

**Opening the Seals
of the
Book of Revelation**

Rose Murdock

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Introduction

If you are not familiar with the Book of Revelation in the Bible, what I've written will probably sound a little strange. I would suggest you read the Book of Revelation, at least once, prior to reading this booklet.

There are many and varied opinions on the Book of Revelation, which is the story of the Apostle John's revelation or prophecy he received while exiled on the Greek Isle of Patmos around 90-95 A.D. I'm not claiming to understand this prophecy 100%, yet I believe I have enough insight to give a basic understanding of it.

Rather than bickering over what we don't (or can't) know at this point, (for example the exact time of Jesus' return to earth), if we instead focus on what is clear and what applies to us today, we will be blessed by John's prophecy. After all, John began the book by saying, "Blessed is he who reads, and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it, for the time is near." (*Revelation 1:3*).

This booklet, for the most part, is about chapters five through nineteen. These chapters cover the opening of the seals, the sounding of the trumpets, and the pouring out of the bowls on the earth at the end of this age. I didn't include chapters one through four, not because I don't think they're important, but because they are, and deserve more attention than what I can give them here. Neither have I included chapters twenty through twenty-two for the same reason.

I've tried to avoid sounding either defensive or over-confident about my interpretation of the events John described. This is simply what I interpret the Holy Spirit showing me; please ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you as you read.

Rose Murdock

CHAPTER ONE: The Seven Seals

We begin with a scene where God is seated on His throne, holding a book that is sealed with seven seals. John began to weep because no one was found worthy to open the book and break its seals.

Revelation 5:1-5

¹ I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. ⁴ Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; ⁵ and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”

Only the Lion from the tribe of Judah, The Root of David, or in other words, the Lord Jesus Himself, could break the seals. No one else in heaven or on earth was found worthy to open the book or even look into it.

When John saw Him, He saw Him as the Lamb that had been slain.

Revelation 5:6-7

⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

When Jesus took the book from His Father on the throne, everyone broke out in praise—the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, the myriads of angels, and every created thing in heaven, as well as everything in, on, and under the earth, gave praise to both Him who sits on the throne and the Lamb, (*Revelation 5: 8-14*).

Then John saw the Lamb open the seals.

Revelation Chapters 6-8

The opening of the seven seals, I believe, reveals what unfolds during the Church Age; as well as giving us a glimpse into how this intensifies in the end. In John's revelation, the book and the Lamb appeared at about the same time, which would seem to confirm this thought that the book reveals the Church era which began after Jesus' ascension into heaven, and specifically on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out on His people who were waiting for the promise of the Father as Jesus had instructed (*Acts 1-2*).

Why is Jesus the only one who can open the book? Because He, and only He, overcame (*Revelation 5:5*). I believe the sealed book reveals the work which follows Jesus' work on earth, and that only He could release this work to begin. The book reveals what happens on earth after the Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit; as well as the tribulation that accompanies that throughout the Church Age (*John 14:12, Acts 14:22*).

Jesus conquered the kingdom of darkness during His first coming (*John 12:31, John 16:11, Colossians 2:10,15*). The proclamation of what He did began to be preached at that time and has continued since then. Yet not only is it being preached, it's also being worked out in His people. Through trying times, we are maturing both individually and corporately as His Church—His ekklesia, which is His governing body on the earth—and we are becoming His purified, glorious Bride; ready and longing to meet Him when He comes for us.

There is much opposition and many attempts by our enemy, Satan, to prevent this, to weaken us, deceive us, or keep us in bondage in any way possible. He does not want the message of the gospel to go out. He doesn't want people to be saved, and he definitely doesn't want families and nations serving God. However, the Church's maturing in Christ, purification, and surrender to Jesus' complete lordship, continues to enforce the enemy's defeat, as well as work out the Lord's complete salvation in us (*Ephesians 3:8-10*).

Before we get to the seals, it's helpful to understand a couple of things.

The Time of the Gentiles

Jesus spoke of the “times of the Gentiles,” a period of Gentile (non-Jewish) rule which allows for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Luke 21:24

²⁴ and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles are fulfilled**. (*Emphasis mine*).

Paul also spoke of it when he referenced the “fullness of the Gentiles.”

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the **fullness of the Gentiles** has come in; (*Emphasis mine*).

Israel will eventually recognize Jesus as the Messiah, even if just a remnant is saved (*Romans 9:27, Romans 11:26*). However, until then, during this “time of the Gentiles” we are now in, the Church is taking the lead in what God is doing—preaching the Gospel and demonstrating His kingdom, (at least, we should be).

Daniel's 70th Week

To understand the closing of this age, it's also helpful to understand Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks he received in the 6th century B.C. While Daniel was “speaking and praying, and confessing” his sin and the sin of his people, Israel, the angel Gabriel came and gave him “insight with understanding.” (*Daniel 9:20-23*).

The short version is that seventy weeks were decreed for Israel and the holy city to “finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.” (*Daniel 9:24*).

For those who enjoy figuring these things out, Gabriel further explained the seventy weeks (*Daniel* 9:24-27). Each week representing seven years, he divided them into three periods of time—seven weeks (49 years), sixty-two weeks (434 years), and one week (7 years). The first period of seven weeks (49 years) would begin when the decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem, which was given by King Artaxerxes in 444 B.C. (see *Nehemiah* 2:1-8).

The second period of sixty-two weeks (434 years) occurred during the switch from B.C. to A.D., so we need to convert these years from the ancient Jewish calendar (which was a 360-day calendar) to our solar calendar to find the date of when the Messiah would be “cut off and have nothing.” (*Daniel* 9:26).

The first two periods totaled 483 years (49 + 434). But with the conversion to the solar calendar, 483 years becomes 476 years, which brings the end of the second period to A.D. 33, which is Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, just prior to His crucifixion (*Matthew* 21:1-9). Gabriel said after that period the Messiah would be “cut off and have nothing.” This was fulfilled when Jesus was crucified. That leaves one week (7 years) to complete this decree for Israel, and accomplish what needs to be accomplished before Jesus, the Messiah, sets up His millennial kingdom.¹

Why does this matter? Because this final seven-year period is what will usher in Jesus’ Second Coming and reign on earth. This is how we know there are seven years of this prophecy yet to be fulfilled. Right now, we are living in this gap period between the 69th and 70th weeks—the Church Age. This gap period is where God’s dealings with the nation of Israel as a whole is put on hold while the nations of the earth come to Him (*Romans* 11:11, *Genesis* 17:4-6, *Genesis* 22:18, *Galatians* 3:16). I say “put on hold” in the sense that it allows the Jews of each generation the opportunity to accept Jesus as Messiah, or not. Both Jew and Gentile can be saved during this period (*Romans* 10:9-13), and whether or not we accept the gospel of Jesus Christ during our lifetime determines our eternal destiny.

It’s worth noting that some believe the first half of that final week, or 3 ½ years, was fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus because Gabriel told Daniel that “he” would put a stop to the sacrifice in the “middle of the week,” (*Daniel* 9:27). They say that “he” is the Messiah. Jesus’ ministry was 3 ½ years, and when He died, He put an end to the need for sacrifice. He *was* the sacrifice—once and for all (*Hebrews* 9:11-12). The veil of the temple, which separated the people from God in the Most Holy place, was torn in two from top to bottom as He died (*Matthew* 27:50-51). This may be intriguing, but with this view, the first 3 ½ years of the final week would be counted twice—because the second period of sixty-two weeks brings us not to the year Jesus’ ministry *began*, but to the year of His *death*. So that 3 ½ years of His ministry was already counted in the second period of 62 weeks and can’t be counted again as the first 3 ½ years of the final week.

Others believe that the entire week—seven years—is yet to be fulfilled and will be fulfilled at the time of the end. They say that “he” who puts a stop to the sacrifice in the middle of the week (*Daniel* 9:27) is the antichrist who makes a seven-year covenant with Israel and then breaks it halfway through, putting a stop to the sacrifice and grain offering, which sets off a period of great trouble. There are references to troubling periods of 3 ½ years in *Daniel* 7: 23-25 and *Daniel* 12:7-12, as well as in the book of *Revelation* as we’ll see later.

Gabriel also spoke of the “people of the prince who is to come” destroying the city and the sanctuary, (*Daniel* 9:26), which was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. The Jews were scattered throughout the nations from 70 A.D. until 1948 when the nation of Israel was reborn.

God is getting ready to finish things up. Now, let’s look at the opening of the seals to see how we might gain more insight regarding this.

THE FIRST SEAL: The White Horse

Revelation 6:1-2

¹ Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." ² I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

In Zechariah chapters one and six, we read of different colored horses who patrol the earth. In Zechariah 1:8-11 we read that Zechariah saw a red horse, a white horse, and a sorrel (red and white speckled) horse among the myrtle trees. He asked what they were and was told, "These are those whom the Lord has sent to patrol the earth." (*Zechariah 1:10*). The riders reported that they had patrolled the earth, and all was peaceful and quiet.

Then in Zechariah 6:1-8 we read of Zechariah seeing four chariots with different colored horses. One with red horses, one with black horses, one with white horses, and one with strong dappled (spotted) horses. Again, Zechariah asked what they were, and an angel told him, "'These are the four spirits of heaven, going forth after standing before the Lord of all the earth.'" (*Zechariah 6:5*). Some went to the north, and some went to the south as they patrolled the earth (*Zechariah 6:6-8*). The Lord spoke to Zechariah saying that those who had gone to the north had appeased His wrath in the land of the north. (*Zechariah 6:8*). They were bringing a judgment to that region. The Amplified Classic says, they had, "quieted My Spirit (or wrath] and have caused it to rest in the north country."

So, we see that the Lord has horses that come from His presence, patrol the earth, report what they've seen, and even execute His purposes in the earth.

The white horse rider that was released as Jesus opened the very first seal is, I believe, a representation of the preaching of the gospel that began with the commissioning of the early Church on the Day of Pentecost. More likely, he's an angel of some type accommodating the preaching of the gospel through God's people. This rider was given authority to conquer for the kingdom of God. When the gospel is preached, darkness is overcome, and more ground is gained for God's kingdom. Each generation populates heaven with more of God's people, as His people are made up of all of those who have believed throughout the ages, not just those who are alive on earth at any given moment.

But aren't the seals part of the end-time judgment? Yes, there is an end-time judgment that began with the preaching of the Word. Jesus said that the Word He spoke would be what would judge those who reject Him in the last day (*John 12:48*). The preaching of the gospel gives opportunity for people of each generation to accept or reject the Word of God—to accept or reject Him as Lord. Final judgment is reserved for the last day; however, the decision to accept or reject Him is made by the time a person dies. The people of each generation have that decision to make while they are alive on earth (*Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:12-15*). So, in that sense, the "end-time judgment" has already begun.

As the Lord's Church continues to preach the gospel throughout the world and throughout the age, both geographically and generationally, we continue to conquer darkness and expand the Lord's kingdom, bringing many people into His kingdom of light. This preaching, and what follows with it, intensifies as time goes on. This must continue until the end, so the gospel of the kingdom is preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations (*Matthew 24:14*). Remember when Jesus asked, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (*Luke 18:8*).

Jesus preached and demonstrated the gospel of the kingdom (*Matthew 4:23*) and we are to do the same (*John 20:21*). After Jesus had sent out His disciples, He told them when they returned that He was watching Satan fall like lightning from heaven (*Luke 10:17-19*). Jesus prophetically saw what would happen as the Church continued to demonstrate the kingdom throughout the age. When Jesus' Church—the ekklesia—takes their place as He has called them to, proclaiming His Word, it brings the fall of Satan from heavenly places (*Revelation 13:9*).

As this white horse has continued to circle the globe throughout the Church Age, bringing the gospel of the kingdom to the nations, it faces opposition; persecution has been severe at times. Yet these trials and tribulations purify the Church. Peter said, “It is time for judgment to begin with the household of God;” (*1 Peter 4:17*). Our faith will be tested, and proven, by the Word of God whom we believe in.

The enemy of the Lord and His Church knows his end is coming, and constantly looks to accuse, tempt, or even recruit people—believers or not—for his purposes, to delay his inevitable demise. The accuser of the brethren will be addressed, even as fiery trials follow us, purify us, and prove our faith. (*James 1:2-3, 12; 1 Peter 1*).

