HAT THE

2020 SESSION

BWHAT THE IS ABOUT

The book of Revelation

A Special Blessing

(Revelation 1:3)



is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

And a Special Curse

(Revelation 22:18-19)

¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book:

If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and the things which are written in this book.

The internal consistency of the Bible

What started in Genesis ends in Revelation

The Great
Grand Plan of
the God
started in
Genesis and
ends in
Revelation.

Starting from Genesis, every event in history builds up to the climax in Revelation.

Revelation is a thrilling and awe inspiring end to the story of the Bible.

Revelation
authenticates
and completes
the Bible as
the written
'Will of God'
for all of His
people.

The first word of this book, Ἀποκάλυψις [*Apokalypsis, unveiling*],

should be kept in mind throughout the book.

For it is God's intention to *reveal* rather than *conceal*.

The Spirit of this Course

ETSI DOCTRINA NON DARETUR

("as if doctrine is not given.")

The "Divine outline" of the book of Revelation

THINGS
WHICH THOU
HAST SEEN
(Chapter 1)

 John' vision of the exalted Christ, 1



THINGS
WHICH
ARE
(Chapters 2-3)

 The messages to the seven churches, 2-3



THINGS
WHICH SHALL
BE HEREAFTER

(Chapters 4-22)

- Throne in heaven, 4-5
- Tribulation on earth, 6-19
- The Kingdom of Christ, 20
- The new heavens and earth



General Outline

Chap 1. The things which John has seen in his vision.

- Heavenly Christ and
- Earthly churches



- Corrupted world
- Compromised church

Chap 4-5. Things are alright in Heaven.

- God is on the throne (all of history)
- Christ is in charge (end of history)

Chap 6-18. Things will get much worse before they get better.

- For world: war, bloodshed, famine, disease, natural disasters, many deaths
- For Israel: 3.5 years peace followed by 3.5 years of strife by unholy trinity (Satan, antichrist, false prophet); Babylon; deaths.
- For thé Church: depends upon your view of Eschatology (hermeneutics)

Chap 19-22. Things will get much better after they get worse.

Return of Christ to earth; 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth; people still sin; Day of judgement (heaven or lake of fire); new heaven and new earth; New Jerusalem; Bride of Christ

Per David Pawson's "Outline of Revelation"

Eschatology (hermeneutic worldviews)

Idealism

(Amillennial)

Interprets Bible text, prophecies and imagery symbolically, allegorically, nonliterally in light of coequal church tradition and reason. (Origen, Augustine, Roman Catholicism, Orthodox, and modern Mainstream Protestant denomin.)

Preterism

(Post-Millennial)

Interprets Bible prophecies as events which have already happened; e.g., Antichrist in far past was Emperor Nero. (Luis de Alcazar (1554-1630))

Futurist

(Hyper-literalism)

Interprets prophecy as future events in literal, physical, apocalyptic context; e.g., Antichrist to come in far future. (Francisco Ribera (1537 - 1591))

Invented by Jesuits for the Counter-Reformation

Historicism

(Premillennial)

Interprets text as being fulfilled during current span of history. Some text is symbolic (idioms, (figures of speech), but emphasis is otherwise on literal interpretation. (Early Church, Reformers, Fundies)

