

Revelations: Vision of Today



Revelations: The last book of the Bible at the very end. As a child growing up in what some would call a Bible-Belt Church, the very mention of this book would bring both **fear** and **intrigue**. Maybe it was the way that everyone got quiet and attentive when it was preached or taught....maybe it was the many symbols like the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns or the number 666 that no one (including church leaders) understood.....or maybe it was because even though no one understood it, we all knew it was discussing a topic that mankind fears most, **the End** of our physical World.



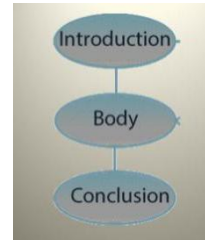
Hollywood has a long history of movies (When Worlds Collide, The Rapture, Independence Day, Left Behind, Take Shelter, I Am Legend, The Road, The Day After, 2012, ARMAGEDDON.....and many more) that portray the end of the world. But **the Truth** of the book of Revelations was/is **scariest** than the **fiction** of Hollywood. The fear before the 1900's was that God would inflict massive terror on Mankind for our many evil deeds. But in the 1900's and the dawn of the Nuclear Age, the real fear is that Mankind could destroy ourselves, our planet, and ALL LIFE as we know it. And given that we had 2 World Wars in the 1900's, the question is not if but when and how, will we destroy ourselves and Planet Earth.



In this lesson on the Book of Revelations we shall discuss an overview of: the Outline, the Writer, the Revelator, the Purpose, the Symbols, the Plot, and the Grand Finale. Although I have studied the Book of Revelations in great detail for many years, I am not an expert.....because there are no living or dead

human experts on this book. The primary reason is because much of the book discusses the Future....and no one has seen the entire future but the Creator. But there are many people who have had glimpses of the future....and it is with these glimpses, much prayer, much study, historical events, and the current events of Today that we shall piece together the puzzling prophetic Book of Revelations. Let us begin our study.

The Outline



As a student in English Literature, I was taught at a very early age that any good book or story has an introduction, main points, and a conclusion. The Book of Revelations is no different. It has all of these. But one main issue with Revelations is the time-frame that the book covers. Revelations covers in parts both the whole history and future of Mankind. The book is not always time sequential in order and there are many inset verses that drill into deeper detail about a topic. Some of the book's setting takes place on Earth and some of the setting is in Heaven. And if the time-frames and settings don't confuse you, the Symbols will surely do the trick. Much of the book uses symbols and references that many people of today are not familiar with. But have no fear, **this lesson will simplify the Book of Revelations** and we shall start with a brief outline of the book's chapters.

CHAPTER OUTLINE OF REVELATIONS			
Chapter	Description	Timeframe	Setting
1	John's introduction. Christ glorified as head of His Church	1st Century A.D.	Island of Patmos
2&3	Messages to the 7 Churches	1st Century A.D. - Today	Asia Minor - World
4	The throne room of Heaven	The Future	Heaven
5	Jesus as the Revelator	The Future	Heaven
6	The first six seals	Human history - The Future	Heaven to Earth
7	God's people protected from wrath. Jews sealed for tribulation.	Just before Tribulation Period	Earth Worldwide; Israel
8	The first four trumpet plaques of the seventh seal	The Future	Earth
9	The fifth and sixth trumpet plaques of the seventh seal	The Future	Earth
10	Prelude to God's wrath	The Future	Heaven to Earth
11	The work of the two witnesses and the seventh trumpet proclaimed	Past and Future	Israel
12	History of God's persecuted church	Historical Past	Heaven to Earth
13	The two beasts	The Future	Earth
14	Preliminary messages announcing God's wrath	The Future	Earth
15&16	The seven last plaques of the last trumpet	The Future	Earth
17	The woman and the beast she rides	The Future	Earth
18	The fall of the world's political-economic system	The Future	Earth
19	The second coming of Christ	The Future	Earth
20	The Millennium and beyond	The Future	Earth
21&22	The new heavens and new earth, new Jerusalem, and conclusion	The Future	New Heaven and Earth

Because the Book of Revelations covers so much territory of time, alternate resources (other bible books, historical events/people references, and modern facts and technology detail) are definitely required to gain a clearer understanding of the book's plot. Included in this lesson will be many reference materials from many sources to help guide our study. In teaching the Book of Revelations, I have found it easier to adjust the order of reading after Chapter 8. For after this chapter is when many other resources are a must to maintain plot clarity. This shift in order of reading will be discussed in detail when we discuss the book's plot later in this lesson....stay tuned.

The Writer



John the Apostle (c. AD 6 – c. 100) was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament. He was the son of Zebedee and Salome. His brother was James, who was another of the Twelve Apostles. Christian tradition holds that he outlived the remaining apostles and that he was the only one not to die a martyr's death. The Church Fathers consider him the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, and the Beloved Disciple. The tradition of many Christian denominations holds that he is the author of several books of the New Testament.

