

The Tribulation & Summary of the Book of Revelation

Revelation 1-19

Chapter 1-3 — Letters to the Seven Churches

1. EPHESUS — The Loveless Church
2. SMYRNA — The Suffering Church
3. PERGAMOS — The Church of Satan's City
4. THYATIRA — The Adulterous Church
5. SARDIS — The Dead Church
6. PHILADELPHIA — The Faithful Church
7. LAODICEA — The Disgusting Church
 - a. Beginning of the Church Age
 - i. Death of Christ
 - ii. Burial of Christ
 - iii. Resurrection of Christ
 - iv. Descent of the Holy Spirit

RAPTURE — Jesus Comes for the Church (Judgement Seat of Christ)

Christ's coming is imminent; all the prophecies which must be fulfilled before His return are completed. He will descend with a shouted command, the voice of an angel, and the trumpet of God. All believers, living and dead, will suddenly meet the Lord in the air.

Like an eager bride, the Church waits for the final culmination of her union with her Groom.

TRIBULATION

The moment after the Rapture, the Spirit of God will remove any restraining influence on earth so that things will be far, far worse than even today. The seven-year Tribulation Period before Christ's earthly kingdom is completed; then will see the climax of worsening conditions, the anger of God against the wicked, and the signs of Christ's coming in judgment. Believers alive at the Rapture will miss those seven horrible years.

Revelation 1:1-3

The Greek word from which the English word “apocalypse” comes lit. Means “to uncover, or to reveal.” This book’s purpose is to make Jesus Christ clearly visible. The gospels unveil Christ at His first coming in humiliation; Revelation reveals Him in His exaltation:

- **in blazing glory (v. 7-20);**
- **over His church, as its Lord (2 & 3);**
- **in His second coming, as He takes back the earth from Satan, and establishes His kingdom (4-20);**
- **as He lights up the eternal state (21-22)**

Chapter 6:1-8:6 — The Seven Seals

The 7 seal judgments include all the judgments to the end. The last seal contains ALL 7 trumpets, and the 7th trumpet contains ALL 7 bowl judgments to the return of christ.

*“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.” **Revelation 5:1***

A few terms to learn...

A **scroll** - the title deed to the earth/ universe

A **seal** - Romans sealed their wills 7 times. - on the edge at each roll - to prevent unauthorized entry. Hebrew title deeds required a minimum of 3 witnesses and 3 separate seals, with more important transactions requiring more witnesses and seals.

Harp - accompanied prophecy with the 24 elders (redeemed church) to be fulfilled.

Incense - people’s prayers rising; **prayers of the saints** are all that the redeemed have ever prayed concerning ultimate and final redemption.

Christ is the only **ONE** found worthy to open the little scroll. Jesus Christ unleashes a new demonstration of God’s judgment on the earth in the future tribulation period. These are forces of judgment, not individuals; The **first 5 judgments will result from human activity** that God allows until he will begin direct intervention halfway through the Tribulations. The seals are list in Chapter 6 as:

1. WHITE HORSE — Conquering Power (READ v 6:1) Spiritual DECEPTION

There will be a time of “world peace” that is false and short-lived offered by false messiahs, culminating with the anti-christ. Possibly as the Anti-christ as their leader.

“And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. 24 His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. 25 By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. 26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”

Daniel 8:23-26

This conquer of power will be a bloodless one — won through covenants, treaties & agreements not by war.

*“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. 25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. 26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an **anointed one** shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the **prince** who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. 27 And **he** shall make a strong **covenant** with many for one week, and for half of the week **he** shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”*

Daniel 9:24-27

2. RED HORSE — War and Bloodshed (READ v 6:4) Social DEVASTATION

This is a holocaust of war; a worldwide war that God will allow; marked as the beginning pains of God's wrath; violent slaughter will become common; refers “slaughter”

3. BLACK HORSE — Famine (READ v 6:5) DESPERATION [people are starving]

Worldwide war will destroy the food supply which spawns global hunger. The simplest of foods will be considered luxury dinners.

"Slaves rule over us; there is none to deliver us from their hand. 9 We get our bread at the peril of our lives, because of the sword in the wilderness. 10 Our skin is hot as an oven with the burning heat of famine." **Lamentations 5:8-10**

4. PALE HORSE — Pestilence and Death (READ v 6:7) DISEASES [people dying]

This will be a time of death by disease for 25 percent of the world's population. 312 million is 25% currently, but keep in mind of the war and famine will happen before this judgment.

5. SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR — Martyrs (READ v 6:9)

This seal describes the force of the saint's prayers being answered in God's timing for God's vengeance toward all Christians who have been martyred in history; this vengeance will happen during the middle of the Tribulation of 3 1/2 years.

