UNVEILED!

The Ancient Secrets of Daniel & The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Underscores in the Biblical texts are added for emphasis. Brackets are added outside the text for clarification or optional translations.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 5

5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. ¹² saying with a loud voice.

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Revelation 5:1-14 ESV)

Insights

... and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof? (Rev. 5:2) The Scroll is the Apocalypse, which only the Lamb is worthy to take from the right hand of God on the throne.

The Lion of Judah is the Lamb who takes the Scroll to open its seals, revealing its cryptic contents. Everyone in heaven sings though terrible beasts and kings; persecutions, trials, wars, and famines; earthquakes, twisters, judgments, and wrath, are in the Scroll. The war of good and evil; the redemption of saints and the destruction of sinners; Messiah's Kingdom; the end of the world and implosion of the universe; the Last Judgment; a new heaven and earth, and New Jerusalem are in it.

The Lamb of God is the Root of David that supports, sustains, anchors, and nourishes life. Seven horns and seven eyes are seven spirits of God throughout all the earth. Revealing the power and wisdom of Christ, His seven spirits and seers [the *watchers* in Dan. 4:13] war on behalf of the purposes of God.

The name of the Lamb is the Word of God. (from Rev. 19:13b) He is the express image of his person. (Heb. 1:3), the radiance of (his) glory and the representation of the reality of him (ZGE). He expresses the heart of the Ancient of Days as the Father's Word. The Seed of His Word was conceived in our mortal flesh, born a man though in perfect union with God. (Jn. 1; Gal. 3:19-29)

All creation worships God and His Son who takes the Scroll to unseal it. His name is above all other names because He came in His Father's name. As the innocent Lamb, He took our sins in His body and died that way. Only His blood could wash away sin; if it weren't pure, He could not have risen, but rising to life, He proved His blood worked to justify many for us to rise again who trust in Him. (Is. 1:18; Lev. 17:11)

¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

(Rom. 8:19-23 NIV; see Lev.17:11.)

The beasts are some of this world's supernatural kings, but the living creatures are holy and very wise with eyes all around. Besides them are twenty-four elders, judges in the Kingdom. Among the elders are the twelve apostles of the new covenant. Its chosen saints are kings and priests of Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:5; Mat. 19:28)

While we live on this earth, we are members of His body, of His flesh and bones, predestined to conform to His image and likeness. The pure and blameless Lamb makes saints of sinners to lift us up beside Him at the right hand of the Father.

How to See Jesus

Yeshua told the thief on the cross beside Him, "This day you will be with Me in Paradise." Although Christ would descend to the lower parts of the earth that day, the Father spoke to the thief through the Lamb who would die for him. Christ's words were not His own; He was One with the Father. The thief was chosen for his words; imagine the effect of his request on the Son of man at His crucifixion: *Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.* (Lk. 23:42) That man went from death to life and bypassed the judgment.

We live by faith in His words as Jesus lived by faith in the Father. The offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob set an example for the church by agreeing with the Word of God:

15 The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, ² and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he

will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. ³ For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law, ⁴ but when in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them. ⁵ In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. ⁶ They were broken in pieces. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress. ⁷ But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded." ...

¹⁴ They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns. ¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around. (2 Chr. 15:1-7, 14-15 ESV)

Near the first day of Passover, some of the Greeks who came to the celebration hoped to hear the wisdom of Messiah. Knowing gentiles would receive Him though Jerusalem would reject Him, Yeshua felt the import of their presence that day:

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; ²¹ these *people* then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and were making a request of him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip came and told Andrew; *then* Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. ²³ But Jesus answered them by saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ The one who loves his life loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. (Jn. 12:20-26 NASB)

And they overcame [the accuser] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (Rev. 12:11) Is anything too difficult for God?

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 6

6 Then I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" ² I looked, and behold, there was a white horse. The one riding on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him. He went out as a conqueror so he might conquer.

