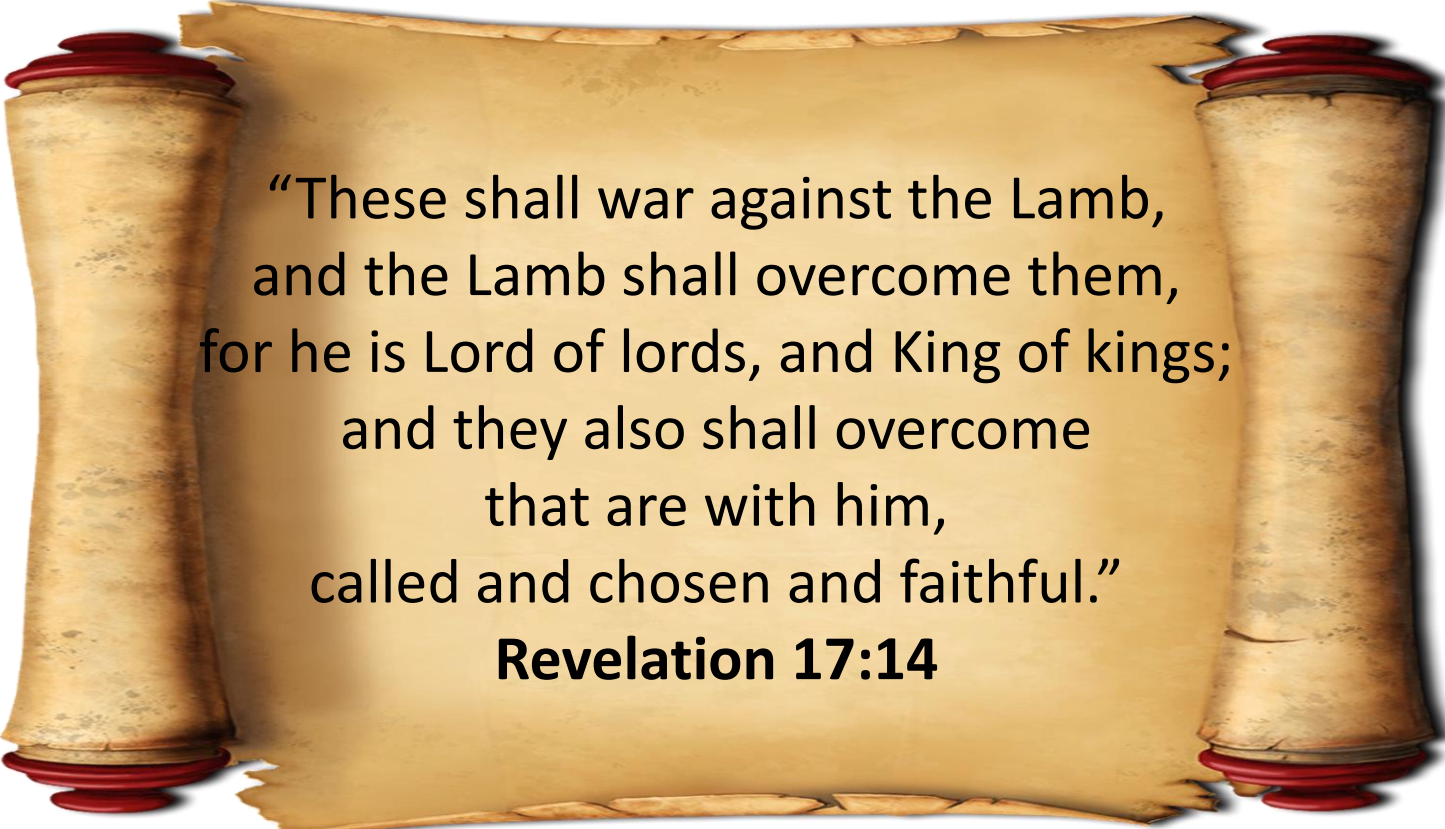


# Revelation

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## Overcoming with the Lamb

A scroll with a light brown, aged paper texture, unrolled to reveal text. The scroll is held by two red, cylindrical rollers on the left and right sides. The text is centered on the scroll.

“These shall war against the Lamb,  
and the Lamb shall overcome them,  
for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings;  
and they also shall overcome  
that are with him,  
called and chosen and faithful.”

