



## Revelation

### Revelation 1:1-8

Revelation = "apokalupsis" - "removing of a veil"

this is an OPEN book (Rev. 22:10 vs. Daniel 12:4)

v. 1 - "shortly" - not "soon," but "suddenly"

v. 1 - "signified" = "symbolized" (show by a sign); word used for Jesus' miracles - deeper message!

v. 2 - "things that he saw" - see v. 19

### Why does Revelation use SYMBOLS?

1. spiritual "code" to protect first-century Christians

2. symbolic language is not weakened by time

3. symbols impart information with emotion

v. 3 - "blessed" - 7 blessings in Revelation (1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14), also 7 curses

v. 3 - "at hand" - church believed in imminent return!

v. 4 - "him which is...was...is to come" - this is a Greek exposition of God's OT name "I AM"

v. 4 - "seven spirits" - see 4:5, 5:6, Zechariah 4:6,10

7 - perfect number, signifies fulness or completion

v. 5 - "and" = "even" (see v. 6)

v. 5 - "washed" = "loosed and freed" (Amplified)

v. 7 - "see" = "stare at something remarkable" - not Rapture but return to earth (ch. 19, Mt. 24:29-30)

v. 7 - "they which pierced him" - Jews (Zech. 12:10)

v. 8 - Jesus Christ is Almighty God; Alpha & Omega are first and last letters in the Greek alphabet

First & Last Scriptures: Rev. 1:8, 22:12-13, 1:17-18

### REVELATION 1:9-20

### JOHN'S VISION

v. 9 - we will see tribulation, not Great Tribulation!

### Isle of Patmos (v. 9):

- 60 miles SW of Ephesus in Aegean Sea

- island 10 by 6 miles, volcanic, mostly treeless

- Roman penal colony containing granite quarry

- John exiled in his 90's by Domitian (AD 95-96)

v. 10 - "in the spirit" = "rapt in His power" (Amplified)

**The Lord's Day (v. 10):**

- the day of Christ's resurrection was always called "first day of the week" in NT, never "Lord's Day"
- in the OT, the "Day of the Lord" represented a future time of God's judgment
- John was propelled into the future by the Spirit!

**The Seven Churches (v. 11):**

- in Roman province of Asia (modern day Turkey)
- in order of Roman postal route (30-45 miles apart)
- more than 7 (ie: Colosse); these are representative

v. 12 - "candlesticks" = Jewish Menorah; shows the church as the fulfillment of OT Judaism

v. 13 - "Son of man" = OT title for the Messiah

Jesus clothed in priestly garments; girdle is about his chest - not waist - because his work is finished

v. 14 - Daniel's vision of Ancient of Days (7:9)

v. 16 - "seven stars" = angels, or "messengers"

v. 16 - "sword" = God's Word (2:12,16; Heb. 4:12)

v. 16 - power of His brightness - see 2 Thess. 2:8

***reaction of Jesus' apostle, beloved disciple, cousin; WHAT DOES YOUR JESUS LOOK LIKE?***

v. 18 - "keys" - denote authority in a royal household

v. 18 - "hell and death" - physical and spiritual death

v. 19 - ***PROPHETIC KEY TO INTERPRETATION***

v. 20 - "mystery" = "mysterion," secrets known only to initiated; many symbols defined by Scripture

**REVELATION 2**

**THE SEVEN CHURCHES**

These seven cities were located in the Roman Province of Asia (modern Turkey), arranged in a horseshoe shape roughly 100 miles in diameter that formed the Great Circle Postal Route of the province. There were more churches in Asia, but these seven had strengths and weaknesses typical of all other congregations both ancient and modern. The messages are addressed to the angel ("messenger") of each church. Bible scholars see a three-fold application from these messages:

PRACTICAL - Specific instruction to the churches in John's day

PROPHETIC - Principles for the church in every age

(Possible prophecies of the church in history)

PERSONAL - Spiritual application for individual Christians

Not every church is commended, nor is every assembly rebuked, but to all Christ says "I know thy works." There is a promise given to the one that "overcometh" in every congregation. To every church Christ says "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." The word "churches" is plural, indicating these messages were to be read by all congregations, not just the one addressed. The words "He" and "him" are singular, indicating individuals must be in tune with God's Spirit in spite of the condition of their assembly. The word "hear" means "take to heart and act upon" and does not indicate mere listening. Revelation 2 & 3 form the last message of Christ to His Church recorded in Scripture.

