

John writes to believers in relation to the rapture of the Church.

I John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

<sup>3</sup> And every man that hath this hope in him Purifieth Himself, even as he is pure.

- Prophecy should act as a cleansing element in a believer's life.

Rev. 1:3 Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. certain; sure to take place

- There is coming an end to the sinful story of the human race.
- It concludes with the advent of a new heaven and new earth. [Isa. 65:17]

Rev. 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. [Theme]

Rev. 1:19 Write...

- The things which thou hast seen      Glorified Christ in Heaven      Rev. 1:12-18
- the things which are      Letters to 7 Churches      Rev. 2 & 3
- the things which shall be hereafter      Future/Trib./Kingdom/Eternity      Rev. 4-22

The heart of Revelation [6-18] describes the Tribulation period.

God's purpose for the tribulation period is to judge evil, utterly defeat Satan and complete His plan of salvation for the people of Israel.

The main section that is not in chronological order is Revelation 10-14.

- 7 Parenthetical, preview or overview chapters: provide more context for passages

Three Accounts of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ:

- Rev. 1:7      Rev. 14:14-20      Rev. 19:11-21

Three Population Reduction Predictions:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Seal      Rev. 6:8      Kill  $\frac{1}{4}$  of population
- 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe      Rev. 9:15, 18      Kill 1/3 of mankind
- 7 Bowls of Wrath      Isa. 13:12      Man scarcer than gold

Rev. 4:1 AFTER THIS I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet [#4536] talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

- After these things > after the Church Age > Rev. 2 & 3
- The door in heaven does not open again until Rev. 19:11.

And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

- Voice John heard was like a trumpet calling him to heaven.

I Thess. 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump [#4536] of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

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.

- When the rapture occurs, the church will ascend into heaven at the sound of a trumpet.

Note: The Church is not mentioned after Revelation 3:22 - Rev. 19:4

Revelation 5: The stage is set for the 7 year Tribulation which will be activated by the commands found in the scroll sealed with 7 seals.

Rev. 5:1-2, 5 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

<sup>5</sup>And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

The sealed scroll the Lamb takes from the right hand of God is the "purchase deed" to the Earth. Jesus is the Kinsman Redeemer, being the only one worthy to open the sealed scroll and reclaim the Earth. Subsequent chapters in Revelation show that the contents within the "purchase deed" are judgments which must come to pass on Earth before the Lord returns.

These judgments are to prepare for the Lord's earthly reign in two ways:

To evict the rebellious inhabitants from the earth and turn the Jewish people back to God.

The sealed "purchase deed" to the earth includes God's judgments, divided into three groups: Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls.

From Rev. 6 - 18, John describes a 7 year Tribulation Period.

The Tribulation Period, established in the OT, was first mentioned by Moses in Deut. 4:30.

He told the Children of Israel there would come a time "in the latter days" when they would be placed in great "distress" and would return to the Lord.

- Jeremiah referred to it as "the time of Jacob's distress." [Jer. 30:7]
- Isaiah and Zephaniah, with John in Revelation, make it clear that the Tribulation will affect all the world. [Isa. 24; Zeph. 1; Rev. 6-18]
- The last 3½ years will focus on the nation of Israel.  
For this reason, Jesus in speaking to the Jews, referred to the last half as the "great tribulation." This is when the Jews will suffer the most.
- These 7 years are also called "Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week." [Dan. 9:24-27]
- Daniel is given 6 purposes which God intends to accomplish among the Jewish people during a period of 490 years. [70 weeks x 7 = 490]
  - The first 69 weeks or 483 years will stretch from the commandment to restore Jerusalem [445BC] after the Babylonian captivity to the coming of the Messiah.
  - Then the final week [70<sup>th</sup> week = 7 years] will begin when "the prince who is to come" [a reference to the Antichrist] makes a covenant with Israel that will allow them to rebuild their Temple. [Dan. 9:27]

Revelation 6 > Begins with the Lamb opening the first seal of the scroll.

Terrible catastrophic events come down from the "wrath of the Lamb."

With each successive opening of a seal, the world falls further into ultimate disaster.

Rev. 6:1 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.

This action launches the first series of judgments from God's throne. > Seal Judgments

Seal #1: Rev. 6:2 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.

- The white horse represents the coming of the Antichrist who carries a destructive bow to begin the carnage on earth. He is
  - ❖ the beast                                      Rev. 13:1-10
  - ❖ the man of lawlessness                    II Thess. 2:3
  - ❖ the son of perdition                        John 17:12
  - ❖ the Antichrist                                I John 4:3

Remember: There are 2 white horses in Revelation. This one with the Antichrist [Satan's man] playing the role. The white horse in Rev. 19 with Jesus Christ returning as King of Kings.

