

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

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Revelation

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Revelation

1 *This book is about* things that God revealed to Jesus the Messiah. These things are just about to happen. God revealed them to Jesus so that he could tell the people who believe in him about them. Jesus shared these things by sending his angel *to show them* to *me,* John, a man who serves him faithfully. 2 I, John, am reporting *to you* everything that I saw concerning this message from God that Jesus the Messiah revealed to me. 3 How happy is the person who reads this book of prophecy *for others to hear*, and how happy are all who hear it and obey what this prophecy says, because these events will happen soon. 4 I, John, am writing this letter to you seven groups of believers in the province of Asia. May God continue to be kind to you and make you peaceful. God exists, he has always existed, and he will come *and judge everyone* in the future. May the seven spirits who are in front of the throne of God also continue to be kind to you and make you peaceful. 5 May Jesus the Messiah also continue to be kind to you and make you peaceful. He has reliably told us the message from God. He is the first one whom God caused to become alive again after he had died. He is the one who rules the kings of the world. Because he loves us, he shed his blood for us when he died on the cross, and as a result, God has forgiven our sins. 6 Jesus is the one who has caused us to become people over whose lives God rules. He has also made us priests who serve God, who is the Father of Jesus. May people glorify Jesus and acknowledge him as their ruler throughout eternity. May it be so! 7 Pay attention! Jesus is going to come back from heaven through the sky. Everyone will see him, including those who killed him by nailing him to a cross. When they see him coming, every people group in the world will grieve *in sorrow for their sins*. May it be just like that! 8 The Lord God says: "I am the one who began all things. I am the one who will cause all things to come to an end. I am the one who exists, who has always existed, and who will come *and judge everyone* in the future. I am the one who rules over everything and everyone." 9 I, John, believe in Jesus as you do. Like you, I am patiently enduring the troubles that everyone experiences whose life Jesus rules. *The Roman government had put* me *in exile* on the island of Patmos because I was telling people God's message about who Jesus is. 10 It was a Sunday, the day *on which believers gather to worship because God made Jesus alive again on that day*. The Holy Spirit inspired me so that I could see and hear things in a vision. I heard someone speaking behind me. His voice was as loud as the blast of a horn. 11 *The person speaking* said *to me*, "Write what you see on a scroll. Send what you have written to seven groups of believers. *Send it to the believers* in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." 12 *When I heard this voice,* I turned my head to see who was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven golden lamp holders. 13 In the midst of the lamp holders I saw someone who looked like a human being. He wore a robe that reached down to his feet. He also wore a band of golden fabric across his chest. 14 The hair on his head was gleaming like white wool or like white snow. His eyes were *bright* like a fiery flame. 15 His feet shone like bronze that the heat of a furnace had refined. *When he spoke,* his resonant voice was like the noise of a great river of rushing water. 16 *The one who looked like a human* was holding seven stars in his right hand. A sword with two sharp edges was extending from his mouth. His face shone as brightly as the sun shines during the middle of the day. 17 When I saw him, I bowed down in front of him. I was so overcome that I could not move. But he put his right hand on me and said to me, "Do not be afraid! I am the one who began all things, and I am the one who will cause all things to end. 18 I have been alive forever. When I came to earth, I died, but indeed I am now alive again for all eternity. I have the power to make anyone who has died become alive again. 19 Therefore, write down this vision that you are seeing of me. I will reveal the truth to you about what is happening now and about what will happen in the future. I want you to write down those things as well. 20 I will explain the symbolic meaning of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lamp holders. The seven stars represent the angels of the seven groups of believers. The seven lamp holders represent the seven groups of believers.

2 Write *this message* to the angel of the group of believers in the city of Ephesus: 'I am the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lamp holders. This is what I say to you: 2 "I am aware of all that you have done. *I am aware of how hard* you have worked *for me*. *I am aware of how* patiently you have endured *difficult times*. *I am also aware that* you do not accept wicked people. When people falsely claim to be genuine leaders, you prove that they are lying. 3 *I am aware of* how patiently you have endured. *I am also aware that* you have suffered for my sake. *I am also aware that* you have not abandoned your faith in me *even though you have suffered*. 4 Nevertheless, I must criticize you about something: You no longer love me as you did when you first believed in me. 5 Therefore, remember how you used to love me. Love me again the way you did at first. Now if you do not love me again in that way, I will judge you and I will not allow you to continue being a group of believers. 6 However, I do praise you for something that you are doing well. You refuse to accept what the disciples of Nicolaus are doing. *Those disciples eat food that people have sacrificed to idols and they commit sexual sins.* I myself completely reject what they are doing. 7 Everyone who is spiritually discerning should pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the groups of believers. I will permit anyone who is victorious to eat *fruit* from the tree that gives life. That tree is in the garden of God.'" 8 Next, write *this message* to the angel of the group of believers in the city of Smyrna: 'I am the one who began all things and who will cause all things to end. I am also the one who died and became alive again. This is what I say to you: 9 "I am aware that people have persecuted you. *I am aware that* you are poor, although you have everything you need spiritually. *I am aware that* people are insulting you. Those people claim to be Jews, but they are not acting as if they truly belong to God. When they gather together, they help the devil *instead of serving God*. 10 Those people are going to make you suffer. Do not be afraid, but watch out! The devil will soon lead them to

put some of you in jail. The devil wants to show that you will abandon your faith in me if you suffer. You will have to suffer for ten days. But remain loyal to me even if you have to die. If you do, I will give you *everlasting* life as a reward. 11 Everyone who is spiritually discerning should pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the groups of believers. Whoever is victorious will never die a second time.”’ 12 Next, write *this message* to the angel of the group of believers in the city of Pergamum: ‘I am the one who has a sword with two sharp edges. This is what I say to you: 13 “I am aware of where you live. *It is a place* where Satan controls people. *I am also aware that* you are very loyal to me. You did not abandon your faith in me even when people attacked *your fellow believer* Antipas. He told others about me, and he remained loyal to me. People killed him right in front of you, because Satan has such an influence in your city. 14 Nevertheless, I must criticize you about a few things. Some people in your group firmly believe that they should do what *the ancient prophet* Balaam taught. It was Balaam who showed Balak*, the king of Moab,* how to tempt the people of Israel to sin. Balak led the Israelites to eat meat that people had sacrificed to idols. Balak also led the Israelites to commit sexual sins. 15 Just as Balak followed Balaam’s advice, some people in your group firmly believe that they may similarly do what the disciples of Nicolaus teach. *They eat food that people have sacrificed to idols and they commit sexual sins.* 16 But what the disciples of Nicolaus teach is wrong. So everyone in your group must stop doing those things! Now if some of you do not stop, I will immediately judge those people. I will pronounce a sentence of judgment against them and punish them. 17 Everyone who is spiritually discerning should pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the groups of believers. To the one who is victorious I will award some special bread that I have hidden for him. I will also give him a white pebble upon which I have written a new name for him. No one will know what this name is except the one to whom I give it.”’ 18 Next, write *this message* to the angel of the group of believers in the city of Thyatira: ‘I am the Son of God, whose eyes shine like a fiery flame and whose feet shine like bronze. This is what I say to you: 19 “I am aware of all that you are doing. *I am aware that* you love one another because you love me. *I am aware that* you are very loyal to me. *I am aware of how* you are serving me. *I am aware that* you are enduring patiently. *Finally, I am aware that* you are now doing more than you did when you first believed in me. 20 Nevertheless, I must criticize you about something. You tolerate a woman in your assembly *who is like that wicked queen in the Old Testament whose name was* Jezebel. She claims *falsely* that she teaches the truth from God. But in fact, by what she teaches, she is misleading people who believe in me. She is teaching them to commit sexual sins and to eat meat that other people have sacrificed to idols. 21 Although I have allowed her *sufficient* time to stop teaching these things, she refuses to stop. She continues to act immorally. 22 Pay attention! I am going to punish her with a terrible sickness. I will also cause those who act immorally as she does to suffer greatly if they do not stop doing what she does 23 And *as a judgment against her,* I will kill the children *she has had as a result of her sexual immorality*. Then all the groups of believers will recognize that I examine what everyone thinks and desires. I will punish or reward each one of you as you deserve. 24 But the rest of you believers in the city of Thyatira have not obeyed this woman’s teachings. You have not taken part in what she calls the secret practices that Satan taught her. I have something to say to you as well. I am going to ask you to do just one thing. 25 Just continue to obey the true teaching that you have received until I return. 26 To the one who is victorious, who continues to do what I command until he dies, I will give power to rule the people groups on earth. 27 Those to whom I give this authority will rule the people groups with irresistible power. They will destroy evildoers as completely as if they were smashing clay pots. 28 *They will rule so powerfully because* I will share with them the authority that I myself have received from God my Father. I will also give them the assurance that God is beginning a wonderful new era. 29 Everyone who is spiritually discerning should pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the groups of believers.”’