*Only Christ can see the true condition of a church or an individual!*

**REVELATION 2:1-7**

**EPHESUS, THE CARELESS CHURCH**

Capital of Roman Province of Asia, wealthy commerce center

Home of Temple of Diana, one of Seven Wonders of Ancient World

Church founded by Paul (Acts 19-20), first pastored by Timothy

John lived - and wrote his books - here before and after Patmos

"Ephesus" - name means "desirable," also "to let go, relax"

Heraclitus - "no one can live in Ephesus without weeping" (immoral)

"labor" - "toil until exhaustion" / "patience" - "endurance under trial"

"Nicolaitans" - "to conquer the people" (initiated concept of laity)

PROBLEM - abandoned "honeymoon love" (fervent, uninhibited)

So busy maintaining separation, they neglected adoration!

They had been in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), now they had fallen

The church that loses its love will eventually lose its light!

God will remove lampstand (church), not extinguish light (truth)

*What we do is important, but so is why we do it!*

**REVELATION 2:8-11**

**SMYRNA, THE CROWNED CHURCH**

Port city (modern Izmir), important center of Roman Imperial Cult

Famous for "Street of Gold" & "Hill Pagus" ("Crown of Smyrna")

Citizens not acknowledging Caesar as Lord excluded from guilds

Exclusion meant unemployment and poverty ("absolutely nothing")

Polycarp (one of John's disciples) burned at stake here in AD 155

Large Jewish community (accepted by Rome) persecuted Christians

Devil ("slanderer") controls those in "synagogue of Satan"

"Smyrna" - "bitter" (root word "myrrh" - crushed to give fragrance)

"ten days" - "a brief time" (Genesis 24:55, Acts 25:6) - or 10 "waves"

"crown of life" - "victor's crown" (awarded at annual athletic games)

**REVELATION 2:12-17**

**PERGAMOS, THE COMPROMISING CHURCH**

Pergamos had first temple dedicated to Caesar ("Satan's seat")

200,000 volume library, second only to Alexandria - educated society

Also Temple of Aesculapius, god of healing (twin serpents on staff)

Gigantic altar to Zeus - one of Seven Wonders of Ancient World

Sword was symbol of Roman Proconsul, but Christ's sword greater!

Satan not successful as roaring lion, but got in as deceiving serpent!

Antipas first martyr in Asia - we do not know him, but God does!

Doctrine of Balaam - mix godliness and worldliness (Num. 22-25)

Christians here compromised to avoid suffering, achieve acceptance

"Pergamos" - from "tower" and "marriage" - union with idolatry

Christ has a sharp sword to separate His people from the world!

"hidden manna" - spiritual food better than that offered to idols

imperial cults had "secrets" for members - God promises same to us

"white stone" - used to vote for acquittal or gain admission to a feast

*This church more acceptable to society, but less acceptable to God!*

## **REVELATION 2:18-28**

## **THYATIRA, THE CORRUPTED CHURCH**

The longest message was sent to the church in the smallest city!

A military and commercial center, numerous trade guilds here

Temple to Apollo (Sun God) - "Son of God" only here in Revelation

Lydia, seller of purple, was guild member from Thyatira (Acts 16:14)

City known for "turkey red" Thyatira cloth and bronze production

Christ comes to judge with "fiery" eyes and feet like fine brass

"Thyatira" - means "unweary of sacrifice" - continuous good works

No amount of loving or sacrifice can compensate for tolerance of evil

"Jezebel" - not likely a real name, but real woman like the OT queen

She taught that there was no harm in outward conformity to the world if inward holiness was maintained - false doctrine!

Ephesus weak in love yet strong in doctrine; Thyatira weak in doctrine yet strong in love - both extremes hateful to God!

