

Latest Book

Our new book titled ‘*Bring The Gospel Back!*’ is now listed with some leading bookstores in Australia. (Buying from bookstores does help us to have the book listed publicly). Also one can order from a distributor <https://chugley.blog/blog/>

The following is one of the endorsements from the book: ‘*Clarity on the Gospel, perhaps, is the greatest need at the moment. With the Church being assaulted every day with lies and errors, clarity on the Gospel needs many voices... ‘Bring the Gospel Back!’ Is a clarion call for truth, and especially the truth of the Gospel...In this primer you will find a clear articulation and promulgation of the gospel...a must read by every Christian and every Christian minister*’. (Todd Stanton, Pastor, St John’s Park Baptist Church, Sydney)

This book is a passionate and urgent call for churches to *come back to the true Gospel and preach it accurately*. It will challenge even many conservative churches as to what has been added to the content, the delivery and especially the response to, the Gospel.

The book is available now for \$15.90 (postage included)

Interstate Itineraries Cancelled

Due to the ongoing uncertainties with the Covid restrictions, border issues and now vaccination mandates, interstate itineraries are still cancelled.

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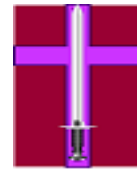
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Diakrisis (Australia)

‘But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil’, (Heb.5:14)

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry, ***teaching, informing and equipping*** the church.
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The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

We welcome comments or items contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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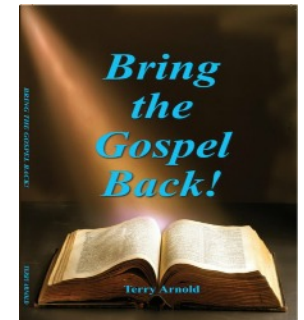
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New E-mail
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Editor's Comment

There are two things that are rapidly closing in on the church. One is the *system of the world* and the other is the *coming of the Lord*.

How Close Are We To The World System?

The world is changing rapidly, but the modern Laodicean church is catching up to the world just as quickly! How close is this church to the world?

This world is described as 'evil', 'corrupt' and 'polluted' (Gal.1:4; 2Pet.1:4; 2:20). Indeed, '*the whole world lies in wickedness*' (1Jn.5:19).

If the above is true then there is surely to be a *tension* between the true church and the world. The Bible teaches we are the light of a world which is in '*darkness*' (Matt.5:14; Jn.3:19; Eph.6:12; Jn.12:46). But if so, then why do we so easily adopt the ways and the fashions of the world? We the '*church*' ('*ekklesia*') are supposed to be the '*called out ones*' ('*ek*' - out / '*klesia*' - called). The opposite word is '*oikumenikos*' - of the world, ecumenical, a worldly thing. Is the 'church' today the '*ekklesia*' or is it an '*oikumenikos*' - *ecumenical*?

The world today is marketing new race theories, gender and transgender equality issues, homosexuality, same sex marriage, as well as arguably a fear mongering associated with such agendas as 'climate change' and the current Covid pandemic. Many of these have been largely accepted by the major Christian denominations of the world. The world has led the way here and the church has *followed* quickly! *How close is the modern church to this world?* How close when reporters who report on church services state that many churches with their music and ecstatic worship are remarkably similar to the nightclub atmosphere of the world they know? How close are we when Ministers Fraternal and their churches engage in the same social projects as the latest concerns of their societies - many without a shred of any true Gospel message? How close are we when the sins of the world, including adultery and sexual perversions, are now being exposed every week in the mega churches, with numerous prominent pastors and leaders falling, and others completely apostatised, publicly renouncing the faith.

Do we not realise that the world has its own 'god' who has '*blinded the minds*' of those in the world (2Cor.4:4)? Do we not realise that the world is supposed to *hate* the true church because it hated Christ (Jn.7:7; 15:18,19; 17:14; 1Jn.3:13)?

A true Christian will not be '*entangled with the affairs of this world*' (Matt.13:22; Mk.4:19), but will '*keep himself unspotted from the world*' (James 1:27), because he is '*not of the world*' (Jn.17:16). Is the '*world crucified unto me, and I unto the world*' (Gal.6:14)? Are we Christians really fearful enough of God to heed His warning of spiritual 'adultery': '*You adulterers and adulteresses, know you not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*' (James 4:4).

We are to '*love not the world, neither the things that are in the world*' (1Jn.2:15) because we '*have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God*' (1Cor.2:12).

What of the church of the Reformers, the Puritans, and of the 18th and 19th

Christians who have eternal life and look for His coming, succumb to the fear mongering of those who would instil 'mandates', passports and unlawful and ungodly control over peoples lives? Where is the *freedom of conscience*?

Look at Israel who are ahead of us in vaccination and see the rising death rate from the jabs and the increasing lack of immunity to the virus...and they are now into their *third* 'booster'? Christians need discernment in where the world would take us and how quickly the King is coming.

Pentecostal Extra Biblical Nonsense

Terry, my daughter was asked to a church by a friend...They were all jabbering in tongues, writhing around the floor screaming with laughter and falling over whilst the pastor and his pastor wife (who ended prostrate on the floor) moved around splashing oil on everyone, talking about an 'anointing' being present. He asked people to come forward and when my daughter did not, he rushed over and splashed oil on her anyway and prophesied she would be a strong member of this church and God had sent her there. She left half way through the service. No teaching, no Bible, or prayer! I thought much of this rubbish had died out years ago? Imagine bringing someone to this church...What sort of demonic misfits and false prophets are running churches today? What are these people going to do in the days ahead as REAL persecution arrives? It is surely the end of the church age - and thank God it is...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

In such churches the scriptures are defied - with unknown tongues and no interpretation (1Cor.14:6,9,11,19,20,27), disorder in church (1Cor.14:23,40), false use of oil (cp.James 5), the 'anointing' (1Jn.2:26,27) and false prophesy (Matt.7:15; 24:11,24; 2Pet.2:1; 1Jn.4:1). These are false teachers and false prophets adding to the Word. The judgement will be severe.