Post-Tribulation Rapture

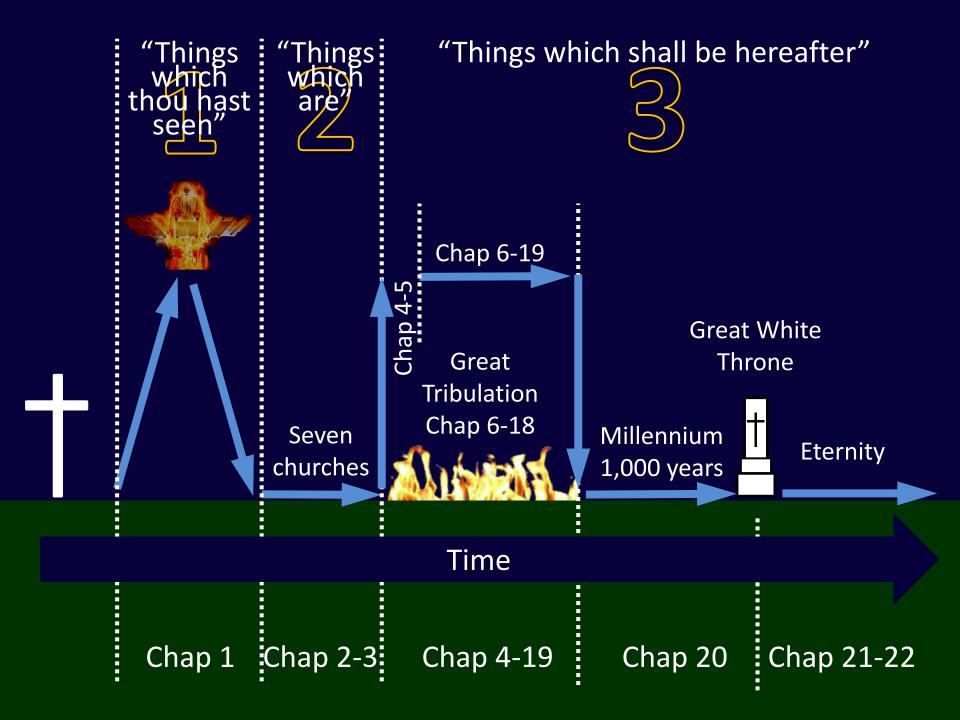
Mid-Tribulation Rapture

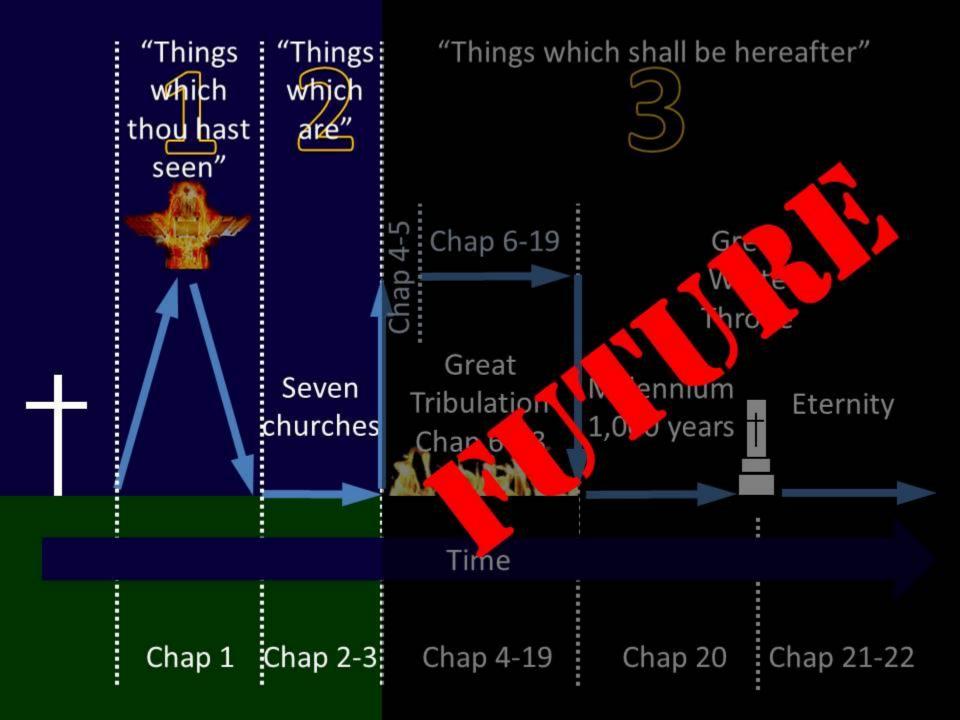
Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Hermeneutics (Theory of Bible Interpretation)

Progress Chart

Daniel's 70 Weeks		Revelation (General)		Revelation (Specific)		
•	Dan. 24-25 Weeks 1-69	•	Rev. 1 (things you have seen)		Rev. 1	
•	Dan. 26 Interval	9	Rev. 2-3 (things which are)	9	Rev. 2-3 (Seven churches)	
				•	Rev. 4-5 (Throne room)	
•	Dan. 27 Week 70	•	Rev. 4-22 (which shall be hereafter)	•	Rev. 6-9 – 1 st 3½ yr Peace & security	
				9	Rev. 10-14–Middle Abomination	
				9	Rev. 15-18–2 nd 3½ Great Tribulation	
				9	Rev. 19-20 The King and His Kingdom	
				9	Rev. 21-22 All things new	







Chapter 1

- The Revelation of Jesus Christ the central character, the source and the medium.
- The blessings for those who read, hear and keep
- John's greetings to the churches for the whole book
 - John introduces the Trinity Father, Spirit and Son (v 4 & 5)
 - Reference to us being made as Kings and Priests
- John's vision of the Risen Christ corresponds to the Ancient of Days (OT), transfigured Christ (NT), etc.
- Introduction to and explanation of angels, ekklesia, etc. (Subtext: we are meant to understand imagery).



