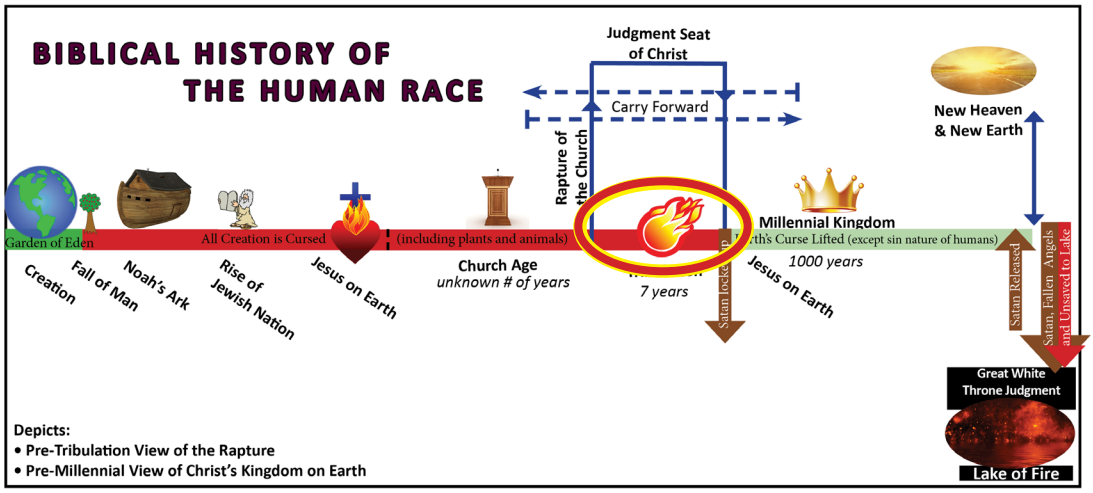
3b THE TRIBULATION - PART 1

NOTES



See page 183 toolbox for full-page image.

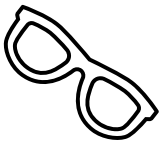
This portion is intended to be an **optional teaching** derived from the Leave-Behind Love Letter entitled ***After the Rapture: Hell on Earth***. The purpose of these two chapters is to provide Scriptural insight into the **seven years on earth** between the church age and the Millennial Kingdom era (while we are in heaven enjoying the Bema/Judgment Seat of Christ and the Wedding Ceremony). This is properly called **The Tribulation** or **The Wrath of God.** This is not meant to be an all-encompassing teaching; it is simply a snapshot of that period of time on earth.

As you learned in the prior chapter, true believers will not be on the earth during this period of time and will, therefore, not experience what is described here. However, it is a good idea to be familiar with ALL parts of the Bible, as it is an integrated book.

One important reason to study this particular period is that in doing so it should foster a heightened attitude of thanksgiving and gratitude toward our Savior. Another reason **might be** to provide a basis for discussion with unbelievers about the future they could experience (if they are alive at that time). This should be carefully and prayerfully done.

NOTES

It is recommended that you have one of the original books on hand, as more is provided in the original book. It contains information about the Rapture, where believers are during these seven years and about salvation from a non-believer's perspective. You are studying much of this already, so these portions are omitted from these two chapters.



Before you begin, you may consider jumping ahead for just a few minutes to pages 98-99 of your ALL RISE study guide. Read the section entitled **"USING AN EASTERN VIEWPOINT TO INTERPRET BIBLICAL SYMBOLS."** You will find this most helpful as you continue in this part of the study.

Note that the *AFTER THE RAPTURE* book is written as if the rapture has already occurred. It is still future today, but at some point it will be current and then past. **Remember this viewpoint as you study the text presented here and consider how you might "feel" if you were experiencing it yourself (put yourself in their "shoes.")**

From the book **After the Rapture: Hell on Earth***:*



What just happened?

The Rapture of the Church

As if the world isn't spinning out of control enough already, something seemingly unbelievable just happened! Literally millions have just "disappeared," causing people to ask, "Where did they go? Are they dead or alive somewhere? Why did some disappear and not others? Why them? What was different about them?"

My guess is that all kinds of "theories" and "explanations" are flying around. I'd bet some are suggesting "alien abductions" or something similar. Who knows what will be dreamed up to explain

the "unexplainable" - literally millions of people disappearing around the globe at the exact same time. Not dying, disappearing - poof - gone!

The bottom line is this event cannot be explained naturally. But it can be explained using the oldest textbook around, the ***Holy Bible***. In fact, the Bible contains the only dependable truth about what just happened.

My intention in leaving this for you is so you know what has happened AND can have a reasonable idea of what will happen in the days and years ahead.

Creating an exact (Biblical) chronological timeline for these end-time events is not possible. Some Bible scholars disagree as to the exact timing of the various events in Scripture; that is WHEN, during the seven year period, each event occurs. However, the order of the events is universally accepted as presented in the Bible itself.

As you begin to witness these events unfold as they are listed here, I pray you will become convinced of the truth I leave for you. Please "hold on to this book" as you will want to have it one day. It will "predict" the future for you as life becomes more dangerous and more intolerable every day until the end of these seven years.

> *[3]Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because ____ _____ ___ _____. Revelation 1:3*

Think about these things as I attempt to explain what is coming up next. Pray and ask God if I am telling you the truth.

If you have already been "left behind," why should you care about what's going to happen next?

1. **That wasn't your last chance to escape the hell on earth that is coming**. But physical death (suicide) won't help, please don't try that. Your physical

NOTES

NOTES

death right now could make it much worse for you in the days ahead. Keep reading.

2. You should expect the next few years to be the **darkest hours in human history.** Make no mistake, although Satan and the coming Antichrist and False Prophet will be instruments used to bring about the close of this age, **it is God, Himself, allowing the horrible things to occur in the upcoming years. I'll explain this in *The Removal of the Restrainer* in a few pages.**

In case you are wondering why God would do this, there are several reasons for the events that will occur (we don't have to agree with these, they just "are"):

- To punish unbelieving sinners - He has been warning humanity that rebellion has consequences since the beginning of time. His patience with rejection and rebellion has finally run its course.
- To prove His power
- To portray Satan's true character
- To prepare Israel (Jews) for the arrival of their Messiah - Jesus (Yeshua) - a promise He made and is now fulfilling. God always keeps His promises - always - even if we don't agree or like them.
- **To provide salvation to many**: God will graciously use the Tribulation period to draw more people to Himself in repentance and trust. You see, He loves you and still wants to save you. A huge number of people will be saved during the next seven years. You could be one of them, if you wish to be.