**Revelation 17:14**

# Revelation

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Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 8

# Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p>

# Revelation Outlined

---

Introduction: Opening greeting and vision (Rev. 1)

**SEVEN** Churches (Rev. 2-3)

Intermediate Visions: Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4-5)

**SEVEN** Seals (Rev. 6-8)

**SEVEN** Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

Intermediate Visions: Christ vs. Satan (Rev. 12-14)

**SEVEN** Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

# The Pattern of the Seals and Trumpets

## **SEVEN** Seals (Rev. 6-8)

In between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seal is an intermediate vision of God's saints sealed and saved (7:1-7)

## **SEVEN** Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

In between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is an intermediate vision of the little book and the two witnesses (10:1 - 11:14)

# Revelation Theme

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## Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's Security through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's **Message** about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's Conflict for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

# Christ in the Book of Revelation

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- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
- Christ the **All-Knowing Judge** (2-3)
- Christ the **Worthy Lamb** (4-5)
- Christ the **Wrathful Lamb** (6-7; 8:1-5)
- Christ the **Prophetic Messenger** (8:6 - 11:19)

# Chapter 8 Overview

---

The New Testament church at the end of the first century was persecuted. Roman persecution would force Christians to keep quiet about Jesus, keep quiet about sin (idolatry, immorality), and keep quiet about God's judgment. These Christians needed a reminder of the responsibility to get the gospel message out - a message of warning, of repentance and victory...



# Chapter 8 Overview

---

... (8:2; 10:7, 11; 11:3, 6-7, 10, 18-19). Trumpets in Bible times were used to call assemblies, to journey, to celebrate, and to wage war (Num. 10:1-9). Trumpets were also used to warn (Ezek. 33:3; Amos 3:6; Hos. 5:8). Christ's message in Revelation is one of warning (8:2,6) and harsh punishment: three "woes" (8:13; 9:12; 11:14).

# Chapter 8 Overview

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The severity of this divine, but partial judgment, was designed to bring about repentance (9:20-21; 16:9, 11, 21) upon the ungodly (9:4).

# The Seven Trumpets

- **The first trumpet sounded** - a third of the land destroyed (8:7; see Ex. 7-12)
- **The second trumpet sounded** - a third of the sea waters destroyed (8:8-9)
- **The third trumpet sounded** - a third of the land waters destroyed (8:10-11)
- **The fourth trumpet sounded** - a third of the heavenly bodies destroyed (8:12)

# The Seven Trumpets

- **The fifth trumpet sounded** – ungodly men tormented five months, but not killed (9:1-12)
- **The sixth trumpet sounded** - a third of the men were destroyed (9:13-21). (The six trumpets show that Rome would be judged by three things: natural calamity [1st - 4th], internal rottenness [5th], and external invasion [6th]. This judgment was divine judgment (see 8:2; 9:13-14; and 11:17-18))

# The Seven Trumpets

- Chapter 10:1 - 11:14 is an interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpets, just like Chapter 7 is an interlude between the 6th and 7th seals.
- **The seventh trumpet sounded** – the final destruction of God's enemies and complete victory over them (11:15-19). (Note that a picture of the Ark of the Covenant closes this section which puts the emphasis again on God's Word, His covenant.)

# The “7s” of Revelation

- The seven stars deliver
- The seven letters instruct
- The seven churches exemplify
- The seven Spirits illuminate
- The seven seals reveal
- The seven angels act
- The seven **trumpets** warn
- The seven thunders announce
- The seven heads rule
- The seven bowls complete

# Revelation

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Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 9

# Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p>



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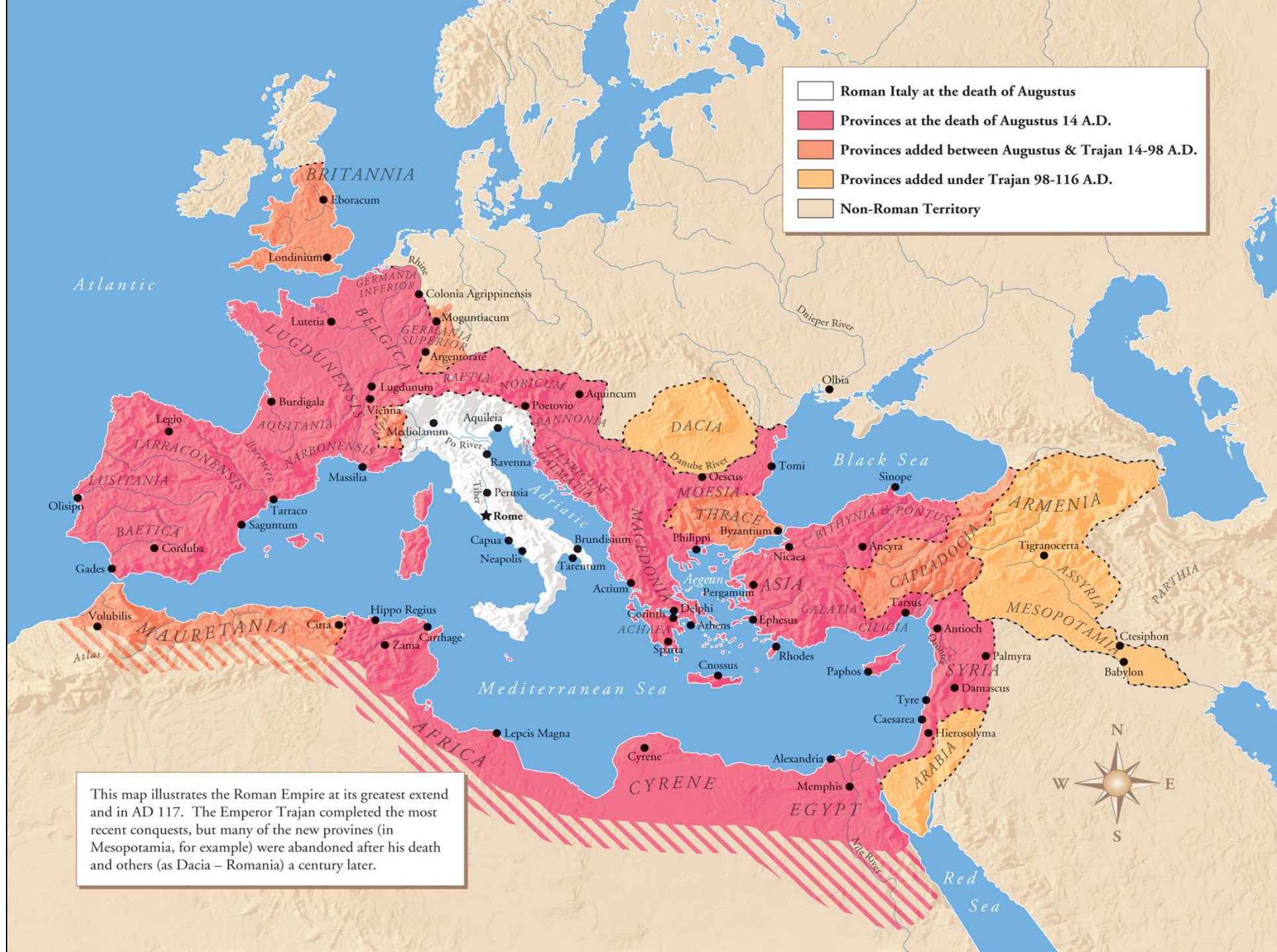
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# Rome and Parthia




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The wars between Rome and the Parthian Empire, which took place roughly from 53 BC to 217 AD, were a unique episode in classical history. Although Rome conquered nearly the entire civilized world around the Mediterranean, Rome could never conquer Parthia. When Roman expansion reached Mesopotamia, the Parthian Empire had already been prospering as a major power whose outskirts reached far into the east and trade routes ran deep into China. When Roman and Parthian borders finally met, the centuries that followed were a time of diplomacy and war between two empires of distinct cultures and methods of war. (allempires.com)



This map illustrates the Roman Empire at its greatest extent and in AD 117. The Emperor Trajan completed the most recent conquests, but many of the new provinces (in Mesopotamia, for example) were abandoned after his death and others (as Dacia – Romania) a century later.