This is where God intervenes directly to continue Judgment over the earth:

6. WHOLE WORLD TREMBLES — Physical Changes (READ v 6:12) DISASTERS

The Day of the Lord [as the prophets say] will come like never before interrupting life as normal and people will recognize for the first time the source of their trouble. There will be more earthquakes globally, numerous volcanic eruptions "blood moon"; Massive asteroid or meteor shower and growing seasons will be off-schedule.

"On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. 7 And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light."

Zechariah 14:6-7

GOD'S INTERVENTION — 144,000 Sealed (READ v 7:1-17)

Jewish evangelists from the 12 tribes of Israel on earth will survive God's wrath along with and will be used during this "great" tribulation to bring salvation of Jews and Gentiles. Israel will be the witness nation to the world finally. (v 9-17) God is still bringing people to redemption. The time of Tribulation will also be a time redemption among all people groups of the earth.

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" **Revelation 7:9-10**

READ, Revelation 7:13-15

There will “ones” who will be saved, martyred and enter heaven during the tribulation since they were not yet saved before the rapture. They will worship the Lord with the rest of the saints around the heavenly throne and during the Millennium there will also be a temple on earth that will be partially restored (Ezekiel 40-48). In the final, eternal state with the new heavens and earth, there is no temple; God himself, who will fill all, will be the temple.

7. SILENCE — Golden Censer (READ v 8:1-3)

Remember this 7th SEAL includes 7 trumpet judgments and 7 bowls of judgments just before Christ's return. When this happens, there will be a glorious, silent awe of anticipation in heaven as God's furious wrath & judgment falls upon the earth. **In Chapter 8:1-2, trumpets primarily announcing. These are not beautiful sounding trumpets but troubling blasts of judgment.**

Chapter 8:7-11:19 — The Seven Trumpets (HELL ON EARTH) during the 7th Seal

1. **Hail and Fire Mixed with Blood** (v 8:7) — volcanic eruptions caused by an earthquake.
2. **A Mountain Thrown into the Sea** (v 8:8) — asteroid or meteorite.
3. **The Star Wormwood** (v 8:11) — poisonous substance from a root that causes death.
4. **A Third of the Sun, Moon, and Stars Struck** (v 8:12-9:2) — There will be a temporary change in temperature due to 1/3 of celestial bodies would fall or die out.
5. **The Plague of Locusts** (v 9:3) — These are not normal locusts that we see today, but these locusts would destroy everything except the 144,000 and converts. These are considered demonic (demon possessed) in verse 9:10-11.

“They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. 6 And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.”

“They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. 11 They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.” **READ, Revelation 9:4-6, 10-11**

“Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.”

READ, Revelation 9:13-15

God responds to His people's prayers, the altar will resound with a cry for vengeance by sending the *“Angels from the Euphrates”*.

6. Release of the Four Angels (v 9:13-21)

- a. **The Angel** — scripture never refers to holy angels as being bound. (v 15) These are fallen angels — another segment of Satan's force whom God had bound but will free to accomplish His judgment through their horsemen. God's control even extends to the demonic forces — they are bound or freed at His command.
- b. **The Little Book** — The Word of God, John's response is a demonstration of what every believer's proper response to God's judgment should be. The sweetness of the Word is understanding the glory of God and our victory; at the same time, bitterness comes as we see God's wrath poured out on those who reject His Son. Here is John's other purpose of writings is to warn men about the bitter judgment as **READ** in verse **Revelation 10:11**.

*“And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” **Ezekiel 3:1***

c. The Two Witnesses (v 11:1-14)

The temple will be rebuilt and exist during the time of the Tribulation. John's vision of this temple is addressing the unbelieving Gentiles who have oppressed God's covenant people will be rejected by God. **But what about the Jews?** During this same time of 3 1/2 year period, the Jews will be sheltered by God in the wilderness.

*“and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. ... But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.” **READ Revelation 12:6 & 14***

*“And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” **READ Revelation 11:3***

These **two witnesses** are individuals granted special power and authority by God to preach a message of judgment and salvation to all who will repent and believe during the second half of the Tribulation. The OT requires two or more witnesses to confirm testimony and these two prophets will share God's testimony to Israel. (verse 11:13)

- For 3 1/2 years they will prophesy and mourn because of the wretched wickedness of the world, and the judgement of the world, and the desecration of the temple by the Antichrist.
- After the 3 1/2 **years** of their testimony, the witnesses will be killed by the Beast (Anti-Christ & his system — the world)

READ, Revelation 13:1-8

- But after 3 1/2 **days** the...

“breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.”