"cast her into a bed" - bed of sin would become bed of sickness

"kill her children with death" - "plague" / warning to ALL churches

"depths of Satan" - heresy that taught Christians could indulge in immorality in safety because their sins were forgiven

Only one command given to the faithful - "Hold fast till I come!"

In the millenium the church will be given power to wipe out sin!

Jesus, the morning star (Rev. 22:16), is our reward for faithfulness

*The church crowded with good activity is not always a true church!*

## **REVELATION 3:1-6**

## **SARDIS, THE FEEBLE CHURCH**

At junction of five main roads - center for trade & military / on inaccessible plateau 1500 ft. high - impregnable fortress

Center for worship of Artemis - nature-worshipping reincarnation cult

Famous for wool garments, but city just a shadow of former splendor  
Church had become like city - alive in name only, living on past glory  
"seven Spirits of God" - God sees the reality beyond the reputation  
Twice in history Sardis captured because Sentries were sleeping  
"come on thee as a thief" - unexpected or undetected judgement  
Deadness in the assembly due to defilement among the assembled!  
No persecution of church in Sardis - no friction means no motion!  
Even a dead church can have a dedicated remnant - the only hope!  
Promise to wear white raiment meaningful to garment-making people  
*All the church's man-made programs cannot bring spiritual life!*

### **REVELATION 3:7-13**

### **PHILADELPHIA, THE FAITHFUL CHURCH**

In strategic place on trade route; "Gateway to the East" / called "Little Athens" - many temples; famous for vineyards

Area prone to earthquakes; city was completely destroyed in AD 17

"Philadelphia" - name means "brotherly love" / still exists today

"Key of David" - authority of the Messiah (image from Isaiah 22:22)

City was "door" through mountains; church had "door" of opportunity

congregation small, but easily understood how a little strength in a narrow valley corridor could hold back a large army!

Jews who rejected Christ were the worst persecutors of the church

Many scholars believe verse 10 is one of God's promises for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, since the "hour" (a specific time of trial) will come upon "ALL the world" and God says he will "keep" (Greek: "keep OUT OF") the church from it

Overcomers will be made "pillars" (indicating stability in a city of earthquakes); names of prominent citizens were often engraved on temple pillars as a mark of honor - we will bear Christ's name forever

*It is possible to lose our rewards if we ignore our opportunities!*

### **REVELATION 3:14-22**

### **LAODICEA, THE FOOLISH CHURCH**

"Laodicea" - name means "judgement of the people" or "mob rule"

God comes to them as the Amen (Hebrew "truth" - Isaiah 65:16)

"beginning of the creation of God" - "source" or "origin" of creation

Located between Hieropolis (famous for hot springs) and Colossae (famous for pure cold drinking water) - water from either place would be "lukewarm" by the time it arrived in Laodicea (Colossians 4:13)

City ravaged by earthquake (AD 61), but refused financial assistance from Rome in rebuilding due to its self-sufficiency

Noted as banking center, for production of glossy black wool, for production of an eye salve used across the Empire

God says they are poor, naked, blind; He counsels them to get gold, white raiment and eye salve for their spiritual lives!

Christ is OUTSIDE the church, knocking because He wants inside!

Door of ancient home had to be opened by the occupant from inside

Laodiceans believed they had a perfect church because of prosperity

God's counsel: "gold tried in the fire" - suffering realigns priorities!

*Christ says "I stand" ("I have taken my stand") - what will YOU do?*

## **REVELATION 4:1-11**

## **GOD'S THRONE IN HEAVEN**

"Church" not mentioned again until 22:16 - NOT ON EARTH

purpose of Rapture - not mere escape, but translation of body!

elsewhere only "come hither" (Rev. 17:1, 21:9) - RAPTURE

throne room - similar arrangement to Tabernacle, with Throne in place of the mercy seat and other "furniture" in front of it

jasper (crystal) - holiness; sardine (blood red) - wrath; emerald (predominant color of RAINBOW) - mercy at this throne!

circle arrangement of Sanhedrin, no one closer than anyone else

24 elders - not angels (5:11), 24 priestly orders (1 Chron. 24:4); symbolic completion of 12 tribes + 12 apostles (Rev. 21:12,14)

crowns - "stephanos" (victor's crown)

lightnings & thunderings - Sinai (Ex. 19:16 - God's presence coming near in judgement)