# The Roman Empire in 117 AD

-  Senatorial provinces
-  Imperial provinces
-  Client states



# Revelation 9:16-19

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# Signs & Symbols

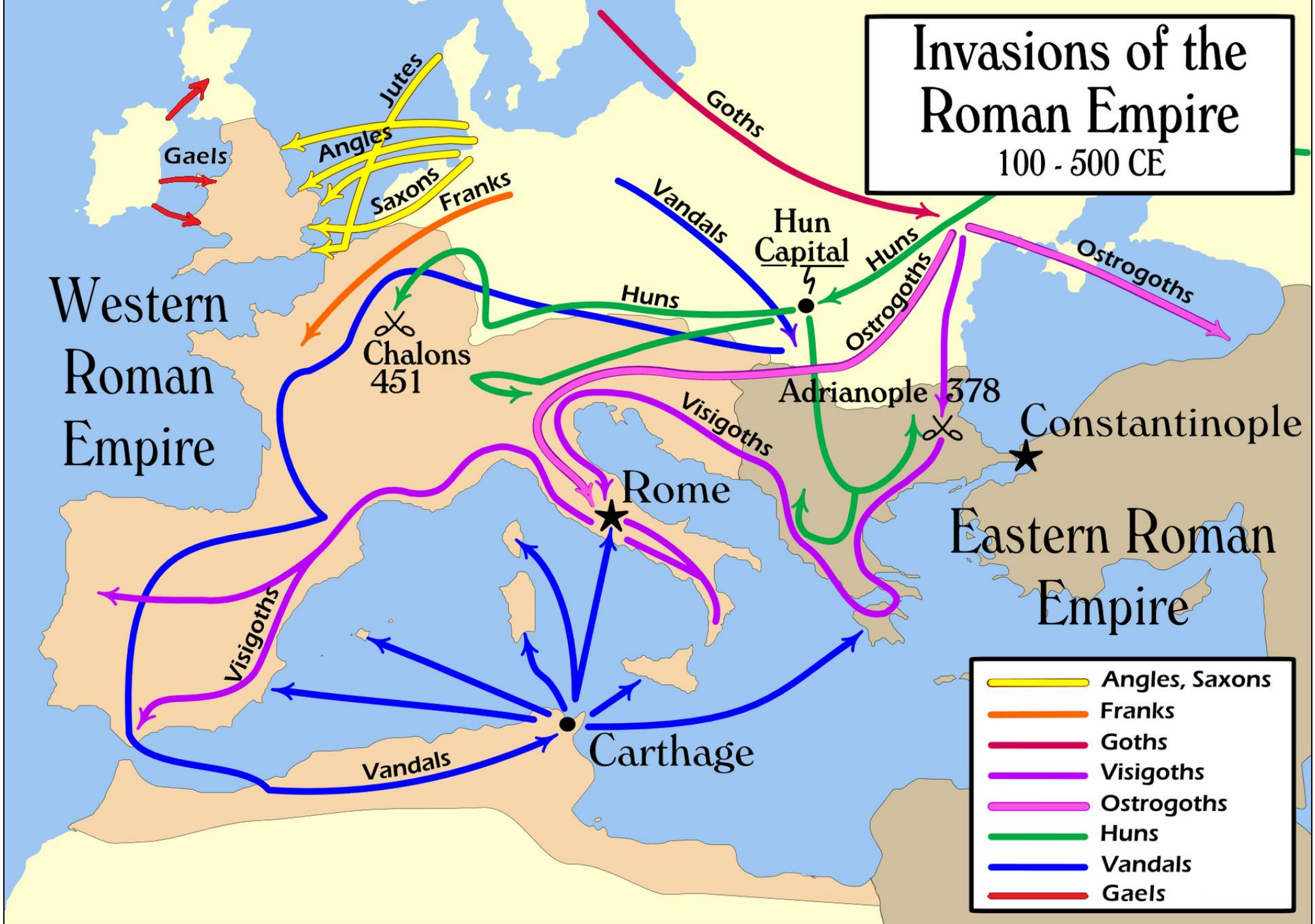
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The Parthian Soldier



# Invasions of the Roman Empire

100 - 500 CE



Western Roman Empire

Eastern Roman Empire

- Angles, Saxons
- Franks
- Goths
- Visigoths
- Ostrogoths
- Huns
- Vandals
- Gaels

**Europe at the Fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD**

Western Roman Empire to 476	KDM. of ODOACER
Germanic peoples	Alamanni
Celtic peoples	Britons
Frankish victory	X
Ostrogothic victory	X



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# The “7s” of Revelation

- The seven stars deliver
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- The seven churches exemplify
- The seven Spirits illuminate
- The seven seals reveal
- The seven angels act
- The seven **trumpets** warn
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- The seven heads rule
- The seven bowls complete

# Revelation

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Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 10

# Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p>

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**SEVEN** Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

# The Four Interludes of the Book of Revelation

1. **Chapter 4-5:** God on his throne, and Jesus at his right hand, are in control of the persecution going on
2. **Chapter 7:** God's faithful saints are sealed (protected) from the persecution that is going on
3. **Chapter 10:1 - 11:14:** God has a bitter sweet prophetic message that must be proclaimed about the persecution
4. **Chapter 12 – 14:** The war between Jesus (and his followers) and Satan (and his followers) is the reason behind (cause for) the persecution that is going on

# Revelation Theme

---

## Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's Security through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's **Message** about Christ (8-11)
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- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
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- The seven stars deliver
- The seven letters instruct
- The seven churches exemplify
- The seven Spirits illuminate
- The seven seals reveal
- The seven angels act
- The seven trumpets warn
- The seven **thunders** announce (an unrevealed message)
- The seven heads rule
- The seven bowls complete

# Chapter 10 Overview

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Christ's message for all mankind must be revealed (10:1-6), heard (10:7), understood: both positive and negative (10:9-10; see Ezek.2:8 - 3:3), and preached to all (10:11).

