

UNDERSTAND THE REVELATION

SESSION FOUR

Jerusalem's Capture

The second event scheduled to take place at the 2nd Woe (6th Trumpet) concerns the holy city of Jerusalem, which is to be captured by the gentiles and dominated for a period of 42 months.

But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. (Rev. 11:2)

We know that the term 'holy' or 'great city' means Jerusalem because in verse 8 it identifies this city as 'where also our Lord was crucified.' That means - Jerusalem.

The rising tension in the Middle East strongly suggests that an all-out attack on Jerusalem is not only inevitable but near.

The whole Arab world, and many other nations besides, are lining up against the tiny nation of Israel, and it will not be long before the predicted attack will occur and Jerusalem will be captured.

Please note that the 42 month duration of Jerusalem's subjugation is 42 literal months, which is 1260 days or three and a half years.

The principle of reckoning a day for a year and arriving at 1260 years does not apply in the prophecy of the Revelation.

Some commentators have used that principle here and as a result have been obliged to begin this Woe in the distant past, some 1260 years ago.

Because of this misapplication they have been unable to point to any time since the Revelation was given (AD96) when a 'third of mankind was slain,' or when 'Jerusalem was under the heel of the gentiles for 1260 years.'

Never in history has a third of mankind been slain; nor has Jerusalem ever been trampled under foot by gentiles for an exact period of 1260 years, or days for that matter.

Any historian will confirm that Jerusalem has been over-run by gentile armies several times in its long and tumultuous past, but never for an exact period of 1260 years.

So the day for a year principle cannot possibly apply in the book of Revelation.

The only remaining alternative is that at the 2nd Woe~ which is still future the present Middle East crisis will erupt and after another blood-bath the city of Jerusalem will be captured by the gentiles.

The exact 42 months period of brutal domination will then begin.

Grim though this prospect may appear to those of us who worship the Elohim of Israel, all is not lost, for the Messiah is scheduled to return to earth and to liberate Jerusalem from gentile rule.

Speaking through the prophet Zechariah, Yahweh the Almighty Elohim of Israel has this to say about the end-time capture and liberation of Jerusalem.

Zec.14: 1: Behold, the day of Yahweh cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2: For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3: Then shall Yahweh go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4: And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5: And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and Yahweh my Elohim shall come, and all the saints with thee. 6: And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7: But it shall be one day which shall be known to Yahweh, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8: And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. 9: And Yahweh shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Elohim, and his name one.

This amazing prophecy about Jerusalem being attacked, captured and then miraculously delivered by the Messiah who is to descend upon the split Mount of Olives has obviously never been fulfilled.

In other words, it has still to happen; and happen it will in the near future.

All the events in the Middle East indicate that the final scenes are set; the mounting tension, the anger of the nations at Israel's behavior, the utter fruitlessness of the various peace talks, the trade and arms embargoes, the outbreaks of anti-Semitism around the globe, all these indicate that a multinational attack on Jerusalem is not only certain but imminent.

We may be absolutely sure, however, that in spite of all these foreboding signs, pregnant with peril as most of them are, behind and above them all the Almighty Elohim of Israel is working His twofold plan out.

And that plan is this:

- To teach all nations that the Elohim of Israel still rules in the affairs of men.
- And that He is about to purge and cleanse His chosen people Israel and His assembly from the filthiness of sin; so that He may once again dwell amongst us as in the days of old.

Measure the Temple

The 42 month subjugation of Jerusalem, followed by its dramatic liberation by the Messiah, will accomplish the first part of the plan.

And the instruction to **rise and measure the Temple of Yahweh, and the altar, and them that worship therein (Rev. 11:1)** will trigger the second.

Let me explain further.

Following the clue of comparing scripture with scripture, we will turn to the prophecy of Ezekiel where in chapters 40 and 43 a similar instruction to *measure the Temple of Yahweh* was carried out.

In the vision of Ezekiel, the prophet is given detailed measurements of every conceivable part of the temple: the wall, the gates, the chambers, the pillars and posts, the steps, the galleries, the courts and even the territory on which the temple stood.