Early tradition says that John was banished to Patmos by the Roman authorities. This tradition is credible because banishment was a common punishment used during the Imperial period for a number of offenses. Among such offenses were the practices of magic and astrology. Prophecy was viewed by the Romans as belonging to the same category, whether Pagan, Jewish, or Christian. Prophecy with political implications, like that expressed by John in the book of Revelation, would have been perceived as a threat to Roman political power and order.



John's long life was very interesting, full, and sorrowful. He lived as a disciple of Jesus; witnessed his life, miracles, death, and resurrection; became the caretaker of Mary the Mother of Jesus; was brother to James the disciple of Jesus; and experienced the painful sorrow and loss (most by martyrdom) of Jesus, Mary, James, and All the original disciples. These interesting associations and many sorrows would

definitely have influenced John in his writings. But the most important influence for John in his writing of Revelations was simply that he was from the first century and writing about the future.....and being from the first century his words and use of imagery were constrained by his time. Many of the things that he wrote about had not yet been invented or happened; thus describing them in any other language than that of the first century would be impossible.



Try to imagine yourself living in the first century.....now imagine you see a Military Helicopter firing weapons.....describe what you see with only words and imagery that you have available to you during this time frame. Describe the appearance, the sound, the weapons, and the destruction. Now you understand why reading the book of Revelations has been a challenge to many generations throughout the ages.

The Revelator

Through his power all things were made: things in heaven and on earth, seen and not seen— all spiritual rulers, lords, powers, and authorities. Everything was made through him and for him. The Son was there before anything was made. And all things continue because of him. He is the head of the body, which is the church. He is the beginning of everything else. And he is the first among all who will be raised from death. So in everything he is most important. Colossians 1:16-18 ERV



To understand why the world needed a savior, we must understand why the world was created in the first place. The Son of God was an only child and wanted fellowship with other brothers and sisters. Thus this world was created by Him and for Him for the purpose of fellowship. Because most of us no longer live in a society with kings and queens, it may be hard for us to understand the privilege of royalty. And because we have never visited heaven, it is even harder for us to understand heavenly royalty. The all-powerful Creator created everything.....galaxies, planets, stars, the Earth, people.....and it was all done

with and for His Son. And when mankind became separated from the Creator and cursed because of sin, the Son could have just asked for a newly created world. But because of His love for us, He sacrificed His own life to atone for the sin of mankind.



And because of His pure royal relationship with God the Father and his loving relationship with His Church of Believers, it is He alone that is most capable and fit to reveal God’s message of the end times to mankind. It is the firstborn resurrected Jesus who reveals book of Revelations to the writer John on the isle of Patmos.

The one who was sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted.” Revelation 21:5 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

What better source to reveal the book than the one who was: here in the beginning, made the world, died for the world, was the firstborn of resurrected beings, and now sits in the throne room of Heaven. From this source these words are true and can be trusted.

The Purpose



Auto accidents are terrible events and can be life altering or even deadly. They happen very quickly and can be very destructive to the vehicles and people involved. But one of the worst parts of an accident is that most times you never see them coming until the instant you are in one....there is no time to prepare or react to such devastating events. If one knew in advance that an accident was coming, one would try to avoid the accident or prepare for its potential impact.





Later, Jesus was sitting at a place on the Mount of Olives. The followers came to be alone with him. They said, "Tell us when these things will happen. And what will happen to prepare us for your coming and the end of time?" **Matthew 24:3**

Throughout human history and in our current lives, people and creation have experienced many traumatic events...celestial impacts, wars, genocide, plagues, slavery.... But in the book of Revelations the terrible events that will occur in the lives of mankind and creation will be **intense** like never before, **global** in nature, and usher in the end of life on Earth as we know it. And many people will be blind to these events happening just as people are blind to the auto accidents. But the Book of Revelations is written so that the **true believers of Jesus will not be blindsided**. All believers will be affected but it won't be a mystery to those who read and understand this last book of the Bible.

This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must happen soon. **Revelations 1:1**

The Symbols



A symbol is a person or a concept that represents, stands for or suggests another idea, visual image, belief, action, or material entity. Symbols take the form of words, sounds, gestures, ideas or visual images and are used to convey other ideas and beliefs. For example, a red octagon may be a symbol for "STOP". On a map, a blue line might represent a river. Numerals are symbols for numbers. Alphabetic letters may be symbols for sounds. Personal names are symbols representing individuals. A red rose may symbolize love and compassion. The variable x in a mathematical equation may symbolize the position of a particle in space.