# The Little Book of Revelation 10

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- **A little book** – the message is not long (Jn. 21:25)
- **An open book** – the message can be understood (Eph. 3:4)
- **A tasteful book** – the message is positive and negative (2 Cor. 2:14-16)
- **A proclaimed book** – the message is to be preached (Rom. 10:14-15)
- **A universal book** – the message is for everyone (Col. 1:23)

# Revelation

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Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 11

# Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p>

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Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

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- **The seventh trumpet sounded** – the final destruction of God's enemies and complete victory over them (11:15-19). (Note that a picture of the Ark of the Covenant closes this section which puts the emphasis again on God's Word, His covenant.)

# The Length of the Time of Persecution

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Time	Activity
<b>42 months</b>	Holy city trodden under foot (11:2) Beast given power (13:5)
<b>1260 days</b>	Witnesses prophesy (11:3) Woman flees into – wilderness (12:6)
<b>3 ½ years</b> (time, times, half a time)	Saints are persecuted (Dan. 7:25; 12:7) Woman is nourished (12:14)

Note that 42 months (11:2; 13:5), 1260 days (11:3; 12:6), and 3 ½ years (12:14; see Dan. 7:25; 12:7), all refer to a time of persecution and testing of Christians by Rome.

# Chapter 11 Overview

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Christ's message was preached in the NT church: a life of protection through persecution (11:1-2), a life of success (11:3-6), a life of temporary defeat (11:7-10), a life of revival (11:11), and a life of exaltation (11:12-14). Note that "two" in the Bible represents confirmation (Deut. 19:15), strength (Eccl. 4:9-12), and fellowship (Lk. 10:1).

# Chapter 11 Overview

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Chapter 11 is a miniature picture of the whole NT and of the book of Revelation. The NT church will **preach** on earth (11:1-6), will be **persecuted** by Rome (11:7-10), and will be **prized** in heaven (11:11-19).

# Chapter 11: A Summary of the Book of Revelation

<b>11:1</b> Temple measured	God's people protected
<b>11:2</b> Holy city trodden under foot	God's people persecuted
<b>11:3-6</b> Two witnesses prophesy	Gospel is successfully preached
<b>11:7-8</b> The beast overcomes - kills	Rome has a temporary victory
<b>11:9-10</b> The people rejoice over them	Temporary defeat of God's people
<b>11:11-14</b> The two witnesses come back to life	God's people are vindicated and invited to heaven
<b>11:15-19</b> The 7 <sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds	God's people are rewarded and God's enemies are destroyed

# Revelation

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Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 12

# Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p>



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- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
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---

- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
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- Christ the **Worthy Lamb** (4-5)
- Christ the **Wrathful Lamb** (6-7; 8:1-5)
- Christ the **Prophetic Messenger** (8:6-11:19)
- Christ the **Ruling Lamb** (12:1 – 14:20)

# Chapter 12-14 Overview

---

Roman persecution would cause troubled saints to ask, “Why are these things happening to us?” “Why are we suffering?” “Who is responsible for this?” These Christians needed instruction concerning **what was going on behind the scenes**. From earth’s perspective, the **conflict** (war) was between Rome and Christians (Rev. 1-11).

# Chapter 12-14 Overview

---

But, from heaven's perspective, the **conflict** (war) was between Christ and Satan (Rev. 12-20). Revelation 12-14 introduces the two armies at "war" (Rev. 12:7, 17): the dragon (Satan) and his allies (the beast, Rome) verses the Lamb (Christ) and his allies (faithful saints).

# The “7s” of Revelation

- The seven stars (messengers) deliver (1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1)
- The seven letters instruct
- The seven candlesticks / churches exemplify (1:4, 11-12, 20; 2:1)
- The seven Spirits illuminate (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
- The seven lamps radiate (4:5)
- The seven seals reveal (5:1, 5; 6:1; 8:1)
- The seven horns / eyes show power (5:6)
- The seven angels act (8:2, 6; 10:7; 11:15; 15:1, 6-8; 16:1, 17; 17:1; 21:9)
- The seven trumpets warn (8:2, 6)
- The seven thunders announce (10:3-4)
- The seven heads / diadems / mountains / kings rule (12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9-11)
- The seven plagues curse (15:1, 6, 8; 21:9)
- The seven bowls complete (15:7; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9)

# Symbolic Numbers in Revelation

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1 – unity

2 – strength, confirmation

3 – complete and ordered whole

$3^{1/2}$  – incomplete period (half of 7, 42 months, 1260 days)

4 – comprehensive, all-encompassing world

6 – the number of man, human imperfection (see also “666”)

7 – divine completion, fulfillment, and perfection

10 – human completeness, full (see also “1000”)

12 – Israel or the church (see also “144,000”)

