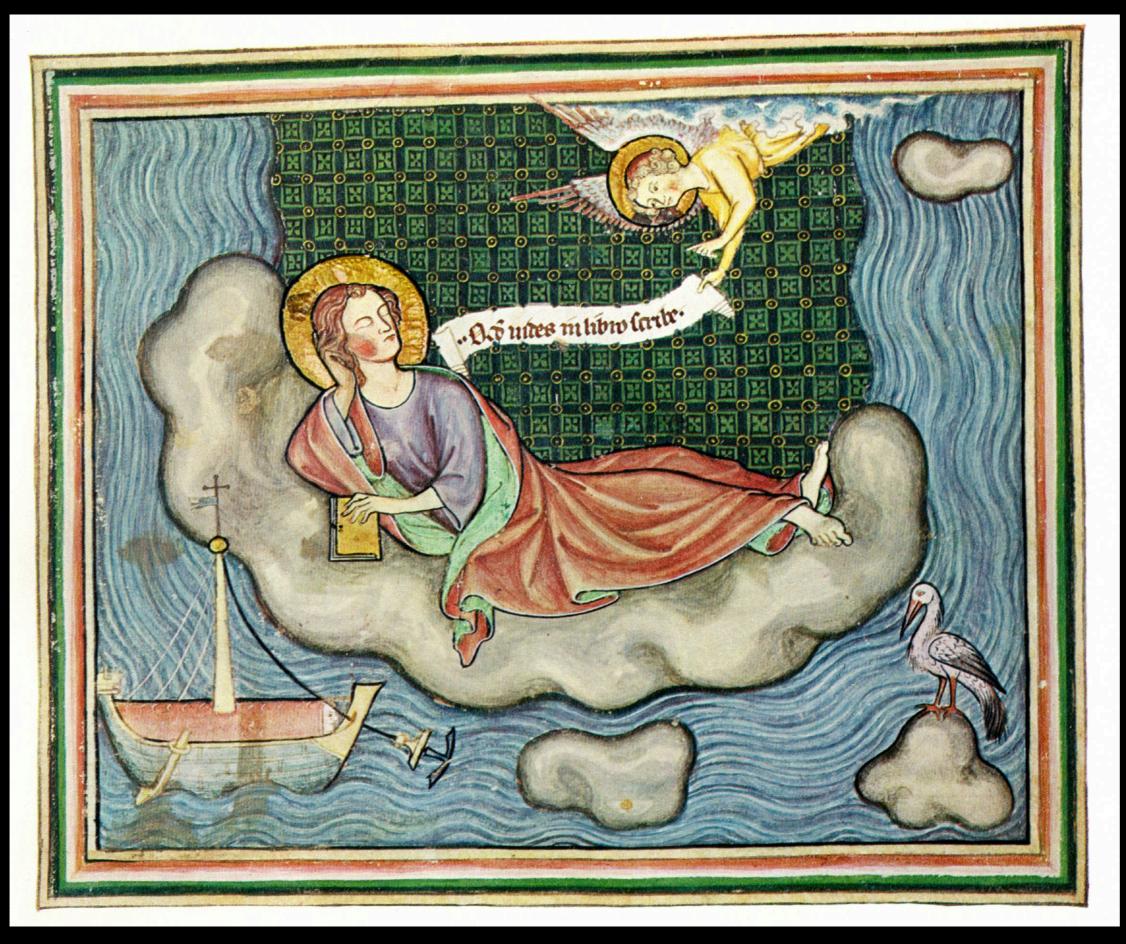
## The Apocasypse of St John

forty Paintings from a 14th Century Illuminateδ Manuscript.



The Angel of the Lord appears to St John on the isle of Patmos.



The seven churches in Asia and the Angels of the seven churches to whom Christ's instructions are to be conveyed by St. John.





The First Horseman: "... behold a white horse. And he that sat on him had a bow..."





