccessible light, namely His Shekinah glory (His divine glory) (1 Timothy 6:16).

Completely sanctified.

When finally in His heaven the completely sanctified persons are changed in eternal temples of the almighty God, wherein He shall live and work for all eternity. Then we shall be temples of transparent gold (Revelation 21:18) and the glory of God shall shine forth from us (Revelation 21:11) and we shall shine as the sun (Matthew 13:43).

Revelation 21:1-7 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

The sanctification of the outward man.

When the inner man of the heart is completely sanctified, the outward man also shall be sanctified as the fountain of his life already is sanctified.

The forming of the Bride of the Lamb in the end-times.

In the end-times the wise members of the Church of Christ all over the world, i.e. they that had themselves sanctified by God's Spirit and the eternal Gospel of the Lamb, shall be adopted as members of the Bride of the by the Holy Ghost invisibly returned Bridegroom. This adoption as members of the Bride shall take place individually in political and social midnight (i.e. very difficult) times.

Luke 17:34-37 "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body (of Christ) is, thither will the eagles (type of the Bride) be gathered together."

In and by the Holy Spirit they shall be spiritually united in the Body (of Christ), the Bride of the Lamb. These shall be accepted (adopted) as members of the Bride of the Lamb, because they **are without spot or wrinkle, holy and unblemished.**

Ephesians 5:26-27 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

When the number of the Bride is complete/full, the door of the Wedding-feast shall be closed (this is not the door of mercy), and no one is added to them, that are adopted as members of the Bride, anymore. These members of the Bride shall never experience physical death, because they are become sinless, faultless, and shall later, when Jesus comes again as King of kings, at some moment in time, put on eternity physically (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). They shall also be used by the, by the Holy Spirit, returned Bridegroom as His instruments to restore de Church(es) and, later on, to help lead the worldwide revival (Luke 12:35-38).

When the Bridegroom returns, suddenly and invisible in and by the Holy Spirit there shall be a Wedding-feast with the members of the Bride of the Lamb. This is a spiritual experience of the highest order, a putting on of great power and glory.

Revelation 12:1 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven (i.e. the Kingdom of heaven, namely the [Bride]church, here on earth); a woman (i.e. the wife of the Lamb) clothed with the sun (type of the Father), and the moon (type of the blood covenant of the Son) under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars (type of the Holy Spirit)."

III

The restoration, redemption and sanctification of the Church.

I. The victors over sin of the seven Churches of the last days.

When the Lord of the Church - Jesus, the Lamb of God - in and by the Holy Spirit has returned personally to earth, He shall take into His own hand the stewardship of the restoration of the Church.

Ephesians 1:9-12 "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which He hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one (gather everything into His; take over stewardship thereof) all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance (for which the old man within us must have died), being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."

Which has become His inheritance is the Bride of the Lamb, who, as His earthly Body, serves as His instrument; first to restore the by satan spoiled and spiritually sleeping Church (Matthew 25:5), and lead many of hers to victory; and then to serve Him in the world-wide revival. We see the same in Revelation 1:9-18

"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I

am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

In and by the Spirit John was transported to the time of the Day of YaHWeH (Zephaniah 1:14-18), in the end-times, in the time of God's judgements on earth. Here he saw that the returned Lord took the stars of the seven Churches (the Churches of the end-times) all into His hand, took the stewardship of them into His own hand. When we have a closer look at Revelation 2 and 3, we see that He does this in order to lead the wise out of the seven Churches unto His victory.

1. The cleansing and restoration of the Church of Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7 "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes (a false teaching), which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

The Church of Ephesus had strayed into religious "I"-life and "I"-labor for the Lord, so being deprived of the guidance of the Head. "They lost their first love" (Revelation 2:4), and thus also the healthy, straight teaching (God's eternal Gospel). God's Spirit has to fill His servants again and teach them in order to gain this.

Isaiah 28:9-15 "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Wherefore hear the word of the Lord, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves."

In verses 11 and 12 of the above the infilling of or the baptism in the Holy Spirit is indicated; the divine Teacher in the true teachings and knowledge of God's will. If the Church at Ephesus does not want this, and scorns the baptism in the Spirit (verse 14), they shall be reduced to spiritual death and being under the law (verse 13), and then fall under God's judgement, even if they think this will not happen (verse 15). Thus Ephesus has to repent to the living God and Lord and turn back to a living relation-ship with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, killing the religious, pious "I". The victors of the Church at Ephesus will then have a living relationship with their Lord again, and eat of the Tree of Life, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The cleansing and restoration of the Church at Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11 "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art [spiritually] rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue (an instrument) of satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

In the end-times this Church lives under severe persecution for the sake of (the Name of) the Lord Jesus Christ, and under the misguidance of false teachers (verse 9), a satanic attack from outside and inside the Church. Yet, this Church stayed true to the Lord, and these attacks have made her spiritually wealthy (verse 9). The Lord encourages her not to fear whatever man and satan could do to her, and to stay faithful to Him; then He shall help her to overcome and give her the crown of life and save her from eternal damnation and death (verses 10 and 11).

3. The cleansing and restoration of the Church at Pergamos

Revelation 2:12-17 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the (idolatorously) doctrine of Ballaam (see Numbers 22:1-25:2), who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also (in thy midst) them that hold the (false) doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden

manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

The Church at Pergamos combines her religion with love for the world, for she lives and works in the world, there where satan lives (verse 13), the prince of this world; and all this in spite of the clear warning in God's Word not to love the world, because the love of the Father is then not in her.

1 John 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Romans 13:14 "But put ye (spiritually) on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

Carnal man pursues

- **lusts of the body:** the lusts of the senses that take on idolatrous forms, especially the sinful lusts for sex, the sinful lusts of the stomach (gluttony, love of gourmet food, etc.);
- **lusts of the soul** (through the eyes): like pursuit of riches, luxuries, materials and property;
- **lusts of the spirit:** like the pride of life, power and dominion over the neighbour, pride/arrogance (1 John 2:15-17).

Romans 8:7 warns that (even) the thoughts of carnal man is enmity against God.

Romans 8:5-8 "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is (spiritual) death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

For people like these God's Word chastises and judges like a two-edged sharp sword, that cuts deep into their thoughts and desires, even unto their sub-conscience (Hebrews 4:12-13). Balaam (Revelation 2:14), too, was obsessed with money, the money that Balac offered him if he would curse Israel (Numbers 22:23; 24:14; 25:1; 31:16; 2 Peter 2:12-22).

The Nicolaitanes were liberal and taught, that it did not matter if one sinned, as long as one came to God for forgiveness; a teaching God abhors (Revelation 2:15). This admonishing Word of God then ends here with a sharp: Repent! (verse 16)

The wise in Pergamos which the Lord could lead unto victory over carnal lusts, shall eat and drink of the flesh and blood of the Lamb (taking part in dead an resurrection of Christ); i.e. He will lead them to deliverance from their sins of love for the carnal life. He also would give the overcomers a white stone as proof of their election as members of His Bride, by His divine election, and on that stone He would write a new name.

4. The cleansing and restoration of the Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29 "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their (sinful) deeds. And I will kill her (spiritual) children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this (idolatrously) doctrine (of Jezebel), and which have not known the depths of satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star (symbol of the anointing to help lead the great, worldwide revival). He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The Church at Thyatira refers to the Roman Catholic Church, and similar Churches, which have the teachings of Mary in their dogma. The Lord will judge this Church with a judgement of fire. Copper/ brass refers to God's judgement over the sin of man. He praises her (the Church's) devotion, her human love, her religious diligence and service, but He judges her idolatrous teachings, which He calls "the depths of satan" (verse 24), which, in my opinion, refers to the teachings of Mary and the worship of saints. He urgently admonishes her to repent, to come back to Him, the Lord of the Church, and the ONLY Mediator between God and man, and He warns her, that He otherwise will have to lead her into the Great Tribulation and martyrdom.

Those that overcome in the Church at Thyatira, who keep the works of the Lamb (participation in His death and resurrection) till the end (verse 26), He shall reward amply, and make them members of the male son, His 144,000 of the end-times (Revelation 12:5; Isaiah 66:6-9) and He shall give them judgement over anti-Christian hordes of the last days, and to kill these hordes with Him (verse 27; Revelation 12:5; Revelation 19:15). He shall also use them in the world-wide revival, for He shall give them the Morningstar. The morningstar (Venus) is the star seen in

the early morning, just before the new day breaks. So the great world-wide revival is the spiritual happening that ushers in the New Day, the Millennium of Jesus Christ.

5. The cleansing and restoration of the Church at Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6 "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write: These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art (spiritually) dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard (the Word of God), and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments (symbol of their souls); and they shall walk with me in white (symbol of holy life): for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

This Church refers to all protestant Churches that got stuck at the reformation (since the 16th century), and have not had themselves led by the Holy Spirit in the opening of God's will and Word, and because of this, have died as they hold on to former dead traditions. Verse 1 says "I know your works, that you have a name that you live, and are (spiritually) dead!" The former fresh relationship with Jesus has been replaced by dead tradition. Yet there are believers at Sardis that had themselves led by the Spirit into holiness, and who wear white clothes (verse 4). The victors at Sardis are to follow this example, and must be sanctified by the Spirit as well by their faith and participation in the death and the resurrection of the Lamb; then they shall remain (verse 5) written in the Book of Life.

6. The cleansing and restoration of the Church at Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept **the word of my patience**, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

This Church lives in the fresh relationship with Jesus Christ, for they have received an open door of mercy from the Savior because of their faith in Jesus and His peace offering; and none of the satanic powers can shut this door, because they have "little strength" (verses 7 and 8). The Lord shall test them by allowing the devil to lose his instruments (false teachers and so-called saints) upon them, who will try and come into their good graces by saying that the Lord loves them (verse 9). They are conquerors over the power of sin and satan, because they have kept the Lord's Word of patience, His peace offering on the cross of Calvary, and, because of this, experience sanctification (for this read verse 10 in the King James Version and the literal translation), and therefore shall be saved in the dessert (Revelation 12:6) from the Great Tribulation. Because of their living faith in the Lord and His peace offering, and because of their participation in that offering, they shall receive from the Lord the crown of life, the resurrection life, here on earth already (verse 11). The Lord of the Church shall also use them as His instruments for the edification and support of their Church (verse 12), and He shall make them members of the Bride of the Lamb, participating in the New Jerusalem, and will write **His eternal Name** upon them, because they have become equal to Him (verse 12).

7. The cleansing and restoration of the Church at Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22 "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and (spiritually) poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be (spiritually) rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou (spiritually) mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart), and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The Lord of the Church here introduces Himself to this Church as the Amen and the Beginning; He Who has seen all developments (of world and humanity) and is a true Witness thereof (verse 14). It is a Church of the wealthy

West, who, like all people in this part of the world do, in the last days pursues money and material wealth, and because of this serves Mammon as her god/idol. Because of this sinful state the believers are lukewarm (neither cold, nor hot); a state the Lord of the Church detests (verses 15-16). Because of this digression from the Lord they live the spiritual death, even though they think they are all right with the Lord, so that their consciences do not plague them. Therefore the Light of the admonishing Word has to come into their lives in the power of the Spirit in order for them to discover their pitiful state (verse 17). They must cleanse themselves of the carnal, money pursuing nature, and die to it through participation in the death of the Lamb of God, so that they might receive in its place the Godly nature (the heavenly gold) and the white clothes of sanctification, and anointed eyes that they might discover their sinful state (verse 18). In short, they must wholeheartedly turn back to the living God. Then He can show them His concern and come to them, to the door of their hearts, because, until then He had no part at all in the congregational life; in order that, if they should open their hearts to Him, He could work out in their lives His death and resurrection (verse 20).

The victors over this mammonish idol worship of the last days, He shall allow to sit down with Him in His throne, so that they, already in the Millennium, would reign with Him, in divine love, over the people of the Lord (verse 21).

We see here that five out of seven Churches of the end-times are unconverted, that they live their "Christian" lives without relationship with the Lord of the Church. Five out of seven Churches, this means a good 70% of all Christians in the last days live unrepentant/unconverted lives.

II. The general cleansing of the Churches of the sevenheaded sin dragon.

When the glorious light of the Bride of the Lamb, in the power of Word and Spirit, shines in the Church, the sevenheaded sin dragon will become visible in the Church.

Revelation 12:3-4 "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven (a third part of Gods people), and did cast them to the earth; and the dragon stood before the woman (of the Lamb) which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her (spiritual) child (the 144.000) as soon as it was born."

This "heaven" in verse 1 and 3 (of Revelation 12) is the kingdom of heaven on earth: the Church.

Matthew 10:26 "Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known."

The sevenheaded sin dragon, who hides in the hearts of the members of the Church is the image of:

- **sinful sex:** pornography, homosexuality; etc.
- **business sense in the Church:** hunger for money;
- **dominion over the inheritance of the Lord: the wielding of power over the members of the Church; sectarianism;**
- **false, misleading teachings (dogmas),** that seem to be based on the Word;
- **Jealousy;**
- **slander, gossip, judgement over each other;**
- **hypocrisy,** hidden unrighteousness.

The ten horns of the sin dragon indicate satan's great power in the Church. The tail of the sin dragon: Isaiah 9:15 *"The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail."* By this we know that the tail of the sin dragon is the false prophet (are all the false prophets), who will mislead one third of God's people, and cause them to desert the Church (Revelation 12:4).

We will also read about this cleansing of the Temple of God, the Church, in Malachi 3:1-3:

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the (blood)covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi (first the servants of God in the Church, so that He could use them as His instruments), and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."

Revelation 12:7-11 "And there was war in heaven (the kingdom of heaven on earth: the Church): Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven (the kingdom of heaven on earth: the Church). And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth (out of the Church), and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they (the victors) overcame him (satan and power of sin) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (whereby also others will share this victory); and they loved not their (earthly, sinful) lives unto the death (until their sinful life - already here on earth - has died off, so that they may live without spot or wrinkle, faultless; see Ephesians 5:27).

Now that His instrument is cleansed and ready, Michael - the Lion of Judah, the Angel of the (Blood)-covenant (Malachi 3:1), the Lord of hosts, the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who came back as the Bridegroom for His Bride - attacks the sin dragon in the Church, and starts cleansing His holy place, the Church, of all sins of the sevenheaded sin dragon and ungodly attitudes, of all misleading teachings (dogmas) of false prophets and false leaders in the Church; and also of denominational, organizational walls. But He reintroduces the fivefold ministry (to complete the church – Ephesians 4:11-15). Thus the Lord restores His Church. The devil and his hordes defend themselves violently (Revelation 12:7-8).

Matthew 24:9-13 "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall **many** be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive **many**. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of **many** shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Three times Scripture says here that "many" Christians will desert the faith because of these satanic actions; 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and 1 Timothy 4:1 also speak of an apostasy of the Christian faith in the end-times. Nevertheless, Michael's attack (image of Jesus as commander of God's army) in this last war, shall lead to victory. We read this also in Revelation 2 and 3, namely that the seven Churches of the last days shall produce victors. The same is stated in Revelation 6:2 and in Revelation 12:7-11.

Revelation 12:12-17 "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman (of the Lamb) which brought forth the man child (the 144.000). And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time (1 year), and times (2 year), and half a time (1/2 year), from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (true believers, that are not part of the Bride)."

There is then the joy of victory in the kingdom of heaven on earth (the Church). After this the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb, is kept in the wilderness (God's place for her on earth) during the anti-Christian period of 3.5 years, after that she, for a short while, experienced the persecution of the antichrist. But all those that are not part of the Bride of the Lamb, the remnant of her seed (verse 17), shall be persecuted and killed by the antichrist during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 13:17; Revelation 7:9-17).

IV

Worldly mens' deliverance from (the power of) sin and satan, and their victory over them by means of the seal and trumpet judgements of the Lamb of God.

The great world-wide revival.

The seal judgements.

The Lamb of God's seal judgements serve to open the seven seals that keep the (Bible)book sealed by the sins that hold mankind in bondage. The seals must be broken, (Christian) mankind must be delivered of their sins, so that the Lamb could grant them mercy and open the Scriptures for them, in order that those, who have repented to God, could understand and accept God's offer of mercy therein.

For it is God's Word, that, if understood and accepted, is the only great power of God for holiness (1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16). Therefore satan sealed this Word of God's with seven seals by getting man into a great state of sin, so that he would not receive mercy from God to understand this Word, God's offer of mercy, in its true meaning, and thus could not be saved by this Word. For this purpose the Lamb of God sends His seven seal judgements over the world to lead the world to repentance, so that He could grant it mercy.

The first seal judgement.

We already saw in Chapter I that the first seal judgement relates to **the outpouring of God's Spirit in the Church**, God's House, in order to shape His faithful, true and anointed servants into Divine instruments, that must lead His people to sincere repentance, and thus to victory over the power of sin and satan, by the preaching of the Word of God.

So, **the countless host of converts** for the Kingdom of God could be won in the last days (Revelation 7:9). For this purpose the Lamb of God, Which sits on the heavenly throne, must lead this world in great end-time judgements in order to make sinners conscious of their sinful state, and bring them to sincere repentance. Initially He does this by means of the seal judgements:

Isaiah 26:9 b "...for when thy judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn **righteousness.**"

We will go back to the seal judgements as described in Revelation 6.

The second seal judgement.

Revelation 6:3-4 "And when He (the Lamb) had opened the second seal, I (John) heard the second beast say, Come and see! And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."

Here, the war horse, the entire power of war in the world of the last days, is loosed **by the Lamb of God**. And this power of Satan is given a great sword in the end-times. Personally I think, that this great sword is the atomic weapon, and other weapons for mass destruction. We have seen that the Lamb is responsible for this. He looses the war horse unto the world in the last days! And He does this, because the Father has given Him **the judgement over sin**.

John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son."

Romans 8:34 "Who is he that condemneth? **It is Christ** that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us (who have repented to Him)."

He brings this judgement, this spirit of war, over the world of the end-times, because the people of the last days have become money crazy (greedy). In the end-times people pursue property and capital in this capitalistic society, they worship Mammon (i.e. the god [idol] of money and possessions); rather than God. The Lamb of God's judgement comes over this capitalistic society by means of war, as a result of which properties of goods, houses, money, are destroyed, but also by annihilation of the economic Babylon of the end-times.

There are three kinds of Babylonian power:

1. **the political Babylon:** the power of government organized by man. All forms of it, also democracy;
2. **the religious Babylon:** all kinds of religion, thought up/invented by man;
3. **the economical Babylon:** the capitalistic society where money reigns.

All three forms of Babylon will be destroyed by God, each one in its own time. I already mentioned that man's craving for money in the end-times, is judged and condemned by the Lamb by His bringing wars into the world, and by annihilation of the economic Babylon.

This second seal judgement, in my opinion, was opened at the start of the first world war (1914), and will increase in intensity, as all seal judgements, while, in the end-times, the capitalistic Babylon will, in one day, suddenly collapse like a house of cards by God's hand (Revelation 18:8-24). Economists will then experience this capitalistic disaster with perplexity, and will be at their wit's end.

Thus, these judgements, the Lamb will pour out over the world in the last days, are intended to make people, that are lost because of their lust for money, conscious of the fact that there is a God, and to bring them to repentance. The wise among the worldly men will do this. The coming war, as mentioned in Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, must also be viewed as being of the same kind.

Ezekiel 38:1-12 "And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses, and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords; Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands; and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years (the end-time) thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land."

An indication is given in verse 6 where the enemy is coming from. Scripture speaks here of "the north quarters". Going out from Israel, that is attacked, the north quarters, or the far north, is formed by Russia. The original Hebrew text says in verse 2: "Set your face against Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal (of Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk?)." The reason for this war attack is mentioned in verses 11-12: he wants to steal the riches of his prey, Israel.

The West of Europe also will be counted his adversaries. These are the merchants of the European Union (verse 13), while he will have made a mass covenant with several Arab states (verse 5: Persia, Ethiopia and Libya). In this war God will oppose Gog and Magog, and will destroy them. Israel will then be freed/delivered out of his oppression, and will receive the boundaries, God promised Abraham already for this nation.

Genesis 15:18-21 "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites,

and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

When this "Great Israel", from the brook of Egypt to the Euphrates, will have come into being after this war, the end-time exodus of **all** Israelites (all twelve tribes) will be started **by God**.

Ezekiel 39:25-29 "Therefore thus saith the Lord God; **Now** will I bring again the captivity of Jacob (all twelve tribes), and have mercy upon **the whole house of Israel**, and will be jealous for my holy name; After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left **none of them** any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God."

Not one Israelite will then live outside of Canaan anymore (verse 28). This exodus, this going out of the world, of the entire house of Israel (the twelve tribes), shall take place simultaneously with the great world-wide revival.

Isaiah 11:10-14 "And in **that day** (namely in the same time mentioned in verse 11) there shall be a root of Jesse (image of Jesus Christ), which shall stand for an ensign of the people, to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious (image of the last worldwide revival). And it shall come to pass in **that day**, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands (coastlands) of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines (the Palestines of today call themselves Philistines) toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon (Aman, today Jordan) shall obey them."

Both events shall take place in the first half of the last yearweek (= 7 years) of Daniel 9:37. At the end of this first half (of 3.5 years) the Great Tribulation shall begin.

The third seal judgement.

Revelation 6:5-6 "And when he (the Lamb) had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see! And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine (type of the true children of God)."

Here the famine horse is loosed in the world of the end-times as a judgement of the Lamb over gluttony and alcoholism of the world of the end-times. Famines plague the world in ever increasing measure. We, too, will be witnesses of such calamities in the last days.

This judgement is brought in the world of the end-times by the Lamb of God also to bring the worldly man to his senses: not to make his stomach his idol, but to turn to the living God and His Christ instead.

A measure of wheat and three measures of barley (some food) then cost a penny, which was a whole day's wages in those days. In other words: food will become so scarce because of certain circumstances, that a laborer must spend all his income on food for himself and his family. Then there will be famine on earth, but the children of God, typified here by "oil" and "wine", shall not be hurt by this famine, that is caused by God. In what way God is to do that is His business. Remember Elijah, who was kept alive by ravens and a miracle of God (1 Kings 17:4-16).

The fourth seal judgement.

Revelation 6:7-8 "And when he (the Lamb) had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see! And I looked, and behold a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was (violent) Death, and Hell followed with him (namely all the souls that were killed by him). And power was given unto them over the fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with (violent) death, and with the beasts of the earth."

This fourth seal judgement is to deliver the worldly man from his sin of indulging his carnal lusts of life. After this come God's judgements to shorten earthly life by:

- **pestilences and pandemics** (world-wide contagious deceases; think of e.g. aids);
- **war; senseless killings amongst each other;**
- **famine;**
- **aggression of wild animals;**

so that one fourth of the world population will die from these.

The fifth seal judgement.

Revelation 6:9-11 "And when he (the Lamb) had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on

the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until (the number of) their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

This judgement concerns the worldly man, who behaves himself in Churches (Christian congregations) as a traditional, religious member. The Lamb of God then sends evil forces of persecution among them, so that the false Christians flee the church (congregation) because of these persecutions by Church and state; and so the Church (Congregation) is cleansed of all insincere believers.

Revelation 17:6 "And I saw the woman (the whore; the untrue Christian congregation of the end-times) drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."

She sits then on the political beast of the end-times and shares its political power.

The sixth seal judgement.

Revelation 6:12-17 "And I beheld when he (the Lamb) had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondsman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand (before Him)?"

This seal judgement is and will be poured out over the world, because the worldly man knows **absolutely no fear of God**. Calamities like earthquakes, tidal waves, floods, large hailstones, etc. shall terrify the worldly men, and then, driven by their fears, they finally may still come to God for forgiveness of their sins and for help.

Isaiah 26:9 b "...for when thy judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."

As seal judgements are no "once-only" calamities, but disasters that occur in ever increasing measure and in ever increasing frequencies till the end of times, we see in verses 13-17 the, for the worldly men, world-wide disaster of **the coming of the heavenly Judge**, Who shall kill the whole remnant of the sinful world. We read the same in Revelation 19:11-21 and in Isaiah 24:19-23.

The seventh seal judgement.

Revelation 8:1-2 "And when he (the Lamb) had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."

The seventh seal judgement comprises the seven trumpet judgements. These are judgements of the Lamb of God, which exceed in violence the seal judgements. They are once-only calamities. While at the time of the seven seal judgements **one fourth** of the world population was killed, at the time of the trumpet judgements it is **one third**, and at the time of the vial judgements or vessel judgements it will be **100%**.

These vial or vessel judgements, which will be poured out over the anti-Christian world of the last days, at the time of the antichrist (in the 3.5 year period of the great tribulation), shall end with the personal return of the King-Judge, our Lord Jesus Christ, on the clouds, with great power and glory; with Armageddon, the final war between God and the antichristian mankind.

When the seventh seal judgement was opened there was a half-hour's silence. It was as if heaven held its breath, because very great things were about to happen in the human world:

- a) **The Bridegroom returns to earth, invisible in and by the Holy Spirit**, and the Divine Wedding-feast is celebrated on earth. Then the Bride is clothed with glory and power (Revelation 12:1).
- b) **The antichristian powers are about to empower their strong men** (the anti-Christ and his helper, the false prophet - see Revelation 13) **with satanic power**, after which the great tribulation of 3.5 years will begin with the seventh trumpet.

Trumpet judgements.

Trumpet judgements are judgements that usher in the coming of the heavenly King; they are trumpets that warn the world population: "**Repent to our God, why will He have to kill you?**" (see Ezekiel 33:11).

All these judgements, the Lamb of God brings into the world, are coming together with the Light that the Spirit of Truth and the Word of Truth bring, by which the worldly man will be convicted of his sins and of a guilty conscience. This Light of Word and Spirit shall come **over all flesh** (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17), and shall, with the judgements of the Lamb, bring about the great world-wide revival, whereby the countless host mentioned in Revelation 7:9 shall be won for God's Kingdom. They, too, shall be victors over the power of sin and satan through their faith, given by mercy, in the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, **and** because they do not love their sinful lives unto death (so that they may live without spot or wrinkle, faultless – see Ephesians 5:27 – already here on earth) by the powerful work of Word and Spirit.

Revelation 12:11 "And they (the victors) overcame him (satan and power of sin) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (whereby also others will share this victory); and they loved not their (earthly, sinful) lives unto the death (until their sinful life – already here on earth – has died off).

When the seventh trumpet shall have been blown, **the door of mercy shall be closed** (Luke 13:24-28; Revelation 10:6-7); then there will be no more time (of grace) and no new souls can enter into God's Kingdom anymore. The great world-wide revival, also mentioned in Revelation 14:14-16, has then ended but the harvest thereof are the countless souls!

Glory to God!

Amen!

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