7 Spirits (Zech. 4:6,10 - omnipresence and omniscience of God)

sea of glass not literal - appearance! / glass dull in John's day (1 Cor. 13:12)

unceasing watchfulness; CHERUBIMS - highest rank of angels

"zoa" (living creature), not "therion" (vicious wild beast)

symbolic of God's creation and covenant with Noah (man), fowl (eagle), cattle (calf), beasts (lion) - Genesis 9:9-10

4-fold portrait of Christ in gospels (Lion / Calf / Man / Eagle), similar to visions of Ezekiel (1:5,10,28) and Isaiah (6:2-3)

primary function of cherubim is WORSHIP of Almighty God

elders worship in a way even Cherubim cannot worship!

"proskuneo" (prostrate) - to kiss, like dog licking master's hand

**CROWNS AWARDED:** Victor's Crown of Life (James 1:12), Faithful Saint's Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8), Elder's Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4), Soul Winner's Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19), Martyr's Crown of Life (Rev. 2:10)

*Saints cast their crowns before throne in ultimate act of worship!*

## **Seven Reasons Why A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Is Biblical**

1. It is the only view that clearly and logically untangles the contrasting details of Christ's Second Coming by taking Scripture in its literal sense whenever possible.

2. It is the only view that properly distinguishes between Israel and the church, thus avoiding the most common error in Bible interpretation.

3. It is the only view that truly gives the church a blessed hope by taking God at His Word when He promises to save His church out of the wrath to come.
4. It is the only view that preserves the motivating power of imminency teaching that was such a challenge to the early church, and keeps Christians in anticipation of the Lord's coming.
5. It is the only view that clearly and literally fits the flow of the Book of Revelation, and explains why the church is not mentioned as being on earth during the Tribulation period.
6. It is the only view that explains the questions troubling the young Christians at Thessalonica, and maintains 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 as a comfort passage.
7. It is the only view that explains why there is absolutely no Bible instruction on how the church should prepare for the Tribulation.

### **Scripture Verses to Consider**

#### **1 Thess. 4:13-18 - Rapture (Lat) = harpadsō (Gr) = "snatched up"**

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

#### **1 Thess. 5:9 - We are appointed to suffering, but not God's wrath**

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

#### **1 Cor. 15:51-52 - Paul uses "we" because he expected Rapture**

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

#### **Revelation 3:10 - We are kept from ("out of" - ek) the Tribulation**

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

#### **Revelation 6:16-17 - God's wrath at beginning of Seven Years**

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

#### **Revelation 13:9 - Word "church" not mentioned as in Rev. 2 & 3**

If any man have an ear, let him hear.

***Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ***

***(Titus 2:13)***

### **REVELATION 5:1-14**

### **THE LAMB OPENS THE BOOK**

right hand symbolizes power and authority (Ex. 15:6, Psa. 17:7)

scroll full - nothing can be added to God's Last Will & Testament

sealed like Roman will - only to be opened by appointed heir

Who is worthy (righteous enough) to loose the plagues in this "Title Deed to the Universe" and reclaim the earth for God?

"wept much" - mourning as for a dead loved one in Bible times

Lion of the tribe of Judah - image from Genesis 49:9-10

Root of David - image from Isaiah 11:1,10 (as HUMANITY, His roots were IN David; as DEITY, He was the root OF David)

"How can Messiah be both David's Lord & son?" (Mt. 22:41-46)

"Lamb" = "a little pet lamb" / "slain" = "violently killed"

7 horns - complete power; 7 eyes - complete knowledge

Lamb - 1st coming (redemption); Lion - 2nd coming (judgement)

This scene describes what John sees as happening in the SPIRITUAL REALM - Jesus is not literally a Lamb or a Lion, just as He is not literally approaching a throne to obtain a literal book

Revelation 5:7 is a fulfillment of what Daniel saw in Dan. 7:13-14

prayers are preserved in Heaven as incense! (Psalm 141:2)

new (kainos) - new in quality (never existed before - 2 Cor. 5:17)

Redeemer had to be near of kin (humanity of Christ), willing to redeem (God's love), and able to redeem (Calvary's provision)

saints from every kindred (ancestry), tongue (language), people (race), nation (government) have been redeemed by His blood

"we shall reign on the earth" - will happen in the Millennium

10,000 - largest single number used in Greek ("innumerable")

*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
(Philippians 2:10-11)*

Christ now ready to open seals that begin the Great Tribulation

## **REVELATION 6**

## **THE SEAL JUDGMENTS**

seals indicate judgement held back as long as possible

start of 7-year Tribulation (Dan. 9:27) - covers Rev. 6-19

first 3.5 years - Rev. 6-9 / middle part of Tribulation - Rev. 10-14 / last 3.5 years - Rev. 15-19

similar to Zechariah's vision of four chariots patrolling the earth (Zech. 6:1-7) indicating God's activity or judgement

"Come and see" = "come" (ie: come forth)

## **REVELATION 6:1-2**

## **FIRST SEAL - WHITE HORSE (ANTICHRIST)**

"white horse" - a false Christ accepted by the world

"bow" (without arrows) - peace and disarmament

"crown" - "stephanos" (victor's crown) in 6:2, not "diadema" (kingly crown) worn by Christ in 19:12

world dictator begins his career as a PEACEMAKER



**REVELATION 6:3-4****SECOND SEAL - RED HORSE (WAR)**

Antichrist soon exchanges his empty bow for a sword!

red associated with terror and death - wanton bloodshed

these things have happened throughout history, but reach their height during the Tribulation period

**REVELATION 6:5-6****THIRD SEAL - BLACK HORSE (FAMINE)**

black = famine (Jer. 14:1-2, Lam. 5:10) - the result of war

"penny" ("denarius") = labourer's daily wage (Matt. 20:2) - ordinarily bought eight times as much!

"measure" = individual daily requirement of food

"scales" = rationing / "oil and wine" = luxury items

rich will still have plenty; Antichrist will control economy!

**REVELATION 6:7-8****FOURTH SEAL - PALE HORSE (DEATH)**

"pale" = "yellow green" (hue of sick and dying tissue)

death claims body, Hell (Hades) claims soul; but Christ has authority over them both! (Rev. 1:18)

fourth part of earth - 1/4 population or geographical area

sword, hunger, death = war, famine, plague

beasts - terror of man removed (reversal of Genesis 9:2)

**REVELATION 6:9-11****FIFTH SEAL - PERSECUTION**

in OT, blood (representing life) poured out at base of altar

those responding to the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM in Tribulation martyred for their loyalty to God

they are praying for vindication of God and righteousness

"white robes" = purity and victory

"rest yet for a little season" - God delays judgement to allow evil-doers to repent, even though righteous suffer

"their fellowservants also" - others yet to be martyred!

God's justice is stirred, but so is His mercy!

**REVELATION 6:12-17****SIXTH SEAL - GREAT EARTHQUAKE**

God's displeasure at the martyrdom of the righteous

earthquake so great it moves mountains and islands

sun blackens in a dramatic type of eclipse

moon appears blood-red because of atmospheric disturbances (either divine or man-made)

meteor shower ("shooting stars") described visually

stormclouds rolling swiftly could look like a "scroll"

mankind prays to NATURE for salvation! (new age)

**FINAL QUESTION:** "Who shall be able to stand?"

answer is given in chapter seven (a parenthetical chapter)

seventh seal judgement continues at Revelation 8:1

### **REVELATION 7:1-3**

### **INTERVAL BEFORE THE SEVEN TRUMPETS**

chapter 7 is a response to the question asked in Revelation 6:17 - *Who shall be able to stand?*

"four corners" - figurative in Bible times, as in the present

"wind" - indicates judgement, forces of devastation

"earth, sea, tree" - angels delaying 7 trumpet judgements

"east" - symbolizes the source of blessing

"seal" - an invisible sign of God's protection, contrasting with the "mark of the beast" (Rev. 13:16)