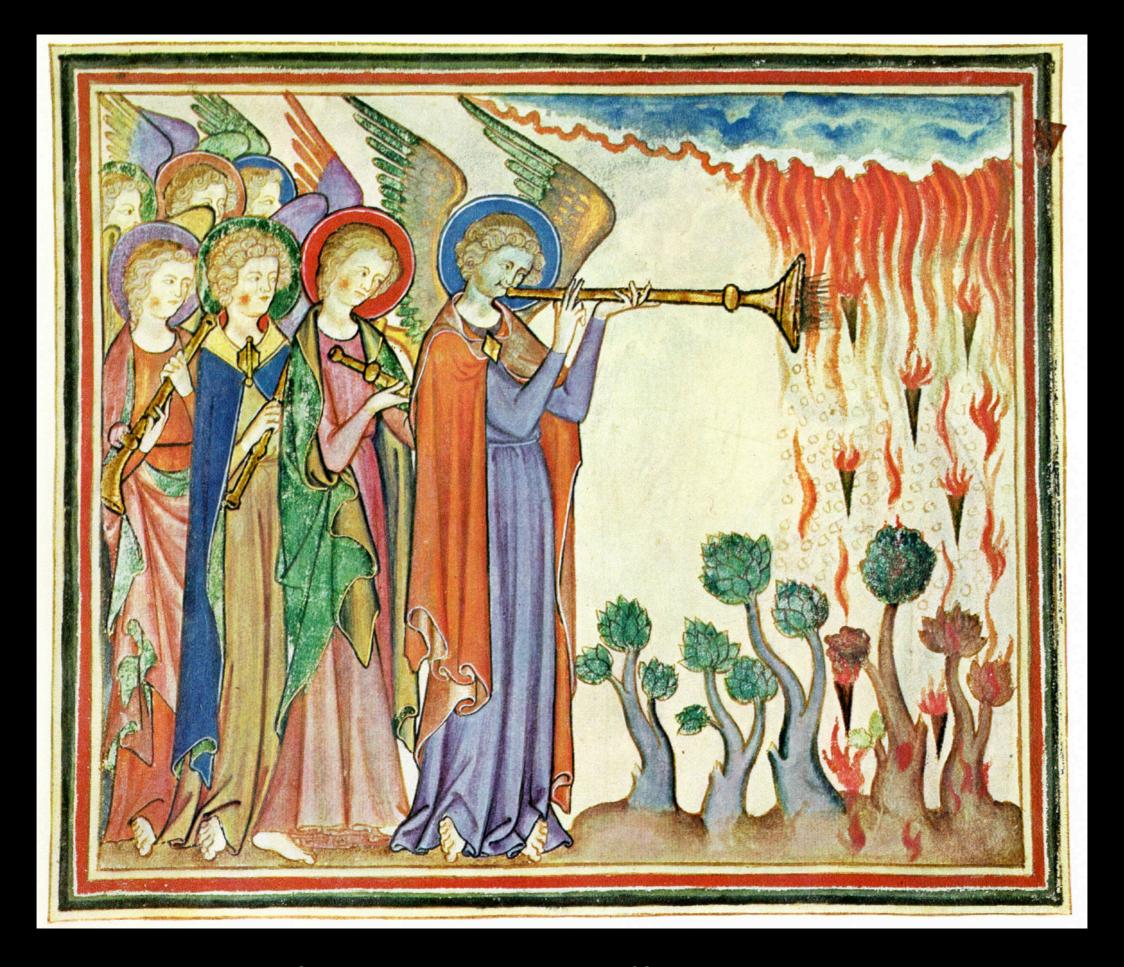
The Third Horseman: "... behold a black horse..."



The Fourth Horseman: "... his name was Death. And Hell followed with him."