The Seven "Churches"

- Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")
 - Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
 - Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
 - Thyatira* ("Perpetual Sacrifice", "Daughter")
 - Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")
 - Philadelphia ("Brotherly love")
 - Laodicea ("Rule of/by the people")

^{*} Formerly named "Semiramis"

Four aspects of the 1st Century "Church"

No dedicated buildings

In pagan religions, a bigger temple meant a greater god.



No altars

Pagan religions centred around sacrifices carried out on altars in the centre of their worship/temples.



No professional clergy

Pagan priesthood was a full-time job with influence over kings, wealth and high status.



No competing denominations

Many pagan gods and goddesses all had their own temples, clergy, rites and rituals.



For much of the first three centuries, Christian assembly was unlawful and carried out in homes or even secretly in caves.

Jesus' report cards to ALL congregations

Each was surprised by its report!

Those thinking they were doing well, weren't.

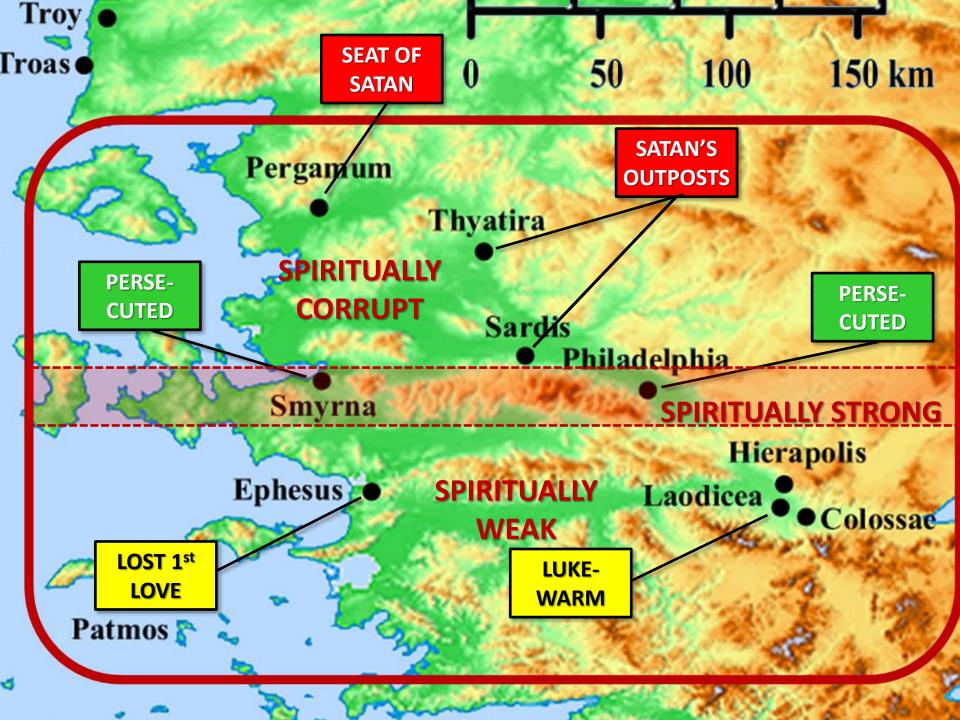
Those thinking they weren't doing well, were.



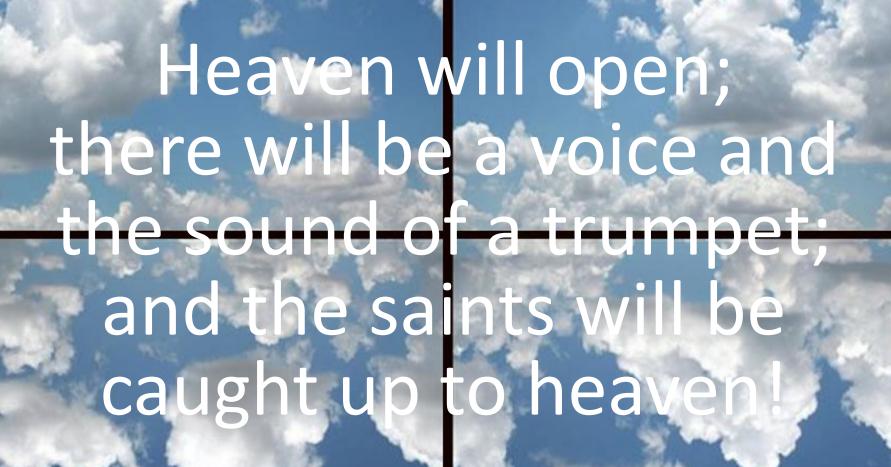
The reports are through God's eyes, not Man's!

