Poe
son Red
dition

By Rex H. Henderson

The book edition of these poems is available from the author at a modest price. Interested parties please contact rexmalee@earthlink.net

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Christ Pre- eminent

Above all earthly kings or lords,
The first born from the dead,
Superior in all distinctions
Displays his Father’s love.

By cradle and the cross, now risen,
But now exalted in glorification,
Unveiling the Father and his love
To suffering sinners for eternity.

With a message of grace and peace,
A royal destiny with access to the
Almighty God, an everlasting
Kingdom abiding for ever.

Through the Son the Father speaks
Let us hear him who reveals his
Coming, judgment and assurance
Who has come, who is, and is to come.
John the Apostle

John the aged and honored was
Banished from Ephesus to Patmos
For denying emperor worship,
And for saying, Jesus is Lord.

While on the Isle of Patmos,
He suffered scorn, hatred and
Hard labor, a partaker in tribulation
With his brothers in Asia Minor.

But he was in the hands of One
Who stills the tumult of the people
As well as the waves of the sea that
Beat upon the rocky coast of Patmos.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,
Sunday the first day of the Christian
Week, commemorating the risen and
Glorified Savior when he heard and saw.
A Grotesque Figure

Through symbolism we see the
Full meaning of the vision and
Assurance of God’s blessings.
There stood the triumphant Christ.

In humanness of our Lord’s Person,
Amidst the glory that surrounds Him,
We are to think of him as a man;
But what a man! What a figure!

Attired in a robe, hair White as wool.
His eyes like blazing fire. His feet
Like bronze glowing in a furnace
And a voice of rushing water.

Holding seven stars, out of his mouth
Came a sharp double-edged sword.
His face was like the sun.
What an intriguing figure!

He was clothed as a priest and king.
His white hair meant holiness,
The fiery eyes symbolized penetrating
Vision. Bronzed feet symbolize strength.

The voice; authority over people
And nations. His face like the sun
Refers to his majesty. The stars are
Pastors; Lamp-stands the churches.
The Living Christ

A living, holy, majestic, omniscient, Authoritative, powerful Christ stands In the midst of the churches, and Holds their destiny in his hand.

And says stop fearing, I am the Living One; I was dead. And behold I am alive forever and ever! And I Hold the keys of death and the grave.

One should not fear to go any place Where Christ holds the key. We may Be persecuted, but He is still our king. Christ is alive and in control.

This glorified Christ dominates the Movement of the entire book of Of Revelation. Christ, the redeeming Lamb, is the victor in every sense.
The Church at Ephesus

Ephesus was a city of culture,
A famed center of pagan
Worship and the ancient Temple
Of Artemis known everywhere.

But Christ Jesus, omnipotent and
Omnipresent, was aware of the
Church in Ephesus which received
Praise, complaint and promise.

She had been active and loyal to
To the Faith, but in time had lost her
First Love; love for God and each
Other while fighting over doctrine.

Many churches have lost their
Pristine purity and love while
Scrapping and needling over
Strict doctrinal concerns.

They had fallen, and the journey
Back was to repent and do the things
They did at first, or they will die out.
Churches can be half-dead and live.

The risen Christ makes a great
Promise to those who overcome;
They enter into the blessedness
Of the righteous kingdom of God.
The Poor Rich Church

The Smyrna Church by persecution
Lost all their material possessions,
But Christ brings encouragement
And declares, They are rich.
The Jews in the city daily
Taunted the church because
They hated Christianity, and
The persecution was great.

Christ said, I know the slander
Of those who say they are Jews
And are not, but are a synagogue
Of Satan; the Devil’s people.

While this church suffered a deluge
Of temptation to renounce their
Religion, they remained loyal
And faithful to their blessed Lord.

If they continue faithful even to the
Point of death, the Lord will give
Them the crown of life. Death is
Not to be feared.

The unbeliever dies to face another death.
A believer dies and finds eternal life.
Hell’s Headquarters

The city of Pergamum was the
Headquarters for emperor worship,
And therefore unrelenting in the
Persecution of Christians.

The church is commended for
Honoring Christ as their Lord
Rather than saying Caesar is lord.
It was a real test of loyalty.

But the teaching of Balaam, making
Material gain at the cost of spiritual
Loss, and there was emperor worship
Plus the heresy of Nicolaitans.

The Lord comes with the sword of
Mouth; keen and accurate judgment
On the ones who deal with false
Teachers and their iniquity.

Christ warns the church to repent of
It’s toleration of sin. In overcoming,
I will give them hidden manna and
A white stone with a new name written.
Wait for the Morning Star

The same heresy at Pergamum
Affected the church at Thyatira.
The Lord with piercing eyes like
A flame of fire speaks to the church.

He sees the services rendered
To God, their faith, love, fidelity,
Patience and for progress in their
Work since their beginning.

The church is growing in grace,
But the Lord has a complaint for
They harbor one guilty of heresy
Suffering the woman Jezebel.

This corrupt woman was misleading
Christians and seducing them to
Fornication and breaking vows with
God. She will meet destruction.

The true church is not guilty of heresy,
But they condone it. Overcoming,
The morning star, Jesus Christ, will
Guide in the dark hours of trials.

The heathen element clouded the sky
But the clouds shall disappear and Jesus
And the church shall shine together with
It’s peaceful light forever.
Sardis: Dead or Alive?

There was little to commend and
Much to complain. I know your deeds;
You have a reputation of being alive,
But you are dead. Wake up!
There was no life, no real zeal, but
Organization. Someone has said, there
Are few things better organized than
Graveyards. Christ said they were dead.

Their deeds were not complete in
In the sight of God, and they must
Obey and repent. If not, I will come
Like a thief in a time you know not.

However, there was a faithful
Nucleus who had not defiled
Their garments. The faithful were
To be arrayed in white garments.

Those who overcome will be given
White robes as a symbol of purity.
Their names will never be blotted
From the book of life.
The Church with an Open Door

The Lord King, Jesus Christ, holds
The keys to the kingdom of God.
Which means the keys of power
To open the Lord’s house for refuge.

Philadelphia, a small church, had
Little power and influence, but
It had an open door as a refuge for
Saving sinners from spiritual death.

They had not denied his name Jesus
Christ which meant savior, God’s
Anointed one. They had been faithful.
But wamed; to keep their crown.