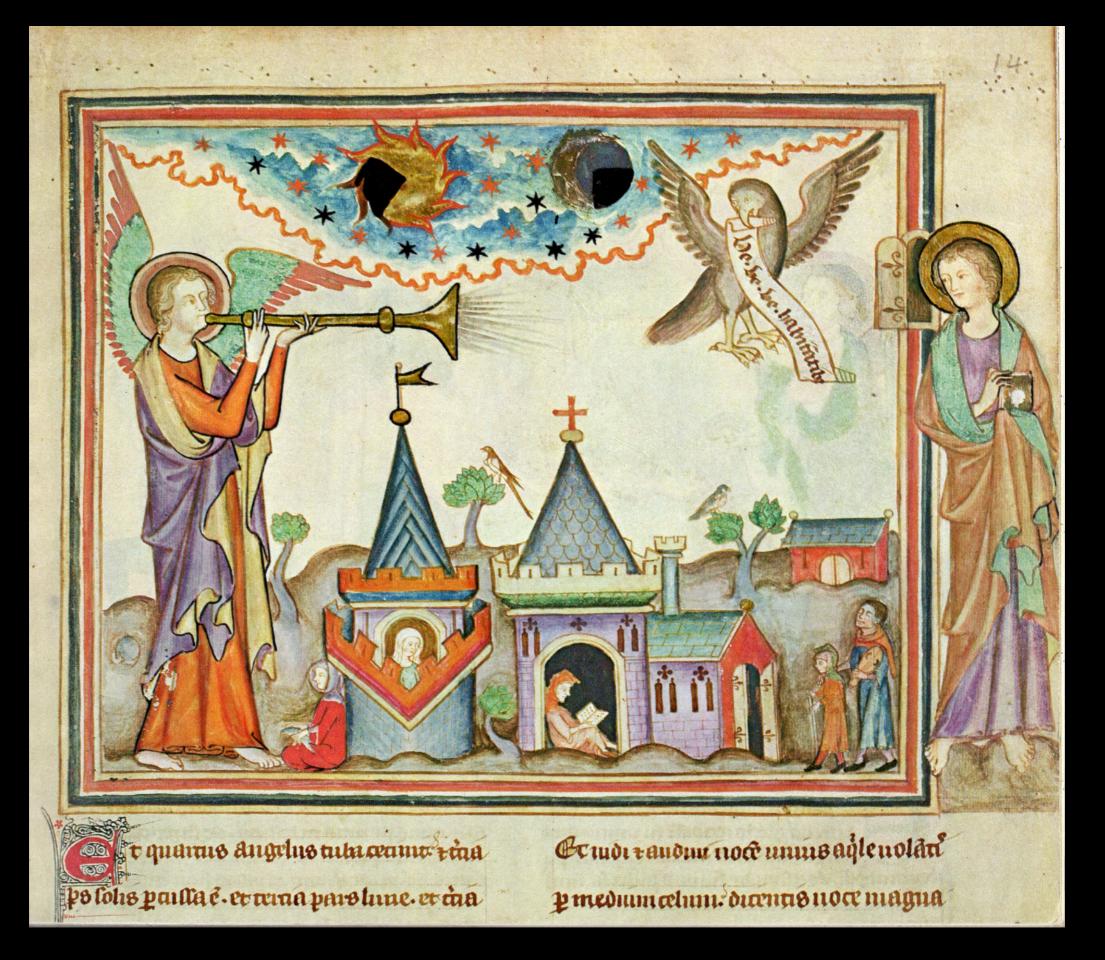
The Seventh Seal is opened and the seven Angels are given seven trumpets.



The first Angel sounds his trumpet; a hail of fire is cast upon the earth.



The second Angel sounds his trumpet; a great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea.



The fourth Angel sounds his trumpet; a third part of the sun, of the moon, and of the stars are smitten.



The fifth Angel sounds his trumpet; the bottomless pit is opened and locusts with the crowned heads of men issue forth.

