Re-Vealing Revelation

... a deeper, gentler look into the Bible's final "chapter"



Some quite important reading ... both for those considered "damned", as well as those doing that damning.

via Scaughdt
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"The book of Revelation contains as many mysteries as it does words." ~ St. Jerome (one of the principle founders of the Christian church)

"Where the book of Revelation is concerned, I hold the view that the early church fathers released something very dangerous on the world when ... they decided to include it in the Christian canon." ~ C. J. Sansom

"But nothing unclean shall enter [Heaven], nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." ~ unknown (Revelation 21:27)

"And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of almighty God. And he has on his robe and on his thigh a name written: King of King and Lord of Lords." ~ unknown (Revelation 19:15-16)





"And when Jesus realized that they were about to come and make him king, he withdrew to the mountain by himself." ~ unknown (John 6:15)

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you show Love for one another." ~ Jesus Christ (John 13:35)

"He fed the thousands, and the next day they were all hungry again. But we remember his Love ... Beyond the miracles, what has lasting significance is Love." ~ Shane Claiborne

The Book of Revelation: an Introduction

For a number of years now, I have consistently witnessed a somewhat disturbing phenomenon – namely, that many of my Christian friends, at some point during our discussions about the nature God & Jesus & Heaven & Hell, almost invariably "prove" their point by quoting a verse or a passage from the

book of Revelation; and that most often the point they are trying to prove thereby is one that seeks to show that God is a god of judgment -- or that Jesus will return in wrath to separate the saved from the damned – or that Heaven's doors will only be opened to those few Souls who bow down to Jesus as their "only Lord & Savior" – or that the portals of Hell and its eternity of torment will be flung wide for, and then slammed shut upon, everyone else ...

And for a number of years after first hearing such statements, having never read the Bible myself – and having naively chosen to believe the violent

claims of those who professed to know its contents, I adhered to the notion that Revelation was nothing more than a very bad chapter in what was obviously a very "evil" book (meaning, the Bible).

Of course, I couldn't just leave it at that ... The conundrum just wouldn't let me be, and I continued to ponder the mystery of how the angry Jesus found in the book of Revelation could in any way be the same man who supposedly preached the virtues of radical Kindness, selfless Service, and humble Forgiveness in the Gospels. I wondered how this great prophet of unconditional Love could somewhat suddenly abandon his own teachings in favor of those steeped in condemnation and damnation – how this great Son of God who was supposedly so



vehemently opposed to hypocrisy (see Matthew 7:5, Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 15:7-9, Matthew 22:18, Matthew 23, Luke 6:46, Luke 12:56, John 8 et al) could himself be so hypocritical when it came to such all-important topics as Love & Mercy & Justice & Judgment (see Matthew 5:40-44, Mark 12:31, Matthew 22:37-40, Luke 6:35-36, Matthew 7:1-2, John 8 et al).

And then one day everything changed – for then one day I decided to read the first 26 books of the Bible's New Testament for myself (purposefully avoiding Revelation, of course) ... And upon doing so, I immediately realized that those texts didn't necessarily say what my Christian preachers had preached or what many of my Christian friends had said. In fact, this discovery was so wonderful to me that I decided to read the New Testament again -- & again -- & again -- & again.

And after doing so I then took the most important step of all: I began to actively experiment with the teachings I read therein. I started to purpose-fully (and often radically) test the "Spiritual Fruit" that resulted when the different admonitions from the Bible's various authors were actually put into practice in everyday life ... And after doing so over & over again, many hours a day -- every day -- for almost 18 months of my life, I eventually became intimately familiar with those first 26 books of Scripture – both what they said (and what they clearly didn't say), as well as what they manifested (and what they clearly didn't manifest) when I put them into practice ...

And then one day shortly thereafter, I took a deep breath & decided to actually read the entire book of Revelation for myself as well ...

... and that is when it all started to make a bit more sense.

You see, without even going into the historical setting of Revelation, the obvious political motives of its author, the rich metaphorical symbolism that decorates almost all of its chapters, or its clear ties to the Bible's "Old Testament" (275 of Revelation's 404 verses either allude to or directly quote from passages found in the Hebrew Bible), it is enough for Christians & non-Christians alike to note the following: that while our church leaders would have us believe that the somewhat angry "Jesus" mentioned in the somewhat wrathful tome of Revelation is the same loving & gentle Jesus Christ we find in the Gospels of the Bible's New Testament, this is simply NOT the case!

To simplify the matter for you, after examining the Biblical record in detail, it has become quite clear that one of two possibilities is true -- *either* the "angel of the Lord" in the book of Revelation was lying (a trait common to most of the other "fallen angels" mentioned in the Bible as well) – that he was speaking about a completely different "Jesus" than the one mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John -- *or* the Jesus Christ of those same Gospels suffered a dramatic bipolar personality shift after his resurrection & ascension; a personality shift which had him essentially renouncing his entire ministry of unconditional Love in favor of a new ministry of exclusion, judgment, punishment & wrath.

Essentially, all you need to understand is that it is fundamentally *impossible* to reconcile these two very different "Sons of God", and as such each & every Christian believer must choose both between two very different & highly incompatible manifestations of Jesus, as well as choose between those Christs' two very different & highly incompatible ministries ...