An important key point to understand **Revelations** is that it is **a book of symbols and imagery**. In some cases symbols are used to suggest other people, events, or periods. For example the Four Horsemen

found in the 6th Chapter represent events, periods, and people throughout human history that have impacted mankind on a mass scale:



- *White Horse and rider with a bow represents: False ideologies, False Leaders, Deception....the rider of the white horse of Chapter 6 (false leaders) contrasts the Rider of the white horse in Chapter 19 (the returning Messiah)*
- *Red Horse and rider with a sword represents: War and its destruction*
- *Black Horse and rider with a pair of scales in his hand represents: Famine. Scales are symbols for carefully measuring food when basic goods are sold at inflated prices.*
- *Pale Horse and rider followed closely by Hades represent: Pestilence and Disease*

The Book of Revelations is filled with symbols like: Horn (seat of power), Candlestick (a church), the numbers 1/3, 7, 10, 24, and 42 (all significant to plot). And when you understand the symbols and imagery, the events and people of the book become very clear in most cases. And as we approach the coming apocalypse, **many of these symbols are now in very clear view.**



And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. Revelation 9:16

The scripture found in Revelation 9:16 speaks of an army that has 200 million horsemen. This reference is clearly the modern day Chinese Military. As we discuss the plot of the book, I will try to reveal many of the symbols that are used in this book to help you gain greater insight. And there may be some symbols that we gain greater clarity in the coming days.

The Plot

The Day of the Lord



I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet... Rev 1:10

The Day of the Lord is the first topic of the Book of Revelations that requires explanation. Many people reading Revelations without proper study may have interpreted the Lord's Day introduced in Chapter 1 as a particular day of the week like Saturday or Sunday. But the Lord's Day or Day of the Lord is not a specific day. The exact phrase "the day of the Lord" is mentioned 18 times in the Bible, and is in both the old and new Testaments. It refers to the end time period when world events will be played out while God's enemies are overthrown. It will be a **time of great stress, turmoil, and destruction**. One of my favorite scriptures that describes this time period can be found in Amos Chapter 5:



Some of you want to see the Lord's special Day of Judgment. Why do you want to see that day of the Lord? His special day will bring darkness, not light. You will be like someone who escapes from a lion only to be attacked by a bear, or like someone who goes into the safety of his house, leans against the wall, and is bitten by a snake. The Lord's special day will be a day of darkness, not light—a day of gloom, without a ray of light. Amos 5:18-20 ERV

The Day of the Lord is where John begins the book of Revelations. It with this time-frame in mind, that the other events of book are revealed.



The Message to the Seven Churches



While the Spirit takes control of John during this future time period, he is in awe of the resurrected Jesus that is revealing the mysteries and messages. Key points in Chapters 1-3:

- The 7 Lampstands represent the 7 churches or congregations mentioned in Chapters 1-3. The 7 Stars are the Lights of God's Church which is sustained by the 7 Spirits of God or God's Holy Spirit.
- **Without Light, no life exists**....human or otherwise. Try using your cell phone, tablet or laptop without the light of the screen.....Your device is useless without light.....And **without God's Spirit, the physical Church is useless**. It is important for us to understand this point.
- It is also important to know that **light drives out darkness**.....these two states cannot exist in their whole form together. This is why Jesus tells the church of Ephesus if they want to hold on to their false leaders and doctrine that they would be in danger of losing their light or God's Spirit if they choose darkness.
- The number 7 may be a symbol of:
 - a) Virginity
 - b) The senses of change after an accomplished cycle and a positive renewal
 - c) A complete cycle, a dynamic perfection
- The 7 Churches could be:
 - 1) 7 separate Churches in Asia Minor
 - 2) The progressive state of The Church through the centuries from Pentecost to The Day of the Lord with consecutive & differing spiritual states
 - 3) The characteristics of The Church near The Day of the Lord
- Jesus holding the 7 Lampstands in his right hand signifies Him having **complete control of The Church** and also dwelling in the midst of the believers
- The message to the Virgin Church is clear, **get ready now**, for the Wedding Day approaches **SOON!!!**



- Jesus hates the deeds of the Nicolaitanes. The church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:6) is commended for hating the "deeds" of the Nicolaitanes, and the church of Pergamos is blamed for having them who hold their "doctrines" (Rev. 2:15). They were seemingly a class of professing Christians who sought to introduce into the church a false freedom or licentiousness (morally unrestrained), thus abusing Paul's doctrine of grace (2 Pet. 2:15-19), and were probably identical with those who held the doctrine of Baalam (ancient prophet who wanted to please pagan king for profit). Nicolaitanes some believe also means the "unjust human lording or controlling of God's flock". **Jesus is the only Lord and Savior of God's people** and he is the **only one** that should be **worshiped**. Other humans should be respected but not worshiped and they should not control God's people.



- Baalim is plural for all the gods of Baal. Baal idol worship was very morally unrestrained and involved building of images, temple prostitution, and child sacrifice. Although we may not go to a temple to worship a giant golden calf or sacrifice children on an altar, modern day people still have many idols that we worship that are just as horrific to God as the golden calf.
- In a fight or war it is imperative that you know who is on your side....who has your back covered....who is completely devoted to your side....who would die for you. Jesus hates Lukewarm "Christians". They try to play both sides of the fight/war. He said that He would chew them up and spit them out.
- The promise that is made to each church is that if they try to overcome their spiritual problems they will have a part in the coming Kingdom. ... we must purge the excess baggage & carry our cross.