Hold fast to His name, his word,
His patience, his promise to return.
Hear what I say, I am coming soon.
The Lord will admit her to His house.

And he will make her a pillar in His
Father’s house. Jesus dies no more,
And they who have born His cross
Shall wear the crown of victory.
The Church with a Closed Door

Of the seven churches there is nothing
Good said about Laodicea. Their
Spirituality was lethargic. I know
Your deeds; Neither hot nor cold.

With your attitude of indifference,
I will spit you out of my mouth.
A tepid church is the most difficult. It
Is easier to deal with a frozen church.

They were proud, arrogant, rich, and
Therefore had need of nothing. You
Say I am rich, but you are wretched,
pitiful poor, blind and naked.

Spiritually, they were poverty stricken.
But didn’t know it. Blind but knew it not.
Naked and cared not. Christ stood knocking
And calling, but the door was closed.

He that overcomes will sit with me
In my Father’s house. He who has
An ear, let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches.
The Glory of God

Now comes the echo of the majestic
Tread of the conquering Christ as He
Marches in triumph through the ages,
And now swings open a celestial door.

John sees the glory and majesty of
God sitting on a throne appearing in
Jasper, pure white, and carnelian, blood red
Symbolizing holiness and righteousness.

A rainbow giving hope, and Twenty-four
Elders on thrones symbolized comfort
For persecuted Christians facing
Cruel and imminent death.

*From the throne came flashes of lightning,*
*Rumblings and peals of thunder* which shows
God’s displeasure at the enemies of the cross.
The seven lights refer to the Holy Spirit.

These visions brought fresh courage
To churches. Though the enemies
Of the Cross might rage, and heresy rife,
Yet there was hope because God reigns.
Glory to God the Creator

This section gives glory to God From created beings. Redemption Has not appeared in the drama. It is unapproachable majesty.

The crystal sea before the throne Bars the way to God. It symbolizes The transcendence of God. In Revelation 21:1 the sea is no more.

And Christians are in direct fellowship With God. The persecuted Christians Were separated from God, but this Was not always to be.

The four living creatures around the Throne, means all God’s creatures Are worshipping him. They are ever Watchful to praise and adore Him.

Day and night they never stop saying, 

Holy, holy, holy

Is the Lord God Almighty,

Who was, and is, and is to come.
The Song of Creation

The praise is twofold. First the
Living creatures speak of glory
And honor, and thanks unto the
Sovereign eternal God.

Then the twenty-four elders
Representing redeemed humanity
Fall before the throne of God, and
Remove their crowns and praise

Him for his great creative power.
You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
    for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
    and have their being.

The invincible sovereign God is the
Point of emphasis in this chapter.
Encouragement is given all Christians
Since God is their defender.
The Redeeming Lamb

John has seen the throne room of heaven
Where all creation sang praises to God
For the power of the Creator who made
The universe out of nothing.

John sees the triumphant Christ
Marching through the ages. The cradle,
The cross and resurrection are behind.
He is glorified and worthy of honor.

A roll is held in God’s strong hand
Which was written within and without
“Close sealed.” It appears the book is
One of judgment against the sins of men.

Who is worthy to break the seals
And open the scroll? No such person
Can be discovered either in heaven,
Or on the earth, or under the earth.

And John wept loudly until an elder
Forbade him to weep longer. For the
Worthy One, the Lamb, cruelly pierced,
And in dramatic perfect takes the scroll.
The Redeeming Lamb (2)

In the preceding poem we saw the
Power of God who created the universe
Out of nothing. This poem reveals
The love of God as Redeemer.

The scroll written without and within,
Was “close sealed” and held in God’s
Strong right hand. But one like a slain
Lamb came and took the book.

It appears to be a book of judgments
Against sinful men. The destiny
Of men is in the nail-pierced hands
Of the Lamb who was slain.

All the inhabitants of heaven shouted
And praised the Christ as they sang
A new song.:

You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open it’s seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased
men for God…and
they will reign on the earth.
The White Horse of Conquest

Back of all history is God in Christ.
In this book the hand of Christ opens
The sealed book of God's dealings
With men. The seal denotes ownership.

The mystery of the Revelation
Has begun to unfold dramatically.
The first seal is opened by the
Risen glorified Son of God.

Appearing on the stage is a
White horse with his regal rider
Wearing a crown and a bow in
His hand which means conquest.

The rider is to be identified,
And there are two main views:
The rider represents Christ, or
A military conquest.

Conquest always brings oppression.
But the vision to the Christian
Means that victory is coming. In
God's hand there is deliverance.
The Blood-Red Horse

This flame-colored, blood-red
Horse refers to strife and war,
Slaying each other for the
Purpose of removing peace.

This is what war does to perfection,
It makes cannon fodder of men.
The Jewish concept for the end time
Was complete disintegration.

Brother against brother, neighbor
Against neighbor, kingdom against
Kingdom, stirring up anger and hate;
But they will perish in so doing.

Hatred based on competitive
Ambition and selfish desire
Is doomed; nation against nation
Is hastening to its end.

When evil marches across the
Breath of the earth and surrounds
The camp of God’s people, fire will
Come down from heaven and devour them.
(Rev. 20:9)
The Black Horse of Famine

When a living creature summons
The rider on the black horse to
*Come*, he rides silently across
The stage carrying a balance or scale.

The black horse and the scale denotes
Famine which follows war. The famine
Was so great, that a man might live
In semi-starvation, but no more.

Wheat and barley was measured and
Wheat sold at $6.40 a bushel, and
Barley about $2.00 per bushel,
Twelve times the normal price.

A day’s wages for a man was 20 cents.
While there was a shortage of grain,
There was superabundance of wine
Which was not a necessity.

When food was scarce and hunger
Was stalking the land, there was
No room for a luxury-loving
Minority to withhold grain.
The Pale Horse and Pestilence

A pale, grim, gruesome, livid horse
Rode across the stage whose name
Was Death and Hades, the Region
Of the Dead, which sought the prey.

The Greek word for Death also means
Pestilence which always follows war
And famine. Pestilence can destroy
More than conquest, war and hunger.

Military Conquest, War, Famine,
And Pestilence are forces God can
Use to destroy the oppressors of
His people. He protects His own.