> *9After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. Revelation 7:9*

[13]Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" [14]I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; Revelation 7:13 -14

So, what will happen next?

The Seven-Year Tribulation Period

There are at least two major events that may or may not have already happened. I am writing about them here because even though they may have already happened, the swiftness of the event's succession may be such that I don't have time to change this writing before I leave the earth. If they have already occurred, just know that they were foretold in the Bible thousands of years ago with stunning accuracy. I hope by knowing that and watching it happen in your lifetime will give you additional confidence of the truth of other passages in the Bible about the future.

1. A total destruction of the City of Damascus, Syria.

[1]A prophecy against Damascus: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become ___ _____ __ _____." Isaiah 17:1

2. A huge invasion **attempt** *(Ezekiel 38 & 39)* against Israel lead primarily by Russia, Turkey and Iran will occur. This invasion attempt will be thwarted by God, Himself, using largely the power of nature that He alone controls, and human chaos that He imposes on the invading armies. It will be a supernatural victory for Israel - not the IDF or the Iron Dome that saves them.

As I said, one or both of these events may have already happened. If they have, you can be sure that the true Christian Believers will soon be leaving to go to heaven, if we have not already gone.

[15]As has just been said:
"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion." Hebrews 3:15

NOTES

NOTES

Again, I hope that you will **find it in your heart to listen to the Spirit of God** who continues to invite you to join Believers and be saved from an eternity in hell - which is apart from God and <u>all</u> that is good.

Doing so now (after the Rapture) won't get you to heaven until you die (sorry, that ship has sailed, no more rapture events). But it will assure you that you will be saved from **the horrors of hell for all eternity** (as they say in the song, "and that's a long, long time").

Just like when we were both on the earth, I am anxiously hoping to see you again (in heaven). **If you are in hell, that won't happen. We will never see each other again.**

Removal of the Restrainer

Going backward in time to the Garden of Eden, we see the introduction of Satan and his "influence" on humanity and the earth in general. The Bible calls him "the Prince of this World" (John 16:11). He has quite a bit of evil influence over the events happening on the earth. But he does not have **total control.** God always maintains ultimate control. Satan is a created being - he is not God and has no power apart from what **God allows him to have**.

Make no mistake, Satan HATES humans - he IS hate, he hates everyone and everything that is important to God and will do everything he can to hurt, torture and destroy them (us). **And you cannot be loyal enough to him to curry his favor.**

Until now, God has limited Satan's power over the earth. Satan's evil has been restrained by the Holy Spirit of God who has been "resident" in the hearts of Believers for the past 2000+ years. The Holy Spirit has protected the human race from total destruction - which is one of Satan's ultimate goals.

The Believers have now left the earth and are safely in heaven. The only humans left on earth (at

this moment) are "rebels" - who, up until now, have rejected Jesus' offer of forgiveness and salvation.

The Holy Spirit has not departed from the earth (not possible, as He is omnipresent meaning present everywhere all the time) but **He purposely steps aside for seven years allowing Satan to do as he wishes.** The result of His "stepping aside" is a dramatic increase in evil around the world. If you think things are bad now, brace yourself, it is about to get much, much worse! In real time you are watching the earth "move closer to hell" in a sense - **become more "hellish" every day.**

Likewise, until now, the "man of lawlessness" (Satan's CEO, the Antichrist) has been kept in secret and has been restrained from doing what Satan wants him to do (trust me, it's not good!).

> *6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7*

> *9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, 10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they _____ ___ _____ ___ _____ and _____ so ___ _____. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10*

This really isn't about Satan, the Antichrist or the False Prophet. **It is between you and God -** they are just players in these end times.

Who are the main players in the final days?

I am fairly sure they won't go by these "titles" but their behavior and the reaction by the world should make them fairly easy to identify.

NOTES

NOTES

Satan's CEO: The Antichrist

aka "the man of lawlessness"

More than one hundred passages of the Bible describe the origin, nationality, character, career, conquest and doom of this evil **world ruler** known as **the Antichrist.** Clearly God wants you to know something about the coming (probably already here on the earth even before the Rapture, but perhaps not yet identified or empowered) ***prince of darkness.***

- **The word Antichrist refers both to an individual (an actual human being) and to the system he represents.**
- He is an archenemy and opponent of Jesus Christ.
- **He will be indwelled and empowered by Satan himself.**
- He will mimic the ministry of the true Son of God in many ways.

He will come "on the scene" in the world at a time of ultimate chaos (no doubt some of which is a result of the Rapture of the Church with millions of believing Christians "disappearing" all at the same time).

Add to this wars, civil unrest, pandemics, fires, massive earthquakes and other natural disasters, food and clean water shortages and much more. I believe I just described your world today... He will be viewed by the world as a man of vision and charisma and will be seen as the most incredible leader the world has ever known. He will be very attractive in all ways and will be able (by the power of Satan) to perform many incredible miracles making him even more impressive and easy to "follow."

One description I found while writing this says:

> *"The world will go delirious with delight at his manifestation. He will be the seeming answer to all its needs. He will be filled with all the fullness of Satan. Handsome, with a charming, rakish, devil-may-care personality, a genius, superbly at home in*

NOTES

all the scientific disciplines, brave as a lion with an air of mystery about him to tease the imagination or to chill the blood as occasion may serve, a brilliant conversationalist in a score of tongues (languages), a soul-captivating orator, he will be the idol of all mankind." --- John Phillips

Have you ever seen or known any person who could fill all those descriptions? I haven't. So, when he appears and makes himself known to the world, **understand that the Tribulation (seven years of horror) is about to begin.**

According to the Bible, here are some of his attributes:

- He will be a "Gentile" – a non-Jewish person.
- He will mesmerize the world with his words.
- He will rise from obscurity, initially seen by the world as a great "peacemaker."
- He will establish a one-world economy.
- He will rule the world.
- He will claim to be God.
- Near the middle of the Tribulation period, he will be assassinated or violently killed but will be raised back to life.
- The whole world will be amazed and **willingly follow him.**
- He will be indwelled, controlled and energized by Satan.
- He will mercilessly pursue and persecute the Jewish people.
- He will be promoted by a second "beast" (called in the Bible, the False Prophet) who will lead the world in worship of him.
- By the middle of the seven-year period most of the people of the world will be so deceived by him that they will pledge absolute loyalty to him and will

NOTES

gladly show their loyalty by getting **a special "mark"** (probably somewhat like a tattoo or brand) on their forehead or right hand.