# The Length of the Time of Persecution

---

Time	Activity
<b>42 months</b>	Holy city trodden under foot (11:2) Beast given power (13:5)
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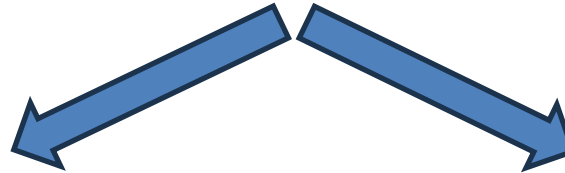


# Chapter 12-14 Overview

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## **Chapter 12**

A War Between Christ and Satan



## **Chapter 13**

What Do Satan and His Followers  
Do to the Followers of Christ

## **Chapter 14**

How Do Christ and His Followers  
Respond to Satan and His Followers

# Chapter 12-14 Overview

## **The Dragon - Satan (12)**

1. His unsuccessful attack on Christ (12:1-6; see Gen. 3:15).
2. His unsuccessful attack on heaven (12:7-12).
3. His unsuccessful attack on the church (12:13-17; see 2:10).

## **The Allies - Rome (13)**

1. The sea beast: blasphemous Roman authority helped the dragon (13:1-10; see Dan. 7:3-27).
2. The land beast: deceitful Roman religion helped the dragon (13:11-18; see 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).

## **The Lamb - Christ (14)**

1. "And I saw..." - the 144,000 rewarded by God's judgment (14:1-5).
2. "And I saw..." - the three angels announce God's judgment (14:6-13; see 17:5,18; 18:10-21).
3. "And I saw..." - the two agents harvest God's judgment (14:14-20).

# Revelation

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Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 13

# Revelation At-A-Glance

Revelation 1-5 Reminders	Revelation 6-20 Retributions	Revelation 21-22 Rewards
<p>Who God is (Rev. 1, 4)</p> <p>Who Jesus is (Rev. 1-3, 5)</p> <p>Who the church is (Rev. 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Avenging</u> the blood of the saints (Rev. 6:10; 11:18; 19:2)</p> <p><u>Judging</u> Rome for her persecutions (Rev. 14:7; 16:7; 17:1; 18:8, 10, 20; 19:2, 11; 20:4)</p> <p><u>Wrath</u> of God (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; etc.)</p>	<p>Heaven described (Rev. 21:1; 22:1)</p>

# Revelation Outlined

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Introduction: Opening greeting and vision (Rev. 1)

**SEVEN** Churches (Rev. 2-3)

Intermediate Visions: Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4-5)

**SEVEN** Seals (Rev. 6-8)

**SEVEN** Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)

Intermediate Visions: Christ vs. Satan (Rev. 12-14)

**SEVEN** Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-20)

Final Outcome: Saints in Heaven (Rev. 21-22)

Closing: Closing admonitions (Rev. 22)

# Revelation Theme

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## Christ and His Church Victorious

- The Church's Life in Christ (1-3)
- The Church's Security through Christ (4-8)
- The Church's Message about Christ (8-11)
- The Church's **Conflict** for Christ (12-14)
- The Church's Vindication by Christ (15-20)
- The Church's Union with Christ (21-22)

# Christ in the Book of Revelation

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- Christ the **Triumphant Ruler** (1)
- Christ the **All-Knowing Judge** (2-3)
- Christ the **Worthy Lamb** (4-5)
- Christ the **Wrathful Lamb** (6-7; 8:1-5)
- Christ the **Prophetic Messenger** (8:6-11:19)
- Christ the **Ruling Lamb** (12:1 – 14:20)

# Chapter 12-14 Overview

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Roman persecution would cause troubled saints to ask, “Why are these things happening to us?” “Why are we suffering?” “Who is responsible for this?” These Christians needed instruction concerning **what was going on behind the scenes**. From earth’s perspective, the **conflict** was between Rome and Christians (Rev. 1-11).



# Chapter 12-14 Overview

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But, from heaven's perspective, the **conflict** was between Christ and Satan (Rev. 12-20). Revelation 12-14 introduces the two armies at "war" (Rev. 12:17): the dragon (Satan) and his allies (the beast, Rome) verses the Lamb (Christ) and his allies (faithful saints).

# The Length of the Time of Persecution

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Time	Activity
<b>42 months</b>	Holy city trodden under foot (11:2) Beast given power (13:5)
<b>1260 days</b>	Witnesses prophesy (11:3) Woman flees into – wilderness (12:6)
<b>3 ½ years</b> (time, times, half a time)	Saints are persecuted (Dan. 7:25; 12:7) Woman is nourished (12:14)

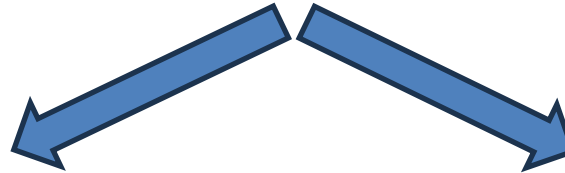
Note that 42 months (11:2; 13:5), 1260 days (11:3; 12:6), and 3 ½ years (12:14; see Dan. 7:25; 12:7), all refer to a time of persecution and testing of Christians by Rome.

# Chapter 12-14 Overview

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## **Chapter 12**

A War Between Christ and Satan



## **Chapter 13**

What Do Satan and His Followers  
Do to the Followers of Christ

## **Chapter 14**

How Do Christ and His Followers  
Respond to Satan and His Followers

# Chapter 12-14 Overview

## **The Dragon - Satan (12)**

1. His unsuccessful attack on Christ (12:1-6; see Gen. 3:15).
2. His unsuccessful attack on heaven (12:7-12).
3. His unsuccessful attack on the church (12:13-17; see 2:10).

## **The Allies - Rome (13)**

1. The sea beast: blasphemous Roman authority helped the dragon (13:1-10; see Dan. 7:3-27).
2. The land beast: deceitful Roman religion helped the dragon (13:11-18; see 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).

## **The Lamb - Christ (14)**

1. "And I saw..." - the 144,000 rewarded by God's judgment (14:1-5).
2. "And I saw..." - the three angels announce God's judgment (14:6-13; see 17:5,18; 18:10-21).
3. "And I saw..." - the two agents harvest God's judgment (14:14-20).

# Rome: The Beast

Revelation 13	Daniel 7
13:1 beast	7:7 beast (king, kingdom)
13:1 horns	7:7 ten horns (7:20)
13:1 blasphemy (13:5-6)	7:8 speaking great things; great words (7:11); speak words against the Most High (7:25)
13:2 leopard, bear, lion	7:4-6 lion, bear, leopard
13:3 one of his heads	7:8 a little one
13:5 forty-two months	7:25 a time, times, half/time
13:7 war with the saints	7:21 war with the saints

# Rome: The Two Beasts

The Sea Beast (13:1-10)	The Land Beast (13:11-18)
Roman government (10 horns, authority over every tribe)	Roman religion (lamb, worship, signs, give life, image) – see <b>16:13; 19:20; 20:10</b>
<b>13:2</b> the dragon gave him authority	<b>13:11</b> spoke like a dragon
<b>13:3</b> smitten in death but healed	<b>13:12</b> exercises all the authority
<b>13:4, 8</b> world worships the beast	<b>13:12</b> worship the first beast
<b>13:5</b> speaking blasphemies	<b>13:13-14</b> does great signs (deceives)
<b>13:5</b> authority 42 months	<b>13:14</b> make an image to the beast
<b>13:7</b> make war with the saints	<b>13:15</b> gives breath to the image
<b>13:7</b> authority over every nation	<b>13:15</b> not worship – be killed
	<b>13:6</b> cause a mark to be given

# Roman Emperors in the First Century

Name	Reign
1. Augustus	27 B.C. – A.D. 14
2. Tiberius	A.D. 14 – A.D. 37
3. Caligula	A.D. 37 – A.D. 41
4. Claudius	A.D. 41 – A.D. 54
5. Nero	A.D. 54 – A.D. 68
6. Galba	A.D. 68 – A.D. 69
7. Ortho	A.D. 69
8. Vitellius	A.D. 69
9. Vespasian	A.D. 69 – A.D. 79
10. Titus	A.D. 79 – A.D. 81
11. Domitian	A.D. 81 – A.D. 96
12. Nerva	A.D. 96 – A.D. 98
13. Trajan	A.D. 98 – A.D. 117

# Revelation

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Overcoming with the Lamb



Revelation 14



# Revelation At-A-Glance

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# Symbolic Numbers in Revelation

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1 – unity

2 – strength, confirmation

3 – complete and ordered whole

$3^{1/2}$  – incomplete period (half of 7, 42 months, 1260 days)

4 – comprehensive, all-encompassing world

6 – human imperfection (see also “666”)

7 – divine perfection

10 – human completeness, full (see also “1000”)

12 – Israel or the church (see also “144,000”)

# Identifying the 144,000

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## How many will be resurrected to heaven?

The Bible indicates that 144,000 people will be resurrected to heavenly life. ([Revelation 7:4](#)) In the vision recorded at [Revelation 14:1-3](#), the apostle John saw “the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000.” In this vision, “the Lamb” represents the resurrected Jesus. ([John 1:29](#); [1 Peter 1:19](#)) “Mount Zion” represents the exalted position of Jesus and the 144,000 who rule with him in the heavens.—[Psalm 2:6](#); [Hebrews 12:22](#).