The wicked are sunk down in the
Pit that they made: in the net which
They hid is their own foot taken.
This is the end of the first four seals.
The Souls of the Martyrs

When the Lamb opens the fifth seal,  
The symbolism changes. We have been  
Observing the means of judgment: we  
Now look at the reason for judgment.

John sees the vision of the souls of the  
Martyrs who had died for their faith.  
Then shall they deliver you up to be  
Afflicted and they shall kill you.

But the life-blood of the martyrs had  
Been poured as an offering and a  
Sacrifice to God. They cry out  
How long until you avenge our blood?

Wrath against sin is an essential  
Part of the righteousness of God  
And will not allow such evil to  
Go unavenged.

The martyrs were given white robe  
Symbolic of their victory and purity,  
And were told to be patient that  
Time wasn’t ripe for retribution.
The Shattered Universe

God will shake the heavens and
earth and the sea and the
dry land, The earth will open,
and fire will burst forth.

The sun becomes dark, the moon
Blood-red, stars fall like figs, the
Heavens fold up, mountains and
Islands are removed.

And the rulers, the rich and slaves
Hid in the caves wishing the rocks
Would fall on them was preferable
To facing an angry God.

Who ever escapes war will die
In the earthquake; and whoever
Escapes the earthquake will die
In the fire or perish in the famine.

When time is coming to an end,
This is a graphic way of God
Expressing his wrath, and Judgment,
On those oppressing his people.
Safely through the End Time

God’s people are not exempt from
The terrible days ahead, but are
Brought safely through it.
Until the saints are sealed for
Eternal glory and protection,
The forces of destruction are
Held in restraint. The seals
Bear the mark of God.

For your sake we face death all day
long; we are considered as sheep
to be slaughtered. No, in all these
things we are more than conquerors

Through him who loves us. For I am
convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons, neither
the present nor the future, nor

any powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation will
be able to separate us from the love
of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The Seal of God

God’s people, brought through tribulation,
Had God’s seal upon their foreheads
In Ezekiel the man with the inkhorn
Marked the forehead of those faithful.

Eastern kings wore a signet ring,
A seal to mark their personal
Documents and property.
Here, the mark of the seal indicated

They belonged to God’s power and
His authority. Paul wrote about
Being sealed with the gift of the
Holy Spirit meant belonging to God.

The number 144,000 stands for
Completeness of the Church of God
Which is the new Israel. It includes
Jews and Gentiles who are saved.

The number 144,000 means the
Number of the saved will be
Very, very great. It stands for
Completeness and perfection.
The Praise of Angels

The martyrs have just sung their
Shouts of praise to God, and the
Angels take that song of praise and
Make it their own. So let it be.

Every syllable of praise answers
To the greatness of God. They praise
Him for blessings, goodness, and
Kindness in creation and redemption.

They ascribed glory to God which
Means giving gravity and seriousness
To his Person, and for his works, and
For being our Father and Lord of all.

He is praised for his fountain of
Wisdom. They gave Thanks for
Salvation and grace, and they gave
Honor to His majesty.

They recognized God for his power;
It’s use in loving men. They ascribe
Strength to God forever and ever.
Have you chosen that strength for life?
Martyrs and Angels in Praise

Early Jews who faith God is standing
Around the throne, but also there are
Those from every nation, tribe, people
And language wearing white robes.

As one they rejoice and everyone
Around the throne join in praise:
Salvation belongs to our God, who
Sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

The elders, and the four living
Creatures fell face down in worship.
Saying: “Amen!” Praise and glory
And wisdom and honor, power and

Strength belongs to our God.
For these have come out of great
Tribulation. Their robes are made
White in the blood of the Lamb.

And God will wipe away every
Tear from their eyes. A question
Needs answering: will you allow
God to wipe away your tears?
Cleansing from Sin

These are they who have come out of
of the great tribulation; They
have washed their robes and made them
white in the blood of the Lamb.
The point of this vision grants John
To see beyond that terrible time,
And the glory that will follow it;
The tribulation of the end time.

The blessed ones around the Throne
Were dressed in white robes as opposed
To soiled robes. Isaiah writes, All have
Become unclean ... like filthy rags.

The Psalmist prays to God to wash
Him thoroughly until he is
Whither than snow. Made white
In the blood of the Lamb.

It is the blood of Christ which cleanses
us from all sin. We are redeemed by
the precious blood of Christ. The blood
of Jesus Christ purifies us from all sin.
The Blood of the Lamb

Much is said about the blood in
The New Testament. The word blood
Indicates death; the death of Jesus
Christ. The word also means life.

The life and death of Jesus go
Together. The blood stands for all
Christ did for us in life and death.
Through His blood we are cleansed.

It makes propitiation for us.
Through the blood we are justified.
We are redeemed by His precious blood.
Through His blood we have peace.

It purges our conscience from dead
Works to serve the living God.
The shedding of his blood is based
On sacrifice designed to restore.

It wins forgiveness of sins,
Peace with God, enables us to
Live a new life, and equips us
For Heaven’s wonderful home.
Sacrifice and Acceptance

They washed their robes and made *Them white.* The metaphor accents Man’s part in salvation, but he Has to apply it, and how?

By turning from sin in Godly Sorrow, and believing that *Christ Died for our sins according to The Scripture.*

One must believe that Jesus died For our sins, and turning from sin, Ask Him to save you. *Everyone Who calls on the Lord will be saved.*

The sacrifice has been made, but it Remains for a man to appropriate That sacrifice to himself. Only then Will you be saved and justified.
The Bliss of the Blessed

For many this is the passage
For which the Revelation exists.
Numerous people have found
Comfort in the hour of death.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life;
he that comes to me shall never hunger.
If any man thirsts, let him come
unto me and drink.

O Christ in you my soul has found,
And found in you alone,
The peace, the joy, I sought so long,
The bliss till now unknown.

Now none but Christ can satisfy,
No other name for me!
There’s love, and life, and lasting joy,
Lord Jesus, found in you.

In Isaiah 49:10 is an Old Testament
Dream finding it’s perfect fulfillment
In Jesus Christ. The ache of the body
And heart is soothed in Him.
The Divine Shepherd

The Psalmist wrote, *The Lord is My Shepherd.* Isaiah pictured God Feeding his flock like a shepherd, And holding the lambs in his arms.

This was the title Jesus took for himself *I am the good shepherd.* Hebrews speaks Of Jesus that great shepherd of the sheep. Of the sheep. Do you know Him?