All were accurately measured and the specifications cover several chapters of Ezekiel's book.

"And why." you may well ask, "was the temple measured? What was the Almighty's purpose in ordering that painstaking exercise?"

The answer is, the temple was measured so that Yahweh's people could see, investigate and learn to live by the laws and principles which govern true worship of YAHWEH the Elohim of Israel.

Here is proof of this astonishing fact.

Ezekiel 43: 10: Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. 11: And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, show them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.

The order to rise and measure the Temple, in other words, is the Almighty's way of drawing His people's attention to the principles and laws of the Temple in Heaven: the sacred original of which the earthly temple was but a copy.

And this is precisely what He aims to do during the 2nd Woe, while a third of earth's mighty population is perishing.

He will then open the eyes of the innumerable multitude of believers to the eternal principles and laws of the Temple in Heaven, its layout, its structure, its services and its divine purpose.

And many believers who had previously rejected the commandments of Yahweh at the time of Sealing will at this Woe begin to understand and obey the regulations of the Temple which governs the worship of Yahweh the Almighty Elohim of Israel.

They will then repent of their sins and begin to keep the commandments of Yahweh in accordance with His will.

The Ark of the Covenant

Towards the end of Revelation chapter 11 the prophet John tells of the heavenly Temple being opened.

What did he see inside that sacred place?

He saw, believe it or not, the *Ark of the Covenant*, the heavenly original which contains the *Ten Commandments*.

Please note that John saw this some 60 years after the resurrection, so the commandments were not cancelled at Calvary as many Christians suppose.

And the Temple of Yahweh was opened in heaven and there was seen in his Temple the Ark of his Testament. (Rev. 11:19)

Yes, the *Ark of the Testament*, in which is deposited the original version of Yahweh's perfect law, (the eternal constitution of the mighty universe) is still within the heavenly Temple and John saw it over 60 years after the resurrection.

The reader may be sure that at the 2nd Woe, when the Temple in heaven is measured, those same principles and laws enshrined within the *Ark of the Covenant* will arouse the interest of believers all over the world.

Then many will be ashamed of their hitherto rebellious attitude towards Yahweh's laws and will begin to keep His commandments just as He directed in the vision of Ezekiel.

... write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them. (Ezekiel 43:11)

This measuring of the Temple, in short, is a divine call to obedience, a call which is directly linked with the message of the Two Witnesses, who we will now consider.

The Two Witnesses

The third major event to occur during the 2nd Woe (6th trumpet) will be the powerful work, death and resurrection of the Two Witnesses.

Rev.11: 3: And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4: These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the Yahweh of the earth. 5: And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth, and devours their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6: These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7: And when they shall have finished their testimony,

the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Who are the Two Witnesses, the two symbolic olive trees that stand before the Yahweh of the earth?

They are two spirit-filled beings who come down from the Temple in Heaven.

The prophet Zechariah tells of them in the following words:

Zechariah 4: 11: Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? 12: And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? 13: And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 14: Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Elohim of the whole earth.

Though we cannot at this stage be certain as to the identity of the Two Witnesses, because their names are not given, these scriptures tell us the following facts about the Two Witnesses and their work.

- a) **They are two spirit-filled *sons of oil* who stand in the very presence of the Yahweh of the whole earth. (Zech. 4:14, Rev. 11:4)**
- b) **Like the two angel messengers who visited Sodom before its overthrow (Genesis 19), they will come down to the earth just before the end of this age to give mankind a final warning before the seven last plagues devastate the earth.**
- c) **They will preach for a period of 1260 days, which is 42 months, the exact duration of Jerusalem's final subjugation. (Rev. 11:2-3)**
- d) **Being filled with the Spirit of Yahweh, they will have supernatural powers, and no humans will dare restrain them for fear of speedy retribution. (Rev. 11:5)**
- e) **At the end of the 42 month period they will be murdered by the Beast who rose from the bottomless pit at the 1st Woe. Their bodies will then be exhibited in the occupied city of *Jerusalem*, where the *Messiah* was crucified, and the world will rejoice at their apparent end; for they and their message were most unpopular. (Rev. 11:7-10)**
- f) **Then after three and a half days they will be raised to life and will ascend to heaven in full view of their enemies. (Rev. 11:11-13)**

**g) The 2nd Woe or 6th Trumpet will end at the time of their resurrection.
(Rev. 11:14)**

It is not necessary at this point in time to further identify the Two Witnesses, because when they do eventually arrive on the earth the whole world will speedily become aware of their presence.