"For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

Isaiah 55:8







GOD'S JUDGMENT THEEMAIN WILLBEGIN

- But first He gives us a glimpse into glory and permits us to witness worship in heaven.
- Two aspects of worship are presented for our instruction and imitation:



Chapter 5 REDEFIER

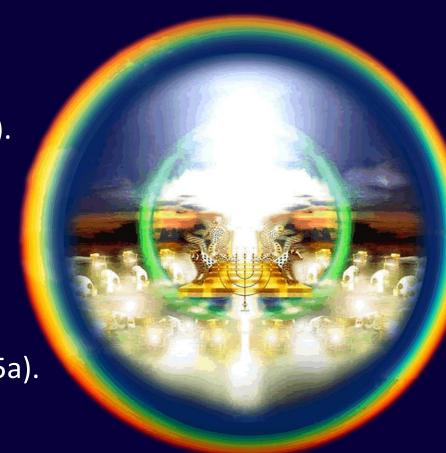
God's people Worship the Creator

Chapter

1 On the throne—Almighty God (vv. 2–3a).

2 Around the throne- a rainbow (v. 3b).

4 Out of the throne-storm signals (v. 5a).



Around the throne-elders and living creatures (vv. 3–4, 6–7).

5 Before the throne - lamps and a sea (vv. 5b–6a).

6 To the throne praise (vv. 9–11).

Focal point is the throne (used 14x this chapter, 46x in Revelation).

No matter what may happen on earth, God is in complete control.

The imagery emphasizes God's glory and sovereignty.

The Father is on His throne (4.2-3).

The Holy Spirit is before the throne (4.5).

John sees the Lamb of God (5.6).

The rainbow is a circle vertically (complete). Judgment will fall, but the rainbow reminds us that God is merciful. Usually, a rainbow appears after the storm, but here, we see it before the storm.

Parallels

Earthly Temple	Heavenly Sanctuary
Holy of Holies	Throne of God
Seven-branched lampstand	Seven lamps of fire
Bronze laver (wash basin)	Sea of glass
Cherubim over the Mercy Seat	Four living creatures
Priests	Elders (each a king and priest)
Bronze Altar	Altar (Rev. 6:9—11)
Incense altar	Incense altar (Rev 8:3-5)
Ark of the Covenant	Ark of the Covenant (Rev. 11:10)

God's people Worship the Redeemer



Because of

who He is

(verses 5-7)

Because of where He is (verse 6)

Because of

what He does

(verses 8-10)

Because of what He has (verses 11-14)

Hymns of Praise in Revelation 4 and 5

Revelation 4 and 5 include five praise hymns that rise to a magnificent crescendo throughout the universe for the One on the throne and for the One in the midst of the throne!

- There is a progression in the praise.
 - More and more beings join in as the praise is given.
 - They progress in time from creation to the end of the world.

Remember!

1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.



- •John was unprepared for this experience.
- •He had no language to fully express it. Worldly words and symbols did not adequately convey what he saw, so John used jewels, gems (e.g., jasper, sardius stones) and Scriptural references.
- Our imaginations must be engaged to appreciate and untangle the book's complex imagery.

Worship in Rev. 4-5 prepares us for wrath in 6-19

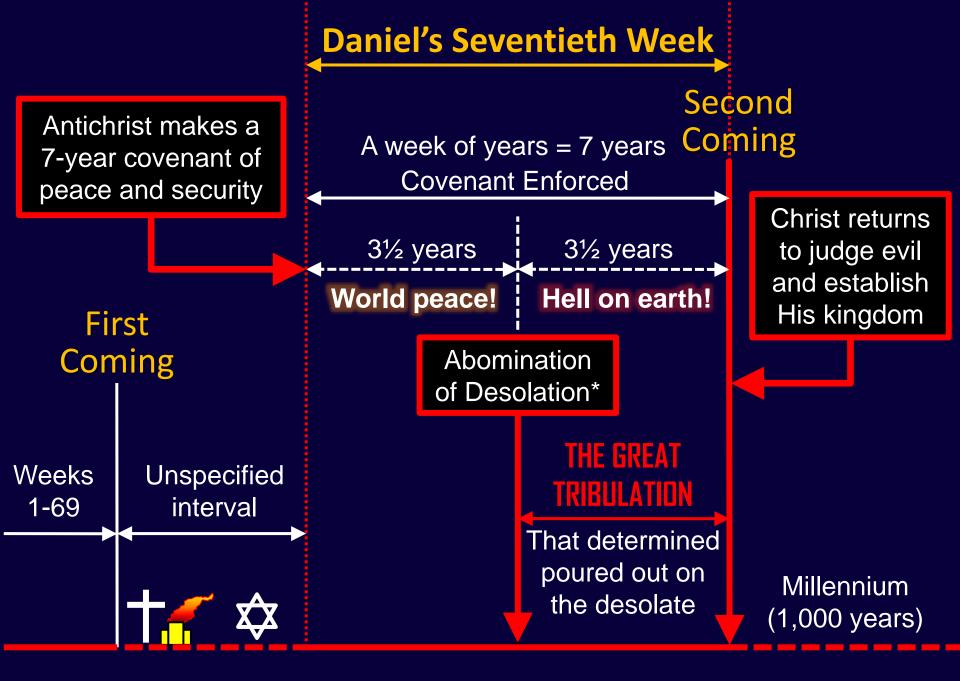
- Revelation was given to encourage God's people in every age.
- It not only gives prophecy that would be fulfilled in the end times, but also great theology and a dramatic revealing of the character of God and the principles of His kingdom.
- The worship described in Revelation 4—5 prepares us for the wrath described in Revelation 6—19. God is longsuffering, but eventually He must judge sin and vindicate His servants.