Terry, although we are not exempt personally, am I right in thinking the pastor is responsible for the spiritual strength of the local church?

(J.B. Qld)

Editor's Reply:

Jesus said '*feed my sheep*' (Jn.21:15-17). The pastoring elder is a man of qualified character (1Tim.3), an under-shepherd to the great Shepherd. He is to teach, preach, care for and protect God's sheep. The *Gospel* and the *scriptures* are his instructions from the Almighty.

The spiritual strength of the church is maintained by preaching/teaching biblical doctrine and the Gospel. Everything else is subservient. The lack of this today has weakened the saints. Pastors are too often ecumenical socialites failing to engender in their people a love for sound doctrine. Pastors/elders will be responsible before Christ and receive a greater judgement (James 3:1).

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

Dear Terry, fellow workers in Christ...the 'Diakrisis' newsletter which you've faithfully sent me for over 20 years - this little info-stacked mailing supports me in my spiritual journey toward the goal spoken of by the apostle Paul...

In 'Diakrisis' Nov/Dec/2021...a comment from a J.C. On P.15...I sympathise with the comments, they seem to be on the same page as me...

I am also making a stand against Covid alarmism...Family refuse to visit me...Friends desert me...shops I cannot enter...the local OP shop does not want me any more...It's not just a health issue for me...it's my belief that the jabs are a precursor to the design of the Anti-Christ and even the Beast's 'mark'...What do you think...Passports to so-called 'freedom' next?...Do I continue to resist?...

(K.F. NSW)

Terry, I am reading 'The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates' by Matthew Trehwella. Should the Evangelical Church in Australia be standing up and speaking against the Govt. lies and unlawful mandates? I live in NSW but my Church is in QLD. I have found a way to cross the border unlawfully in some minds but I believe the Govt has no authority to prevent me attending Church on the Lord's day to disobey the law of God which is the higher authority. Your thoughts?

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's Comment [for both letters]:

Such opposition, segregation and controls must be expected in the days before Christ comes.

Firstly, I see any resistance to the vaccine, restrictions and mandates as a personal one of conscience. We are repeatedly told to have a good and pure conscience (Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1Tim.1:5,19; 3:9; 2Tim.1:3; Heb.13:18; 1Pet.16,21) which will convict and be our witness (Rom.2:15; 9:1; 2Cor.1:12). The strength and weakness of that conscience will vary from one person to another (1Cor.8:7-12; 10:25-29), but it must be respected.

Secondly, God's commands are higher than any government law restricting Christian worship or freedom. The church has largely laid down in the face of restrictions and lost sight of church being separate from state. Churches and colleges are now discouraging and banning unvaccinated people attending.

Thirdly, I do not see any government can pressure a Christian as to what they put into their body which is the temple of the Spirit (1Cor.6:19; 3:16).

Fourthly, I do see these restrictions and the 'passport' as a possible precursor for the future antichrist system and even the 'mark' restricting buying or selling. Countries in Europe are already injecting a vaccine passport on the hand and punishing older people for not being vaccinated.

Although I am not an 'anti-vaxer' as such, there are facts ignored in the response to a virus that we have a 0.01% chance of getting, let alone dying from something that has 36 killers ahead of it? (see editorial P.3). Why should

century revivals and Awakenings which changed the very fabric of their societies? They were indeed 'salt' to a dying world. The Gospel and scripture was their truth from which they evangelised a world they knew as lost. What would these men think of the state of the church today? Would they blindly follow the agendas and fashions of this age as have the denominations?

A big influence for the world is the media and social media which drive these latest philosophies and agendas. But such '*wisdom of this world is foolishness to God*' (1Cor.:20; 3:19) and thus '*we do not speak the wisdom of this world*' (1Cor.2:6), because the world '*cannot receive the spirit of truth*' (Jn.14:17).

This author believes too many Christians today adopt the thinking and the opinions of the mainstream media without realising it is a tool to bring about the mindset required to usher in the antichrist and his system. Surveys show that most Christians today are also creatures of social media. How long do we spend daily on social media in comparison to studying the scriptures and praying?

How Close Are We To The Lord's Return?

There is another closeness this author wants to impress upon readers - the *closeness of the Lord's return for his remnant church*. Who would have thought just a few years ago we would be seeing the restrictions, the panic and fear mongering in this 'pandemic' that would curtail freedoms of movement, of speech, of worship, and with legislations to mandate such - all for a virus that affects 0.01% of the population at any one time and more than 99.5% affected are less than serious with flu like symptoms? [At the date of printing less than 2,200 Australians have died of Covid 19 since 2019, compared to the tens of thousands that die of influenza (triple the number of Covid), heart diseases, cancer, suicides (7 times Covid deaths), accidental deaths (triple the number of Covid)...Does the media also report the rising number of deaths (in the thousands worldwide) from the vaccines, or the list of world experts with their cautions? History will compare this pandemic (to date 4.55 million worldwide dead) with the Spanish Flue (1918-19; 50-100 million people); the Black Death (14th century, killed 30-60% of Europe's population; 40-70 million died); and the AIDS virus (35 million have died).

