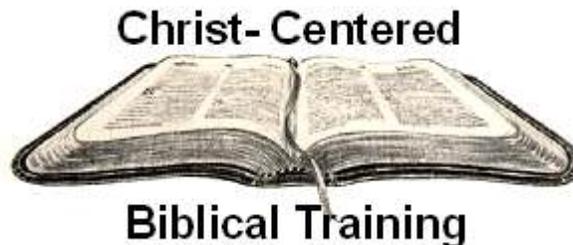


Revelation's events unfold according to a seven-sealed scroll. These events unfold in a similar manner and sequence as to what happened to the Old Testament Jews. Thus, the events unfold in a Pattern Sequence. I call my prophetic view the Pattern View.

THE PATTERN SEQUENCE OF REVELATION

THE PATTERN VIEW OF PROPHECY
(Chapter Five of my book: *Watchman Warning;*
A Detailed Development and Analysis of Revelation)

by
John M. Stephenson
1994; 2006



The Church has over six views of end-time Bible prophecy (eschatology) with conflicting tenets. They all cannot be correct. The Church does not have a consolidated view. This report brings a candidate for this needed consolidated view. It shows that Revelation's events unfold in a Pattern Sequence that terminates history. These are the events of Revelation's seven-sealed scroll which are required for Christ to win back the title deed of the earth from Satan. As this is determined by the heavenly court, it awards Christ the legal authority, according to God's Plan, to rapture the Church and bring the resurrections and the final judgments.

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Scriptures quoted are taken from the New American Standard Bible.

See the glossary for definitions and understanding of the terms used.

Note: This report is chapter five of my book: *Watchman Warning* (1994). A very few items were undated in 2006 and are so identified. The details are summarized in my other book: *Watchman, How Far Gone is the Night?* (1995). We encourage you to read these books for more detail and breadth for greater background and more complete understanding. They are available by contacting the above.

This chapter is written for those who have some knowledge of the issues and doctrines in prophecy. Those wanting a more beginning view can read *Watchman, How Far Gone is the Night?*

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Biblical Training

2 Chronicles 16:9;
Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6

THE PATTERN SEQUENCE OF REVELATION

THE PATTERN VIEW OF PROPHECY
(Detailed Development and Analysis of
Revelation)

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John M. Stephenson
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1994; updated 2006

CHAPTER FIVE OF MY BOOK: *WATCHMAN WARNING* ENTITLED: THE PATTERN SEQUENCE OF REVELATION

DISCUSSION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Pattern Sequence in Revelation is a key concept of the Pattern View of Prophecy because God uses it to end human history, and it provides understanding that a Watchman Warning must be proclaimed. This chapter first develops the general sequence of Revelation based on the seven-sealed book, whose seals are broken one at a time by Christ. Then the endtime Pattern Sequence is developed, beginning with Israel's sequence, that the Bible uses as a model for the one in Revelation. These developments are followed by the identification of the endtime entities that God uses in the endtimes scene. [Figure 5-1](#) shows an overview of Revelation's Pattern Sequence. The detailed events of the endtime Pattern Sequence are taken from Israel's Pattern Sequence and are presented in Appendix A, "Detailed Description of the Unfolding Endtimes."

THE SEQUENCE OF REVELATION

The general sequence of Revelation is found in the Lord's instructions to the apostle John.

Revelation 1:19 - "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things."

A summary of Revelation's general chronological sequence is:

The things which you have seen:

1. Heavenly scenes that John saw from the past (Revelation 1).
2. Happenings near the time of Christ's earthly birth and ministry (Revelation 12).

The things which are:

3. The churches that existed in John's day, in about A.D. 96 (Revelation 2; 3).

The things which shall take place after these things:

1. The opening of the seven-sealed book (Revelation 4; 5).
2. The happenings of the first six seals (Revelation 6).
3. A commentary on Revelation beginning with the events of the seventh seal (Revelation 14).
4. The events of the seventh seal with the first six trumpets (Revelation 7-10), the destruction of

The Pattern Sequence of Revelation

the seventh Babylon the Great (Revelation 17; 18), and the Great Tribulation and the mark-of-the-Beast periods (Revelation 7; 11; 13).

5. The seventh trumpet's events (Revelation 11:15-18) that occur at Christ's Second Coming (Revelation 11:15-19; 19), and the pouring out of the bowls and the destruction of the eighth Babylon the Great (Revelation 15; 16).
6. The final judgment and eternal state of unbelievers (Revelation 20).
7. The eternal state for believers (Revelation 21; 22).

The Seven-Sealed Book

The seven-sealed book (scroll) controls and sequences the events of Revelation using seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. Christ breaks the book's seals, one at a time, that allows the endtimes to unfold. God showed the pattern for the seals, trumpets, and bowls in the battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-4, 12-21). This established the biblical pattern that after a series of six, a series of sevens come out of the seventh.

Thus, the sequence of the seals, trumpets, and bowls is as follows (refer to [Figure 5-2](#) and [Figure 5-3](#)):

1. There will be a series of six sequential periods defined by the events of the first six seals.
2. The events of the seven trumpets will occur as those of the seventh seal — seven trumpets come out of the seventh seal after a series of six seals.

Revelation 8:1, 2 - And when He broke the seventh seal ... I saw the seven angels who stand before God; and seven trumpets were given to them.

The angels did not receive the seven trumpets until **after** the seventh seal was broken.

3. After the series of six trumpets, the events of the seven bowls occur as those of the seventh trumpet — seven bowls come out of the seventh trumpet after a series of six trumpets.

Revelation 11:15, 19 - And the seventh angel sounded ... and the temple of God which is in heaven was opened.

Revelation 15:5-8 - After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple ... and one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God ... and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

The angels are not given the bowls until after the temple in heaven is opened. This occurs after the seventh trumpet sounds.

The Signs

Revelation uses phrases that contain the terms: "lightnings," "thunders," "voices," and "earthquakes." These phrases are associated with the seals, trumpets, and bowls and help sequence them. They are used as follows:

1. Before the opening of the seven-sealed book, and thus, before the events of the seven seals (Revelation 4:5).
2. After the seventh seal and before the events of the seven trumpets (Revelation 8:5).

The Pattern Sequence of Revelation

3. After the seventh trumpet sounds and before the events of the seven bowls (Revelation 11:19).
4. After the events of the seventh bowl, that are the final judgments on the earth (Revelation 16:17, 18).

The lightnings, thunders, voices, and earthquakes are signs of God's coming judgments. Because the signs occur before the trumpet events, the judgments that follow are the seventh-seal events. Because the signs occur before the bowl events, the judgments that follow are the seventh-trumpet events. The signs are also for the seventh-bowl judgment events. The sign sequence confirms that the seven trumpets come out of the seventh seal and that the seven bowls come out of the seventh trumpet.

The Five Visions

Revelation's organization can further be seen from the five visions given to John in the spirit:

1. John was told to write something in a book and send it to the seven churches. He wrote the Son of God's instructions, as seen in a heavenly vision (Revelation 1:10). John is shown the churches that existed in his day and what the Lord thought of them.
2. John was caught up to heaven to see a heavenly scene of the Son of God on His throne and to learn of the seven-sealed book. The vision describes the contents of the sealed book including the contents of the seals, trumpets, and bowls (Revelation 4:2). This vision covers the section of Revelation from 4:1 through 16:21 and **shows the judgment process, or the steps that make the judgments happen, bringing Christ's Second Coming and the end of humanity.**
3. John was carried away into the wilderness to see God's judgment on the seven-headed Beast's operation and the other specific personages. The wilderness refers to the place where Satan works (Revelation 12:6, 14; 17:3). This vision is recorded in 17:1 through 21:8 and shows **upon whom the judgments will take place.** Those judged are Babylon the Great, the Beast, the False Prophet, the unbelieving world, and the believers in Christ.
4. John was carried away to a great and high mountain to see the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven and God (Revelation 21:10). This vision, which **shows the eternal state or end place** for believers in Christ, is recorded in 21:9 through 22:5. God excludes unbelievers from the city.
5. The final vision is the epilogue. There is no reference to the catching away by the spirit or the sound of a trumpet (Revelation 22:6). The vision contains **the final comments** of the Lord Jesus Christ to His church.

After These Things

Revelation has many references to the phrase "after these things" (meta tauta in the Greek). The phrase conveys the idea that what happens now occurs at some general time following the previous revelation. It does not necessarily mean immediately after; it could happen any time afterward. These references for meta tauta are:

1. *Revelation 1:19 - "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place **after these things.**"*

Christ told John to write the things that shall take place "after these things." These events occur **after** are those recorded in chapters 1, 2, and 3. They occur after the period of the seven churches that existed in A.D. 96 when Revelation was written.

The Pattern Sequence of Revelation

2. *Revelation 4:1 - **After these things** I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place **after these things**."*

John told us that the events of chapter 4, beginning with his being caught up to heaven, occur **after** the events of chapters 1, 2 and 3. They occur at some indefinite time after the events of A.D. 96.

3. *Revelation 7:1 - **After this** I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind should blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.*

John told us that the vision of the sealing of the 144,000 (becoming believers) happens **after** the sixth seal is broken at the time when the angels were standing at the four corners of the earth. The sealing probably occurs before the seventh seal is broken because the seventh seal is not broken until chapter 8.

4. *Revelation 7:9 - **After these things** I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands ...*

After the vision of the 144,000 Jews, believers from all nations begin to die in the Great Tribulation which probably begins with the first six trumpets. This vision teaches that the believers die after the 144,000 (and probably all believers) become believers and are sealed by God (the Holy Spirit).

5. *Revelation 9:12 - The first Woe is past; behold, two Woes are coming **after these things** [the events of the fifth trumpet].*

The second woe, the coming of the large army at the time of the sixth trumpet, the seventh trumpet (Rapture), and the final judgments come **after** the locusts of the fifth-trumpet events.