One can see that Jesus is clearly getting His people ready as a Military Leader would get his fighting force ready for battle or a Head Coach would get his Team ready for the Super Bowl. Jesus' messages have an **extreme sense of Urgency** to the hearer....The time to act is **NOW!!!** By Jesus' appeal to be spiritually strong, the Church will be prepared for what is to come upon the Human Race. The **emphasis in chapters 2&3 is on spiritual works**: repentance, mastering sin, building God-like character, humbleness...Jesus appeals for **moral strength not moral righteousness** in His message to His Church.....and the emphasis is clearly for professed believers to obey vs. just hear.

The Throne of Glory



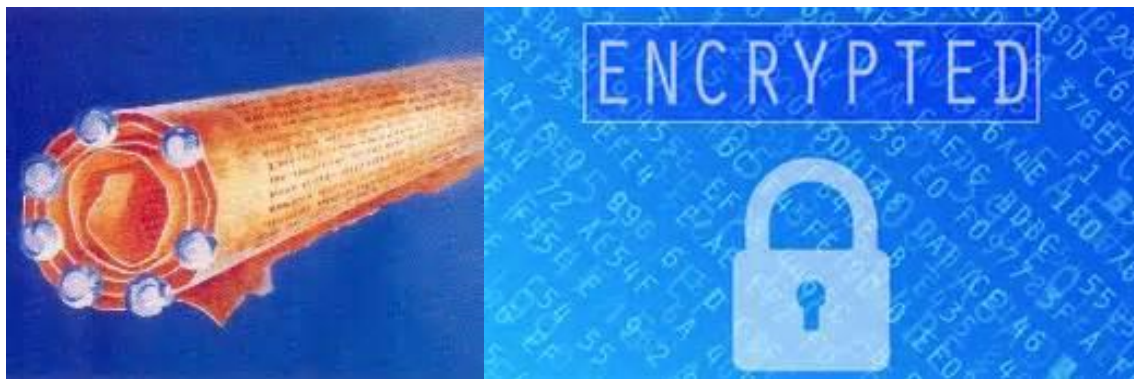
Then I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. It said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." Immediately the Spirit took control of me, and there in heaven was a throne with someone sitting on it. The one sitting there was as beautiful as precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow with clear colors like an emerald. Revelations 4:1-3 ERV

The next topic of discussion is John's Vision of the Seat of Government for the Entire Universe. What happens in chapters 4&5 can only be described with our imagination because we have never seen such beauty here on Earth.



Since the events of the end times will be revealed to John by Jesus, he is miraculously invited to the Heavenly Throne Room of God to see and hear the revelation of events that are shortly to come. Upon arrival John can only marvel as he sees the Splendor. Many of us would be very alarmed if we saw the four living creatures (that look like a lion, bull, man, and eagle and had eyes all over them, in front and in back) that John saw. These beings may represent that: All of Creation is to worship the Creator. Keep in mind that in heaven this **worship is on-going right now** as you read this lesson and it will continue throughout eternity. And in the Lord's Prayer when we say 'let your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven', we are referring to giving the Creator the **glory and honor He alone deserves** as does the heavenly creatures **24/7**. The 24 Elders that were round about the throne may be synonymous with the Aaronic Priesthood's 24 divisions. Honor and glory and power are to be given to our Lord God not only because He is King of the Universe, but also because He is our Creator and Reason for being.

Who Can Open the Scroll?



Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. The scroll had writing on both sides and was kept closed with seven seals. And I saw a powerful angel, who called in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" Revelation 5:1, 2

Imagine in today's time-frame if there were a document that told the reader the exact future events....the future distribution of power....the distribution of wealth.....what countries would rise and fall and when....what the effects of climate change would look like....when comets/meteors will impact the earth....what global plagues will occur and when.....when millions of people will suddenly disappear from the Earth and leave all there possession behind.....and much more. Can you put a value on such a

document? It would be so valuable that every country and criminal in the world would try to obtain its possession and knowledge. This document does exist. It exists only in the right hand of the Creator. This is the scroll that is mentioned in Revelations Chapter 5. And because such a document is so important, it is protected by seven seals. In today's time-frame, it would be like having a super encryption that no one person had the codes to open. The seals indicated that the contents inside were from the King and that they could be trusted as true.



Now what good would it be to have such a document and no one could open it. John is faced with this plight and he begins to weep crocodile tears. No one in heaven or on Earth is worthy to obtain possession and open its contents. Again John cries and weeps until an elder tells him that there is only one, **Jesus**, who is **worthy** to obtain and open. Jesus takes the scroll from the right hand of the Creator, not by force, but because He is worthy. Then thousands of angels start to sing a new song why he is worthy:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were killed, and with your blood sacrifice you bought people for God from every tribe, language, race of people, and nation. Rev 5:9



To all who read this, this is the **one and only true meaning of Christianity**. This is what your faith should **be ALL ABOUT**. **PRAISE HIM FOR HIS SACRIFICE** just as they are doing in heaven **right now!!!** And the Creatures round about the throne and Elders said Amen.



