

Introduction

- 1 Writing about world history largely depends on those who are then in control eg Nazi Germany
- 2 When Liberal Party history is written later, how will the author describe impact of ETS laws
- 3 Whether leaders made right or wrong decisions will depend on who is writing the history
- 4 The Bible incl. Rev. shows us the right way to read history is that **the future belongs to God**
- 5 Rev. talks of the security of the church, city of God and the city of non-believers, city that is above and the city that is below, the city that is coming and the city that is passing away
- 6 Right way to read history-not victory of evil, false religions, world powers, but of God + church
- 7 The kingdoms of this world will soon come to an end, as God tells us about coming judgement
- 8 Rev. describes over/over again conflict God has with evil, Satan betw. Lord's 1st & 2nd comings
- 9 Rev 17:14 perfectly describes how God's ultimate purpose for the world He created will end
They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords & King of kings-& with Him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers

I 8:1-10:7 Warnings to the World through six trumpets

A Brief background – before the 7th Trumpet – God's final act of celebrating His victory

- 1 Rev 8-9- Six Trumpets showed God's power & partial judgement over the earth+its people
- 2 10:1-7 tells about a mighty angel who places one foot on the land, the other foot on the sea
- 3 He has a little scroll/book & tells us the “mystery of God”-10:7 was about to be announced
- 4 Eph 3:6 Mystery- **People from all nations who repent/believe in Jesus form His church**
- 5 Revelation gives the central history of the worlda God's Church will always be persecuted
b The world seems to triumph, but will be judged at end **c** The church will survive forever

II 10:8-11:14 But the World refused to repent from their evil ways and turn to God

A 10:8-11 The sweet and bitter scroll (God's Word - 5:2-7) is given to John

- 1 Rev 5:9- Scene from heaven, with another larger scroll, - God's plan for the world which only the Lamb of God could open as the One who was slain and rose again on 3rd day
- 2 Now John is given a smaller mini edition of this special scroll with the same message
- 3 Voice from heaven tells John to take the little scroll from the angel, & eat it with 2 results
a 10:10 It will taste sweet in his mouth because he has believed its great message that Jesus died on the cross to pay the punishment for his sin and rebellion against God
b But there is bitterness within, as this message is preached to an unbelieving world, for it speaks of separation from God, wrath, judgement and hell for those who will not repent
- 4 10:11 This message must be preached throughout the world to all peoples, nations, kings..
- 5 Obviously John cannot do this by himself, so **can be applied especially to all believers**
- 6 Acts 1:8, Math 28:16-20 Great Comm. commands all believers to witness as they eat the little scroll, experience its sweetness, sourness as people refuse to respond to their witness
- 7 Sharing the gospel will bring opposition from family members, friends, relationships...

B 11:1-2 Temple of God (Christians) and the Outer Court (non-believers) – new scene

- 1 Other parts of Bible help us understand Church to be God's Temple-Ezek 40-41 1 Cor 3:16
- 2 1260 days, 42 mths, 3½ yrs all same- **represent time between 1st and 2nd comings of Jesus**
- 3 This new scene describes battle between the church & the world which rejects its message
a 11:1 John was told to measure the temple by counting the true worshippers there – these represent those in church, whom God knows are truly His children, are secure inside 7:4
b 11:2a However he mustn't count those in the outer court, given to the unbelieving world
c 11:2b These Gentiles include some, who claim to be Chn, but refuse to be faithful to God word in little scroll, don't tell others true gospel message, but will try & destroy holy city