6. *Revelation 15:5 - **After these things** I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened ...*

The pouring out of the seven bowls of wrath occurs **after** the saints get to heaven who will have had victory over the Beast, his image, and name. Thus, the bowls are poured out after the mark-of-the-Beast period.

7. *Revelation 18:1, 2 - **After these things** I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.*

Revelation 17 describes the fall of Babylon the Great. Revelation 18 begins a replay **after** Babylon the Great has fallen. It begins by saying that Babylon the Great has already fallen.

8. *Revelation 19:1 - **After these things** I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God ...*

Sometime **after** the events of Revelation 18, the events of Revelation 19 occur. In chapter 19, John says that Babylon the Great has been judged. She is probably judged (Revelation 18) at the devastating calamity before the mark-of-the-Beast period because this is the sequence in Revelation 14:8, 9. Another Babylon the Great is judged after the mark-of-the-Beast period in Revelation 16:19 and after Christ comes in Revelation 16:15. Babylon the

The Pattern Sequence of Revelation

Great in Revelation 19:1-4 appears not to be the one in Revelation 16:19 because Christ comes (1) then as a thief after the events in the early verses of Revelation 19 that declare that Babylon the Great was judged; (2) after the marriage of the Lamb and the Beast period (Revelation 19:7, 19, 20); (3) but before the Babylon the Great is judged in Revelation 16:19. There appears to be a hiatus of time representing the mark-of-the-Beast period between verses four and five. Verse five gives a break and begins a new subject. This conclusion being true means there are two Babylons the Great existing during the endtime events of Revelation. One is destroyed in Revelation 18; the other is destroyed in Revelation 16. The first one rides the Beast with the seventh head, and the second, the Beast with the eighth head.

9. *Revelation 20:3 - and threw him [Satan] into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; **after these things** he must be released for a short time.*

Satan must be released from prison sometime after the 1000 years are over.

The Three Woes

Revelation's woes provide sequence information.

Revelation 8:13 - And I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in mid-heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth; because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

These woes come after the first four trumpet events. The first woe is the event of the fifth trumpet (Revelation 8:13; 9:12). This event includes the attack of the locusts with the power of scorpions. The second woe ends when the two witnesses are taken to heaven after the events of the sixth trumpet (Revelation 11:14). The period of the second woe includes the terrible events in the sixth-trumpet and Beast periods. These two periods are part of the Great Tribulation. The third woe is the judgment given to the earth at the seventh trumpet sounding, following the Rapture (Revelation 11:14). The third woe includes the period of the bowls.

The Sea of Glass

The sea of glass is empty in Revelation 4, but in Revelation 15:2, just before the bowls are poured out, it contains the believers who were victorious over the Beast, his mark, and name. Believers are also said to stand in heaven after having died in the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:9). The Great Tribulation includes the mark-of-the-Beast period. In both references, believers are now in heaven during or after the mark-of-the-Beast period. Thus, the time of the bowls occurs after the mark-of-the-Beast period. Because the seventh trumpet sounds immediately after the mark of the Beast period, it most likely sounds before the period of the bowls.

Summary of Revelation's Sequence

The above teachings confirm the following:

1. The events of Revelation 4 occur after the time that Revelation was written, as revealed to John. Thus, the seals of the seven-sealed book are broken after A.D. 96.
2. The 144,000 live during the period of the Beast with the seventh head (before the Great Tribulation) and are sealed (saved) after the first six seals, but before the beginning of the seventh.
3. The seventh seal brings devastation in discipline upon the church and the world. The seventh trumpet brings the deliverance of believers and devastation in retribution upon unbelievers.

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4. The seventh trumpet (the time of the Rapture) can only occur after the Beast period.
5. The bowls are poured out after the Beast period.
6. Christ's Second Coming occurs after the Babylon the Great of Revelation 18 is destroyed.
7. The events of the seventh bowl terminate history at the time when all unbelievers are killed.

The general sequential outline of Revelation's endtime events is given in chapter 14:

1. The 144,000, after having died, are standing in heaven with Christ. They may have died during the trumpet events. (The only way they could get to heaven is either by having died or by having been raptured.) They are in heaven before the mark-of-the-Beast period begins, according to the sequence in Revelation 14. Thus, they do not preach the gospel during the time of the mark-of-the-Beast period, though they may during the fifth-seal period. The Bible does not state that they preach the gospel at any time. (Revelation 14:1-5.)
2. The announcement that the preaching of Christ's everlasting gospel by the angel to all nations occurs prior to the fall of the seventh Babylon the Great (the seventh of the series of Babylon the Greats, but the first one that occurs during the events of Revelation) and the mark-of-the-Beast period. This gospel may have been preached by the means of acts of God given out through the trumpet events. (Revelation 14:6, 7.)
3. The announcement that the fall of Babylon the Great occurs after the everlasting gospel period, but before the mark-of-the-Beast period (Revelation 14:8).
4. The announcement that anyone who takes the mark of the Beast will receive God's severe judgment (they no longer can be saved). This period follows the fall of the seventh Babylon the Great. (Revelation 14:9-11.)
5. The announcement that those saints who persevere to obey God and die in the Lord during the mark-of-the-Beast period will be blessed of God. This shows that the church is on earth during the Beast period. (Revelation 14:11, 13.)
6. The announcement that the final judgment comes on the entire earth after the Beast period and after the heavenly temple is opened. This occurs when Christ and the angels reap unbelievers from the earth with a sickle and kill them in a wine press operation. In the wine press, the people's blood flows to the horses' bridle height in a complete annihilation. This occurs at Armageddon, when the earthly armies battle against Christ and His heavenly armies. (Revelation 14:14-20.)

Thus, in summary, Revelation's sequence is ordered by the seals, trumpet, and bowls as illustrated in [Figure 5-2](#) and [Figure 5-3](#). There are two periods of great apostasy in this sequence, that follow two sets of wars. The apostasy of the fifth seal follows the war of the fourth seal. The apostasy of the mark-of-the-Beast period follows the wars of the first six trumpets. The final wars of the bowls, including Armageddon, follow the mark-of-the-Beast period.

ISRAEL'S PATTERN SEQUENCES

The sequence of the events in Revelation follows a similar pattern that happened to Israel. This sequence was repeated many times during the period of the judges. It happened in a major way after Israel was divided into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.

In the united kingdom, Kings Saul, David, and Solomon ruled Israel during general prosperity and gradually increasing apostasy. The apostasy greatly increased in King Solomon's reign. After his death, Israel's Kingdom became divided into Northern and southern Kingdoms. They were called Israel and Judah, respectively. Both kingdoms remained under the Palestinian Everlasting

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Covenant relationship. Both kingdoms were brought to their ends using Pattern Sequences, as part of the covenant relationship.

Pattern Sequence in the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Because of increased apostasy, God used the Assyrian northern-army under Tiglath-pileser III to bring calamity against the Northern Kingdom in 743 B.C. (2 Kings 15:19, 20). Assyria won the war. The Jewish King Menahem became a vassal king and paid tribute. He became the Assyrian king's servant, but was allowed to reign and maintain his own army. This vassal arrangement was an early level of discipline. [Figure 5-4](#) shows the Pattern Sequence of the Northern Kingdom.

The apostasy increased (Amos 3:11-9:12) as the king and the people committed the sins of Jeroboam. The sins of Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25-33) were those of developing a counterfeit religious system that encouraged people to worship falsely in the Northern Kingdom and not return to Jerusalem and worship the way God required. The people's response took the nation into apostasy.

During the vassal kingship, the apostasy increased by continuing the sins of Jeroboam. The increased apostasy and rebellion brought back the Assyrian king, Tiglath-pileser III, to recapture the Northern Kingdom in 734 B.C. Again, the Assyrian king permitted the vassal kingship to continue (2 Kings 15:30; 17:3). Again, the apostasy increased, causing Israel's final king, Hoshea, to revolt against Assyria by making a pact with Egypt. At this time, Assyria's Shalmaneser V marched on Israel and laid siege to the capital city of Samaria in 724 B.C. The city fell in 722 B.C., and King Hoshea and others were taken to Assyria.

Many Assyrians were brought to Israel to intermingle and bring stability under an Assyrian ruler. The Jews intermarried with the Assyrians and became known as the Samaritans.

In the Pattern Sequence of the Northern Kingdom, there was a sequence of three calamities with country takeovers as the apostasy increased. The last was a devastating calamity that destroyed the kingdom, consisting of death by war, famine, disease, pestilence, and attacks by wild beasts (Jeremiah 15:2, 3; 24:10; Ezekiel 5:3, 12, 17; 6:11, 12).

After this devastating calamity, God never reinstated the Northern Kingdom as a covenant nation, because the people did not repent and agree to return to God in obedience, as the Palestinian Everlasting Covenant required (Leviticus 26:40-45; Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Nehemiah 1:4-11; Hosea 5:15). Because the people of the Northern Kingdom refused to return to God, He gave them as a covenant nation a writ of divorce (Jeremiah 3:8). This terminated the Northern Kingdom as a covenant nation from all its covenants and special relationships with God. The divorce did not mean that Jews from the Northern Kingdom did not remain in Israel or did not migrate to Jerusalem to be there in the time of Christ. God brought individuals from the northern kingdom back to the Southern Kingdom from Assyria (Isaiah 27:13). They were certainly there on the Day of Pentecost as Peter addressed the men of Judea and the men and house of Israel (Acts 2:14, 22, 36). Jews from both houses of Israel and Judah — from both Northern and Southern kingdoms — were saved on the Day of Pentecost. The fact that Jews of the Northern Kingdom were in the Southern Kingdom, does not mean that the Northern Kingdom as a covenant nation continued.

