

# UNLOCKING REVELATION

## WITH BROTHER RUSSELL'S KEYS

### REVELATION AS "MEAT IN DUE SEASON":

“We all know that the *book of Revelation is full of symbols*. . . . Mankind have always misunderstood the Divine Plan; for God in His wisdom wishes to have them misunderstand. The truths recorded in the Revelation are not for the world, nor for nominal Christians, but for the Church-- the Body of Christ, the saintly ones ‘the Church of the First-borns which are written in Heaven.’ To these the knowledge will become ‘*meat in due season*.’ ‘The wise shall understand.’” Dii, iii

### 1. KEY DEFINITIONS FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION:

<p>“The book of Revelation contains predictions recorded long after literal Babylon was in ruins, and hence evidently applicable only to symbolic Babylon; yet the close resemblance of the words of the prophets, apparently directly addressed to literal Babylon, are thus shown to belong in an especial sense to symbolic Babylon. In this larger fulfilment, Egypt represents the world; Babylon represents the nominal Church, called Christendom” A313</p>	<p><b>Babylon = Christendom</b></p>
<p>"Michael and his angels"--the Papacy and its supporters—fought against the dragon--pagan rulers, etc.,--and the great dragon was cast out of heaven.” R306:5</p>	<p><b>Michael = papacy</b></p>
<p>“...God's "Two Witnesses" (the Old and New Testaments), which had so long been bound, and which had prophesied only under the sackcloth of dead languages. `Rev. 11:3” C122</p>	<p><b>Two witnesses = Old and New Testaments</b></p>
<p>“In Revelation we have the three and a half years of Elijah's experience stated in symbolic language--forty-two months--1,260 days--three and a half times or years. ( `Revelation 11:2,3` ; `12:6,14` ; `13:5` .) In Revelation the time was symbolic, so that each day of the three and a half years represented a year, or the whole period 1,260 years. Some Bible scholars have applied this period as beginning in 539 A.D. and ending in 1798 A.D., at the time when Napoleon Bonaparte took the Pope of Rome prisoner to Paris.” R5751</p>	<p><b>Forty-two months = 1260 years</b></p>
<p>“ . . . in `Rev. 5` . . . the Heavenly Father, the Ancient of Days, is shown seated on the heavenly throne, and in his hand a scroll written inside and outside, sealed with seven seals. That scroll, representing the divine plan, known only to the Father, Jehovah himself, was kept in his own power--in his own hand--until some one should be proved worthy to know it, and become its executor as Jehovah's honored agent and representative. The symbolic picture proceeds to show that up to the time our Lord Jesus suffered for us at Calvary, ‘the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God,’ no one had ever been found (proved) worthy to take up the divine plan and even understand its contents.” E36, 37</p>	<p><b>One that sat on the Throne = Heavenly Father</b></p> <p><b>Lamb = Jesus</b></p>
<p>“The `Book of Revelation` is a book of symbols, which our Lord "sent and signified [told it in signs and symbols] by His angel unto His servant John." ( `Revelation 1:1` .) Bible students know that the book abounds in symbols, or signs; and we are satisfied that these are the rule, and that the literal is the exception, being used only when unavoidable.</p> <p>“To be in harmony, then, with the rest of the book, "the seven churches which are in Asia" must be symbolic; and as the book is chiefly history written beforehand, they must symbolize seven successive stages in the history of the Christian Church, covering the period between the First Advent and the Second Coming of Christ.” R5992</p>	<p><b>Book of Revelation symbolic</b></p> <p><b>Seven Churches = seven successive stages of Christian Church</b></p>
<p>“In the symbolical book of Revelation He pictures the Church as a <i>woman</i>, clothed with sunlight, standing over or near to the moon, which symbolizes the Jewish Law Covenant; and upon her head was a crown of twelve stars, representing the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.” R5002</p>	<p><b>Woman = Church on the Law Covenant with authority of 12 Apostles</b></p>

<p>“THE REVELATION of our Lord to St. John is a Book of signs, in which the things <i>stated</i> symbolize the things <i>meant</i>. To illustrate: In this Book a woman is used to represent a Church--a pure woman a pure Church, a false woman an apostate Church. In `Rev. 17:1-6` a picture is given of a false woman, disloyal to her engagement, and therefore no longer worthy to be the Bride of Messiah. This unfaithful woman is branded "Babylon." We read that she sat upon a beast, a symbolic statement of her control of the power at Rome.” R5092</p>	<p><b>Woman of Revelation 17 = apostate church</b></p>
<p>“...the Christian Church as it will be, the true temple of God; and we know that their chief city was a figure of the New Jerusalem, the seat of kingdom power and center of authority--the city (government) of the Great King, Immanuel. We remember, too, that Christ's government is represented in the book of Revelation (`Rev. 21:10-27`) under the figure of a city--the New Jerusalem.” R4553</p>	<p><b>New Jerusalem = Christ's government</b></p>
<p>“Other Scriptures show us that the consolidation, federation and unification of Protestants is now in order. This is already well under way and constitutes in the symbolic book of Revelation the ‘image of the beast’--the symbolic beast itself represented by Papacy.” R3531</p>	<p><b>Image of Beast = Protestant federation Beast = Papacy</b></p>
<p>“As, prior to the year 800, Papacy was rising, supported by the Roman ‘beast’ (people) and by its "horns" (powers). . .” B354</p>	<p><b>Scarlet beast = Roman people</b></p>

