

# COMING SOON...

## Revelation Bible Study – Session 3

### Chapters 6-7, 8-9

#### Review Part 4's five chronological/angelic explanation sections

**Ch 6 – Chronologic 1:** the Seal Judgments against the kingdom of darkness

**Ch 7 – Angelic 1:** we receive Protection from judgments and falling away

**Ch 8-9 – Chronologic 2:** the Trumpet Judgments against the Antichrist's empire

**Ch 10-11 – Angelic 2:** we receive Direction by the increase in prophetic ministry

**Ch 11:15-19 – Chronologic 3:** the Second Coming Procession and rapture of the church

**Ch 12-14 – Angelic 3:** Antichrist's violent Confrontation against the saints

**Ch 15-16 – Chronologic 4:** the Bowl Judgments , the fullness of God's wrath, destroys all evil infrastructures

**Ch 17-18 – Angelic 4:** the Seduction of society by Babylon's evil religion .

**Ch 19-20 – Chronologic 5:** Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Rev.19:11-21:8)

**Ch 21-22 – Angelic 5:** the Restoration of all things (Acts 3:21, Rev. 21:9-22:5)

**The 21 Judgments – 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, and 7 Bowls** all occur during the 3 ½ year **Great Tribulation**. Like progressive birth pangs, each judgment increases in frequency, intensity and severity as time passes. The Seals likely take place over a couple years, the Trumpets take a few months, and the Bowls, only 30 days.

#### The Seal Judgments and God's Protection - CHAPTERS 6 and 7

- A. Jesus takes the **scroll (title deed of the earth and action plan required to cleanse the earth)**, sealed with 7 seals, from the hand of the Father. One by one, Jesus opens each seal, releasing judgment against those who align with the Antichrist and the harlot Babylon. The seals will not be opened until the bowls of prayer are full (Rev.5:8). God's judgments against the kingdom of darkness will be released by a mature worldwide prayer movement, in the same way that Moses released the plagues of Egypt.
- B. The 7 seals are *literal* (not merely symbolic), *numbered* (in order), and *progressive* in intensity. Each of the 1<sup>st</sup> four seals leads to the unfolding of the next seal in a natural way. (e.g. Antichrist -global war – famine and economic crisis – pestilence and disease, etc.) The first four seals are a result of God taking His restraining hand off evil men, allowing them to sin in an unrestrained way against one another.
- C. The 7 seals are released by Jesus, the Lamb of God, with the purpose of releasing judgment on the kingdom of darkness to hinder the Antichrist's empire from spreading evil and from persecuting the saints, while causing unbelievers to cry out for salvation. His judgments are NOT on the saints, and are designed to remove all that hinders love.
- D. In Rev.6:1- John is asked to *Come and See...*(to draw near, to pay attention). Remember this *Principle of Judgment: God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will.* (1 Thess.5:9)

## Chapter 6 -The Six Seals – 1<sup>st</sup> Chronological Section

1. **FIRST SEAL (6:2) – the Antichrist’s political aggression.** *The white horse.* In this first seal, God judges the harlot, who will murder the saints (17:6,16) by raising up the Antichrist against her. The color *white* symbolizes righteousness, because his reign initially appears righteous. He is the counterfeit to Jesus who rides a white horse with truth (Rev.19:11). He wears a crown to denote his political prominence (13:1,2,7)
  - a. His rule is initially gained by an *arrowless bow* – pointing to his initial bloodless approach, or peaceful conquest using deceptive diplomacy. His bow speaks of war that can strike at a distance, and no arrows – a threat of war without war actually breaking out.
  - b. In the prior 3 ½ years, the nations have been enjoying a counterfeit worldwide peace (1Thes.5:3), ending with the opening of the first seal, the fall of Babylon, and the abomination of desolation (Dan.9:27)
  - c. Power is *given to him* (Rev.13:7), he receives permission from God, and aid from Satan and sinful men. He is released by God as a judgment on the wicked (Rom.13:1-7)
  
2. **SECOND SEAL (6:3-4) – World-wide bloodshed and the final World War.** *The red horse.*
  - a. The great sword speaks of extreme forms of bloodshed coming from war and violence. The Antichrist starts with an arrowless bow (vs.2), then uses a great sword which strikes up close.
  - b. The Antichrist continues to be the vehicle of God’s judgment on the great harlot by “taking peace” from the nations that were made drunk by the harlot (17:1-17)
  