I am not an 'anti-vaxer' as such, but *consciences are being coerced and often shut down*. Although the vaccine passport is not the 'mark of the beast', yet how close are 'passports' to a future 'mark' to be able to 'buy or sell' (Rev.13:16-18; 14:9-11)? In Europe thousands of people have received a chip in their hand with a vaccine 'passport' and other information. How close are we to when the '*prince of the power of the air*' will '*deceive the whole world*' (Eph.2:2; Rev.12:9)?

The world is to end (Matt.24:3; 28:20) and then to be judged (Jn.12:31; 16:11; Acts 17:31), because it is '*guilty*' (Rom.3:19). We are '*pilgrims*' passing through this world (Heb.11:13; 1Pet.2:11). '*They of the world...speak they of the world, and the world hears them*' (1Jn.4:5); but the true Christian will 'overcome' this world (1Jn.4:4; 2:13,14).

Christians, be discerning of the times! '*Be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind...*' (Rom.12:2).

The Lord may well be at the door!

Terry Arnold

Catholicism and Hinduism ‘Join Hands’?



Pope Francis and the Vatican for Hindu Feast of Diwali called Roman Catholics and Hindus to ‘Join Hands in the Light’...‘The Vatican extends its most cordial greetings to you on the occasion of Deepavali’ [Nov.4th] stated the October 29 message addressed to the Church’s ‘Hindu friends’.

In its message, the Vatican proposed to offer thoughts on how Christians and Hindus can together ‘bring the light of hope in people’s lives in such challenging times. As believers grounded in our own respective religious traditions and as persons with shared vision for and shared responsibility towards humanity, in particular the suffering humanity, may we Christians and Hindus, individually and collectively, and joining hands with people of other religious traditions and of good will, reach out to people who are in despair, to bring light into their lives!’

Under a painting of the New Age Jesus sporting a Luciferian split beard and flashing Masonic hand signs, Pope Francis welcomed the prime minister of India to the Vatican to wish him a Happy Diwali...The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue issued an official proclamation calling for Roman Catholics to join with Hindus and Buddhists and to ‘walk in the light’ together... (Apostasy Alert, Nov/2021)

Editor’s Comment:

The feast of Deepavali (Diwali), represents the victory ‘of light over darkness’. The Pope continues to attempt to win over Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, transgenders and everyone else that has a hankering to worship a christ, just not Jesus Christ.

‘Join hands in the light’? How can this be when Hindus worship a different god and do not know the true Christ? What would a truly saved person share with the Indian people?...The true light comes from the true Christ who gives light (Lk.1:79; 2:32; Jn.1:9; 8:12; 12:46). This light is to shine in a dark world, including the darkness of false religions (Lk.1:79; Jn.1:5; 1Pet.2:9; 2Pet.1:19) and through the Gospel (Acts 26:18; 2Tim 1:10). ‘What communion has light with darkness?’ (2Cor.6:14)?

What hypocrisy is this also when Human Rights groups have insisted that Christians now suffer increasing violence and persecution in India?

Post Covid Church Attendance

Lifeway Research of 1,000 Protestant pastors conducted Sept. 1-29/2021 shows 13% of churches were attracting less than 50% of their pre-COVID-19 attendance. 35% of pastors reported attendance levels between 50% and 70%...while another 30% reported attendance levels between 70% and 90%.

Vs.16,17 *‘And the ten horns which you saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God has put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled’.*

The ‘ten horns’ (vs.12 ‘ten kings’) will ‘hate’ the woman and we are told with figurative language (‘make her desolate, naked...eat her flesh, burn her with fire’) - they will destroy her. The antichrist will finally discard the religion he used for gain. The ‘burning with fire’ arguably could also be literal, since if Babylon be Rome (or a Babylon re-built), this is the description of Babylon burning in the next chapter (18:18).

‘For God has put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled’.

God is here not just allowing evil to take its course but actively ‘putting in their hearts’ that they would ‘fulfil...the words of God’ made long before! The ten kings here are in the hand of the Lord and will judicially do His will. Indeed, in the past God has ‘turned hearts to hate his people’ (Ps.105:25) and in the end times ‘God shall send them strong delusion’ (2Thess.2:11,12).

Vs.18 *‘And the woman which you saw is that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth’.*

This is the sway of this ‘woman’ who is that ‘great city’ on ‘seven mountains’ that she would control many peoples and ‘reign over the kings of the earth’. Her destruction is nigh.

With the above prophecies in mind we would do well to be mindful of the falseness of the world’s religions and of any such counterfeit in our own beliefs. We must study the scriptures and its prophecies and understand the times we live in as preparing the way for the antichrist ‘beast’ who will carry the Babylonian false religion.

With this in mind, Christians need to discern the developing worldly and ecumenical false religion of our day. We must discern the devices of the coming antichrist in the governments of the nations and the increasing secularisation of the modern church to be in tune with that. *‘Why do the heathen rage...The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed...He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure...You shall break them with a rod of iron...Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him’ (Ps.2).*

We have been prepared for spiritual warfare against the flesh and the wiles of the Devil so that we will not be seduced by the coming devices of the antichrist, his world system or his false religious system. The Lord knows who are His and He will have His pleasure, His will, and especially His glory in the saints!

Terry Arnold

The 'five are fallen' are obviously the earlier fall of Egypt (Ezek.29:1-30:26), Assyria (Nah.3:1-19), Babylon (Dan.5; Jer.50), Persia (Dan.8:3-7; 8:20-22; 10:13; 11:2) and Greece (Dan.11:14). The 'one is' is obviously Rome, the dominant power at the time of John. The 'one not yet come' is a future antichrist's kingdom.

'**The beast that was, and is not**' repeats the information in verse 8 referring to the antichrist's seeming death and resurrection (see vs.8 above).