## 2. OVERVIEW OF KEY CHAPTER 12 OF REVELATION:

Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4	Scene 5
12:1-4	12:5-7	12:8-12	12:13-16	12:17
<p>Great Sign in Heaven: <u>Woman / Dragon</u> Dragon harms true church leaders (righteous minority –the third part)</p>	<p><u>Dragon</u> attempts to control the <u>Man child</u> – Man child's <u>false exaltation</u>. War ensues...false Michael “who as God”</p>	<p>Man Child defeats Dragon. Dragon is cast out down from ecclesiastical power...Man Child's false hymn of praises</p>	<p>Persecution of woman for 1260 years... Serpent attempts to drown the woman, but society absorbs flood of truths</p>	<p>Woman safe... Dragon angered, makes war with the remnant of her seed (to the end of the Age)</p>

## 3. THE 1260-YEARS KEY

Citation	Text	1260 Years
Daniel 7:25	"Wearing out of Saints of most High...a time and times and the dividing of time"	Saints oppressed 1260 symbolic days
Daniel 12:7	"A time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people."	Saints oppressed 1260 symbolic days (360 + 720 + 180)
Revelation 11:3	"I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."	Bible oppressed 1260 symbolic days
Revelation 13:5-7	"And there was given unto him [ <b>leopard beast</b> ] a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he openeth his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle...to make war with the saints."	Papacy blasphemes God and makes war with Saints 1260 symbolic days (42 x 30)
James 5:17,18	"Elias. . .prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain. . ."	Church flees Jezebel system for symbolic three years and six months when “two witnesses” oppressed

#### 4. VITALIZED IMAGE OF THE BEAST = FALSE PROPHET:

“The third symbol, the False Prophet, remains to be interpreted. This, we believe, is another name for the system elsewhere called "the Image of the Beast." ('Rev. 13:14') According to the Scriptures, this Image is a very exact representation of the Beast. The False Prophet, or Image of the Beast, we understand to mean the Protestant Federation of Churches. D vii

#### 5. A KEY POINT ON “TORMENT”:

##### THAYERS

(St. #928) basanizo- “to test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal”

##### VINE’S

“basanos”, primarily a touchstone employed in testing metals. . . [theological interpretation follows]

##### LIDDEL & SCOTT

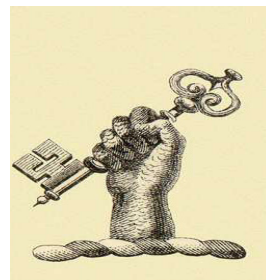
“To rub upon touchstone; to test genuineness of”

#### 6. THE NEW JERUSALEM:

R5182 “The ‘beloved city’ is the New Jerusalem, the Church in glory, not the Church in the flesh.

R5189 “When we read that Abraham sought "a city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God," our minds naturally go to the New Jerusalem, the City of God, which is eventually to come down from God to earth. But that will not be a literal city. The entire passage is symbolical. The New Jerusalem will be the Messianic Kingdom. It will be the Capital, or center of Government, for the reorganized social order of earth. From it will go forth the Law of God, the knowledge of God, the blessing of God. From it will emanate power and authority, which for a thousand years will rule the world in righteousness, overthrow sin, death and all who are in sympathy with sin, and uplift all who love righteousness and Truth.”

R2832 “THE NEW JERUSALEM –In the symbolism of Scripture a city represents a government; as for instance, symbolic Babylon is denominated "that great city [government] which ruleth over the kings of the earth." The New Jerusalem, as a symbol, represents the new spiritual government of the Millennial age. It is not earth-born, it is not reared by men, but, as here pictured, it descends from God out of heaven --it is spiritual in every sense of the word--of God and not of men. It is for this kingdom, this government, that our Lord taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come--thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." The declaration that the city is adorned as a bride for her husband implies its grandeur and beauty and perfection, as a bride's adornment on such an occasion is particular. and elaborate to the last degree. But additionally to this it reminds us that in the government of the future, the judges of the world are the saints, now being selected through faithfulness in trial and tribulation, and that these are frequently called the Bride, the Lamb's wife and joint-heir in the Kingdom. The Revelator elsewhere strikingly bring this thought to our attention: the angel calls to him, "Come hither, and I will show thee the Bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God."--Verses 9-11.



. . .Keep using those keys!