He became a sacrifice for us. He leads to fountains of living water. The trusting Psalmist said, *With thee Is the fountain of life.*

*And God will wipe away every tear From their eyes.* As he nourishes our Bodies, he also comforts our hearts, Or the sorrows would be unbearable.

God’s people possess peace, joy and Victory. Every want is supplied; Every sorrow healed, and every Tear is wiped away.
Silence and Thunder

Already John has seen the instruments
Of judgment, the demand for it, terror
Of the wicked, and provision for
God’s people during judgment.

The trumpets are to announce the
Next happening, But there is a
Silence of breathless expectation,
A trembling suspense and reverence.

The silence of Heaven’s music
And the thunder of revelation
Is stilled while the whispered
Prayers of the saints go up.

A man may be sin stained, with
No sacrifice to bring to God, but
Prayer is an excellent sacrifice
On the altar of sincerity.

The prayers of the saints return
To the earth in wrath. And there was
Thunder, lightning and an earthquake,
A partial judgment to wicked men.
Trumpets, Woes andWarnings

The first four trumpets signals the Forces of nature hurled in judgment Against the world. The destruction Speaks of partial destruction.

John may have used the plagues That fell on Egypt and Pharaoh To allow the people to go, as his Imagery to convey warnings.

The rain looking like blood was Probably caused by the fine red Sands of the Sahara Desert caught In the upper air falling to earth.

The flaming mass falling into the Sea may be a volcanic eruption. So in this picture of terror man Has a preview of woes to come.

Remember this is figurative Language and not to be taken Literally, but God is revealing His judgment upon his enemies.
The Flying Eagle

With great anticipation during
The quiet pause at midday, a lone
Eagle flew across mid sky screaming
In a loud voice Woe! Woe! Woe!

Indicating that the next trumpet
Blast would announce judgment
Upon mankind. This announcement
Came with dramatic effect.

Here we have a strange, dramatic
Eerie picture of an empty sky
And one solitary, winging eagle
Giving a warning of doom to come.

The readers, while looking upon
The charred waste before them,
Senses the very worst to come.
But God gives his warning to men.
Demonic Horror

The fifth trumpet brings the scourge
Of locust. A huge star personified
As Destruction opens the yawning
Abyss, and smoke darkens the sun.

In Revelation the abyss is the
Place of intermediate punishment
For fallen angels, the beast, the
False prophets and Satan.

The smoke which had darkened the
Sun, turns out to be locust with
Stingers like scorpions to torment
Men until they desire to die.

They were told to harm only the
Enemies of God, and to injure not
God's marked people. These are safe,
While evil suffers their last chance.

God is faithful to the just and unjust.
Believers are marked with God’s seal.
In the visions the unjust have suffered,
And given time but repent not.

Remember all the visions are
Symbolic, and not to be taken
Literally. They are a piling of
Demonic horror upon horror.
The Cavalry of Vengeance

Under the cruel, persecution
Of Christians, at the hands of
The Roman emperors, God sends
Horifying vengeance upon Rome.

First the demonic locusts were
Allowed to injure, but not to kill.
Now come the squadrons of demonic
Cavalry with fierce vengeance.

As the sixth trumpet sounds, two
Hundred million troops were
Unleashed to kill a third of mankind.
No one can withstand God’s wrath.

In the days of Noah a tremendous
Flood took care of the antediluvians.
We must remember that God’s
Judgments accomplishes his will.

This vision symbolizes the hellish
Rottenness of the Roman Empire
Which brought about their downfall.
God’s enemies will be destroyed.
The Feared Cavalry

In John’s time the Parthian
Cavalry from the Euphrates
Was the most destructive and
Dreaded warriors in the world.

They seem to be armoured in flame
For their breastplates were fiery red,
And sulphurous yellow like the
Brimstone from the pit of hell.

The horses breathed out destructive
Fire and smoke and brimstone, with
Serpent tails to hurt and harm.
Part of the human race is destroyed.

One would think that the remainder
Would take warning and repent.
But they continued in demon and
Devil worship, promoting evil.
The Unutterable Revelation
Between verses 10:1 and 11:15

There is a long interlude between
The sixth and seventh trumpets
With terrible things happening
That ungodly men may repent.

John sees a strong angel radiant
Clad coming down out of heaven
From the very presence of God
With a message of warning.

The angel stands on sea and land
Meaning he has a message for the
Entire universe. He cries out
Like the roar of a lion.

But first the seven thunders utter
Their voices. Thunder is a warning,
A premonition of judgment of
Divine wrath. Then the angel speaks.

There shall be delay no longer.
The warning of the sixth trumpet
Had been sufficient. Since men
Refused to repent, delay is over.
Delay No Longer

John would have written more,  
But the angel said, Stop writing.  
Enough warnings have been given,  
And Time shall be no more.

Time is about to be ended, and  
Eternity is about to begin. Likely  
The meaning is the Antichrist  
Is about to burst upon the scene.

The hour has struck when the  
Antichrist will invade the earth.  
The scene is being set for Good  
And evil to face each other.

Final and total victory will  
Be won, and questions will  
Be answered, problems will  
Find solutions and wrongs righted.

Beyond the weirdness stands the truth  
That history is moving toward  
The inevitable triumph of God,  
And evil will be annihilated.
Joy and Sorrow

John is told the second time to
Take the little book, and he does.
God's revelation is never forced
On any man. He must take it.

God's messenger must be a willing
Messenger, one who puts his
Hand to the task, takes it into his
Life and being part and parcel.

John takes the little book, and is
Told to eat it assured of it's
Sweetness, but bitter in his belly.
The word was true; it tasted sweet.

Then came a commission to prophesy
From the book of woes and judgment,
And it became bitter. The message
From God was rejected.

It's sweet to receive a message
From God, but a message of warning,
A threat, a foretelling of doom,
Can become a bitter thing.
Measuring the Temple

With the measuring rod John was
To measure the Temple, the altar,
And the worshipers for protecting
The true spiritual Israel.

This is a vision of consolation
For God's own in contrast to the
Condemnation for their oppressors.
How wonderful the grace of God!

Forty-two is an indefinite number,
An uncertain time of turmoil for
The Christian Church who are
Living stones, a spiritual house.