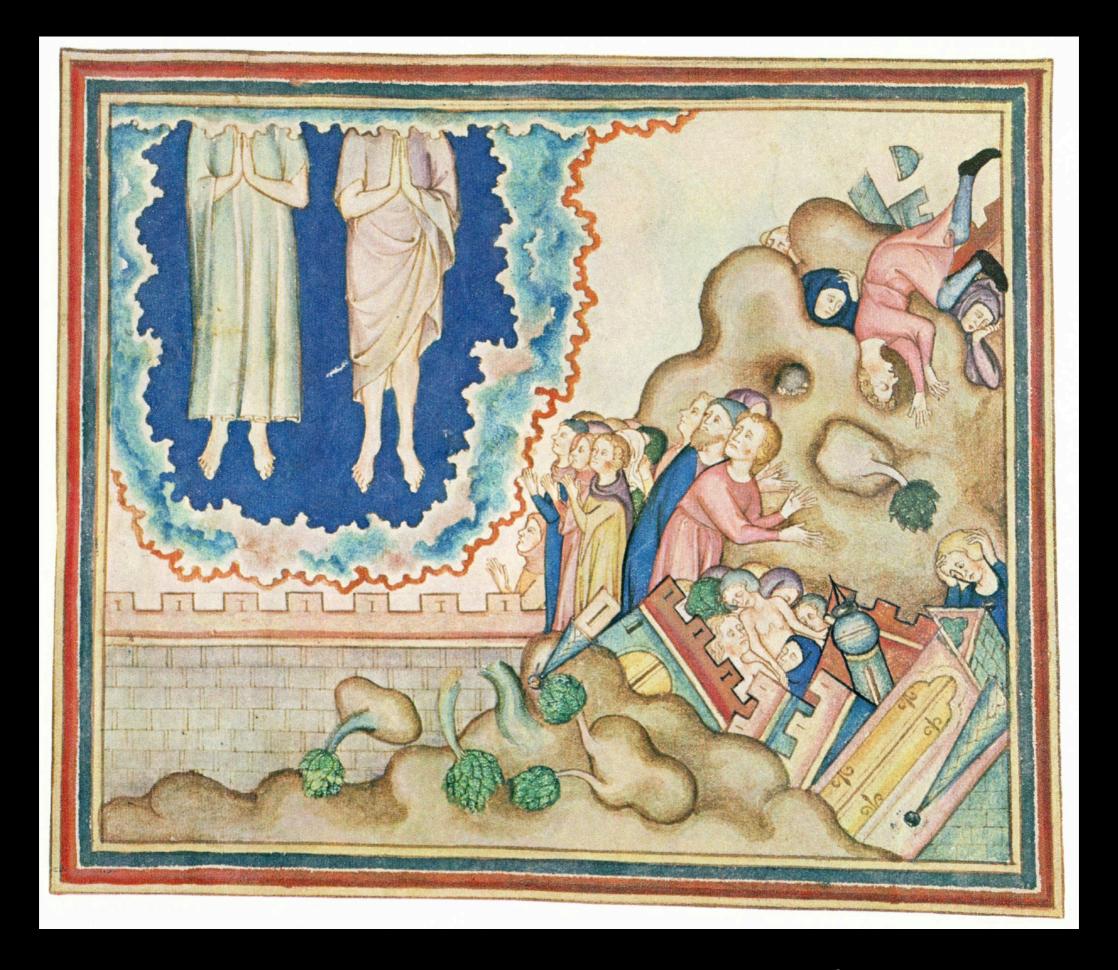


The sixth Angel sounds his trumpet and the four angels bound in the river Euphrates are loosed.





St John eats the book and commanded to prophesy.



The two prophets ascend to Heaven; an earthquake destroyed a tenth of the city.





War in Heaven: St Michael and his Angles fight against the Dragon; Satan cast into the Earth.







The Beast with the body of a leopard and seven heads is worshipped. The Beast makes war against the Saints.



The False Prophet; the Beast's worshippers are marked with the Mark of the Beast.



The Throne of Heaven. "... and lo a Lamb stood upon Mount Sion..."









Those who have overcome the Beast stand on the Sea of Glass and sing the praises of the Lord.



The third Angel pours out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters.



The sixth Angel pours out his vials upon the river Euphrates drying up a way for the Kings of the East.



Three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet.