Pattern Sequence in the Southern Kingdom of Judah

After the kingdom was divided, apostasy also increased in the Southern Kingdom. Because of her apostasy resulting in a lack of spiritual discernment, Judah under King Josiah attacked Egypt and lost the war (609 B.C.). Judah became a vassal kingdom to Egypt under King Eliakim, whom Egypt renamed Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim paid tribute to Egypt (2 Kings 23:34-37; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27; 36:1-4). Jeremiah began his prophesying under Kings Josiah and Jehoiakim (Jeremiah

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1:1-3). The war with Egypt was not part of a calamity, in which the enemy came against Judah to bring discipline. Instead it was one that Judah lost because it attacked in the midst of her apostasy. The principle is that when great sin exists, people lose battles they should win. This is similar to what happened much earlier, in the first battle of Ai (Joshua 7).

As in the Northern Kingdom, a national religion was installed that caused the people to worship falsely. This greatly increased their apostasy. It caused many to bow to idols and shed innocent blood. The religion was designed to prevent people from finding true faith in God. Many who had true faith were killed. The actions of this apostasy were called the sins of Manasseh. Manasseh was the king of Judah at the time the religion was initiated (2 Kings 21:11-17).

The apostasy greatly increased under King Jehoiakim. This caused God to bring Babylon's army from the north in the first calamity against the Southern Kingdom in 605 B.C. (2 Kings 24:1-4; 1 Chronicles 9:1; 2 Chronicles 36:6, 7; Daniel 1:1-7). Babylon defeated the armies of both Judah and Egypt. God placed Judah under Babylon's rule under divine discipline for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:7-11).

[Figure 5-5](#) shows the Southern Kingdom's Pattern Sequence and her 70-year captivity period. References to the 70 years of captivity are found in Jeremiah 25:11, 12; 29:10, and Daniel 9:2. Jeremiah 25:12 states that Babylon would be destroyed when the 70 years were completed.

Jeremiah 25:12 - "Then it will be when the seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation," declares the Lord ...

Babylon was destroyed in 538 B.C according to Anstey, p. 231, and in 539 B.C. according to Wood, p. 388, Finegan, p. 212, and Pfeiffer, p. 609. Daniel 9:1 states that Daniel made his prayer in about 538 B.C. after the conquest of Persia over Babylon in the reign of Darius the Mede, King of Persia. This was about two years before he received the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks and the return of the Jews to Jerusalem by the decree of Cyrus. (See Appendix B, "Daniel's Seventy Weeks" for more detail.)

Jeremiah 29:10 - For thus says the Lord, "When the seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My words to you, to bring you back to this place [Jerusalem]."

The Jews were returned to Israel after the 70 years were completed. The Jews returned to Israel in the first year of Cyrus the Great (Ezra 1). According to Anstey, p. 264 in the charts and p. 119 in the text in his book, the Jews returned to Israel in the first year of Cyrus when He was sole ruler of Persia in 536 B.C. This date ended the 70 year captivity.

Because of the following Scripture, however, some interpreters have assumed that the 70 year captivity started when Jerusalem was devastated in 586 B.C.:

Jeremiah 25:11 - and this whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations [including Israel] shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

The desolation and horror referred to in the passage refers to the concept that Israel will be attacked by foreign troops and will be without sovereign rule and will be under divine discipline. Desolation is used in Jeremiah 4:27, 9:11, 10:22, and 12:11, and 19:8 to refer to Babylon's initial invasion. Thus, such terms of desolation and horror need not mean total destruction as happened when Babylon devastated Jerusalem, though these terms can mean this such as used in Leviticus 26:34, 35.

The passage in Jeremiah 25:1-15 does not teach that the 70 years begin when Jerusalem and Israel are devastated in 586 B.C., but instead the 70 years begin when Babylon first invaded in 606 or 605 B.C. and end when Babylon is destroyed in about 536-539 B.C.

Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon at this first calamity (Daniel 1:1-7). Judah was

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allowed self rule under a vassal king and permitted to maintain her army. This began the sequence of God's discipline against the Jews of the Southern Kingdom for their apostasy and disobedience.

Similarly as what happened in the Northern Kingdom, the Southern Kingdom became increasingly sinful, apostate, and rebellious. This caused the Southern Kingdom also to experience three calamities with each followed by discipline periods. [Figure 5-5](#) shows these periods. The prophets warned the people **again and again** of their apostasy and coming judgment (Jeremiah 25:3, 4). As the apostasy became increasingly worse, God brought the Babylonian armies back, inflicting two more calamities (597 and 586 B.C.). Ezekiel was taken to Babylon and began his ministry as a Watchman during the second attack on Israel.

During the third calamity, the armies devastated Jerusalem, the temple, and the land and put the nation under a Babylonian ruler. Again, they took many Jews into exile in Babylon. The discipline and exile continued until the 70-year disciplinary period was completed. At that time, God brought the Jews back into the land after they repented. He also brought retribution-war upon Babylon for her iniquity and for attacking God's people. As a result, God made her an everlasting desolation (Jeremiah 25:12). Isaiah 13 describes the war on Babylon that was a Day-of-the-Lord judgment by means of the Medes and Persians, about two years before the Jews were returned to Israel by the decree of King Cyrus.

The retribution-judgment is promised by God in the covenant He gave to Abraham. The covenant provided that any nation that cursed His people, He would curse. This is fair to Babylon because, even though God used the nation to take Judah into exile, the people of Babylon also had great sin.

The account of the Jews returning to the land after the exile to rebuild the city and temple is presented in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. After this time, except for the book of Daniel, the Bible is silent until the Gospel Period. During the silent period, the Greeks and Romans conquered Israel. The book of Daniel presents information concerning Israel's history during this period. Israel was under Roman rule when Christ came and when the Church Period began. Most of the Jews were in apostasy during the time of Christ. The leaders formally rejected His rule when they made the blood covenant at His Crucifixion. This brought God's divorce of the Southern Kingdom at the Cross. God withheld His judgment of Israel for having Christ crucified for 40 years. Then He brought the Romans against Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70 as depicted by the Olivet Discourse.

Comments on Israel's Pattern Sequences

The charts in both [Figure 5-4](#) and [Figure 5-5](#) show that the periods from the first calamity to the devastating calamity in the Pattern Sequences of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms lasted about 20 years. This gives an indication that the same period in Revelation's sequence (the period of the fifth seal) may last also about 20 years. It may take that long for the magnitude of the apostasy to develop to the level that requires God's judgment of a devastating calamity.

THE ENDTIME PATTERN SEQUENCE

Revelation is known to contain a Pattern Sequence because the nomenclature of vocabulary, wording, phrases, events, and principles used in Revelation are similar to the ones used in Israel's Pattern Sequence. These are called "Identifiers." Thus, the Pattern Sequence of Israel with its events forms a model for the Pattern Sequence of Revelation with its events. In Israel's time, the Pattern Sequence occurred as a result of a covenant relationship. **Thus, the existence of the endtime Pattern Sequence implies that an endtime nation has a covenant relationship with God - though the Bible does not declare one to be in existence.** It is an endtime nation because the Pattern Sequence does not begin until near the end of the Church Age when Christ returns. The seals are not broken until some time after the period of the churches in apostle John's day, or after A.D. 96.

**Pattern-Sequence Identifiers
Sequence Revelation and
Show How the End Will Come**

The Old Testament Pattern-Sequence Identifiers, as found in Revelation and other New Testament books, will now be presented. [Figure 5-6](#) summarizes these Identifiers. In the following sections, they are shown in sequence according to the order of Israel's Pattern Sequence with both Old and New Testament references.

**The Watchman Is Given a Vision of Heaven
in a Time of Greatly Increased Apostasy**

God gave Isaiah and Ezekiel heavenly visions so that they, as Watchmen, could warn the people. The apostle John was given similar visions showing that he also was called to be a Watchman. The visions in Revelation 4 and 5 do not refer to the time of the Rapture. Instead, they show the Watchman that people are in great apostasy, requiring judgment. Thus, a Watchman Warning must be given. The visions are:

1. The prophet saw the heavens opened and was caught up by the Spirit.
OT: Ezekiel 1:1; 8:3.
NT: Revelation 4:1, 2.
2. The prophet was lifted and taken up by the Spirit. He heard a great trumpet sound behind him.
OT: Ezekiel 3:12-14; 8:3.
NT: Revelation 4:1, 2.
3. The prophet saw a man with an appearance of fire in heaven. From His loins and upward was the appearance of brightness, like glowing metal.
OT: Ezekiel 1:26-28; 8:2.
NT: Revelation 1:15.
4. The prophet saw living creatures in heaven with wings and four faces (one face as a man, another as an eagle, another as a bull, and still another as a lion).
OT: Isaiah 6:2, 3; Ezekiel 1:5-14.
NT: Revelation 4:6, 7, 8.
5. The prophet saw fire flashing (like lightning), continually, out of a storm coming from the north, and a bright light all around it.
OT: Ezekiel 1:4.
NT: Revelation 4:5.
6. The prophet saw a heavenly throne and a rainbow about the throne.
OT: Isaiah 6:1; Ezekiel 1:26-28.
NT: Revelation 4:2-6.
7. The prophet saw an expanse, or sea of glass, near the throne.
OT: Ezekiel 1:22-26.
NT: Revelation 4:6.

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8. The prophet was handed a scroll with woes and lamentations written on its front and back.

OT: Ezekiel 2:9, 10.

NT: Revelation 5:1; 10:2, 8.

9. The prophet was to eat the scroll, that would be sweet as honey in his mouth. But later, it would become bitter in his stomach.

OT: Ezekiel 3:1-3.

NT: Revelation 10:9, 10.

10. The prophets were to speak to Israel and the nations. The New Testament prophet was to speak to all the nations.

OT: Jeremiah 1:5; Ezekiel 3:4-7; 25-32; 33:1, 2, 7.