Know you not that you are the temple
Of God...a holy temple? These are to
Be preserved in the time of trial. Those
Outside are doomed to destruction.
The Two Witnesses

John is writing in a time of
Supreme and urgent need, and
A message is needed to meet
The severe circumstances.

The two witnesses whether Elijah
And Moses is difficult to tell.
But they would represent a witness
Of powerful testimony.

It is assured that Gospel preaching
Will be maintained even in the
Face of fierce adversity when
Power arose to crush the witness.

The two witnesses were killed,
And left unburied that all may
Gape at them. Was Christianity
Crushed never to rise again?

Life was restored to the two
Witnesses by divine power.
It evidences the triumph of
Christianity over a sinful world.
Things to Come

The witnesses were killed, but
Restored by God’s power. If a
Sinful world is won to Christ, it
Cannot be by force, but by love.

It must be by the acceptance of
Suffering in the name of Christ.
Here is the story of the Cross and
Of the resurrection.

*The seventh trumpet* sounds and
Heaven rejoiced. *The kingdom
Of the world has become the kingdom
Of our Lord and of His Christ.*

*The twenty-four elders* fell on their
Faces and worshipped God.
Then comes the final attack of hostile
Powers who will be defeated forever.

John knew victory belonged to our
Lord and announces it ahead of time.
He has used this method many
Times—always very effectively.
The Mother and Her Child

John took all the signs of divinity
And beauty and added them together
In the mother’s description attired
In the radiance of the sun.

The moon was her pedestal, and
There were twelve stars for a crown.
The child born to her was destined
To rule the nations with a rod of iron.

He, the messiah, was caught up to
Heaven as a protective measure
And the woman fled to a place
Of protection in the wilderness.

Then there is the great, scarlet,
Flame colored dragon. His seven
Heads and the ten horns signifies
The mighty powers of the dragon.

The picture is man fallen in sin
But always reaching for higher life,
But evil frustrates his desire.
The culmination is on the Cross.
The Forces at War

The dragon, the devil, leads the
The forces of evil. His allies are
The first and second beasts. The first
Beast represents Domitian.

The Second beast represents the
Committee to enforce emperor
Worship. The Lamb symbolizes
The redeeming, victorious Christ.

The dragon is so large with the dash
Of his tail he can knock down the
Stars from the heavens. Before a
Helpless, pregnant woman he stands.

And makes efforts to destroy the Child.
The devil appeared to be the victor
When Christ was nailed to the Cross.
But the devil lost that conflict.

This is apocalyptic imagery.
A Battle is raging. Next, Satan
Tries to invade heaven to destroy
The Christ Child the son of God.
War in Heaven

As Satan tries to invade heaven,
Michael and his angels fight.
The battle raged. The devil was
Defeated, and cast down to earth.

Heaven celebrates the victory
Of the Lamb for they overcame
Satan by the blood of the Lamb,
And by the word of their testimony.

Therefore rejoice, you heavens,
But woe to the earth and sea
Because the devil was hurled
Down to earth.

Sathan enraged makes war against
The off spring of the woman who
Had given birth to the Christ Child,
But God gave her protection.

Satan who had lost three battles
Now seeks to destroy the Church, the
Body of Christ, and this persecution
Has spread agony to all Christendom.
The Devil and the Beast

The dragon is the devil and the
Roman Empire is symbolized by
A beast which was like a leopard
With bear’s feet and a lion’s mouth.

The Empire has the catlike vigilance,
The craft and cruelty of the leopard
Ready to spring upon its prey, and
Strength of a bear to squeeze to death.

The Empire is like a lion whose roar
Terrifies the flock. The symbolism
Suits Rome in its attack upon the
Christian Church. It is anti-God.

The dragon gave authority and
Power to the beast and men worshipped
It, and asked who is like the beast
And who can make war against him?

The devil is always looking for a
Hand to use. In this world a man
And a nation have the choice between
Satan and the instrument of God.
The Christian’s Only Weapons

In times of persecution, the Christian
Has only two weapons steadfastness
And loyalty. Jesus said, *they that take
the sword shall perish with the sword.*

Christians must accept all that being
A Christian involves. It means taking
Up a cross involving trial, scourging
Imprisonment and even death.

Right can never be defended
By doing wrong. An intolerable
Paradox is using force to defend
The Gospel of love.

The Christian has two weapons he
Can use, steadfastness and loyalty .
It means accepting the worst
And turning it into glory.

Christian must present to all men
The steadfastness and the loyalty
To Jesus Christ which is not moved
By fear or favor of men.
The Second Beast

In league with the dragon (devil),
And the first beast (emperor) to
To enforce emperor worship.
Severe consequence followed.

Those who would not worship the first
Beast were marked and forbidden to buy,
Or sell in the market place.
Let’s gaze at the second beast.

He had two horns like a lamb an
Outward religious appearance;
The lamb was a religious symbol.
He speaks with diabolical authority.

His power was derived from the
Roman state or the Emperor.
He was to enforce state religion
With power to enforce homage.

So we see three members of the forces
Of evil. There is the dragon identified
With the devil. The first beast identified
As the wicked emperor Domitian.

The second beast is identified
With state religion to enforce
Emperor worship. There is a force
Which overcomes the forces of evil.
The Father’s Own

In this chapter we look upon a scene
Bright and glorious as the last
One was dark and portentous. Now,
We see God and the heavenly hosts.

The devil had two instruments to
Use in battle: the first and second
Beast, but God has the Lamb, Christ, and
The sickle, God’s judgment.

The Lamb standing on Mount Zion.
Refers to the triumph of Christ
Safe with his redeemed who have
Godly marks on their foreheads.

With exceeding joy, they sang
A new victory song, known only
By the redeemed with the Lamb
Who had kept themselves undefiled.

There is no doubt of the outcome
Of the battle when the Lamb is safe
On Mount Zion with a perfect number
Of the redeemed with him.
The Imitation of Christ

The company of the Lamb are  
Those who follow the Lamb wherever  
He goes. A Christian is to follow  
Jesus Christ. *Follow me* were His words.

He said to Philip and to Matthew,  
*Follow me. Follow me* He said  
To the rich young ruler. *He left us*  
*An example, said Peter, follow Him.*

John says three things about the company  
Of the Lamb: They are a sacrifice  
To God. They speak no guile.  
And they are without blemish.