World History (Satan's world)

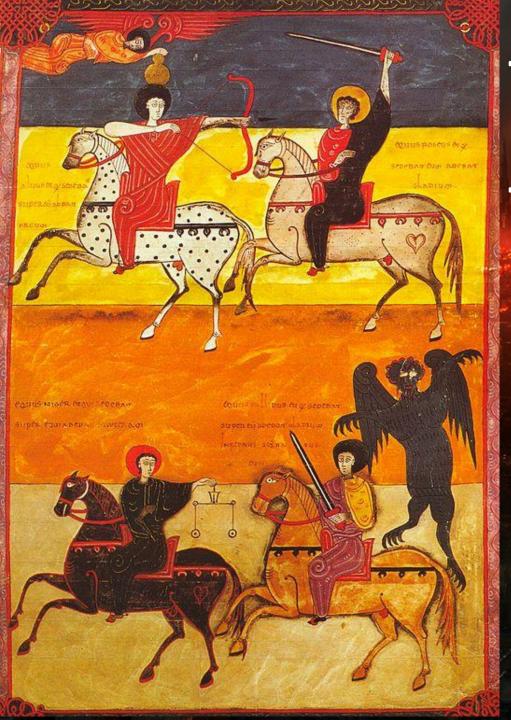


Millennium (Christ judges & rules)

Per Daniel 9:27, seven years are assigned to Israel in God's prophetic calendar, starting with the signing of an agreement with a world dictator (the Antichrist), and ending with Christ's return to earth to judge evil and establish His kingdom.



^{*}Antichrist breaks covenant with Israel and becomes their **persecutor** instead of **protector**.



BIBLE ISABOUT The Seals

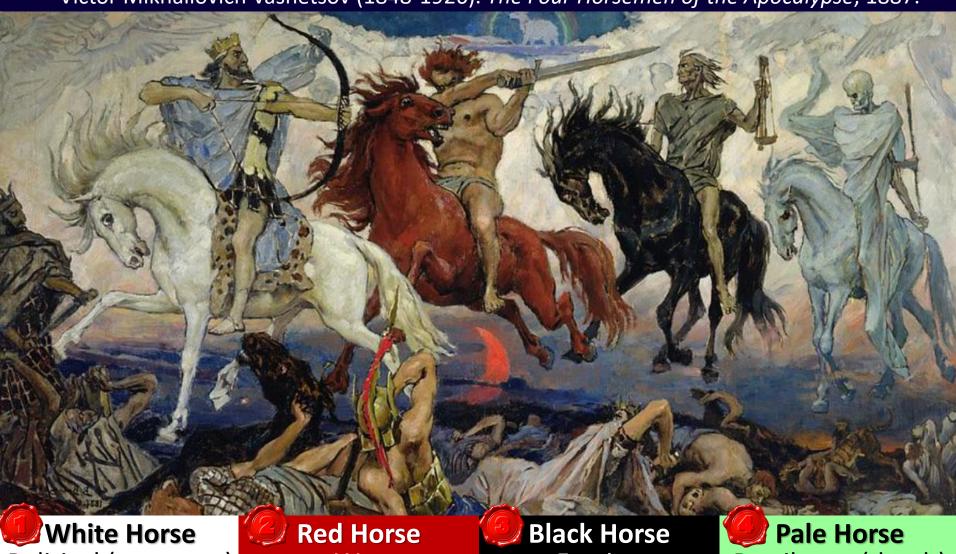
and the Sealed

Beatus de Facundus: "Les quatre Cavaliers. Apoc. VI" (c. 1047)

Revelation Chapter 6-7

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Victor Mikhailovich Vasnetsov (1848-1926). The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, 1887.