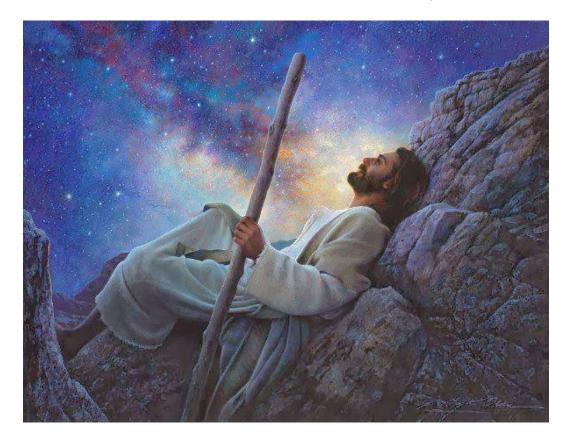
In essence, every member of the Christian church (indeed every sincere reader of the Bible's New Testament, regardless of his or her religious bent) must choose to abide *either* in Revelation's vision of "Jesus" *or* in the teachings of Jesus Christ as read in the Gospels ... The two are mutually exclusive, and a choice between them must be made. And while make no a claim here as to which of these two is "better" or more "true", I *do* contend that it is impossible to simultaneously worship both of them consistently (unless one chooses to water-down Revelation to a piece of mere metaphorical mysticism -- which it might very well be).

And I also contend that this incompatibility is actually extremely *GOOD NEWS* for Christians and non-Christians alike, for if you belong to the latter portion of humanity (non-Christians) – if you qualify as an "unbeliever", it is now possible to more readily feel Compassion for all those conservative Christians who are professing the condemnation of your Soul ... After all, once we realize that the "Jesus" conservative Christians are using to justify their beliefs has nothing at all to do with the "Lord & Savior" shown in the Gospels, we can understand as well that theses folks are actually missing out on the deepest meaning within their own religion – and as such it becomes much easier to respond to them with sincere Kindness instead of indignant rage.

And if you are someone who considers yourself to be a Christian, you are now fully free -- without fear of blaspheming your Bible or insulting your God or dismantling your faith -- to set aside the wrathful "Jesus" read in the pages of Revelation and the judgmental God heard from the pulpits in conservative churches, and embrace both a Divine Father of perfect Grace and a Holy Son of unconditional Love instead.



This is definitely a way that honors the fundamental pillars of the teachings of Jesus Christ, and as such it is definitely something for every Christian (and every non-Christian who has regular dealings with Christians) to earnestly consider ...

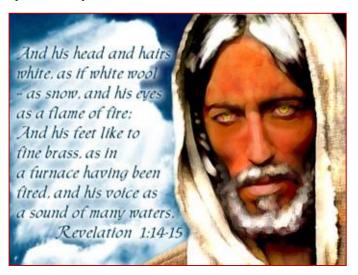


"And why do you not judge for yourself what is Right? ... Beware false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous as wolves. You will know them by their fruits ... Do not judge by mere appearances, but rather discern using sound judgment." ~ **Jesus** Christ (Luke 12:57 + Matthew 7:15-16 & John 7:24)

Now I realize that this quite the bold claim I am making – a claim that shakes the very foundations of the Christian religion. And I realize as well that all extraordinary claims rightfully call for extraordinary evidence. So with this in mind, I offer the following for your humble consideration – a vivid & thorough scriptural contrast between the "Jesus" mentioned in John's Revelation and the Jesus Christ illuminated in the Bible's four canonical Gospels ... EnJOY!

Part 01: a few General Considerations

Initially, it is important to realize that the author of Revelation clearly claimed that the same Jesus Christ of the Gospels was also his tome's "wrathful redeemer". Indeed, the very first words of Revelation's very first verse identify it to be "The revelation of Jesus Christ", even though the last words of that same verse admit that Revelation was not transmitted directly by Jesus himself, but rather were offered by proxy via "his angel", a messenger who seemed to see Jesus in an entirely new way ...



Later, after quoting Daniel 7:10's praising of the Messianic "Lamb" (see Revelation 5:11), Revelation's author has that same "Lamb" opening the infamous seven seals (see Revelation 6:1-17 + 8:1-2). And once we remember that the Gospel of John had already clearly identified Jesus as "the Lamb of God" (see John 1:29), it once again becomes obvious that Revelation's author clearly claims the same man to be his protagonist as well.



Finally, as if there was any doubt remaining, Jesus is directly mentioned as Revelation's primary source near the end of its final chapter ...

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches." ~ Revelation 22:16

Secondly, while seemingly speaking of the future, Revelation clearly references words from the past, and it does so purposefully – with much of its verses representing the apparent fulfillment of the prophecy found in the book of Daniel (see Daniel 12:4). Indeed, the author of Revelation quotes Daniel 7:13 at the very beginning of his work (in Revelation 1:7) to emphasize his major theme: namely, that Jesus Christ will one day return as a forceful & vengeful & wrathful "Davidian" Messiah (see Revelation 5:5).

As mentioned previously, it is Jesus who opens the seven seals of destruction in Revelation, and it is Jesus who imposes final judgment on the unworthy (who have 70 weeks – or *seventy times seven* days – to "finish transgression and eliminate sin" before said condemnatory sentencing – see Daniel 9:24). Indeed, throughout the book of Revelation, the "Messiah" is consistently described as wrathful and condemnatory (see Revelation 2:5b, 2:22-23, 3:5, 3:19, 6:1-17, 8:6-9:6, 11:18, 16:2-19, 18:6-8,19:15, 20:4, & Revelation 21:8), and this fact becomes especially intriguing when we remember that Jesus' own disciples had similar notions about *him* -- and that they had once desired similar results (see Matthew 14:30, 16:13-20, 18:1, 19:16-17, 19:25,20:20-23, 20:25-28, Mark 10:36-37, 13:4, Luke 19:11, John 1:49, 6:65-66, 7:3-4, 10:24, 12:34, 12:37, 14:8, 14:22 et al).