Those “who are called and chosen” to rule with Christ in the Kingdom are referred to as a “little flock.” ([Revelation 17:14](#); [Luke 12:32](#)) This shows that they would be relatively few in comparison with the complete number of Jesus’ sheep.—[John 10:16](#). (<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/go-to-heaven/>)



# Identifying the 144,000

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**Misconception:** The number 144,000 mentioned in Revelation is symbolic, not literal.

**Fact:** Although Revelation contains symbolic numbers, some of the numbers it uses are literal. For example, it speaks of “the 12 names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb.” ([Revelation 21:14](#)) Consider the evidence for concluding that the number 144,000 should likewise be taken literally.

[Revelation 7:4](#) records “the number of those who were sealed [or, confirmed for life in heaven], 144,000.” In the immediate context of this verse, a second group is contrasted: “a great crowd, which no man was able to number.” Those of the “great crowd” also receive salvation from God. ([Revelation 7:9, 10](#)) If the number 144,000 were symbolic, referring instead to a group without number, then the contrast between the two groups would be lost. In addition, the 144,000 are described as being “bought from among mankind as firstfruits.” ([Revelation 14:4](#)) The expression “firstfruits” refers to a small representative selection. It aptly describes those who will rule in heaven with Christ over an undetermined number of subjects on earth.—[Revelation 5:10](#). (<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/go-to-heaven/>)

# Identifying the 144,000

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- The J.W.s say that 144,000 (7:4; 14:1-5) is a literal number; the only ones in the true church who go to heaven; the great multitude (7:9) are in Paradise on a restored earth (see 2 Pet. 3:10 in the NWT)
- Note that “Israel” is listed. Is this literal? Are Jews only in heaven?
- Note that Dan is missing from the list and Manasseh takes his place (with Joseph)

# Identifying the 144,000

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- Note that in 7:4, John heard the number (144,000), and in 7:9, John saw a great multitude
- Note that the “great multitude” are “before the throne” in heaven (7:9, 15) just like the 144, 000 (14:3)
- Note that the 144,000 are “purchased”, the same as those in 5:9

# Identifying the 144,000

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- Note that the 144,000 are (symbolically) virgin men (14:4). Are there no women in heaven?
- Who are the 144,000? Simply, all the faithful “servants of our God” who go through the persecution (1:1; 2:20; 6:11; 7:3; 10:7; 11:18; 19:2, 5; 22:3, 6)

# Identifying the 144,000

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1. The great multitude is of every nation (7:9)
2. Every nation is purchased (5:9) and the 144,000 are purchased (14:3-4)
3. Therefore, 144,000 (7:4) are a part of the great multitude (7:9)

# Identifying the 144,000

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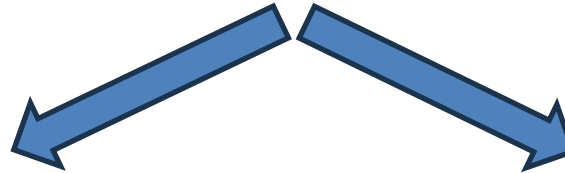
1. The great multitude is dressed in white robes (7:9, 13-14)
2. Those who wash their robes have access to the tree of life and the city, both of which are in heaven (22:1-3, 14)
3. Therefore, the great multitude will be in heaven

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# The Seven Beatitudes of the Book of Revelation

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**1:3** Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words...

**14:14** Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...

**16:15** Blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments...

**19:9** Blessed are they that are bidden to the marriage...

**20:6** Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection...

**22:7** Blessed is he that keeps the words of the prophecy...

**22:14** Blessed are they that wash their robes...

# The Six Angels of Revelation 14

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1. The angel who brings eternal glad tidings (14:6-7)
2. The angel who announces doom (14:8; **see 18:2**)
3. The angel who speaks of punishment and reward (14:9-13)
4. The angel who announces coming judgment (14:14-16)
5. The angel who carries out divine judgment with the son of man (14:17, 19-20)
6. The angel who reveals the time of judgment (14:18)

# First- Century Christians Must Choose

<b>The Beast (Rome)</b> Rev. 13	<b>The Lamb (Jesus)</b> Rev. 14
<b>Name:</b> mark on forehead (13:16-18; 14:9,11; see also 16:2)	<b>Name:</b> seal on forehead (14:1; see also 7:3-4; 22:4)
<b>Worship</b> (13:5,8,15)	<b>Worship</b> (14:2-3,7)
<b>Persecute</b> (13:7,17; see also 11:7; 12:17; 17:14; 19:19)	<b>Patient</b> (14:4-5,12; see also 15:2; 17:14)
<b>Destiny:</b> hell (14:9-11; see also 19:20; 20:10; 21:8)	<b>Destiny:</b> heaven (14:2-3, 13; see also 7:13-17; 21:1 – 22:5)