'**when he comes, he must continue a short space**' - the 'short space' ('oligos') meaning literally a 'small', brief amount of time.

'**He is the eighth, and is of** [*ek* - out of] **the seven**' - refers to the two phases of antichrist's rule, being initially out of the seven kingdoms and then an eighth and final kingdom that opposes God.

Vs.12-14 '**And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength [authority] unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful**'

These futuristic 'ten kings' are here distinguished from the 'seven kings' of verse 10. The 'ten horns' on the beast are 'ten kings' who receive power ('*exousia*' - authority) 'one hour with the beast'. The 'one hour' ('*horas*') is a figure of speech for a definitive short division of time.

Some commentators, with some difficulty see these kings as past emperors. But which ten emperors did ever support the beast and 'make war with the Lamb'?

Daniel chapter 7 speaks of these 'ten kings' which Revelation describes here as of 'one mind' and will give power and authority ('*exousia*') to the beast.

The antichrist supporters will 'make war with the Lamb' but '*the Lamb shall overcome them*'. This is a forecast of the battle of Armageddon and the final defeat of all the enemies of God (19:9). The reason why the Lamb will prevail is then given: '*for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings*'. In the title '*Lord of lords and King of kings*' is deity (compare Dt.10:17; 1Tim.6:15), and a wealth of sovereign power, authority and might. Who can prevail against the eternal creator and possessor of such power and authority (1Tim.6:15 - the '*potentate*') who is ordaining and orchestrating all the events in this book and whose '*armies in heaven follow him*' (19:14)?

'*They that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful*'. The believers in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for their sins, have been '*called*' and '*chosen*' ('*eklektós*' - elected out of) and are thus '*faithful*' to the end.

Vs.15 '**And he said unto me, The waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues**'.

This refers back to the 'waters' of verse 1, waters being a common symbol of many millions of people and their nations (Is.8:7; 17:13; Jer.47:2), and here they are under the control of the 'woman' .



A Bible college in Sydney [Australia] has announced plans to enforce a vaccination mandate for their campus next year, despite the state government not requiring such measures for tertiary institutions. Derek Brotherson, Principal at the Sydney Missionary Bible College, informed students...that any adult who comes onto the campus will need to have received at least two doses of vaccine. The 'temporary mandate' will apply to staff members, students, residents and visitors. 'You might think the government haven't mandated vaccinations, so legally we don't need to either,' Brotherson told students...It is true that there is no blanket vaccine mandate in tertiary settings here in New South Wales as there is in Victoria' he said, but noted the need to formulate 'a Covid safe plan' for the campus.

The decision to bar the unvaccinated as part of that plan came at the advice of an 'expert' the board engaged to help formulate a procedure that demonstrated the college was 'taking certain steps to discharge our duty of care'.

'It's mind-boggling', an unvaccinated student said 'we are not talking about banning the infected, unhealthy or the sick. We're talking about excluding healthy people who, for personal reasons, have decided not to take a vaccine that doesn't even stop people from contracting or spreading Covid to others'.

Commenting on the college's move, Presbyterian minister Tony Archer warned about a growing trend among Christian organisations of imposing more restrictions on the public than required. 'There's a special kind of lunacy that sees Christian organisations choose to go even further than the government to impose and entrench segregation' Archer said. 'Worst of all this seems to be contagious and encourages governments to keep extending draconian measures'.

(Apostasy Alert 16th Dec/2021)

Editor's comment:

Would Christ have done this? Where is the biblical mandate (or the secular?) to ban people from Bible study, discipleship and gathering together? Did Christians do this in the real pandemics of old? No, they ministered to the sick! What a pathetic witness and a lack of faith this is to the world? A virus that has a more than 99.8% recovery rate is now so dangerous as to exclude, deny and treat as unclean those unvaccinated seeking a Christian education? How will their graduates minister to the sick when they see they have to be 'inoculated' against disease first? On this basis the Saviour they trust would have required an inoculation before healing the sick?

This is extra biblical discrimination. Why be so 'conformed to this world' and deny those who would be 'transformed by the renewing of their minds' (Rom.12:2). This is spineless hypocritical christianity that coerces and restricts the freedom of the conscience to not take into their body a vaccine that does not cure a disease less dangerous than the flu and dozens of other diseases before it! Christians, 'be not conformed to the world...' (Rom.12:2)!

Persecution in Nigeria



Armed bandits in Nigeria's Kaduna State kidnapped more than 60 worshipers during a church service and shot one Christian dead...The gunmen stormed Emmanuel Baptist Church in Kakau Daji area in southern Kaduna...The telecom networks were down at the time to help combat bandit activity. The church was unable to call for help...the

bandits have reportedly asked for a higher ransom 'because they had to travel farther for network service to contact the victims' relations'...Rev. Joseph Haya, chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria and a Baptist, said... 'We are seriously worried now. Gunmen are gradually approaching the township'.

In July, more than 140 students were abducted as they were scheduled to take their final exams at Bethel Baptist High School in the Chikun local government area in the same state...Terrorist groups...like Boko Haram, have carried out mass kidnappings in recent years, including kidnapping over 200 girls from a school in Chibok in 2014.

Open Doors USA ranks Nigeria at No. 9 on its 2021 World Watch List of countries where Christians face the most severe persecution.