Matt. 24:3-5 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

<sup>5</sup> For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

| Matthew 24 |               | Revelation 6 |                                |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 24:4-5     | False Christs | 6:1-2        | White Horse Rider = antichrist |
| 24:6       | Wars          | 6:3-4        | Red Horse = War                |
| 24:7       | Famine        | 6:7          | Black Horse = Famine           |
| 24:7-8     | Death         | 6:7-8        | Pale Horse = Death             |
| 24:9       | Martyrs       | 6:9-11       | Martyrs                        |

Seal #2: Rev. 6:3-4 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. <sup>4</sup> 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.

Seal #3: Rev. 6:5 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. [scarcity of food; death & famine]

Seal #4: Rev. 6:7 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.

- ❖ The result is war, famine and death. One-fourth of the earth dies in this initial pouring out of the seal judgments. That is ~1 billion 950 million people in today's terms.

Four horsemen of the apocalypse: Note the expressions:

Was given in v. 2

Was granted in v. 4

Authority was given in v. 8

- ❖ These are in the passive voice = an outside force or power allowed or gave permission for these things to take place.

- ❖ Since the scroll comes from the throne room of God the Father and since the Lord Jesus Christ is the One who breaks open the seals, the conclusion is that divine sovereignty is allowing these terrible events to come about on the earth.

Seal #5: Shifts to a heavenly vision:

Many have been converted to Jesus Christ and are martyred for their faith.

Rev. 6:9 > Spirits of the martyrs in heaven are crying out to God, "How long O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Seal #6: Rev. 6:12-17 We are given a taste of how terrible that day will be when Jesus returns.

- Great earthquake
- Sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;
- Stars fall from the sky which is pulled apart like a scroll.
- Every mountain and island are pulled out of their places.

Rev. 6:15-16 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; <sup>16</sup> And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Rev. 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Revelation 7: answers the question in 6:17.

Rev. 7 is the first of several parenthetical passages that interrupt the action.

- It is inserted between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> seals to explain things that will transpire during the time the 6 seals take place.
- It explains things that transpired but were not contained in the opening of the seals.

Revelation 7 is the first of several parenthetical passages that interrupt the action to insert a word of encouragement. The reader is assured:

- There are 2 groups: a group of Jews and a group of Gentiles who will be able to endure the wrath of the Lamb.
- 1. 144,000 born-again Jewish servants. [7:3] They will be messengers of God and preach the entire period as missionaries to the world. They are sealed in their forehead.

Note: The purpose of the Tribulation is not just primarily punishment, but also to bring people to repentance. God does not wish that ANY should perish but that ALL should be brought to repentance. [II Pet. 3:9]

- 2. Great host of people from every nation - all tribes, people and tongues - standing before the throne and before the Lamb clothed in white robes. [Rev. 7:9]
- They are in heaven praising the Lord and serving Him. [Rev. 7:11-12, 15]
- They are pictured as having some sort of intermediate body. [Rev. 7:13]

Chapter 7 ends with all of heaven on its face before God. His sovereignty is extolled in His redemption of Israel and the Gentiles alike. God is the One who saves people.

Seal #7 Rev. 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. [It's as if all of heaven is holding its breath before the pouring out of another series of terrible judgments.]

- Like the "lull before the storm" > God's intensified judgments are about to be hurled to the earth.
- Expectation and suspense can be so intense that one dares not breathe. We often describe such a situation thus: "It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop."
- When the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is opened, the scroll is opened and reveals the trumpets & bowls.

### Revelation 8 & 9 > The 7 Trumpets

Rev. 8:2 And I saw the 7 angels which stood before God; and to them were given 7 trumpets.

Rev. 8:3-4 Another angel stands before the heavenly altar and holds a golden censer.

More incense is added representing the additional prayers of the Tribulation saints.

Rev. 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Trumpet #1 Rev. 8:7 The Trumpet judgments begin with hail and fire mixed with blood being thrown down to the earth.

Desolation of Earth: The target for this judgment is green vegetation, the trees and grass.

- 1/3 of the earth is burned up [Compare to 7<sup>th</sup> plague against Egypt.]

Ex. 9:22-24 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. <sup>23</sup> And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. <sup>24</sup> So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Trumpet #2 Rev. 8:8-9 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea [Desolation in Seas]: and the third part of the sea became blood: [1<sup>st</sup> plague of Egypt]

- 1/3 part of saltwater turned to blood
- 1/3 part of marine life died
- 1/3 part of ships were destroyed

Note: Ecological and economic disaster of unprecedented proportion

Trumpet #3 Rev. 8:10-11 Desolation in fresh water > rivers; fountains of water; wells

- Fresh water will taste bitter like wormwood; polluted
- Many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

### Trumpet #4

Rev. 8:12 Desolation in the Heavens: 1/3 of the light of the sun, moon and stars is blocked out.

- Trumpets 1-3 affected 1/3 of land and waters.
- This trumpet judgment affects the entire world. Why?