### **REVELATION 7:4-8**

### **THE 144,000 SEALED ON EARTH**

these Jews sealed by God; Antichrist cannot kill them because God is using them as His witnesses

their mission is to preach THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM to remaining Jews & Gentiles on earth

we do not know how the 144,000 become followers of the Messiah; possibly God reveals Himself supernaturally to them as He did to the Apostle Paul

we also do not know how they learn their tribal identity (Jewish people today do not know this)

the 144,000 will be translated from the earth to Heaven after completing their mission (Rev. 14:1)

different list from usual listings of the 12 tribes, perhaps since it is symbolic of God's true followers:

(1) Judah is mentioned first because it is both the tribe of David and of Jesus the Messiah

(2) Levi is given a place here as a reward for faithfulness even though it had no tribal allotment in the OT due to the Levites' work for God in the Temple

(3) Dan and Ephraim are not mentioned because they were known for rebellion and idolatry

(4) Instead of "Ephraim and Manasseh" (Joseph's sons) this list reads "Joseph and Manasseh" again because of Ephraim's rebellion and idolatry

### **REVELATION 7:9-12**

### **THE GREAT MULTITUDE SAVED IN HEAVEN**

since John is able to later number an army of 200 million (Rev. 9:16), the "great multitude, which no man could number" must be larger than that!

see Rev. 4:4 - this group is standing before the Throne, not seated on thrones like the elders; they have palms in their hands, not crowns on their heads like the elders; John does not know them (Rev. 7:14), so they cannot be part of the church (or even OT believers)

"white robes, and palms" = "righteousness and victory"

verse 12 - sevenfold ascription of adoration to God

there will be millions "saved" during the Tribulation, but they will be responding to THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, so they cannot be part of the church - *and the vast majority of them die as martyrs!*

Tribulation martyrdom began in Rev. 6:9-11 and continues throughout the entire seven-year period

God's Spirit will be present on earth during the Tribulation - *as it was before Pentecost* - to draw mankind to Himself

### **REVELATION 7:13-17**

### **THE IDENTITY OF THE GREAT MULTITUDE**

"came out of" - "are coming daily out of" - continuously!

in the Greek, verse 14 reads "THE great tribulation" - a definite period of judgement on the earth

"blood of the Lamb" - basis for all (OT & NT) redemption

*(Salvation is an "elastic" word, applying to many things)*

"dwell" - "spread His tabernacle over them"

the Lamb, who feeds and leads, is also the Shepherd!

verse 17 - NO MORE REASON TO CRY... FOREVER!

## **The Gospel of The Kingdom**

**MESSAGE:** "God is establishing His earthly Kingdom"

It was preached primarily to the Jews when Jesus was on earth (Matthew 10:5-7, 15:24)

It is vastly different from the gospel ("good news") preached by the New Testament church

Preached from the time of John the Baptist until rejection of Christ by the Jews (crucifixion)

Preached again by 144,000 sealed Jews during Tribulation & Millennium (Matthew 24:14)

### **Matthew 24**

### **Jesus Gives Signs Of The End**

#### **FALSE CHRISTS - v. 4-5**

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

#### **WARS - v. 6**

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

#### **FAMINES - v. 7a**

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines ...

#### **DEATH - v. 7b**

... and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

#### **FIRST FOUR SIGNS - "BEGINNING"**

24:8)

All these [are] the beginning of sorrows. (Matthew

#### **MARTYRS - v. 9**

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

#### **WORLD CHAOS - v. 10-13**

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

#### **PREACHING BY JEWS - v. 14**

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

### **Revelation 6 & 7**

### **John Sees Events Of The End**

#### **WHITE HORSE - v. 1-2**

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

#### **RED HORSE - v. 3-4**

And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse [that was] red: and [power] was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

#### **BLACK HORSE - v. 5-6**

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and [see] thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

#### **PALE HORSE - v. 7-8**

And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

#### **FIRST FOUR SEALS - "HORSEMEN"**

The four horsemen are distinct from the other seals.

#### **MARTYRS - v. 9-11**

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled.