³ When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come!" ⁴ Then another horse came out, fiery red. The one riding on it was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. He was given a great sword.

⁵ When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come!" And behold, I saw a black horse. The one riding on it held a balance scale in his hand. ⁶ Then I heard something like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius—but do no harm to the oil and wine!"

⁷ When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature saying, "Come!" ⁸ Behold, I saw a horse, pale greenish gray. The name of the one riding on it was Death, and *Sheol* was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill by sword and by famine and by plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.

⁹ When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those slaughtered for the sake of the word of God and for the witness they had. ¹⁰ And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "O Sovereign Master, holy and true, how long before You judge those who dwell on the earth and avenge our blood?"

¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them, and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants was complete—their brothers and sisters who were to be killed as they had been.

¹² I saw when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth made of goat's hair, and the full moon became like blood. ¹³ The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a

fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The heaven ripped apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from their places.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the military commanders and the rich and the mighty and everyone—slave and free—hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they tell the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

(Revelation 6:1-17 TLV) [Gr.: *thumos* = wrath, indignation, fury Gr.: *thlipsis*, trans.: tribulation, pressure, persecution, distress, hardship, affliction]

Insights

In chapter 5 the Lamb receives the Scroll from the hand of God; in 6 He opens its seals. Four holy creatures have six wings and eyes that cover them as they stand before God, worshiping day and night in chapters 4 and 5. At the first four seals, each of them calls its horseman out.

The apostles had founded the church before the horsemen affected the world. The starting order holds their place in time though they continue to the end of the age.

The creature of the **first seal** looks like a lion, calling to the rider on the white horse who goes forth to conquer. The disciples asked Jesus for the signs of His coming. (Mat. 24:3-31)

⁴ and Jesus answered and said unto them take heed that no man deceive you ⁵ for many shall come in my name saying I am Christ and shall deceive many (Mat. 24:4-5) [The ancient Greek was not punctuated.]

Thirty years before John saw the Revelation, Paul told of a war in the heavenlies; its war ended chapter 12 when Michael and his angels defeated the dragon and his, which were banished to earth. (Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:9) Then the bishops welcomed pagan Rome but shunned the Bible. They gained an empire, but as an angel of light, the dragon went out to conquer. (pp. 141-44)

The great apostasy had begun, institutionalizing churches that forced conversions, missing the gospel message: Jesus died

for sinners, not for the righteous. After denying the Bible, they killed and tortured dissenters. As the rider on a white horse, they appeared holy but claimed equality to Jesus Christ, corrupting churches that paid them homage as they conquered the weak.

Yeshua's Kingdom is personal; as its Cornerstone, He holds us together. His reality is in us as the Holy Spirit who overcomes the trials of the world by our faith in Him, even till death.

The Lamb breaks the **second seal**. The next living creature looks like an ox and calls the *fiery red* horse and its rider to *take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. (6:4):*

⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ^{8a} For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: (Mk. 13:7-8a ESV)

At the **third seal**, a living creature has a face like a man and calls to the rider on a black horse to limit sustenance and regulate prices. The voice tells him, *A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and wine.* (6:6) Days of lack, famines, and diseases come with earthquakes and tremors; these things are multiplied:

^{8b} There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. (Mk. 13:8b ESV) [revealing sequential order]

At the **fourth seal**, the one like an eagle in heaven sends the horseman, riding a greenish-gray horse, the color of Death. Thus, Death and Hades were given power to kill one-fourth of the living by all of the above and by the wild beasts of the earth. [Gr.: therion] ... for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (Is. 26:9b)

As Jesus opens the **fifth seal**, the Sovereign God hears the martyrs' prayers, seeking His justice against their persecutors. The Word reveals a time of great persecution yet to come. (Mat. 24:15-21) The earlier martyrs receive robes; they rest till more die as they had in a great global holocaust when the abomination that brings desolation is set up in the temple. All flesh would be destroyed, but its days are cut short for the elect. (Rev. 13:7-18)