And yet, Jesus himself made it *very* clear in the Gospels that he was **NOT** -- and that he never would be – such a violent "Savior" (see Matthew 16:20, 22:18, 22:41-45, 24:1-2, 24:23-27, 26:63-64, Mark 1:25, 1:38, 3:12, 8:27-30, 9:9, 10:17-18, 10:31, 10:39-40,12:14-17, 12:35-37, 14:3-8, Luke 4:5-8, 4:35, 4:41, 8:39, 9:18-21, 11:28,17:14-15, 18:18-19, 19:20-26, 19:41-44, 22:70, 23:35, John 5:41+44, 6:15, 6:35+6:45, 7:18, 8:50, 8:54, 12:3-7, 12:44-45, 12:49 & John 13:13).



Indeed, Jesus repeatedly informed all who would listen that he had come to offer a *spiritual* transcendence of suffering, **not** a physical liberation from the same ...

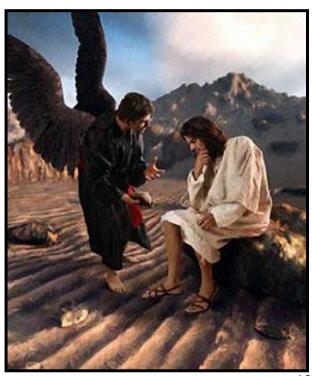
"Peace I leave with you, and my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives." ~ Jesus Christ (John 14:27)

(see also Matthew 5:3-16, 6:1-8, 6:19-21, 12:49-50, 16:24+27, 18:3-4, 19:14, 21:43, 25:35-40, Mark 3:35, 7:15-23, 9:35, 10:14-16, 10:43-45, 12:43-44, 13:21-23, Luke 6:20-23,



6:46-47, 8:18, 8:21, 9:48, 10:19-20, 11:46, 12:15, 12:31-34, 12:57, 13:18-21, 14:13-14, 14:25-33, 17:20-21, 17:22-24, 17:33,18:16-17, 18:29-30, 19:19, 22:26-27, John 1:12-13, 3:3-8, 3:20-21, 3:27, 4:23-24, 6:27, 6:33, 6:53-57+63, 7:6, 7:24, 8:36, 13:17, 13:35, 14:20 & John 17:20-23+26 et al).

As an intriguing aside, it is also important to realize that Revelation's quoting of Daniel 7:13 to establish Jesus as the prophesied "wrathful redeemer"* cannot be incorporated into the book of Revelation without also alluding to the verse that follows it ... And indeed, when we look to Daniel 7:14, we find something quite shocking – namely, that the Old Testament "Messiah" in that verse is rewarded with the very powers & glories that Jesus himself *rejects* after Satan offers them to him in Matthew 4:8-10!



"To him was given dominion and glory and kingship; that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him." ~ unknown (Daniel 7:14)

"Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and the devil said to him, 'All these I will give to you ...', and Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan!'" ~ Matthew 4:8-9

*Daniel 7:13 is one of the very few verses in the Bible where the term "Son of Man" does in fact refer to a singular Davidian Messiah – with most of Jesus' personal uses of this term alluding either to his immediate listeners or to humanity in general.

This fact becomes even more intriguing alongside the realization that it is the *demons* in the Gospels who repeatedly announce Jesus as the *only* Son of God, and that Jesus invariably **rebukes** them & tells them to be silent whenever they do so* ... And this should come as no surprise, as scripture clearly states that Jesus knew that demons were related to Satan -- "the father of lies" who "hated the truth" and who had "no truth in him." (Jesus quoted in John 8:44)

"And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons; and yet he would not permit the demons to speak, because they claimed to know him." ~ Mark 1:34

"Whenever the impure spirits saw Jesus, they fell down before him and cried out, 'You are the Son of God!' But he warned them sternly not to make him known in this way." ~ Mark 3:11-12

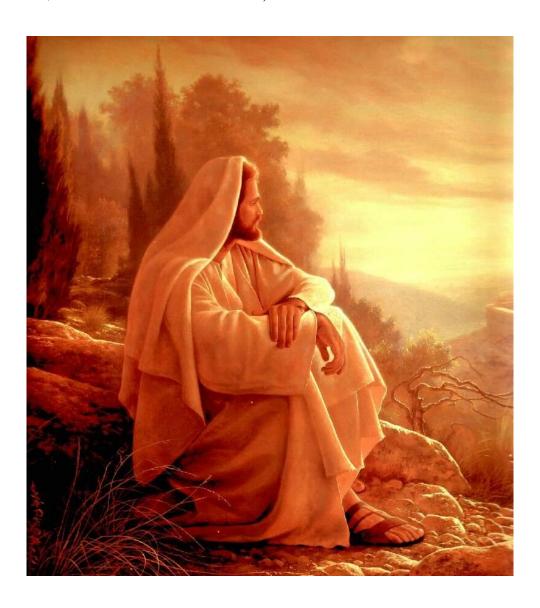
"Demons also came out of many, shouting, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they believed that he was the Messiah." ~ Luke 4:41





Thirdly, the contrast between the Jesus mentioned in Revelation and the Jesus found in the Gospels can be seen in the dramatically different way they are portrayed in the Bible ... Consider that --

- *... the "Jesus" of Revelation announces seven "Beatitudes of Death" (see verses 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7 & 22:14), while the Jesus of the Gospels gives us nine Beatitudes of Love (see Matthew 5:3-11) ...
- *... the "Jesus" of Revelation is frequently seen as a destroyer (especially in chapter 8 & chapter 9), while the Jesus of the Gospels consistently refuses to destroy (see Luke 9:51-55, John 3:16-20, John 12:47 et al) ...
- *... the "Jesus" of Revelation is a condemner of Souls (see Revelation 21:8 et al), while the Jesus of the Gospels repeatedly refuses to condemn them (see John 3:17, John 12:47, Matthew 8:11 & Luke 6:35-36 et al).