There will be no mistaking them or the absolute authority with which they preach.

Even in the city of Jerusalem, which at the time will be under the gentile heel, they will declare the message of Yahweh with awesome effect.

No earthly authority will dare restrain them, for like Elijah of old they are able to reduce their opponents to ashes; and like Moses and Aaron, can cause all manner of plagues. (2 Kings 1, Exodus chapters 7 to 12)

Many and varied have been the claims and interpretations concerning the Two Witnesses, but not one of them meets all the conditions listed above.

Nor is that surprising, for these two divine messengers can only appear on the world's scene at Yahweh's appointed time, which is when a third of the world's population is being slain and the city of Jerusalem is under the gentile heel.

When they do arrive, however, they will bring to all mankind a final appeal from Yahweh.

Their message will be, in fact, the same call to repentance and obedience which every true prophet of Yahweh has delivered since the days of Enoch.

Multitudes of believers from every nation, language and people will heed their call and begin to obey Yahweh's law.

This will be the time when the innumerable multitude will *wash their robes* and come into line with the eternal principles of Yahweh's Torah which is within the *Ark of the Covenant* inside the Temple of Heaven.

The vast majority of mankind, however, will reject the Two Witnesses and their powerful call to repentance, faith and obedience.

Why?

Because at about that time the most diabolical Agent of Evil this world has ever seen will be parading the earth and seducing its inhabitants into serving Satan.

The Two Witnesses will be murdered by this being, who is symbolically referred to in the Revelation as the Beast.

This brings us to the end of the 6th Trumpet, the terrifying 2nd Woe, when within a short space of three and a half years:

- **A third of mankind will be slain.**
- **Jerusalem will be captured and dominated by the Ephramites.**
- **And the people of Yahweh will be purged, purified and made obedient by the power of the living Messiah, whose Two Witnesses will testify before men and angels of the sacred requirements of the Temple in Heaven.**

The second Woe is past; and behold a third woe cometh quickly. (Rev. . 11:14)

The Seventh Trumpet (The 3rd Woe)

Rev.11: 15: And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of Yahweh, and of his Messiah; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16: And the four and twenty elders, which sat before Yahweh on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped Yahweh, 17: Saying, We give thee thanks, Yahweh Elohim Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 18: And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. 19: And the temple of Yahweh was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The 7th Trumpet brings us to the climax of human history, when another mass-confrontation between good and evil will take place.

It will commence with a spiritual *election* which will test the allegiance of every soul on earth; will then progress through the unimaginable terrors of the seven last plagues (called the Wrath of Yahweh) and end with the total overthrow of Satan and his system.

Fearsome though the events of this Trumpet are, and this is why it is called a Woe, great joy will overwhelm the heavenly host at its sounding (Rev. 11:15), for only then will the mystery of Yahweh be finished.

We know this from the following verse.

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of Yahweh should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. (Rev. 10:7)

To most people Yahweh is a mystery and His involvement with mankind is even more mysterious than His invisible presence. How often have we heard people say: "If Yahweh is an Elohim of love and is all-powerful as He claims to be, why doesn't He put an end to human suffering?" Or "What is Yahweh doing about the rising tide of crime? Why doesn't He use His power to prevent sickness, sorrow, pain and death? Doesn't He care?"

Questions like these, many of them awash with tears, are repeatedly voiced by people all over the globe.

And, as conditions worsen, the same apparently cruel response comes back from heaven a bewildering, deathly silence.

At the 7th Trumpet (the 3rd Woe) that silence will be broken.

The *mystery of Yahweh*, hidden from most of humanity since the dawn of time, will be finished and made plain.

All the questions about Yahweh's strange dealings will then be answered.