READ Revelation 11:11-12

7. Woe on Earth, Worship in Heaven — The 7th Trumpet: (READ 11:15-19)

Israel's repentance will shortly usher in the millennial kingdom but not until the final judgment. The Bible views the world spiritually as one kingdom, with one ruler — Satan. Now, human rulers of this world are generally hostile to Christ. This rebellion of the world kingdom will end with the victorious 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ who will defeat enemies and establish His messianic kingdom. This includes Jesus' judgement over the dead where **God rewards** OT saints, the rapture of the church, and Tribulation saints... and **God condemns unbelievers** to the lake of fire forever. (v 20:15)

Chapter 12-14 (The Counterfeit Trinity)

• The Dragon (Anti-God)

This is the true church's/Israel's (woman) mortal enemy, **Satan**, who appears as a dragon 13 times in this book. 7 worldly kingdoms, and 10 future kingdoms (**Daniel 7:7** says "...ten horns") and 7 years of Satan's rule during the Tribulation. Satan has always inflicted relentless pain upon Israel, desiring to kill the nation before Christ (child in verse 12:5) was born.

WAR IN HEAVEN (v 12:7) A state of war has always existed since the fall of Satan but this spiritual war will intensify.

SATAN'S FALL FROM HEAVEN (v 12:7) Satan still has always had access to heaven, but now will be eternally cast out.

Both are controlled by powerful demons...

- **The Beast (Anti-Christ) READ, Revelation 13:1-8** stated above as PERSON
- **The False Prophet (Anti-Spirit) Revelation 13:11-18** as the WORLD

Antichrist will primarily be a political and military leader, but the false prophet will be a religious leader. Politics and religion will unite in a worldwide religion of worshipping the Antichrist and the False Prophet will see it be accomplished. He will appear to be gentle and deceptively attractive as a mouthpiece of Satan. His mark will be 666 **READ Revelation 13:16-18**, basically suggesting that this man **represents** human imperfection and **identifying** ((worship toward the Beast) that he is not God. His name may have some numeric equivalence but not much is given to understand the full meaning of this number so we should not speculate too much.

200 MILES OF BLOODSHED (14:20) The Battle of Armageddon which is the slaughter of all the enemies of God who are still alive. This is the final battle on the plain of Esdraelon outside of Jerusalem.

Chapter 15–16 (The Seven Bowls)

- The Earth's Worst Days; These bowls shallow saucers typically used with various functions of temple worship. These are quick and short, but severe judgments that will be emptied out on those who refused to drink the cup of salvation.

(Chapter 16)

1. **Ugly and Painful Sores** — all over the world, people will be afflicted with incurable sores
2. **Sea Turns to Blood** — every living creature in the sea died; miserable
3. Rivers and Streams of Water Become Blood — there will be no clean water
4. **Sun Scorches People With Fire** — The sun will become a deadlykiller, melting ice caps, producing catastrophic loss of life in many of the world's major cities facing extreme heat.
5. **Darkness** — Worldwide darkness
6. **Euphrates River Dries Up** — known as the "great river" to bring kings & armies from the east to the battle of Armageddon
7. **Tremendous Earthquake** — Armageddon, the same place where Gideon fought the battle against the Midianites (Judges 7) and stretch across all of Palestine. In verse 19, we see Jerusalem being spared and all the other nations especially Babylon "city of the antichrist" will be destroyed.

Chapter 17–19

• End of False Religion

The Antichrist's kingdom is said to be the seventh and eighth kingdoms. He is the seventh king and eighth "after his false "resurrection" which has 10 sub-rulers who will make war (which is Armageddon) with the Lamb in verse **17:14** (which is Jesus Christ who is sovereign over all other rulers).

The Antichrist will destroy the entire false religious system, demanding worship of himself, and seizing all power. This is part of carrying out God's will in **17:17**.

• Collapse of The World Market

The commercial Babylon, John MacArthur mentions will "seduce the unbelieving world into a materialistic stupor, so that the people of the world will become drunk with passion because of their relationship with Babylon. There will be a worldwide commerce that will cease **READ Revelation 18:11, 15-16** In verse 18:5, God remembers the sins of the unrepentant and God's judgment is fair and proper (Hebrews 10:26-31) Incredibly, sinners will still refuse to repent, and instead blaspheme God — the One they know has caused their affliction.

Hebrews 10:26-31

Five reasons for Heaven's praise:

1. God's deliverance of His people from their enemies (v 1)
2. God's harsh treatment dispensing out justice (v 2)
3. God's permanent crushing man's rebellion (v 3)
4. God's sovereignty (v 6)
5. God's communion with His people (v 7)

Revelation 19:1-10