The Church must be like the Lamb  
Without sport or blemish. Life is  
A gift, a sacrifice, an offering  
To God, and by necessity be clean.
The Angels Bring Good Tidings

Tree angels have exciting messages. One speaks of eternal good tidings Of God’s victory. Men are to fear God and give Him glory.

The second angel announces the Doom of imperial Rome. Babylon Is used to represent evil and Rome As if it had already fallen.

The third angel announces the Destruction of those who have Worshipped the emperor. These Are marked for the wrath of God.

The undiluted wrath of God consist Of torment with fire and burning Sulphur. The smoke of their torment Goes up forever, day and night.

There is more about hell in the Bible than there is about heaven. That is God’s warning to men Who are on the wrong road.
A Voice from Heaven

One with divine authority speaks from Heaven; It is God’s statement not Just John’s. It is a beatitude concerning Death and rest for the Christian.

Having toiled under great adversity, 
They shall rest from their labors, 
They shall be refreshed. Jesus said, 
Come unto me... and I will give you rest.

Thomas Gray wrote with anticipation 
Of home, and finding refreshment from Labors, The plowman homeward plods his weary way. He is promised rest.

We do not go home empty handed 
For it is said, Their works do follow 
With them. When we die triumphantly In the Lord we do not go empty-handed.

We have not lost our works, nor saved As by fire. We make an abundant Entrance with genuine Christian Works for our blessed Lord.
The Harvest of Judgment

There are three things one cannot
Escape, taxes, death and judgment.
Daniel 7:13,14 depicts judgment
So John uses the same picture.

Judgment is crafted in terms of
Harvesting. The sickle symbolizes
Divine judgment. The sickle reaps
The clusters of the ripe grape harvest.

*The angel swung his sickle on the earth,*
*gathered it’s grapes and threw them*  
*into the great winepress of God’s wrath,*  
*and He trampled them in His fury.*

*The blood flowed out of the press,*
*rising as high as the horses’ bridle*  
*For a distance of two hundred miles.*  
*Terrible, but it describes full judgment.*

Truth is spoken, but do not take literally.
The risen Christ collects his own for
Glory, and the avenging angel collects
The wicked for judgment.
The Victors of Christ

Before the seven bowls of wrath
Are poured out, an interlude
Comes between symbols six and
Seven but only for a brief period.

Now there is an interlude of praise
And thanksgiving of the redeemed
As they sing the song of Moses and
The Lamb. The martyrs are safe.

They died the most savage and cruel,
And agonizing deaths. To them death
Was a greater victory than survival.
Now they are seen as victors.

The real victory is to face the worst
That evil can do, and if need be,
Be faithful unto death and the
Merciful Father will give glory.

Jesus said, *Whosoever shall save his
life shall lose it; and whosoever
will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*
Now the martyrs rejoice in heaven.
The Song of Victory

The triumphant martyrs about the throne sing the song of Moses And the Lamb (Ex. 15:1-18), It Was stamped upon their memory.

There is not a single word in it About their own victory and their Achievement. The whole song is An outburst on the greatness of God.

In the perfect vision of God, self Is wholly forgotten. And they Sing this grand doxology of His Presence and superb greatness.

Heaven is heaven because in it Self and self importance are lost In the presence of the greatness And the glory of God.
The Unapproachable Glory

Glory carries with it the gravity,
The weigh, the majesty and the
Grace of God eternal. His glory
Was symbolized by concealing smoke.

The glory of God filled the
Tabernacle, and Moses was unable
To enter the tent of the congregation
Because of the glory of God.

The holiness and the glory
Of God are such that man in his
Own right and in his own merit
Can never approach God.

No man could come into the temple
Until the plagues have worked their
Judgment. The righteousness of God
Must go out in avenging justice.

And there is nothing that can be
Done to halt it or to turn it back,
Until it has completed it’s purpose.
Prayer can not halt the judgment.
Retributive Justice

These seven bowls of wrath are
Poured out in the final vindication
Of God’s retributive justice with woes
Upon nature and woes upon man.

These bowls are for final retribution
The great voice out of the temple,
God’s voice of authority, summons
The visitation of divine wrath.

The first bowls of wrath affect nature:
A plague upon the land, upon the sea,
Upon the fresh water and the fourth
Upon the sun. These cover all of nature.

The heartless persecutors were
Compelled to drink the blood they
Had so ruthlessly shed. John saw
Them as blood-thirsty monsters.

The fifth bowl was poured out upon
The throne of the beast. His kingdom
Was darkened; Great pain was suffered.
They gnawed their tongues in great anguish.

The sixth bowl was emptied upon the
Euphrates River which dried the river,
And hordes of eastern enemies brought
Horror to pagans and Christians.
Satan’s Recruiting Agents

These frogs were unclean spirits coming
Out of the mouths of the evil forces,
Satan the Devil, the beast, the Roman
Empire, and the false prophet.

The name false prophet covers a
Whole class: magic-vendors, religious
Impostors, fanatics, and deceivers
Falsely interpreting the mind of God.

True religion has no worse enemies,
And Satan no better allies.
He introduces worship of other gods
And seduce men from true worship.

These three frogs, Satan’s allies,
Went out and stirred up the kings
Of the earth to fight against the
Parthians who are invading Rome.

This paragraph is symbolical.
It pictures the devil, the emperor.
The first and second beasts to do
Battle against the righteous forces.
Armageddon

The forces of evil gather to
Armageddon located on the planes
Of Esdraelon or the Mountain of
Megiddo for the final battle.

On the Armageddon battlefield
Great Hebrew battles were fought:
Gideon defeated the Midianites,
King Saul was defeated by the Philistines.

Deborah and Barak defeated the
Canaanite king, Jabin. John foresees
The final battle between God and
Evil on this famous battlefield.

Righteousness and evil engage in
Deadly combat. Remember, this is
Not a material sword and spear battle.
It would go against the New Testament.

Jesus’ sword is the sword of the Spirit,
The Word of God. If one expects
This to be a material battle, he must
Think the army heads are frogs.
The Seventh Bowl

The seventh bowl is poured out,
Revealing that all the forces of evil
Cannot defeat the cause of righteousness.
And John heard a voice, It is done!

In this final manifestation of
Divine wrath—thunder, lightning,
Voices, and an earthquake-- the city
Of Rome was overthrown.