Analyzing the main events of the 3rd Woe we discover that they fall into three distinct categories involving authority, anger and reward.

These three are summarized in the following words.

{The words in bold type are mine.}

Rev. 11:17: Saying, We give you thanks, Yahweh Elohim Almighty, which is, and was, and is to come; because you have taken to yourself your great power, and have reigned. (AUTHORITY) 18: And the nations were angry, and your wrath is come (ANGER) and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should give reward unto your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear your name, small and great; and should destroy them which destroy the earth. (REWARD)

Most of the remaining chapters in Revelation tell of the final scenes on earth just before the end of this age, and in varying degrees they deal with either a call to recognize Yahweh's authority, the outpouring of His anger or the distribution of His rewards.

Let us now very briefly consider these chapters.

It would obviously help a great deal if the reader read each chapter before the explanation.

REVELATION 12

In this chapter we are given a symbolic overview of Satan's age-old revolt against the authority of Yahweh, a revolt which began in the distant past but still manifests itself in hatred for the people of Zion, the Messiah of Israel and all commandment-keeping believers down to this present day.

In vision the prophet is shown a *'woman clothed with the sun and standing on the moon.'*

A symbolic dragon then tries to devour her child at its birth, but the boy is caught up to Yahweh and to His throne.

The dragon then turns on the woman in an effort to kill her, but she is miraculously lifted out of his reach and taken to the wilderness, where she is nourished for a period of three and a half years (verses 13-14).

In a fit of fury the dragon then turns on the woman's remaining offspring, the *'remnant of her seed,'* who are still in human society and who keep the commandments of Yahweh (verse 17).

The *woman* in this vision, who is seen standing on the moon, represents the ekklesia of Yahweh, the spiritually called out ones, the 'wife' or assembly of the Almighty, whose faithful members make up the Israel of Yahweh.

The 'man-child' who is to rule all nations with the rod of iron (absolute authority) is Yahshua the Messiah, the only begotten Son of the living Elohim.

The *'dragon'* is Satan the Devil, the leader of the revolution against the Eternal.

During this Woe, the Almighty will miraculously protect his spiritual 'wife', the assembly, from Satan's wrath, especially those of Zion who are clothed in His righteousness and who take their stand upon the requirements of His calendar which is symbolized by the moon.

REVELATION 13

This chapter is a forecast of the strangest spiritual election ever to be staged in the history of humanity.

The electorate will be the citizens of every nation and the main issue will concern obedience to the law of Yahweh the Almighty Elohim of Israel.

Satan's visible representative on earth at the time will be the Man of Sin, the Antichrist, the coming World Dictator.

He will be a being of commanding presence and power, and will exercise all the authority of the Devil himself.

The Man of Sin is symbolically referred to in the Revelation as the BEAST!

According to the prophet John, the Beast is scheduled to make a personal appearance on earth at this Seal, and will govern the whole of the world for a period of three and a half years.

The vast majority of mankind, we are told, will worship him in abject terror, demonstrating their acceptance of his authority by doing his will and receiving his Mark.

Those who refuse to accept the Mark of the Beast will lose the right to buy and sell.

In other words they will be totally barred from the world's markets, banks and other economic institutions.

On the other hand, those who do worship the Beast will receive the full measure of Yahweh's anger, which is to be poured out undiluted on mankind in the form of the seven last plagues.

A symbolic description of this coming World Dictator is given below:

Rev.13: 1: And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2: And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3: And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4: And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5: And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6: And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against Yahweh, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7: And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8: And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9: If any man have an ear, let him hear.

The Apostle Paul writing in plain language about the same being the Man of Sin said this:

2 Thessalonians 2: 1: Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Messiah Yahshua, and by our gathering together unto him, 2: That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Messiah is at hand. 3: Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4: Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Yahweh, or that is worshipped; so that he as Elohim sits in the temple of Yahweh, showing himself that he is Elohim. 5: Do you remember, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6: And now you know what withholds that he might be revealed in his time. 7: For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now lets will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8: And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom Yahshua shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

Yahweh's warning message against worshipping the Beast and accepting his Mark is as follows:

Rev.14: 9: And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10: The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of Yahweh, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11: And the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.