The First Six Seals Opened



The prelude is over and the stage is set. For the rest of the Book of Revelations, the content will reveal the events of the end times. It should be noted that the **Book of Revelations reveals only seven seals** and the first six seals are covered in chapter six. In the book a much more significant amount of time is spent on the seventh seal, but that in no way reduces the importance of the first six seals. We shall discuss these first six seals in great detail because you will also see them manifested in the seventh seal.



The events of the first six seals are not specific to the end times. These events of the first six seals have happened since mankind has recorded history. But what you will see as the end times approaches is an effect similar to a funnel. At the top of the funnel things appear to move slower....and as gravity pull an object down the funnel both speed and intensity increase. We have lots of natural examples of this effect. Some examples like those at the theme parks may be fun, but others like tornadoes can be extremely destructive. The events of the first six seals are extremely destructive and as we get closer to the end times their **intensity and frequency will increase** and they will be **Global** in nature affecting **all mankind and creation**.



The White Horse and Its Rider (1st Seal)

Then I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living beings speak with a voice like thunder. It said, "Come"! I looked, and there before me was a white horse. The rider on the horse held a bow and was given a crown. He rode out to defeat the enemy and win the victory. Revelation 6:1, 2



- **White Horse and rider with a bow represents: False ideologies, False Leaders, Deception....**
- The rider of the White Horse of Revelation 6 (1st picture) is not to be confused with the Rider in Revelation Chapter 19 (2nd picture). The only thing the two really have in common is a White Horse. Revelation Chapter 19 is clearly the Returning Messiah and Chapter 6 represents those who falsely emulate Him.
- Jesus warned in Matthew Chapter 24 that signs of the end time would be marked by many false leaders and teachers. These false leaders would also carry false doctrines and false religious/political systems.
- Some of these leaders would be so convincing that many of God's elect may be deceived into thinking that their schemes are of God
- The consequences of deception can be fatal as seen with the 20th Century false leaders like: Hitler and Nazism, Lenin and Communism, Jim Jones(Guyana), David Koresh(Waco), and Marshall Applewhite's Heaven Gate cult to name a few....History is full of people that were so called leaders, with their doctrines and political systems that have misled many.
- The best way of not being deceived is to know for a surety The Lord and his Doctrine. Those who don't know and practice God's Word will have great difficulty in this time and will be easy targets for preying False Leaders.
- Those who do know the Word will need each other to maintain assurance of God's promise. Jesus reminds us that we are known by the fruit we bare.
- There will be no utopia on Earth until Jesus himself conquers His enemies and establishes His Seat of Government. Anyone who promises Utopia before Jesus returns (peaceful, safe, serene and economically satisfying existence for all) may be a false leader.

- What sets Christianity apart from other belief systems is: Christians believe by faith through grace(not works) that their Saviour Jesus' sacrificial blood atonement on the Cross(and that alone) is the only way to a right relationship to God the Father
- Mix one part "charismatic leader" with one part "apocalyptic visionary" and you have the formula for a potentially volatile religious explosion. Charismatic individuals exert a controlling influence over followers who are attracted to them because they possess special gifts. ("Charismatic" literally means "gifted.") Recipients of apocalyptic visions express a high level of confidence in their views of the future. (Apocalypses purport to "reveal" that which is hidden.) Visionaries of this sort claim uncommon insight into the present order and into impending future developments.
- The Bible calls False Prophets: Beasts of the field and the forest; Briars and Thorns; Clouds Without Water; Dogs; Goats; Idols; Merchants; Raging Waves; Scorpions; Trees without Fruit; Wandering Stars; Wolves; Young Lions; Watchmen That are Blind...
- False Prophets: 1) Falsely prophesy in God's name 2) Attempt to become wealthy by teaching or preaching 3) Love to be recognized as preeminent over others 4) Try to stop brethren from associating with other brethren 5) Are liars.

There have been many false leaders with false doctrines throughout human history. In the end times believers should be watchful for those whose messages attract and impact mankind on a Global scale. The funnel of time will ultimately propel mankind to the greatest most destructive false leader of all, the anti-christ. We shall discuss the anti-christ in great detail later in this lesson.