He does not "force" this mark on people, no one will hold you down and make you take it. If you refuse, however, he will see it as an indication of disloyalty to him. **As punishment, you will not be able to buy or sell things - like food**, for example, and **you may be beheaded**. See more on this in a few pages.

The False Prophet

The Bible also describes another man (again, a human being) who will rise to power in the Tribulation (the seven years you are living in right now). He will serve as the lieutenant for the Antichrist, preparing the way and catapulting him to power and unparalleled success. **He will be able to perform incredible miracles, signs and wonders with power supplied by Satan.** Using these "wonders," the false prophet will convince the world that the Antichrist is the leader they've been looking for –"the man with the plan to solve all the world's problems" caused by the chaos and instability from the rapture and the appearance of the "horsemen of the apocalypse." The world will have such severe problems to deal with, as I will soon explain, they (you?) will welcome someone with such power.

According to the Bible, here are some things to watch for:

- He will bring down fire from heaven and perform many other "miracles."
- At the middle of the seven years, he will erect an image of the Antichrist for all the world to worship. In the Bible this is called "the abomination of desolation." It will be placed in the newly reconstructed Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. All people will be required to bow down to it or die. He will give "life" to this image of the Antichrist

(animate it).

- He will raise the Antichrist from the dead (at least it will appear that it happens, we really can't be sure what actually happens here because they will be masters of deception).
- He will control world commerce on behalf of the Antichrist requiring everyone to take the "mark of the beast" to buy food and other necessities to survive.

Conclusion

The two "beasts" (the Antichrist and False Prophet) **will work together with Satan to rule the world.**

- They will begin with part of the world and will continue to gain more and more control as the Tribulation period progresses.
- Their power will grow **at the will of the people and they will be welcomed**.
- They will be supernaturally energized by Satan, forming an unholy trinity with him that will deceive the world.

Do not fear, for the Lord Jesus will return to reclaim title deed to the earth at the end of the seven-year period, and He will claim, as His own, those **who love Him.**

Then, the true final world empire will begin and the earth will return to Garden of Eden-like conditions. I'll tell you more about this later, to give you hope.

The Beginning of the Tribulation

(Exactly 2,520 days)

1. Right now **the world is, no doubt, chaotic, dangerous and frightening.** The Rapture has occurred, and other calamities (war and the fear of nuclear disaster, global financial issues, massive unemployment, high food and other prices, pandemics, etc.) exist as well. People are turning

NOTES

NOTES

against one another (even within families, friends and neighborhoods) with their own governments perpetuating the problems.

2. During this chaos, **the Antichrist and False Prophet will emerge and rise to power (remember, both are humans) – the power to rule will be eagerly given to them** by the frightened people of the world.

3. The Antichrist will affirm, sign or strengthen a peace treaty with Israel. This treaty (or treaties) will usher in a **temporary peace for the Middle East.** No doubt, the Israelis will see it as a way to protect themselves from the threats that surround them.

   The signing (or affirming) of the peace treaty could happen very soon after the Rapture or it could be several days, weeks, months or even a few years. During this time, it won't be easy or pleasant to live, but all chaos won't break out (the wrath of God) until that peace treaty has been signed. That is the starting point, not the Rapture.

   It is the signing (or affirmation) of a covenant of peace with/for the nation of Israel that inaugurates the Tribulation period and **sets the end-time clock in motion. Remember that the Tribulation period will last for exactly 2,520 days (7 Jewish-calendar years) from the date of signing of that treaty.** For those who have been "left behind" but have since put their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, I hope this is somewhat encouraging. Although it will be very bad, **it won't last forever. Start counting the days as soon as that treaty is signed and put your faith and hope in Jesus to save you from ultimate destruction.**

4. **A new Jewish temple will be constructed on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem,** and the Jews will get the right to once again offer sacrifices there. It is likely that the "Ezekiel 38 War" has happened. It is possible that the existing Dome of the Rock and

NOTES

the Al-Aqsa Mosque may need to be removed from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem to allow for the building of this (3rd) Jewish Temple there. In the current "religious climate," I doubt that removal of these buildings would be allowed by "radical Muslims" if they are still powerful in the middle east. However, it is also possible that the new Jewish Temple will simply "co-exist" there with the other religions. The Scriptures don't say which of these will occur.

5. **A 10-nation confederation will emerge out of a reunited "Roman Empire"** to govern a large part of the world. The 10-nation confederacy will be a political and military alliance that unites many nations under one ruler. This will be taken over by the Antichrist and will serve as a staging ground for the Antichrist's rise to global power.

The Countdown Has Begun

Assuming that the treaty for Israel has been signed, the Seven Years of Tribulation has already begun. Let me try to explain what is about to happen as foretold by the Apostle John in his prophetic writing in the Bible known as the Book of Revelation. It is important to understand what the "symbols" used mean in real-life terms. You can't simply visualize them and understand what is being said.

The Bible is an ancient middle-eastern compilation of books that must be understood through the eyes of the writers and readers of that time and place. I'll do my best to explain them as they present themselves. Many are "obvious," but some are not.

[If you haven't already done so, consider jumping ahead for just a few minutes to pages 98-99 of the ALL RISE study guide. Read the section entitled **"Using an Eastern Viewpoint to Interpret Biblical Symbols.**" You will find this most helpful as you continue on this part of the study.]

NOTES

What's Next? Seven Seal Judgments

Most Bible prophesy teachers agree that the seven "seals" are opened during the first half of the Tribulation (first 3½ years after the signing/extension of the peace treaty/protection agreement brokered by the Antichrist for Israel).

Just before the four "horsemen" appear in Revelation 6, John "sees" Jesus taking possession of the title deed to earth in Revelation Chapter 5. The Bible says that Satan is now the "god or prince of this world." The Book of Revelation is the story of Jesus - as both God AND a sinless representative of mankind - **reclaiming title deed to this world through His death on the cross and subsequent resurrection.**

The title deed is an ancient rolled-up scroll sealed by seven drops of wax. As Jesus begins to break each of the wax seals, events on earth begin to happen. (What John saw is symbolic - the events on earth are real.)

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

The first four seals are often referred to as *the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.* The term "apocalypse" means "revelation; a disclosure or revelation of great knowledge."

Seal #1: White horse – conquest

> [1]*I watched as the Lamb* [an expression used for Jesus] *opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"* [2]*I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. Revelation 6:1-2*

The "horse" isn't a horse in the sense of an animal like on the earth today. It is symbolic of a swift and powerful method of transportation, something that will happen quickly and forcefully. The crown is

NOTES

symbolic of power and authority.

Note that the "rider" of this horse has a bow but no arrows. It appears his "conquests" are by diplomacy and negotiation of a sort rather than outright war, but it proves to be just as deadly to mankind.

I believe that this is representative of the Antichrist appearing on the scene. He will "calm the world" with charisma and winsome charm. He will use pseudo peace as his primary tool. It will seem to work - for a short while. The world will "love him" because of it, but it won't last.

Seal #2: Red horse – war/conflict on earth

> *3When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" 4Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to _____ _____ _____ _____ _____. To him was given a large sword. Revelation 6:3-4*

Red means blood and blood means war. This represents war, strife and civil upheaval and reveals that many wars will occur all over the earth. The pseudo "peace" felt by the first horseman will be swiftly shattered by the wars of the rider of the second horse. Again, the "horses, riders and swords" are symbolic - they are not truly animals, people or literal swords. **They are things that happen and the results of things that happen.** I hope that makes sense. Consider the possibility of the "large sword" being weapons of mass destruction - maybe.

So far you should be seeing (a) global chaos and upheaval, followed by (b) pseudo peace and calm and then (c) wars and skirmishes breaking out just about everywhere. And you are only at "Horse #2"...

It is not told how long the period of time is between the appearance of each "horseman," but we know they all appear in less than 3½ total years. They could

NOTES

It is possible that the meaning of "do not damage the oil and the wine!" is referring to the ability to grow olive trees and grapes - and other agricultural products - within the nation of Israel. The Lord is beginning to fulfil His promises to the Patriarchs during this time period and this would be consistent with that idea. I am not sure, however, so I did not mention this in the original book.

come fairly close together and then linger and overlap for years or they could be spread out a bit. The Bible doesn't say.

SEAL #3: Black horse – famine

> *5When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!" Revelation 6:5-6*

The black horse represents famine. Balances (or scales) reveal scarcity. This indicates that following (or during, or as a result of) the many wars of the red horse, food and other necessities will become quite scarce. This is not uncommon during and after war.

You should expect hyper-inflation; food prices will skyrocket so high that it will take everything you can earn in a day just to buy enough food for yourself for one day (let alone a family) - if you can find anything to buy, that is. Of course, this doesn't cover any other living expense. The world will writhe in the clutches of poverty and stabbing hunger. The global economic collapse and food shortage will set the stage for the Antichrist to move firmly into position and seize control of the world economy (if he hasn't already done so). I wouldn't be surprised if he began "producing food" through "miracles" that will mesmerize the world causing more people to begin to worship him. I don't know if that will happen, as the Scriptures don't say.

Up to this point death isn't specifically mentioned. Although one must assume it is frequently occurring and the scale and magnitude are about to increase dramatically.

SEAL #4: Pale horse – widespread death on earth

NOTES

> *7When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a _____ ___ ____ _____ to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. Revelation 6:7-8*

This fourth and final horseman is named Death (Thanatos) and his partner is Hades. Thanatos is the only one of the four that is given a name. The word "pale" is the Greek word for "green." This is the ashen look of dead bodies without blood.

This horseman uses all the previously mentioned means and more to kill people: war, famine, disease and wild beasts. The first three of these are clearly understood. The last, wild beasts, may be simply animals who are hungry because their own food supply is shrinking or it may mean something else entirely. The **bottom line is that 1/4th of the world's population will be killed.** One fourth of today's population is nearly two billion people - in a very short period of time, perhaps all at once, it doesn't say. Where could all these people possibly be buried? Who will bury them; people who are starving, weak, sick, or scared themselves? *What do you think?*



Don't get hung up on the word "sword" in this Scripture - it is simply the method of killing by a government or adversary - even a friend or family member or neighbor. You can substitute gun, bomb, anything you can think of. Death is death.

Now if you have already placed your trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord - death is no big deal (actually a relief from what is yet to come). If not, try to stay alive as long as you can but don't pledge your loyalty to the Antichrist (world leader) or your fate for all eternity will be sealed. More on this later.

NOTES

SEAL #5: The Cry of the Martyrs

> *[9]When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. [10]They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and _____ ____ _____?" [11]Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters,[a] were killed just as they had been. Revelation 6:9-11*
>
> [a] The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family.

The "souls" mentioned here are Old Testament saints and new believers who are killed during the Tribulation period (this could be the new you). They cry out with a loud voice, *"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"* In essence the Lord says, *Wait until the full number of martyrs is completed.* This is chilling, isn't it?

What He is saying is that there are more to be martyred during this Tribulation period. Then, HE will get vengeance on their behalf. The Tribulation martyrs and Old Testament Saints are given white robes (the symbol of righteousness) and told to *"Rest or wait a little while longer."* They (you) will be rewarded and honored for dying the ultimate death for loyalty to Jesus.

SEAL #6: A Great Earthquake

> *[12]I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, [13]and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree*

NOTES

when shaken by a strong wind. [14]The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. [15]Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. [16]They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who _____ ___ _____ _____ and from the _____ ____ ____ _____! [17]For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" Revelation 6:12-17

Every part of society is affected by this world-wide earthquake and other cataclysmic events but consider the human reaction: The greatest prayer meeting that the world has ever seen commences. You would think that men and women would finally cry out to God for mercy. Instead, they pray to the rocks (to die, no doubt).

What's the result of all this? Do men turn to God? No! It just makes their hearts harder! There is a lesson here. The more often you say "no" to Jesus, the more difficult it is to ever say "yes." Saying "no, no, no" to God hardens your heart like a stone. If you happen to have access to a Bible, read the stories of Pharaoh in Exodus 7-11. Think of the men and women who listened to Noah's preaching/warning for 120 years, never repented, and died in the flood (Genesis 6-7). Be very careful – if you haven't already accepted Jesus' gift of grace by this time, it may soon be too late, you may run out of chances.

Seal #7: 30 minutes of silence in heaven

[1]When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Revelation 8:1

Why is heaven silenced? Maybe because those who are there just got a glimpse of what is to come next and it is taking their breath away. This is speculation as we are not told in the Scriptures why this occurred.



UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

1. Describe in a few sentences your prior knowledge about the Tribulation Period. How does it differ from what you learned in this chapter?