3 Write *this message* to the angel of the group of believers in the city of Sardis: ‘I am the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I have these things to say to you: “I am aware of what you are doing. You have a reputation for being spiritually vigorous. However, you are not really acting out of zeal for me. 2 Be careful! You are at risk of losing your devotion for me completely. Renew the devotion that you still have left. You have not yet done all that God knows you should have done. 3 So remember how eagerly you accepted God’s instruction when you heard it. Be sorry for disobeying and start obeying again. If you are not careful to obey me, I will judge you when you are not expecting it. You will not know at what time I am going to punish you. 4 Nevertheless, there are a few believers there in the city of Sardis who have not been doing what is wrong. They will live with me *forever* and be pure in every way. This is what they deserve. 5 In this way I will completely purify the one who is victorious. I will make sure that his name always remains in the Book of Life. I will tell God my Father and his angels that I know him personally. 6 Everyone who is spiritually discerning should pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the groups of believers.”’ 7 Write *this message* to the angel of the group of believers in the city of Philadelphia: ‘I am the one who always does what is right. I am the one who always says what is true. Just as King David had authority to allow people to enter the ancient city of Jerusalem, so I have the authority to allow people to enter heaven. If I create an opportunity for someone, then no one can deny him that opportunity. If I deny an opportunity to someone, then no one can give him that opportunity. I have these things to say to you: 8 “I know what you are doing. I know that although you are weak, you have obeyed my commands You have acknowledged that you believe in me. Be aware that I am giving you an opportunity that no one will be able to deny to you. 9 Pay attention! Some people *are denying that you belong to me. Those people* claim to be Jews, but they are not acting the way people do who truly belong to God. When they gather together, they help the devil *instead of serving God*. Pay attention! I will make those people recognize that I love you. They will come and honor you greatly when they recognize this. 10 You obeyed me when I commanded you to endure suffering patiently. And so I will keep you safe during the time of trouble that all of humanity will soon experience. How people everywhere respond to this trouble will show what they are really like. 11 I am coming soon. So continue to believe in me. Do not let anyone cause

you to lose the reward that God wants to give you. 12 I will
make the one who is victorious secure, like a pillar in the
temple of my God. He will remain in God's temple forever. I
will write my God's name on him. I will also write on him the
name of the city of my God. That city is the New Jerusalem.
It will come down out of heaven from my God. I will also
write my new name on the one who is victorious. 13 Everyone
who is spiritually discerning should pay attention to what the
Holy Spirit is saying to the groups of believers.'" 14 Write this
message to the angel of the group of believers in the city of
Laodicea: 'I am the one who confirms all of God's promises. I
am the one who testifies about God with complete reliability.
I am the ruler over all of God's creation. I have these things
to say to you: 15 "I am aware of what you are doing. You have
not abandoned your faith, but you do not love me very much.
I would rather have you commit yourselves for me or even
against me! 16 But you are just mediocre. You do not love me
very much, but you still claim that you believe in me. That is
disgusting, and because of it, I am going to reject you. 17 You
keep bragging about how very rich you are. You do not realize
that you are actually unhappy. You need someone to pity you.
You are actually poor, blind, and lacking clothes. 18 I advise
you to get everything from me that you need, as if you were
buying pure gold from me that would make you truly rich. Let
me make you righteous, as if you were buying white garments
from me so that you could be wearing clothes instead of being
shamefully naked. Let me help you to understand the truth,
as if you were buying eye salve from me to put on your sick
eyes so that you could see. 19 I carefully discipline everyone
I love. So sincerely change your behavior. 20 Pay attention!
I am urging each one of you to love me genuinely, as if I
were standing at the door of your house and knocking to get
you to open it. If anyone responds to me by loving me, I will
become his dear friend. It will be as if he heard me calling
from his door and he opened it and I came into his house and
we ate a meal together. 21 I have been victorious and now rule
with my Father. In the same way, I will permit everyone who
is victorious to rule with me. 22 Everyone who is spiritually
discerning should pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is
saying to the groups of believers."""

4 After these things, I, John, saw something remarkable:
a door open in heaven! The one who had spoken to me
previously, whose voice had been like a loud trumpet, spoke
to me again. He said, "Come up here! I will show you events
that must happen later." 2 At once the Holy Spirit inspired me
so that I could see and hear things in a vision. I saw something
remarkable: A throne was there in heaven and someone was
sitting on that throne. 3 The ruler who sat on the throne shone
like a bright red jasper gem and like an orange carnelian
gem. Around the throne a rainbow was shining like a brilliant
green emerald gem. 4 Around the throne there were 24 other
thrones. On those thrones 24 elders were sitting. They were
wearing pure white garments and they had golden crowns on
their heads. 5 Flashes of lightning and peals of thunder came
out from the throne. In front of the throne, seven torches
were burning. These torches represented the seven spirits of
God. 6 In front of the throne there was also something that
looked like a sea made of glass. It was clear like crystal. A
living creature stood on each of the four sides of the throne.
Eyes covered each creature, all around its body. 7 The first
living creature resembled a lion. The second living creature
resembled a bull. The third living creature had a face like
that of a human being. The fourth living creature resembled a
flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings.
Eyes completely covered these living creatures. All the time,
without stopping, they say: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God
who rules over everything and everyone. He is the one who
has always existed, who exists now, and who will come *and
judge everyone* in the future." 9–10 The living beings repeatedly
praise, honor, and thank God, who sits upon the throne and
who lives forever. When they do, the 24 elders also kneel
before God at his throne. They bow down to God, who lives
forever. They place their crowns in front of his throne and
they say, 11 "God our Lord, you deserve to have all creatures
glorify you and honor you and acknowledge how powerful
you are. You deserve this because you created everything. Yes,
everything exists just as you determined to create it."

5 Then I saw that the person who was sitting on the throne
was holding a scroll in his right hand. He had written
words on both sides of the scroll. But he had then sealed the
scroll shut with seven pieces of wax*, so no one could read what
he had written*. 2 I saw a powerful angel who was asking in a
loud voice: "Who is the person who qualifies to break open
the pieces of wax on the scroll and then unroll the scroll *and
read what it says*?" 3 Yet no heavenly being, no person on the
earth, and no one in the abode of the dead was sufficiently
worthy to open the scroll and read it. 4 When I saw that no
one anywhere was sufficiently worthy to open the scroll and
read it, I wept bitterly. *I wept because I knew that what God
had written was important, but I thought that no one would ever
find out what he had written*. 5 But one of the elders said to
me, "You do not need to weep! Here is the person we are
looking for! He is the *person whom the prophets described as
the* Lion from the tribe of Judah and as a branch that would
grow from David's roots. He is victorious! Therefore, he is
sufficiently worthy to break open the seven pieces of wax on
the scroll and open the scroll!" 6 Then I saw that a lamb was
standing by the throne. The four living beings and the elders
surrounded him. He was alive, but he had marks that showed
that others had once killed him violently. He had seven horns.
He also had seven eyes. Those are the seven spirits of God
that God sends throughout all the world. 7 The Lamb came up
to the throne, and the person who was sitting on the throne
handed the scroll to him. 8 As soon as *the Lamb* accepted the
scroll, the four living beings and the 24 elders knelt down
in front of the Lamb. The elders each held a harp and some
golden bowls that contained incense. The incense symbolized
the prayers of people who belong to God. 9 The living beings
and the elders sang a song that no one had ever sung before.
They sang *to the Lamb*, "You deserve to receive this scroll and
to break open its pieces of wax *so that you can read what it
says*. *You deserve this* because when you gave up your life, you
paid with your own blood to set people free from sin so that
they could worship and obey God. You did this for people all
over the world. 10 You have caused them to become people
over whom our God rules and to become people who will
lead others to worship God. They will be rulers of the people
who live in the world." 11 As I was seeing *these events*, I heard
many angels singing. These angels surrounded the throne, the

living beings, and the elders. There were millions of angels, so many that no one could count how many there were. 12 The angels were singing loudly, “The Lamb who gave up his life deserves for everyone to honor, glorify, and bless him and acknowledge how powerful, wealthy, wise, and strong he is!” 13 Then I also heard every creature that exists in heaven, on the earth, underneath the earth, and in the sea—yes, every creature in all of those places—singing, “May everyone forever praise and honor and glorify the one sitting on the throne and the Lamb and acknowledge how powerful they are!” 14 When the millions of angels and every creature sang these things, the four living beings said, “So be it!” Then the elders knelt down on the ground in front of both God and the Lamb to worship them.