The Red Horse and Its Rider (2nd Seal)

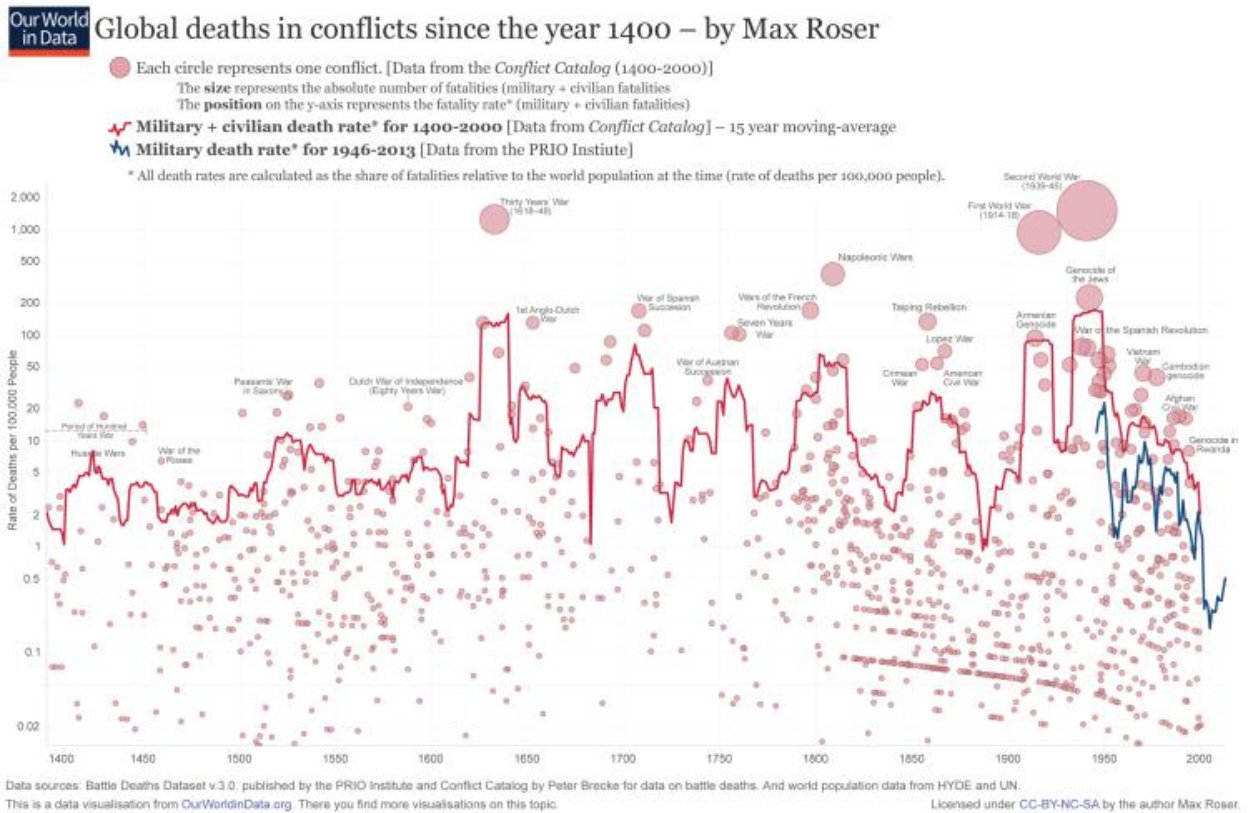
When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." And another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Revelation 6:3, 4



- **Red Horse and rider with a sword represents: War and its destruction.** He is given power to take peace from the Earth and to kill with the sword.

- There have been wars of some type since history has been recorded. Most of these wars involved peoples or tribes very close to each other in distance. Even in the good ole USA Michigan and Ohio waged war with each other; hence a great football rivalry now.
- The Hebrews before they possessed the Promise Land had many battles against opposing forces. All were victories when God fought for Israel. Later in Revelations He shall again fight for Israel and prevail in the War of all Wars.
- Wars are generally fought over: Resources, Land, Rights, and Women



- Some say World War I was the beginning of wars being fought on a Global Basis. World War II and its modern reality of potential global destruction (H-bomb) brought many of the theories of Revelation into plain view. World War II also brought significantly greater fatalities (see largest pink circle on graph).
- Since World War II, many inventions such as drones, guided missiles, satellites, television, internet, and computers have made it not only easier to fight a Global War, but also to watch one from anywhere in the World.
- Although modern Wars are 'intended' to be more civilized, they are without question as bloody and brutal as ancient warfare. In the 20th Century alone millions of soldiers and civilians (men, women, and children) were killed because of War.
- In the 20th Century we had several cases of genocide where one group has systematically murdered another group: 1)The Turks vs Armenians 2)The Nazi's vs the Jews 3) The Japanese vs the Chinese(The Rape of Nanking) 4)Rwanda and 5)The Serbian-Bosnian War

- And most recently the Islamic State committed genocide against Christians, Yazidis and Shiite Muslims who have fallen under its control in Syria and Iraq. The militants, who have also targeted Kurds and other Sunni Muslims, have tried to slaughter whole communities, enslaved captive women and girls for sex, and sought to erase thousands of years of cultural heritage by destroying churches, monasteries and ancient monuments. The Rohingya genocide in Myanmar and the Uygur persecution in China are also contemporary examples of genocide and persecutions.
- Although War is devastating to the parties fighting, it can be a lucrative economy for neutral observers that supply factions with weapons, food, machinery, and other goods needed by armies.
- It is ironic that the apostle Paul says the sound of Peace shall be a sign also. *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.* 1 Thessalonians 5:3

There have been Wars throughout human history. In the end times believers should be watchful for the wars that impact mankind **globally**. The funnel of time will ultimately propel mankind to the greatest most destructive War of all, the Battle of Armageddon which will be discussed in detail later in this lesson.