(Christian Post, Anugrah Kumar, Nov.06, 2021)

Christian Politician Facing Jail For Marriage Beliefs



A Christian politician in Finland is facing up to six years in prison for sharing biblical beliefs on sexuality and marriage. The politician Räsänen has been charged with three counts of ethnic agitation over statements expressing her beliefs about human sexuality and marriage. Pohjola, the bishop-elect of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission

Diocese of Finland, has also been charged with one count of ethnic agitation for publishing Räsänen's booklet. Räsänen publicly voiced her opinion on marriage in a 2004 booklet on sexual ethics, describing marriage as between one man and one woman. She also expressed her views on a 2019 radio show...The mother of five maintains that her expressions are 'legal and should not be censored'. 'I cannot accept that voicing my religious beliefs could mean imprisonment,' said Räsänen in a statement previously issued by ADF International, a legal organization representing her. 'I do not consider myself guilty of threatening, slandering or insulting anyone. My statements were all based on the Bible's teachings on marriage and sexuality'.

The Finnish government is currently prosecuting well-known Christians for publicly supporting long-standing Christian doctrine...

(Christian Post, 14/11/2021)

shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time...and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods...'

This 'woman' and the 'beast' support each other for a time until the beast will 'hate' the woman and destroy her (vs.16).

'**The beast...has the seven heads and ten horns**' - this repeats the description of the same beast from 13:1. (Vs.9 below interprets the 'seven heads').

Vs.8 'The beast that you saw 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 phrase 'was and is not' probably refers to chapter 13 where the antichrist is 'wounded to death', but miraculously comes back to life (13:3) after he goes 'into perdition' ('apoleia' - referring to a temporary death or temporary destruction). It is this sign that caused many unsaved ('whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world') to 'wonder' (vs.8) and 'worship the dragon and the beast' (13:4,8) [see Part 8 Chapter 13 *Diakrisis* May/June/2020].

The antichrist here is described as demonically possessed, 'ascending out of the bottomless pit' (11:7) where the demonic angels are kept (9:11; 20:1).

Vs.9 'And here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits'

We are told here that the 'seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits'. Ancient Rome was the only city in John's time that had the reputation of being 'the seven-hilled city', 'the seven headed city' and standing 'upon seven hills' as noticed by numerous poets and philosophers (see Gill's commentary where the mountains are named as Capitolinus, Palatinus, Aventinus, Esquilinus, Coelius, Viminalis and Quirinalis). Rome had a national festival called *Septimontium*, the feast of the seven-hilled city. On imperial coins, Rome was represented as a woman seated on seven hills. (1) The woman 'sits' on these 'mountains'.

Vs.10,11 'And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition'.

'Seven kings' would imply seven kingdoms. Daniel chapter 7 details seven kingdoms or empires. Many commentators believe these to be the seven kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece, Rome, and antichrist's final kingdom as depicted in Daniel.

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(1) Coin of Vespasian, described by Captain Smyth in 'Roman Coins', P.310; Ackerman, 1, P.87.

Rome certainly speaks of ‘mysteries’ in its sacraments and communion (the *‘Eucharist’*). The doctrine of the bread and wine being turned into the real body and blood of Christ (‘Transubstantiation’) is said to be a ‘mystery’, a doctrine which caused the loss of multitudes of lives of the martyrs who rejected it. The word *‘mystery’* was formerly upon the frontlet of the Pope’s mitre, but removed by Pope Julius III (1487-1555), when the Protestants made use of this passage of Scripture, and applied it to the Romish antichrist (see Gill’s commentary).

Vs.6 *‘And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus’*

This should prove that we are dealing here with a religious institution. No other religious organisation has martyred and killed as many saints as the Roman religion. From the Reformation to the bloody inquisitions (approx. 20 million killed), the massacres at Piedmont (10,000 slaughtered) and the Bartholomew massacre (70,000 slaughtered). Between 1540-1570 it is estimated that 900,000 were killed. Up to 50 million have been martyred by evil Popes in the last 1,500 years. (1)

Vs.7 *‘And the angel said unto me, Wherefore did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns.’*

The beast is obviously the antichrist (13:1-6; 14:9) who has a kingdom (16:10). In verse 3 we were told He is *‘full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns’* as also described in 13:1. The *‘blasphemy’* is something spoken against God and His name (13:6). These names, the Reformers and many other commentators believed, referred to the blasphemous doctrines of papal Rome, which included new doctrines and forms of worship such as Transubstantiation, images and idolatry, Marian devotion, indulgences, commanding celibacy, forbidding marriage to priests, not to mention the documented evil popes involved in murder, adultery, sodomy, perjury, etc. (1) This same ‘beast’ will *‘speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time’* (Dan.7:25); *‘He shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods...’* (Dan.11:36); *‘He shall oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God’* (2Thess.2:3). He is called *‘the man of sin’* and *‘that wicked one’* (2Thess.2:4,8). He will be a great leader (Dan.7:20) with political stealth and craftiness (Dan.8:25; 11:21).

Chapter 13:5 says *‘Power [authority] was given unto him to continue forty and two months [3.5 years]. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven’*. This verse matched Daniel 7:8,25 and 11:36 in describing the *‘little horn’* who will have a *‘mouth speaking great things...great words against the most high, and*

(1) Documented in the author’s book *‘To Catholics Whom I Love’*

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What About Those Who Have Never Heard?

An increasingly common teaching today and more popular than ever is the teaching that some non-Christians, unbelievers, will if they have never heard of Christ or His Gospel, still get to Heaven. A recent U.S. Poll found *‘nearly 70% of born-again Christians disagree with the biblical position that Jesus is the only way to God’* (1) In 2008, *Pew Research Center* found more than half of all American Christians believe at least some non-Christian faiths can lead to salvation. A decade later the situation worsened - in a 2018 study of an estimated 176 million American adults who identify as ‘Christian’, only 6% were found to hold a biblical worldview’ (2) Even conservative ‘Evangelical’ pastors and Bible teachers are increasingly favouring the idea that those who have never heard of Christ or the Gospel can still get to Heaven. Many do not realise this is the influence of the earlier heretical Pelagians, Socians and Arminians.