NT: Revelation 10:11; 11:6, 7, 9.

During the Time of Great Apostasy and Divine Discipline After the First Calamity War

1. Scoffing leaders believe that things will always be as they have been in the past. They may see things getting worse relative to freedoms and righteous living, but they will not believe that devastating calamity and war are coming for the reason of their apostasy, sin, immorality, and false worship because the apostasy and sin have made them spiritually blind. They will not believe that invading armies will ever come to take them over — thus, they will continue to disobey God. The Bible says that, by their actions, they will make a covenant with death. This most likely implies that they no longer can be saved.

OT: Isaiah 28:14, 15.

NT: 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

The New Testament reference has a similar connotation in 2 Peter 3. It refers to the coming of calamity with war. It refers to discipline that extends from the time of the fifth-seal period to a time after the Great Tribulation, when the final Day-of-the-Lord judgment comes upon all nations. This occurs at Christ's Second Coming, when He comes as a thief in the night.

2. During great apostasy, the prophet and the people ask how long the period when the people do not have spiritual discernment will last. God told Isaiah it would last until cities and the land were devastated, although his ministry did not extend to the end of this period. John was told that it would last until all the believers who were to die in this period had died. The period described in Isaiah, for Isaiah's message, and the one in Revelation runs from the first calamity to the devastating calamity.

OT: Isaiah 6:6-12.

NT: Revelation 6:9-11.

The People Realize That God's Devastating Calamity with War Is Coming As Precursory Signs of Coming Calamity and War Are Revealed

1. The people will hide in caves, holes in the ground, and among the rocks and clefts of the mountains, away from the terror of the Lord and the splendor of His majesty.

OT: Isaiah 2:10, 19, 21; Jeremiah 4:29.

NT: Revelation 6:15.

2. The people will say to the mountains, "*Fall on us and cover us*"

OT: Hosea 10:8.

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NT: Revelation 6:16.

These events and signs are warnings that the devastating calamity and war are coming as God's Day-of-the-Lord judgment.

At the Time God Brings Devastating Calamity and War on His People for Their Apostasy and Disobedience, the Following Happen:

1. Freedom will be no longer. God will bring His calamity on His people; He will not delay. God performs what He said He would do.

OT: Ezekiel 12:25, 28 (Israel into bondage).

NT: Revelation 10:5, 6.

2. "One-third" happenings come as signs of devastating calamity with war coming on God's people. In the Old Testament, one-third die by the sword, one-third die by fire, and one-third are scattered to the wind.

OT: Ezekiel 5:2, 12.

NT: Revelation 8:7-12; 9:15, 18.

3. People will die by the sword, famine, disease, pestilence, and by wild beasts. Disaster will follow disaster.

OT: Deuteronomy 28:20-26; Psalm 79:1-3; Jeremiah 7:33; 11:21-23; 12:9; 15:2, 3; 16:4; 19:7-9; 24:10; 29:17; 32:24, 36; 34:17; 43:8-13 (Egypt); Ezekiel 5:3, 12, 17; 6:11, 12; 7:5; 14:21; 39:23.

NT: Revelation 6:8; 17:16, 17; 18:7, 8, 15.

These events occur during any calamity with war. The calamity and wars during the endtimes come in two stages instead of three stages as they did to Jerusalem in the Old Testament. The above Scriptures refer to different calamity-wars. They refer to the earlier ones as well as the one that devastated Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 28:20-26; Revelation 6:8). In the endtimes, the first stage is a governmental and country takeover by the Internationalists (Babylon the Great: Revelation 17). The takeover leads to a greater apostasy and false worship (Revelation 6:8, 9). The second stage is a devastating calamity and war (Revelation 8; 9). This calamity and war result in a despotic dictatorship under the rule of the Beast, using the mark-of-the-Beast system. At the height of great apostasy in the fifth-seal period, as the devastating calamity and war come, cities are burned. There is a shortage of food and water. People will not have their basic needs met (Isaiah 1:7; 5:5, 6).

4. God will bring calamity and war against Israel, the endtime covenant nation, and the city of Babylon the Great in the sight of all the nations because they had more turmoil than the surrounding nations. They are the center of nations.

OT: Ezekiel 5:5-8, 11; 22:14-22.

NT: Revelation 18:9-20.

Typically when a nation of God becomes sinful in covenant relationships, its sin becomes worse than that of any of the surrounding heathen nations, although the sin of the surrounding nations is also severe. This is a commentary on the United States.

5. The end is coming on the four corners of the earth. God will judge everyone according to their ways and bring their abominations on them without pity.

OT: Ezekiel 7:2.

NT: Revelation 7:1-3; 9:14, 15.

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6. The buyer and seller will lose everything and not regain it as long as they live.

OT: Ezekiel 7:12, 13.

NT: Revelation 18:11, 15-20.

When the devastating calamity and war come, all trading, buying, and selling will stop. Money becomes valueless. Whatever people have, will be taken away from them. They will never regain it.

7. Neither the general people nor the environment are harmed with devastating calamity until the elect (those who are living) believe and are sealed with God's seal on their foreheads. Afterward, the rest of the people are tormented or killed, regardless of their age or station in life.

OT: Ezekiel 9:1-11.

NT: Ephesians 1:13; Revelation 7:1-3; 9:3-6.

The calamity was not to come until God sealed all the elect. All who are to be saved become so, before the devastating calamity. This is true because most of the covenant nation's people are killed during the war. Many of these, the Bible says, die in the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:9-13).

8. God feeds poisonous water, containing wormwood, to those who go into apostasy and worship false gods.

OT: Deuteronomy 29:17, 18; Jeremiah 8:14; 9:13-15; 23:13-15.

NT: Revelation 8:10, 11.

9. In divine discipline, God sends locusts to destroy the crops. In the New Testament, the locusts hurt the people.

OT: Joel 1:4-7; 2:3-11, 25.

NT: Revelation 9:3, 7-10.

10. When divine discipline comes, God removes the joy of living, expressed as the voices of joy, rejoicing, gladness, the bridegroom, and the bride from His people. He removes the sound of the millstone and the light of the lamp.

OT: Jeremiah 7:34; 16:9; 25:10; 33:11.

NT: Revelation 18:21-24.

When the discipline comes, the joy of living is removed from the earth. People can no longer do, have, or be what they desire. Their wealth is taken from them. Their right to manage their own lives is removed.

11. The angels are held at the four corners of the earth to bring destruction on those in apostasy and disobedience to God.

OT: Ezekiel 7:1.

NT: Revelation 9:13-21.

After the Last Part of the Discipline Period, God Delivers His People from Their Enemies: In the Old Testament, He Delivered Them from Exile to the Land, and in the New Testament, He Delivers Them in the Rapture to be with Christ

There are several New Testament references below that teach the Resurrection and Rapture of the church. These contain expressions, quotations, or conditions from the Old Testament, which

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occurred at the end of a divine discipline period, when the Jews were to be delivered. Because the Bible references these, it teaches clearly that the Resurrection and Rapture of the church will occur **after** the coming divine discipline or the final Great Tribulation period. (The passages in Isaiah 25 and 26 could refer to the end of the Church Age, as an alternative interpretation. The conclusions are the same.)

1. God gives hope to His people and promise of being restored to Him in fellowship after the discipline period. (God will gather them from all the nations into which they were scattered.)

OT: Isaiah 25:9; Jeremiah 29:11-14.

NT: Matthew 24:31; Mark 13:27; Luke 21:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Titus 2:13, 14.

2. The Lord gathers His people from exile and discipline with the blowing of a great trumpet.

OT: Isaiah 27:12, 13.

NT: Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 11:15, 18.

The people are restored to God from the nations after the discipline period. They are gathered from the east and the west, the north and the south, from the far corners of the earth and from heaven's remotest parts. In the Old Testament, they are gathered to Jerusalem and back to the land. In the New Testament they are gathered to Christ at the Rapture.

OT: Deuteronomy 30:1-5; Ezra 1:3-2:70; Nehemiah 1:1-9 (later phase of the return); Isaiah 11:11, 12; 43:5-7; Jeremiah 31:18.

NT: Matthew 24:31; Mark 13:27.

3. The dead rise in deliverance, as in the Old Testament teaching:

"Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits."

OT: Isaiah 26:19.

NT: 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

4. God will "swallow up death for all time" (Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 15:54). This occurs at the Resurrection of the believers in the New Testament.

OT: Isaiah 25:8.

NT: 1 Corinthians 15:54; Revelation 21:4.

5. The people are ransomed from death and the grave. The Old Testament saying, "O Sheol, Where is your sting?" that occurred in a time of divine discipline, is fulfilled. (The Bible uses "death" for "sheol" in the New Testament.)

OT: Hosea 13:14.

NT: 1 Corinthians 15:55.

6. Israel went into battle with a trumpet blast and a war cry. This also happens at the Resurrection and Rapture of the church, as Christ comes to the earth to battle all the nations. He comes to the earth with His church, rather than take her immediately back to heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout [war cry], with the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God."

OT: 2 Chronicles 13:14, 15; Jeremiah 4:5; 49:2; Amos 1:14; 2:2.

NT: 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 11:15, 16.

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7. A remnant remains alive through a divine discipline period to be restored to God and to the land. They are raptured to be with Christ after the Great Tribulation.

OT: Isaiah 10:20-23; 37:30-32; Jeremiah 23:3; 31:7-9; Zephaniah 3:8-11.

NT: Romans 9:27, 28; Revelation 7:1-8; 11:3-13; 14:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 17 (*"We who are alive and remain,"* that is, who survive the ordeal of the Great Tribulation.).

8. God hides or protects His remnant from harm in rooms behind closed doors, until the indignation against the nations has run its course. This happens after the last discipline period. God hides His own people before He punishes the rest of the world's people in retribution for their iniquity.

