

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation 6

Revelation 6: Judgment and Seals Mix

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Welcome In-Person and Online

Missed last week due to a conflicting event here at the Church.

RECAP:

Jesus proclaimed His eternal being in Chapter 1 (17:b-18: "...Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead but look-I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades.").

Jesus gave His messages to the Seven Churches in Chapters 2-3, offering an open invitation (3:20: "See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me").

Remember that the Holy Spirit is integral to understanding the messages Jesus gave to the Seven Churches: "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches" (this is similarly repeated to each of the Seven Churches).

Jesus told John "what must soon take place" (4:1c) in Chapters 4-5. Although John initially lamented the fact that no one could open the book, The Lamb was then found worthy to take the scroll (5:5c-14).

Revelation Rhymes

Revelation Chapter 1: A Picture of the Eternal Son
Revelation Chapter 2: Work of the Church to Do
Revelation Chapter 3: Where Should Our Church Be?
Revelation Chapter 4: God Worshiped By 24 and More
Revelation Chapter 5: Jesus the Lamb Alive
Revelation Chapter 6: Judgment and Seals Mix



Even in our Revelation Rhymes, we see a change coming! There are numerous key passages necessary to understand the fulness of Revelation 6, including:

Ezekiel 38-39

Daniel 9:24-27

Matthew 23-25 (Matthew's 23:29-36 passage directly leads to Jesus's discussions of the end times in chapters 24-25).

Songs of the Apocalypse

The Anthem of the Triune God 4:8

The Creation Hymn 4:11

The New Song of Redemption 5:9-10

The Angels' Chorale 5:12

The Crescendo of the Universe 5:13-14

The Martyrs' Canticle 6:10

The Song of Salvation 7:10

The Antiphonal Amen 7:12

The Kingdom Carol 11:15

The Psalm of Judgment 11:17-18

The Shout of the Overcomers 12:10-12

The Song of Moses and the Lamb 15:3-4

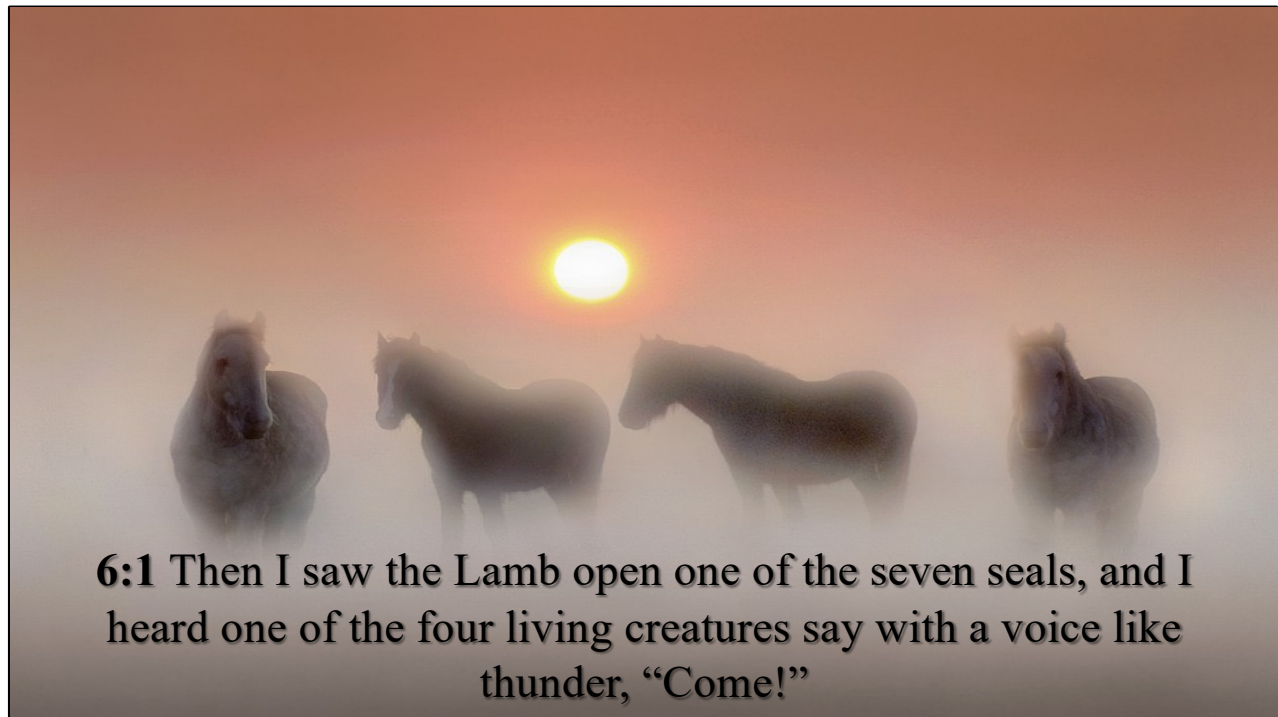
The Hallelujah Chorus 19:1-4

The Symphony of the Marriage Feast 19:6-7

-Robert Coleman as related by Ed Hindson



We will encounter yet another song within Revelation 6.



There is an ominous change in the narrative. This thunderous voice seemingly indicates coming judgment, and it is apparently correlates to the living creature which is situated around the throne. Some believe this is indicative of its speaking on behalf of God. Because judgment seems obvious, I believe these events will happen soon after the Tribulation begins. For that to happen, at least two (and possibly three) other significant events have occurred:

1) The Church has been raptured; 2) The Covenant between the antichrist and Israel is finally being fulfilled (Daniel 9:24-27); 3) Gog & Magog I, the events found in Ezekiel 38-39, have occurred or are about to occur.

There are numerous views regarding Chapter 6:

- 1) Some believe this to be the beginning of the Tribulation Period.
- 2) Some (Amillennial perspective) believe all or most of the coming chapters to be symbolic of the spiritual struggle between good and evil, and they correspondingly contextualize or allegorize the Church within these events (regardless that the Church is not even *mentioned* again for many chapters).
- 3) Some believe the Seal Judgments are literal, but also conclude that the Seals encompass all the other judgments within Revelation.
- 4) Some (this is my view) believe the Seal Judgments to be part of the *successive* patterns *within* the Tribulation, to be followed later by the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments. This does not mean that the spirit (shadow and type) of these horses has not already begun (we see evidence of all four horses today!).

Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church*

The Church's place in the Revelation.
The Holy Spirit's role as the Restrainer seems to have been removed,
The Church is exempted from wrath.
The Old Testament language is more indicative of Israel than the Church.
The Verses regarding the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing vary.**
The Early Church viewed Christ's return as imminent.
The Church receives the Blessed Hope.

*Google John Walvoord's *Fifty Arguments for Pretribulationism* regarding additional support for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

** See following page for examples of the varying verses between the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing.



The Church is mentioned continually by Jesus, particularly within the initial three chapters, but not again until the latter chapters of Revelation. At that point in Chapter 19, the Church is seen as the Bride returning to Earth *with* Jesus. Saints mentioned during the subsequent chapters refer to those those saved *during* the Tribulation.

Elmer Towns notes that the Spirit's role as Restrainer will be removed following the Rapture (2 Thessalonians 2:7).


The Church is exempted from wrath. This does not mean we will escape problems and even persecution (as Jesus just said in previous chapters to the Churches), but that the Church will escape the *divine wrath* of God poured out during the Tribulation Period (Ephesians 2:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:9).

The tabernacle, ark of the covenant, the altar, elders, censers, cherubim, seals, trumpets, and plagues are Old Testament linguistic instruments.

Paul, James, Peter, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews (I believe either Apollos or Paul), and John (via Jesus in Revelation) all spoke of a sudden event in which the Church is taken without warning (1 Corinthians 1:7, 16:22; Philippians 3:20, 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; James 5:7-9; 1 Peter 1:13; Jude 1:21).

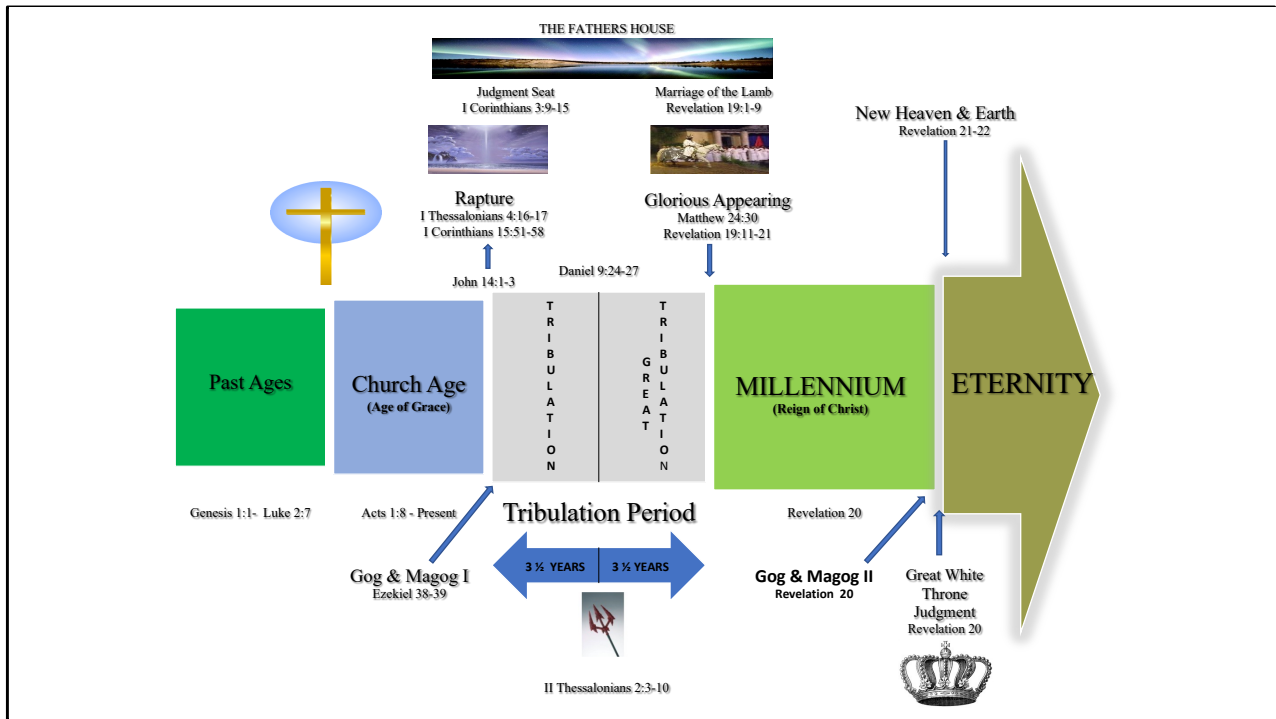
The Blessed Hope assures Christians, again, that we should participate a sure hope, one that is not included in God's wrath (similar to the pattern the Israelites experienced when they were obedient to God during the Exodus). Note John 14:1-3;

Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2).