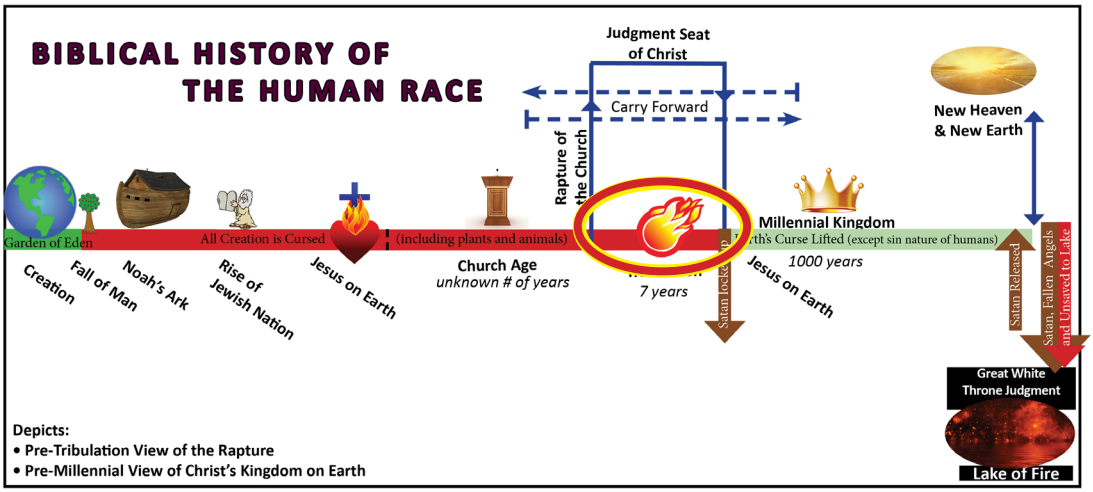
2. Describe how the timing of the Rapture of the Church and beginning of the Tribulation Period differ. If you need a refresher, look back at the Doctrine of Imminency on page 25 (ALL RISE) and compare it to what you learned in this chapter about the starting point of the Tribulation period as told in prophesy of Daniel. Why might this be important to know?

3. Can you "do the math" that provides the evidence that the Tribulation Period will last exactly 2,520 days? Hint: a Jewish calendar has 360 days (not 365) in each year.

4. The word "apocalypse" is often misunderstood. What does it mean from a Biblical perspective? Can you explain it to someone who does not know the Bible?

3c THE TRIBULATION - PART 2

NOTES



See page 183 toolbox for full-page image.

SEVEN TRUMPETS OF JUDGMENT

[2]And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

[3]Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. [4]The smoke of the incense,

_____ _____ _____ _____ ___ _____ _____, went up before God from the angel's hand. [5]Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

[6]Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. Revelation 8:2-6

FIRST TRUMPET: Vegetation Struck

[7]The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth.

NOTES

___ _____ ____ _____ _____ was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. Revelation 8:7

Hail and fire (perhaps caused by lighting - even dry air lighting) will **destroy over one-third of the earth's vegetation.** This will impact **the food supply** and plants that create **oxygen needed for life**. The burning of one third of the trees and grass will also cause tremendous amount of smoke around the world. This will make it difficult to breathe AND cause a partial darkening of sunlight which will have multiple negative effects as well.

SECOND TRUMPET: The Seas Struck

[8]The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into _____, [9]a third of the living creatures in the sea _____, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Revelation 8:8-9

This could happen in a few different ways. 1) huge fireballs (like meteors) could come from heaven or 2) huge volcanoes under the oceans (nearly 2 million of them have already been mapped by the time I wrote this) could begin erupting all at the same time. This would cause scores of fish and other sea creatures to die.

It would surely change the temperature of the ocean's water and likely affect ships as well. Think about thousands of dead orca whales floating everywhere. Think about icebergs and huge glaciers floating everywhere because of the increased temperature of the water.

No matter what "methodology" the Lord uses, the outcome will be what He says it will be. He states, *"one-third of the oceans will be polluted with blood. One third of the living sea creatures will die and a third of the ships will be destroyed."*

NOTES

Third Trumpet: Fresh Waters Struck

> *10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star,[a] blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— 11 the name of the star is Wormwood.[b] A third of the waters turned bitter, and _____ _____ _____ from the waters that had become bitter.*
> *Revelation 8:10-11*
>
> [a] Often "great star" is used to describe an angelic being of some sort.
>
> [b] Wormwood is a bitter substance.

I have no idea how this is manifested so the best I can do is say what the likely outcome is: contamination of one-third of the earth's fresh water supply. Many people and animals will get very sick and perhaps die from drinking the contaminated water. Remember that one third of the ocean water is already contaminated. Polluting the fresh water supply will cause two problems: lack of drinking water and water for cleaning and other needs AND death of fish that live there (like the oceans).

I looked up the word "wormwood" and found this: "Wormwood is potentially toxic if consumed in large quantities due to its thujone content. High doses can lead to seizures, hallucinations, and liver damage. It should be used with caution, especially in those with liver disorders or epilepsy."

I don't know what a "toxic level" is, but if you have no water to drink at all, what will you do? What will the animals do, how will it affect them? Could drinking it "drive them crazy" before it kills them? Recall death by "wild beasts" in Seal #4.

I used to watch a History Channel show called "Alone." In the show people were placed all alone in strange places (like the Arctic Circle or middle of Africa, South America, etc.). They had to survive alone with no external provision of food or water for as long

NOTES

as they could. Their #1 concern was always finding clean drinking water because they knew that without it they wouldn't live very long. Humans and animals can live without a lot of things for a while, **water isn't one of them**. How this "bitter water" could be filtered, I don't know. Again, it may be that the Antichrist will try to do some sort of miracle to appear to be "the good guy" in this situation, I don't know. He will do whatever serves his purposes (not those of "his subjects").

FOURTH TRUMPET: The Heavens Struck

> *12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was _____ _____, and also a third of the night. Revelation 8:12*

One-third of the sun, moon and stars will be darkened – If this was as simple as the sun, the moon and the stars producing 1/3 less light that would be bad enough. It would cause all kinds of chaos including crop failures, tidal issues and other natural disasters resulting in increased starvation because of the effect on crops. But read carefully what it says, "without light." If I do the math right 1/3 of the day and 1/3rd of the night is approximately 8 hours of total darkness - PITCH BLACK.

I visited some caverns a few times and they turned out all the lights for a minute. It was pitch black and it was frightening to the point of being almost painful. I don't know what I would do if it continued for 8+ hours every day.

It is one thing if a person has been blind for a while. As I understand it, their other senses will adapt to a certain degree so they can function. BUT if everyone on earth were to suddenly be forced to function 8 hours every day without any natural light - that will be quite different.

As I understand it, that is one of the things about the Lake of Fire (where unsaved/rebellious people go

after "hell") - it is pitch black so that you can't see anything or anyone. You can hear (mostly screaming) but you can't see anything, total blindness.

And now the inhabitants of the earth are being warned that it is about to become much worse.

[13]As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!" Revelation 8:13

Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

[1]The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star[a] that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. [2]When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. [3]And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. [4]They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, ***but only those people who did <u>not</u> have the seal of God on their foreheads.*** *[5]They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes.* ***[6]During those days people will _____ _____ but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.***

[7]The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. [8]Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. [9]They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots

NOTES

NOTES

rushing into battle. [10]They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails ***they had power to torment people for five months.*** *[11]They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). [12]The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come. Revelation 9:1-12*

[a] Again, this description is an angelic being of some sort

Ordinary locusts eat and harm plants to the point of stripping them of all their leaves and anything edible about them. These are NOT ordinary locusts. This is a demonic invasion to possess and torment (only) those on the earth who refuse to believe in and worship the true God of the universe and His Son, Jesus. It says that believers in Jesus Christ alive and on the earth will be spared this torment.

The creatures can torture the non-believers as much as they want for five months. Although the people stung by these demons will want to die, they will be unable to do so.

I was thinking about this and could only come up with what it felt like when I got a single bee-sting one time. It was AWFUL. I can't imagine how it will feel to get stung over and over for five months by something much worse than a bee-sting. I've never been stung by a scorpion, but that's how it is described.

SIXTH TRUMPET: The Angels from the Euphrates

[13]The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. [14]It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." [15]And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very

hour and day and month and year were released ___ _____ __ _____ ___ _____. [16]The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.

[17]The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. [18]A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. [19]The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

[20]The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. [21]Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts. Revelation 9:13-21

This is a demonic army invasion of 200 MILLION that will kill <u>one-third of remaining mankind</u> through multiple means. Remember one-fourth of mankind was already killed during Seal #4.

If I do this math correctly... if the earth's population starts at about 8 billion people, then 1/4 are killed (2 billion) in the Pale Horse #4 Seal Judgment, that leaves about 6 billion alive. Then 1/3 of the remainder are killed (another 2 billion), **that leaves only 4 billion alive,** which is 1/2 of those alive just a few short years ago. That's a LOT of death in just a few years. I'm certain that death seems preferable at this point. But for those going on to hell/the Lake of Fire, it will not be. For them, it will be even worse and it will be forever, without end.

NOTES



*These numbers were derived based on the current world population of 8.3 billion people - and assumes that about 300 million will be raptured (of course that, in and of itself, is speculation). A debate exists about whether the approximate 2 billion children will be raptured "automatically" as well. This could very well be the case (I personally hope so).

Do the math any way you like starting at 8 billion or 6 billion, then reduce the number first to 75% of that starting number, then to 66% of the product of your first calculation.

NOTES

Note that it says that those left alive still "did not repent." To "repent" means to change one's mind about something - to do a 180° turn and go the other way. This means that even though they can see all the death and devastation of the past few years, the majority of the remainder still believes their lifestyle is just fine - nothing wrong with it at all, that their life choices are not "the problem."

I keep hoping that you are not one of them!

SEVENTH TRUMPET:

Announcement of Christ's Reign

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, [Jesus] *and he will reign for ever and ever."*

Revelation 11:15

RECAP: Immediately before and during the first half of these 7 years of tribulation you should expect:

1. The total destruction of Damascus, Syria.

A prophecy against Damascus: *"See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. Isaiah 17:1*

2. "Gog" and his allies will invade Israel. The "Gog" coalition will be supernaturally decimated by God. "Gog" is an ancient name of a person who is the ruler of what is probably now modern Russia and nations that were the former Soviet Union: Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Afghanistan and others (perhaps Egypt, Sudan and Libya) could also be part of this Magog territory. Included in the coalition is Iran, Turkey and others. This is known in the Bible as the "Ezekiel 38 War."

*If you happen to be reading this (before the Rapture has occurred) and are a citizen of one of the countries listed, please know that you are not a "bad guy" in God's eyes **just because of your citizenship**. Jesus' gift of salvation is open to all humanity. All true believers will be Raptured and taken to heaven before the Tribulation begins, you do not need to be a part of the group for what God has written in these warnings, unless you choose to be so.*

3. God will supernaturally place "two witnesses" in front of the newly built Jewish Temple to begin their 3½ year ministry. For the 3½ years they are there no one will be able to hurt them or stop them from telling about the true God. They will have great power, including the power to stop rain, turn water into blood and strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they like.

> *[3]And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." [4]They are "the two olive trees" and the two lampstands, and "they stand before the Lord of the earth. [5]If anyone tries to harm them, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them _____ _____. [6]They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.*
>
> *[7]Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. [8]Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city* [Jerusalem] *—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.*

NOTES

NOTES

[9]For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. [10]The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

[11]But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, *and terror struck those who saw them. [12]Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.*

[13]At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city [Jerusalem] collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and _____ _____ ____ ____ _____ ____ _____. Revelation 11:3-13

4. 144,000 Jewish Believers will begin their evangelistic ministry – they will recognize Jesus as their awaited Messiah and will begin to evangelize other Jewish people.

[1]Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. Revelation 14:1

5. The seven "Seal Judgments" and seven "Trumpet Judgments" (previously mentioned) occur.

Midpoint of the Tribulation (at 3½ year point)

1. The Antichrist will break the covenant with Israel and invade it. (Daniel 9:27)

2. He will continue to consolidate his empire and

power by plundering Egypt, Sudan and Libya.

3. While in North Africa, the Antichrist will hear disturbing news of insurrection in Israel (See Revelation 11:13 on prior page *"giving glory to the God of heaven"* and will immediately return to Israel (Jerusalem) to destroy and annihilate many.

4. The Antichrist will set up the "abomination of desolation" in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem. The "abomination of desolation" referred to here is a statue or image of the Antichrist so that he may be worshiped in the place of God.

5. Sometime during these events, the Antichrist (remember he is a human) will be violently killed, possibly as a result of a war or assassination.

6. The Antichrist will be miraculously raised from the dead to the amazement of the whole world. This is to mimic the resurrection of Jesus 2000+ years ago.

7. Satan will be cast down from heaven and will war against Israel. The chief means he will use to persecute Israel is the Antichrist and False Prophet.

8. A faithful Jewish remnant of Israel (approximately 1/3rd of the Jewish residents of Jerusalem) will flee, possibly to Petra in Jordan, where God will supernaturally protect and sustain them for the remaining 3½ years of the Tribulation. The rest will remain in Jerusalem (or wherever they live at this time). Please remember to help them any way you can.

9. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will destroy the religious systems of the world and set up their political, religious and economic capital in the City of Babylon.

NOTES

NOTES

Now, on to the 2nd half of the 7-Year of Tribulation

1. The Antichrist blasphemes God, and the False Prophet performs great signs and wonders and promotes worship of the Antichrist.

2. The "Mark of the Beast"

> *16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to _____ ___ _____ on their _____ _____ or on their _____, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man [a]. That number is 666. Revelation 13:16-18*
>
> [a] Or "is humanity's number"

The name or "number" of the Antichrist's name, 666, will be introduced and enforced by the False Prophet.

The word "mark" in Greek (charagma) means "a mark or stamp engraved, etched, branded, cut, imprinted" such as a tattoo or branding. It is not medical (not a vaccine) or something that you would accept for any purpose other than to show allegiance to the Antichrist. It will be <u>used</u> to control commerce to some extent, but you won't get it simply for that purpose.

Accepting the mark of the Beast will **show your allegiance to the Antichrist.** It will not be possible to be neutral or undecided. You will be required to choose one way or the other.

Those who accept it will mark their everlasting doom as it is an unpardonable and irreversible sin.

If you refuse "the mark" (because you have

accepted Jesus' offer of salvation), you may be killed (beheaded) but will go to heaven immediately upon death and escape the rest of this horrible time on earth.

> *4I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Revelation 20:4*

3. Totally energized by Satan, the Antichrist will dominate the world politically, religiously and economically.

4. Knowing he has only a short time left, Satan will intensify his relentless, merciless persecution of the Jewish people and the Gentile (non-Jewish) **true believers** on the earth.

5. The upcoming Bowl Judgments are unleashed throughout the final half of the Tribulation period.

The Seven Bowl Judgments of the Second Half of the Tribulation Period Often Called "The Great Tribulation" begin

> *1I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—**last, because with them God's wrath is completed.** 5After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. 6Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. 7Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with _____ _____ ____ _____, who lives for ever and ever.*

NOTES

NOTES

[8]And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. Revelation 15:1, 5-8

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." Revelation 16:1

These bowl judgments will be poured out in rapid succession.

First Bowl: Loathsome Sores

[2]The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. Revelation 16:2

Note that the sores are only on those who worship the beast and take his mark, apparently those who have pledged themselves to Jesus - refusing the mark of the beast - will not suffer these sores. This is like the demons in the 5th Trumpet who couldn't attack Believers. It will be GREAT not to have to suffer with these sores - but, the Antichrist, the False Prophet and all the non-believers will be able to easily identify you. And they will hate you all the more! Of course, they could have known because you wouldn't have the Mark of the Beast either, so this is just confirmation. You won't be able to fake loyalty or sit on the proverbial fence any longer.



Can you think of a reason why God would kill all the sea creatures and elimate the oceans? Remember this question as you study Chapter 5 - consider the exploding population of the earth during the millennium.

Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood

[3]The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and _____ _____ _____ in the sea died. Revelation 16:3

NOTES

Note that the 2nd Bowl completes the job the 2nd Trumpet began. The remainder of all ocean/sea life now dies. Note that is says "turned into blood." It is actual blood (like that of a dead person, actual blood). The smell must be horrendous from blood and dying sea creatures that will, no doubt, be floating on the top as they die. And, the food supply continues to diminish, probably causing increased starvation and death of humans and animals as well.

Third Bowl: More of the Rivers and Fresh Waters Turn to Blood

> *4The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became _____. Revelation 16:4*

The 3rd Bowl continues the job the 3rd Trumpet began. Like the oceans/seas, more of the rivers and "springs of water" - likely ponds and lakes -- become actual blood. Again, the smell will be awful and air toxic from death and decay. This will kill fish, but it doesn't say that all the freshwater fish die. It will reduce the food supply once again. Worst of all, fresh water will become even more scarce but not non-existant as that would kill all remaining humanity - that is inconsistent with God's plan.

Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched

> *8The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. Revelation 16:8-9*

God either "dials up" the temperature of the sun or removes some of the ozone protection of the earth or something else of His choice, as He controls all nature. People will be scorched by the intensified heat of the sun - the ultimate painful sunburn. But they will still

NOTES

not acknowledge who God really is. These "people" have pledged their loyalty to the Antichrist and Satan and bear his "mark", and they refuse to repent (to "turn around" - change their mind) and glorify God.

This seems to me to be the prelude to their upcoming and eternal Lake of Fire experience.

Please, I so pray you are not one of them. If you are saved, help others - especially fellow believers and the Jewish people any way you can.

FIFTH BOWL: Darkness and Pain

> *[10]The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony [11]and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they _____ ___ _____ of what they had done. Revelation 16:10-11*

The expression "on the throne of the beast and its kingdom" in Revelation 16:10 essentially means the earth. Remember that <u>for now</u> the Antichrist and False Prophet are the rulers of the world. They serve Satan who is the "prince of the air" right now. All of the earth becomes dark, and people are in great pain.

The people of the Antichrist have painful sores, incredible sunburn, can't breathe the air because the air quality is so low, are starving and in much pain. I'm not sure how much the Antichrist and False Prophet can do to eliminate this suffering. But, knowing the character of Satan, I doubt how much he would do much, if anything, in their behalf anyway. He hates humanity in general and the Jews and Christians the most. He is not loyal to anyone but himself. By now, all "evidence" of his charm and charisma are no doubt long gone; he has gotten much of what he wants - the loyalty of most remaining humans (all branded 666).

Many new believers in Jesus are now dead and living in heaven (see Seal #5), but many are still alive and facing much of the horribleness of the earth right now. **Pray to focus on what is coming up soon;**

NOTES

living in Garden of Eden-like conditions and a great reward from Jesus for persevering to the end. He has promised a special reward for you.

Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

> *12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. 13 Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.*
>
> *15 "Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."*
>
> *16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. Revelation 16:12-16*

This is preparation for the final battle of good and evil of this era at Armageddon.

The "frogs" coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), the beast (the Antichrist) and the False Prophet are satanic demons. They coerce the "whole world" to go to battle in an attempt to annihilate the Jews once and for all. No doubt the Antichrist and False Prophet have convinced most of the people of the earth that the Jews and "their God" are responsible for all their woes and that annihilation of the Jews will solve their problems (anti-semitism on steroids). It makes sense to me - but I can't prove this. Of course, since they have pledged loyalty to the Antichrist, they will do his bidding anyway.

Some people from every nation on earth will

NOTES



"It is done!"

Does this proclamation "sound familiar?" Who else said it and when?