Who will dispute but that here before us is a prophetic warning of unparalleled importance;

which we must understand if we wish to escape the wrath of the Almighty.

The two burning questions that immediately come to mind are:

- Who is the Beast?
- What is his Mark?

THE BEAST OF REVELATION 13

Countless millions of words have been penned over the centuries as to the Beast and almost every major political or religious power has at some time been classified as being the Beast, the Antichrist!

The Beast we are told is:

- Paganism
- The Roman Empire
- The Roman Catholic Assembly
- The Protestant Assembly
- The British Empire
- The United States of America
- The United Nations Organization
- Nazism
- Atheistic Communism
- The European Economic Community
- The New World Order etc. etc.

The list is long and confusing to say the least, but it is obviously an important issue which we must settle if we want to escape the wrath of the Almighty Yahweh.

And so we ask, which one of these – if any – is the Beast?

Before we give our answer let us make one point clear; the Scriptures do not state in plain and simple language who the Beast is.

Nonetheless, we are given a number of vital clues as to his identity, clues which we must bear in mind if we are not to be taken in by every plausible theory that comes our way.

Six clues as to the Beast's identity are considered below for the reader's guidance.

CLUE ONE ... He is the Lawless One

Elsewhere in the Scriptures we are told that this same blasphemous power, who is scheduled to arrive on the world scene just before the return of the Messiah, is the Lawless One, the Wicked One, the Man of Sin. (2 Thess. 2:1-9)

He is the Lawless One because he not only breaks Yahweh's law, but vainly imagines that he can change it.

The commandment he is particularly interested in trying to change is the one dealing with the sacred seasons, with TIME.

This, of course, is the Sabbath commandment; for that is the only one which deals with the element of time. (Daniel 7:25)

He ... shall think to change times and laws.

This first clue, in short, tells us that the Beast is an outlaw, a blatant sinner, whose main objective is to change the *times in Yahweh's law*.

In other words, he thinks he can change the Sabbath commandments; for these are the only ones dealing with the element of time.

CLUE TWO ... He existed before the vision of the Revelation was given.

Our next clue comes from the lips of a mighty angel who plainly tells us that the Beast was in existence before the Revelation was given, but was not alive at the time it was given.

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit... (Rev. 17:8)

This is a vitally important clue, for it means that when establishing his identity we will need to look for a person or power that existed before the book of Revelation was given (AD 96): a power *'that was.'*

Moreover, that power *'was not'* around at the time the prophecy was given, but would *ascend to life some time later* - some time after AD 96.

CLUE THREE ... He will arise from the Bottomless Pit.

Our next clue is even more meaningful than the first two, for it tells us where the Beast comes from.

Rev. 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder,

whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The fact that the Beast arises from out of the Bottomless Pit is also seen in Revelation 11:7:

And when they (the Two Witnesses) shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

We know from our previous study of the abyss that it is a spirit-penitentiary of some kind where multitudes of evil angels are imprisoned and are awaiting the day of judgment.

The Beast will come from that place, from the Bottomless Pit.

CLUE FOUR ... He will actually reveal himself.

2 Thess.2: 7: For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8: And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

Rev.17: 8: The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

CLUE FIVE ... His reign will last for 42 months.

Rev.13:5: And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

This 42 month period will coincide with the 1260 days or three and a half years the *ekklesia* of Yahweh (the assembly) is in the wilderness.

See Revelation 12: verses 6 and 14)

In other words, during the Beast's 42 month reign, when he is terrorizing the world's inhabitants into serving him, the assembly of the Most High will be divinely protected in the wilderness – well out of Satan's reach.

CLUE SIX ... He will meet his end at the Savior's return.

The Beast's reign, we are told, will end at the Messiah's return.

Together with the False Prophet who deluded the world into accepting his Mark the Beast will be cast into the lake of fire.

Rev.19: 19: And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20: And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

This clue tells us that the Beast is an authority who is able to marshal the military might of all nations (*the kings of the earth and their armies*) and to lead them in battle against the returning Son of Yahweh!

Bear this vital clue in mind when trying to identify the Beast.

From these SIX meaningful clues we conclude that it is highly unlikely that any person, religious organization or political party on earth today can sensibly be classified as being the Beast of Revelation 13; for of whom could it be said:

1. They attempted to alter the Sabbath Commandment in Yahweh's law.
2. They existed before the vision of Revelation was given (that is before AD 96).
3. They were not in existence at the time the vision was being given. (AD 96)
4. They ascended to life again from out of the Bottomless Pit, that spirit penitentiary, which is still shut anyway.
5. They ruled the whole world for a period of 42 months (which is three and a half years or 1260 days)
6. They have the authority to organize the military might of all nations and to wage an all-out battle against the Son of Yahweh!

With due respect to the many opinions about the Beast which have been voiced in the past, it is perfectly obvious that in this present world there just does not exist any person or power – political or ecclesiastical – which could meet even 3 of the above conditions, let alone all 6 of them.

Who then, is the Beast of Revelation 13?

From these 6 clues we present the following answer.

The Beast, the Antichrist, the Lawless One, the Little Horn is a supernatural being who existed millenniums ago and was imprisoned in the blackness of the Abyss for crimes too grievous for our puny minds to even imagine.

Though the evil influence from his past existence still pervades human civilization, the Beast himself is in the Abyss at this very moment.

In Rev. 9: 11 we are plainly told that a mighty monarch called Abaddon, the Destroyer, the Exterminator shall arise from out of the Bottomless Pit to terrorize mankind: **that is, all except those who have accepted the Almighty's seal.**

The prophecy also tells us that three *unclean spirits like frogs, the spirits of devils*, motivate the Dragon, the Beast and the false Prophet.

In other words, the Beast is an evil, unclean being like Satan the Devil and the False Prophet.

Unclean output (lies) issues from each of their mouths.

Rev.16:13: And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

As king of the evil host which emerges from the Bottomless Pit, Abaddon is the personification of evil, a sadist of unspeakable depravity and he speaks with an unclean, lying tongue!

Bearing these six clues in mind and comparing them with the prophecy of the Abyss, it is our considered opinion that the Beast who also rises from the Abyss, could well be Abaddon, the Destroyer, the King of the Bottomless Pit, the Exterminator from Sheol – the Son of Hell!

Yes, the Beast could well be Abaddon, the King of the Bottomless Pit, the unclean spirit who teams up with Satan and the False Prophet against Yahshua the Messiah.

When the Beast rises from the Abyss at the 1st Woe, he will attract to himself the world's allegiance and adoration – an adoration born of terror. He will then go on to be worshipped as the Antichrist - Yahweh on earth!

2 Thess.2: 3: Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called Yahweh, or that is worshipped; so that he as Yahweh sitteth in the temple of Yahweh, shewing himself that he is Yahweh.

At that time the Beast's most ardent followers will abandon themselves to violence, sexual license and Devil worship, the very sins multitudes of evil angels were imprisoned in the Abyss for in the days gone by. (Jude 7).

For three and a half years the Beast will govern the whole world, compelling its terrified inhabitants into receiving his Mark.

At the end of that period he will organize the military might of all nations and dare to launch an attack on Yahshua the Messiah at his return.

He will perish in the attempt and be hurled to his doom in the Lake of Fire. (Rev. 19:19-21)

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

When the Antichrist visibly manifests himself on earth and begins his three and a half year reign, he will compel the people of all nations to bear his Mark.

Acceptance of it either in one's *forehead* (faith in it) or the right hand (acting upon it) will be compulsory, and those who refuse to receive the Mark will not be allowed to buy and sell in the markets of the world.

In the prophecy of Daniel 7 we are plainly told that the Little Horn power (the Antichrist) will attempt to change the commandments dealing with time (the Sabbath days in Yahweh's law) which constitute the Sign of the Elohim of Israel.

In other words, the Beast will attempt to counterfeit Yahweh's signature (His Sabbath days): and in their place he will popularize various festivals of his own choosing.

It is these substitute festivals or rest days which are scheduled to become the dreaded Mark of the Beast, the Signature of Satan!