The Numbers

Some estimates have as many as two billion people on planet earth as having limited or no access to the Gospel. Certainly in ages past there have been *millions* of people *who have never heard of Jesus Christ or the Gospel*. Today there are still people groups who have *never heard* of the salvation message. The author has himself met people in Australia and overseas who have never heard of the Saviour Jesus or His Gospel. How can they be saved? Can they be saved some other way other than hearing the good news of Jesus Christ dying as a substitute for their sins and then responding to that? Humanly, logically and emotionally it would seem ‘unfair’ for people to be unable to enter the kingdom of Heaven when they have never heard of Jesus and His Gospel. ...But what does the Bible say?

The Scriptures

Firstly, the Bible bluntly states that *‘ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God’* (Rom.3:23). But further, and *a point missed by many* - all who do not believe in Christ regardless of any reason or circumstances, are *‘ALREADY condemned’* - before they believe! *‘He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God’* (Jn.3:18). Unbelief leaves people in their sinful state. The very next verse states *‘men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil’* (vs.19).

The Bible is objectively clear and blunt in that there is no other way to Heaven except through hearing and believing in Jesus Christ! *‘I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture’*

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(1) *Probe Ministries* polled 3,106 Americans ages 18 to 55 from all religious groups, including 717 respondents who identified as born-again Christians.

(2) *Christian Post*, 22/10

(Jn.10:9); ***‘Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me’*** (Jn.14:6); ***‘Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved’*** (Acts 4:12). There can be no salvation without Christ and faith in Him (Jn.3:16; 17:3; 1Cor.3:11; Heb.11:6) and in his Gospel (Rom.1:16,17; 10:17).

What is often not understood is that those who have never heard of the Gospel are not ‘innocent’. A just judge on earth will not let the breaking of the law go unpunished. How much less will the creator and judge of all the earth let guilty sinners go free of punishment? Sin and sinners cannot be ignored. God’s offer to Adam and Eve was rebelled against in the beginning and God has *deemed to impute that sin to mankind* (Rom.5:12). Every sinner is now *guilty and freely sins from a sin nature* that defies God. They are not forced to sin but *freely* are choosing according to their natural desires (‘free agency’). No one is suddenly innocent because they have not heard the Gospel, or of Christ. Any of our own *‘righteousness’* is still as *‘filthy rags’* to God (Is. 64:6).

The false idea that people are ‘innocent’ who have not heard of Christ is also tested when one looks at lost tribes who for thousands of years never heard the Gospel. If one looks at the spiritual beliefs of at least two groups - the Amazonian Indians and the Australian Aborigines - were they ‘innocent’ with their religious rites, idolatries, fornication, polygamy and shamanistic practices, including murder, infanticide and cannibalism? Morally are they any better than ‘civilised’ peoples who have heard the Gospel and reject it? *All are rightly judged because of their sin nature resident in the heart* (Rom.1:29-32). The Psalmist did not see the heathen as possibly saved or ‘innocent’ when he spoke of them who troubled Israel: ***‘Pour out your wrath upon the heathen that have not known you, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your name’*** (Ps.79:6).

Another false but very common teaching today is that these people can still be saved according to the revelation or ‘light’ they had. Romans chapter 1 is quoted for this. However, what does Romans chapter 1 say and what has Biblical Christianity said down through the ages concerning Romans 1?

Romans chapter 1 says men and women have ***‘held [back] the truth’*** (vs.18); that they have become ***‘fools’*** (vs.22); that they have ***‘changed the truth of God into a lie’*** (vs.25); and that they have ***‘not retained God in their knowledge’*** (vs.28). *This chapter does not affirm that man can be saved by any general revelation of God through nature, but rather it is actually affirming that man is guilty and damned!* It ends with a description of a list of sins that are in every heart (read vs.29-31)! *Romans chapters 1-3 does not save, it damns!*

Chapter 2 continues ***‘Therefore you are inexcusable, O man...But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things’*** (Rom.2:1,2). The context of Romans chapters 1-3 is not salvation but to leave ALL without any excuse. And it gets worse by chapter 3 - no human is left ‘innocent’ regardless of *whether they have had the opportunity to hear the gospel or not*: ***‘They are all under sin...There is none righteous, no, not one...there is none that seeks after God...none that does good, no, not one...that...all the world may become guilty before God’*** (Rom.3:9-19).

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heads and ten horns’

John is ‘*carried away*’ outside of himself (literally ‘*in spirit into the wilderness*’). He ‘*sees*’ and describes a ‘*woman*’. [See vs.7 for description of the ‘*beast*’ and ‘*seven heads and ten horns*’]

Vs.4 ‘The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color...’.

Like a prostitute she is ‘*arrayed*’ to attract. It is difficult not to see this as a religious system rich and pompous in its own right. The scarlet color has been a predominant color of the hats, coats and dressings of the Pope and his Cardinals.

‘and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls...’ - If Rome is being referred to here it certainly does match with its wealth and riches well beyond any other institution on earth. The Vatican has enormous investments and shares in numerous banks and companies throughout the world. Historically it is said to be the largest financial power, wealth accumulator and property owner in existence.

‘having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication’ - like the ancient Babylon (Jer.51:7) this system is full of abominable doctrines and practices.

Vs.5 ‘And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH’

The word ‘*Mystery*’ which is an integral part of the title shows it to be interpreted in a spiritual sense. This is a ‘*mystery*’ religious system but which also has a literal city (vs.18). The author’s book ‘*To Catholics Whom I Love*’ details the connection between the modern Roman Catholic religion and the Babylonian religion of old (see ch.10 ‘*This Babylonian Religion*’. For a further in depth analysis see Alexander Hislop’s ‘*The Two Babylons*’).

Many rituals and pagan practices in the world today stem directly from this Babylonian religion. The ‘*Babylon*’ here is a spiritual (‘*mystery*’) system with roots to a Babylon which was considered the source of false religion, depicted in the title ‘*mother of harlots and abominations of the earth*’. The literal Babylon began after the flood with the tower of Babel and rebellion (Gen.11). Nimrod (Noah’s great grandson) was its leader. It became a centre of Idolatry (Jer.44:15-19) and was rebuked by Jeremiah for such which included the worship of Ishtar and the ‘*Queen of Heaven*’ (Jer.44:20-27).

Nimrod’s mother and later wife - Semiramis, (an incestuous relationship), who had a child Tammuz. In the religion that developed the mother and her son were worshipped. It is a fact that Rome took on many of these pagan characteristics from the countries she dominated. Rome’s Julius Caesar was recognised as ‘*Pontifex Maximus*’ in 63 BC. In AD 378 the Bishop of Rome, (Damasus), was elected to this position of ‘*Pontifex Maximus*’. From here on the Roman Church further took on the mysteries of pagan origin. Pagans worshipped gods associated with days, occupations and events, and the Roman Catholic Church had the same systems adapted to ‘*saints*’. Scapulars, medals, holy water, fish on Friday, Lent, secret confessions and the clothing of Popes are all remnants of paganism.

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In **Part 10** (chapter 15 - *Diakrisis* September/October 2021) we see an introduction to the final horrific 'vial' (bowl) judgements. The angels stand ready. The saints stand in awe and sing in worship to a majestic holy God, but a God of wrath who has warned of such judgements (Joel 2:28-32; Zech.14:1; Mal.4:1-5).

In **Part 11** (chapter 16 - *Diakrisis* November/December 2021) the seven angels, by the authority of God, pour out the final vial (bowl) judgements upon the earth. God dries up the Euphrates to bring his enemies to a final battle. The will of God upon the earth will be 'done' and the truth of the depravity of the heart of man is shown in the continued lack of repentance.

Part 12 Chapter 17

Chapter 17 is a fascinating parenthesis between chapter 16 and 18, pausing to look at what happens during the 7th vial (bowl) judgement. It is essentially a description of the end time world wide false religion, as a tool of the antichrist's (the beast's) kingdom and his master, Satan. Chapter 17 here is the spiritual nature of antichrist's kingdom; chapter 18 is then the physical.

Vs.1,2 *'And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come; I will show unto you the judgment of the great whore that sits upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication'*.

One of the angels of the last judgements calls John to come and view one of the results of the seven vial (bowl) judgements, concerning the 'whore' who controls many 'waters' - that is, 'peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues' (vs.15). The 'kings of the earth' have committed spiritual immorality ('porneia') with this prostitute with whom the 'inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication', (the 'inhabitants of the earth' being a phrase used for unbelievers).

The figurative language here is obvious with the imagery of a prostitute who 'sits' on many 'waters', and unbelievers being made 'drunk' with her 'wine'. The more literal interpretation is given in later verses and again in chapter 18. Jeremiah uses the same language for spiritual adultery: '*Babylon has been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad*' (Jer.51:7).

Most of the Reformers and early commentators saw this description of the 'woman' as being papal Rome. '*What could better describe the influence of Rome on the people of the world, in making them, under these delusions, incapable of sober judgment, and in completely fascinating and controlling all their powers?*' (Barnes). Others in more modern times see this as the apostate ecumenical church.

Vs.3 *'So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven*

Where is the 'light' here in the first few chapters of Romans? Romans teaches no one deserves to be saved!

The '*General Revelation*' in Romans chapter 1 leaves man '*without excuse*' for knowing that there is a God, but it does not save without the '*Special Revelation*' of the Gospel and Jesus Christ being known and understood. Romans Chapter 4 then gives what is needed to be saved to any who will believe - God's plan of justification by faith alone and the double imputation - of sin to Christ and righteousness to man. It is *only* believing in *this righteousness* of God through the substitutionary death and sacrifice of Christ that will settle the penalty of sin and satisfy God for entrance into a perfect, holy and sinless Heaven!

Objections

But '*that's not fair*' one says?...Yet if we are *Fallen* creatures in Adam, *could it be that our thinking is also Fallen*? Against our logic as to why God does not save those who have never heard, let's reverse the logic: why does God save *any* at all? *No one is sent to Hell for simply not hearing about Christ and the Gospel. People are sent to Hell for their sins resident in their hearts.* Romans chapters 1-3 teach people are condemned *on the basis of what they know, not what they don't know!* They are guilty *sinner*s and condemned in Adam.

'*But why cannot God let these people into Heaven?*' one says...Yet if God relented to judge for His law being broken, would He still be the perfect and holy judge by allowing sin and lawlessness to go unpunished? Would even a just judge on earth do this?

'*Why does God not save everyone*' one says...But again, why does he save any? Who is the '*potter*' and who is the '*clay*' in this logic? God answers: '***Is there unrighteousness with God?...You will say then unto me, Why does he yet find fault?...O man, who are you that replies against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why have you made me thus? Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?***' (Rom.9:14,19-21).