*Also, feel free to note that Revelation's version of Paradise – the "New Jerusalem" – arrives in a flash of magnanimous splendor at some point in the future, while Jesus makes it very clear in the Gospels that *his* "Kingdom of Heaven" is humble & ordinary (see Matthew 13:31-32 et al) and that it has actually already arrived; that it is already "within and all around us" in every moment of our lives (see Luke 17:20-21 & Matthew 6:25-34, along with the vast majority of Jesus' parables – all of which speak to a present-moment Salvation available to all who choose to actively & selflessly care for others).

*It is also interesting to note that the book of Revelation provides us with a multitude of visions never before seen in the Bible, even after the Jesus of the Gospels has made it quite clear that there would be no new revelations from him after his death ("I have already told you everything." ~ Jesus in Mark 13:21-23).

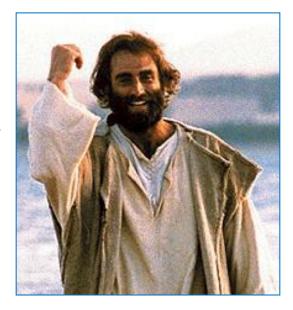
*And finally, we see the "Jesus" of Revelation receiving extreme forms of glory & subservient worship, while the Jesus of the Gospels repeatedly rejected all such honors & all such adorations (see Mark 10:18, John 5:41, 6:15, 7:16 & 12:44 et al).

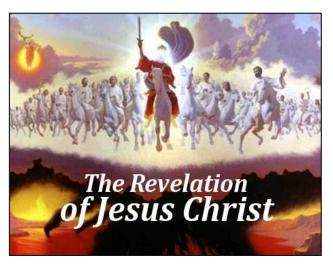


And yet if the aforementioned flagrant contrasts between the "Jesus" of Revelation and the Jesus Christ found in the Gospels aren't enough to open your mind, feel free to examine & consider the following collection of specific examples as well ...

Part 02: some Specific Contradictions

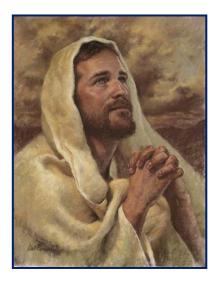
*Revelation 1:7 notes that on Jesus' account "all the tribes of the Earth will wail", while Jesus himself makes it clear in the Gospels that the primary purpose of his ministry is that our "Joy might be complete." (see John 15:11)





*Revelation 1:16 & Revelation 2:12 both have Jesus' mouth becoming a "two-edged sword" – an actual weapon of death, while Jesus himself told others to keep all swords in their sheaths (see Matthew 26:52); that the only weapon he ever advocated using was the sharpened blade of the Word of God – a tool of pruning & purification. (see Matthew 10:34 & John 12:47-48)

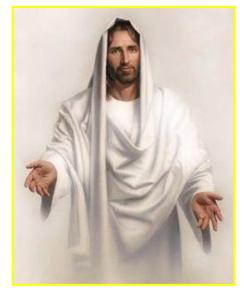
*Revelation 1:17 has Jesus saying "I am the 1st and the last", while the Gospel Jesus gave glory only to God the Father, *not* to himself. (see Mark 10:18, John 5:41, John 6:15, John 7:16, John12:44 et al)

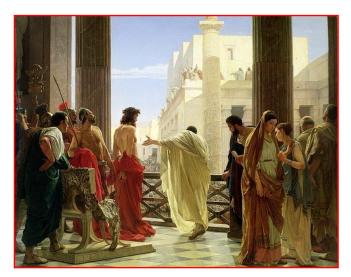


Keys to life: #1 God first. #2 Love one another. #3 Never hate. #4 Give generously #5 Live simply. #6 Forgive quickly. #7 Be kind always.

*Revelation 1:18 shows Jesus holding the keys of death, while the Gospel of Matthew clearly shows Jesus holding the keys to life. (see Matthew 19:17, 19:29, 22:32 et al)

*Chapter 2 of Revelation has Jesus openly condemning many in the churches mentioned therein, while Gospel Jesus made it clear that he would never condemn *anyone*. (see John 3:17, John 8:15, John 12:47 et al)





*Revelation 2:4 shows Jesus openly desiring to be adored by the Ephesians, while Jesus himself consistently "accepted the glory of no man." (see John 5:41, John 6:15, Mark10:18 et al)

*Revelation 2:6 claims that Jesus actually professed a hatred for the Nicolaitans, while Jesus in the Gospels clearly desired only for us to actively & fully "Love our enemies", and thereby "Be perfect [in our Loving] just as the Father is perfect." (see Matthew 5:40-48)

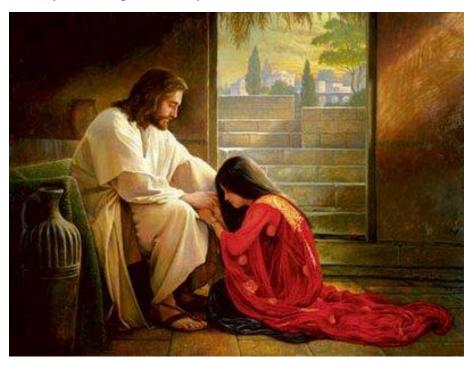


But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

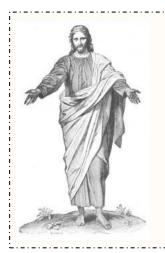
(Jesus Christ)

*Revelation 2:14 & Revelation 2:20 both have Jesus rebuking others for eating foods sacrificed to idols, while Jesus himself made it clear that doing so was patently irrelevant ("Whatever goes into a man from the outside cannot defile him." ~ Jesus Christ in Matthew 15:17-18).

*Revelation 2:14 & Revelation 2:20 also show Jesus condemning the act of fornication, while the Jesus in the Gospels merely frowns upon this miscue, gently saying "Let anyone accept [celibacy] who can" (Jesus in Matthew 19:12).



*Revelation 2:16 has Jesus saying "I will come to you soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth", while the Gospel Jesus said not only "Blessed are the Peacemakers", but also taught us to openly bless those who curse us. (see Matthew 5:9 + Luke 6:28)



Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be
shown mercy.
Blessed are
the peacemakers,
for they will be
called children of God.

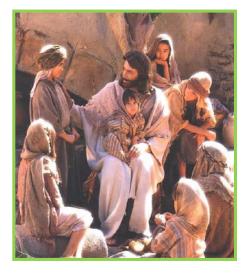
- Jesus (Matthew 5:7,9)



*Revelation 2:19 notes that "the last are greater than the first", while Jesus in the Gospels made it clear that the two were perfectly equal ("The last shall be the1st, and the 1st the last" ~ Jesus in Matthew 20:16 – see also Matthew 19:30, Mark 9:35, Mark 10:31, & Luke 13:30).

*Revelation 2:22 shows Jesus punishing others with illness, when the Gospels consistently show Jesus as a conduit through with *the Divine* does great **healing**. (see Matthew 9:20-31, Mark 5:24-34, Luke 17:11-19 & John 9:1-12 et al)





*Revelation 2:23 has Jesus "striking her children dead", while the Gospels show repeatedly that Jesus loved & revered all children. (see Matthew 18:5, Matthew 19:14, Mark 9:42, Mark 10:14 et al)

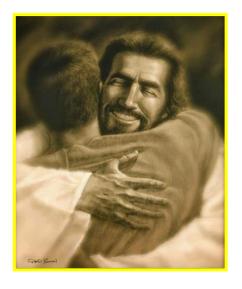
*Revelation 2:26 has Jesus "giving authority over the nations", while the Gospels have Jesus telling us to "give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." (see Matthew 22:21 & Luke 20:25)





*Revelation 2:27 has Jesus ruling with an "iron rod", while the Gospels have Jesus reminding us to "be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful." (see Luke 6:36)

*Revelation 3:2 intimates that Jesus will judge us if our works are not "perfect in the sight of my God", while the Jesus of the Gospels asks rather that our Love become "as perfect as *the Father*." (see Matthew 5:48 + Luke 6:45)



*Revelation 3:5 has
Jesus claiming to erase the
unworthy from the Book of
Life, while the Jesus of the
Gospels made it repeatedly
clear that he condemns no
one, and indeed would call
everyone to him when he
was "lifted up." (see John
12:47 + John 12:32 et al)



*Revelation 3:7, Revelation 5:5, & Revelation 22:16 all show Jesus claiming to be "the root and the descendant of David", when the Jesus in the Gospels made it repeatedly clear that he was *not* the Davidian Messiah mentioned in Daniel 7:13. (see Matthew 22:41-46 & John7:42 juxtaposed with Matthew 2:23, et al)

*Revelation 3:20 shows Jesus "standing at the door, knocking", while the Jesus of the Gospels made it plain that *him* knocking wasn't required at all, because "for **all** those who knock, the door will be opened." (see Matthew 7:7-8 et al)

*Revelation 4:3-6 & Revelation 21:21 both show Paradise as being a physical place seemingly composed of precious stones & gold into which the "saved" would one day enter, while Gospel Jesus noted that *his* "The Kingdom of Heaven" was a realm that was *spiritual* – fully immaterial in nature, and fully available to all. (see Matthew 6:19-21+ 25 + 33 et al)



*Revelation 4:5 & Revelation 11:19 show lightning coming from the throne of God, while Gospel Jesus saw something similar – albeit with a very different implication, when he "beheld *Satan* as lightning falling from the heavens." (see Luke 10:18 – also Matthew 24:27, Luke 17:24, Exodus 19:16 & Ezekiel 1:13)

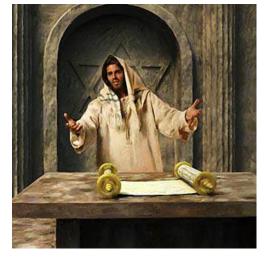


NOTE: As an important aside, Paul also saw something eerily similar to "Satan's Fall" while he was traveling on the Road to Damascus. (see Acts 9:3, when Paul *thought* he was being summoned by Jesus)



*Revelation 5:5 makes it clear that only an ancestor of David can open the mentioned scroll and its seven seals, and yet Jesus himself made it quite clear in the Gospels that he was *not* the Davidian Messiah at all. (see Matthew 16:20, 22:18, 22:41-45, 24:1-2, 24:23-27, 26:63-64, Mark 1:25, 1:38, 3:12, 8:27-30, 9:9, 10:17-18, 10:31,10:39-40, 12:14-17, 12:35-37, 14:3-8, Luke 4:5-8, 4:35, 4:41, 8:39, 9:18-21, 11:28, 17:14-15, 18:18-19, 19:20-26,19:41-44, 22:70, 23:35, John 5:41+44, 6:15, 6:35+6:45, 7:18, 8:50, 8:54, 12:3-7, 12:44-45, 12:49 & John 13:13)

*Revelation 5:7-8 shows Jesus taking down a "scroll of doom", while the Gospels show Jesus opening and reading from a scroll of liberation (see Luke 4:18, where Jesus publicly reads from the scroll of Isaiah, verses 58:6 & 61:1-2) ...



*Revelation 5:12-13 (and also Revelation 19:16) has Jesus the "Lamb" receiving power & glory from "myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands", while Jesus in the Gospels repeatedly rejected **all** offers of power & glory (see Matthew 4:1-10 – juxtaposed with Daniel 7:13-14, John 6:15, Matthew 10:18 et al) ...



*Revelation 6:16 has people calling on the rocks to fall on them to hide them from Jesus' wrath, while the Jesus of the Gospels not only professed an unconditional Love **for all**, but also made the pronouncement that "The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." (Jesus in Matthew 21:44)

*Revelation 7:4-8 seems to indicate that only 144,000 Souls are ultimately saved, and yet Gospel Jesus used his feedings of the masses to symbolically signify that *everyone* will be ultimately redeemed. (see Mark 8:18-21 – with the 12 baskets collected from the 5000 representing the entirety of humanity, and the 7 baskets collected from the 4000 representing the perfect completeness of that transformation)



*Revelation 7:13-17 seems to show that only those who "have come out of the great ordeal" will be soothed and cared for, while the Jesus of the Gospels clearly & repeatedly soothes and cares for *all* – *especially* those deemed by others to be in any way "unworthy." (see Matthew 12:50, Matthew 18:14, Mark 11:17a, Luke 3:6, John 3:17, John 10:16, John 12:32, John 12:47 et al)

*Revelation 8:3 shows one of the heavenly angels standing at the altar with "much incense to offer", and yet Jesus in the Gospels stated clearly that he "desired mercy, not sacrifice." (see Matthew 9:13)



*Revelation 8:6 has Jesus' royal coronation being announced by seven trumpets, while the Jesus of the Gospels openly refused to be made king (see Matthew 4:1-10 + John 6:15) and was only anointed for his imminent self-sacrificial *burial*, **not** any subsequent coronation. (see Matthew 6:6-13)



*Revelation 10:4 has a "voice from heaven" demanding that the author keep the words of "the seven thunders" to himself, while Jesus in the Gospels spoke "openly to the world" and "said nothing in secret." (see John 18:20)

*Revelation 11:18 (also Revelation 19:15 & 20:4) speaks to a time of judging the dead – of rewarding those "who fear" and "destroying those who destroy the Earth", and yet Jesus in the Gospels made it very clear that neither he (John3:17, John 12:47 et al) nor the Father (Luke 6:36 & John 5:22) would ever judge *anybody*, and that no rewards were to be reaped by any of us – that we are to simply Love one another, regardless of anything that happens or doesn't happen to or for us thereafter. (see John 13:15 – "Do as I have done for you", John 15:17 – "I am giving you these commandments so that you will Love one another", and Matthew 20:28 – "The Son of Man has come to serve, not to be served")

*Revelation 14:6-7 shows an angel pronouncing an "eternal gospel" of salvation via giving God glory by openly fearing Him, while the Jesus of the Gospels clearly felt that the "Kingdom of Heaven" was an imminent, Here&Now state of being (see Luke 17:20-21 + Matthew10:7) -- only accessible by choosing to selflessly Care for others. (see Matthew 24:12-14 + John 13:15-17)



*Revelation 14:10 (along with Revelation 14:19, Revelation 15:1, Revelation 15:7, Revelation 16:1, Revelation 19:15 & Revelation 20:10) speaks graphically of "the wrath of God", and yet the Jesus of the Gospels repeatedly speaks of the Divine Father as a God of perfect Love & unconditional Mercy. (see Matthew5:40-48, John 5:22, Luke 3:6, Luke 6:36, the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, etc etc etc)



*Revelation 14:14 shows Jesus seemingly reappearing in physical form, even though Jesus himself stated that he would actually be with us *in Spirit*, "always, until the ends of days." (see Matthew 28:20b, John 11:25-27, John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:7, John 16:13-14 et al)

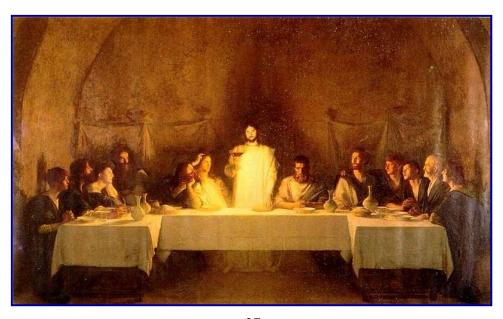
*Revelation 16:17 shows "a loud voice from the throne" crying "It is done!" at the conclusion of a scene of enormous apocalyptic destruction, while Jesus in the Gospels utters "It is *accomplished*" at the end of his ministry of perfect, selfless Love. (see John 19:30)



*Revelation 16:19 shows "God" giving Babylon the "cup of the fury of his wrath", while Jesus in the Gospels openly spoke of (and openly offered) a cup of willing self-sacrifice & perfect Love. (see Matthew 20:22-23, Matthew 26:42, Mark 14:36, Luke 22:20, John 4:4-14 et al)

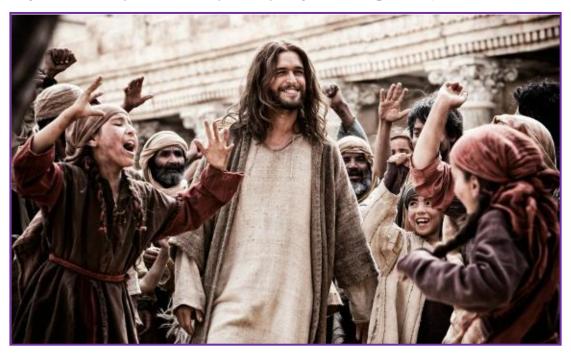


*Revelation 17:6 negatively portrayed Babylon "drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the witnesses of Jesus", and yet Jesus himself offered his blood freely as **a covenant of Kindness** (see Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20 & John 6:56) and encouraged us all to *freely* do the same. (see Matthew 16:24-26 + John15:13 et al)



*Revelation 18:8 again shows God as a wrathful judge, while Jesus could not have been clearer in the Gospels when he testified that his Father would judge **no one** – *ever*. (see John 5:22, John7:24, John 8:15, John 10:38, John 11:41-42, John 12:26, John 12:48 et al)

*Revelation 18:11-23 (along with several other of its passages) show The End as a time of great sorrow & despair & mourning for many, whereas Jesus in the Gospels noted that one of primary reasons behind his ministry was "so that my Joy might be within you, and that your Joy might be complete." (see John 15:11)

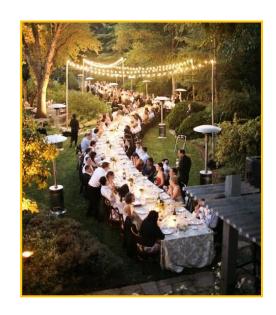


*Revelation 19:5 makes it clear that we are to fear God, while Jesus in the Gospels makes it just as clear that we are actually to revere & honor God by *loving* Him. (see Matthew 22:37-38, Mark 12:29-30 &Luke 10:27-28 – **noting** that, at least according to the Scriptures, fear and Love cannot in any way co-exist; see 1 John 4:18)



*Revelation 19:7 speaks of "the marriage of the Lamb", while Jesus in the Gospels plainly explained that "in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage." (see Matthew 22:30, Mark 12:25 & Luke 20:34-35)

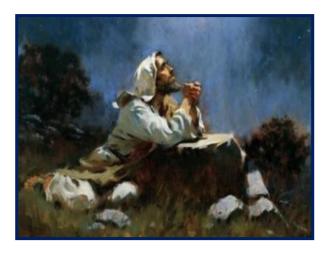
*Revelation 19:9 hints at a marriage banquet that is accessible only via exclusive invite, while for Jesus of the Gospels "*all* the people" are invited to partake of such festivities – "the bad as well as the good." (see Matthew 22:2-9)





*Revelation 19:11+ shows the Word of God riding into violent battle on a white stallion, as opposed to Jesus in the Gospels, who enters Jerusalem Peace-fully & humbly riding on the back of a donkey. (see Matthew 21:5-7, Mark 11:1-7, Luke 19:3-35 & John12:1-4)

*Revelation 19:13 seems to equate Jesus with the Word of God, while Jesus in the Gospels consistently mentions himself as distinctly separate from the same – which makes sense when we realize that he is often seen *quoting* from that Word in the New Testament &/or praying to God "above." (see Matthew 4:4, Mark7:13, Luke 3:2, Luke 5:1, Luke 8:11-15, Luke 11:28, John 5:37-40, John 8:47, John 12:48 et al)





*Revelation 21:10 shows the paradise of "New Jerusalem" as having 12 gates that are all always open (see verse 21:25), while Jesus makes it quite clear in the Gospels that the Way to Salvation passes through a single gate that is narrow (see Matthew 7:13-14) – a gate that is indeed never locked, and yet a gate upon which one must first still knock in order to enter. (see Matthew 7:7 & Luke 11:9)

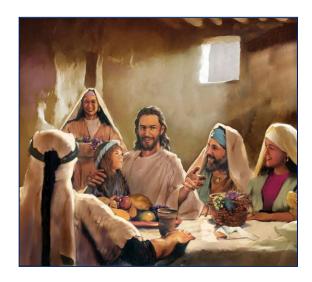
*Revelation 21:16 describes "New Jerusalem" as being grandiose in size and appearance, while the Jesus of the Gospels described his Kingdom of Heaven as being both miniscule & humble – comparing it both to the tiny mustard seed as well as a small portion of yeast that is mixed into many pounds of flour to make bread. (see Matthew 13:31-33, Mark4:30-32 & Luke 13:18-21)



*Revelation 21:21 shows "New Jerusalem" as containing 12 pearls, while Gospel Jesus spoke of only **one** Great Pearl – the Way of perfect Love; the Way of willing & selfless sacrifice. (see Matthew 13:45-46)



*Revelation 21:27 notes that all who are "unclean" could not enter that heavenly city, and yet Jesus built an entire ministry upon purposefully violating or altering most if not all of the prevalent Jewish laws related to cleanliness – annulling Jewish food laws ("What goes into one's mouth does not defile" ~ Jesus in Matthew 15:11), dismissing conventional table etiquette (see Mark 7:5-8), and even flagrantly violating the edict forbidding mingling with lepers. (see Luke17:11-19)



*Revelation 22:14 notes that "Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the Tree of Life", and yet Jesus in the Gospels notes in contrast that "Blessed is he who first cleans the *inside* of his cup." (see Matthew 23:25-26 & Luke 11:39)

*And finally, Revelation 22:16 tries to make Jesus into a "descendant of David" again, and yet we remember yet again that Jesus himself in the Gospels made it both directly and indirectly clear that he was **not** then – nor would he ever be – such a warlike Davidian Messiah. (see Matthew 22:41-46, Matthew1:1-18, Luke 3:23-38, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:1-10, Isaiah 55:3, Daniel 7:13-14+ Matthew 4:1-10, Matthew 5:9 et al)



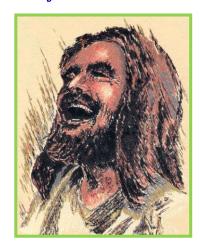
A most important Conclusion ...

So you see, my Friends, while quite a few of Revelation's gentler verses (for example, Revelation 5:13) do give more devout followers of The Way of Christ the opportunity to interpret even this crass & drastic book in a Loving manner, there is a more flagrant Truth that cannot be denied: namely, that when it comes to the book of Revelation, all Christians have a very important choice that they simply *must* make ... and this choice is as follows:

EITHER they must admit that the Jesus found in the Gospels does not condone the dysfunctional & brutal ramblings of the "angel of the Lord" we read in Revelation (meaning they can discount the book in its entirety, just as thousands of Followers of Jesus did for the first several hundred years after his death), OR they must admit that Jesus had a complete personality shift after his ascension – meaning that all of his teachings on perfect Love found in the Gospels (specifically those found in the Sermon on the Mount) can be disregarded, if not fully discounted. After all, the one & only Son of God certainly has the right to change his mind, and if Revelation is talking about the same Jesus Christ as the Peace-full prophet found the Bible's earlier texts, then there can no longer be any doubt that change his mind – and change his mind drastically – he did.

Of course, it is Good News indeed that we all have free will as well (at least I choose to believe that we do), and therefore that none of us are required to worship such a passive-aggressive, codependent, tyrannical deity. In fact, in a delicious twist of irony, it is the Jesus of the Gospels who would tell us to *beware* of and indeed fully *denounce* the teachings found in Revelation, as well as any other "false prophets" preaching similarly damning dogmas. In fact, when we return to the Sermon on the Mount, we read that Jesus did in fact encourage us to do just that ...

Consider: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits ... A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits." ~ Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:15-20)



Personally, I think Jesus' "Fruit of the Tree" test makes the Revelation conundrum extremely simple to resolve ... for Jesus in the Gospels is a pure believer in perfect LOVE, and Jesus in Revelation is a pure reflection of Love's opposite – **fear**. As such, it makes perfect sense to simply state that -- if we are going to make a mistake, then we definitely want to err on the side of following the teachings of the "Good Jesus", not the fear-filled one.

And so we come to the most important delineation of this entire treatise: namely, that regardless of our own unique set of religious/spiritual beliefs, what are the *practical ramifications* of this now-clear schism between the "Jesus" we find in the book of Revelation and the Jesus Christ found in the Gospels?

First of all, *for atheists* (and Buddhists, and Hindus, and Jews, and Taoists, and Sikhs, and agnostics, and New Age mystics, and all other members of all other religions non-Christian), you are now all free to cease being annoyed or frightened by the book of Revelation, just as you are now all free to cease being insulted or angered by those who quote the contents of that tome *at* you. When being condemned by a believer in Revelation's "angry Jesus", you can now have the wherewithal to pause, quell your disgust, and exude a sincere compassion for those doing that condemning ... After all, there is a far more Loving God in their own Bible – and they are refusing to see Him!

Secondly, *for "awakened Christians"* – those members of Christian churches who simply don't resonate with the colder preachings of their pastors or the more rage-filled ramblings of their reverends, your faith can be reborn into a Faith of real & lasting LOVE. Indeed, you can now in all Faith remain a Christian, while simultaneously discounting the hate and the fear and the discord that Revelation has sown into your Sundays ... In essence, you are now all free to take your churches back, and your Caring God back with them!

And finally, *for traditional*, "conservative" Christians, the question has now become not whether you can prove that Jesus is indeed coming back pissed off & judgmental, but rather *why* you are determined to do so. Each & every one of you now has the information required to leave your man-made & undivine dogma of hate and judgment behind. In essence, you are now all free to stop doing Satan's work (spreading fear & judgment), and to start fulfilling God's Will (forgiving others and actively caring for them) instead!

Frankly, I think it's high time that all Christians stopped perverting the Gospel teachings of their own Lord & Savior ... I think it's high time that all Christians stopped using the book of Revelation to damn their brother Muslims & atheists and sister Buddhists & Hindus to Hell -- and started treating them like Brothers & Sisters instead.

Amen ... Let it be so!



"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him ... I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord." ~ unknown (Revelation 1:7)



Daniel

How much longer untill the apocalypse?



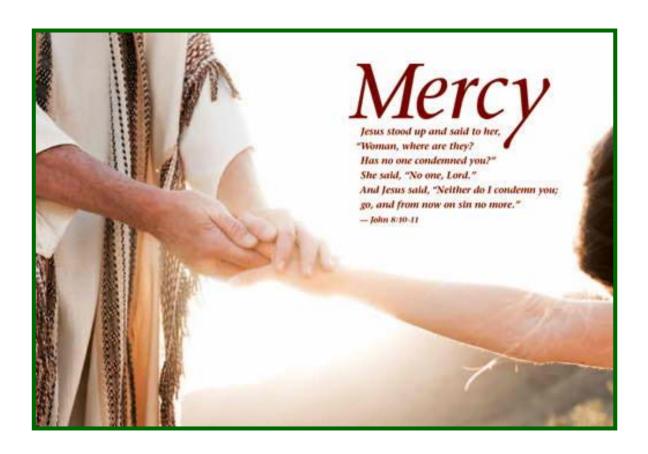
God

Permanently cancelled



Daniel

And that's why u rock god



John 12:47," And if anyone hears My words, and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world."



"And I will take one from a thousand and two from ten thousand, and they shall Become a single One."

~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 23)