Political (conquest)

Covenant of
Peace and Security

Red Horse
War
Take peace from
the earth

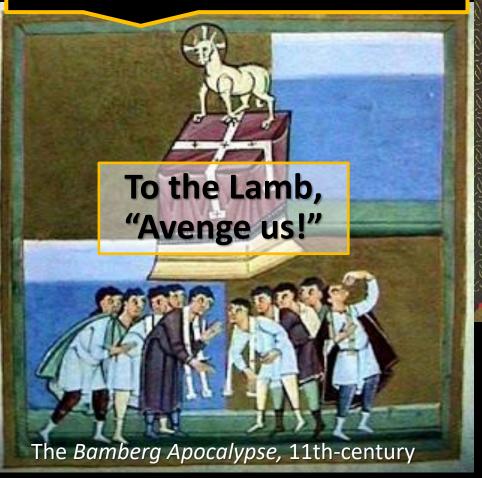
Black Horse
Famine
But hurt not the
powerful wealthy

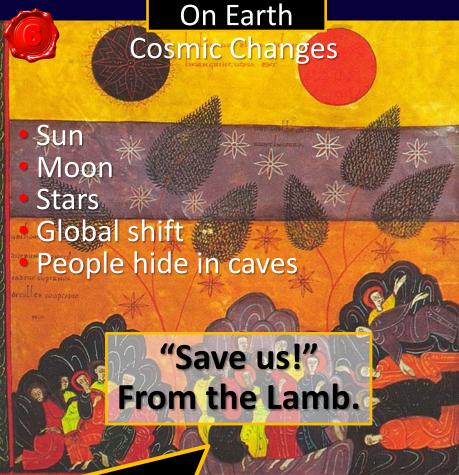
Pale Horse
Pestilence (death)
Death of ¼ of people
by war, hunger, disease

Responses to the opening of the four seals

In Heaven
The Cries of the Martyrs

"How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10)





"Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Revelation 6:16-17

The Seven Sealed Scroll

Seal	Plague unleashed	Signs	Matthew	Luke	Revelation
	White horse (Politician; ruler)	False Christs	24:4-5	21:4	6:1-2
	Red horse (Wars)	Wars	24:6	21:9,10	6:3-4
	Black horse (Famines)	Famines	24:7a	21:11	6:5-6
	Pale (grn) horse (Pestilence, death)	Death	24:7b-8	21:12	6:7-8
	Martyrs under altar	Martyrs	24:9	21:24	6:9-11
	Cosmic changes Worldwide chaos	Global upheaval	24:10-13	21:25	6:12-17

A sealed scroll, with conditions on the exterior and sealed, suggests a title deed. Roman law required that a **Will** be sealed with seven seals (e.g., wills left by Augustus and Vespasian).

Order from Chaos in Daniel 9:27 (Rev. 6-19)

The Seven Seals - Revelation Chapters 6-7



Interval 1: Sealing of the 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel (Revelation Chapter 7)

Interval 2: Mighty Angel with the Little Book; Seven thunders; Two witnesses (Revelation Chapters 10-14)

Interval 3: Three Demon Spirits like Frogs; Gathers for Battle of God Almighty (Revelation 16:13-16)

The Seven Trumpets

Revelation Chapters 8-15

The first six Trumpets are the "Judgments of the Thirds"

1/3 Mount Trees, of Fire; Grass 1/3 Sea

nt Wormre; Wood; 3 1/3 Waters

bitter

Dark-Ness 1/3 Sun,

Stars

Euphrates
Angels; 1/3
Men slain
Woe Woe

Mystery of God Finished

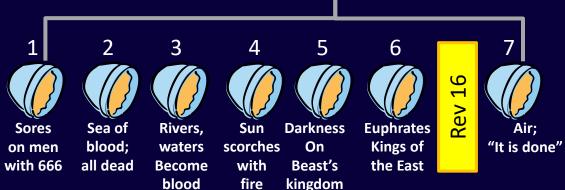
The 3 Woes

The Seven Bowls of Wrath

Revelation Chapter 16

The Seven Thunders?

(See Dan. 12:9; Rev. 22:10)



Hymns of Praise in Revelation 7

- Chapter 6 has the breaking of the first six seals. a prophetic vehicle for the things that were to take place in the future.
- The opening of the seventh seal is delayed for the resumed worship scene of chapter 7, which contains two final hymns.



Hymn 6 (Rev 7:9-10) has been called a "Proclamation of Victory." Salvation is a spiritual deliverance but could also be a military conquest celebrated by the saved from all the nations of the earth. Celebration includes both God on the throne and the Lamb.