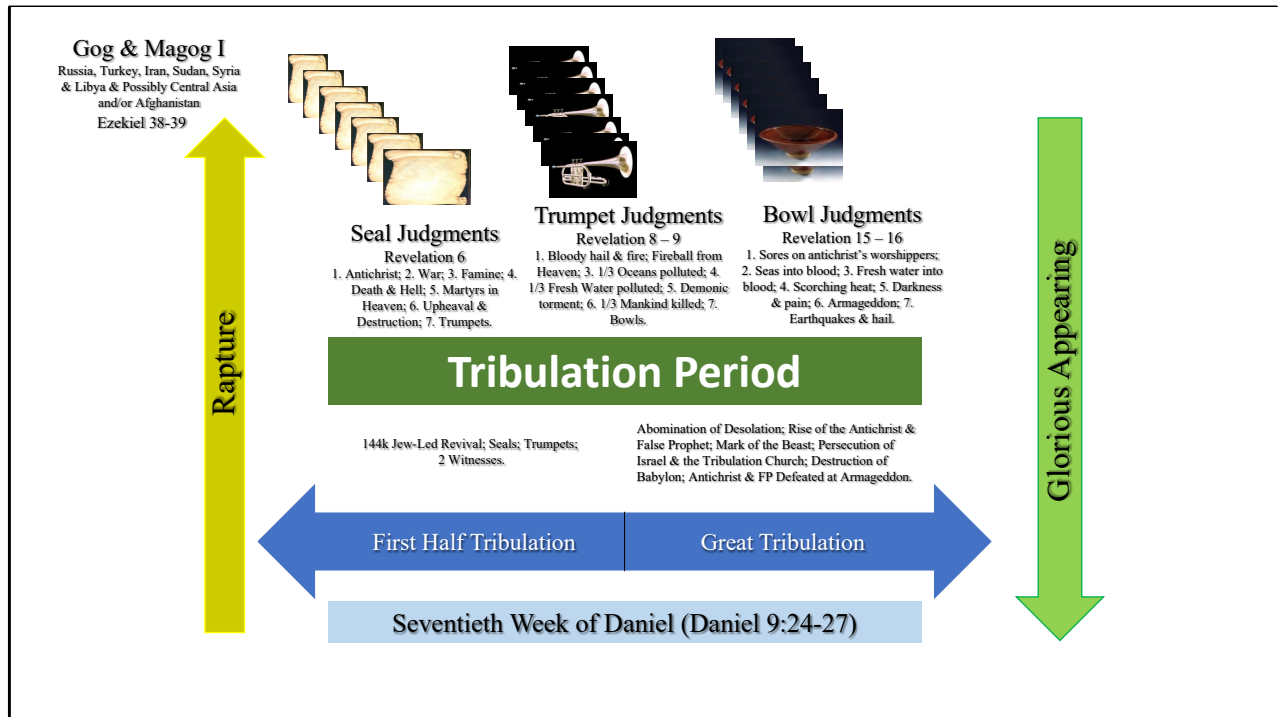
<p style="text-align: center;">Rapture Passages</p> <p style="text-align: center;">John 14:1-3 Romans 8:19 1 Corinthians 1:7-8 Philippians 3:20-21; 4:5 Colossians 3:4 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 4:13-18; 5:9, 23 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 3 1 Timothy 6:14 2 Timothy 4:1, 8 Titus 2:13 Hebrews 9:28 James 5:7-9 1 Peter 1:7, 13; 5:4 1 John 2:28-3:2 Jude 1:21 Revelation 3:10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Church is Raptured</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Glorious Appearing Begins the Millennial Reign</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Glorious Appearing (Second Coming) Passages</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daniel 2:44-45; 7:9-14; 12:1-3 Zechariah 12:10; 14:1-15 Matthew 13:41; 24:27-31; 26:64 Mark 13:14-27; 14:62 Luke 17:20-37; 21:25-28 Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21 1 Thessalonians 3:13 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2:8 1 Peter 4:12-13 2 Peter 3:1-14 Jude 1:14-15 Revelation 1:7; 19:11-20:6; 22:7, 12, 20</p>
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It seems these passages indicate two parts of a single, orchestrated event, the Second Coming consisting of the Rapture, and then the Glorious Appearing seven years later..

To view Revelation properly, the Holy Spirit gave the Church the entire Canon of Scripture. For the remainder of the Tribulation Period, we will need to know many Old Testament Scriptures to arrive at the truth of the Book of Revelation.



Overall view of the events.



Tribulation Timeline

Revelation 6 is the initial chapter of the chapters primarily regarding the first half of the Tribulation (chapters 6-9); the middle chapters (10-14) predominantly describe the middle of the Tribulation; and the final half of the Tribulation is largely described in chapters 15-19.

Daniel 9:24-27 & Ezekiel 38-39 informs us of Israel's place in the Tribulation. The Antichrist will sign a covenant at the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week, ushering in the seven-year Tribulation Period.

Gog & Magog I will see Israel supernaturally saved by God, apparently immediately preceding or immediately following the Rapture of the Church. Russia, Turkey, Iran, Sudan, Syria, & Libya (and possibly Central Asia & Afghanistan) will combine to attack Israel.

Differences Between Gog & Magog I & II:

- 1) Armies from north & only limited nations in I and all nations in II.
- 2) No mention of Satan in Ezekiel account (I).
- 3) Ezekiel states the dead will be buried for seven months. There is no need for this in Revelation since the Great White Throne Judgment takes place after II.
- 4) Ezekiel's account (I) brings Jews back to God. Revelation's account (II) involves Jews already saved by Jesus Christ.

Seventieth Week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27)

Gog & Magog I (Ezekiel 38-39)



There are some theologians who believe in “replacement theology,” a theology which generally moves the promises and blessings of Israel to that of the Church. I do not believe this is an accurate theology or interpretation of Scripture. In fact, Paul's letter to the Galatians reminds us (the Church) that we are *grafted* into the promises of Israel through faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ.

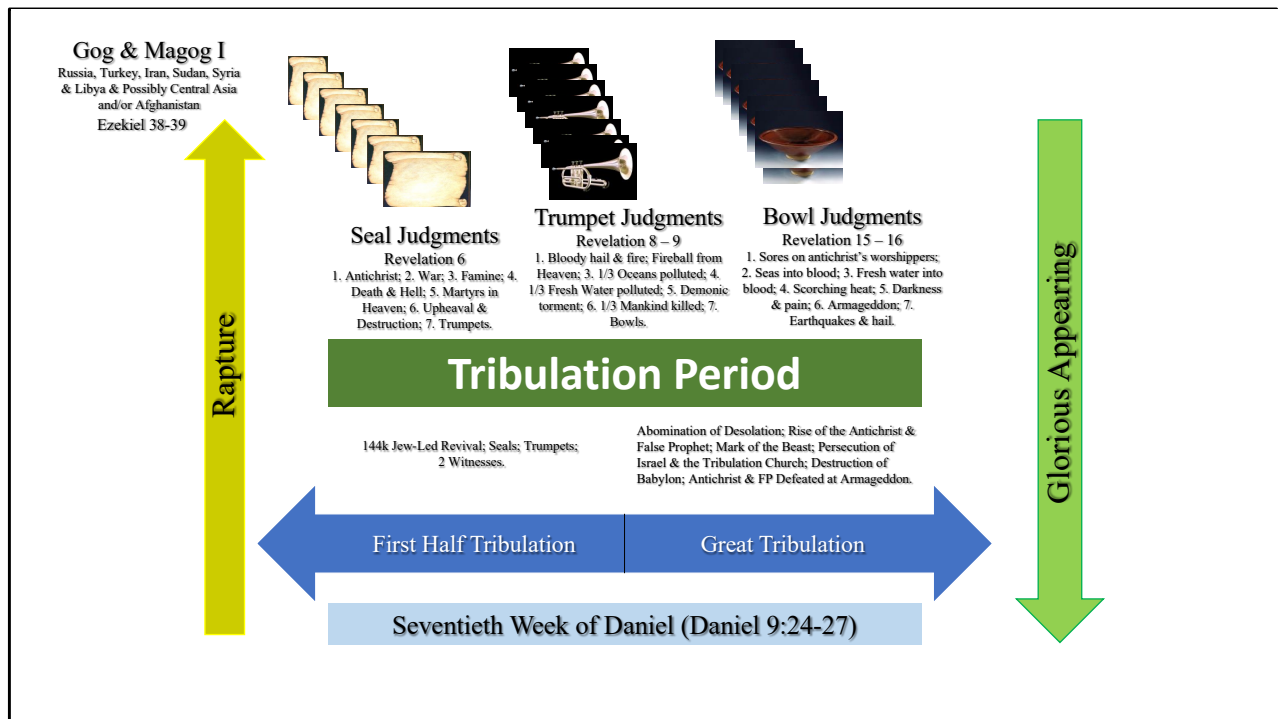
It is not the Rapture which begins the Tribulation; and it is not Gog & Magog I which begins the Tribulation... It is the agreement (covenant) between Israel and the man who is (or will become) the antichrist which begins the Tribulation!

Understanding Daniel's 70th Week is *key* to understanding Revelation 6 forward.