#### **WORLD CHAOS - v. 12-14**

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

#### **144,000 SEALED - chapter 7**

*We are not told explicitly that the 144,000 are God's special witnesses, or that the gentile host mentioned is a result of their preaching, but this appears to be a logical deduction. Otherwise, why are the two associated in Revelation chapter seven?*

#### **Revelation 8:1-6**

#### **Silence Announces The Seven Trumpets**

note that judgments intensify through book: seals, trumpets, vials

seals, trumpets in first 3.5 years / vials in last 3.5 years of Tribulation

trumpet & vial judgments (ch. 16) very similar, but vials more severe

seventh seal - contains seven trumpet judgments

silence - in awe of terrible Day of the Lord (Zeph. 1:7)

half an hour - singing throughout OT temple sacrifices, but absolute silence during the offering of incense (prayers of saints - Ps. 141:2)

God is silencing Heaven's praise to hear the prayers of His Saints!

## **TRUMPETS IN THE BIBLE**

Trumpets announced war, gathered people together (Num. 10:1-10)

Trumpets sounded when the law was given (Exodus 19:16-19)

Trumpets sounded when a King was enthroned (1 Kings 1:34,39)

Trumpets sounded at the conquest of Jericho (Joshua 6:13-16)

Jesus' voice was like the sound of a trumpet (Revelation 1:10)

John was summoned to Heaven by a trumpet (Revelation 4:1)

The rapture will be signalled by a trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

for centuries the saints have been praying, "Thy Kingdom Come" - those prayers are about to be answered through God's judgments!

on Day of Atonement (Lev. 16), incense placed on coals in censer; here, incense placed on altar and coals cast to earth (Ez. 10:2)

### **Revelation 8:7**

#### **The First Trumpet - Judgment On The Land**

similar to seventh plague in Egypt (Ex. 9:24-25)

1/3 of trees burned, all green grass burned

balance of nature & world food supply affected

these may be events prophesied in Joel 2:30

### **Revelation 8:8-9**

#### **The Second Trumpet - Judgment On The Salt Water**

similar to first plague in Egypt (Ex. 7:20-21)

1/3 of oceans blood (1/4 of earth's surface), 1/3 of fish & ships (approx. 15,000) destroyed  
unprecedented ecological & trade disaster!

mountain burning with fire - meteor, volcano (?)

blood - appearance only, or literal (ie: Exodus)

### **Revelation 8:10-11**

#### **The Third Trumpet - Judgment On The Fresh Water**

1/3 of earth's drinking water poisoned

similar to event at Marah (Ex. 15:23-27), but this time no supernatural purification available!

wormwood - a bitter, often poisonous herb (literally "undrinkable") - perhaps a meteor (?)

wormwood associated with punishment for sin (Jer. 23:15, Prov. 5:4, Amos 5:7, Deut. 29:18)

### **Revelation 8:12-13**

#### **The Fourth Trumpet - Judgment On The Heavens**

similar to ninth plague in Egypt (Ex. 10:22-23)

1/3 of sun, moon & stars darkened

absolutely black for 1/3 of day! (Amos 5:18)

man's way of life & climate drastically affected

supernatural darkness at Calvary (Matt. 27:45)

angel - "eagle, bird of prey" - could be beast like an eagle (Rev. 4:7-8) sent by God

last three trumpets judgments are so severe that they are also called "the three woes"

message: "The Worst Is Yet To Come!"

### **Revelation 9:1-12**

### **The Fifth Trumpet - An Army Of Locusts**

"star fall from heaven" - person ("him") identified in v.11 as fallen angel with names - Satan

Satan compared to morning star (Isaiah 14:12-14), seen falling as lightning from Heaven (Luke 10:18)

he has to be given the key to loose his own army!

this army now incarcerated, awaiting their release

"bottomless pit" - (Greek: "the shaft of the abyss"), an intermediate place of punishment for demons (ie: in Luke 8:31, they begged not to be sent there)

"smoke" - Jesus said hell like furnace (Matt. 13:42)

sky darkened even more during this judgment!

locusts, similar to eighth plague in Egypt (Ex. 10:12)

Joel prophesied such a plague (Joel 1:6-7, 2:1-11)

ordinary locusts devour vegetation; these are demonic beings sent to torment sinful man

scorpion sting a most intense pain (1 Kings 12:11)