Hymn 7 (Rev 7:11-12) the "Amen" brings a sense of finality as the full cast of heavenly creatures attribute a seven-fold blessing to God in a doxological fashion. The singers of this hymn retrace the progression of the earlier hymns.

The seven songs complete our view of the heavenly worship.

ŻNÓNONÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓNÓ The number 144,000 is significant because it signifies perfection and completeness ($144 = 12 \times 12$). The 144,000 are all Jews, with their tribes named.

The First Interval (Revelation 7)

144,000 Sealed Jews (vv. 1-8)

- Jews numbered (144,000).
- Sealed on earth against judgments that will "hurt the earth and the sea."
- Father's name as seal, vice "mark of beast."
- The 144,000 will witness for the Lord (Mark 24:14).
- Represent God's faithful remnant in every age.

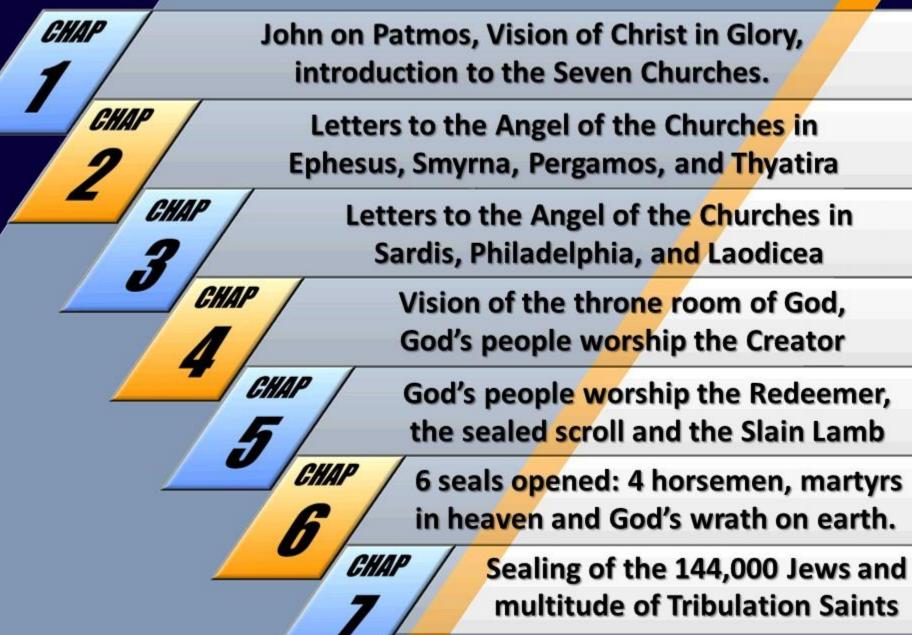
Saved Gentiles (vv. 9-17)

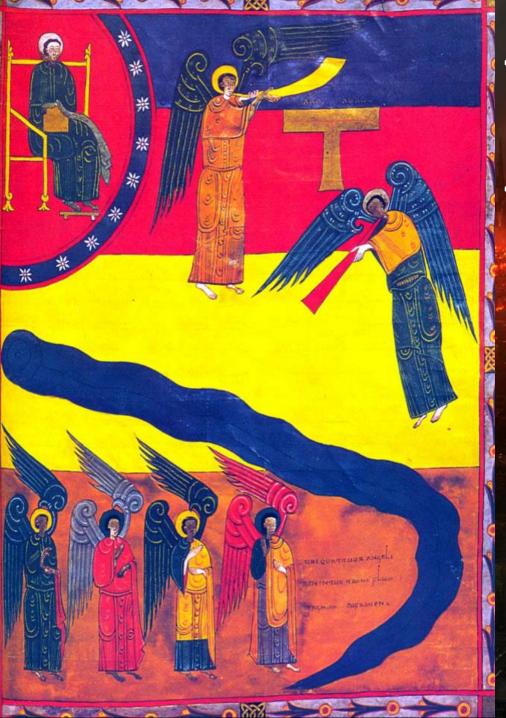
- Unnumbered multitudes come from "all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" (Rev. 7:9)."
- Gentiles saved through faith in Christ during the tribulation (Rev. 7:14).
- Joyfully standing in heaven before God.
- John doesn't know them.