Daniel 9:24-27 (**please read**) notes “seventy weeks,” a message from the LORD via the angel, Gabriel. The context of “seven” here is translated “sevens” or “heptads” (seven years). Daniel 9:25 states these sevens are divided into three groups:

- 1) Seven groups or heptads equal 49 years, the number of years from Cyrus's decree until the rebuilding of the wall (the wall itself took only 52 days), or perhaps the command of Artaxerxes authorizing Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem (in either case, scholars who literally view Daniel 9:24-27 generally agree the time of Ezra and Nehemiah make up the initial heptad).
- 2) Sixty-two heptads equal 434 years, the “silent years” following the rebuilding of the Temple until the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3) One heptad equals seven years – the Tribulation Period which will result in the deceiver, the antichrist, coming on the scene.

God's Word is true: this final prophecy of seven years has not been fulfilled, but it *will* be fulfilled. This is *a* primary reason to believe in a literal Tribulation Period.



Understanding the timeline will help us understand the literalness of this chapter, and the following chapters. God has prepared a time for His People, Israel, to return to Him.

Following Gabriel's pronouncement regarding the "seventy weeks" about "your people" [Israel] and your "holy city" [Jerusalem], the *purpose* for the time of Tribulation is specifically given to Daniel (9:24):

- 1) To bring the rebellion to an end;
- 2) To put a stop to sin;
- 3) To atone for iniquity;
- 4) To bring in everlasting righteousness;
- 5) To seal up vision and prophecy;
- 6) To anoint the most holy place.

We will talk extensively about Israel in Chapter 7.








²I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

Four Primary Views:

- 1) Military Conquest**
- 2) Gospel Message**
- 3) Jesus Christ**
- 4) Antichrist**



See next page regarding details of the primary views.

	<p>Some scholars believe the white horse encompasses the following horses, and the war, famine, poverty, and death associated with these. <u>Problems:</u> A) First two horses would be strikingly similar; B) Second horse removes peace; therefore, peace must already exist. The first horse must then achieve conquest through diplomacy and deceit.</p>
	<p>Some scholars believe the white horse symbolizes the Gospel Message. The bow is occasionally utilized in Scripture, e.g., Habakkuk 3:9, as symbol of divine victory. White is usually considered “good” in Revelation. <u>Problems:</u> A) Jesus clearly opens seals associated with divine wrath; B) The horses seem to be a unit; C) This passage is seemingly parallel to Matthew 24 (wrath/birth pains), and the Gospel Message is inconsistent here.</p>
	<p>Some scholars believe this rider to be none other than Jesus Christ Himself. This is primarily due to the similarity to the white horse in Revelation 19:11-21. <u>Problems:</u> A) All the other horses are wrathful; B) Has the feel of a counterfeit, particularly considering other Antichrist passages; C) Christ is opening the seals – this is incongruent with Him as a rider too. (See additional notes from Mark Hitchcock on following page: Figure A).</p>
	<p>Some scholars believe this rider (as I do) to be the Antichrist. This is primarily due to the overall scheme of the enemy’s plan to deceive during the Tribulation, to the parallel passage of Matthew 24 (see next page: Figure B), and to the “divine permission” necessary for the white horse to operate. <u>Problem:</u> White is typically a picture of “goodness” in Revelation.</p>
	

See next page for more details regarding the fourth option on this page.

Comparisons, Contrasts, and Parallels

Compare and Contrast Those on
the White Horses of Revelation

Revelation 6:2

Carries a bow without arrows
Wears a victor's crown
Initiates War
Commences the Tribulation

Revelation 19:11-19

Wields a sword
Wears many crowns (*diadema*)
Destroys enemies and ends war
Climaxes the Tribulation

-Mark Hitchcock

Matthew 24 (Parallel to Rev. 6-7)

False Christs (4-5)
Wars & Rumors of Wars (6-7)
Famine (7)
Famines & plagues (7)
Persecution & martyrdom (9-10)
Terrors & cosmic signs (Luke 21:11)
Worldwide preaching of Gospel (14)

-Mark Hitchcock

Rev. 6-7 (Parallel to Mt. 24)

Rider on white horse (6:1-2)
Rider on red horse (6:3-4)
Rider on black horse (6:5-6)
Rider on pale horse (6:7-8)
Martyrs (6:9-11)
Terror (6:12-17)
Ministry of 144,000 (7:1-8)

-Mark Hitchcock

Figure A

Figure B



Almost all scholars who take a literal view of this passage directly correlate it to Matthew 24.

The spirit of the antichrist is prevalent today. We should beware of people who make claims of the Lord, reading our own Bibles and comparing what *they* say to what *it* says (1 John 4:2-3; 4:1; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 John 1:7; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Mark 4:4, 15; Revelation 2:14-16; 3:20-23).

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. Then God said to Noah, ‘I have decided to put an end to every creature for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth’” (Genesis 6:11-13).

“As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be” (Matthew 24:37).

³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴ Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.



See next page for examples.



Add to these totals (see above), the horrors by leaders on their *own* people groups, including tens of millions in China and Russia alone. Life has become cheap in many minds, and there is considerable evidence in addition to declared war and conflicts to support such a claim. But God has a different view of life!

Biblical Teachings of Life:

”Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the seas, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female” (Genesis 1:26-27).

”The word of the LORD came to me: I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born, I appointed you a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:4-5).

“...for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body” (1 Corinthians 6:20).

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (2 Peter 2:9).



⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand. ⁶ Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil and the wine.”



Ed Hindson once noted: “Famine always follows the devastation of war. The “quart” represents a measure of about one liter (3.785 liters make up a gallon), and a “denarius” is about a day’s wages. The scales comprise a symbolic understanding that there will be severe food shortages.

•Overall, 5.6 million children under age five died in 2016, nearly 15,000 daily (World Health Organization [WHO], 2016). The risk of a child dying before five years of age is highest in Africa (76.5 per 1000 live births), about 8 times higher than in Europe (9.6 per 1000 live births) (WHO, 2016).

•Approximately 3.1 million children die from undernutrition each year (UNICEF, 2018a). Hunger and undernutrition contribute to more than half of global child deaths, as undernutrition can make children more vulnerable to illness and exacerbate disease (UNICEF, 2018a).

•Children who are poorly nourished suffer up to 160 days of illness each year (Glick, M.D., 2010). Undernutrition magnifies the effect of every disease including measles and malaria. The estimated proportions of deaths in which undernutrition is an underlying cause are roughly similar for diarrhea (61%), malaria (57%), pneumonia (52%), and measles (45%) (Black, Morris, & Bryce, 2003; Bryce et al., 2005). Malnutrition can also be caused by diseases, such as the diseases that cause diarrhea, by reducing the body's ability to convert food into usable nutrients (Black, Morris, & Bryce, 2003; Bryce et al., 2005)

•66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, 23 million whom live in Africa, which greatly impacts their ability to learn (World Food Programme [WFP], 2012).



The spirit of the horses is here now, as evidenced by many being hungry in a world full of abundant resources.

⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" ⁸ And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.



Although there are many shadows and types which precede this Time of Tribulation, the extraordinary punishment and death will far exceed any previous time. If 5 billion people are left behind following the Rapture, then an estimated 1.25 billion people will die during the Seal Judgments.

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given.¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?”¹¹ So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been.



Blood is a central theme in Scripture, and no blood has ever been more precious than that of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider:

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have appointed it to you to make atonement on the altar for your lives, since it is the lifeblood that makes atonement” (Leviticus 17:11).

“But don’t eat the blood, since the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the meat (Deuteronomy 12:23).

The Old Testament uses the word “blood” (*dam*) 362 times.

“But God proved his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. And not only that, but we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation” (Romans 5:8-10).

The preciousness of Jesus’s blood is why 1 Corinthians 11:23-33 warns us that we should participate in Communion only in the most serious of ways, making sure that we are not eating and drinking without right consideration of the Lord’s body and

blood.



The question remains: who are the martyrs in Revelation 6?