6 Then I saw the Lamb open the first of the seven pieces of wax that sealed the scroll. When he did, I heard one of the four living beings say as loudly as a clap of thunder, “Come forth!” 2 Then I saw something remarkable: a white horse whose rider was holding a bow *and arrows*! God gave him a crown *to wear in recognition of the victories he was going to win*. The rider went out from heaven fully capable to fight and defeat God’s enemies. 3 Then the Lamb opened the second piece of wax that sealed the scroll. When he did, I heard the second living being say, “Come forth!” 4 Then another horse appeared. It was bright red. There was also a rider sitting on that horse. God gave the rider the power to cause wars on the earth. That way the world’s people would kill each other. For this purpose, God gave the rider on the bright red horse a huge sword. 5 The Lamb then opened the third piece of wax that sealed the scroll. When he did, I heard the third living being say, “Come forth!” I then saw something else remarkable: a black horse whose rider was holding a pair of balance scales! 6 Then I heard a sound like a voice coming from among the four living beings. It said, “Make wheat so scarce that a person will have to work an entire day to earn enough money to buy one liter of it. Also make barley so scarce that a person will have to work an entire day to earn enough money to buy three liters of it. However, make sure that olive oil and wine remain so plentiful that their prices do not increase.” 7 The Lamb then opened the fourth piece of wax that sealed the scroll. When he did, I next heard the fourth living being say, “Come forth!” 8 I then saw something else remarkable: a horse that was pale because it was diseased and that had two riders. The name of the first rider was The One Who Causes People to Die. The name of the rider sitting behind him on the horse was The Place Where Dead People Go. God gave these riders the power to kill a quarter of all the people in the world. They could kill them by causing wars or famine or epidemics or by making wild animals come into populated areas and kill people. 9 The Lamb then opened the fifth piece of wax that sealed the scroll. When he did, I saw, at the base of an altar in heaven, the souls of people whom others had killed because they spoke God’s message faithfully as reliable witnesses. 10 These souls called out *to God* loudly, “You, Master, always do what is right and decide what is right! So please condemn and punish the people on the earth who killed us!” 11 Then God gave each of them a white flowing robe. God told them to be patient a little longer, because there were others who were also going to die rather than deny their faith in Jesus. But as soon as all of them had died, God would punish the people who had killed them and had killed the people whose souls were now in heaven. 12 Then I saw the Lamb open the sixth piece of wax that sealed the scroll. When he did, the earth shook violently. The sun turned very dark, like mourning cloth woven from black goat hair. The moon was full and it became as red as blood. 13 Then the stars fell from the sky down to the earth. They fell just as figs left on a fig tree all fall off when the tree shakes in a very strong wind. 14 The sky split open and rolled away in both directions, just as a scroll rolls away in both directions if it splits in two. All the mountains and islands also moved out of their places. 15 Then all the people on earth, even kings, high-ranking officials, military officers, rich people, and influential individuals, hid within caves and mountain rocks. 16 They told the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and cover us! That way God, who sits on the throne in heaven, will not be able to see us! And that way the Lamb will not be able to punish us! 17 For today is the terrible day on which God and the Lamb will punish people who have done wrong, and we know that none of us are innocent!”

7 After these events I saw four angels standing on the earth. One was standing to the north of me, one to the east, one to the south, and one to the west. They were keeping the winds from those directions from blowing on the land or on the sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel coming towards me from the east. This angel was holding a tool that would create the mark of the only true God. This angel called out loudly to the four angels whom God had allowed to keep the winds from blowing on the land and the sea. 3 The angel told *the other four angels*, “Wait, first we must mark the people who believe in and obey our God with a seal on their foreheads. Until then, do not keep the winds from blowing on the land or the sea or any tree.” 4 *Then the angel and his fellow angels marked all of the people who believed in and obeyed God.* I heard someone say how many people they had marked. It was 144, 000 people from every tribe of Israel. 5 The angels marked 12, 000 people from the tribe of Judah with a seal. *They also marked* 12, 000 people from the tribe of Reuben. From the tribe of Gad *they also marked* 12, 000 people. 6 *The angels marked* 12, 000 people from the tribe of Asher with a seal. *They also marked* 12, 000 people from the tribe of Naphtali. From the tribe of Manasseh *they also marked* 12, 000 people. 7 *The angels marked* 12, 000 people from the tribe of Simeon with a seal. *They also marked* 12, 000 people from the tribe of Levi. From the tribe of Issachar *they also marked* 12, 000 people. 8 *The angels marked* 12, 000 people from the tribe of Zebulun with a seal. *They also marked* 12, 000 people from the tribe of Joseph. From the tribe of Benjamin they also marked 12, 000 people with a seal. 9 After these events, I saw something remarkable: a huge crowd of people! There were so many people in the crowd that no one could count them. They came from every nation, tribe, and people group, and they spoke every language. They all stood in front of the throne, where the Lamb was. They all wore flowing white robes, and they were all holding palm branches. 10 They were shouting loudly, “Our God, who rules over everything, has saved us! The Lamb has saved us!” 11 Then all the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living beings. The angels all knelt down in front of the throne with their faces on the ground and worshiped God. 12 The angels all said, “Yes, may

it be so! We praise, glorify, thank, and honor you, our God, forever! We proclaim forever that you are wise, powerful, and strong! May it be so!" 13 One of the elders then said to me, "I want to make sure you know who these people are who are wearing white flowing robes and where they have come from." 14 I answered him, "Sir, I need you to tell me who they are." He then told me: "These are the people who remained faithful to Jesus during a time of great persecution. This showed that they have become pure from sin by trusting in Jesus, who shed his blood for them when he died on the cross. 15 Therefore, they remain in front of God's throne. They worship God inside his temple without stopping. God, the one who rules from the throne in heaven, will protect them. 16 God will make sure that they always have enough food to eat. God will also make sure that they always have enough to drink. The rays of the sun will never again burn them. The heat from the sun will never again exhaust them. 17 This is because the Lamb who is by the throne will care for them just as a shepherd cares for his sheep. The Lamb will enable them to receive everlasting life, as if they were drinking from springs where fresh, pure water flows. God will help them to stop crying and be joyful."

8 Then the Lamb opened the seventh piece of wax that sealed the scroll. When he did, there was no sound at all in heaven for a short time. 2 I then saw the seven angels who are God's personal attendants. He gave each of them a trumpet. 3 Another angel then came and stood at the altar. He had a golden bowl for burning incense. God gave him a large quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all God's people on the golden altar in front of God's throne. 4 *The angel started burning the incense.* The smoke from the incense burning in the container that the angel was holding went up to God along with the prayers of God's people. 5 Then the angel took the golden incense bowl and filled it with coals of fire from the altar. He threw these coals and the burning incense onto the earth. When he did, thunder crashed and rumbled, lightning flashed, and the earth shook.

6 Then the seven angels, each of whom had one of the seven trumpets, got ready to blow them. 7 Then the first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire appeared. There was blood in the midst of the hail and fire. All of it poured down onto the earth. The fire burned up one third of everything on the surface of the land, one third of the trees, and all the green grass. 8 Then the second angel blew his trumpet, and something that was like a huge mountain that was on fire fell into the ocean. As a result, one third of the ocean became blood, 9 one third of the living creatures in the ocean died, and one third of the ships in the ocean sank 10 Then the third angel blew his trumpet, and a huge star fell from the sky. The star was blazing as if it were on fire. Parts of the star fell into one third of the rivers and into *one third of* the springs of water on earth. 11 The name of the star is Bitterness. When it fell into one third of the rivers and springs, their water became poisonous. Many people died from drinking that poisonous water. 12 Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet, and God struck the sun, the moon, and the stars so that they lost their light for one third of the time. The sun did not shine during one third of the day, and the moon and stars did not shine during one third of the night.

13 Then, as I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying high in the sky shouting loudly, "Three terrible things will happen to the people who live on the earth when the three remaining angels blow their trumpets! They are about to blow them!"

9 Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. God gave it the key to the deep, dark pit. 2 When he opened that pit, a huge amount of smoke rose from it, as if it were a great burning furnace. The smoke prevented anyone from seeing the light of the sun and the sky. 3 Then locusts came out of the smoke and started swarming the earth. God gave these locusts the power to sting people just as scorpions sting people. 4 God told the locusts that they should not eat up all the grass on the ground and all the plants and all the leaves on the trees *as locusts usually do*. God told the locusts just to sting the people who did not have the mark on their foreheads that showed they belonged to God. 5 God did not allow the locusts to kill those people. Instead, the locusts kept torturing people for five months. The pain those people felt was like the pain that a scorpion causes when it stings someone. 6 During the time when the locusts torture people who refuse to belong to God, those people *will be in so much pain that they* will want to die. But God will make sure those people stay alive *to experience the punishment for their sin*. 7 The locusts looked like horses that were ready for battle. They had what looked like golden crowns on their heads. Their faces were like human faces. 8 They had long hair like women's long hair. Their teeth were as strong as lions' teeth. 9 They wore breastplates made of metal. When they were flying, their wings made a noise like the roar of many horses pulling chariots and rushing into battle. 10 They had tails like the tails of scorpions. With these tails they could sting people. Their power to harm people during those five months was in their tails. 11 The king who ruled over them was the angel of the deep, dark pit. His name in the Hebrew language is Abaddon. In the Greek language it is Apollyon. Both of these names mean Destroyer.

12 *After five months the locusts went away.* That ended the first terrible event. But be aware that two more terrible events are still to come.

13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four corners of the golden altar that is in God's presence. 14 The voice was saying to the sixth angel, the one who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels whom I have bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 Then those four angels went free. They had been waiting for that exact moment. They went free so they could enable their soldiers to kill one third of humanity. 16 I heard someone say how many soldiers there were riding on horses. The number was 200, 000, 000. 17 In the vision I saw what the horses and the soldiers who rode them looked like. The soldiers wore breastplates that were red like fire, blue like sapphire, and yellow like sulfur. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions. From their mouths came fire, smoke, and fumes of burning sulfur. 18 Those three things—the fire, the smoke, and the burning sulfur from the horses' mouths—killed one third of humanity. 19 But the power of the horses was also in their tails, as well as in their mouths. Their tails were like snakes, and they had heads that bit people. 20 But there were still people whom the plagues of fire and smoke and burning sulfur did not kill. Those people did not stop doing sinful things. They also did not stop worshiping demons and idols that they had made of

gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood. The people did not stop
worshiping the idols even though they were lifeless statues
that could not help people. 21 They also did not stop murdering
other people, practicing sorcery, acting in sexually immoral
ways, and stealing things.

10 Then in the vision I saw another mighty angel come
down out of heaven. A cloud surrounded him. There
was a rainbow over his head. His face shone brightly like the
sun. His legs glowed like columns of fire. 2 He had in his hand
a small scroll that was open. He set his right foot on the ocean
and his left foot on the land. 3 He shouted something in a voice
as loud as the roar of a lion. As he shouted, I heard seven
thunderclaps. *In the thunder were words that I could understand.*
4 I was about to record what the thunders had said. But then
a voice from heaven told me, "Keep secret what the thunders
said! Do not write it down!" 5 Then the angel whom I had
seen standing on the ocean and the land raised his right hand
toward heaven *in order to swear an oath*. 6 He asked God, who
lives forever and who created everything that exists, to confirm
that what he said was true. The angel said that God would no
longer delay in doing what he had planned to do. 7 He said
that when the time came for the seventh angel to blow his
trumpet, then God would finish his secret plan. That is what
God told his servants the prophets long ago.

8 Then the one whom I had heard speak from heaven spoke
to me again. He said, "Go and take the open scroll from the
hand of the angel who is standing on the ocean and on the
land." 9 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the
little scroll. And he said to me, "Take it and eat it. When you
eat it, it will taste sweet like honey, but after you eat it, your
stomach will hurt." 10 So I took the little scroll from the angel's
hand and ate it. When I ate it, it tasted sweet like honey, but
after I ate it, my stomach hurt. 11 Then someone said to me,
"You must speak God's messages again about many nations,
many people groups, speakers of many languages, and many
kings."

11 Then an angel gave me a reed similar to a measuring
stick. God said to me, "Go to my temple, measure it
and the altar in it, and count the people who are worshiping
there. 2 But do not measure the courtyard outside of the temple
building. I have given that to the non-Jewish people groups.
As a result, they will oppress the people who live in the city
of Jerusalem for 42 months. 3 I will send two witnesses to
announce what I reveal to them for 1, 260 days. They will show
they are sad about the people's sin by wearing rough clothes
that someone has woven from goat hair." 4 Those witnesses
are the ones whom the two olive trees and the two lampstands
represent. Those trees and lampstands are in the presence of
the Lord, who rules the earth. 5 Now if anyone tries to harm
those witnesses, they breathe fire out of their mouths and
burn them up. In this way the two witnesses will certainly kill
anyone who wants to harm them. 6 Those witnesses will have
the authority to command no rain to fall from the sky during
the time that they are announcing what God reveals to them.
They also will have the authority to cause the water in lakes
and streams to become blood. They will also have the authority
to make many kinds of plagues happen on the earth. They will
do these things when they sense that this will emphasize their
message from God. 7 But when they have finished announcing
their message from God, the beast that comes up from the
deep, dark pit will attack them. The beast will defeat them
and kill them. 8 Now the two witnesses were announcing God's
message in the great city that people symbolically call Sodom
because its people are very evil. People also call that city Egypt
because its people treat God's people badly. That is also the
city where Jesus, whom the witnesses were serving, died on
a cross. To insult the witnesses, the people of the city will
not bury their bodies. They will leave their bodies lying in
the city's open area. 9 Individuals from many people groups,
tribes, language groups, and nations will look at those dead
bodies for three and a half days. But the people of the city will
not allow anyone to bury those bodies. 10 When the people
who do not honor God see that the witnesses are dead, they
will be very glad and hold a celebration. They will even send
gifts to each other to celebrate. They will be so happy because
the two prophets are dead who sent plagues that made them
suffer. 11 But after three and a half days, God will make them
alive again. They will stop lying dead and stand up! The people
who see them alive again will be terrified. 12 Then the two
witnesses will hear a loud voice from heaven saying to them:
"Come up here!" Then they will go up into heaven in a cloud.
Their enemies will watch them go up. 13 At that same time
there will be a great earthquake, as a result of which a tenth
of the buildings in the city will collapse. That will kill 7, 000
people. The rest of the people will become very afraid and
acknowledge that the true God had justly punished them for
killing the witnesses.

14 That will be the second terrible event. Be aware that the
third terrible event will happen soon afterwards.

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and voices in
heaven shouted loudly, "The Lord our God and the Messiah
whom he has appointed will now rule all the people in the
world! They will continue to rule those people forever!" 16 The
24 elders who sit on thrones around God's throne bowed down
with their faces on the ground and worshiped him. 17 They
said:

"Lord God, you are the one who rules over everything!
You are the one who exists now!
You are the one who has always existed!
We thank you that you have so powerfully defeated
everyone who has rebelled against you,
and you now rule over all the people in the world.
18 The unbelieving people of the nations were
raging angrily at you.
As a result, you have punished them.
You have decided that this is the right time for you to
judge all those who have died.
You are rewarding your servants who spoke your
message and the people who belong to you,
You are rewarding all those who honor you,
whoever they are.
You have decided that it is time for you to destroy the
people who have been destroying the earth."

19 Then God opened the doors his temple in heaven, and in it
I saw the sacred chest that contains symbols of God's promise.

Lightning was flashing. I heard the rumbling of thunder. The earth shook, and large hailstones fell from the sky.

12 Then something very significant appeared in the sky. It was a woman who was wearing the sun as her clothing. She was standing on the moon. On her head was a crown that was made of 12 stars. 2 She was about to have a baby. She was screaming in pain because it was so difficult to deliver her baby. 3 Then something else significant appeared in the sky. It was a huge red dragon. It had seven heads and ten horns. It had a royal crown on each of its heads. 4 The dragon's tail dragged a third of the stars out of the sky and threw them onto the earth. The dragon set himself in front of the woman who was about to give birth so that he could eat her child as soon as he was born. 5 Then the woman gave birth to a son. He is destined to rule all groups of people with complete authority. God snatched away this child *for safety* and brought him up to his throne in heaven. 6 But the woman fled to a desolate region. God had made a place ready for her there where people would take care of her for 1, 260 days.

7 Then a battle began in heaven. Michael and the angels he commanded fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back *against Michael and his angels*. 8 But the dragon lost the battle, and God did not allow the dragon and his angels to stay in heaven after that. 9 Instead, God threw the huge dragon out of heaven. That dragon is the same evil spirit who appeared as a serpent long ago. His names are the Devil and Satan. He deceives everyone who lives in the world. God threw him and all of his angels down to the earth. 10 Then I heard someone in heaven shout loudly,

"Now our God has saved his people by his power,
and he rules all people!
Now his Messiah has begun to rule!
This is because God has thrown the accuser of our
fellow believers out of heaven.
He was continually coming to God and accusing
believers of doing wrong things.
11 But our fellow believers overcame him. This is because
the Lamb shed his blood as a sacrifice for them
and because they spoke the truth about him
to other people.
They did not want just to stay alive.
They were willing to die if necessary for speaking
the truth about him.
12 So all of you living in heaven should rejoice!
But terrible things will happen to you people who
live on the earth and travel on the ocean
because the devil is now among you.
He is very angry because he knows that he has
only a short time before God judges
and punishes him."

13 When the dragon realized that God had thrown him down to the earth, he tried to attack the woman who had given birth to a son. 14 But God gave the woman two wings like the wings of a very large eagle. These enabled her to fly away to a desolate region. God had prepared a safe place for her there. In that place, God took care of her for three and one-half years. The serpent*, that is, the dragon,* was not able to reach her there. 15 Then the serpent poured a flood of water out of his mouth toward the woman. He was trying to sweep her away with the water. 16 But the ground helped the woman. The ground opened up a big hole and the flood that the dragon poured out from his mouth went down into the hole. 17 Then the dragon was very angry with the woman, so he went away to fight against the rest of her children. They are the people who obey God's commandments and who speak the truth about Jesus. 18 Then the dragon stood on the ocean shore.

13 Then I saw a beast come up out of the ocean. It had ten horns and seven heads. On each of its horns there was a royal crown. On each of its heads there was a name that insulted God. 2 This beast was like a leopard, but its feet were like the feet of a bear. Its mouth was like the mouth of a lion. The dragon made the beast very powerful. He also gave him the supreme right to rule over people as their king. 3 One of the heads of the beast looked as if someone had wounded it so that it had died. But that wound had healed. As a result, all the people of the earth marveled at the beast and obeyed it. 4 They worshiped the dragon because he had given the beast authority to rule over them. They also worshiped the beast. They said, "No one is as powerful as the beast! No one could ever fight against it!" 5 The dragon enabled the beast to speak proudly and to insult God. The dragon also enabled it to rule the people on earth. But God would only allow the beast to rule for 42 months. 6 When the beast spoke, it insulted God. It said that God was not really like what people believed him to be like. The beast also insulted the people in heaven among whom God lives. 7 The dragon enabled the beast to fight against God's people and conquer them. The dragon also gave the beast the right to rule over people no matter what tribe they came from or what group they belonged to or what language they spoke or where they lived. 8 The names of some of the people living on earth do not appear in the Book of Life. Those people will worship the beast. The Book of Life belongs to the Lamb. The Lamb gave up his life at the beginning of the world in order to become the Savior. 9 Everyone who wants to understand must listen carefully to this message from God. 10 If anyone's enemies are going to capture him, they will capture him. If anyone's enemies are going to kill him with a sword, they will kill him with a sword. So God's people must endure suffering and remain faithful to him.

11 Then I saw another beast come up from the earth. It had two small horns on its head as a sheep has. But its voice sounded like a dragon's voice. 12 This beast from the earth carries out all the orders of the beast from the sea. It requires the people who live on the earth to worship the beast from the sea. That is the beast that almost died but whose wound healed. 13 The beast from the earth also did amazing miracles. It even caused fire to fall from the sky onto the earth while people watched. 14 The dragon gave the beast from the earth the power to do these miracles on behalf of the beast from the sea. The beast from the earth used the miracles to deceive the people who live on the earth. It told them to make an idol that looked like the beast from the sea. That was the beast that survived a sword wound that seemed to kill it. 15 The dragon gave the beast from the earth the power to make that idol live. Then the idol that looked like the beast from the sea was able to speak. The beast from the earth then commanded that

anyone who refused to worship the idol would be killed. 16 The beast from the earth also required each person to have a mark on his right hand or on his forehead. This requirement applied to important people and unimportant people. It applied to people who were rich and people who were poor. It applied to free people and to slaves. It applied to everyone! 17 Then the beast from the earth ordered that no one could buy or sell anything if he did not have this mark. This mark was the name of the beast from the sea or the number that stood for its name. 18 You must think wisely about this: Anyone who understands things well can figure out the identity of the beast from the sea. That is because the number that stands for its name actually represents the name of a man. That number is 666.

14 But then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. With him were 144, 000 people. He had written his name and his Father's name on their foreheads. 2 I also heard a sound from heaven. It was as loud as the sound of a huge waterfall or of mighty thunder. It also sounded like many people playing on harps. 3 This sound was of the people I saw singing a new song. They were standing in front of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had saved these 144, 000 people from among all the people on the earth. Only they could learn that song. 4 Those 144, 000 people are spiritually pure, as virgins are morally pure. They have not made themselves impure by worshiping any false god. They are the ones who accompany Jesus, the one who is like a lamb, wherever he goes. They represent all those whom he has saved so far from among the people of the earth. Those who have believed in Jesus will share their faith and lead many others to believe in God and Jesus. 5 These people never denied Jesus. They always lived pure lives.

6 Then I saw another angel flying through the sky. He was bringing God's eternal good news from heaven so that he could proclaim it to the people who live on earth. He will proclaim it to every nation, to every tribe, to speakers of every language, and to every people group. 7 He said in a loud voice, "Honor God and praise him because it is now time for him to judge everyone! Worship him because he is the one who created heaven and earth and the ocean and the fresh water." 8 And then another angel came after that one. This angel said, "The very evil city of Babylon has now become a complete ruin! Babylon forced the people of every nation to be unfaithful to God by worshiping idols." 9 Yet another angel came afterward. This angel said in a loud voice, "If people worship the beast and its image or allow someone to put its mark on their foreheads or on their hands, 10 God will duly punish them. They will stagger from the punishment as if they had drunk strong wine. He will torment them in burning sulfur as his holy angels and the Lamb are watching. 11 The smoke from the fire that torments them will rise forever. God will torment them all the time without stopping. This is what will happen to the people who worship the beast and its image or who allow someone to write its name on them." 12 God's people are those who obey what God commands and who trust in Jesus. They must continue to do these things faithfully *because those who disobey God and deny Jesus will experience these torments*. 13 Then I heard someone speaking from heaven and saying, "Write this: How fortunate from now on are those who die as faithful believers in Jesus." The Holy Spirit says, "Yes, after they die, they will no longer have to endure suffering. Instead, it will be clear that they were doing the right things."

14 Then I saw something else very significant. I saw a white cloud, and someone was sitting on the cloud who looked like a human being. He was wearing a golden crown on his head. He held a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Still another angel came out of the temple in heaven. In a loud voice, he said to the one who was sitting on the cloud, "The grain on the earth is ripe. So this is the time to reap it. So use your sickle to reap the grain." 16 Then the person who looked like a human being and who was sitting on the cloud used his sickle to harvest all of the grain on the earth. 17 Another angel then came out of the heavenly sanctuary. This angel was also holding a sharp sickle. 18 One more angel came from the altar. He is the one who takes care of the fire of the altar. He said in a loud voice to the angel who was holding the sickle, "The grapes on the earth are ripe! So use your sickle to cut the bunches of grapes off of the earth's grapevines. Then collect those bunches of grapes." 19 So the angel used his sickle to harvest the grapes. Then he threw the grapes into the huge winepress that represents the place where God will punish people for what they have done wrong. 20 God trampled the grapes in the winepress outside the city. When he did, blood poured out of the winepress! It flowed in such quantity that it formed a stream that was a meter and a half deep and extended for three hundred kilometers.

15 Then something else very significant appeared in the sky. I saw seven angels. God had given them the duty to punish rebellious people in seven different ways. This is the last time that God will punish people this way, because through these punishments he will have given people on earth all of the punishment that they deserve.

2 I also saw a great flat area of glass that was sparkling with light. I also saw the people who had overcome the beast by not worshiping it or its image and by not allowing anyone to mark them with the number that represents the beast's name. They were standing on the large flat area of glass. They were holding harps that God had given them. 3 They were singing a song such as God's servant Moses sang long ago. It was the same kind of song that the Lamb now sings. They sang,

"Lord God, who rules over everything,
all that you do is very marvelous!
You always act entirely righteously.
You rule as King forever!
4 O Lord, everyone will fear you and honor you
because you alone are holy.
Yes, people from every group will come and bow
down to you in worship
because you have shown that you have judged
everyone in the right way."

5 Then, after that, I saw that the doors of the temple in heaven were open. That heavenly temple was like the tent on earth that had held the sacred chest. 6 The seven angels whose duty it was to punish rebellious people in seven different ways came out of the temple. The angels were wearing clean, white linen garments. They were also wearing bands of golden fabric around their chests. 7 One of the four living creatures gave

each of the seven angels a golden bowl. Inside each bowl was a different kind of punishment for people who had done wrong. The angels would administer these punishments on behalf of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 Then smoke that expressed the presence of the glorious and all-powerful God filled the temple. *The smoke remained there while the angels were administering the plagues.* Only after the seven angels finished punishing the people of the earth in seven different ways could anyone enter the temple again.

16 Next I heard someone in the temple speak in a loud voice to the angels who had the seven bowls. He told them, "Go from here and pour out what you have in your seven bowls onto the earth. This is how God will punish people for their sins." 2 So the first angel went and poured out what he had in his bowl onto the earth. As a result, terrible sores broke out on the people who had allowed the beast's servants to write the beast's name on them. These were the people who had worshiped the beast's image. 3 Then the second angel poured out what he had in his bowl on the ocean. As a result, the water of the sea turned into blood. That blood was decayed and stinky like the blood of a dead person. Every creature that lived in the ocean died. 4 Then the third angel poured out what he had in his bowl upon the earth's rivers and springs. As a result, the water in them turned into blood. 5 Then I heard the angel who was in charge of those waters say to God, "O God, you exist and have always existed. You are supremely holy. You are a fair judge of people. 6 The people who rebelled against you murdered your holy people and the prophets. So you are just in punishing them by giving them blood to drink." 7 Then I heard the altar answer, "Yes, Lord God, you who rule over everything, you punish people completely fairly." 8 Then the fourth angel poured out what he had in his bowl on the sun. As a result, the sun became so hot that it burned people very badly. 9 Because the sun burned people so badly, they said evil things about God because he had the power to punish them in these ways. But they still refused to stop doing wrong things and they still refused to praise him.

10 Then the fifth angel poured out what he had in his bowl on the throne of the beast. As a result, it became dark where the beast ruled. *Because it was like night all the time, the people whom the beast ruled could feel the pain of their terrible sores even more.* So they were biting their tongues because of this pain. 11 They also said evil things about God who rules in heaven because their sores were so painful. But they refused to stop doing wrong things. 12 Then the sixth angel poured out what he had in his bowl on the Euphrates River. As a result, the water in the river dried up so that the rulers from the eastern countries could cross it with their armies. 13 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs. One came out of the mouth of the dragon. One came out of the mouth of the beast. And one came out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 Now those spirits were demons that were able to do miracles. They went out to the rulers of the entire earth to gather their armies. Those armies will fight a battle on the important day when Almighty God punishes his enemies. 15 (I heard the Lord Jesus say, "You must listen carefully to me: I am coming unexpectedly, like a thief. It will be good for people who stay alert and keep on living in the right way. They will not feel shame when I return. They will be just like a person who keeps his clothes on so that he does not feel shame in front of other people.") 16 The evil spirits gathered the rulers at a place whose name in the Hebrew language is Armageddon.

17 Then the seventh angel poured what he had in his bowl into the air. As a result, someone said with a loud voice from the throne in the temple, "God has now finished punishing rebellious people." 18 Then lightning flashed, thunder rumbled, and the earth shook violently. There had not been such a powerful earthquake during the whole time that people have lived on the earth. 19 As a result of this earthquake, the giant city split into three parts. God also destroyed the cities in the other nations. God did not forget that the people of Babylon had sinned very much. So he made them experience the punishments they so justly deserved. 20 Also as a result of the earthquake, every island disappeared, and the mountains became flat land. 21 Then huge hailstones, each weighing 33 kilograms, fell from the sky onto people. Then people said evil things about God because he had punished them in this terrible way with those huge, heavy hailstones.

17 One of the seven angels who had the bowls came over to me. He said, "Come with me. I want to show you how God will punish the evil prostitute whom you saw sitting near a great river. 2 The kings of the earth have worshiped the idols she wanted them to worship. The people they rule have also worshiped those idols. It was as if they had gotten drunk on wine that she gave them."

3 Then the Holy Spirit inspired me so that I could see and hear things in a vision. The angel carried me away to a desolate area. There I saw a woman who was riding on a red beast. The beast had written names all over itself. They were names that insulted God. The beast had seven heads and ten horns. 4 Now the woman was wearing purple and red clothes. She had gold jewelry with precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand. That cup was full of something to drink that stands for the awful things she does when she commits sexual immorality. 5 And there was a name in writing on her forehead. The name had a secret meaning. That name was: The Great Babylon, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Immoral Things in the World. 6 I saw that the woman had become drunk because she had drunk the blood of God's people. Those people had suffered for proclaiming the truth about Jesus. When I saw her, that astonished me completely.

7 The angel said to me, "This should not astonish you. I will explain to you the hidden meaning of the woman and of the beast on which she rides. That beast has seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw lived previously. Now he is no longer alive. But he is about to come back up from the deep, dark pit. Eventually God will destroy him. But this beast will appear again after having lived previously and then dying. Seeing him will astonish the people on the earth whose names God did not write in the Book of Life before he created the world. 9 People need to think wisely to understand this: The seven heads of the beast that the woman is riding represent seven hills. Those are the seven hills of the city that the woman represents. The heads also represent seven rulers. 10 Five of those rulers have died. One is still alive. The seventh ruler has not yet come. And when he comes, he will rule for only a short time. 11 The beast that lived previously and then was not alive will be an eighth ruler. He is actually one of those seven

rulers. God will certainly destroy him. 12 Now the ten horns
that you saw represent ten rulers who have not yet begun to
rule. But they will rule people together with the beast, though
only for a short time. 13 Those rulers will all agree to do the
same thing. As a result, they will give the beast their power to
rule. 14 The rulers and the beast will fight against the Lamb.
He will defeat them because he is the Lord who rules over all
other lords and the King who rules over all other kings. The
people who are with him are the ones whom God has chosen
and called to himself and who keep serving him faithfully."
15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw in
the city where the prostitute sits represent a large number
of people from many different backgrounds. 16 And the ten
horns that you saw represent rulers. They and the beast will
hate the prostitute. So they will plunder the city and leave
nothing in it. Then they will destroy the city the way a wild
animal devours another animal. They will burn down the city
completely. 17 They will do that because God has caused them
to decide to do what he wants them to do. As a result, they
will all agree together to let the beast have their power to rule
until God has accomplished what he said. 18 And the prostitute
that you saw represents the very evil city whose leaders rule
over the other rulers in the world."

18 After this I saw another angel coming down from
heaven. God had given great authority to this angel.
The angel was shining so brightly that he lit up the earth.
2 The angel shouted very loudly, "God is about to destroy the
evil city of Babylon completely. *People will no longer live in
the ruins of the city.* All kinds of evil spirits will live there. All
kinds of disgusting scavenger birds will also live there. 3 God
is going to destroy Babylon because that evil city influenced
many people groups to devote themselves to idol worship.
Babylon influenced the rulers of those groups, and they made
their people worship idols. Babylon also set an example of
living in luxury. This made people in other places want to live
in the same way. Those who sold luxury goods made a lot of
money selling the goods to those people."

4 Then I heard someone else speak from heaven. He said,
"My people, run away from that evil city of Babylon! If you
stay there, you may sin as the people there do. And if you
sin as they do, I will punish you in the same way that I will
punish them. 5 Run away because the people of that evil city
have sinned very greatly and God is now going to punish them
for what they have done."

6 *The voice from heaven told the angels whom God had assigned
to punish Babylon,* "Punish the people of that city just as much
as they harmed other people. In fact, cause them to suffer twice
as much as they caused other people to suffer. 7 The people
of the city of Babylon honored themselves. They indulged
in pleasures. To the same extent that they did that, torment
them and cause them to grieve. Do that because they were
confident that they would always rule other people. They were
confident that they could provide themselves with everything
they needed. They were confident that nothing bad would
ever happen to them. 8 Because the people of Babylon are
so wicked, terrible things will happen to them all at once.
Some will die and others will mourn for them. People will be
hungry because they will have no food. The city will burn up
completely. The Lord God is able to punish her in these ways
because he is mighty."

9 The rulers of the peoples who live on earth worshiped
idols with the people of Babylon. They indulged in pleasures
with the people of Babylon. So they will mourn greatly for the
city when they see it burning up. 10 Those rulers will stand
far away from Babylon because they will be afraid that God
will punish them too if they get too close. They will say, "How
very terrible it is for the Great Babylon, that strong city! God
is punishing the people who live there so quickly!" 11 And the
merchants of the earth will mourn greatly for the city because
no one living there will ever again buy the things that they
have to sell. 12–13 They sell ornaments made of gold, silver,
precious stones, and pearls. They sell expensive cloth made
of fine linen and silk, expensive cloth that is dyed purple and
crimson. They sell many kinds of scented wood and many
kinds of items made of ivory, the most expensive wood, bronze,
iron, and marble. They sell cinnamon, spices, incense, myrrh,
frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, and grain. They sell
cattle, sheep, horses, and chariots. They even sell human beings
as slaves. 14 Yes, the good things the people of Babylon longed
to have are gone! God has punished them by destroying their
many valuable possessions! They have lost those possessions
permanently. 15 Many merchants earned a lot of money by
selling these things. Those merchants will stand far away from
Babylon because they will be afraid that God will punish them
too if they get too close. They will mourn greatly 16 and they
will say, "Very terrible things have happened to that great
city! That city was like a woman who dressed in clothes made
of fine linen and expensive cloth dyed purple and crimson and
who wore gold jewelry with precious stones and pearls. 17 But
God has destroyed all these expensive things so quickly!"

Every ship captain, every ship passenger, all sailors, and all
others who do work involving the ocean will stand far away
from the city. 18 When they see the smoke of the fire that is
burning there, they will shout, "No other city has ever been
like that great city!" 19 They will even throw dust on their
heads *to show that they are sad*. Then they will shout in great
distress, "Very terrible things have happened to Babylon. The
people who lived in that city bought many expensive things,
so that people who owned ships earned a lot of money by
transporting those things there. God has destroyed that city
so quickly!"

20 Then someone spoke from heaven saying, "You who live
in heaven, rejoice over what has happened to Babylon! You
who are God's people, including you apostles and prophets,
rejoice because God has justly punished the people of that city
because they harmed you so badly!"

21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large
stone for grinding grain and he threw it into the ocean. Then
he said, "God will destroy the great city of Babylon abruptly! It
will disappear completely, just as that stone disappeared into
the ocean! Babylon will be gone forever! 22 In that city there
will never again be anyone playing harps, singing, playing
flutes, or blowing trumpets. There will no longer be any skilled
workers making things. There will never again be people
grinding grain at the mills. 23 No lamp will ever again shine
there. There will never again be the happy voices of any
bridegroom and his bride. God will destroy this city because
its merchants were the most important people in the world.

They were so prosperous because it was as if the city used witchcraft to get every people group to live as its people did.
24 The city is also guilty of killing the prophets and others of God's people. Indeed, *because it used violence and set an example of violence,* it is guilty of every murder that people committed on the earth!"

19 Next I heard what sounded like a huge crowd in heaven. They were shouting,

"Hallelujah! God has saved us!
Our God is glorious and mighty!
2 Praise him because he judges completely fairly!
He has punished the evil city that was like a prostitute,
because the people of that city persuaded many
other people to act immorally as they did.
Praise him because he has punished them for
murdering his servants!"

3 The crowd shouted again, saying,

"Hallelujah! The smoke of the fire that is burning
that city will go up forever!"
4 Then the 24 elders and the four living creatures
prostrated themselves and worshiped God,
who sits on the throne. They said:
"It is true! Hallelujah!"

5 Then someone spoke from the throne and said,

"All of you who are his servants, praise our God!
All of you who honor him, praise him, every one of you!"

6 Then I heard something like the noise of a huge crowd of people. They were making a loud sound like the sound of a huge waterfall or loud claps of thunder. They were shouting,

"Hallelujah! Our Lord God, who rules over
everything, reigns!
7 We should truly celebrate, and we should honor him
because now is the time for the Lamb to be united
with the woman he is marrying. She
has dressed for the wedding.
8 God has given her clean white clothes to wear.
They are fine-linen clothes."

(That fabric represents the right things that God's people do.)

9 Then the angel said to me, "Write how fortunate the people are whom God invites to the feast when the Lamb marries his wife!" He also said to me, "God has said this, and it is true!" 10 Immediately I prostrated myself in front of the angel to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not worship me! I am just your fellow servant and the fellow servant of other believers who speak the truth about Jesus. God has sent me here to serve you by helping you understand the prophetic vision he has given you because you want to speak the truth about Jesus. God is the one you should worship!"

11 Then I saw the heavens open up, and I saw something amazing: Jesus riding on a white horse! Those who truly know Jesus call him Always Trustworthy. He judges all people according to what is right, and he fights against people who do what is wrong. 12 Now his eyes shone like a burning flame. He wore many royal crowns on his head. There was a name on his clothing. Only he knows what that name means. 13 Blood covered the cloak that he was wearing. Another of his names is the Word of God. 14 The heavenly armies were following him. They were riding on white horses. They were wearing clean, white linen clothes. 15 Jesus had a sharp sword extending from his mouth. He will use it to defeat the rebellious people groups. He himself will rule them so powerfully that no one will be able to resist him. He will destroy his enemies as if they were grapes that he was crushing in a winepress. He will do this for God, who rules over everything and will punish his enemies thoroughly because of their sins. 16 A title appeared on his cloak at his thigh: "This is the King who rules over all other kings and the Lord who rules over all other lords."

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the light of the sun. He called loudly to all the flesh-eating birds flying high in the sky, "Come and gather for the large feast that God is providing for you! 18 Come and eat the flesh of God's enemies who will die in this battle! Eat the flesh of kings, of army commanders, of people who fought powerfully, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of many other kinds of people." 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of earth with their armies. They had gathered together to fight against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the rider on the white horse captured the beast and the false prophet. The false prophet is the one who had performed miracles in the beast's presence. By doing that he had deceived the people who had accepted the beast's mark on their foreheads and who had worshiped its image. Then God threw the beast and the false prophet alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 And the rider on the horse killed the rest of their armies with his sword, the one that extended from his mouth. Birds came and ate as much as they wanted of the flesh of the people and horses that he had killed.

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had the key to the deep, dark pit and he was carrying a large chain in his hand. 2 The angel seized the dragon. That dragon is the ancient serpent—the devil, that is, Satan. The angel bound him with the chain. That chain would hold him for a thousand years. 3 The angel threw him into the deep, dark pit. He shut the door of the pit, locked it, and sealed it to prevent anyone from opening it. He did this so that Satan would no longer deceive the many people groups until after those thousand years. At that time, God will release Satan for a short time.

4 Then I saw thrones on which people were sitting. God made those people judges. I also saw the souls of other people whose enemies had killed them by cutting their heads off. Their enemies did that because they had spoken the truth from God about Jesus. I also saw the souls of other people whose enemies had not killed them but who had refused to worship the beast or its image. They had not allowed the beast's servants to put the beast's mark on them, either on their foreheads or on their hands. They all became alive again and they ruled with the Messiah during those thousand years.
5 These were the people who lived again the first time that God caused dead people to live again. The rest of the people

who had died did not live again until after those thousand years. 6 God will be pleased with those who live again this first time. Yes, God will consider them to belong to him in a special way. They will not die a second time. Instead, they will be priests who serve God and the Messiah. They will rule with the Messiah during those thousand years.

7 At the end of the thousand years, God will release Satan from the deep, dark pit. 8 Satan will go out to deceive the rebellious people groups all over the earth. *These are the nations that the prophet Ezekiel called* Gog and Magog. Satan will gather them to fight against God's people. There will be so many of them fighting against God's people that no one will be able to count them, just as no one can count the grains of sand on the ocean shore. 9 They will march from many places on the earth. They will surround the army of God's people where it is in battle formation. That will be at Jerusalem, the city that God loves. But God will send fire down from heaven and it will burn up all of his enemies. 10 Then God will throw the devil, who had deceived those people, into the lake of burning sulfur. This is also where God had thrown the beast and the false prophet. As a result, they will continually suffer severely forever.

11 Then I saw a huge white throne on which God was sitting. *He was so fearsome that* the land and the sky disappeared completely when he appeared. 12 Then I saw people of all kinds who had died but who were now alive again standing in front of God's throne. God opened the books in which he records what people do. God also opened another book, the Book of Life. God writes in that book the names of people who have eternal life. God judged the people who had died and who were now alive again according to what they had done, which he had recorded in the books. 13 The people whose bodies were in the sea became alive again, and the people whose bodies were in graves on the land also became alive again. *They all stood in front of God's throne, and* God judged each of them according to what each one had done. 14 Then God took the place where souls went after dying physically and threw that place itself into the burning lake. The burning lake is where people go when they die spiritually. 15 Then God saw whose names he had written in the book that lists the people who have eternal life. If someone's name was not in that book, God threw him into the burning lake.

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and the oceans no longer existed. 2 I saw the city of Jerusalem, which is special to God, in a new form. It was coming down to earth from God in heaven. The city looked very beautiful, like a bride on her wedding day. 3 Then I heard a loud voice calling out from the throne of God. The voice said, "Listen to this! Now God will live right where people live! They will belong to him, and God himself will stay with them. 4 He will comfort them so that they are no longer sad. None of them will ever again die or mourn or cry or suffer pain. God has taken away those things, so they are gone forever."

5 Then God said from the throne, "Listen to this! I am now making everything new!" He also said to me, "Write these things that I have told you. You can be confident that I will certainly cause them to happen." 6 He also said to me, "I have completed all these things! I am the one who began all things and the one who will cause all things to end. To everyone who wants it, I will freely give everlasting life, as if I were giving them a drink from a spring whose water keeps people alive. 7 I will give this to all who are victorious over Satan. And I will be their God, and they will be my children. 8 But all the others will suffer in the lake of burning sulfur. That is what it means to die a second time. Those who are cowards will suffer this way. So will those who do not believe in me, those who do detestable things, those who murder people, those who sin sexually, those who practice witchcraft, those who worship idols, and all those who tell lies."

9 Then an angel came to me. He was one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls of the wine that caused the seven last ways of suffering. He said to me, "Come with me. I will show you the people who will live together with the Lamb forever!"

10 Then the Holy Spirit inspired me so that I could see and hear things in a vision. The angel took me to the top of a very high mountain. There he showed me the city that is special to God, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. 11 The city was shining with brilliant light that came from God himself. It was sparkling like a priceless jasper gemstone, and it was clear like crystal. 12 A very high wall surrounded the city. The wall had twelve gates. An angel stood at each gate. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel appeared over the gates. Each gate had the name of one tribe. 13 Three gates were on the east side of the city. Three gates were on the north side. Three gates were on the south side. And three gates were on the west side. 14 The city wall had twelve foundation stones. On each foundation stone was the name of one of the twelve apostles whom the Lamb had appointed.

15 The angel who was speaking to me carried a golden measuring rod. He used it to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city was square in shape, that is, it was as long as it was wide. After the angel measured the city with his rod, he reported that it was 2, 200 kilometers long and that its width and height were the same as its length. 17 He measured its wall and reported that it was 66 meters high. The angel used the measurement that people normally use.

18 The stones of the city wall were like the green stone that people call jasper. The buildings of the city were pure gold and they showed reflections the way clear glass does. 19 The foundations of the city wall were beautiful precious stones. Each foundation was a different stone. The first foundation stone was jasper. The second foundation stone was sapphire. The third foundation stone was chalcedony. The fourth foundation stone was emerald. 20 The fifth foundation stone was sardonyx. The sixth foundation stone was carnelian. The seventh foundation stone was chrysolite. The eighth foundation stone was beryl. The ninth foundation stone was topaz. The tenth foundation stone was chrysoprase. The eleventh foundation stone was jacinth. And the twelfth foundation stone was amethyst. 21 The twelve gates of the city were each huge pearls. Each gate was a single pearl. The city streets were pure gold and they showed reflections the way clear glass does.

22 There was no temple in the city. That was because the Lord God himself, who rules over all, and the Lamb were there. So there was no need for a temple. 23 Now the city will not need the sun or the moon for light, because the light coming from God and from the Lamb will be all the light that it needs.

24 The way people live in the city will be an example to all of
the world's people groups. The rulers of the earth will bring
their treasures into the city to honor God and the lamb. 25 It
will never be night in the city. So no one will ever shut the
gates of the city as one usually does at the end of a day. 26 The
people of the world will also bring their wealth into the city.
27 But nothing that is morally impure will ever enter that city.
No one who does things that God considers detestable and no
one who tells lies will ever enter it. Only those people whose
names God has written in the book that belongs to the Lamb
will be there. That is the book that lists the names of people
who have everlasting life.

22 Then the angel showed me the river that causes
people who drink from it to live forever. The water
was sparkling and clear like crystal. The river was flowing out
from the thrones where God and the Lamb were sitting. 2 It
flowed down through the middle of the city's open area. On
each side of the river was a tree with fruit that causes people
who eat it to live forever. These trees produce fruit 12 times
a year. They produce a crop each month. The people groups
use the leaves of the trees as medicine. 3 There will never be
anyone or anything there that God will curse. The throne of
God and of the Lamb will be in the city. God's servants will
worship him there. 4 They will see him face to face, and his
name will appear on their foreheads. 5 There will never again
be night. God's servants will not need the light of a lamp or
the light of the sun because the Lord God will shine his light
upon them. They will rule forever.

6 The angel said to me: "These things that God has shown
you are true, and he will certainly make them happen. The
Lord God who inspires the prophets sent his angel to show
the people who serve him the events that must happen soon."
7 Jesus says to all his people, "Listen to this! I am coming soon;
God will abundantly bless everyone who obeys the prophetic
message in this book."

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw in a vision these
things that I have written down. When I had heard and seen
them, I immediately lay down in front of the angel who had
shown me these things in order to worship him. 9 But he said
to me, "Do not worship me! I am just a servant of God like
you! I am also a servant like your fellow believers who are the
prophets, and like those who obey the message in this book.
Instead, worship God!" 10 He also said to me, "Do not keep
secret the message about what God has foretold in this book,
because it is almost time for him to fulfill this message. 11 Since
that time is near, if those who act in an evil manner want to
continue to act that way, let them continue to do so. If those
who are vile want to continue to be vile, let them continue to
do so. God will soon punish them for that. But those who are
acting righteously should continue to act righteously. Those
who are acting as people should who belong to God should
continue to act that way."

12 Jesus says to all people: "Listen! I am coming soon! And
I will punish or reward everyone according to what each one
has done. 13 I am the one who began all things and the one
who will cause all things to end. I am before all things and
I am at the end of all things. 14 God is very pleased with the
people who stop living in wrong ways and start living in right
ways. Because they do that, those people will be able to eat
the fruit of the tree that enables people to live forever. They
will be able to go through the gates into the holy city. 15 But
others will not enter that city. This includes people who do
wicked things, practice witchcraft, sin sexually, murder others,
worship idols, or lie continually.

16 I, Jesus, sent my angel to announce these things that will
affect you groups of believers. Mysteriously, I am both the
ancestor of King David and his descendant whom the prophets
promised would come. I am the one who is like the bright
morning star."

17 The Holy Spirit and the people who belong to God say,
"Come!" Whoever hears this should also say, "Come!" Everyone
who wants everlasting life should receive it! God will give
everlasting life as a free gift to everyone who desires it!

18 I, John, solemnly warn everyone who hears the message
about what I have foretold in this book: If anyone adds anything
to this message, God will punish him in the ways that this book
tells about. 19 And if anyone takes away any of the message
about the things I have foretold in this book, God will take
away that person's right to eat fruit from the tree that enables
people to live forever. God will also take away that person's
right to enter the new Jerusalem. I describe both these things
in this book.

20 Jesus, who says that all these things are true, says,
"Certainly I am coming soon!" I, John, reply, "May it be so!
Lord Jesus, come!"

21 I pray that our Lord Jesus will continue to act kindly to
all of you who are God's people. May it be so!