OT: Isaiah 26:20, 21.

NT: John 14:1-3.

Christ hides the church in heavenly dwelling places by means of the Rapture when retribution comes upon the unbelievers, after the Great Tribulation.

9. *"... The Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth ..."* (Isaiah 25:8). This happens when the church goes to the new Jerusalem.

OT: Isaiah 25:8 (Same incident when God swallows up death for all time).

NT: Revelation 7:17; 21:24.

God Brings His Retribution on Those Who Executed His Divine Judgment on His People (Retribution Against all Nations At the End)

1. God brings retribution-judgment after the Great Tribulation on the nations that He calls a "Day of the Lord." "The sun and moon will grow dark and the stars will lose their brightness. He utters His voice from Jerusalem. And the heavens and the earth tremble" (Joel 3:16). This retribution is against those nations that took Israel into discipline. As the retribution-judgment comes, the heavens will be destroyed by burning, the elements will melt with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. This occurs after the Rapture at Christ's Coming.

OT: Isaiah 13:1-22; Ezekiel 30:1-26; Joel 3:1-21; Obadiah 1:15 (called the Day of the Lord); Ezekiel 29:1-21; 31; 32; Zephaniah 2:4-3:13 (not called the Day of the Lord).

NT: 1 Thessalonians 5:2 (Same time as the events of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18); 2 Thessalonians 2:2, 8 (Same time as the events of 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10); 2 Peter 3:10-12.

2. "For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity" (Isaiah 26:21).

OT: Isaiah 26:21.

NT: 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2:8.

3. After the Rapture, the church reigns with Christ. With the angels, they destroy the unbelievers with a rod of iron.

OT: Psalm 2:8, 9.

NT: Revelation 2:26, 27; 12:5; 19:15.

Christ rules with a rod of iron during the events of the seventh bowl and at His second Coming, when he destroys the nations (kills all people) after the Great Tribulation period.

4. At the retribution on the nations, the blood of the dead flows profusely.

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OT: Isaiah 26:21; 27:1; 34:2-5; 63:2-6; Jeremiah 25:30, 31, 33; Joel 3:12-16.
NT: Revelation 14:14-20; 19:5.

The Bible calls the final judgment a time when the wine press operation causes the blood to flow. This occurs in the final judgment against all nations because they made war against God's people. "Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come tread, for the winepress is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great" (Joel 3:13).

OT: Joel 3:13.
NT: Revelation 14:14-20.

5. Beasts and birds eat flesh at judgment time.

OT: Deuteronomy 28:26; Psalm 79:2; Jeremiah 19:7; 7:33; 12:9; 15:3; 16:4; Ezekiel 29:5.
NT: Matthew 24:28; Revelation 19:17, 18, 21. (The latter reference is at the final judgment on all nations.)

The animals and birds feasting on corpses happens after each devastating calamity and retribution-judgment of a nation.

Both Jews and the Church Look for the Same Eternal State

1. Both the Jews and the church look for a new heaven and a new earth, where God will be their light, and the sun and the moon will no longer be needed. They both look for a heavenly city whose maker is God — the new city of Jerusalem.

OT: Isaiah 60:11, 18-20; 65:17, 18; 66:22.
NT: Hebrews 11:10, 16; Revelation 21:1-7; 22:5.

Both Old and New Testament believers are Christ's church and have the same eternal destination, the new Jerusalem (Hebrews 11:10, 16).

Conclusion

The above Identifiers in both the Old and New Testaments show the Bible teaches that another Pattern Sequence, like the one given to Israel, exists in Revelation's endtimes. Using spiritual warfare, God chose the Pattern Sequence to bring an end to humanity. Because Israel was in covenant relationship with God during her Pattern Sequence, Revelation's Pattern Sequence implies that God has a covenant relationship with an endtime nation that He uses to bring the end of humanity.

The Pattern Sequence teaches that the Rapture occurs after the Great Tribulation, and that, when Christ comes, all people go to their eternal places; believers go to the new Jerusalem and unbelievers go to the Lake of Fire.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

Revelation 6 describes events on the earth that result from the riding of four horses, as the first four seals are broken. They have often been called "the four horses of the Apocalypse." But who are the riders, and why do they cause the events?

The Bible teaches that the Lord of the earth (Christ) uses angelic or spirit riders to patrol the earth, riding horses and chariots, to see what is happening. After they patrol the earth, they report back their findings to Him, and He then takes appropriate action. This is taught in Zechariah 1:7-12 and 6:1-8. However, Revelation 6 shows that the riders cause the events. The Bible teaches that Satan patrolled the earth in Job's time and caused devastating occurrences in Job's life, to

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test his obedience to God (Job 1:7-19). Thus, these angelic riders in Revelation 6 are Satan's envoys. They also do God's will. They cause the conditions on the earth that Christ allows, after He breaks the appropriate seal.

The white horse of the first seal appears to bring false religion in spiritual warfare. The rider is either Satan or one of his angels. He is given a crown and goes out conquering. The red horse of the second seal has a rider who brings wars using a large sword. He takes peace from the earth. The black horse of the third seal appears to bring famine. The shortages of wheat, barley, oil, and wine indicate famine. This is learned from the use of these terms in 2 Kings 7:1, 16-19, when food was scarce and was measured out. A major war, fought over one-fourth of the earth, is brought about by the rider of the fourth and ashen horse as Christ breaks the fourth seal. The war brings death by the sword, famine, pestilence, and by wild beasts. Hades followed afterward.

The conditions following the events of the four horses bring persecution and martyrdom of many believers. This persecution is followed by severe warning and the devastating calamity of the first six trumpets.

All of these types of conditions happened before Jerusalem was destroyed in the great calamity and tribulation of A.D. 70, and they appear to be typical events that precede any major biblical calamity. They were described by the Lord in His Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:5-14; Mark 13:6-13; Luke 21:8-19). These conditions were part of God's grace in warning the Jews before He brought them devastating calamity for their rejection of Christ and the Cross. These same conditions may again be warnings as well as judgment, before the trumpet devastating calamity comes.

The conditions of the first three seals may have been occurring for some time. But the war of the fourth seal appears to be yet future because no war has happened that is representative of the war and conditions that are part of a Pattern Sequence.

(World War II does not qualify for the fourth-seal war even though it was fought over much of the earth. It did not bring calamity by which America as a covenant nation, or any other nation as a potential covenant nation, lost her sovereignty, nor was she warred against by a northern-army nation. There has been no visible change in the government, unless it has been covertly accomplished. America's apostasy before World War II did not warrant a disciplinary calamity. America does not appear to be in discipline after the war.)

(The calamity of the fourth seal appears to occur as a point in time instead of its events being distributed over many years. This is thought to be the case because (1) the use of the phrase "to kill with the sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth" (Revelation 6:8) occurs in the Old Testament at each calamity in Israel's Pattern Sequence; (2) a Watchman Warning has not been sufficiently proclaimed; and (3) divine discipline seems to follow in the fifth-seal period, by the vocabulary used in Revelation 6:10, 11 of "How long O Lord," and that which follows is used in the Old Testament for discipline periods. If by chance the events of the fourth seal are distributed over many years, the fifth seal period will begin without notice, except for the forming of an international government and the severe worsening of conditions. The sinful conditions of the fifth-seal period will increasingly worsen until the great apostasy occurs. It will be like the situation of the frog in water that is gradually heated to a boil. The frog will not realize its situation until it is too late. Likewise, the devastating calamity of the trumpets then will come without much notice at the end of the fifth-seal period, except by God's watchmen.)

THE LEVELS OF DISCIPLINE IN THE PATTERN SEQUENCE

God established five levels of discipline as part of the Palestinian Everlasting Covenant that He made with Israel (Leviticus 26:14-39; Deuteronomy 28:16-68). God blessed Israel commensurate with her obedience and disciplined her commensurate with her disobedience and apostasy. As

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her disobedience and apostasy increased, her discipline intensified. The blessings and discipline occurred in stages, bringing the Pattern Sequence.

Because an endtime covenant nation is expected to exist, it will undergo similar levels of discipline. The events that Israel experienced in each level of discipline are expected to happen to the endtime covenant nation in each level of her discipline. (There can be differences.)

The blessings from God would include rains in their seasons, great produce from the ground and fruit from the trees. People would live securely in the land, the nation would win wars, and God would walk among her people. The nation would have great blessings from God in all that she did. God would be God of the nation.

But if she disobeyed God, then He would bring her discipline in levels, commensurate with her disobedience. God would bring her warnings and signs that discipline was coming. Eventually God brought foreign armies into Israel. Israel no longer dwelled securely in her land.

The levels of increasing discipline are organized below as they might happen in Revelation's Pattern Sequence (just described) according to the seals. The discipline levels and their events are placed in the Pattern Sequence according to the events and the Identifiers of the Pattern Sequence of the Old Testament prophets.

The First, Second, and Third Seals - The events that occur in the latter part of the periods of these three seals are as follows:

1. **First Level of Discipline** - Increasing sickness and defeat in wars occur because God is against the nation. Curses come upon the country as God's blessings are removed. (Leviticus 26:16; 17; Deuteronomy 28:16-22.)

In Israel's time, the first attack of the northern army was the first level of discipline. It resulted in the Kingdom of Judah being conquered, but not destroyed. Judah was allowed self rule in a vassal kingdom arrangement and had an army under Babylon's authority. This is when Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon.

Revelation omits this attack because it has only two calamities, instead of three as Israel experienced. The Bible does not state why there are only two in the endtimes.

2. **Second Level of Discipline** - Drought and famine are inflicted upon the people (Leviticus 26:18-20; Deuteronomy 28:23, 24).
3. **Third Level of Discipline** - Greater severity of sickness and death of children occur, as God acts in hostility against the nation (Leviticus 26:21, 22).

