

Stay Awake! Watch!

©2025 Mike Whyte

Copyright Notice: this document may be used freely for personal study, preaching, and teaching.

No part of it may be used under any circumstances for commercial purposes or to attain personal gain or advantage.

No matter how hard we try, **we will NOT be able to figure out the timing or the details of “how” end-time events will unfold.** The Bible tells us in no uncertain terms **“what”** is going to happen as we approach the Parousia. We are enjoined to **“stay awake”** and **“watch”** for the things specified in the Bible. **The key to readiness is living by the Way of God** – now, during the “good times” (Mk13:32-33a,37, Lk21:34-36, Rv6:11, Dt10:12-13a).

What is the “End-time”? The Book of Daniel uses the phrase “time of the end” on six occasions (Dn8:16b-17,19,23-24a, 11:33-35,40a, 12:4, 8-9). **“The time of the end”** is clearly the period preceding the Second Advent, but when does it start? **The New Testament authors are clear and specific that they believed they were in the end-time** (Hb1:1-2, 9:26b, 1Jh2:18, At2:14,16-17, 1Cr10:11, 1Pt1:20-21a). Clearly, the “end-time” encompasses the entire period of the New Testament Church, with an emphasis on the period immediately preceding and including the Parousia (Jh6:39-40,44,54).

Where are We Now? Certainly, we are in the “end-time” and hopefully getting very close to the Parousia! **We are warned of difficult times** (2Tm3:1, 2 Pt3:1-4). Jesus gave the warning to “stay awake” and “watch” (Mk13:32-37, Lk21:29-36). The Book of Revelation is consistent with this view of the end-time: it began with the New Testament Church and will end with the Parousia. From God’s perspective, in eternity, the length of the period of the end-time is irrelevant – **there is no “time” in eternity**, as expressed in the Book of Revelation (Rv1:1a, 3bβ, 22:7aβ,10,12-13,20a).

What are We to “Watch”? Where do we identify **“things that must soon take place”** so that we can be aware **“when we see these things taking place”**? The Book of Revelation tells us WHAT to watch for, but it contains very little information on HOW things will happen and even less on WHEN things will happen (At1:6-7, Mt24:36,44). John is explicitly told the nature of the material to be recorded in the Book of Revelation (Rv1:11a,19). **The primary purpose of the Book of Revelation is to instill faith in True Worshipers** – to encourage us in living by the Way of God in the face of uncertainty (Rv2:7, 22:14,16a). The **Olivet Prophecy** explains much of the symbolism of the Book of Revelation, for example, consider the first four seals – **The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**: First Seal (Rv6:1-2, Mk13:5-6, Mt24:4-5, Lk21:8); Second Seal (Rv6:3-4, Mk13:7, Mt24:6, Lk21:9); Third Seal (Rv6:5-6, Mk13:8a, Mt24:7a, Lk21:10); and, Fourth Seal (Rv6:7-8, Mk13:8b, Mt24:7b-8, Lk21:11a). **The events and particulars of the “four horsemen” have been the steady state of the world throughout human history.**

The Great Tribulation: The Fifth Seal is specifically religious persecution of True Christians, **“the great tribulation”** (Rv6:9-11). After the “four horsemen” all three synoptists go into the details of “the great tribulation”, (Mt24:9-14, Mk13:9-13, Lk21:12-19). **There are two parts to John’s vision of the “fifth seal”.** First, John sees the dead, the **persons who have been killed as martyrs down through the centuries** (Rv6:9-10). This persecution started under the auspices of the Roman Empire. When the “false church” was given carte blanche at the Council of Nicaea, it became the main agent of Satan in killing True Christians. The Beast Power at the climax of the end-time will embody both of these. **The final incarnation of the Roman Empire will politically sponsor the “false church” as Satan’s agent to again kill True Christian.** This is the second part of John’s vision (Rv6:11). **This is the one sure thing we can watch for so that we know exactly where we are in the unfolding of prophecy.** We will be the official target of the “government” because we will NOT worship the “image of the beast” or accept the “mark of the beast”. **We must Stay Awake and Watch.**

How Do We “Stay Awake”? All three synoptists tell us that we must **“endure to the end”** (Mk13:13b, Mt24:13, Lk21:18-19). **“Endurance” is developed in the “good times”** – now; by **living by the Way of God and developing living relationships with God the Father and Jesus Christ** (Lk21:36). The Apostle John reports Jesus’ words of comfort (Jh14:1-3,25-27). Jesus’ words as revealed by the Holy Spirit are the key to endurance. **The Bible encompasses the “words of eternal life”, the words of Jesus Christ** (Jh6:66-69, Dt10:12-13a). We have the complete revelation from God in the Bible, the whole Bible, all of the Old Testament, and all of the New Testament. The Bible teaches who and what God is and how we can have living relationships with God the Father and Jesus Christ. **God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit and the Bible; we communicate with God through prayer and the Holy Spirit.** Each of us is required to stand alone before God and make his/her choice (Dt30:19-20a). **This is how we “stay awake”; this is endurance!**

This is the “end-time”, and we all hope we are getting very close to the Parousia! We are in “times of difficulty”, but the worst is yet to come: the Bible tells us plainly to watch and be ready **“when you see these things taking place”**. The Book of Revelation is clear and specific as to what are “the things” that are going to take place. **The one sure marker in the Book of Revelation is the “Fifth Seal”**, religious persecution: when the Beast Power is in full control and officially turns on True Christians and others who will NOT worship the “image of the beast” or accept the “mark of the beast”, we will know that we are in the “Fifth Seal”. **Our salvation will come through “endurance”**, which we must develop now by living by the Way of God, then we will be ready. **Stay Awake! Watch!**

The material is based on the document “The Three Pillars of Revelation” available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/>.

The PowerPoint slides are located at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

	Revelation	Mark	Matthew	Luke
Seal 1 <u>Religious Deception</u>	white horse bow and crown conquering & to conquer	~ Many will come in my name ~ lead many astray	~ Many will come in my name ~ lead many astray	~ Many will come in my name ~ do not go after them
Seal 2 <u>Ongoing Wars</u>	red horse take peace from earth people slay one another a great sword	~ wars and rumors of wars ~ be not alarmed ~ must take place ~ end is not yet	~ wars and rumors of wars ~ be not alarmed ~ must take place ~ end is not yet	~ wars and tumults ~ be not terrified ~ must first take place ~ end will not be at once
Seal 3 <u>Trade Wars & Economic Disruption</u>	black horse pair of scales expensive grain shortage of wine and oil	~ nation rise against nation ~ kingdom against kingdom	~ nation rise against nation ~ kingdom against kingdom	~ nation rise against nation ~ kingdom against kingdom
Seal 4 <u>Natural Disasters & Aftermath</u>	pale horse death and the grave kill 1/4th of humanity sword, famine, pestilence "wild beasts"	~ earthquakes in various places ~ famines ~ beginning of the birth pains	~ famines ~ earthquakes in various places ~ beginning of the birth pains	~ great earthquakes ~ in various places famines and pestilences

The Great Tribulation

The Fifth Seal - Persecution of True Christians		
Mark	Matthew	Luke
be on your guard 13:9	many false prophets will arise and lead many astray 24:11	
they will deliver you over to councils 13:9	they will deliver you up to tribulation 24:9	they will lay their hands on you and persecute you 21:12
you will be beaten in synagogues 13:9		delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons 21:12
you will stand before governors and kings for my sake 13:9		you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake 21:12
to bear witness 13:9	as a testimony to all nations 24:14	This will be your opportunity to bear witness 21:13
the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations 13:10	this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world 24:14	
when they bring you to trial and deliver you over 13:11	put you to death 24:9	some of you they will put to death 21:16
do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say 13:11		Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer 21:14
say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit 13:11		I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict 21:15
brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death 13:12	- many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another 24:10 - because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold 24:12	You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends 21:16
you will be hated by all for my name's sake 13:13	you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake 24:9	You will be hated by all for my name's sake 21:17
But the one who endures to the end will be saved 13:13	the one who endures to the end will be saved 24:13	not a hair of your head will perish By your endurance you will gain your lives 21:18-19