Babylon, known as Rome, was the
Supreme anti-divine world power.
The earthquake, God’s destructive power,
Leveled Rome’s strongholds.

From the sky huge hailstones of about
a hundred pounds each fell upon men.
They turned not to God, but cursed
Him, and repented not.

The most terrible situation in life
Is when almighty God is powerless
To gain an entry into the human heart.
Men can lock their hearts against God.

Each person has the tremendous
Responsibility for their own soul.
How about yours? Have you opened
Your heart to God’s saving grace?
Rome Becomes a Harlot

Rome is described as the great Harlot. In the Old Testament
Heathen, immoral, godless cities
Are described as harlots.

Nineveh was called the well
Favored harlot. It is said of,
Jerusalem, How is the faithful
city become a harlot.

Ezekiel charged: Thou didst trust
in thine own beauty and playest
the harlot. Rome is called a harlot.
Because she prostituted herself with devils.

When we give something other than
God the first place in our lives, it
Is sin against love. It is infidelity.
It thinks of God as the lover.

Rome is called the great harlot,
Because she is an allurement
To Godlessness and immorality.
She invites and seduces others to sin.

Nations shared in the idolatries,
And in the vices of Rome, because
She taught them to sin, and that
Is why her judgment is so complete.
The Vision in the Wilderness

For John to see clearly this great Vision, an angel carries him away To a desert place to see the vision. Like this, great men saw their vision.

It was Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, And Jesus who regained courage and Faith when in the desert. In the Wilderness Jesus settled his ministry.

It could well be that there is not Enough quietness and loneliness In our lives to receive the message Which God is eager to give to us.

When a man lives in the Spirit, His horizons are widened to see The trends of history in the dim Future because they live in the Spirit.
The Scarlet Woman

Here Rome is pictured as a great
Harlot, one of many scenes to
Portray the fate of Rome who is
Guilty of spiritual fornication.

She practices her fornication
With kings of the earth, and they
Drink from her cup of evil, and
Are seduced to emperor worship.

She is seated upon a scarlet-
Colored beast, the Empire which
Supports this wicked city, and attired
In luxurious haughty splendor.

Her name is written upon her
Forehead, Mystery, Babylon the
Great, the mother of harlots and
Of abominations of the earth.

She is the great harlot responsible
For the idol-emperor worship, and
The mother of a family of harlots
Delighting to drink the blood of martyrs.
The Beast the Harlot Rode

John points to Domitian as a re-
Incarnation of Nero. He was the first
Emperor after Nero to persecute the
Christians, and he goes into perdition!

The beast was, and is not; and is
About to come up out of the abyss,
And go into perdition. This is the
Reincarnation of Nero.

The ten horns of the beast represent
The power of the empire. Rome’s
Power was in her provinces. The ten
Kings received no kingdom.

There is war with the Lamb, but the Lamb
Is victorious because he is Lord of lords,
And King of kings, and the unhappy
Provinces turn to destroy the harlot.

The harlot who met this destruction,
Was the great city that lorded it over
The kings of the earth. The doom of Rome
Is the first Triumph for the Christians.
The Fall of Babylon

The great harlot, Rome, called
Babylon boasted about herself.
Full of pride she said, I shall
Never have occasion to mourn.

Now she is to receive double
Punishment for all her evil.
Very quickly plagues, famine,
Mourning, and death will come.

Her allies suffer also. The kings
Of the earth who had entered into
Spiritual fomication mourn her loss.
The merchants also lament.

The burning of Rome under Nero
Was a small matter compared to
God’s wrath against the Empire
And all allies for doom comes soon.

The curtains fall on the second
Triumph of the pageant. It is a
Desolate scene but one of joy
For Christians seeing God’s rescue.
The Final Desolation

First the Empire, then the allies,
Now with one blow the imperial
City falls. Symbolic action begins
With a mill stone hurled into the sea.

As the sea closed over the stone,
So will Rome will be no more.
The sound of music, business, and
Home life will all cease.

Rome is to become a grim and
Terrible silent desolation,
Devastated, and obliterated,
Silenced once and for all.

Those who oppose this view
Point out the fact that Rome still
Stands. That is true, but not the
Persecuting Rome of John’s day.

The Christian movement which Rome
Tried to stamp out still stands, and will
Stand when all other Romes have fallen
To decay even as ancient Rome fell.
The Rejoicing Saints

This scene opens with a great host
In heaven singing the Hallelujah
Chorus attributing deliverance,
Glory and power to God.

Above the wails and lamentation of
Fallen kings, merchants and mariners,
And above the noise of crashing walls
And flaming streets is heard the singing.

The four and twenty elders and the
Four living creatures join the song
Of triumph saying, *Amen (So be it)*
*Hallelujah*, praise be to God.

John heard the redeemed, a great
Multitude, singing Hallelujah for
*The Lord our God, Almighty,*
*Reigns forever and ever.*

They are thinking of the marriage
Of the Lamb and the bride, but
The time of that union has not
Come yet. What happy anticipation.
The Victorious Warrior

Until now Christ has been pictured
As a Lion, Lamb, Judge, and now a
Victorious Warrior. He is riding
On a white horse a symbol of victory.

He is called the faithful and true,
The Word of God, and written on
His garment King of kings, and arrayed
In a garment sprinkled with blood.

Heavenly armies follow Him on
White horses. Nothing is said
About them being armed, but their
Leader is armed with a sharp sword.

The sword is a spiritual weapon
Of resistless might. With it he wins
The battle. In this pageant an angel
Invites the birds of heaven to a feast.

As the birds flock to the battlefield,
They feast on the carnage of kings,
Military captains, and men small
And great, enemies of God.
The Victorious Warrior (2)

The first and second beasts and false Prophet were no match for Jesus Christ. They were cast alive into the *The lake that burns with brimstone.*

The lake that burns with fire and Brimstone is symbolical of their Destruction. Christ overcomes Them; the conflict is a spiritual battle.

This is a vivid symbolical Representation of the final Victory of Christ’s cause and people Over that pagan empire.

The message in Revelation comes To us in terms of the persecuting Government of Rome. Just as Rome Fell, we are assured of victory.

I believe the antichrist is a Principle rather than a person. He is a Christ-defying government, Or a movement seeking to repudiate Christ.

