

This is the future – what Jesus says “will take place later.”

Ch. 6

Rev. 6-18 – “three series of “7’s” that describe God’s judgment on the earth.”

1. Seven Seals
2. Seven Trumpets
3. Seven Bowls

Each one of these seals, trumpets, and bowls reveal a judgment more terrible than the last. Why do you think God is judging earth? What does this tell us about God’s long-term plan for mankind?

Mathew 24 – Jesus describes the events to come in the same order as Rev. 6.

- The Seals:**
1. Rev. 6:1-2 - “Deceptive Peacemaker” – The rider of this white horse is not the Christ but Satan’s imitation of Christ, the Antichrist who becomes a world-recognized leader.
 2. Rev. 6:3 - “Military Chaos” – The rider of this red horse represents widespread warfare on the earth, possibly terrorism on a global scale.
 3. Rev. 6:5-6 - “Deadly Poverty” - The rider of this black horse brings economic judgement and worldwide poverty. There is a cavum between the very rich and the very poor.
 4. Rev. 6:7-8 – “Earthly Pandemics” – The rider of this pale horse brings rampant worldwide disease with power to kill “a fourth of the earth by sword, famine, and plague, and by wild beasts of the earth.”
 5. Rev. 6:9-11 – “Global Persecution” – The faithful who had been killed were given a white robe and told to wait until the number of faithful have been killed. During the tribulation many Christians will die as martyrs. Just as Jesus died for our sins, those that follow Him will be killed.
 6. Rev. 6:12-14 – “Widespread Panic” – A great earthquake will occur as well as a solar eclipse, the moon turning red, the stars falling, the sky receding like a scroll, and every mountain and island removed. This is possibly nuclear war.

Can you see any of these things playing out in our world today?

A Pause in Heaven – a period of calm and rest

Ch. 7

God’s People Set Apart

God puts a seal on the foreheads of 144,000 of the Jews. The seal denotes ownership.

Ephesians 3:13-14 – “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.”

Have you ever thought of the Holy Spirit in this way?

Romans 11:25 – All Israel will be saved. “I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited:” Paul uses the word “mysterion” which means something to be revealed only to the initiated. “Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.” What does this mean to you and to God’s timeline?

“And so all Israel will be saved,…”

The Tribulation Saints

A saint is someone who has been redeemed. The Tribulation Saints are those who will be saved during the Tribulation. Have you ever thought of yourself as a saint?

Rev. 7:14 – “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” What does this mean to you?

What is the difference between the church and Tribulation Saints?

Dressing – Ch. 4 & 5 the elders are wearing white garments. The Tribulation saints in Rev. 7:13 are wearing white “robes”, stoles (something wrapped around one’s shoulders).

Placement – Rev. 4:4 has the elders seated on thrones around the Lamb. The Tribulation Saints in Rev. 7:9 are “standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb”.

Crowns – Rev. 4:4 says we the elders are wearing crowns of gold on our heads. The Tribulation Saints are not pictured as wearing crowns.

Harps – Rev. 5:8 says the elders are playing harps. The Tribulation Saints are holding palms.

Praising – Rev. 5:9 says the elders are “singing a new song.” Rev. 7:10 says like the angels earlier, the Tribulation Saints are “shouting” aloud their praise.

Position – Rev. 5:10 The elders are pictured earlier ruling and reigning with Christ. Rev. 7:15 the Tribulation Saints are pictured as servants of God.

Can you see the difference between these two groups who are both saved and worshipping God?

Tribulation Saints are those who refuse to receive the mark of the beast and thus become social outcasts. They have experienced great stress, hunger, emotional torture, and loss. They will never hunger again.