3. **THIRD SEAL (6:5-6) – Famine and economic crisis.** *The black horse.*
  - a. The black horse speaks of famine and economic crisis that will follow the global war. This will be the worst crisis and famine ever on the earth, which comes against the nations that embrace the harlot and the Antichrist. The saints will multiply food, just like when Jesus fed the 5000, and when food and water were provided supernaturally in the days of Moses. (see Micah 7:15)
  - b. A *denarius* was equivalent to one day’s wages. A quart of wheat is the minimal amount that one man would eat for one day. This crisis will reduce one’s earning power to working all day long to feed just one person (about 10x less buying power than today). Wheat is superior in taste and nutrition to barley, an inferior grain that will be 3x cheaper than the price of wheat.
  
4. **FOURTH SEAL (6:7-8) – Death to one-fourth of the earth’s population.** *The pale horse.*
  - a. The pale horse (literally pale green, ashen) is the color of death, a decaying corpse. Death is what happens to the physical body, which goes to the grave. Hades is the prison where the departed spirit of an unbeliever goes before going to the lake of fire after the Millennium.
  - b. The word ‘death’ here means ‘pestilence’ or ‘disease’. Fatal diseases will increase beyond any time in history. Wild beasts will roam in the open to devour people. It is estimated that approx. 8 billion people will be alive in 2025. One-fourth of this is 2 billion, or 50x the death total of WWII.
  
5. **FIFTH SEAL (6:9-11) – Prayer releasing judgment**
  - a. The fifth seal is a supernatural power on the prayer movement that releases even greater judgment on the Antichrist’s empire. This is a turning point in Revelation. (This seal is often misunderstood in seeing martyrdom as the judgment; however the seals are to judge the kingdom of darkness.) This seal is considered more severe (more damaging) than the fourth, as each is increasing in intensity.
  - b. The prayer ministry in heaven, inspired by Holy Spirit, inspires the prayer on earth with profound unity. This is not a cry for personal revenge, but that God removes reprobates in the Antichrist’s empire. We love mercy, thus we will cry out for the cruelty of the Antichrist to stop.
  - c. The prayer “*How long*” is one of the most recorded prayers (Zech.1:12, Ps.6:3, 13:2, 80:4, Dan.8:13, etc.), i.e. prayers for justice, vindication of God’s reputation, and deliverance of His people.

## 6. SIXTH SEAL (6:12-17) – Cosmic Disturbances

- a. In response to the intensified prayers of the 5<sup>th</sup> seal, now a new order of supernatural judgments is released. After the martyrs cry “avenge us”, the unbelievers will cry, “hide us!”
- b. There will be a great earthquake or a worldwide geophysical upheaval (Hag.2:6, Heb.12:26-28). Earthquakes are prophesied 7x in Revelation. Mountains continue to exist in the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl (16:20)
- c. What causes the *sun to become darkened* and *the moon like blood*? This may likely be both a supernatural sign sent by God, as well as natural effects of ash and debris that come from volcanic eruptions or smoke. (Luke 21:11, Luke 21:25-26) Could these be the same signs prophesied in Joel 2:28-31?
- d. The *stars of heaven fell*- speaks of asteroids, not a literal star (Greek word *aster*, which means any shining mass in the sky). The *sky will recede*, or draw back as a scroll, opening a ‘window’ into heaven so that worldwide leaders may witness God’s wrath, which makes them run for their lives to the mountains. This is not the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, because in the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl they rise up to fight against Jesus (19:17-21).
- e. The great question of the hour is “*Who is able to stand??*”(6:17) And here, John needs a break...

### Chapter 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> (parenthetical) Angelic Explanation – WHO CAN STAND?

The five parenthetical sections mostly describe Satan’s attack against the Church and then God’s intervention to help with power, protection, direction, or reward. These interpretative sections of Revelation answer two main questions. First, “**Why are these judgments so severe?**” In other words, how can a God of love be so violent? Second, “**What will happen to the Church?**” In other words, will we be safe in God’s favor, and will we be anointed to stand against deception and persecution?

- a. This angelic explanation answer the question “who can stand”? Affirming the security of God’s people, God reveals that 144,000 Jewish believers will stand in victory (7:1-8), and Gentile martyrs (7:9-17) shall stand strong without wavering in persecution.
- b. John sees a divine sealing on His people that gives them physical and spiritual protection (7:1-4). These saints are raised up as a model for victory, receiving a protective seal before God strikes the earth, sea and trees (vs. 3). In Exodus, Israel received a protective mark on their doors as a seal to save their firstborn. Others will be sealed by God for protection (Rev.9:4, Ezek.9:6) The *Goshen principle* is seen in Ex.8:22-23, 9:4, 6, 26. Zeph.2:3, Ps. 91.
- c. Gentile believers (7:9-17) will also stand strong without wavering even in persecution. Many saints will be physically protected (Rev.9:4, Zeph.2:3, Mic.7:14-19, Is.11:15-16)

### Chapters 8-9, the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, and releasing of the Trumpet Judgments – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronological Section

- A. The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal judgment on the Antichrist is the release of anointed prayer (8:3-4) that releases God’s fire (8:5) and the 7 trumpet judgments (8:6) on the earth. There will be a dreadful yet glorious silence in heaven in the awful anticipation of the full release of God’s judgments; seeing the 7 angels positioned to sound the trumpets which culminate with Jesus’ return to earth and the complete destruction of wickedness. [It took the priest about ½ hour to offer incense in the temple (Lev.16:13-14, Lk.1:10,21)]
- B. The five aspects of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal include the *commissioning* of the 7 trumpet angels. An 8<sup>th</sup> angel is given heavenly *incense* to strengthen the end-time prayer movement (increasing prayer, worship and prophetic proclamations as is in the heavenly throne room), releasing *fire* on earth with *cosmic disturbances* and an *earthquake*.
- C. The end-time prayer movement will release God’s trumpet judgments on the Antichrist (8:6-9, 21). Christianity isn’t about escaping hell, but partnering and reigning with Jesus our Bridegroom Kings: bringing His kingdom to earth as it is in heaven, and driving evil entirely off the planet *through prayer*.

## The first 6 Trumpet Judgments

### Comments:

- a. The trumpet judgments have **three purposes**: **judgment** on the Antichrist's empire, a **redemptive warning** to unbelievers, and **vindicting and rallying** the saints. Trumpets warn and declare that more is coming. These judgments are limited to 1/3 destruction as highlighted 12x in Rev.8:7-12. Just like the seals, they are *literal, numbered, and progressive*.
- b. The **first four trumpets** punish the Antichrist's empire through **destroying natural resources** that support life, without directly touching people. Their purpose, in affecting the environment and food supply, is to **punish, not to kill**. (These are supernatural acts of God through nature, not 'natural' acts.) The **next two** are intensified in directly afflicting humans by **demonic torment**, then killing 1/3 of humanity. Both the trumpet and bowl judgments parallel the **10 plagues of Egypt** against Pharaoh (Ex.7-12), and will destroy the Antichrist's resources. The walls of Jericho fell after Joshua blew 7 trumpets (Josh.6) – this is a prophetic picture of the fall of the Antichrist kingdom.
- c. As Moses released the plagues through prayer, and as the first apostles released God's power through prayer in the book of Acts, so **God's power will be released by the praying church**. (Jn.14:12) The Book of Revelation is the *end-time book of Acts*, and a *canonized prayer manual* that equips the church to partner in prayer with Jesus. Imagine hundreds of millions unified with this *infallible prayer guide* that reveals Jesus' action plan. **Global unified prayer** is needed to release this level of authority against the Antichrist.
- d. The primary theme in Revelation is **God's judgment against the Antichrist's empire, being released by the end-time victorious church under Jesus' leadership**. The secondary theme is persecution against the saints (Rev.12:11,17;13:7,15). In the book of Acts, some were martyred, yet the main theme is the acts of the Spirit through the praying apostles. Many in the church today are waiting to be raptured to escape the Tribulation. **Jesus is waiting on the church** to be prepared in love, wisdom and faith, to be victorious and full of glory. We need not fear the Great Tribulation as powerless victims who are seeking to escape it.  
(2 Pet. 3:12 – ...**Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**)
1. **FIRST TRUMPET (8:7)**– will destroy the food supply in burning 1/3 of the earth's vegetation. A supernatural meteor storm-like event with hail and fire will burn the earth's trees and grass.  
(parallels 7<sup>th</sup> plague of fire with blood)
  2. **SECOND TRUMPET (8:8-9)**- will destroy food supply and sea trade. A huge burning object like a mountain will fall from heaven, turning 1/3 of the sea into blood and destroying 1/3 of the sea life and ships. [Questionable if this means one sea like the Mediterranean Sea (Rev.18:19, Is.2:12-16)]? (parallels 1<sup>st</sup> plague of Egypt where rivers became as blood).
  3. **THIRD TRUMPET (8:10-11)** –will poison 1/3 of the earth's fresh water supply. A great burning star will fall from heaven. This meteoric mass will poison the fresh water (rivers and springs), causing the inland fresh water supply to be undrinkable. The saints will be protected as during the Egyptian plague on the Nile River. (Ex.7:14-25). (also parallels 1<sup>st</sup> plague)
  4. **FOURTH TRUMPET (8:12)** – will destroy light and heat in darkening 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars, affecting heat, health, agriculture, navigation, etc. (same as 9<sup>th</sup> Egyptian plague, yet Israel was spared -Ex.10:21-23)

**Note:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpets release 2 demonic armies on the earth. Here, ***Satan's hatred is openly manifest***. This is the **mercy of God** for those who are still undecided. Demons hate people that worship them as much as they hate Christians. **Many will be deluded** into thinking Satan will give them favor for their loyal worship and service to him. These trumpets still give unbelievers **opportunity to repent** before progressing in evil by taking the mark of the Beast, which is unforgiveable blasphemy against the Spirit (Mt.12:31-32). (1 Cor.5:5) In the first 4 seals, God lifts His restraints off humans so their hatred and sinful ways are manifest. In the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpets, **He now lifts His restraints off the demonic realm**.

5. **FIFTH TRUMPET (9:1-11)** – releases an army of demonic locusts who inflict great pain by stinging people who do not have the seal of God. Details include specific names, ranks, and descriptions of the demonic beings, and length of torment of people– these details demand to be interpreted literally.
  - a. A holy angel descends from heaven with the key to open the bottomless pit. Jesus alone has all keys in the spiritual realm. This parallels when the holy angel comes with the key to bind Satan (20:1)
  - b. These locusts are supernatural demonic beings, not natural locusts, who can distinguish between unbelievers and believers who have God's seal (Rev.9:4, Lk 10:19)
  - c. The torment does not bring the desired repentance, but instead men desire death. In an unspecified way, they cannot kill themselves. (*Imagine witnessing to and praying for healing/salvation for ones afflicted...*)
  
6. **SIXTH TRUMPET (9:12-21)** – in both the 6<sup>th</sup> seal and 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet, men will seek to die (6:16, 9:6). Their prayer is now answered as the demons they worship kill them. Four demonic beings are released to lead a large demonic cavalry to kill 1/3 of the human race. (*parallels the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, Ex.12:29-32*)
  - a. A 6<sup>th</sup> angel is commissioned by the angel who serves at the golden altar of intercession to release the four angels of death in answer to the end-time prayer movement (8:3-5). The horns of the altar were a place of asylum to cry for mercy. Only evil angels, not good angels, are bound (2 Pet.2:4, Jude 6) until the end times to be released as instruments of judgment.
  - b. God commissions the demonic angels, who are especially prepared for this specific work of judgment, to kill 1/3 of the human race. Each are given leadership over the demonic army of 200 million horsemen (possibly each of the four commands 50 million demons) (Rev.9:15-16)
  - c. If the world population will then be 8 billion, and ¼ die in the 4<sup>th</sup> seal, 6 billion will remain. Another 1/3 (2 billion) will die in the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet, totaling 4 billion. This means 50% of the population will die in the final 3 ½ years, an average of more than 3 million a day. This will be 100x the death toll of WWII.
  - d. The Antichrist's empire will be an end-time corporate Pharaoh with hardened hearts. There will be more demonized people on earth than any time in history as the earth is dominated by these four primary spiritual strongholds in society: *murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft* (Rev.9:20-21)

**Homework: Review chapters 6-9, reading now with more understanding.**

**Review the 4 parts, and 5 chronological/angelic sections of the 4<sup>th</sup> part.**

**Memorize the titles of the 5 Chronological Sections: Seals, Trumpets, 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Bowls, Triumphal Entry**

**Read chapters 10-14 carefully prior to our next class.**