- The sun is the very source of the earth's life and energy.  
With 1/3 less sunlight on the earth, there will be much less energy available to support the life systems of man and nature.
- Think of the vast changes in temperatures and how that will affect man and food growth.

THEN, a remarkable messenger will appear in the sky, proclaiming 3 woes to the earth's inhabitants.

Rev. 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound! Hell is unleashed on earth.

- Inhabiters of the earth > those who dwell on the earth > people who live for the earth and the things of the earth

Woe is an intense, painful exclamatory term of despair and resignation that speaks of no hope of survival. Woe means "grief, anguish, affliction." The three woes of Revelation are the final judgment God pronounces on the evil inhabitants of the earth in order to spur them to repentance [Rev. 9:20]. The three woes are, indeed, a time of great anguish and affliction for those who have pledged their allegiance to the Antichrist during the end times.

The fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpets are called the three woes [Rev. 8:13].

Three series of woes to follow:

- Rev. 9:1-12                      Rev. 9:13-19                      Rev. 11:15

Revelation 9 describes 2 frightening armies that are liberated at the appointed time and permitted to judge mankind. Army from the Pit & Army from the East

Rev. 9:1-2 And the fifth angel [Trumpet #5; Woe #1] sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

- Coming from heaven this angel would be one of the servants of the Lord and not an evil agent of Satan. He is GIVEN the key of the bottomless pit.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. <sup>3</sup> And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup> And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

- The seal of God on people's foreheads is a sign of God's protection and ownership.
- The lost will not be protected from these demonic locusts.

<sup>5</sup> And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

<sup>6</sup> And in those days shall men seek death and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. [Jer. 8:3]

<sup>7</sup> And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

<sup>8</sup> And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

<sup>9</sup> And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

<sup>10</sup> And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

<sup>11</sup> And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

- Prov. 30:27a The locusts [real locusts] have no king.
- Real locusts are pervasive destroyers, but this army only tortures those who do not belong to the Lord.

The 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet is blown; Woe #2 : Rev. 9:13-14 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,<sup>14</sup> Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

- Apparently wicked angels. Each angel is in charge of part of the vast army that follows them at their liberation.
- An army of 200 million from the east is let loose at a precise time to kill 1/3 of the world's population. > Revelation's 2<sup>nd</sup> Depopulation Prediction
- This terrible scourge proceeds to kill 1/3 of those left alive after the seal judgments. This means that  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the world's population will die by the time the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment is completed. [Currently 7.8 billion = ~ 3 billion 900 million]
- Fire, smoke and brimstone issue from their mouths. Their tails are like biting serpents.

Revelation 9 ends on a sad note.

Rev. 9:20-21 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: <sup>21</sup> Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

- Man persists in committing these sins even while God is judging them.
- It will be an age of lawlessness with "every man doing that which is right in his own eyes."

Revelation 10: The chronological action stops. It seems the action builds, terror mounts and gets worse. Then, it comes to a screaming halt and the 2<sup>nd</sup> parenthetical passage is inserted between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgments. It is a heavenly vision in which a special angel pronounces that more wrath is coming and the end is near.

John sees a very unusual angel - a "strong angel."

Rev. 10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

- This is most likely Jesus because He is clothed with a cloud which is a representation of the Shekinah glory of God.
- Rainbow on His head = symbol of faithfulness that crowns the throne of God.

- 10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: contains the rest of the prophetic message that John will deliver.
- and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, He holds up as he claims possession of the earth. [posture is a conqueror taking possession of His territory; claiming the whole world.
- This is Christ's inheritance the Father promised Him in Ps. 2:6-9

Rev. 10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

- 7 is symbolic of completion
- Peals of thunder indicate more trouble to come on earth

Rev. 10:4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

Rev. 11: John is told to measure the temple of God. This is the Tribulation temple which will be an apostate institution since it will house a reinstated Mosaic sacrificial worship system. The order to measure it with a rod is symbolic in the Bible of being measured for God's judgment.

Rev. 11:3 God's 2 witnesses: Some say Elijah & Moses. Some say Elijah & Enoch.

They will preach the Word with great power during the first half of the Tribulation.

Rev. 11:5-6 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

<sup>6</sup> These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Rev. 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

- Their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  days.
- The whole earth rejoices at their death. [send presents]
- After 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  days, they will suddenly be resurrected and caught up to heaven as the world watches. [Rev. 11:11-12]

Ed Hindson: The resurrection and rapture of the 2 witnesses will verify that the earlier disappearance of believers was indeed the rapture of the church.

The witness and testimony of these two will be a "last chance" at this stage of the Tribulation for people to come to Christ for salvation. After the 2 witnesses are gone, "in that hour" God will send a great earthquake.

- Rev. 11:13 God shakes Jerusalem with a great earthquake. The tenth part of the city fell,
  - 7000 men were slain in the earthquake
  - and the remnant were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> woe is past. The 3<sup>rd</sup> woe will come quickly. [Rev. 11:14]