

WHEN IS THIS GOING TO HAPPEN?

PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON REVELATION CHAPTER 6-20 FEBRUARY 7, 2021

The letters to the seven churches end with the church of Laodicea. It was a church where Christ was no longer welcomed. The other churches had their problems: loss of their first love, fear of persecution, flares of compromise, corruption, spiritual deadness, and smallest in size and strength but you could not go any lower than the last church, the church of Laodicea. They took the prize in how far away you can go from God.

They became a church where the Living Word was no longer welcomed. The real Christ was pushed out. They became a church void of grace, truth and life.

Not only were these churches historic assemblies with real problems. It seems they chronologically and prophetically portrayed the problems assemblies around the world experienced throughout the church age. Of course, each age, each departure from truth, brought the church further from God.

The final age ends with a type of Christianity stripped of all truth and direction. The assembled body exchanged the truth of God for a lie and cast the Living Word out of their assemblies and out of their lives.

Listen, I am going to be blunt. This is the age in which I believe we live. An age where multitudes of churches are accepting gay marriages, abortion, euthanasia, gay and transvestite priests and pastors. An age where the Word of God is being feminized, stripped of its content and trampled upon.

It is an age that is exchanging the incorruptible God into a god of their vain imaginations. They are remaking the Word of God into a gospel of sensual fantasies. It is a church without God, without truth, without grace, without hope and without life.

So, where do we go from here except to the darkest pits of hell and to the bottomless evils of human and demonic depravity. BUT the good news is what is seen next in the book of Revelation.

“After this I (John) looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter” (Rev. 4:1).

In other words, what is left of the True Church is taken up (Raptured) into heaven where the storm clouds of God's wrath are seen gathering around His throne. His wrath is being made ready to be poured out upon the earth and against the growing human rebellion forming around the world. There (*in this heavenly scene*) the Lamb of God, the seed of Jesse, stands to reclaim what is rightfully His.

In the next 15 chapters we are going to see Christ reclaim all that is His. In doing so, God's wrath is going to be poured out on the earth in a series of stunning, natural and supernatural events.

Chapter 6 opens with the seal judgments. We believe this chapter covers a 3 ½ year period in which 1/4th of the world will be devastated by wars, plagues, famine and death.

After a brief respite, the seventh seal opens in chapter 8. From it pours seven trumpet judgments upon the earth. They are more intense in nature. They will affect 1/3rd of all the trees, grass, seas, rivers and water sources. Because of this devastation, there is a temporary darkening of the sky. Apparently the light coming from the sun, moon and the stars will be darkened.

This is followed by a demonic plague that will be unlike anything that occurred before. It will torment those affected for five months. It will not kill the earth's inhabitants, but men will wish they were dead but can't die. Following this a 200-million-man army will arise killing 1/3rd of the earth.

Chapters 10 to 15 & 17 give a description of the spiritual warfare that is taking place on the earth. It describes the Antichrist, his government, the false religions, and the nature of life for those who find Christ.

In Chapters 16 to 18 describe the seven bowl judgments. They are the final outpouring of God's wrath; each happens in rapid succession. It brings about the demise of the greedy merchants and ends their commerce. It will also bring about the end of the world's false religions and collapse the world's government.

This is followed by the return of the Lord and His army in Chapter 19. Our returning King will have the Antichrist, the False Prophet cast into the lake of fire.

In Chapter 20, Satan is bound and locked away in the bottomless pit for 1000 years and the establishment of the Lord's 1000-year reign will take place on earth.

At the end of the 1000 years a final revolt occurs which is dealt with immediately by God. The white throne judgment takes place and is followed by the new heavens and earth being set up.

This is just a brief and incomplete summary of things that lay ahead. In the weeks that follow we will take the time to carefully go through each section.

We will find intermingle within this terrible period of history glimmers of hope, blessing and promise to those who turn to the Lord.

What I want to address next with the time remaining are four important points that will help us in our study.

Point #1: How long will this period of tribulation be? Many of us have heard it will be seven years long, but how do we know this? The book of Revelation does not address this, but it is addressed elsewhere.

Point #2: How will we know when this terrible period of time begins? Is there something that kicks this period of time off?

Point #3: How far away or close are we to this period of history? Are there any clues in Scripture that may help us.

Point #4: Where will the church be during this time?

POINT #1:

How long will the tribulation be?

Though Revelation does not state how long the tribulation will be, the book of Daniel does. There are two items that help us pinpoint this time period.

1. **Daniel 9:24** – “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”

Daniel predicts that six things will occur by the end of this seventy-week period.

- a. to finish the transgression,
- b. to make an end of sins,
- c. to make reconciliation for iniquity

The first three were fulfilled when Jesus went to the cross.

- d. to bring in everlasting righteousness,
- e. to seal up the vision and prophecy,
- f. to anoint the most Holy

these last three will be fulfilled at the end of the book of Revelation.

So, we have the time frame of Daniel's vision. 69 weeks of it have already been fulfilled. There still one week or seven years left to fulfill this prophecy.

The next part of his vision is more detailed. But two things are key in relationship to book of Revelation.

- a. **Daniel's prophecy is made up of 70 – 7-year periods.** 69 of those 7-year periods were accomplished when Jesus died and rose again. Only *(one week or)* one 7-year period is left.

b. Daniel 9:27a

“And he (that is the Prince of the people – the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week”

One week equals 7 years.

So, the Antichrist will make a covenant involving Israel with many and it is designed to last seven years.

This caused many to pause when Trump made the Abrahamic Accord with many. Though that is not the covenant spoken here, one like it will be made.

Several things we learn from this.

- 1) A covenant will be made involving Israel and others. It will start the seven-year time clock. If we have not been raptured beforehand, this is what we should be looking for to inaugurate the tribulation period.

2) The covenant seems to have a seven-year aspect to it.

c. Daniel 9:27b

“In the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation”

Here we learn that in the middle of this seven-year period **the sacrifices will be stopped**, and the temple mount will be defiled until the Messiah returns. Both Matthew 24 and 2 Thess. 2 confirm this point.

1) This means that either before the tribulation period begins or in the beginning of the tribulation period the Jewish sacrifices will begin again.

POINT #1:

How long will the tribulation be? Seven years. It also means the Jewish sacrifices will restart at some point and be interrupted 3 ½ years into the tribulation.

POINT #2:

How will we know when this terrible period of time begins? Is there something that kicks this period of time off?

We learned that a covenant involving Israel and others be signed.

POINT #3:

How far away or close are we to this period of history? Are there any clues in Scripture that may help us?

Daniel 2 describes the major world powers from Daniel’s life until the end of time.

1. Babylon
2. Medio-Persian
3. Grecian Empire
4. Roman Empire
 - a. Mixed with clay
 - b. Dividing into ten toes

c. Then the Lord's kingdom.

5. We are in the mixed portion just before the ten toes or the world is divided into ten region kingdoms ruled by the Antichrist.

POINT #4:

Where will the church be during this time? Revelation 3:10

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”

1 Thess. 4:16-17

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”