The Fourth Seal

Fourth Level of Discipline - Calamity comes with war, famine, and pestilence, as God acts in hostility against the nation. This is the second calamity war that happened to Israel and Judah and the first calamity war in the endtimes. After this second attack, Israel became increasingly apostate and rebellious. (Leviticus 26:23-26.)

The Fifth Seal

Fifth Level of Discipline (first period of endtime divine discipline) - As God acts with wrathful hostility against the nation, the nation loses wars, wives are violated, sons and daughters are taken from parents and given to another people for indoctrination. In this period (1) people do not prosper, (2) outsiders eat the produce of the nation's farms, (3) the people are continually oppressed and crushed, (4) properties are confiscated, (5) people are afflicted with sore boils, (6) an unknown nation rules, and (7) locusts eat farmers' seed. (Leviticus 26:27,

28; Deuteronomy 28:25-48.)

The Sixth Seal

God brings warning of a coming Day of the Lord that will devastate the land under the seventh seal in the events of Revelation's six trumpets.

The Seventh Seal

1. **Fifth Level of Discipline Continues** (Devastating calamity and war) - God brings devastating calamity and war by a nation speaking a foreign language, as He devastates the cities, the places of worship, and the land. He scatters His people among the nations, and they serve other gods. The attacking nation eats the offspring of the people's herds and the produce of their farms. The people being attacked eat the offspring of their own bodies to survive the famine. Members of families are hostile toward one another. This is the time of the third and devastating calamity which brought war to Israel and Judah. It will be the second and last calamity and war against God's and the nations' people in the endtimes.

In this latter series of battles, most of Judah's population died by the sword, famine, plague, pestilence, and wild beasts (2 Kings 25:1-30; 2 Chronicles 36:13-21). The books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel describe this last and devastating calamity and war judgment and the reasons for its coming in detail. The devastating calamity and wars are expected in the trumpet events of Revelation for the endtimes. Most of the world's population may die in this period. (Leviticus 26:29-33; Deuteronomy 28:49-63.)

2. **Fifth Level of Discipline Continues** (Severe divine discipline of the mark-of-the-Beast period) - God places His own people into discipline. They live in fear and perish in foreign countries because their enemies consume them. Only a remnant is left to return to God — "we who are alive and remain" (1 Thessalonians 4:15) — for deliverance of God's people in the Rapture. Under discipline, people find no rest. The Lord gives them trembling hearts, failing eyes, and despair of soul. Their lives hang in doubt. People dread day and night and have no assurance of life. (Leviticus 26:34-39; Deuteronomy 28:64-69.)

THE NATIONS ARE AFFECTED BY THE PATTERN SEQUENCE

Many prophets including Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel prophesied to and against the nations as well as they did against Israel as part of the Pattern Sequence (Isaiah 14-23; Jeremiah 25:19-31; 27:1-8; 46-49; Ezekiel 25-32; Amos; Obadiah; Nahum). These other nations also were taken into discipline by Babylon. These nations sinned, had false worship, had pride against God, or acted in some manner against Israel. Many nations are mentioned in Scripture: Ammon, Arabia, Assyria, Buz, Dedan, Edom, Elam, Ethiopia, Egypt, Hazor, Kedar, Libya, Lud, Media, Meshech-Tubal, Moab, Phillstia, Put, Sidon, Tema, Tyre, and Zimri. Many nations including Egypt and those in league with her were desolated. These desolating judgments were called Days of the Lord. Their people were taken into bondage and returned to their nation after a 40 year period. All of these nations became part of the Babylonian Empire. Essentially all of the ancient world became part of an international government. A similar situation will occur in the endtimes.

After the discipline was ended, God destroyed the empire of Babylon in Retribution-Judgment (Isaiah 13; Jeremiah 50; 51). As in the case of Israel, many of the nations' people were taken into bondage and exile in Babylon or in other nations and were returned to their land after their discipline period was ended. Such was the case with Egypt (Ezekiel 29:12-14). God scattered Israel among many nations because of her sin, and after the discipline period ended, He brought them back into the land (Jeremiah 29:14; 30:3). In Retribution-Judgment, God destroyed all the nations which took Israel into discipline. (Jeremiah 30:11, 16, 20). These Retribution-Judgments were called Day-of-the-Lord Judgments.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ENDTIME ENTITIES

Introduction

Matching biblical qualifications with the characteristics of existing entities shows that the endtime entities are in place, functioning in their roles, and ready for the calamity and discipline to begin. **While the posttribulation Rapture and the endtime Pattern Sequence are clear biblical teachings, determining the identities of the endtime entities is a matter of faith, matching biblical requirements with the characteristics of existing entities. The endtimes will come in the Pattern Sequence and the Rapture will be posttribulational, even if there is error in identifying the endtime entities.** Satan is developing his forces in the northern army and Babylon the Great. God has already established the covenant nation and will establish the Beast Empire. After the fourth-seal war, the Beast Empire will consist of a coalition government and take on increasingly beast-like characteristics as the apostasy continues and the discipline periods come.

Identifying Revelation's endtime entities gives insight into the progression of history relative to the endtimes. The entities to be identified are the covenant nation, the Beast Empire, the northern-army nation, and Babylon the Great.

The Identity of the Covenant Nation

Revelation teaches the endtimes come in a Pattern Sequence. This Pattern Sequence was developed earlier in this chapter. But Revelation does not mention that a covenant relationship exists that concerns the Pattern Sequence. However, one is implied because Israel had one during her Pattern Sequences, and because Pattern Sequences unfold as a result of a covenant nation's relationship with God throughout the sequence. Because Israel was a covenant nation, her characteristics model the biblical requirements for the endtime covenant nation. Whether or not there is a covenant nation in Revelation, the characteristics and history of the United States match those of Israel as a covenant nation. This match is presented in this subsection. (See chapter 1 for more discussion of the covenant nation in the Pattern Sequence.)

During Israel's time, both Israel and her surrounding nations were taken into judgment by the Beast Empire (the northern-army nation). In a similar manner during the endtimes, both the endtime covenant nation and the surrounding nations are taken into judgment resulting in discipline.

In the Old Testament, initially the Beast Empire (e.g. Babylon) and the covenant nation were different entities. Israel, as a covenant nation, became part of the Babylonian Empire after she was conquered. In the endtimes, the covenant nation appears to be a major part of the Beast Empire or coalition of nations as the Beast Empire is established during the fifth-seal period.

The covenant nation appears to be the United States because (1) her characteristics meet the biblical requirements as modeled by Israel, (2) her history matches the requirements of the Pattern Sequence, and (3) she is an endtime nation required by the Pattern Sequence. Alternatively, the church could be the covenant nation, or more likely, the combination of the church in the United States as well as the United States herself. The church is called a nation in Scripture (1 Peter 2:9) and is in covenant relationship with God under the New Covenant in the New Testament endtimes. There are events concerning the church that fit into the Pattern Sequence.

However the characteristics of the United States, more than those of the worldwide church, more closely match those of covenant Israel and the Pattern Sequence. Thus, she is more likely the covenant nation.

The requirements of the covenant nation and a comparison of the United States (the American

church and unbelievers) with the worldwide church are shown below. The United States is an endtime nation that appears to be founded when the endtime Pattern Sequence begins. The church began on the Day of Pentecost and has been a nation with good and bad periods throughout the Church Period. **She is not an endtime phenomenon, as is the United States, that is most likely required by the endtime Pattern Sequence. The covenant relationship of the church worldwide does not include the five levels of discipline that the United States is experiencing. Only the American church will experience them. But the church worldwide will experience the discipline in the manner that their nations do.**

The Characteristics of the Covenant Nation As Modeled By Israel

1. **Begins in Obedience to God and Ends in Disobedience** - The covenant nation's history must be like that of Israel that began in obedience to God and ended in sin and apostasy. She must receive great blessings from God during obedience and curses and warnings in her disobedience. (Leviticus 26; Ezekiel 16:6-29.)

Both of these comments apply mostly to the United States, including the American church. The United States began with the best government, finances, Constitution, Bill of Rights, freedoms, and free enterprise the world has ever known. The country began in general obedience to God and has received great blessings, as did Israel. Now she has gone into apostasy and sin. Current signs and curses indicate that calamity and war judgments are impending. The signs could only exist in a physical country such as the United States even though they are greatly caused by the American church. The church worldwide does not have a physical territory. Although involved in spiritual warfare, she is not involved in physical warfare and cannot be invaded by weapons of physical warfare.

2. **Must Be More Sinful Than the Surrounding Nations** - The apostate covenant nation must become more sinful than her surrounding nations (Ezekiel 5:6). This apostasy and sin will be greatest during the discipline periods. This requirement applies to the people of the United States including her believing and unbelieving churches.
3. **Must Be One Whose People Would Never Believe the Northern Army Would Ever Enter Its Land and Cities** - No one believed a foreign army would ever enter the gates of Jerusalem, but they did. The same is probably true for the endtime covenant nation. (Lamentations 4:12.)

This requirement applies only to the United States. No one believes Russia will ever take over America or come upon her territory. Whether or not this happens, there will be a war in which Russia and other nations in some manner will greatly influence what happens to America.

4. **God makes her a beautiful and successful nation** - Her fame and beauty that God bestows on her must go forth among the nations. (Ezekiel 16:10-14.)

This requirement applies to both the church and people in the United States.

5. **Must Be the Center of Nations** - Being a nation of God, He made Israel the center of the surrounding nations in fame and commerce (Ezekiel 5:5; 38:12).

This requirement applies to the United States. The United States is the center of commerce and world leadership.

6. **Trusts in her beauty and plays the harlot (prostitute)** - She pours out her harlotries on every passer-by (Ezekiel 16:15-18).

The United States has loaned money to many third world nations without any apparent intent of the money ever being paid back. Such action is used in some manner to control other

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nations.