Jesus is coming back for those who are His (*1 Corinthians 15:23*), and those who are His are those who have crucified the flesh (*Galatians 5:24*). This truly is a time of testing for God's people to remain true and faithful to Him, to learn to rise as His ekklesia, and to come to maturity in being conformed to His image, sharing in His holiness. (*1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, Romans 8:28-29*). The Lord is building His Church—His temple—the body of Christ. (*Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 12:5*). Now is the time to become a part of what He is building!

THE SECOND SEAL: The Red Horse

Revelation 6:3-4

³When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come.” ⁴And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

The rider of the red horse was given a great sword and was granted power to take peace from the earth, and that men would kill each other. Jesus said He didn't come to bring peace, but a sword (*Matthew 10:34*). A sword divides, and the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God—both pierces and divides, (*Ephesians 6:17*). The Living Word pierces as far as dividing the soul from the spirit, being able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (*Hebrews 4:12*). Our sword is not a physical one, but spiritual.

Division comes as light clashes against darkness, good against evil. Division comes as believers separate from the world, which is especially trying if it involves family or friends, or if it means going against the trends and cultures of the day. The Word of Truth separates in that it exposes the lies that are in people's hearts or in the public thoughts of the day. We have seen violence arise as a result of the Word of Truth exposing darkness and deception in people's hearts, whether in believers or unbelievers. These fiery red trials that arise in our lives, throughout the Church Age, purify us (*1 Peter 4:12-14, 1 Peter 1:6-7*).

The Church is not to use the sword for petty disagreements among the brethren, we are not fighting flesh and blood, but each generation is to conquer the lies of the accuser, bringing every thought

captive to the obedience of Christ (*2 Corinthians 10:4-5*). We do this first in our own lives, but we also speak truth to the culture of the day.

Though the red horse rider takes peace from the earth, as we see with the clash between light and darkness, the gospel itself is the gospel of peace. It's a message of peace between God and man through Jesus Christ, and of unity between the brethren (*Ephesians 2:13-17*). Yet this is unity without compromise. This may cause division as we separate ourselves from evil and evildoers (*2 Corinthians 6:17*). Compromising truth does not bring true peace or unity.

As people embrace truth, rather than taking pleasure in wickedness, they are free from the deception that ultimately leads to the corruption of their heart, including the accusing of the brethren (*2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, John 17:17-21*). Yet without Christ, people have no peace and are more prone to side with the accuser, not only accusing the brethren, but anyone who opposes their beliefs.

THE THIRD SEAL: The Black Horse

Revelation 6:5-6

⁵ When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

The rider of the black horse had a pair of scales in his hand. Scales are for judgment and measurement. Part of the handwriting on the wall for King Belshazzar, the Chaldean king in Daniel's day, was *TEKEL*, meaning, "You have been weighed on the scales and found deficient." (*Daniel 5:27*).

Something is deficient on a scale when it doesn't meet the standard—the weight, or the price. Who are we "measured" against? Who is our standard? Jesus Himself. We are in the process of being conformed to His image (*Romans 8:29*) and to meet that standard we must count the cost and give all as He did. That's the price—all (*Luke 14:25-33*).

The voice among the four living creatures said, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius." A denarius was a day's wages. It will cost you everything to follow Jesus. It will cost your daily bread—your life. Jesus said to be His disciple you must deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him (*Luke 9:23*). Those who give their all, daily, and die to self, have His life in return—eternal life. He is the manna—the bread from heaven, who gave His life for all (*John 6:32-40*).

When we give up our bread, we hunger. If we hunger for the things of the world, we will be found deficient—short of the righteous standard Jesus set. And not only that, but when we feed off the things of the world it doesn't satisfy, it simply produces more hunger, greed, desperation and so on. It's an appetite that's never satisfied. But when we pay the price of our daily bread—our daily sustenance or our life itself—by imposing on ourselves an intentional fast to hunger for the things of God, for righteousness, for the Holy Spirit oil and wine, we will be filled (*Matthew 25:1-13, 1 John 2:20, Luke 5:37-39*). Fasting for His presence—longing for our bridegroom (*Mark 2:18-20*)—will bring exactly what we are crying out for.

During trying times of earthly inflation, famine, or poverty, we must remember the satisfaction that comes from the Spirit and presence of God. Rather than giving in to the panic and fear that presents itself in times of trouble, hunger and thirst for Him instead.

The voice among the four living creatures said not to damage the oil and the wine. The Holy Spirit is available for all His children. Though earthly bread lacks, there's plenty in His kingdom. He will always be available to those who seek Him. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied (*Matthew 5:6*).

THE FOURTH SEAL: The Pale Horse

Revelation 6:7-8

⁷ When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come."⁸ I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

The rider of the ashen, pale, or some say greenish horse is the first one we see with a name. The rider's name was *Death*, and *Hades* (the place of departed spirits) was following with him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth. Their authority is to kill with sword, famine, pestilence, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

He was given authority to kill with the sword, which would indicate an authoritative power—such as divine judgment or truth, or a governmental authority. Both physical and spiritual death are represented with these horses. Hades would indicate a spiritual death. Famine that leads to death is a physical starvation. Spiritually this could indicate a spiritual starvation, coming from the preaching of a gospel that doesn't contain life—but is mixed with compromise, or outright lies, which results in spiritual death.

The word *pestilence* here means *death*.² Death from death itself. And wild beasts represent violent, opposing forces. When Paul spoke of fighting off "wild beasts" at Ephesus (*1 Corinthians 15:32*), he was referring to people violently opposing the preaching of the gospel. Jesus was with the "wild beasts" in the wilderness during His time of temptation (*Mark 1:13*). These horses bring that which comes to kill—to take away spiritual life as well as physical, whether from divine judgment or enemy opposition.

Those who overcome times of testing, following Jesus' example—not compromising truth, not joining with the accuser of the brethren, not trying to save their own life but giving all to Him, not being found deficient, but hungering for the things of the Spirit rather than the things of the world—they, even when they die physically, will gain life. Death is the last enemy to be defeated, and it will not gain victory over the people of God (*1 Corinthians 15:20-26, Revelation 21:4*).

Jesus said in Luke 17:33, "Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it." He also said the same in Matthew 10:39, Matthew 16:25, Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, Luke 17:33, and John 12:25. Obviously, it's something He wants us to understand! We are to present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God (*Romans 12:1*), and not be conformed to this world, but transformed into His image by the renewing of our mind (*Romans 12:2, 8:29*).

In times of intense persecution, even to the point of death, including intentional depopulation, genocide, war, or famine, we look to Jesus who overcame His own times of testing. He did not spare His own life: He gave it up to save us. Yet angels ministered to Him (*Mark 1:13*), and we too can look for ministering spirits from heaven to help us during difficult times (*Hebrews 1:13-14, Hebrews 13:2*).

Jesus spoke of deception, wars, earthquakes, famines, and betrayal before His return. and then He said, **"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."** *Matthew 24:4-14*. The gospel was unleashed on the Day of Pentecost and will be preached to the ends of the earth, until the end of the age.

The enemy, the spirit of antichrist, will try anything to stop the preaching of the gospel, or undo its results—including the killing of believers and unbelievers alike. He'll try to kill believers to stop them from preaching the gospel, or he'll try to lure them to fall away into spiritual death; he'll kill unbelievers to keep them out of the kingdom of heaven.

In the end, Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire, and those contained in them are judged (*Revelation 20:14*). At all times, we must remember our purpose in advancing the gospel of the kingdom—in both word and demonstration—to the whole world as a testimony to all nations. Not to mention, the important work of believing in, and staying faithful to, the Lord ourselves (*John 6:29*).

God's timing is circular, not linear, and as the circling of the horsemen around the earth continue throughout the ages, the events on earth will intensify as the end draws near. Jesus used the example of birth pangs just beginning when speaking to His disciples about His coming and the end of the age (*Matthew 24:8*). The closer it gets, the more intense it becomes. Yet that also gives us better focus and allows us to see more clearly in His light.

THE FIFTH SEAL: Martyrs

The first four seals reveal what John saw going on in the earth. Next, we see a heavenly perspective.

Revelation 6:9-11

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; ¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

In the opening of the fifth seal, we see martyrs. These are believers in Christ who were slain because of the Word of God, and the testimony that they held. They gave up their life for the sake of the gospel. They are seen under the altar in heaven.

Christian martyrdom is not a sign of the end-times. It's a sign of the last days, for the last days began as soon as the early Church was established (*1 John 2:18*), but martyrdom has been going on throughout the Church Age. Christians have been martyred since the time of the early church. Note that they were crying out, asking *how long* until He judged and avenged their blood. They didn't know how much longer until His final end-time judgment would come. They were comforted, given a white

robe, and told to rest until the number of their fellow servants and brethren who were also to be killed would be completed.

It's interesting to note that in the Old Testament, there was a grate under the altar which caught the ashes of the burnt offerings. These ashes were used with water to purify the unclean (*Numbers 19:9-19; Exodus 27:1-5; Exodus 38:4*). Just as no part of the burnt offering was wasted under the old covenant, neither are the lives of the martyrs wasted today. God sees and cares about every soul. The prayers of the martyrs, and the saints, cumulate, and when they are mixed with incense and fire of the altar, as we will see with the seventh seal, then we see things begin to escalate.

At the time these martyrs cry out, more ashes are needed, more cleansing needs to occur. Not because Jesus' sacrifice wasn't enough, but the cleansing period of the Church must be completed. We learn to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him (*Luke 9:23*). We learn to present ourselves a living sacrifice to Him, holy and acceptable unto God, and our members (our body parts) as instruments of righteousness unto God (*Romans 12:1, Romans 6:11-13*). As we cooperate with the work God is doing in us, as we see represented by the horsemen seals, we become a living sacrifice unto Him, even if we're not a physical martyr.

As the ashes under the altar were for cleansing the unclean, so must the Church come to a place of purity—fit to be the Bride of Christ—cooperating with the cleansing that has been going on since the Church began (*Ephesians 5:26*). There is much more we could say about the sanctification of the Church. But we must at least know that He passionately longs for us to welcome His Spirit, because He longs for us (*James 4:5 AMPC*).

THE SIXTH SEAL: Signs on Earth and in the Heavens

Revelation 6:12-17

¹² I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves 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 presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

When the sixth seal is opened, there is such an effect in the heavens and on the earth, that people realize the presence of God and the wrath of the Lamb is upon them. This wrath is a fiery, even passionate, response of God and the Lamb, which has been building, and is about to be released to oppose the evil, injustice, and wickedness in the earth.

This may be, at least the beginning of, what Jesus referred to in Matthew 24:30-31 about the sign of the Son of Man appearing in the sky, all the tribes of the earth mourning, and the gathering of His elect. John doesn't see the bowls of wrath poured out at this point. He records that in chapter sixteen. First, the 144,000 Jews must be sealed. Then comes the trumpet period where the final "week" of Daniel's

seventy weeks begins, and God's work concerning the Jewish people and Jerusalem is finished (*Daniel 9:24*).

These signs, when people know they will suffer His wrath (the consequence of opposing Him), give them opportunity to repent. However, many will try to hide from God. The natural response to an awareness of one's own fallen condition, guilt, and sin, which becomes obvious when confronted with God's holy presence, is to hide—like Adam and Eve did (*Genesis 3:8*).

However, a better response is to expose yourself to Him—admit to and repent of your sin. This is the response of those who hear and accept the gospel, but for those who reject it, the presence of the Lord will be terrifying. The only hope at this point would be to throw yourself on the mercy of God like David did (*2 Samuel 24:10-14*). It's a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of a living God (*Hebrews 10:31*), but we each must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (*Philippians 2:12*).

It's interesting that the sixth seal, sixth trumpet, and sixth bowl give a progressive response of unrepentant man to what God has been doing. In the sixth seal, man wants to hide from the presence of the Lord—there is shame at their sin, they know it's wrong, but repentance doesn't seem to be a consideration for them. In the sixth trumpet, no one repents—they either don't think their sin is wrong, or they don't care, and are open about it. In the sixth bowl, they have complete intolerance for what is true and holy, to the point of gathering to make war against the Lamb.

The "sixes" are a progression from hiding, to openly sinning, to actually opposing the Lord. Whereas the "sevens" are God's response. In the seventh seal He responds to the prayers of the saints and the trumpets begin. The seventh trumpet is when the kingdom of the world is reclaimed, and at the seventh bowl, "It is done."

Signs in the heavens to this extent where everyone on earth hides from the presence of God knowing His wrath has come and there is no escape, have obviously not happened yet. But as these events begin to trickle in, they will increase in both frequency and severity, again, like the birth pangs that Jesus described (*Matthew 24:8*).

It's comforting to know that this will not go on endlessly. There is an appointed time for it to end, with a set period of seven years once the final countdown begins.

The 144,000

Revelation 7:1-8

¹After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. ²And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, ⁶from the tribe of Asher twelve

thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,⁷ from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

After the sixth seal is opened, and the earthquake and signs in the heavens appear, there is a pause in the telling of events while John describes the sealing of 144,000 Jewish people, keeping them through the coming times. We see the result of this sealing at the end of the trumpet period in Revelation 14:1-5 when they are gathered on Mount Zion with the Lamb. We might see them as a holy seed for the Millennium (*Isaiah 6:13*). One thing Jesus told the Twelve when He first sent them out to preach, was that they would “not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes,” (*Matthew 10:23*). He will not forget His people.

As an interesting note, the twelve tribes listed in Revelation 7:5-8 has Judah first. Judah was never listed first; the tribes were always listed by age. Reuben was the oldest and was always listed first. Yet here, Judah, Jesus’ tribe, is listed first. Additionally, the tribe of Dan is missing from this list. (Though we don’t know why, some believe the antichrist will come from Dan’s tribe, citing Genesis 49:17, Deuteronomy 33:22, and Jeremiah 8:16. Some say that the tribe of Dan were the first to give themselves over to idolatry, and that they eventually became extinct).

Another interesting note about this list of Jewish tribes is that Joseph wasn’t listed in the allotment of land because both of his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were listed in place of him. His bloodline got a double portion. However, in this list, Joseph is listed in place of his younger son, Ephraim.

Another interesting point is that Levi is included. Levi was the tribe of priests. They were not included in the division of land because they were to tend to the duties of the priesthood and the temple. So if this list is not meant to represent the land divisions of Israel, the only change would be that Manasseh is taking the place of Dan, and that Judah is listed first.

The Multitude Before the Throne

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying,

“Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and

they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. ¹⁶They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

During the second part of the pause after the sixth seal, John saw a multitude of saints before the throne. An elder told him these are those who have come out of “the great tribulation” and have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, making them white (*Revelation 7:14*).

Who are these saints? Are they the ones who die during what we call “the great tribulation” when we are referring to the judgement and wrath of God poured out at the end of this age? Is that what the elder is referring to when he says, “the great tribulation?” Considering that John hadn’t seen the worst of the judgement-wrath yet when he saw this multitude, why would they be described as those who had gone through “the great tribulation?” Even if he jumped around a bit in his description of what he saw, this is still pretty early on.

Are they the “raptured” saints who have just come out of “the great tribulation?” Again, if so, how would that be if the great tribulation is the period of judgment that ends in God’s wrath, which John hadn’t seen yet? To define the great tribulation this way would mean that the seal period is “the great tribulation.” However I think the tribulation period the elder is referring to here is not the seven-year tribulation period that we normally call the great tribulation, but something else.

Being that these saints are described as “a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues,” (*Revelation 7:9*), there are those who believe these are *all* of God’s elect, from *all* times, gathered together. This would be a true “synergy of the ages” if these are the saints gathered “from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven” as we read in Mark 13:27. It seems that these are pretty much all of the saints of all times, which would include the saints who have died, but not those who are “raptured.” It looks to me like the saints alive on earth at the beginning of the “tribulation” period, or Daniel’s seventieth week, remain on earth through the trumpet period before they are “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air.” (*1 Thessalonians 4:17*).

I think we’ve misapplied the phrase, “the great tribulation.” There is an indication that this word “great” doesn’t just mean *great* in the sense of extreme or large, but also, or rather, *great* in the sense of *many*, or even *importance* or *significance*.³ If that’s the case, then Acts 14:22 would apply, which says, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

Every believer goes through “many” personalized tribulations in their lifetime no matter what time period they live in. So, what this group has gone through would be their own personal “many tribulations” on earth that brought them into the kingdom of God, not so much “the great tribulation” of the end times. I don’t believe we can, or should, discount the many and severe tribulations of saints from other periods of time when we look at the end times on earth.

Our personal trials equip us as well as prove our faith, and faithfulness. Look at what we learn from Job. Satan, the accuser of the brethren, who accuses us before God night and day (*Revelation 12:10*), went before God to accuse Job.

Job 1:7-12

⁷The Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” ⁸The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.” ⁹Then Satan answered the Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” ¹²Then the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

God was bragging on Job, to Satan, and Satan made an accusation that Job only feared God because God was protecting him and had blessed him. He said if God would take away his possessions that he would surely curse Him.

How does a just God—a just Judge—answer an accusation like this? By allowing evidence to be produced which would prove Job’s faith, just like in a court of law. And it worked. Evidence was found that even when it looked like God’s blessings were removed from Job, he remained faithful to God.

Job 1:22

²²Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

The story goes on to where God and Satan discussed Job again, and God, as any proud Father, pointed out how Job still held fast his integrity, even though Satan incited God to ruin him without cause (*Job 2:1-3*). Yet Satan accused Job again, and said if his body were affected, he would curse God to His face. Again, God allowed Job to be tried, producing evidence of his faith (*Job 2:4-6*). We know, in the end, Job maintained his integrity, received whatever correction he needed from the Lord, and was more blessed in the end than he was in the beginning (*Job 42:10-17*).

The many trials and tribulations we go through, are producing evidence of our faith and faithfulness to God. They are also producing endurance in us (*James 1:3*), and once we persevere and are approved, we will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him (*James 1:12*). This is not just a promise for end-time saints.

God is doing a sanctifying work in us so we may obtain an imperishable and undefiled inheritance (*1 Peter 1:2, 4*). Peter said that we are to rejoice, even though for a little while, if necessary, we are distressed by various trials so that the proof of our faith, being more precious than gold, tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (*1 Peter 1:6-7*).

I think there is a good case for saying that “the great tribulation” this vast multitude comes out of, is not what we normally call “The Great Tribulation,” or the troubling times of Daniels 70th week. Rather, they had come out of whatever significant and necessary tribulations were needed in their life to bring them to the point where their faith was proven and found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Remember that the trials you go through are causing your faith, your precious, holy faith, to be proven to be genuine evidence that silences the enemy’s accusations against you!

So, the multitude of saints gathered before the throne may very well be the collection of all saints of all times, yet not including those alive on earth at the time. They may be the heavenly saints gathering to get ready to return to earth with the Lord, and meet those saints on earth who will soon be caught up together with them.

I believe that during the trumpet period we see a manifestation of the “falling” of Satan out of the heavens, which the Church on earth has a part in implementing. So, the Church may very well be here while this is actually occurring. Remember, the “last days” have been going on for 2000 years. The very end is a short period of time in comparison.

Let’s move on from the sixth seal where we began to see the sky split apart, the great earthquake occur, and the people wanting to hide from the presence and wrath of the Lord to come. We saw the Jewish people sealed and a great multitude of saints gathered. Then John described the opening of the seventh seal.

THE SEVENTH SEAL: Silence, Prayers, Preparation for Trumpets

Revelation 8:1-6

¹When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

³ Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel’s hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

⁶ And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

When the seventh seal is opened, the sealed book is fully opened. There is silence in heaven for half an hour. Note that the seventh seal readies the angels for the trumpets. This transition from the seals to the trumpets begins with the prayers of the saints mixed in with incense and fire of the altar (*Revelation 8:3-6*). I believe the prayers of the martyrs in the fifth seal are a part of this.

Incense was used in the Old Testament to protect the priests from being consumed by God’s holiness when they went into the holy of holies to make atonement for themselves and the people (*Leviticus 16:12-13*). It was also used to stop the plague of God’s anger when Aaron stood between the dead and the living with incense to intercede for the people (*Numbers 16:46-50*). The prayers of the saints mixed with incense, and then fire of the altar, would indicate a protection on God’s people from judgment to come. When the fire, or burning coal, from the altar, touched Isaiah’s lips, it indicated his iniquity was taken away and his sin forgiven (*Isaiah 6:6-7*).

After the opening of the seventh seal, and the silence that followed, the prayer-incense-fire mixture was thrown to the earth. This ushered in the time of the trumpets when more than their prayers were thrown to earth. It would seem the final dislodging of the enemy in the heavens was accomplished during this time.

As the Church rises in the authority Jesus has given us over the enemy, and offers earnest prayers for, among other things, God to avenge the blood of the martyrs (*Revelation 6:10*), we will see as Jesus did, Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Jesus saw this after He sent the seventy out to declare that the kingdom of God had come, and to heal the sick (*Luke 10:9*). After they returned with joy that even the demons were subject to them in His name, He said, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.” (*Luke 10:17-18*). I believe He saw the maturity of His Church at the end of the age moving in power in His name, and displacing Satan from heaven once and for all. Yet right after that He gave both encouragement and warning:

Luke 10:19-20

¹⁹ “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. ²⁰ “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

We must never become so “wowed” by the power of God, and the authority He’s given us, that we put that above our gratitude to Him for our salvation.

Francis Frangipane posted an excellent article called “The War over Reality,” about *The Principle of Displacement* adapted from his book, *The Three Battlegrounds*. He said,

“We read in Ephesians 6 that “principalities” and “powers” occupy the “heavenly places” (v. 12 NKJN). But we read in Ephesians 1:10 that it is the Father’s expressed purpose to sum up all things in Christ, “things in the heavens and things on the earth.” Ephesians 3:10 reveals God’s glorious plan, that “*through the church*” God has purposed to make known His manifold wisdom to the principalities and powers “*in the heavenly places.*” **You see, as the body of Christ on earth agrees with its Head in heaven, the Spirit of Christ Himself displaces the powers of darkness in the heavenly places.”**⁴ (*Emphasis mine*).

At the opening of the seventh seal, when the prayers of the saints are mingled with the incense and fire of the altar that are thrown down to the earth; the sounding of the trumpets begin, and the saints who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, who have overcome by the word of their testimony (*Revelation 12:11*), who have proven their faith through their many tribulations (*1 Peter 1:6-7*), and have committed their lives and bodies to be a living sacrifice to God (*Romans 12:1*); they have not only made themselves ready to be His Bride (*Revelation 19:7*), but have functioned as the ekklesia of Christ—His governing body in the earth—which dislodges the powers of hell from the heavenly places.

The prayers of the saints, the purity of the bride, and the Church functioning in the authority given her by Christ, all have a major part to play in setting off the first trumpet, and beginning the final countdown to the Lord’s return.

From an earthly perspective, the transition goes from the sixth seal in Revelation 6:17 with signs of the beginning of the end, to the sounding of the first trumpet in Revelation 8:7. Let’s move on to the trumpets.

Chapter One Notes:

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/seventy-weeks.html>, April 9, 2025

² Strong's Greek: 2288. θάνατος (thanatos) -- [Death](#) October 28, 2025

³ <https://biblehub.com/greek/3173.htm>, April 9, 2025

⁴ <https://frangipane.org/the-war-over-reality/> April 4, 2025

CHAPTER TWO: The Seven Trumpets

Revelation Chapters 8-11

If you remember, between the sixth and seventh seal an angel with the seal of the living God cried out to the four angels who were granted permission to harm the earth and sea, and told them not to harm the earth, sea, or trees until they had sealed the 144,000 bond servants of God (*Revelation 7:1-8*). This sounding of the trumpets was held back until the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel were sealed.

During the first four trumpet blasts we see things falling from, or occurring in, the heavens. I believe this coincides with Satan and his angels being thrown out of heaven (*Revelation 12:9*) and initiating the final week of Daniel's seventy weeks—a seven year period.

If the first four trumpets reveal the earthly effects of Satan and his angels being thrown down from heaven, that means the Church has been victoriously engaging in spiritual warfare. They are doing the work of the ekklesia (*Matthew 18:18, Luke 10:18*), while being tested, and purified, through fiery trials (*1 Peter 1:3-7, James 1:2-12*). Having a pure heart is vital to successful spiritual warfare, as well as making us ready to be the spotless Bride of Christ that Jesus is returning for (*Ephesians 5:27*).

A Quick Look at the Trumpet Period

To give a brief glimpse at what lies ahead, it may be that the trumpet period of chapters 8-14 are mingled in such a way that as the trumpets begin, and the Church is doing the work of the kingdom, and Satan is falling like lightning from heaven, (*Luke 10:18*), that we see the following events occur, some of them simultaneously:

Satan is thrown down to earth, with great wrath knowing he only has a short time before his end will come. Through the "beast" and the "false prophet" he goes after Israel at first, but is unsuccessful, so he goes after Christians (*Revelation 12*). The beast (or antichrist, or man of lawlessness) and his false prophet arise and begin a global rule which includes the implementation of a "mark" which is required to buy and sell (*Revelation 13*). At some point, in the "middle of the week" or after 3 ½ years, a peace treaty that was agreed upon, is broken, and the true nature of the beast is revealed (*Daniel 9:27*). This would occur after the "restraining force" that had been holding him back is "taken away," (*2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*).

There may be a rebuilt temple that the two witnesses appear to be protecting for 3 ½ years (*Revelation 11*). At some point, they are killed and the temple is defiled by the antichrist. However, they are resurrected after 3 ½ days and caught up to heaven. We see a possible demonic-human interaction with the locusts of the fifth trumpet, as well as plagues that kill a lot of people (*Revelation 9*). The antichrist convinces many nations to join him in waging war against the Lamb (Jesus). All of this seems to be going on during this trumpet period, or the seventieth week.

Anyone may call on the name of the Lord and be saved. However, we don't see this happening, especially after the sixth trumpet (*Revelation 9:20*). (Other than terrified people giving glory to God in *Revelation 11:13*). Although, we do see the 144,000 standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion. We see angels preaching the gospel, giving warnings against the mark, and proclaiming the fall of Babylon, and we see the "reaping" of the earth (*Revelation 14*). Then all who have overcome the beast and his mark are found standing on the sea of glass with harps, singing to the Lord (*Revelation 15*).

The Significance of the Trumpets

The trumpet, or shofar has much meaning among the Jewish people. In fact, one of the seven biblical Jewish feasts is called the Feast of the Trumpets. The Lord required them to blow the shofar during it (*Leviticus 23:24, Numbers 29:1*).

The shofar was used in battle (*Numbers 10:9, Joshua 6:2-20, Judges 7:22*). It was used to sound an alarm or assemble the people (*Numbers 10:1-8, Ezekiel 33:3*); to announce new moons or feasts (*Numbers 10:10, Psalm 81:3*). It was used in worship (*2 Chronicles 15:14, Psalm 47:5-6, Psalm 150:3*). And very interestingly, it signals Israel's redemption at the end of the age (*Isaiah 27:13, Joel 2:1, Zephaniah 1:14-16, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17*).

The trumpet period John describes in the book of Revelation is a significant period where we see the decree of the seventy weeks being fulfilled. The angel Gabriel told Daniel that seventy weeks had been decreed for his people (the Israelites) and his holy city (Jerusalem) to **“finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.”** (Daniel 9:24).

Jesus wept over the holy city, Jerusalem, because they rejected Him as the Messiah (*Matthew 23:37-39, Luke 19:41-44*). Devastating destruction came upon Jerusalem as a result of this in 70 AD. The seventieth week will finish things up, to bring the restoration God desires to the Jews and Jerusalem.

Now, let's look at each trumpet blast individually.

THE FIRST TRUMPET: Hail & Fire, Third of the Earth

Revelation 8:7

⁷The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The sounding of the first trumpet occurred after the censer with the prayers of the saints were thrown to earth. This trumpet blast caused hail and fire mixed with blood to be thrown to the earth, and a third of the earth, trees, and green grass were burned up.

THE SECOND TRUMPET: Burning Mountain, Third of the Sea

Revelation 8:8-9

⁸The 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, ⁹and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Something that looked like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown down into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood, a third of the creatures died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. The destruction of these ships would affect commerce and the economy of the nations.

The first four trumpets, and the sixth trumpet, all affect a third of the earth or people. It's interesting to note that the "great red dragon," who is Satan, had a tail which "swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth." (*Revelation 12:4*). Not only were his angels (stars) thrown to the earth, but he was too after the war in heaven with Michael and his angels. (*Revelation 12:7-8*).

THE THIRD TRUMPET: Burning Star, Third of the Waters

Revelation 8:10-11

¹⁰The 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 waters. ¹¹The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

At the sound of the third trumpet, a "great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch." It fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. These are the drinking waters. This star was called "Wormwood" and many people died because the waters were made bitter.

Jeremiah references wormwood, saying that the Lord would make the false prophets drink poisonous water because pollution had gone forth into all the lands from the false prophets of Jerusalem (*Jeremiah 23:15*, see also *Jeremiah 9:15*).

This third trumpet may represent a judgment on false prophets, as well as priests (intercessors), and the people who do not speak what the Lord is saying, but "prophecy" out of their own thoughts, bringing judgment onto the city as well as themselves. The Lord warns not to listen to the one who prophesies peace to those who despise Him and walk in the stubbornness of their own heart. A true spokesperson for the Lord is one who has stood in His council, and announces His words to the people, which causes them to turn from their evil way back to Him (*Jeremiah 23:16-40*).

When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, they came across bitter waters. Moses threw a tree into the waters to make them drinkable. The "tree," or the message of the cross of Jesus Christ, is the only thing that purifies these "bitter waters" so the people can drink and live (*Exodus 15:22-25*).

THE FOURTH TRUMPET: Woes Announced, Third of the Sun, Moon, and Stars

Revelation 8:12-13

¹²The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

¹³Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

When the fourth angel sounded the trumpet, a third of the sun, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars were struck so that a third of them would be darkened and the light would not shine for a third of the day and third of the night.

Then we see an angel flying in midheaven announcing three woes to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining three trumpets yet to sound (*Revelation 8:13*). Similarly, when Satan is cast out of heaven and thrown down to earth, a loud voice in heaven is heard saying, “Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.” (*Revelation 12:12*). The first two of these three woes are found in the fifth and sixth trumpet blasts.

Satan’s fall to the earth affects the earth and those on it. It’s a time of “woe.” And he knows his time is short. This is different from the martyred saints in the 5th seal who asked, “How long?” By the time Satan is displaced and thrown from heaven, he knows his time is short. The countdown had begun.

THE FIFTH TRUMPET: First Woe: Bottomless Pit Opened, Locusts Released

Revelation 9:1-12

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.² He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.³ Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.⁴ They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.⁵ And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man.⁶ And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

⁷The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.⁸ They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions.⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.¹⁰ They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.¹¹ They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

¹²The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

When the fifth angel sounded, John saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth—most likely one of Satan’s angels who had fallen with him—being given a key of the bottomless pit. He opened up the pit and out came locusts onto the earth.

Who or what are the locusts? Locusts are feared because once they come in swarms, they completely devour crops, causing destruction and famine. Locusts don’t normally attack people directly, yet these locusts are given instructions not to hurt the grass, any green thing, or tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Yet, they were not allowed to kill them, only torment them for five months.

To determine who or what these locusts are, let’s look at where they came from. They were released from the bottomless pit where they had been locked up. These locusts are beyond normal agricultural-

attacking locusts; they appear to be spiritual beings who go after physical flesh—people. So, what type of spiritual beings, that would prey on human flesh, have been locked up in the abyss?

In the book of Jude, we read that the **“angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,”** (*Jude 1:6*).

Similarly, Peter wrote, **“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;”** (*2 Peter 2:4-5*).

So, Peter and Jude together spoke of these fallen angels as those who had sinned, are kept in eternal bonds, in hell, in pits of darkness, reserved for the judgment of the great day, and locked up until the time of judgment. The pits of darkness Peter speaks of is the Greek word “*tartaroo*” which means “*to cast into Tartarus*”, a place reserved for judgment of fallen angels; considered a place worse than Hades.¹ They are locked up “for the judgment of the great day,” and kept in “pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.” Their judgment is yet to come at this point.

Peter and Jude discussed the false prophets and teachers who follow their sensuality, introduce destructive heresies, and greedily exploit people with false words. They said they engage in things they don’t even understand, lead people astray, and set themselves up for judgment in the process. They both compared these people to the fallen angels who are awaiting judgment (*Jude 1:4-16, 2 Peter 2:1-22*). Jude wrote that even Enoch prophesied that the Lord comes with many thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment upon all of these ungodly ones (*Jude 14-15*).

We read about these fallen angels who had sinned prior to the flood in Noah’s day in Genesis 6:1-7. For a more detailed explanation and documentation about the fallen angels, the co-mingling of the fallen angels with humans, and the giants in the land in that day, I suggest you read Rick Renner’s book, *“Fallen Angels, Giants, Monsters, and the World Before the Flood.”*²

Basically, these angels lusted after human women which produced a species of beings who were giants, referred to as the Nephilim (*Genesis 6:4*). We might call them demons (when disembodied as in after the flood). This interaction resulted in the corruption of the human gene pool, which led to the destruction of the entire human race during the flood, excluding Noah and his family. The angels responsible for this were locked up, reserved for later judgment.

When these fallen spiritual angel-locust type beings are released during the 5th trumpet of Revelation 9, they go after humans, and I wouldn’t be surprised if sexual sin surrounds their release—at least the corruption of human DNA, or some type of supernatural interaction with human beings. Whatever their outward effect is, it might even be attributed to some type of alien interaction. In any case, they certainly seem to have the power to suck the life out of people, even while not killing them.

As Rick Renner explains in his book, the people of Noah’s day were mesmerized by these fallen angels. Which sounds similar to what they will say of the beast who has the fatal wound which is healed. Remember, Jesus said, **“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.”** (*Matthew 24:37*). The whole earth will be amazed at the beast, follow him, and worship him. They will say, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” (*Revelation 13:3-4*). This 5th trumpet period may very well be when the beast rises, through what appears to be a “miracle” of his own.

Which makes one wonder exactly how his fatal wound is healed; what brings him back to life, or enables him to recover from a fatal injury? Could it be some type of interaction with these fallen angels? A return of the man's mind through merging with the supernatural? What if the supernatural (a fallen angel) is disguised through technology as some form of transhumanism?

As Rick points out in his book, according to the book of Enoch, not a book of Scripture, but referenced in Scripture by Jude, the fallen angels not only co-mingled with the women of the day, they taught humans to make weapons of war, works of art, and introduced aspects of the occult—enchantments and spells. (*Enoch 8:1-3*). It wouldn't be a stretch to say they would do the same thing again once they are released from their prison—introduce some type of practice which appears to be an advancement, or progress of the human race, yet is satanic, sensual, and even violent at its nature. Satan wants to destroy the human race, and specifically human seed and/or DNA, to contaminate it and thwart God's purposes.

These fallen angels appear to be released for judgment purposes during the 5th trumpet blast of Revelation 9. Judgment that not only they will have to face; but those who reject God's warnings and correction will face His judgment as well. After the 6th trumpet, we read several times that men no longer repented, (*Revelation 9:20, 21, Revelation 16:9, 11*).

The locusts have a certain amount of power. They are not allowed to kill anyone, but can torment people for five months; to the point where people will long to die, but can't. Again, they are not allowed to touch the grass, any green thing, or tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Remember, the 144,000 Jewish bondservants received the seal of God on their foreheads. They will be protected.

We should also note that the Apostle Paul said, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (*Ephesians 4:30*). All believers in Christ are sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption. Not to say that any believer in Christ on earth during this time won't suffer trouble; it will be vital to stay close to the Lord until the end, but there is sealing found in Him.

Remember, that as long as we are here on earth, we have been commissioned to preach the gospel, make disciples, and display and advance the Lord's kingdom. That must be our focus. Though there will come a time when He comes to physically take rule Himself, we must "do business" for Him until He returns (*Luke 19:13*).

Jesus said one must be "born again" to see the kingdom of God, and must be "born of water and the Spirit" to enter into the kingdom of God (*John 3:3-5*). Paul described these ones who are "in Christ" as being a "new creature." (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). He said if you confess Jesus as Lord with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. For, "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." (*Romans 10:9, 13*). If you have not given your life to Christ, you are not this new person that both Jesus and Paul described, and will not escape the wrath to come on the earth. The time to turn your life over to Him is now. He is waiting for you to call out to Him! He already did what was necessary for your salvation when He came and died for your sins.

The fifth trumpet is called the first woe (*Revelation 9:12*). The first woe falls on those who don't have the seal of God, which brings His protection.

THE SIXTH TRUMPET: Second Woe: Three Plagues Released at the Euphrates River

Revelation 9:13-21

Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” ¹⁵And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. ¹⁷And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. ¹⁸A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. ¹⁹For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

²⁰The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

When the sixth angel sounded, it appears the four angels at the Euphrates River released armies of horsemen to kill a third of mankind by three plagues. These plagues would be judgment from God, releasing fire, smoke, and brimstone, which, in Scripture, refers to God’s judgment (*Genesis 19:24, Psalm 11:6, Isaiah 30:33, Ezekiel 38:22*). That is a lot of people to be killed, yet, those who are not killed by these plagues do not repent of their works, their idols, or their murders, sorceries (occult and drugs), immorality or thefts. This will occur at a specific hour, day, month, and year. There is a set time for this.

The Two Witnesses

Revelation 10:1-11:14

At this point, John described seeing a strong angel come out of heaven, holding a little book, who said that there would be *delay* no longer. He said in the days of the voice of the seventh angel (7th trumpet), when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be *finished*. (We’ll look at these words *delay* and *finished* when we talk about the Reapers).

A voice from heaven told John to take the little book from the angel. When he did, the angel told him to eat it and said he had to prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings. John was given a measuring rod, and “someone” told him to measure the temple, the altar, and those who worship in it. He was told to leave the outer court for it had been given to the nations who would tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months. The “someone” said he would grant authority to his two witnesses, and they would prophesy for 1260 days.

The two witnesses had the authority to shut up rain from the sky, power over the waters—to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with plagues. They could not be harmed until they had finished their

testimonies. When they finished, the “beast that comes up out of the abyss” will make war with them and kill them. They are raised up after 3 ½ days and brought up to heaven.

Their resurrection may coincide with the seventh trumpet blast, associated with the rapture. Consider the following Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at **the last trumpet**; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (*Emphasis mine*).

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and **with the trumpet of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (*Emphasis mine*).

Could the resurrection of the two witnesses, which seems to occur around the seventh and last trumpet blast, coincide with the rapture of the saints?

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET: The Kingdom of the World has Become the Kingdom of our Lord!

Revelation 11:15-19

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying,

“We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

¹⁹ And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

When the seventh trumpet sounds the mystery of God is finished (*Revelation 10:7*).

The announcement is made, “**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever**” (*Revelation 11:15*), and the twenty-four elders fall on their faces, worshipping God. (*Revelation 11:17-18*). A glorious time indeed!

After the seventh trumpet blast, it's official that the Lord and His Christ will reign for ever and ever over the kingdom of the world.

Israel & The Birth of Christ, The Rise of the Beast Revelation Chapters 12-13

After the seventh trumpet blast, John backs up in history a bit to explain the rise of the beast. Chapters 12 and 13 give more understanding to what John has just described. Since the beast is the one who kills the two witnesses, John takes this time here to explain how it got to that point.

The first part of chapter 12 gives a brief account of Israel giving birth to the Christ, and the intention of the dragon (Satan) to destroy Him, which he fails at. Then we see the dragon thrown out of heaven and, having great wrath, going after Israel and the rest of her children, who are believers in Jesus (*Revelation 12:17*).

A beast rises from the sea who is a man, the antichrist, to whom the dragon (Satan) gives his power, throne, and great authority. He comes into play after the "restrainer" is removed (*2 Thessalonians 2:8*), and after Satan and his angels are thrown out of heaven.

When Satan is thrown down, he goes after Israel first, the one who had given birth to Christ, but she had a place prepared by God where she would be nourished for 1260 days (*Revelation 12:1-6, 13-16*). Seeing that he can't get to her, he was enraged and went off to make war with "the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus." In other words, the Christians (*Revelation 12:17*).

The antichrist beast is given power, for forty-two months, to make war with the saints and overcome them (*Revelation 13:5-7, Daniel 7:25*). He is given authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. He has a global rule and everyone on earth worships him—those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life (*Revelation 13:1-10*).

This beast is worshiped, and people are amazed at him because he has a "fatal wound" that was healed (*Revelation 13:3*); a "wound of the sword" (*Revelation 13:14*). He speaks arrogant and blasphemous words.

John writes that anyone who is destined for captivity will go into captivity; and anyone who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. There are comparable Scriptures in Jeremiah 15:2 and Jeremiah 43:11 speaking of judgment. The perseverance and faith of the saints on earth will be tested during this time (*Revelation 13:10*).

The rising of the first beast brings about the rising of a second beast—a beast from the earth, also called the false prophet (*Revelation 19:20*). This false prophet has all the authority of the first beast, in his presence. He performs great signs, including fire coming down from heaven in front of people, deceiving them. He tells everyone to make an image of the first beast, and he is able to give "breath" to the image of the beast so it can speak. He causes whoever doesn't worship the image of the beast to be killed (*Revelation 13:11-15*).

The false prophet also institutes a mark for everyone to receive on their right hand or forehead, and makes it so no one can buy or sell without the mark—the name of the beast or the number of his name—six hundred and sixty-six (666), (*Revelation 13:16-18*).

Much of what is happening today appears to be setting the stage for these things to occur. AI technology is infiltrating just about every part of society. Digital currency, social “credit scores,” quantum computers, and forms of transhumanism are being looked at as solutions for medical problems, or as an “enhancement to, (or even preservation of) the human mind. These types of things pave the way for the beast and his mark to implement their global rule.

It's really just another form of Gnosticism, with a more obvious participation of the spiritual realm (fallen angels). It's the fruit of the tree of knowledge becoming fully ripe. We are reaping what was sown back in the garden at the fall of man—where knowledge was chosen over life, when the command of the Most Holy, one true God and Creator of all things was rejected. Elements of His breath are in all created things. Only through aligning with Him will mankind experience true, eternal life.

The specifics of Gnostic beliefs vary and evolve, tending to adapt as needed, but its basis is in knowledge.³ The word Gnosis means “to know.” It's the belief that knowledge is the avenue through which “salvation” comes. It encourages people to seek a “divine” knowledge within themselves, rather than through admission of sin, repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ—which is the avenue through which God has provided salvation and righteousness with Him. Some say this “saving knowledge” of Gnosticism may come from an outward source rather than from within, and when it comes, this great knowledge will save mankind. The stage is being set, if not for total or partial machine rule, (AI or transhumanism), or “alien” rule (fallen angel/demonic), then some combination or similar effect.

Some Gnostics believe that all matter is evil, making sin irrelevant, which leads to completely unrestrained behavior. When everyone thinks the “knowledge” inside of them is “truth,” then everyone becomes very selfish and self-centered, especially toward those who disagree with them. This leads to a chaotic, society, to say the least—a modern-day barbarism.

Gnosticism will rise as knowledge (technology) does, since it is knowledge-based. Daniel wrote of this around 540-530 B.C. He said that in the last days knowledge would increase (*Daniel 12:4*). Paul described the difficult times of the last days to contain those who are, among other things, “treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.” He said they will be “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (*2 Timothy 3:1-7*).

James spoke of the wisdom that is not from above, but is “earthly, natural, demonic.” (*James 3:15*). Paul wrote to the Corinthians that knowledge makes one arrogant, and he clearly stated to the Thessalonians that those who prefer to take pleasure in wickedness will be deceived because they do not believe in or love the truth (*1 Corinthians 8:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12*).

There is already talk about an AI written “Bible” being better because of its “superior” knowledge. This is wrong in every way. It assumes that knowledge cannot be flawed and is therefore a god in itself. Just because something (or someone) can process information quickly doesn't guarantee the “rightfulness” of the results. To say it can learn from its mistakes does not make it good or right, no more than a thief becoming more skilled in how to steal makes his actions good or right.

Conclusions that don't have God's truth as its basis may be logically sound, but not true. And there are consequences for not adhering to truth. God made humans with the ability to align with truth through humbling ourselves before Him and repenting of our sinful ways. He made it possible through sending His Son Jesus to pay the price for our sin. To think that we can create something that is somehow incapable of mistakes, beyond the need for correction, or unaffected by God's standards of righteousness is ridiculous.

Habakkuk 2:18-19

¹⁸ “What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it,
Or an image, a teacher of falsehood?
For *its* maker trusts in his *own* handiwork
When he fashions speechless idols.
¹⁹ “Woe to him who says to a *piece of wood*, ‘Awake!’
To a mute stone, ‘Arise!’
And that is *your* teacher?
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,
And there is no breath at all inside it.

Gnosticism or any “worship” of knowledge or technology, must be guarded against. It is not a god, will never be a god, cannot turn into a god. It’s simply an old-fashioned idol with a modern face. The dragon (Satan), the beast (antichrist), and the false prophet trying to become some sort of false trinity. There is only one source of truth—the one true God and Creator of all things.

After this explanation of the beast’s rise and initial rule, John continues.

144,000 On Mount Zion

Revelation 14: 1-5

¹ Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard *was* like *the sound* of harpists playing on their harps. ³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

The 144,000 were sealed before the trumpet period began (*Revelation 7*) and here at the end of the trumpet period, we see them standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion. Mission accomplished. They were being taught a song which came from before the throne that only they could learn. What a joyful time for the Lord Jesus to reconnect with them in this way.

Warnings from the Angels

Revelation 14:6-13

⁶ And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; ⁷ and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”

⁸And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.”

⁹Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” ¹²Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

¹³And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.”

The warnings and announcements from the angels seem to indicate that even though His judgment is imminent, there is some time yet before it’s finished. They are warned to worship God and not receive the mark. The saints are encouraged that it is okay to die and not try to hold out until the end if they are weary.

The Reapers

Revelation 14:14-20

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

Then the Lord is seen sitting on a white cloud with a sharp sickle. An angel comes to tell Him to put in His sickle and reap for the hour to reap has come—the harvest of the earth is ripe. He does so. Then the clusters from the vine of the earth, which are also ripe, are reaped and thrown into the winepress of God’s wrath to be trampled. We read that Jesus “treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty” when He returns to earth (*Revelation 19:15*).

When Jesus treads the grapes in the wine press, it will fill the seven bowls of God’s wrath with seven plagues that are then poured out on the earth (*Revelation 16*). During the pouring out of these bowls,

which precede His coming, we see the fall of Babylon; and the dragon, beast, and false prophet gathering the armies to Armageddon where they will attempt to fight the Lord, and fail (*Revelation 16:13-16, Revelation 17:14, Revelation 19:20-21*).

This reaping of the grapes is a judgmental reaping of the wickedness of the earth. When wickedness reaches a certain point in the earth it becomes “ripe,” making it the right time to harvest it, or judge it—the people who are committing wickedness. The angel told the Lord that “the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe,” (*Revelation 14:15*).

We might ask, does the “hour to reap” come because the clock has run out—the time has expired, or is it that the wickedness has become so bad that judgment becomes necessary? In the first case, God has pre-determined an expiration date on the earth after which time judgement would occur; in the second case, the people make it happen based on their level of wickedness. It may be both.

In Psalm 92:6-7 we see that God waits until He is justified in executing judgment on the wickedness. The wickedness of the people must reach that moment where, in His mind, judgment is justified. We see other examples of this in Scripture (*For example the iniquity of the Amorites in Genesis 15:16*).

Yet, when the angel declares in Revelation 10:6-7 that at the sound of the seventh trumpet “there will be delay no longer,” the word *delay* is the Greek word *chronos*, which speaks of a set period of time.⁴ The angel went on to say in verse 7 that when the seventh angel sounded the trumpet the mystery of God is finished.” The word *finished* is the Greek word *etelesthe*, which mean to complete, to finish⁵. This tells us that there is a time coming where wickedness will be judged, and God will be justified in doing so at a set time—after the seventieth week, a period of time prophesied thousands of years earlier.

Notice that just before this scene of the reapers we see the 144,000 Jewish remnant on Mount Zion with the Lamb, and we will see, just after the reaper scene, those who are victorious over the mark of the beast gathered on the sea of glass, holding harps of God and singing. Some say this reaping of Revelation 14 is a reaping of both the righteous and wicked. The first reaping being that of the righteous; the second is the grapes (fruit) of the wicked—which is the justification of the judgment to come.

Jesus told a parable about end-time reaping in His parable of the tares among the wheat in Matthew 13:24-30. He compared the kingdom of heaven to a field where wheat was planted and growing, yet an enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. The landowner advised his slaves to wait until the harvest to gather them both, otherwise the wheat may be damaged when the tares are taken out. He said he will tell the reapers to “allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.’” (*Matthew 13:30*).

He explained the parable to His disciples saying that the Son of Man (Jesus) is the one who sows good seed into the world, this good seed is the “sons of the kingdom.” The enemy, the devil, came and sowed tares into the field, who are the “sons of the evil one.” Jesus explained that the harvest is the end of the age and the reapers are the angels. The tares are gathered up and burned with fire, just as it will be at the end of the age when He sends them to gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness. They will be thrown into the furnace of fire. “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (*Matthew 13:36-43*).

If Jesus' parable about the wheat and the tares was the reaping John saw in Revelation 14, then this is when the tares, the sons of the evil one, will gathered to be bound and burned, while the wheat, the sons of the kingdom—those who believe in Him—are gathered into His barn (*Matthew 13:30*).

Those Who Overcome the Beast

Revelation 15:1-3

¹ Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, *which are* the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished. ² And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. ³ And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb. . .”

While the angels are ready with the seven last plagues of the wrath of God, we see those who had been victorious over the beast standing on a sea of glass mixed with fire, holding harps of God. They sang the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb—which appears to represent Jewish and non-Jewish believers in Christ Jesus.

They appear to be out of the way of the bowls of wrath—the final judgment—which is about to be poured out on the earth.

Matthew 24:30-31

³⁰ And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

The sign of the Son of Man which we saw back in chapter six at the sixth seal, has come full circle here at the end of the trumpets. These who believe in Jesus are gathered to prepare for His coming, which is preceded by the bowls (*Revelation 14:1-5, Revelation 15:2-4*).

Chapter Two Notes

¹ <https://biblehub.com/greek/5020.htm>, April 12, 2025

² Rick Renner, “*Fallen Angels, Giants, Monsters, and the World Before the Flood*.” Harrison House, Shippensburg, PA 17257, 2024

³ [What is Christian Gnosticism? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-is-Christian-Gnosticism/), June 8, 2025

⁴ [Strong's Greek: 5550. χρόνος \(chronos\) -- Time](https://www.stongsgreek.com/5550-chronos), June 28, 2025

⁵ [Strong's Greek: 5055. τελέω \(teleó\) -- To complete, to finish, to fulfill, to accomplish](https://www.stongsgreek.com/5055-teleo). June 28, 2025

CHAPTER THREE: The Seven Bowls

Revelation 16:1

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

The bowls of wrath are poured out on those who have rejected God’s rule over them. Those who embrace Jesus’ lordship and rule over them will not suffer this final outpouring of His wrath, but will most likely have been “caught up” with the Lord to meet Him in the air, to accompany Him and the other saints in the armies of heaven in the last battle on earth.

Consider these Scriptures:

Romans 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be **saved from the wrath of God through Him**. (*Emphasis mine*).

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, **who rescues us from the wrath to come**. (*Emphasis mine*).

1 Thessalonians 5:9

⁹For **God has not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (*Emphasis mine*).

Revelation 14:9-10

⁹Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he also will drink of **the wine of the wrath of God**, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (*Emphasis mine*).

(See also John 3:36, Romans 1:18).

THE FIRST BOWL: Malignant Sore on Those with the Mark

Revelation 16:2

²So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

The first bowl poured out over the earth became a loathsome and malignant sore on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

THE SECOND BOWL: Sea Becomes Blood, Everything Dies

Revelation 16:3

³The second *angel* poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

The second bowl was poured over the sea, and it became blood; every living thing in the sea died.

THE THIRD BOWL: Drinking Waters Become Blood

Revelation 16:4-7

⁴Then the third *angel* poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. ⁵And I heard the angel of the waters saying, “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; ⁶for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.” ⁷And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

The third bowl was poured out into the rivers, springs, and waters and they became blood. Like we saw with the 3rd trumpet, this would be the drinking waters.

At this point the angel of the waters declared the righteousness of God because He judged those who had poured out the blood of the saints and prophets and had given them blood to drink. The altar spoke and agreed that His judgments are true and righteous.

It’s interesting that the altar spoke in response to the shed blood of saints and prophets. The martyrs were found underneath the altar during the time of 5th seal—the place where the ashes of the Old Testament sacrifices were kept to be used for purification.

THE FOURTH BOWL: Sun Scorches with Heat

Revelation 16:8-9

⁸The fourth *angel* poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. ⁹Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

The fourth bowl was poured out upon the sun, with power given to scorch men with fire. They were scorched with a fierce heat and blasphemed God—the one who had power over these plagues. Yet, they didn’t repent. They didn’t glorify Him.

Remember that during the sixth trumpet, those hurt by the plagues didn't repent either (*Revelation 9:20-21*).

THE FIFTH BOWL: Throne and Kingdom of the Beast Darkened

Revelation 16:10-11

¹⁰ Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, ¹¹ and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

The fifth bowl was poured out on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened. As a result of this, they apparently experienced great pain. (Was it due to the mark?)

Once again, in spite of the judgment of God, the people's hearts were so hardened they would not repent, even when faced with the obvious truth that God rules over all.

THE SIXTH BOWL: Euphrates River Dried to Prepare the Way for the Final War

Revelation 16:12

¹² The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

The sixth bowl was poured out on the Euphrates River to dry it up so the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. God was making the way for the final showdown to occur at Armageddon.

John saw unclean spirits coming out of the mouth of the beast and false prophets. They were demonic spirits who performed signs to convince the kings of the world to gather together with them to war against God. (*Revelation 16:13-14*).

It's at this point we see the parenthetical statement, **"(Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.)"** *Revelation 16:15*.

Is this statement for those believers who are on earth at this point, (if there are any), or is it for those of us who are reading this now to be reminded to stay awake and pure so we will not have to suffer these things? I think we can take it as a warning now.

I think the same question could be asked of Revelation 18:4 when the fall of Babylon is being revealed and a voice from heaven is heard saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;" This is a quote of Jeremiah 51:45 and 2 Corinthians 6:17. Another warning to us not to become a part of the corruption of Babylon.

Those gathering to fight the Lamb come together to a place in Hebrew called "HarMagedon," or Armageddon. (*Revelation 16:16*). Once again, they progressed from wanting to hide, to open sin, to waging war against Him.

THE SEVENTH BOWL: It is done

Revelation 16:17-21

¹⁷ Then the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and so* mighty. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. ²¹ And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

When the seventh bowl was poured out upon the air, a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.”

There was lightning, thunder, and an earthquake greater than any that had ever been. The great city, Babylon, was split into three parts, the cities of the nations fell. God remembered Babylon and she was given the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. One-hundred-pound hailstones fell, and men blasphemed God.

We could say as the writer of Hebrews did here, “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (*Hebrews 10:31*). No one has to go through this. To choose the way of the Lord, and salvation as He has provided, is not only the right way, it’s the most joyful, peaceful, and loving way. It’s full of truth and light and all that is good. God takes no pleasure in destroying His creation. Yet, He cannot and will not tolerate evil. And for those who see past the façade of this world’s pleasure and prestige, and choose Him, there is joy unspeakable and full of glory, (*1 Peter 1:8*) for all of eternity.

The Fall of Babylon ¹

Chapters 17 and 18 address the fall of Babylon as an angel came to show John the judgment of Babylon, called “the great harlot” and “the mother of harlots.” (*Revelation 17:1, 5*).

A few highlights:

One of the seven angels who had a bowl of plague, took John to show him the judgement of the great harlot—Babylon. He explained to John that there were ten kings, without a kingdom, but they received authority as kings with the beast for a short time. They have one purpose and give their power and authority to the beast. They would hate the harlot, and they shared a common purpose to destroy her. (*Revelation 17:12-13*).

Babylon is the great city, the harlot, who corrupted the earth and reigned over the kings of the earth. She is defeated by the beast and those aligned with him, for God had put it in their hearts to execute His purpose through them (*Revelation 17:15-18*).

It’s interesting to note that one evil is defeated by another. We must “come out of” Babylon and not participate in her sins, (*Isaiah 52:11, 2 Corinthians 6:17, Revelation 18:4*), yet we are not to take the

mark of the beast or worship his image either. We only stay faithful to the Lamb of God—Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

In Chapter 18 John sees angels declaring Babylon’s demise and describing the lament of the kings and merchants who lived luxuriously with her, committing acts of immorality. We see that part of her “cargo” was “slaves and human lives.” (*Revelation 18:13*).

An angel declares, **“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”** (*Revelation 18:20*). And, **“in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”** (*Revelation 18:24*).

Babylon is no friend to believers in Christ. The judgment God pronounces on her is on behalf of the saints, apostles, and prophets (*Revelation 18:20*). John saw her “drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.” (*Revelation 17:6*). The blood of the prophets and saints, as well as the blood of all who had been slain on the earth, was found in her (*Revelation 18:24*). A pretty strong statement.

The beast and kings who unite in purpose to destroy Babylon will then turn to wage war against the Lamb. (*Revelation 17:12-17*).

Chapter Three Notes

¹ Rose Murdock, *The Beast of Revelation*, <https://rosemarymurdock.blogspot.com/2019/03/the-beast-of-revelation.html>

CHAPTER FOUR: The Marriage and Coming of Christ

Revelation chapter 19 begins with praises in heaven as there is rejoicing over God's salvation and His judgment on the great harlot. (*Revelation 19:1-6*). And then there is rejoicing over the marriage of the Lamb, whose time has come.

Revelation 19:7

⁷ “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready!”

Finally! All that we are told here about the bride is that it was given to her to clothe herself in fine, bright, and clean linen—which is the righteous acts of the saints. And those who are invited to the marriage supper are blessed (*Revelation 19:7-9*).

Paul referred to the Church as the bride of Christ when he spoke of the marriage relationship between husband and wife. He called this a “great mystery,” saying that Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her so He might sanctify her, cleanse her by the Word, and present her to Himself **“in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”** (*Ephesians 5:25-27*).

Jesus told the parable of the ten virgins emphasizing the importance of always being ready for the bridegroom so as not to miss the wedding feast (*Matthew 25:1-13*).

The Coming of Christ

Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

What a glorious time! Heaven opens and Jesus—the Lamb of God, the Word of God, the King of kings and Lord of lords—returns to earth on His white horse, followed by the armies of heaven clothed in fine white and clean linen, on white horses themselves.

The beast and the kings of the earth, along with their armies, assemble to make war against the Lord. The beast and false prophet are immediately seized and thrown alive into the lake of fire. The rest are killed. Nowhere near a close fight. An angel from heaven with the key to the abyss lays hold of the dragon and throws him into the abyss for a thousand years. (*Revelation 19:19-20:3*).

Summary

We may briefly summarize the period of the seals, trumpets, and bowls by saying that the tribulation period that is going on in the earth now (the seven seal period), will lead up to the final week of Daniel's 70th week, intensifying as it gets closer, and even setting things in place for the rise of the antichrist.

The trumpets begin to sound as the time of the Gentiles comes to an end and the saints of all ages are gathered to prepare for the final seven year tribulation "week" designated for the Jewish people and Jerusalem to "finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place." (*Daniel* 9:24).

During the period of the bowls of wrath, Babylon falls, the beast and his kingdom (worshippers) are weakened or destroyed, and the beast and his armies gather to fight the Lamb but lose quickly as Jesus comes to take reign of the earth with His saints.

Consider the words spoken to Daniel regarding the time of the end

Daniel 12:3, 10

"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever...Many will be purged, purified, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand."

In the following appendixes, I go into more detail regarding some common questions on specific topics.

APPENDIX ONE: The “Rapture”

I think we’ve gotten hung up on the word “rapture” when talking about the gathering or “catching away” of the saints who are alive on earth when it occurs. It has come to mean something more like an escape from the devil than the beautiful gathering to our Lord that it is.

What we refer to as the rapture is described in the Bible as:

- A “gathering together to Him,” (2 *Thessalonians* 2:1)
 - Being “changed,” (1 *Corinthians* 15:52)
 - Being “caught up together,” (1 *Thessalonians* 4:15-17)
 - One being taken and another left, (*Matthew* 24:40-41, *Luke* 17:34-36)
- Some think this refers to when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD. However, Jesus spoke of both incidents at the same time, and it seems there are similarities between the two—the destruction of Jerusalem and His Second Coming.

Of course, there are many more Scriptures about His return to earth and staying watchful so we are ready when He comes, but the actual “rapture” event is spoken of in context with Jesus’ visible and glorious return to earth. At the rapture, His people’s bodies are changed, and they are caught up in the air, gathered to Him. It will not be all people on earth, just those who are His.

Let’s look at some of the above Scriptures in context.

2 *Thessalonians* 2:1-4

¹Now we request you, brethren, **with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him**, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the **day of the Lord** has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. (*Emphasis mine*)

Notice that the “coming of the Lord,” our “gathering together to Him,” and the “day of the Lord,” are all spoken of together.

1 *Corinthians* 15:51-52

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable**, and **we will be changed**. (*Emphasis mine*)

1 *Thessalonians* 4:15-17

¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord**, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷**Then we who are**

alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (*Emphasis mine*)

Those who are alive on earth at Jesus' return, or just prior, will not die but their bodies will be instantly changed into an imperishable body, (right after the same thing happens to the dead in Christ). At the same time, they will be caught up together with the Lord in the clouds to meet Him and the others in the air. This will happen quickly—"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," and with a shout and a trumpet blast.

Afterward, when He returns to earth with the armies of heaven with Him, which I believe will occur after the bowls of wrath are poured out, He will do so to quickly defeat the beast, the kings, and the armies who have assembled to make war with Him. That is what we normally refer to as His Second Coming.

How much time occurs between the rapture and His Second Coming? We don't know exactly, but some think that the marriage supper of the Lamb occurs in between the two events while the wrath is being poured out on the earth. I tend to agree.

Jesus made a beautiful promise just before He was crucified.

John 14:1-3

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Jesus explained to His disciples that He was leaving and going back to the Father in heaven where He came from. He said He was going to prepare a place for them—and for us, for those who believe in Him (see *John 17:20*). Then He said He would come back and get us, so we could be where He is.

When will He come and receive us to Himself? We don't know the exact time, but just as the bridegroom went to prepare a place for himself and his bride at his father's house in those days, so is Jesus now preparing a place for us—His bride—in His Father's house, and He will return for us.

As we saw in the chapter on the seven bowls, God's people are not destined for wrath (*Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9, John 3:36, Romans 1:18, Revelation 14:9-10*). God does not take pleasure in bringing condemning judgment or destruction on anyone. He loves His creation and His people. Yet He wouldn't be a just God if He didn't judge rebellion. Consider this, that He will not force Himself on anyone. The one who rejects Him will get exactly what he wants—to be apart from Him forever. Yet to those who seek Him, love Him, and pursue Him, they will get what they are looking for—to be with Him forever.

We read in 1 Corinthians 15:52 that those on earth at His coming will be changed in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. Again, one of the things the shofar blast represented was Israel's redemption at the end of the age (*Isaiah 27:13, Joel 2:1, Zephaniah 1:14-16*), and the Lord commanded it to be blown at the Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah (*Leviticus 23:24, Numbers 29:1*).¹

The Feast of Trumpets begins ten days of consecration to the Lord, leading up to the Day of Atonement. During this time the people are encouraged to repent of sin, examine their hearts in

preparation of the most holy day—the Day of Atonement. For Christians, we remember the sacrifice Jesus paid for our sin and to keep our hearts ready for Him at all times, looking for that last trump!

Matthew 24:36-39

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

In Noah’s day, they were carrying on with their lives as usual, not understanding the judgment that was to come. They didn’t understand *until the flood came*. Noah and his family were already in the ark by that point. Once the rain started, it was too late. The door to the ark was already shut (*Genesis 7:1-16*), and by the time the floods came, the time to repent was long gone.

Matthew 24:42, 44

⁴² “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

⁴⁴ For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

Nobody knows the day or hour when Jesus will return. Some think it will occur before any “end-time trouble.” I think we are already in the midst of “last day” troubles, why not just take Jesus’ advice and not worry about tomorrow because there’s enough trouble going on today (*Matthew 6:34*)!

Try as I might, the only way I see “end-time” people making their way to heaven before the seventh trumpet is for them to die. And based on what we read in the book of Revelation, it appears many will make their way to the Lord that way. In any case, Jesus said it will happen when we don’t think it will. So, we must always be ready.

Although, He said we can, and should, recognize when it is getting close, even when it is right at the door. When one event is getting close, (His Second Coming) so is the other (the rapture).

Matthew 24:33

³³ so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

How much will the Christians on earth at that time have to go through before He comes? We know we will all go through “many tribulations” to enter the kingdom of God (*Acts 14:22*), but only God knows what it takes to prove and test our faith so it results in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (*1 Peter 1:7*).

Remember, the Apostle Paul said if we judge ourselves, we will not be judged (*1 Corinthians 11:31*). And, any judgment we incur comes in the form of discipline, for our own good, so we may share in His holiness and not be condemned with the world (*1 Corinthians 11:32, Hebrews 12:4-11*).

Jesus said that the one who rejects Him and His Word will be judged by the words He spoke (*John 12:48*). He also said:

John 3:16-21

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For **God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.** ¹⁸ **He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** ¹⁹ This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” (*Emphasis mine*).

If we want to avoid the condemning judgment, the time to examine our hearts, judge ourselves, keep His Word, and abide in Him is now. Jesus said if we love Him, we will keep His Word, and He and the Father would make Their abode in us (*John 14:23*).

Will He pour out His condemning judgment on the very ones who have Him abiding in them? I think not. The rapture of the Church will gather His people—those who are alive on earth just prior to His return—so they will not experience the wrath of God intended for the wicked.

The Lord is going to return to earth. When He does, there will come a judgment on those who have rejected Him and His Word. Yet for those who believe in Him, His coming is our hope. It is a promise. His kingdom rule over the earth should thrill our hearts as righteousness and justice will be found in it.

Chapter Five Notes

¹ [What is the Feast of Trumpets? | GotQuestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org/What-is-the-Feast-of-Trumpets?)

APPENDIX TWO: The Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:16-17

¹⁶ And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name.

I want to address a dangerous train of thought some have concerning the mark of the beast, which is, “We’ll get raptured before the beast rises, so we won’t be faced with the mark.” This thought gives us a false sense of security and might cause us to let our guard down concerning the mark of the beast which we are so adamantly warned against in Scripture.

Even if there is a “rapture,” or gathering to the Lord, prior to the mark of the beast being mandated, consider this, that the mark may very well begin to be instituted before the rapture. (I would dare say it has already begun). We don’t want to cross a line now that we won’t be able to uncross later. In other words, being deceived into something that causes us to “miss” the Lord’s return—to not be prepared for Him to receive us. (Such as the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, and the parable of the unprepared head of the house in Matthew 24:42-51).

Remember, the door to the ark was shut seven days before the rain began—long before the floods which actually killed them started. They didn’t think much about it when Noah was building the ark, or when he entered the ark. They didn’t get it when the rain started. It wasn’t until the “flood came and took them all away,” that they understood what was going on (*Matthew 24:38-39*). They had been lulled into a false sense of security.

By that I mean, there may be something about the mark that seems so “harmless” that it deceives and, eventually, enslaves a person to an extent that it causes them to miss something important—warnings from Holy Spirit. There are some who say they have had visions or encounters with the Lord warning about this, saying it will be voluntary at first. It will be seen as a solution, as a convenience, as something that makes life easier. We’ve seen this already—how a “convenience” turns into a “necessity.” However, the warning has also been that it does something to you—changes something in you that actually affects your ability to hear God, something that dulls your heart to His. Something that could cause you to be deceived into following the herd through that wide gate (*Matthew 7:13-14*), and not realize you’ve missed the ark and taken the mark.

We must be on guard now. With all that is going on in the digital, virtual world, AI, merging of man and machine, we must stay closer to the Lord more consistently than ever before. We must remain humble and watchful and not think the mark is something we don’t have to watch out for. Pride or complacency could cause us to think we couldn’t or wouldn’t fall for it, or that it’s something we don’t have to be concerned with.

False Prophets and False Christs

I believe it’s important to address what Jesus emphasized about false Christ’s and false prophets coming prior to His return. The final beast, (the antichrist), and his false prophet, may actually be preceded by others whom Satan tries to use to deceive people. Let’s look at what Jesus said.

Matthew 24: 4-5

⁴And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵For **many** will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead **many**. (*Emphasis mine*).

Matthew 24:11

¹¹ **Many** false prophets will arise and will mislead **many**. (*Emphasis mine*).

Matthew 24:23-28

²³Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There *He is*,’ do not believe *him*. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, *or*, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe *them*. ²⁷For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

So it seems that many people will come, even in the name of Jesus—even saying they are Jesus Himself—and will mislead many people. Not only that, but many false prophets will arise too. These false prophets may very well “testify” as to the legitimacy of a false Christ. They too will mislead many.

Jesus gave a warning to those in Judea to flee when they saw the abomination of desolation. After that warning, He also warned them (the Jews) about the false Christs and false prophets to come, so there may appear to be false Jewish Messiahs and/or a false returning Christ. (*Matthew 24:15-28*).

Don’t believe them, and don’t follow them to where they say he is. Don’t fall for false signs and wonders. Stay close to the Lord and in tune to the discernment of the Word and the Holy Spirit.

Remember the warning Paul gave in **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**

(The lawless one). . . *is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹For this reason God will send upon them **a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,** ¹²**in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.**

We must guard against deception, by seeking truth, at all times!

APPENDIX THREE: The Restrainer

There is some discussion over who or what the “restrainer” is that Paul wrote about to the Thessalonians. Paul said the restrainer is what is currently keeping the antichrist from being revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

¹Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

⁶And **you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.** ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.** ⁸Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹*that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹²in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. (*Emphasis mine*).

The restrainer restrains him—the lawless antichrist—until the restrainer is taken out of the way.

Paul did not intend for his readers to not understand this. He said, “you know what restrains him now,” so he knew they knew that part of it, and he was telling them this so they would not be deceived about the coming of the Lord, the gathering together to Him, or the day of the Lord.

Some see it this way, that *he who restrains* is the Church, and will do so (keep the antichrist from rising to power) until *he* (the restrainer, or the Church) is taken out of the way (raptured). Then the *lawless one will be revealed* (come on the world scene) and in the end be destroyed by the Lord’s coming.

However, the problem I have with that is that the antichrist is given authority over the saints—to overcome them (*Revelation 13:7*), to wage war with them and overpower them (*Daniel 7:21*). He has this authority UNTIL the “Ancient of Days” comes and judgment is passed in favor of the saints, and they take possession of the kingdom (*Daniel 7:22*). The antichrist has this authority for 3 ½ years (*Daniel 7:25, Revelation 13:5-7*), and then the “court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.” (*Daniel 7:26*).

It seems to me that the Church is not the restraining force, because the antichrist is given this authority over them for this period of time. Rather, it seems that the protection and blessing of God is what restrains (*Job 1:9-10*). Just as Satan accused Job until God allowed him to test him to produce evidence of his faithfulness, so the antichrist is held back until a time of testing is called for. However, the time and intensity of it is limited, and God, the just Judge, knows when the evidence is enough for Him to give a favorable verdict for the saints.

The Lord responded to Satan's accusations against Job by allowing Satan to inflict a limited amount of affliction on him. In so doing, Job's faith was proven to be genuine. In a court of law, a just judge will rule based on true evidence. The trying of our faith produces such evidence (*See James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:8-10, 1 Peter 1:6-7*).