The Black Horse and Its Rider (3rd Seal)

The Lamb opened the third seal. Then I heard the third living being say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse. The rider on the horse held a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard something that sounded like a voice. The voice came from where the four living beings were. It said, "A quart of wheat or three quarts of barley will cost a full day's pay. But don't harm the supply of olive oil and wine!" Revelation 6:5, 6



- **Black Horse and rider with a pair of scales in his hand represents: Famine.** Scales are symbols for carefully measuring food when basic goods are sold at inflated prices. People are told not to hurt precious foodstuffs.
- Famine can be defined as: extreme and protracted shortage of food, causing widespread and persistent hunger, emaciation of the affected population, and a substantial increase in the death rate.

- The denarius was a Roman silver coin and was equal in value to the daily wage of a working man. Anciently oil and wine were not luxuries, but basic commodities of life.
- Famines can occur naturally or can be induced by People.
- In his foreword to a book on famine, Jean Mayer, noted nutritionist and educator, wrote that "famine is the ultimate public health catastrophe. It is unfortunately a recurrent human phenomenon, even in modern times. Since the end of World War II, there has not been one year in which there was not a famine"
- The reason that 1992 is cited as a critical year for shedding light on the true nature of famine is threefold: Bosnians, Somalis and Kurds. Here one finds starving people in three situations in three different parts of the world (Europe, Africa, and the Middle East) in which the weather played little or no role in widespread starvation. In each of them, however, war has played a major role.

There have been Famines throughout human history. In the end times believers should be watchful for the famines that impact mankind **globally**. The funnel of time will ultimately propel mankind to greater wars which will lead to global famine. The sad part is that with all of the world's technological advances, famine will continue to exist because **the world's true famine is of God's Love in the heart of mankind**. One can see how the horses so far are all inter-related and not independent of each other.

The Pale Horse and Its Rider (4th Seal)

The Lamb opened the fourth seal. Then I heard the voice of the fourth living being say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale-colored horse. The rider on the horse was death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth—power to kill people with the sword, by starving, by disease, and with the wild animals of the earth. Rev. 6:7, 8



- **Pale Horse and rider followed closely by Hades represent: Pestilence and Disease**

"Outbreak" is a relative word. A modern outbreak could be a virus that kills a couple hundred thousand (such as the recent swine flu), or simply an infected shipment of food that left dozens sick. However, a look back through history reveals outbreaks so expansive—so deadly—that they

essentially changed the course of history. Below are three of the deadliest outbreaks and pandemics in history.

1. **The Black Death:** A plague so devastating that simply saying “The Plague” will immediately pull it to the front of your mind. In the middle of the 14th century—from 1347 to 1351—the Black Death remade the landscape of Europe and the world. In a time when the global population was an estimated 450 million, at least 75 million are believed to have perished throughout the pandemic, with some estimates as high as 200 million. As much as half of Europe may have died in a span of only four years.
 2. **1918 Spanish Flu:** Approximately 90 years before the 2009 swine flu pandemic killed more than 200,000 people, reports of an especially dangerous form of influenza began to appear around the world. Appearing in multiple countries around the world, the disease spread quickly, ushered along even faster due to the close living quarters of troops fighting in World War I. This first instance of an H1N1 pandemic would be dubbed The Spanish Flu (despite the fact that it didn’t actually come from Spain). It burned out quickly and suddenly, by 1919, with the explanation still unknown today. But it left the global population decimated—with a mortality rate as high as one in five and an estimated one-third of the world population afflicted, as many as 50 million people are believed to have died. Approximately 25 million of those deaths came in the first 25 weeks of the outbreak.
 3. **HIV/AIDS:** This is a pandemic we’re still battling. And while medicine has made great strides, making HIV in many ways a chronic condition that can be managed in many countries, the end of the pandemic still seems to be a long way away. Originating in Cameroon and first recognized as a disease in 1981, the earliest documented case is believed to be in 1959 in the Congo. As of 2011 at least 60 million people had been infected by AIDS and 25 million had died. Today its impact varies widely across the world—while in 2008 an estimated 1.2 million Americans had HIV, Sub-Saharan Africa alone was home to 22.9 million cases, with one in five adults infected. About 35.3 million people were believed to have HIV in 2012.
 4. **COVID-19:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. It has since spread worldwide, leading to an ongoing pandemic. 75 Million confirmed cases and 1.7 million deaths worldwide in 2020 alone.
- Prior to Covid-19, only six diseases were responsible for nearly 90% of infection-related deaths among people under 44 years of age. These are: AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Measles, Diarrhea Diseases, Respiratory Illness
 - In her 2016 book, *Pandemic: Tracking Contagions from Cholera to Ebola and Beyond*, Sonia Shah discusses the history and science of contagious diseases. She notes that humans put themselves at risk by encroaching on wildlife habitats. "About 60 percent of our new pathogens come from the bodies of animals," she says.
 - Shah adds that international travel is also a factor in the spread of disease. "Air travel shapes our epidemics in such a powerful way that scientists can actually predict where and when an