C 11:3-14 Power of the Word and the Power of the World

- 1 11:3-6 Two witnesses, olive trees and lampstands given gospel message – Zechariah 4:2-6
 - a 11:3 God will give power to 2 witnesses, who will wear sackcloth to show its seriousness
 - b 11:5-6 identifies 2 great men of God who performed acts before godless world leaders
 - 1 **Moses** stood before Egypt's king, then world's super-power, warned of God's coming judgement, after many miracles to judge Egypt for their rejection of God's control
 - 2 **Elijah** prayed, God answered-withhold rain from rebellious Israel -3½ yrs/1260 days
 - a Then in 1 Kings 18 stood before Ahab, Israel's king, who had rejected God's control over Israel, 450 false prophets of Baal to show who was Israel's true God-John Bapt
 - 4 James 5:17 says Elijah was a man just like us, as he stood up for God so must all Chns
 - c They were also the 2 great OT men who met with Lord on the Mount of transfiguration
 - d 11:4 Two olive trees (God's Spirit in Zech 4:6) and two lampstands -church in Rev 1:20
 - e These 2 witnesses, olive trees, lampstands represent all who courageously have eaten the little scroll, receive Holy Spirit, faithful witnesses re gospel, about the coming judgement
 - f Between Lord's 1st, 2nd coming, Chns must witness like these 2 great men alth persecuted
 - g As the world rejected preaching of Moses, Elijah, so as Chns witness -will be persecuted
- 2 11:7-10 For short period, beast seems to have defeated God's church, but ...
 - a After 3 ½ yrs witnessing, follows a brief period, 3 ½ days with church's apparent defeat
 - b Sodom, place of corruption, and Egypt, place of oppression for Israel, Jerusalem where Lord was crucified **represent places** where world seemed to stop God's plans for world
 - c The beast (Satan's rep.) attacks, overpowers, kills these 2 witnesses in Sodom, Egypt and
 - 1 People from all parts of world, come, mock 2 dead bodies- **their delight will soon end**
 - 2 They are denied proper burial, which is to heap shame on the deceased in those days
 - 3 An expression of triumph, with the persecutors mocking, rejoicing at Chns' discomfort
 - d Not clear if 3 ½ days will come after 3 ½ yrs of persecution or at various times of history
 - e **Probably both eg China** in the 1950s all mishes were expelled, church persecuted under communism, seemed church would die, yet today one of fastest growing church in world
 - f Whenever world persecutes church, instead of dying, it often grows **eg** Mozambique '50s
 - g Bible does indicate that just before the Lord's return there will be extreme persecution of the church – 2 Thes 2:3 where Paul talks about the rebellion and man of lawlessness
- 3 11:11-12 God rescued and restored His church
 - a But after 3 ½ days (1) A breath of life from God will enter them (2) Stood on their feet
 - b This was something **amazing**, which shows both God's greatness & faith of 2 witnesses
 - (1) Made world scared (2) God took them up to heaven in a cloud (3) Enemies watched
 - c Will hear more about the beast, but the church will triumph and world will be defeated
- 4 11:13-14 God judged another part of the world as the second woe has passed
 - a Earthquake is regular picture of God visiting the earth in judgement, this is no exception
 - b 11:13 Number of people were killed, remainder were forced to worship God out of fear
 - c Not an act of repentance but fearful realization that God not the antichrist was in control!
 - d 11:14 World largely ignored many warnings given by Chns re God's coming judgement

III 11:15-19 As 7th Trumpet sounds, the Kingdom of God replaces kingdoms of the World

A 11:15-18 The 24 elders worship as God's Kingdom reigns in place of world's kingdom

- 1 With Trumpet 7, the 2nd Coming of Jesus has arrived, God finally displays His greatness
- 2 Final woe =despite many warnings, chances to repent/believe, they **have refused** to do so
- 3 Kingdom of this world has been **replaced by** eternal **Kingdom** of God and His Christ,
- 4 24 elders represent God's people in the OT, 12 tribes of Israel+12 apostles of NT church
- 5 11:17 God is the One who was and is –**but not the one who is to come** in Rev 1:4,8; 4:8
- 6 11:18 He has begun to reign, **resulting in judgement** of those angry at God who rejected His way, **and rewarding those who have chosen to follow** God by repenting/believing

B 11:19 God lives among His people as He demonstrates His power through great storm

- 1 This is one of several descriptions in Revelation of how God will establish His kingdom
- 2 11:19 The Ark of the Covenant is a symbol of God's presence among His people forever
- 3 Lightning, thunder, earthquake represents God's awesome power, presence - 8:5, 16:18

IV What can we learn from these unusual verses?

- 1 Only 2 groups of people in the world **a** Believers in God and His Son; **b** All non-believers
- 2 **a** To encourage & strengthen every born-again Chn to share what they believe with others
 - b** Will make them unpopular, break relationships with some of family, friends, neighbours
 - c** In many countries where gospel is hated, Chns will suffer death/persecution/houses burnt..
 - d** Since 1901 100 million + Chns have been killed/martyred because they believed in Jesus
 - e** Expect to be persecuted as Chns if you stand up for God's stds of holy living as per Bible
 - f** **Not optional extra** if serious about truth of God's Word, final judgement of non-believer
 - g** Allow God's Word to change Chns within to become more Christ-like in daily lives
- 3 Lord Jesus will build His church and the gates of hell will not overcome or destroy it
- 4 Continue with Connect09 Connect- Pray-Expect-particularly for family, friends, neighbours