7. **Offers food to those who accept her harlotry** - She gives of the fine flour, oil, and honey that God gave her to obtain her harlotries (Ezekiel 16:19, 20).

This requirement applies to the United States. For example, the United States without receiving payment has been giving grain and technology to Russia for a number of years to maintain Russia as an enemy with which to bring in the Beast kingdom during the fifth seal period. It has been accomplished without the best interests of the United States as a free-enterprise republic and sovereign nation.

8. **She offers up her children** - to be sacrificed to idols. Today, children could be given over to sex, false ideologies, and drugs, taking them away from God (Ezekiel 16:20, 21).

This requirement applies to the United States. The false churches have also been giving false teaching to children.

9. **Pays Her Lovers Rather Than Accepting Payment, as Do Most Harlots** - Israel paid, bribed, and gifted her lovers, who traded with her in harlotry, instead of receiving payment (Ezekiel 16:30-34).

This requirement applies to the United States. She has given many loans to many nations without the nations paying them back.

10. **Must Have Biblical Signs of Apostasy** - The nation must exhibit the apostate and sinful signs of coming calamity judgment according to the Pattern Sequences.

This requirement applies both to the United States and to the true and visible church. Both the American people, through immorality and false worship, and the church, by practicing false tongues and by not carrying out the Great Commission, are falling away from obedience to God. This sinful disobedience, having occurred over a long time is apostasy, being a departure from true biblical faith.

11. **Must Have Mandates from God** - Israel had several mandates from God. One was to be a light to the nations, telling of God's glory (Psalm 96:3-10).

Through His Great Commission, Christ gave the church the mandate to evangelize the world. This requirement applies both to the church in the United States and in the rest of the world. However, because the American church has accomplished more world wide evangelism, more so by a much greater amount than the church of any other nation in history, it appears that in some manner God gave America the mandate to take the gospel to the nations. Such a mandate was necessary at the height of the population of the world.

This mandate probably had to do with the United States remaining as a sovereign nation. If the church carried out the Great Commission and people of the country generally obeyed God's commandments, then the United States could remain as a covenant nation. Otherwise, she will lose her sovereignty and be placed under international government.

The United States is the only nation that has characteristics that meet all the above requirements.

Israel had a marriage relationship with Christ as Jehovah in the Old Testament times. This marriage was ended by divorce at the Cross. Christ marries the church during the Church Age. The Old Testament marriage was with both believers and unbelievers as a nation. In the New Testament, the marriage is only with believers as individuals who form a nation. Thus, there is not a one for one matching of the marriage of Israel with the one of the church. The relationship of Israel to the Pattern Sequence was based on the Palestinian Everlasting Covenant. Israel's marriage relationship was more on a national basis than on a Pattern Sequence relationship. The

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believers in Israel became part of the church at Christ's Ascension when He made captivity captive. The Old Testament believers were never divorced as individuals from salvation, but only from the other covenant relationships and the marriage as identified with Israel as a nation.

The Characteristics of the Covenant Nation as Modeled by the Pattern Sequence

1. **The Nation Becomes Greatly Apostate Before Each Calamity With War** - The nation begins in obedience and ends in great apostasy.

Both the United States and the church meet this requirement.

2. **The Nation Loses Its Sovereignty Under God to Rule Herself After the Calamities** - The northern-army nation wars against Israel and subdues her. Israel was allowed self rule, but as a vassal kingdom under the sovereign rule of the northern-army nation. Many other nations were sinful, and God brought discipline against them as well as Israel, using the northern-army nation.

Beginning with the Day of Pentecost, the church is not to be involved in physical warfare with physical weapons. Thus, she cannot fight a physical warfare as a church that would be required by the calamities in the Pattern Sequence. The warfare of the church is spiritual to be fought only with the Word of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).

This sovereignty requirement will be met by the United States. She will no doubt lose her sovereignty during the Beast period of divine discipline. The church can never lose her salvation in Christ or her sovereign rule under God, unless it places herself, on an individual basis, under the rule of the Beast Empire by denying the rule of Christ. Many other nations, as well as the United States, will lose their sovereignty under the Beast Empire.

3. **The Nation is Placed Under Divine Discipline** - The Beast Empire places the people of the covenant nation under severe divine discipline.

The requirement is met by both the United States and the church throughout the world. Many other nations also are placed under divine discipline as executed by the Beast Empire.

4. **The Obedient People of the Covenant Nation Are Delivered; In the Endtimes By Rapture** - The people of Israel were delivered back to the land of Israel after they confessed their sins and agreed to come under God's rule. Generally, those delivered were believers. They were the remnant of God.

For discipline, God also took Israel into captivity among many nations. They were returned to the land of Israel after the discipline period. The people (unbelievers) of other nations, taken into captivity, were also returned to their countries.

The church located in the United States, as well as in the rest of the nations, will be delivered by the Rapture.

5. **The Retribution of the Nations** - The Beast Empire in Israel's time (e.g. Babylon) was destroyed during the Retribution-Judgment, never to be a major nation again.

All the nations in the endtimes will most likely have had a part in disciplining the church and the people of the covenant nation. They will all be given Retribution-Judgment.

The characteristics of the covenant nation in the Pattern Sequence apply mostly to the United States, even though all the nations and the church in the United States are involved in the sequence.

Summary

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The characteristics and history of the United States (this far in history) best meet the requirements of Scripture for the endtime covenant nation, including the five levels of discipline. The church in a New Covenant relationship meets many of the requirements.

In covenant relationships, God uses the nations of Israel and the United States to serve great purposes. Israel is used to bring the First Coming of Christ and His Crucifixion — to usher in salvation and the Church Age. The United States as the endtime covenant nation is used to evangelize the world at the time of its greatest population and to end its history — to usher in Christ's Second Coming and the Rapture.

The Identity of the Beast Empire

Revelation teaches that a Beast with seven heads exists and makes war against God's saints before Christ returns as it did throughout its history (Revelation 13; 17). Each of its heads represent a different period of history in which the Beast reigns.

The Beast appears to represent BOTH the world ruler and the empire over which he reigns. The Beast's head is the ruler, and its body is the empire. The Beast during the times of Israel consisted of a coalition of nations headed by a strong leader. Such were the cases of Babylon and Rome. Thus, the endtimes empire is expected to consist of a coalition of nations headed by a very strong leader.

Babylon the Great is an entity that reigns over the Beast in its periods. She rules secretly over both the head of the Beast and the Beast Empire. During the Beast period of the eighth head, the ruler or head of the Beast and Babylon the Great appear to be the same person or entity. Thus, different people and empire entities represented both Babylon the Great and the Beast throughout their history.

The future coalition of the nations (such as of the United States, Russia, Europe, African nations, and the nations of the Middle East) that represent the Beast with the seventh head occurs after the fourth-seal war. The 10 horns of Daniel 7, representing nations that came out of the old Roman Empire, are separate from the Beast, but become part of Beast Empire. They did not exist as kings during the apostle John's time, but they will in the endtimes of the Church Age. They have one purpose: to give their power and authority to the Beast (Revelation 17:13). Thus, they become part of the Beast's empire. They rule with the Beast with the eighth head (Revelation 17:11). The biblical requirements for the Beast Empire is as follows:

- 1. The Beast Is the Little Horn According to Daniel** - The Little Horn is a fierce ruler (of an empire) that comes out from among the 10 horns or kings (the 10 toes of the statue in Daniel 2) that come from Daniel's fourth Beast, or Rome (Daniel 7:7,24). The four beasts of Daniel 7 (and the various parts of the statue) represent nations that ruled over Israel (Southern Kingdom) in sequence. The fourth beast represents the Roman Empire and the horns and toes represent nations that rise from it, after Rome's fall. Daniel's Little Horn is the ruler of Revelation's Beast Empire, representing the eighth head, because both the little horn and Beast head and ruler speak blasphemies against God, change the laws, and make war against the saints, reigning for 42 months. This identifies the Beast out of the sea with the Little Horn and with the Beast with the eighth head. Because the Beast previously had a seventh head, the Beast with the seventh head must have been the beast that comes out from among the 10 kings. It can come a long time after the Roman Empire fell. **Daniel's Little Horn probably comes out from among the 10 kings initially representing a more peaceful, but evil king (Beast with seventh head during the fifth-seal period). Later, He becomes the fierce king (Beast with the eighth head during the mark-of-the-Beast period) described by Daniel.** The Beast ruler could come from Europe or a derivative of Europe, even the United States. (Daniel 2:41-45; 7:8-28; Revelation 13; 17:10, 11.)
- 2. The Beast Out of the Sea Is Composed of a Melting Pot, or Coalition, of Nations (Revelation 13:2)** - The Beast with the sixth head (representing the old Roman Empire) in

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Revelation 17 is scarlet in color. The Beast Empire with the sixth head existed in the apostle John's day when he wrote Revelation (Revelation 17:9, 10). The Beast with the eighth head has characteristics of Daniel's combined four beasts (Revelation 13:1, 2). These are the lion, bear, leopard, and the 10 horns, or kings. Satan as the seven headed Dragon was red in color. This color is similar to scarlet, but a different Greek word is used (Revelation 12:3). Scarlet was the color of the Roman legions, the Beast that existed when John wrote Revelation. It appears that the Beast takes on the color of the empire it represents in history. The beast in Revelation 13 appears to be composed of a coalition of nations, an empire. This implies that the Beast may reign over the territory previously held by Daniel's beasts: Babylon (Iraq), Medo-Persia (Iran), Greece, and the Roman Empire (Europe, Africa, Turkey, and Israel). The Beast with the seventh head most likely is a coalition of nations. The Bible does not declare its color or its characteristics. (Daniel 7:1-8; Revelation 13:1, 2.)