"torment" - not destroy, but lead to repentance

men will seek death, but will not be able to die!

plague will last 5 months, the lifespan of a locust

5 months (150 days) like flood judgment (Gen. 7:24)

this plague will not touch the 144,000 sealed Jews (in the church age, Satan cannot touch those sealed by the Holy Ghost - Eph. 1:13) - note that there is no immunity for those "converted" in the Tribulation!

appearance of locusts similar to Joel's prophecy (locusts resemble little armored horses)

some commentators suggest a human army - unlikely since these are ruled by an angel

could be "demon-possessed locusts" (Luke 8:33)

this king is the angel of the bottomless pit (Abaddon - "the lowest depths of the earth, realm of the dead") and is called Apollyon ("Destroyer" - 1 Cor. 10:10)

### **Revelation 9:13-21**

### **The Sixth Trumpet - An Army Of Horsemen**

four fallen angels are loosed from Euphrates River, the cradle of civilization (Gen. 2:14), as well as one of Israel's original boundaries (Gen. 15:18)

Euphrates River later a boundary of the Roman Empire, symbolizing restraint of evil forces

"hour...day...month...year" - specific time set by God

1/3 of mankind killed (since 1/4 of men killed earlier in Rev. 6:8, this results in 1/2 of mankind now dead)

army numbers 200 million horsemen; some commentators identify this as Chinese army

while we know from Rev. 16:12,16 and Rev. 19:19 that great human armies from the East will cross the Euphrates River for the Battle of Armageddon, we cannot definitely identify them here in chapter nine

most likely another demonic army, only this time they are sent to kill rather than torment

the most frightening thing about the Tribulation is not God's judgments, but the fact that men persist in sinning even while God is judging them!

these sins will still be prevalent: devil worship and idolatry, murder, sorceries (Greek "pharmakia" - the use of drugs), fornication (sexual sin), theft

society in utter chaos as man's sin increases & God's judgments continue to be poured out

**seventh trumpet will be sounded at Rev. 11:15**

**we are approaching the midpoint of the Tribulation**

### **Revelation 10:1-7**

### **The Mighty Angel**

Revelation 10-14 describes events occurring in the middle of the Tribulation period; this explains John's repeated mention of 3.5 years (Rev. 11:2-3, 12:6, 12:14, 13:5) - Jewish months have exactly 30 days

this is the time when Satan begins to unleash his power through the Antichrist (ch. 12-13)

even in this period of turmoil, God has witnesses!

Revelation has more than 60 references to angels - God's army sent to accomplish His will

this mighty angel has several characteristics that could identify Him as Jesus Himself:

- (1) The rainbow first seen around God's throne (4:3) now sits like a crown on His head
- (2) He is clothed with a cloud, often identified with God (1:7, Ex. 16:10 & 19:9, Acts 1:9)
- (3) His face is as the sun, like Jesus in Rev. 1:16
- (4) His feet are like those of Jesus in Rev. 1:15
- (5) His voice is like a lion roaring (5:5) -- God's voice is powerful (Joh. 12:28-29, Psa. 29)
- (6) God often appeared in the OT as "the angel of the Lord" (Ex. 3:2, Jud. 6:11-12)
- (7) He holds the book containing remaining judgments; if Jesus was the only one worthy to open the scroll (5:5), it is probable He is the only one worthy to present this book
- (8) His posture is that of a conqueror taking possession of the world, a victorious Saviour!

"seven thunders" - another complete cycle of judgments that are hidden from us at present

"write them not" - secret things of God (Deut. 29:29)

the seven thunders are the only sealed thing in an otherwise unsealed book (Rev. 22:9)

"lifted up his hand" - solemn oath (Dan. 12:7)

God has placed Himself under oath before:

- (1) covenant with Abraham (Heb. 6:13-20)
- (2) Son of God declared High Priest (Heb. 7:20-22)
- (3) messianic promise to David (Acts 2:29-30)

"time no longer" - delay no longer

eternal life - not absence of time but ever-continuing time; time has a beginning but no end

"mystery of God" - His purpose for Israel (Dan. 9:24)

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