⁹ Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰ At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹² Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. (Mat. 24:9-13 NASB)

The **sixth seal** is the last of this age. (Rev. 15:5-8–chapter 16) It's *immediately after the tribulation* when <u>Jesus comes, catching up the elect</u>. [Gr.: *thlipsis* = pressure; tribulation, distress, persecution] (Mat. 24:29-31; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; cf. Rev. 6:12-17) Then the wrath falls:

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Lk. 21:25-28 NIV)

As by a great gale the heavens are shaken; islands and mountains move out of place (in 6:12-17). Yeshua comes on a cloud when every eye sees Him and every soul weeps, but we look up!

After they see Him, they'll say He returned, but He corrects that idea: His return is like lightning that flashes from east to west when He rides with His armies from heaven, but first His sign appears in the sky when He comes on a cloud for His elect:

²³ At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' <u>do not believe it</u>. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

²⁶ "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Mat. 24:23-27 NIV; cf. Lk. 17:24)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 7

- 7 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.
- ² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea.
- ³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.
- ⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.
- ⁵ Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.
- ⁶ Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.
- ⁷ Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.
- ⁸ Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.
- ⁹ After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands:
- ¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.
- ¹¹ And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,
- ¹² Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.
- ¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Revelation 7:1-17)

Insights

When the **fifth seal** is opened, martyrs' spirits under the altar wait to be avenged till after the global holocaust when others die as they had for the Word of God and for their witness. (Rev. 6:9)

Four angels arrest the four winds; another ascends from the east to seal 144,000. The winds (in 7:1) are a **key** (from 6:12-17): At the **sixth seal**, the stars fall *like a fig tree drops untimely figs when <u>shaken by a great wind</u>. The heavens are shaken when the mountains and islands are moved out of their places, harming the earth and sea. (7:1-2; cf. chap. 16) This means 144,000 are sealed and redeemed by the time of the fifth seal. At the sixth, the tribulation ends, and its elect ascend to meet Jesus in the air just before God's bowls of wrath. (Rev. 20:4-6; 1 Thes. 4:15; chap. 15)*

Jesus is the firstfruits from the dead (in 1 Cor. 15:20). Israel's 144,000 are redeemed from among men—firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. (14:4) In 14 the male virgins ascend to heaven before the beast rises in 13:1. They're redeemed by Yeshua but aren't a multitude no man can number. (7:9-17) The latter ascend out of the global holocaust; they refuse the mark of the beast during the fifth seal. The sixth seal is two-fold: its martyrs and survivors ascend before God's wrath. (15:2-4; 1 Thes. 4:15-16)

God promised Abraham he'd be the father of many nations (in Gen. 17:4), and all nations would be blessed by his seed (in Gen. 18:18). If they'd fully obey Him, He'd make Israel His own *treasured possession (in Ex. 19:5)*. But God's 613 laws were too strict to obey; blinded by sin, most profaned His holy name. In forty years, He scattered them to all nations like the lost tribes:

¹⁵ For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root be holy, so are the branches. ... ²³ And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. (Rom. 11:15-16, 23) [The lump in the fruit is its seed; its root descends to feed and anchor its stalk whose branches spread.]

The Dance

In heaven the firstfruits are counted (7:1-8), blameless and perfect before God. (14:1-5) He created them to begin David's Kingdom for his promised seed: *God is able to graft them in again*. By faith in Yeshua, they resisted sin and never lied; their hearts were spotless. (14:5). Sealed by the Spirit, like Enoch, they never died. Of all nations, by them Israel is God's *treasured possession*. (Ex. 19:5) The dance of the virgins has already begun:

¹¹ For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. ¹²Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. ¹³ Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. (Jer. 31:11-13; cf. Is. 51:11; 61:3)

The male virgins were a portent of Israel's resurrection, foreseen in Ezekiel 37 as dry bones rising. Of *the firstfruit*, He says, *What shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead? (Rom.* 11:15b) By their redemption, Israel's bones rose again!