'And what,' you may ask, 'are these substitute days which are to become the Mark of the Beast?'

There is only one true answer to that question and it presents itself as the only conclusion that the foregoing facts allow.

And that one inescapable conclusion is this:

That as the true weekly Sabbath (the day known as Saturday) and the Annual Feast Days in the sacred calendar constitute the Sign or Signature of Yahweh the Almighty Yahweh of Israel, then the Mark of the Beast, the signature of the Lawless One, **the one who vainly thinks that he can change the Sabbaths in Yahweh's perfect law and replace them with festivals of his own choice**, must, by a process of simple deduction, be the bogus rest-day of Sunday and all the other unholy festivals of heathenism which are currently posing as the festivals of the Almighty Yahweh. (Christmas, Easter, Whit Sunday, Ash Wednesday etc.)

Astonishing as this may sound, these popular festivals are nothing more than the unsanctified output of paganism.

Most were kept by the heathen centuries before the Messiah was born in Bethlehem.

In the course of time they imperceptibly inveigled their way into the Christian assembly and are now being boldly proclaimed as the Lord's Day, Christ's birthday etc.

Yet, and this is an unequivocal fact, there is not a single verse in the Holy Scriptures which even hints at their supposed sanctity, let alone calls for their observance.

When the Antichrist rises from the Abyss and begins his three and a half year dictatorship he will greatly magnify these ancient heathen festivals and rank the keeping of them as a Sign or Mark of allegiance to him.

Who knows, he may even have been instrumental in organizing their observance by the ancient pagans when he first lived; that is, centuries before he was imprisoned in the Abyss.

When the Antichrist arrives the observance of Yahweh's Sabbaths will be banned and these bogus pagan festivals will be raised to their ancient glory and will again attain the dubious distinction of being the Mark of the Beast!

Strange as it may seem, not all the inhabitants of the earth will be deceived into receiving the Antichrist's Mark.

There will be at least two groups of believers who will totally reject it.

They are:

1) The *144,000 Israelites* who will have already accepted the Almighty's Seal at the time of the sealing.

2) An *unspecified number of commandment-keepers* who will bear the brunt of the Beast's anger when he discovers that he, as Satan the Dragon's agent, is unable to harm the woman in the wilderness. (Rev. 12)

The 144,000 Israelites are a special company of believers who are to be sealed by the Holy Spirit with Yahweh's character, which is specified in the principles embodied in the law.

The 144,000 will not only observe Yahweh's commandments with faultless obedience, but they will keep His weekly and annual Sabbaths in the truest sense of the term: keep them as a sign of the absolute sanctification which Yahweh will have by then wrought in their lives.

They are called *Israelites*, so obviously a large proportion of that number will be blood-born descendants of the original children of Israel who will have accepted Yahshua as their promised Messiah.

Nevertheless, among them will also be many former gentile believers who do not balk at the idea of being classified as Israelites, for these souls know and live by the inspired pronouncement that says:

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
(Galatians 3:29)

These commandment-keeping Ephramite? believers are re-grafted into the Olive Tree of Israel (Romans 11) and are not barred from being numbered with the 144,000 Israelites mentioned in this prophecy.

True Israelites, in other words, are not merely the Messiah-accepting descendants of Jacob, but believers who not only have faith in Yahshua the Messiah, but also endeavor to keep the laws of YAHWEH the Elohim of Israel: particularly the Sabbath and food laws which so strikingly sets apart Israel from every other nation on earth.

The 144,000 Israelites could well make up the company who are symbolized by the woman in Rev. 12, but other than this brief explanation of our view it would be infantile of us to presume as to the particular denomination or race from which they will come.

The innumerable multitude of commandment-keepers mentioned in Rev. 12:17 will also refuse to accept the Beast's Mark and though many of them will be martyred for their stand, they will all reign with the Master when he returns to earth to begin his millennial reign. (Rev. 20:4)

This company will most certainly be made up of believers from every denomination and race; but, perhaps, for not having accepted Yahweh's Seal at the time of the sealing, they are not part of the wilderness group who will be supernaturally protected during the Beast's reign. (Rev. 12:13-17)