False Teaching

On this subject there are prominent authors who deny the scriptures and refute centuries of orthodoxy. Dave Hunt in his writings against 'Calvinism' (misrepresented) states '*no one will spend eternity in the lake of fire because of their sins, they will be there for rejecting Christ and the salvation He obtained and freely offers to all*'. (1) Yet the scriptures are clear that it is man's *sin* and his works that are judged in Hell. Hunt also rejects the scriptural view that people are punished by degrees and according to their works (Matt.11:24; Rev.20:13 cf. Rom.2:5,6). But on Hunt's terms, how can the Amazonian Indians be sent to Hell who for milleniums never heard of Christ, much less as Hunt says for '*rejecting*

(1) '*What Love Is This*', P.248.

Christ and the salvation He obtained and freely offers to all? No doubt there are those who will be in Hell who ‘rejected’ the Gospel upon hearing it, but the lost tribes did not ‘reject the gospel’ they *never heard*. All who end up in Hell will be there *for their sins* resident in their hearts, *whether they heard the Gospel or not*.

Should the reader still think that people who have never heard the Gospel are unfairly treated by God, then again Romans 9:14-24 answers these objections. It may not fit our logic that God will have ‘*mercy on whom he will have mercy*’ (vs.15,18) and that this might not be conferred on all. It is a mystery that God does not explain, except He says that He is the ‘*Potter*’ and we the ‘*clay*’ (Rom.9:21)!

It is difficult for some to understand that a loving God can punish people according to His laws. But as we have seen, no one is ‘innocent’. *All are guilty* and sinful. People today want *a god of love without justice*. But *love without justice is not Godly love* because it is an unbiblical view of the very character of God.

...But let’s talk about justice! If God the Father judged and punished the sinless Jesus, sparing not his own Son, will he spare our sin? Our sin must be punished by a holy righteous judge of all the earth. Either it is justly punished with an eternal separation from the presence of God; or in mercy it is punished in the body of Jesus on the cross before a God who planned a redemption for his people.

The fact that heathens who have never heard of Christ are unsaved was also the very impetus for the establishment of missionary endeavours to reach people with this message of God’s plan for justice! If they can be saved in other ways besides the Gospel then why the Gospel; why evangelism or missions at all; why the scripture ‘*whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*’ (Rom.10:13,14)?

The Scriptures or Logic?

There are no ‘loopholes’ when God says that both *all who ‘know not God’* and *all who have rejected and ‘not obeyed the Gospel’* are to be judged: ‘*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power*’ (2Thess.1:8,9).

We are living in days when the Gospel is steadily being eroded and watered down so as to be palatable to the post-modern liberal man. But the way to salvation has not changed. It is still a call to *believe* in Jesus as the Saviour and *repent* from our Hell bound sins. It is still that Christ died for sinful man as a sacrifice that satisfies the wrath of God upon sin. It is still that Christ is the *only* way, the truth and life, the *only* door to Heaven (Jn.10:9; 14:6) and the only name whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Will we trust in what the scriptures objectively teach and trust in a sovereign righteous God the judge of all; or will we allow our fallen logic to question God on our terms and thus play the role of judge? God forbid!

‘*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*’ (Gen.18:25).

Terry Arnold

In **Part 1** (chapters 1-4 - *Diakrisis* July/August 2019) the intent was to show that the book of Revelation *is to be understood* at least as far as *what John saw and described*. *What is figurative and what is literal can be determined by the language and referencing to other scriptures* (‘scripture interprets scripture’).

It is necessary to have studied the book of Daniel first, as much of Revelation is referenced in that book.

The *timing and the order of events* in the first three chapters are presented as events in John’s day *with a divide in time and order at chapter 4* (see 1:19).

In **Part 2** (chapters 4,5 - *Diakrisis* September/October 2019) we continued to explore *what is ‘literal’ or ‘figurative’* and *why*. This was done by searching the same *symbols, signs and wording* elsewhere.

In **Part 3** (chapters 6-8 - *Diakrisis* July/August 2020) we saw the first of three distinct judgements beginning with seven ‘*seals*’ (ch.6), all increasing in intensity.

In **Part 4** (chapters 8,9 - *Diakrisis* September/October 2020) we saw the second set of seven judgements begin *the Trumpet Judgements* and an increasing intensity in three last graphic ‘*woes*’. A perfect God has a perfect judgement!

In **Part 5** (chapters 9,10 - *Diakrisis* November/December 2020) - The sixth trumpet judgement brings a more severe judgement - *death*. Over half the earth’s population is destroyed in divine judgements! Those left alive are unrepentant.

In **Part 6** (chapter 11 - *Diakrisis* January/February 2021) - the ‘two witnesses’ preach and the antichrist arises amidst signs and wonders, the likes of which have never been seen before since the first coming of Christ.

In **Part 7** (Chapter 12 - *Diakrisis* March/April 2021) - Symbols, signs and figurative language refer to Israel and the great battle between God and evil. The war in Heaven becomes a war on earth against God’s elect nation and his saints. This chapter summarises a part of what is called the time of ‘Jacob’s Trouble’.

In **Part 8** (Chapter 13 - *Diakrisis* May/June 2021) - The antichrist and the false prophet arise with their ‘mark of the beast’. They are given power by God to do great signs and wonders. Authority is given to the beast to slaughter the saints. There will be false worship of the beast. Prophecy will reach a climax...

In **Part 9** (Chapter 14 - *Diakrisis* July/August 2021) - Chapters 12-14 are an interlude before returning to the judgements. A literal 144,000 Jewish evangelists from the *tribes of Israel* (7:4-8) preach a final ‘*everlasting Gospel*’ to the whole world. Their redemption then comes with worship and singing a ‘*new song*’ (vs.8,9).

Armageddon is foreshadowed with God’s fury to be finally poured out in full.