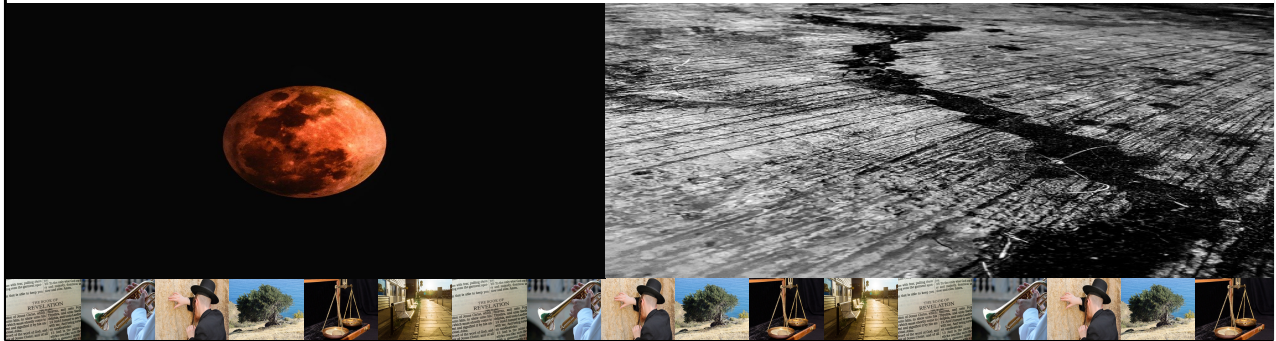
Are they Christians who have died for Christ throughout the years of the Church"

Or:

Are they those who have already died for Christ during the Tribulation (those saved after the Rapture of the "original" Church)?

I believe these are the persecuted martyrs of all time, primarily because of the admonition to "rest a little while longer," when others who die during the Tribulation will join the ranks of Jesus's martyrs. I would not be dogmatic or stubborn here though: either interpretation may be correct. The point is – these are saints who *died* for Jesus.

12 Then I saw him open the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of hair; the entire moon became like blood; **13** the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind; **14** the sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

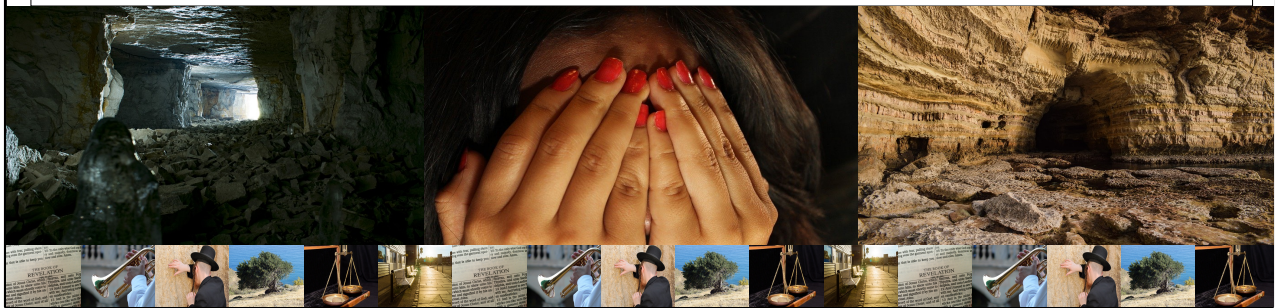


In these verses, we see horrible events and prophetic fulfillment taking place (2 Peter 3:10; Isaiah 13:13, 50:3; Joel 2:10, 31; Haggai 2:6).

We have seen terrible events during the past week in Turkey and Syria. In Northern Peru in 1970, approximately 67 thousand lives were lost due to an earthquake. According to one professor, approximately thirteen millions lives have been lost due to earthquakes in the past four thousand years.

We should always remember that the Cosmos itself is held together by God, and by Him alone. During these judgments, the people of Earth will be repeatedly reminded of this fact.

15 Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. **16** And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, **17** because the great day of their wrath has come! And who is able to stand?”



In the last passage, we saw *why* the events are taking place. In this passage, we see the people’s terrified response. There seems to be some evidence that they may know that these events have occurred because of the Lord’s judgment, but as we will see in later chapters, many will refuse to repent.

The Christian's Resistance to the
Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Adapted from Billy Graham's "Fighting the Rider Who Deceives"

- 1) Be immersed in the Word of God;
- 2) Be in constant prayer;
- 3) Be filled with the Holy Spirit;
- 4) Be among other believers.

Romans 5:8-9; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 6:10-18;
1 Corinthians 1-14; Revelation 2:4-5, 29



At Asbury this past week, there has been a great revival. The Seal Judgments have assuredly been foreshadowed over the years, but there is still hope today for those who call upon the name of the Lord. Praise God!