Since the 1800's, "assimilated Jews" and their children were baptized and raised in church to avoid persecution, which often failed. Blameless believers, male virgins were redeemed by faith in Jesus Christ. They were rescued out of the hand of the enemy (14:3), ascending from earth to heaven before the first resurrection [yet to come]. These vanished in the chaos of the holocaust when missing persons were common. (14:1-5) They are the holy ones, coming with Christ on a cloud for us if we have blameless hearts before God. (1 Thes. 3:12-13; cf. Rev. 14:4) [Gr.: parousia]

The Sixth Seal

At the **sixth seal**, martyrs, beheaded for resisting the beast, rise in *the first resurrection* of new covenant believers. Then we who survive till the Lord comes in a cloud are taken up together with the resurrected ones to meet the Lord in the air, and so we'll be with the Lord forever. (paraphrasing 1 Thes. 4:15,17)

The abomination in the temple leads to a great slaughter and a global holocaust; united empires cause its tribulation: we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord do not prevent those who are asleep: Jesus comes in the clouds, and the dead in Christ rise first: this means the saints who are beheaded by the beast rise out of death at the first resurrection. [20:4-6 provides the details of this resurrection.] Together with them, the survivors meet Jesus in the air. (1 Thes. 4:15-17; Rev. 7:9-17; 15:2-4; 19:6-9)

Every eye sees Yeshua, coming on a cloud beside the One on the throne. (6:16-17) Suddenly, He shouts, and God sounds the great trumpet! (Mat. 24:29-31; Rev. 20:4-5; 1 Thes. 4:14-18) He gathers the chosen saints of the tribulation while 144,000 male virgin Israelites are worshiping in heaven. Look and listen:

¹⁵ For we say this 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, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore, comfort one another with these words. (1 Thes. 4:15-18 NASB) [Gr.: perileipo, survive. parousia, nearness, or coming [in the air]; anistemi, is stand up, get up: the dead rise from their graves first.]

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

(Lk. 21:34-36 NIV) [Lit: "begging that ye may be able" ZGE "praying that ye may be accounted worthy to escape..." YLT]

³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. (1 Thes. 4:3-7 NIV)

Paul warns us all to aim for purity or face the judgment with sin. After the global tribulation of the saints, angels catch us up, and God's wrath falls in a flash—!

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. (Gen 6:8) He built the ark in godly fear. God led the animals into it, male and female, two by two; then shut its door, and the waters erupted:

15 Then I saw another great and wonderful sign in heaven: seven angels who have seven plagues—the last ones, for with them God's wrath is finished. ² And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had overcome the beast and his image and the number of his name standing by the sea of glass, holding the harps of God. ³ And they are singing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, ...

⁶ Out of the Temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, dressed in pure bright linen and wearing wide gold sashes around their chests. (Rev. 15:1-3a, 6 TLV)

Immediately after the tribulation, the sun and moon darken; stars fall; heaven is shaken; mountains collapse. Understand this:

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and <u>a very loud trumpet blast</u>, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ... ¹⁹ And as <u>the sound of the trumpet</u> grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. (Ex. 19:16, 19 ESV)

¹⁸ Now all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw *it*, they removed and stood afar off. ¹⁹ And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. ²⁰ And Moses said unto the people, Fear not;

for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. (Ex. 20:18-20)

Then the LORD will be seen over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord God will blow the trumpet, And go with whirlwinds from the south. (Zec. 9:14 NKJV)

¹³ And it shall come to pass in that day *that* the great trumpet shall be blown and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mountain at Jerusalem. (Is. 27:13) [... the trumpet of God.]