He appears in different forms. In the first epistle of John he is Gnostic heresy and in Revelation Roman persecution.
Victory Over Satan

Satan is chained for a thousand
Years. From Chapter 12 to this
Point three enemies are allied
In opposition to Christ and people.

The two beasts and the false prophet
Were overcome by the Victorious
Christ. Satan also must be dealt with.
The saints were robbed, exiled or slain.

Here John sets forth ultimate victory
And triumph of the cause of Christ.
Satan is bound for a thousand years,
An indefinite time, not literal.

The devil was cast into the bottomless
Pit for a thousand years, and afterward he
Was loosed for a short time and goes
Back to his old tactics deceiving nations.

Fire came down out of heaven and
Destroyed them. The devil was cast
Into the lake of fire where the beast
And false prophet had been cast.

The thousand years is a complete number.
It represents not a period of years before,
Or after the second coming of Christ
The saints are completely victorious.
The Triumph of the Martyrs

In this vision John sees Christ on
His throne, and the martyred saints
Seated on thrones around him for
A period of great duration.

Upon these highly figurative verses,
4-6, Christian communities have been
Torn asunder, fellowship disturbed,
And friendships destroyed.

All because of insistence upon a
Literal interpretation. Upon these
Three verses alone rests the whole
Millenial theory.

The martyred saints of the Domitian
Persecution, beheaded for the
Testimony of Jesus, these only lived and
Reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The first resurrection is that of the
Martyred saints. They are blessed
And holy and the second death has
No power over them.
The Overthrow of Satan

Just when it appears that the devil
Is forever bound he continues to
Deceiving the nations into lining
Up with the emperor rather than Christ.

Gog and Magog were ancient enemies
Of God’s people. They are a symbol
Of barbarous people who rally with
The Devil about the camp of the saints.

But fire came down from heaven and
Devoured them. And the devil who
Deceived them was cast into the lake
Of burning sulfur; tormented day and night.

It is not worldly power, but heavenly
Power which destroyed the devil.
It is Lightning that falls from heaven,
God ordered; God’s Judgment.

Satan is cast into the lake of fire
And brimstone to writhe forever
With Domitian and leaders of
Enforced state worship.

The forces of evil and good have
Met; the battle fought. The redeeming
Lamb has triumphed over the devil,
And marches to eternal victory.
Eternal Destinies

This is the last act of redemption
Picturing judgment and redemption.
There are two divisions: the destiny
Of the unredeemed and the redeemed.

Around the great white throne, John
Sees the dead small and great standing
In judgment and books were opened.
Before the holy justice of God.

There are two kinds of recording
Books in heaven; the books we
Ourselves make day by day,
And the Lamb’s Book of Life.

_The cowardly, the unbelieving,
The vile, the murders, the sexually
Immoral…and all liars will be in the
Fiery lake of burning sulfur._

The names of the wicked were not
Found in the Book of Life and were
Cast into the lake of fire,
This is the second death.
The New Creation

Behold. Said God to Isaiah, I  
Create new heavens and a new
Earth; and the former shall not be
Remembered, nor come into mind.

Sorrow is to be forgotten; sin
Is to be vanquished; darkness
Is to be at an end; temporary
Time is turned into eternity.

It is a witness of man’s inherent
Sense of sin, and a witness to
Man’s faith in God Almighty,
And that God’s promises come true.

Men dreamed that God who created
Would also recreate, even though the
Sin and sorrow are altogether the
Fault of men. His grace covers it all.

Man needs to know that there is going
To be a resurrection, a judgment,
Eternal life after death, and that
God has prepared a place for his own.
The Destiny of the Redeemed

The tabernacle is emblematic
Of perfect fellowship with God.
It was a symbol of God’s presence
With Israel in the wilderness.

*Behold the tabernacle of God
Is with men, and He shall be with Them.* In this fellowship we are to be
Free from suffering and trials.

Even in this life, that which helps most
And makes earth seem more like heaven
Is the sense of fellowship with God.
In heaven there is intimate fellowship.

The Holy City, New Jerusalem
Was seen coming down glorious
And beautiful as a bride adored
For her husband in marriage.

The new Jerusalem is a tabernacle
Where God dwells with his people,
Wipes their tears away and erases
Forever crying, pain and death.

*When He takes me by the hand, and
leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day, that will be.*
The Destiny of the Redeemed (2)

The new heaven and new earth must
Have a capital city in accordance
With it's splendor. John saw the
New Jerusalem glorious as a bride.

The high walls symbolize protection. 
The 12 gates, an abundant entrance,
And are never closed. The 12 foundations
Means the City could not be shaken.

There will be perfect room for all the
Redeemed. The entire description
Presents a strong, spacious, perfect,
And beautiful City of God.

There is no temple in the city where
Sacrifices were made for sin. It was
Not needed in the New Jerusalem
Because there is no sin to atone for.

The gates of the city will never be
Closed to those who are purified
By the blood of the Lamb, and their
Names are in the Lamb’s book of life.

The beloved City is now the Lamb’s
Bride and God’s eternal city.
Remember this is apocalyptic
Figurative literature.
The Destiny of the Redeemed (3)

The symbolism for all our needs and
Perfect enjoyment is God’s garden.
All a man needs to sustain basic
Life are water, food, and health.

This vision symbolizes the supply
Of all three: the water of life,
 perpetual fruit of the tree, and
leaves with their healing powers.

How can a man live forever?
The answer, it comes from the throne
Of God and the Lamb. Man tried to
Live on earth, but O the handicaps.

They shall see his face. When earth
Is passed and a man finds himself
In the eternal presence of God, then
He will see him face to face.

What a day that will be
When Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon his face...
Who saved me by His grace.
The Conclusion of the Pageant

Time has run out. The pageant comes
To a close. The curtain is drawn,
But the Redeemer steps in front
Of the curtain for the final word.

John declares this writing to be
By divine authority. The words
Are faithful and true that came to
Him on the Isle of Patmos.

The glorified and risen redeemer
Gives a parting message to
Sinning multitudes: Come!
Take of the water of life freely.

Whosoever will are bidden to
Come by repentance and faith
Accepting Jesus Christ as Savior
And Lord. Come is the final plea.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
And has redeemed us to God by his blood,
To receive power, and riches, and wisdom,
And might, and honor, and glory,
And blessing, and dominion,
Forever and ever. Amen!