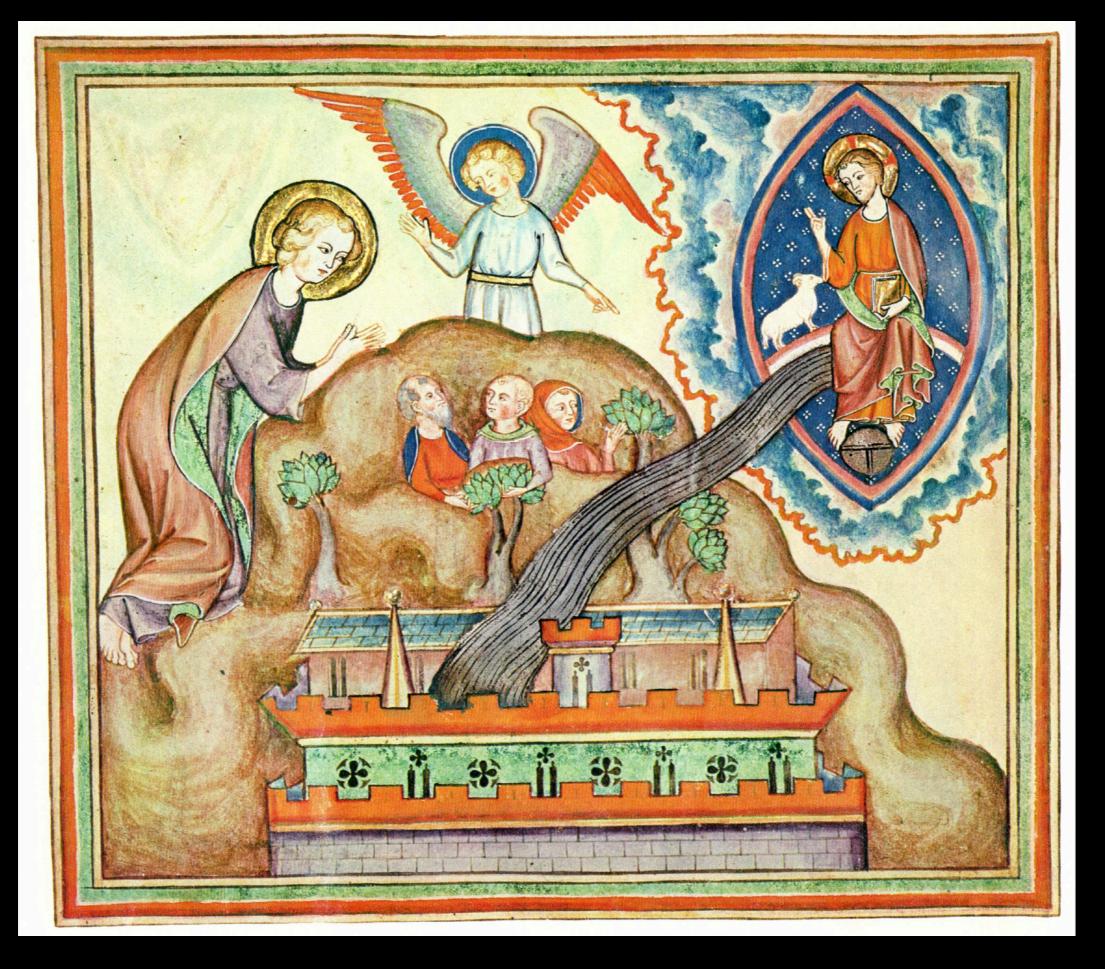


The Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet are cast into Hell.



St John's vision of the New Jerusalem and a new Earth.





The Angel shows St John "the river of Water of Life," and "the Tree of Life, bearing twelve fruits . . . "













The young couple who patronized the manuscript kneel before the Virgin and Child and a saint.

## Motes on the Paintings

The last in order of Books of the New Testament is known as the Apocalypse of St John the Apostle. It was written in Greek, on the island of Patmos, where St John, because he preached Christianity, was exiled by order of the Roman emperor Domitian. John spent his last years at Ephesus and died there at an advanced age.

The Apocalypse — rich in details, overwhelming in striking visions such as the Sea of Glass mingled with fire, the new Jerusalem with the twelve foundations of precious stones, the pure river of Water of Life, clear as crystal — was the book of the Bible most frequently used as a subject for pictorial illustrations in the Middle Ages.

These illustrations are part of the 72 images from an Apocalypse manuscript datable to 1320. The original document contained paintings illustrating the Youth of Christ, which are not included in this selection, as well as scenes of the Annunciation and Nativity, which are shown here.

These paintings were not reproduced until nearly 650 years after they were created. Having been acquired by New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1968, they were featured as the images in its 1970 Desk Calendar, commemorating the museum's 100th anniversary. The calendar is now a collector's item, and I am grateful to own one and happy to share it with the Waldorf community in our own seemingly "apocalyptic" times. The contemplation of these remarkable depictions of the no-less remarkable Initiation journey of St John may be a source of inner strength and hope for teachers and students alike.

Eugene Schwartz The Online Conferences for Grades 1 through 8 For More Information on the Online Conferences for Grades 1 through 8 visit <a href="iwaldorf.net/online.html">iwaldorf.net/online.html</a>