144,000 Sealed Jews (vv. 1-8)

Will be revisited in Revelation 14

Review





BIBLE ISABOUT

Blow the Trumpets

Revelation Chapter 8-9

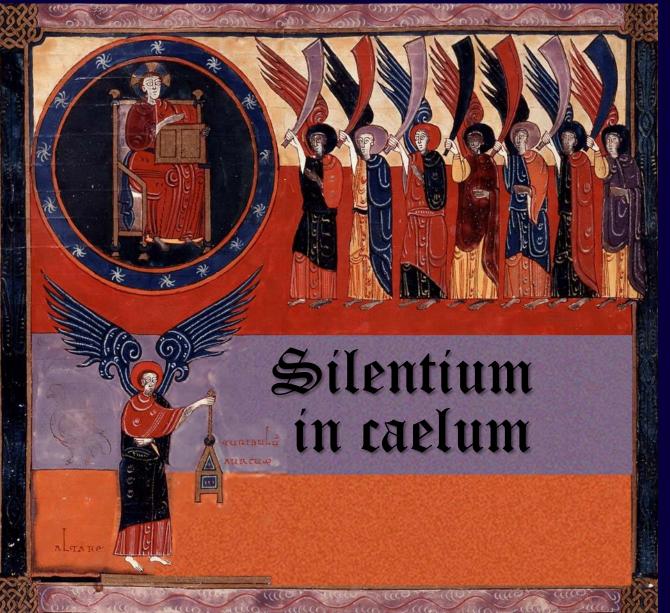
Beatus de Facundus: "La sixième Trompette. Les Anges prisonniers au bord de l'Euphrate. Apoc. IX" (c. 1047) Seventh Seal: Prelude to the Seven Trumpets



^{8:1} When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

It's as if God told heaven, "Quiet, I wish to concentrate." What is He concentrating on?

And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.





- ³ Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
- ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth.

And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.



First Trumpet: Desolation on earth

The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Exodus 9:13-16—The Plagues; Joel 3:20 – Blood and fire

Second Trumpet: Desolation in the seas

Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Jeremiah 51:25, 42—Symbolic destruction of Babylon

Third Trumpet: Desolation in fresh water

Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood (Hebrew is "undrinkable"). A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

Ex 7:14-24—Nile turned to blood; Ex 32:20—Drink bitter water for golden calf

Fourth Trumpet: Desolation in the heavens

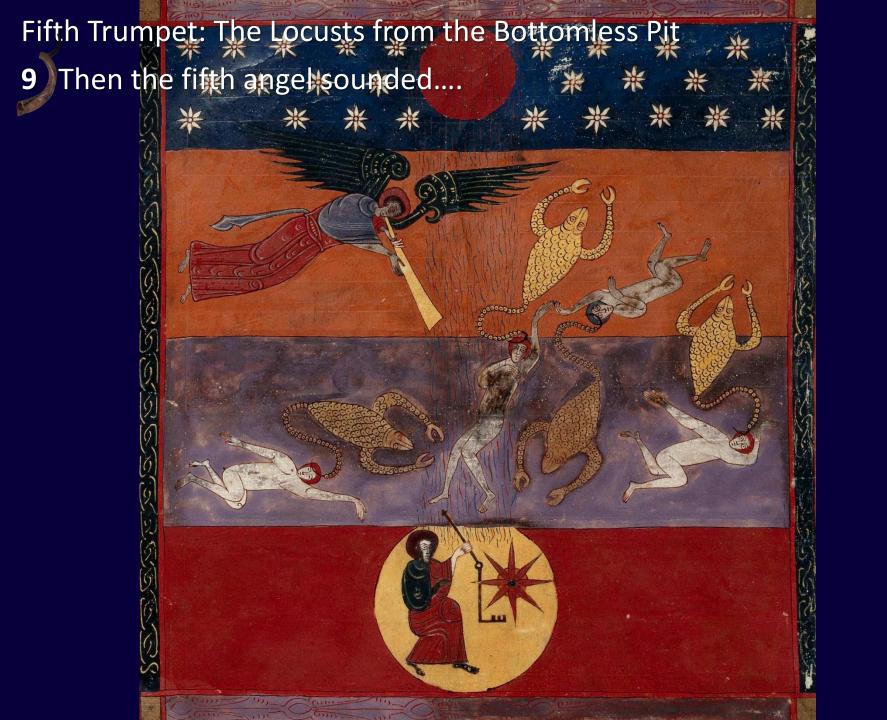
Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

Ex 10:21-23—9th plague (darkness); Joel 2:30-31—Day of YHWH

¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice,

"Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"





Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

- 9 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.
- Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
- And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.
- In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle.

On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

"The locusts have no king.

Yet they all advance in ranks."

(Proverbs 30:27)

One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.



Sixth Trumpet: The Angels from the Euphrates

Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet,

"Release the four angels who are bound at the

great river Euphrates."

who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

Trumpet Judgements are also known as "the Judgements of the Thirds"





The Army from the East

- Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million*; I heard the number of them. ¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.
- By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.
- For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails *are* like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

^{*} In Greek, "two myriads of myriads" (or "twice 10,000 times 10,000").

- But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.
- And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