There is a refining process that all believers in Christ go through—the tribulations that we go through to enter the kingdom of heaven (*Acts 14:22*). Let's not think we will escape all troubles. Yet we must remember His promises of triumph and victory. Those promises do not change just because the end is near, or troubles increase.

Don't fear. Maintain courage. Always continue to do what He has called you to. The light shines brighter in the darkness. He is always with you, and greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world! (*1 John 4:4*). And, if things do get rougher than we expected them to, let's not lose our faith, or our hope, but stay faithful until the end.

1 John 3:2-3

²Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Keep your hope fixed on Him.

APPENDIX FOUR: Can We Hasten His Coming?

Forty years ago, I remember Christians who didn't want Jesus to come back yet. They wanted to live their lives, see their children grow up etc. They weren't very passionate about seeing Jesus' return. On the other hand, there were those who thought He was coming back any second and they were irresponsible, went into debt, didn't plan for the future etc. I don't believe either one of these groups were aware of the part the Church has to play in His return. In the book of Revelation, before Jesus returns, we see martyrs and all the saints praying, and a violent, heavenly response to these prayers (*Revelation 6:9-10, 8:3-5*).

I believe our longing for Jesus to come and set up His righteous rule, actually quickens His coming.

Look at what Peter wrote:

2 Peter 3:12-13

¹²**looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (*Emphasis mine*).

Looking for and ***hastening the coming*** of the day of God. Even though this earth will burn up, we are to still look for and hasten, or speed up, His coming. And He has promised us a new heaven and a new earth—one which contains righteousness. He continues:

2 Peter 3:14-15

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation;

Peter is encouraging us not to listen to the reasonings of the mockers who think that all is well and it just doesn't look like the Lord is going to come back. He's also saying that we can do something to speed up what will start the whole process of His coming.

I like verse 12 in the Amplified Classic:

2 Peter 3:12 AMPC:

¹²While you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God.

We are waiting and earnestly longing for the coming of the day of God. It seems that our longing, and our expectancy of this day, actually hastens its coming. Even if we don't know exactly when it will be.

I don't claim to know what will finally prompt the Father to send the Son, but the prayers of the saints seem to be an instrumental point. We read about the cries of the martyrs at the 5th seal and then the prayers of the saints at the 7th seal. These cries and prayers of the saints appear to set off the trumpets and begin the countdown clock.

There are (at least) four conditions that affect the Lord's return:

The Preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom in the Whole World

Jesus said the end would come after the preaching of the Gospel of the kingdom to all the world (*Matthew 24:14*). We see the preaching of the Gospel represented by the white horse of the 1st seal. It must continue until the end so when He comes, He will find faith in the earth (*Luke 18:8*).

The Church becoming His Ekklesia

When we, the Church, learn to govern under His authority as His ekklesia, we hasten His coming. When the disciples began to understand and operate in their authority in Christ, Jesus said He saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven (*Luke 10:18*). Once he is displaced from heaven, his time is very short (*Revelation 12:12*).

The Church becoming His pure Bride

We become the Lord's pure Bride when we make ourselves ready to meet Jesus, and passionately desire Him. No longer do we want Him to delay His coming so we can "live our lives." We want to be with Him! We seek purity because of our longing for our Groom. This too hastens His coming. (*Revelation 19:7-9, Ephesians 5:26-27, Hebrews 9:27-28, 1 John 3:2-3, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Colossians 1:22, James 4:5*).

The Cries of the Martyrs and Prayers of the Saints

This is the passionate prayer for the Lord's judgment and His righteous rule to come. We desperately want His righteous rule over the earth. We are not cowering in a corner; we are doing what He's called us to do. Yet, we are grieved over the lost souls and the level of wickedness in the earth. We know there is only so much we can do, and that only His rule will make things right. Again, we see this represented in the 5th and 7th seals. (*Revelation 6:10, 8:3*).

In the last chapter of the Bible, Revelation 22, Jesus said three times that He was coming quickly (*verses 7, 12, and 20*). In the same chapter, John wrote that **"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' (verse 17). And then, "Amen. Come Lord Jesus."** (*Verse 20*).

Jesus taught us to pray, **"Your kingdom come,"** Or really to declare, "Kingdom of God—come forth!" (*Matthew 6:10*).

We, the Church, have a part to play in His return. We can hasten His coming. We must be about His business, preaching the gospel to the nations. We must fall deeply in love with Him and purify our heart. We must know our authority in Him and enforce His kingdom rule; and we must pray and long for Him to come and make things right.

Most importantly, is for us to focus on being close to Jesus and to follow His Spirit in taking our place and part. Could it be that we're waiting for Him to come, but the Father is waiting for us to be ready before He sends His Son?

If it appears that the Lord is delaying His coming, don't be discouraged. Consider what Peter said.

2 Peter 3:3-6

³Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of

creation.”⁵ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water,⁶ through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

Peter discussed the mockings of mockers in the end times who say that everything is continuing as it was since the beginning of creation. Nothing’s changed. Where’s the Lord? Peter says it “escapes their notice,” or they forgot, about Noah and the **entire population of the world** (minus eight people) being destroyed by a flood due to the rampant sin at the time. This had occurred about 2500 years before this was written (It’s been about 4500 years now). He goes on. . .

2 Peter 3:7-9

⁷ But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ⁸ But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

He said not to let it escape *your* notice, even if it has escaped other people’s notice, that the Lord does not forget His promises. He’s not slow, He’s patient. It’s His mercy that makes it seem like a long time coming. He’s waiting for more people to come to repentance before He sends His Son Jesus back to earth to finish up what was started.

2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

The Day of the Lord is going to happen, suddenly. This time with fire—and intense heat.

2 Peter 3:11

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

This is a somber thought, one that leads to the fear of the Lord. We must not live like the mockers, thinking it’ll never happen in our lifetime, or if it does, it’s not going to be that big of a deal. We must conduct ourselves in holiness and godliness while waiting for Him to return.

Amen. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Until then, let us do our part as the Church to eagerly look for Him, and hasten His coming.

APPENDIX FIVE: Three and a Half Years

I don't see the need to try to piece every one of these days and months mentioned together to find the minute details of how they fit. (Though I've tried!) However, it is worth looking at them together to get a sense for how long some of these situations or events last.

At least four times in the book of Revelation there are periods of 3 ½ years mentioned. Other passages in the book of Daniel are also referenced. Let's take a moment to speculate on these time periods.

Revelation 11:2: John was told to measure the temple, but not to measure the court outside the temple for it had been given to the nations who would tread the holy city underfoot for 42 months (3 ½ years). It may be that the holy city is trampled underfoot around the time that the two witnesses are prophesying. They are spoken of at the same time.

Revelation 11:3: The two witnesses will prophesy for 1260 days (just under 3 ½ years). They are killed by the beast (*Revelation 11:7*).

Revelation 12:6: The woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness where she would be nourished for 1260 days (just short of 3 ½ years). And again **Revelation 12:14** says the woman was nourished for a time, times, and half a time (one year, plus two years, plus a half a year = 3 ½ years).

Revelation 13:5: The beast was given authority to act for 42 months (3 ½ years). The antichrist's authority is a global authority, and he's also given authority to make war with the saints and overcome them (*Revelation 13:7*). He speaks arrogantly and blasphemously. **Daniel 7:23-25** also speaks of a period of 3 ½ years where an end-time king will devour the earth, tread it down, and crush it. He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints. He will overcome the saints until judgment is passed in their favor and they take possession of the kingdom (*Daniel 7:18, 21-22, 25-27*).

He will make a covenant for "one week" or seven years, but break it halfway through. (*Daniel 9:27*). The blasphemous reign of the beast will continue until the Lord returns and he is defeated. By which point he will have rallied other kings to defeat Babylon and convinced them to gather with him at Armageddon to face the Lord at His return (and, of course, be quickly defeated).

Daniel 12:11-12: Daniel was told that from the time the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there would be 1290 days. He added that the one who keeps waiting until the 1335 days is blessed (which would seem to indicate Jesus' coming). (*Daniel 9:27, Daniel 12:7, 11-12*).

It seems that all of this occurs during the trumpet period, though the antichrist reign would continue into the period of the bowls when God's wrath is poured out and the battle of Armageddon occurs.

APPENDIX SIX: The Judgment Seat of Christ

At some point, all believers in Christ will face the judgment seat of Christ. The book of Revelation doesn't specifically say when this judgment is. (There is the great white throne judgment in Revelation 20:11-15, which is a separate judgment). Is the judgment seat of Christ something that occurs personally for each person after death, or more of a group experience?

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

⁹Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (*Emphasis mine*).

Romans 14:10

¹⁰But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For **we will all stand before the judgment seat of God**. (*Emphasis mine*).

Whenever it occurs, all believers in Christ will experience an examination and recompense of what we've done on earth, good and bad. Our works are looked at—so we thank God for His forgiveness and the cleansing blood of Jesus! Facing Him without it would be unthinkable! But there are crowns to be received also!

2 Timothy 4:8

⁸in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

We don't know where in the timeline of end-time events this will occur, or too many details about it, but it is something to be aware of.

(See also James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:4, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Revelation 22:12, Luke 19:11-26).

APPENDIX SEVEN: Revelation Worship

Some years ago, when I felt I had hit a wall in my understanding of the book of Revelation, the Holy Spirit prompted me to read, and memorize, the Scriptures in Revelation that proclaimed or prompted some type of worship of the Lord, beginning with chapter four. He said to only read those Scriptures and not any other part of the book. I did this for at least a year, meditating on these Scriptures as I memorized them.

What I found was a story of its own which helped me understand the book from a different perspective. I list these Scriptures here. The actual worship portion is in bold. That is the part I memorized. For reference, I include the portion of Scripture which tells who is speaking, and in italics I include what occurs between the verses. However, I would encourage you to just read the bold portions slowly, meditating on them, to get a sense for how things proceed during this period.

Eternal, Ongoing Throne-room Worship

Revelation 4:8

⁸ . . . the four living creatures . . . do not cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.”

Revelation 4:10-11

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders. . . cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ **“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”**

The Book and the Lamb Appear

Revelation 5:8-10

⁸ ... the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb... ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Jesus is Worthy of Worship

Revelation 5:11-12

¹¹ . . . I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders. . .

. ¹² saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

Revelation 5:13

¹³ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

Revelation 5:14

¹⁴And the four living creatures kept saying, “**Amen.**” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Six Seals Opened, 144,000 Sealed, Multitude Before the Throne in White Robes

Revelation 7:9-10

⁹. . . a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues . . . ¹⁰and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 7:11-12

¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying,

“Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

The Seventh Seal, The Two Witnesses, The Seven Trumpet Blasts

Revelation 11:15-18

¹⁵Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁶And the twenty-four elders . . . fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying,

“We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Israel and Christ’s History, Satan Cast Out of Heaven

Revelation 12:10-12

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. ¹²For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

The Beast, 144,000 on Mount Zion, Angel Warnings, Reapers Reap

Revelation 15:2-4

². . . those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. ³And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

**“Great and marvelous are Your works,
O Lord God, the Almighty;**

**Righteous and true are Your ways,
King of the nations!
“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy;
For all the nations will come and worship before You,
For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”**

First Three Bowls of Wrath are Poured Out

Revelation 16:5-7

⁵And I heard the angel of the waters saying, **“Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; ⁶for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.”**

⁷And I heard the altar saying, **“Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”**

*Bowls of Wrath Completed, Beast and Kings Gathering to War Against the Lamb
Babylon Has Fallen*

Revelation 18:2, 4, 20

²Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! ⁴I heard another voice from heaven, saying. . .

²⁰**Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”**

Revelation 19:1-7

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying,
“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; ²because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.”

³And a second time they said, **“Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.”**

⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, **“Amen. Hallelujah!”**

⁵And a voice came from the throne, saying,

“Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.”

⁶Then I heard *something* like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying,

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

⁷**Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”**

Jesus Returns to Earth with the Armies of Heaven, The Beast and False Prophet are Seized, the Rest are Killed, and Satan is Bound for a Thousand Years