Remember that the words "the nations" means every non-Jewish nation or people group. This is a pretty sweeping prophesy.

Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

participate with the Antichrist in this battle and every one of them will be killed. No one on the side of the Antichrist will survive. Jesus, Himself, will return to earth to win this final battle.

Most Bible scholars agree that this is a specific place in Israel. Megiddo was an ancient city located on a plain in the southwest portion of the Valley of Jezreel or Esdraelon, the site of several significant ancient battles.

The Euphrates River will dry up to give easy passage to those invading armies of the Antichrist.

SEVENTH BOWL: The Earth Utterly Shake & Huge Hailstones

> *17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, **"It is done!"***
>
> *18 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it ____ _____ _____ since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. 19 The great city [Jerusalem] split into three parts, **and the cities of the nations collapsed**. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.*
>
> *21 From the sky _____ _____, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. Revelation 16:17-21*

I was thinking about the description here of the hailstones falling from the sky. If you happen to live somewhere that hailstorms don't occur, let me explain. A hailstone is essentially a rock made from ice that falls from the sky (mostly from clouds but not

always). A very large hailstone is about the size of a baseball (diameter about 2.8" or 7.3 cm MOL). It does a tremendous amount of damage to whatever it hits. If it hits something living, it can cause death. It can destroy large areas in a matter of minutes.

Consider the description of the size of the hailstones in this verse *[21]From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people.*

A 100 lb (45 kg) hailstone would be about 18 inches (45 cm) in diameter if it were a perfect sphere of solid ice with no air. This is roughly 6 times the size of baseball-sized hail.

They will **crush** everything they hit - people, animals, plants, cars, airplanes, anything outside. And will do tremendous damage to buildings as well, breaking windows and doors and collapsing roofs. The verse doesn't say how many of these huge hailstones will fall at that time, how close together they will be or how long this hailstorm will last. But WOW...

AND the largest earthquake ever will occur at the same time. All the islands and mountains of the earth are no more. Although still a sphere, for the most part the earth will be "flat" with virtually no hills and no mountains - pretty much the same elevation everywhere except Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be affected but it will remain elevated.

The preceding bowl judgments will be poured out in rapid succession during the second half of the Tribulation Period. How long each will last isn't specified unless the verse says so.

Then:

1. The Battle at Armageddon happens as Jesus returns to take possession of the earth and He will slay the armies gathered against Him simply by saying so. The "armies of heaven" will be with Him. This battle is not a single war, but the culmination of multiple battles/wars the Antichrist has been waging for the past several years.

NOTES

NOTES

2. Birds will gather to feed on the massive carnage - no one on "Jesus side" will be hurt at all.

3. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be captured and thrown alive into the Lake of Fire. They will be there alone for 1000 years.

4. The rest of the non-believers on the earth will be killed and sent to hell to await personal judgment at the Great White Throne 1000 years later.

5. Satan will be locked up in the Abyss (see Trumpet #5) for 1000 years but not yet sent to the Lake of Fire. No one ever leaves the Lake of Fire.

After this, a 75-day period will exist until the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. Many (good) things will happen during this transition period.

The earth will begin to heal itself (maybe all at once, maybe over a period of time, I don't know). The Bible says that "the desert will bloom, all animals will become vegetarians and won't kill each other or harm humans" etc. Perfect weather, no negative issues with animals, abundant food and plenty of fresh water, etc. will occur.

When Jesus returns to claim the royal throne on the earth, I will be one of many with Him and would be thrilled beyond measure to be reunited with you.

I hope and pray that you will be there waiting for us (if you aren't already in heaven with us) – as only true believers in Jesus Christ will survive at this point.

In the end, all non-believers will die (physically), be resurrected and judged (later) and eventually be assigned to the Lake of Fire forever.

If you happen to die (physically) during these awful seven years BUT have accepted Jesus' incredible gift of salvation, you will be resurrected into a new and glorious body (like the one I now have), one that will never die again, nor have to experience pain, illness or suffering. Oh! And we won't grow old ever again! Small smile...

Hell on Earth

This concludes the **optional teaching** derived from the Leave-Behind Love Letter entitled ***After the Rapture: Hell on Earth***.



UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

1. Had you noticed before that a few of the Trumpet Judgments seem to "finish the job" started in other Judgments? _____ Look at the chart on the next page. What reasons could God have for organizing it that way?

2. Had you noticed before that some of the afflictions affect only non-believers? What were they? Note them here.

Look up and copy Exodus 9:4-6, 11, 22, 26 here:

Do you see a pattern? Does knowing this help you "believe" what is yet prophesied?

3. What have you learned in this brief "interlude/study" that will help you talk to others with confidence? How will it affect your thoughts and behavior towards our Savior? Make a few notes here and discuss it with your group.

Consider the progression and repetition of each issue:

Event	Seal Judgments	Trumpet Judgments	Bowl Judgments
Earthquake	**Seal #6** every island and mountain removed from its place		**Bowl #7**
Hail		**Trumpet #1**	**Bowl #7**
Plants & Vegetation	**Seal #3**	**Trumpet #1** 1/3 of earth burned up (all green grass)	
Sea, Creatures & Ships Destroyed		**Trumpet #2** 1/3 destroyed	**Bowl #2** remainder destroyed
Freshwater & Creatures Destroyed		**Trumpet #3** 1/3 destroyed	**Bowl #3** more but not all
Sun, Moon, Stars	**Seal #6** Sun turns "black" Moon turns "red"	**Trumpet #4** 1/3 destoyed **Trumpet #5** darkened by smoke	**Bowl #4** Sun hotter **Bowl #5** Plunged into darkness
Painful Wounds & Sores (Believers are exempt)		**Trumpet #5** stings inflicted by locusts from the Abyss	**Bowl #1** new sores **Bowl #5** Pain continues
Mass Death (death occurs throughout the Tribution with swings in intensity)	**Seal #4** 1/4th of population (~2 billion) dies; "worldly" - war, famine, disease, wild animals	**Trumpet #6** 1/3 more (~2 billion) die: demonic attack - fire, smoke, sulfer	

Various references for the contents of the original book were taken from the Holy Scriptures (NIV) and publications by:

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

Dr. Ron Rhodes

Mr. Amir Tsarfati

Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer

Dr. Dwight Pentecost

Mr. Andrew Murray

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Mr. Warren W. Wiersby

Dr. Tim LaHaye

Dr. Thomas Ice

If the Rapture has already occurred at the time of your reading, I assume they are all in Heaven - I will thank them there.

FREE PDF downloads available at:

www.bemabuilders.org

Print copies available on Amazon.com