3. **The Beast Supports Babylon the Great** - The Beast will support and be ruled by Babylon the Great and have an association with the 10 European kings. (Revelation 13:1; 17:12, 16, 17; 18.)
4. **The Beast's Merchants Trade with the World's Nations on a Major Scale** - Worldwide trade occurs under Babylon the Great's influence, making many merchants rich and prosperous, but bringing an eventual financial crisis. Babylon the Great probably uses the Beast in this trade because she controls him. This happens during the fifth-seal period, after the major war of the fourth seal. (Revelation 18.)
5. **The Beast Must Have Sufficient Stature to Rule the World When It Comes Back to Life from Death by the Sword** - The Beast of the seventh head dies by the sword in the calamity war and is resurrected to rule as the Beast with the eighth head in the mark-of-the-Beast period. The Beast ruler must have ability to do this. The Beast Empire must be one of stature such that the world will wonder when it is financially and militarily destroyed. This implies that a nation (or nations) of strong military might (e.g. Russia) will turn against the Beast and Babylon the Great, and make war. (Revelation 13:2, 3, 12, 14; 18.)

Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 13 give insight into the characteristics of the Beast. Revelation has a seven-headed Beast, while Daniel has four beasts. **The heads of the Beast are not named in Revelation.** Revelation 17 refers to them as kings and mountains (nations or empires). The sixth head is reigning in the days when John wrote Revelation (A.D. 96). This identifies the empire as Rome. The Beast represented by each of the first six heads is most likely the ancient world empires of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The endtime coalition government is the seventh and eighth heads, after the fourth-seal war. All the heads and empires are ruled by Babylon the Great. The ancient ones were world empires that ruled over Israel. Daniel was concerned with the Southern Kingdom's history, after he was taken into exile in Babylon. Thus, Daniel refers only to Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. He omits Egypt and Assyria.

It is interesting to note that the Beast, during the time of its first six heads, existed under Babylon the Great's control during the history of Israel as a covenant nation. The Beast appears to return with its seventh and eighth head when another covenant nation exists — the United States. The Beast is not revived with its seventh head until the endtimes. Satan as the Dragon also has seven heads (Revelation 12:3). It appears that Satan with his Beast is only allowed world rule during the times that a covenant nation of God requires discipline for her sin. It would seem plausible that it would exist only when another covenant nation came into being — like it did earlier when it ruled over Israel as a covenant nation. This would help explain the hiatus period from the time of Rome, as the sixth empire, until today when the United States exists as the covenant nation and will become part of the coalition of nations representing the Beast Empire of the Beast with the seventh head.

The Beast Empire then is a coalition of endtime nations. The United States, under the rule of Babylon the Great, appears to be the major entity pressing for and placing herself under

a world empire of the Beast with the seventh head (the New World Order) using the United Nations organization. No doubt the Internationalists as Babylon the Great are behind the push. The United States is beginning to take on beast-like characteristics as her sin increases and she installs unjust laws and policies. Thus, she could become a strong and central part of the Beast Empire.

The Identity of the Northern-Army Nation

Revelation does not directly reference the northern-army nation, but the Pattern Sequence with the covenant nation implies that God uses her. A strong nation is needed to make war to help bring the devastating calamity of the first six trumpets. Russia appears to meet the qualifications for the northern-army nation, as taken from the Old Testament. Many of these characteristics in Russia (Federation) may need more maturing. The northern army must:

1. **Be Brought by God from the North to Bring Calamity and War Judgment** - (Jeremiah 1:14, 15; 6:22; 10:22; 25:9; 47:2; Joel 2:20). The army came from the north to fight Israel because of the poor military advantage of the high terrain on the east and the Mediterranean Sea on the west. This compass direction may not be a hard requirement for the endtimes.
2. **Speak a Foreign Language** - (Jeremiah 5:15).
3. **Be a Great Nation; Have Justice and Authority That Originates from Herself** - (Jeremiah 6:22; Habakkuk 1:7).
4. **Have Strength That Is Their God** - (Habakkuk 1:11).
5. **Be the Worst of Nations, Dreadful and Feared** - The worst of the nations will come and take belongings, family, and crops (Deuteronomy 28:49-52; Jeremiah 5:14-17; Ezekiel 7:21-24; Habakkuk 1:5-11).
6. **Bring Terror from Every Side** - (Jeremiah 6:25).
7. **Bring Great Destruction, Be Cruel, and Show No Mercy** - (Jeremiah 4:6; 6:23).
8. **Be a Fierce and Impetuous Nation That Marches to Seize Dwelling Places That Are Not Hers** - (Habakkuk 1:6).

Russia is the only existing nation (or group of nations as the Russian Federation) that meets the above requirements. She exists now, with great strength, and is capable of winning a war against or greatly damaging the United States. She is a fierce nation that speaks a foreign language and could attack from the north over the north pole. In the endtimes, the war against the United States may involve other nations, instead of just Russia. (China is the only other possibility as the northern-army nation, but she is currently underdeveloped and comes on the scene later at the battle of Armageddon; Revelation 16:12).

The Identity and Characteristics of Babylon the Great

From the biblical data, Babylon the Great is portrayed as a harlot woman who reigns over the Beast and appears to consist of Internationalists who desire to rule the world under Satanic power (Revelation 17; 18). They desire to exercise political, financial, religious, and resource influence and control over all nations. These controls allow them to rule the world and determine its course. Thus, as the endtimes unfold, there will be a one world government, a one world financial system, and a one world religion.

Before the trumpet events, Babylon the Great is an entity, represented by a great city, that rules over the kings and nations of the earth as she reigns over the Beast with the seventh head. She

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is not the nations themselves, but rather what reigns over the nations. She rules by financial influence and manipulation, sensuousness, intimidation, bribery, infiltration, and sorcery. Before the time of the fourth seal, the current Babylon the Great appears to influence the United States and many other nations covertly, not revealing her operation to the general public. The future may reveal the great city used by Babylon the Great during the fifth-seal period. She will rule over the Beast, or coalition of nations including the United States, during the period of the fifth seal. This would be the seat of the Beast Empire. The city of Babylon the Great will be destroyed, being burned with fire during the trumpet events by the Beast and the 10 kings. This will give rise to another Babylon the Great, that will rule from Jerusalem, during the period of the Beast with the eight head; the mark-of-the-Beast period. Satan's long-term objective is to rule the world from Jerusalem using his Man of Lawlessness and another Babylon the Great (Revelation 11:1, 2, 8; 16:19). This happens during the Great Tribulation.

Knowledge of Babylon the Great's current existence and influence is derived from secular sources, as are the characteristics of the United States and Russia. The news media does not promote her revelation. Secular publications show that the Internationalists (Babylon the Great) exist today and are operating covertly in the United States and the world. The publications call their operation a world conspiracy with the goal to establish a totalitarian international government with which to rule the world.

Revelation teaches that Babylon the Great existed throughout ancient history and again in the endtimes. Because this entity will exist in the endtimes, the problem lies in her identification and in the form of her existence. The Bible gives her qualifications and shows that she exercises international political, financial, religious, and resource control and influence.

The Bible's identifying characteristics are that Babylon the Great:

1. **Reigns Over the Kings of the Earth** - (Revelation 17:18). (Political and international control.)
2. **Believes That She Will Never Be Destroyed, Rules as a Queen** - (Revelation 18:7). (International pride.)
3. **Uses an Economic System to Make the Nations Wealthy during the Period of the Fifth Seal** - (Revelation 18:3). (Financial and international.)
4. **Promotes International Trade with Immorality, Sensuousness, and Sorcery** - (Revelation 18:4-20, 23). (Financial and international control using supernatural Satanic power.)
5. **Leads the Nations into a Worldwide Financial Crisis Where All Trade Stops and Nothing Is Bought or Sold** - (Revelation 18:8-20). At the end of the fifth-seal period, God's judgment on the city causes a worldwide financial crisis, where trade stops. The city of Babylon the Great is burned and destroyed. This happens in the devastating calamity war of the trumpet events. (World-wide financial crisis.)
6. **Influences the Entire Earth with Her Immorality and Sensuousness** - She is called the mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth. She is the source of false religion throughout history within the seven empires of the Beast. Her endtime religious system begins with the fifth-seal period in the endtimes. (Revelation 17:2, 5; 18:3.) (Religious and international control.)
7. **Kills the Prophets through the Years** - (Revelation 18:24) God's saints are warred against and killed during the fifth-seal period and again during the Great Tribulation. (Religious control: God has allowed Babylon the Great to war against His people.)
8. **Is a Dwelling Place of Demons and Unclean Spirits** - (Revelation 18:2). (Religious and political rule by Satan.)

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Babylon the Great's operation was felt when the Beast Empire had influential control over Israel. Israel carried the golden-calf influence into her land from Egypt. Israel's false religions had derivatives that consisted of a false mother and child worship system. The concept began from or was based on Genesis 3:15, which refers to the Messiah coming as the seed of the woman. The Bible has many references to various names for the woman and child such as the Queen of Heaven, as the mother, and Tammuz, as the child (Jeremiah 44:18, 19; Ezekiel 8:14).

The New Testament's endtime false religion is expected to consist of false derivatives of the Lord and His Christ (Psalm 2:2; Acts 4:26; Revelation 12:10; 13; 19:20). Revelation 13 shows a Beast who is worshipped, and a False Prophet who has "two horns like a lamb." The Beast and False Prophet falsely imitate "the Lord and His Christ."

Babylon the Great had financial and political influence during Israel's apostasy and discipline. When Babylon the Great ruled over Israel, through the Beast Empire, she was responsible for the death of God's prophets and servants. **In fact, Revelation teaches that Babylon the Great was responsible for the death of the saints throughout history (Revelation 17:16; 18:24).**

She is expected to kill the saints again, during the fifth-seal and the mark-of-the-Beast periods.