Of Times and Seasons

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night, or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thes. 5:1-11 ESV)

Not knowing the day or hour, Paul tells us to live holy, sober lives *to obtain salvation;* if we believe, we obey:

²⁶ "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. (Lk. 17:26-29 NIV)

<u>His warnings qualify us to whom His promises apply</u>. The Holy Spirit is with us to teach and lead us:

¹⁰ Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and <u>none of the wicked shall understand</u>; but <u>the wise shall understand</u>. ¹¹ And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

(Dan. 12:10-11) ["Hebrew Calendar ...", pp. 267-68]

Its words describe "the next Antiochus," returning as the red dragon, *the abomination of desolation*, some time before Jesus returns immediately after that great tribulation:

25 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said,

""Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said 'open the door for us!'

¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

¹³ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (Mat. 25:1-13 NIV)

The time of His coming is like a fig tree whose branches are tender from the spring rains when it sprouts leaves. When that happens, Israel knows summer is near. Yeshua used the fig tree's season to say,

²⁹ "Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. ³⁰ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. (Mk. 13:29-31 NASB)

Its evidence surrounds us with Israel as the fig tree and this generation as the witness of the rising global domination of the antichrists before the true King of kings returns for His throne.

7:1-8 foretells the sixth seal in 6 by its winds, held back from harming the earth. Like a bridge, it crosses chapters 8 through 13 to meet 14, which expands on 7. 7:9-17 is in 15:2-4, coming after the great tribulation of the saints in 13. Its martyrs are taken up with the elect at the sixth seal (6:12-14), *immediately after the tribulation* but before God's wrath. (1 Thes. 4:17; cf. Rev. 19:11–20:6; Mat. 24:29-31)

¹³ Then 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? ¹⁴ I 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. (Rev. 7:13-14 NASB)

First they join the 144,000 to worship and adore the Lord in heaven (together in 7; 14:1-5 & 15:1-4). Then seven angels take the bowls of wrath from the Sanctuary (in 15:5-8; 16:1-21) to avenge the saints till Christ returns to reign (in 19:11-20:6).

^{4b} Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ... ^{6a} Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4b, 6 NKJV)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful who also will do it. (1 Thes. 5:23-24 NKJV)

⁵ God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. (Ps. 47:5-6)

The chapters are logically organized but not always in order. In chapter 1 Christ appears; in 2–3 He prepares the churches for judgment. Living creatures worship the Father in 4 and watch the Lamb take the Scroll from His right hand in 5. History begins in chapter 12, the key to 17, which leads to Daniel 7; then Daniel takes us back to Revelation chapter 13. 13 begins after WW2; the 144,000 are redeemed in heaven before Israel's dry bones rise again in 1947-48. [7 is expanded on in 14:1 through 15:8.]

Beginning early in 13, three prophets in 14 are proclaiming the gospel, declaring Babylon's fall, and warning the world against the beast and his mark, each one after the other and each with an angel to guide him; then 13 ends as Jesus comes on a cloud, and the elect who survive are caught up together with its martyrs to meet Jesus in the air (in 1 Thes. 4:15-17).

While the chosen saints are in heaven, His wrath is poured out in chapters 15 and 16. Chapter 17 describes the scarlet beast and his harlot; 18 reveals Mystery Babylon, the city destroyed at the last bowl of wrath in 16. Afterward, together with 144,000 virgins, the martyrs of the great tribulation return with the King, Yeshua, riding white horses and wearing white robes in 19.

While the chosen saints are in heaven, His wrath is poured out till Yeshua returns to kill His enemies in Armageddon and to set up His throne in Jerusalem in chapter 19. At that time, the dragon is chained, sealed, and locked in the bottomless pit for a thousand years and then is released for a short while (in 20:1-3).

The martyrs who resisted the beast and his mark in chapters 7 and 15 appear again in 20:4-6 as those who are chosen to reign with Yeshua in the Kingdom promised to the son of David, the Son of God. He reigns for a thousand years before the **last seal** is activated, and chapter 8 begins: