

Journal of an even more confused traveler....

Revelation 12-16

[I told my travel agent I didn't want to travel through anymore of Revelation. She said my tickets were already purchased. So I had to go.

So, here I am (even though I don't want to be) at Revelation 12.

I'm looking at heaven. I see a woman WEARING the sun. She had the MOON under her feet. And she had a garland of _____ stars on her head. And she was with child (pregnant.) [Don't know what those people on What Not to Wear would have to say about this!]

So next, what do I see in heaven also? It's another sign. A great fiery _____ dragon with seven heads and ten horns. And he had seven diadems on his heads. [So what is a diadem I wondered. Wikipedia says it is a headband type of crown, not a regular crown].

His tail was like a weapon. [Seriously]. That tail threw a third of the _____ of heaven to earth.

That dragon stood before the woman who was about to have a baby. That dragon planned to devour (that means eat) the Child as soon as it was born.

The Child was born. It was a male (boy). The child was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.

The dragon did NOT get the Child. It was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness. God had prepared a place for her. She would be fed _____ days.

[You won't believe what happened next. Nothing I expected for sure.]

A _____ broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels were on one side. The dragon and his angels were on the other side. The dragon and his angels did NOT prevail (win). There was not a place for them in heaven any longer.

So the great dragon was cast out. He was the serpent of old [the one with Adam and Eve?], called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was cast to earth and his angels were cast out with him.

John heard a voice (me, too, since I was there traveling, plus the voice was LOUD). It said "*Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! Woe to the*

inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath because he knows that he has a short time"

When the dragon found himself cast to earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But she was given two _____, of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she would be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

[So what did that sneaky serpent do????]

He spewed water out of his mouth like a _____ after the woman so maybe she would be carried away.

[Didn't work though.]

The earth helped the woman. It opened its mouth and swallowed the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

[That made the dragon M.A.D]. He was enraged with the woman and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

And that's how Chapter 12 ended.

It did NOT make me want to go to **Revelation 13**

So, John was standing on the sand of the sea. A beast came out of the _____. [It wasn't fiery red. It wasn't a dragon. Just a beast.] It did have seven heads and ten horns. On his head he had ten crowns [not diadems, they were on the dragon]. The beast also had a blasphemous name on his head.

[This beast was a mess]. He was like a leopard but he had _____ like a bear. And his mouth was like a lion.

Also the dragon gave him power, throne, and authority. PLUS, one of the beast's heads had been mortally wounded. But his deadly wound was healed.

The world marveled and followed the beast. They (the world) worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast and they worshiped the beast, saying "*Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?*"

The beast that came out of the sea was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. He was given authority to continue _____ months. He blasphemed against God, His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

The beast was granted to make war with the saints and to overcome them. He was given authority over every tribe, tongue, and nation. Everybody on earth whose names are NOT written in the _____ of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world will worship him.

[Then I heard something confusing.] If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the _____ of the saints.

Next, another beast. It came out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb [yeah, just one head, no crowns OR diadems. Yeah!!!]. But he spoke like a dragon.

He had all the authority of the first beast. He caused the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast (beast of the sea). He (earth beast) performs signs. He even makes _____ come down from heaven on earth in the sight of men.

He deceives those who dwell on earth by those signs. He tells those who dwell on earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and live.

He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image should both speak and cause as many as would NOT worship the beast to be killed.

He caused all, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right _____ or on their foreheads.

No one may buy or sell unless he has the name or the mark of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. The number of the beast is the number of a man. His number is 666.

[Total confusion. That's what I felt when I left Revelation 13.]

So here I am at **Revelation 14**. So is John. He saw a Lamb standing on Mount Zion along with 144,000 with His Father's name written on their foreheads.

A voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters AND like the voice of loud thunder was heard. Also harpists playing their harps. They (the 144,000) sang a new song before the throne, before the four LC's [that would be Living Creatures], and the elders.

The only ones who could learn that song were the 144,000 who were redeemed from the earth. They were not defiled with women. They were virgins. They followed the Lamb wherever He goes. They were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. No deceit was found in the mouth; they were without fault before the throne of God.

[I hope I'm finished with dragons, beasts, serpents for a while. Probably not for all of Revelation, maybe for a chapter or two.]

John saw another **angel** flying in the midst of heaven. He had the everlasting gospel to preach. He said with a loud voice, "*Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.*"

Next another **angel**. He said "*Babylon is fallen is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*"

No surprise.....**Angel 3** followed, saying with a loud voice, "*If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.*"

Here is the _____ of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Next a voice from heaven said to John, "*Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'*" The Spirit said, "*Yes, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.*"

[So.....dragons, beasts and serpents.....followed by three talking angels. What next???)

John saw a _____ cloud, and sitting on the cloud was One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

An **angel** (he didn't have a number, just another angel) came out of the temple. He cried with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud. "*Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*" So He did. The One who sat on the _____ thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Another **angel** came out of that temple (it was in heaven). He also had a sharp sickle.

Then an **angel** came out from the altar. He had power over fire. He cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "*Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.*" So the angel with the sickle did it. He thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth. He threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. The wine press was trampled outside the city. Blood came out up to the horses' bridles, for 1600 furlongs. [Gene Wright calculated this, roughly. That amount of blood would be contained in approximately 3 TRILLION people.]

[Let's see if I can figure out just what I encountered in Revelation 14. A Lamb on Mount Zion with 144,000, a voice from heaven, harpists, 3 angels - one with the everlasting gospel, one talking about fallen

Babylon, and another talking about beasts, images, marks, another voice from heaven, the Spirit, a white cloud with One like the Son of Man on it holding a sickle, an angel from the temple, an angel from the temple with a sickle, and an angel from the altar. This was one crowded chapter!]

So here I am. **Revelation 15**. What will I see?

Well, another sign in heaven. It was great and marvelous. _____ angels have seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. [This is just what I heard was going to happen. I'm thinking these plagues will be in bowls that get poured out. So we WILL have seven more odd things to learn.....seals, trumpets, and bowls]

John saw something like a sea of _____. But it was mingled with fire. Those who had victory over the beast, over his image, over his mark, and over the number of his name, were standing on the sea of glass. They had _____ of God.

They sang. It was the song of Moses who was the servant of God and the song of the Lamb. *"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."*

Next, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. Out of the temple came 7 angels with 7 plagues. They were clothed in pure bright linen. Their _____ were girded with golden bands.

One of those living creatures gave to the 7 angels 7 golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.

The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the 7 plagues of the 7 angles were completed.

Revelation 16 began with a loud voice from the temple saying to the 7 angels, *"Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."*

First bowl got poured on the _____. A foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Bowl two got poured on the _____. The sea became blood, not just regular blood, blood as of a dead man. Every living creature in the sea died.

Bowl three was poured on the _____ **and springs of water**. They became blood (regular blood). The angel of the waters spoke. *"You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."*

Another spoke from the altar, "*Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.*"

Bowl four was poured on the _____. Power was given to him to scorch men with fire. Men were scorched with great heat. They (scorched men) blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; they did NOT repent and give Him glory.

Bowl five was poured on the _____ **of the beast**. His (beast) kingdom became full of darkness; they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores. They did NOT repent of their deeds.

Bowl six was poured on the **great** _____ **Euphrates**. Its water dried up so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

Next three unclean spirits like _____ came out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." They gathered them together to the place called Armageddon (in Hebrew.)

Bowl seven was poured into the _____. A loud voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, said "It is done!"

Next, noises, thunderings, lightnings; AND a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

The great city was divided into _____ parts. The cities of the nations fell.

Great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Every island fled away. The mountains were not found. Great hail from heaven fell from heaven on men. Each hailstone weighed about a talent [Wikipedia thinks a talent weighs about 130 pounds.....ouch!] Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.