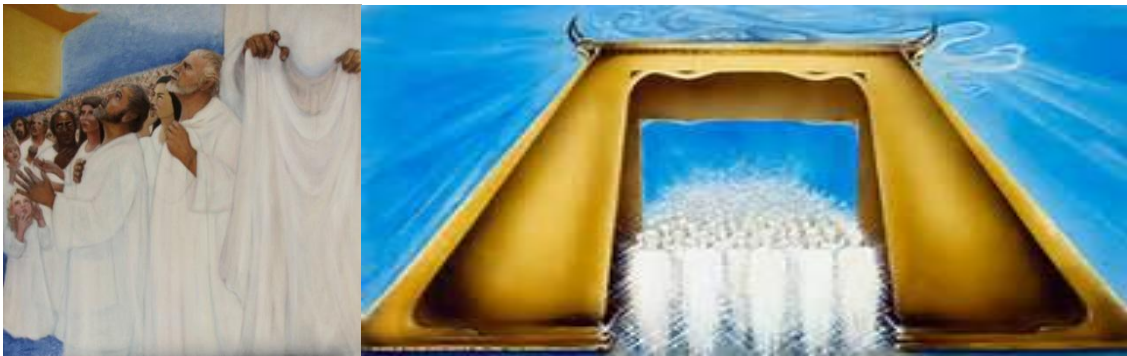
epidemic will strike next just by measuring the number of direct flights between infected and uninfected cities,"

There have been diseases and outbreaks throughout human history. In the end times believers should be watchful for the outbreaks that **impact mankind globally**. The funnel of time, encroachment on wildlife and animal habitats, global travel and increase in population will ultimately propel mankind to greater outbreaks. In the last several years millions of people have left their homelands in Africa and the Middle East because of war, drought, and famine and have shifted the global population make-up and potentially the possibility for catastrophic outbreaks. Again the legendary four horsemen of the 1st four seals are all inter-linked.

The Martyrs (5th Seal)

The Lamb opened the fifth seal. Then I saw some souls under the altar. They were the souls of those who had been killed because they were faithful to God's message and to the truth they had received. These souls shouted in a loud voice, "Holy and true Lord, how long until you judge the people of the earth and punish them for killing us?" Then each one of them was given a white robe. They were told to wait a short time longer. There were still some of their brothers and sisters in the service of Christ who must be killed as they were. These souls were told to wait until all the killing was finished.

Revelations 6:9-11



The fifth seal was presented to encourage **those who faced death**, and give them the assurance that despite the seeming triumph of the enemy, God will finally vindicate them.

The altar here in view may be seen as the counter-part of the Altar of burnt offering, and the victims which have been offered at it are the martyred members of the Church, who have followed their Head in the example of His sacrificial death. The time of sacrifices came to an end when Christ died on the cross (Heb. 9:26; 10:12); therefore, this is the altar of incense. Also, the smoke that ascends from this altar symbolizes the prayers of the saints (Rev 8:3). John appears to present his vision in a Jewish context in which the blood of an animal, poured out at the altar of sacrifice, represented the life of the slain animal (Lev. 17:11; see also Lev 4:7, 34). Similarly, the blood of martyrs was symbolically poured at God's altar in heaven, where their souls found a place to rest.



These were martyred because of "because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained." The phrases the word of God and the testimony appear repeatedly in the Apocalypse (Rev. 1:2, 9; 12:11, 17; 19:10; 20:4). The testimony is that of and about Jesus. The phrase points to God's faithful servants who were holding on to that word and testimony. Facing persecution and death, they testified to the grace and love of the Lord. Polycarp, who died as a martyr at the stake on February 23, 155, in Smyrna, prayed to God that he might be received "as a rich and acceptable sacrifice." All believers who in their hearts treasure God's revealed Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ by confessing his name (Rom. 10:9-10) view their testimony "as a badge of allegiance to Christ." Holding God's truth in one's heart and testifying to it with one's mouth identify the true believer who is willing to die for the faith. As the blood of Abel cried for vengeance on Cain (Gen. 4:10; cf. Heb. 12:24), so in the ears of the Seer the souls of the martyrs (i.e. their sacrificed lives) called aloud for judgment on the pagan world. Thus the martyred saints cry out in tune with the justice of God's throne against those who are against God (Rev. 6:10). Their cry is persistent, as the widow's is in the parable the widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8). They cry out to the Sovereign God. Although all believers will not become martyrs, there are still many more to join the numbers of those already sacrificed believers.

The World's Birthing Pains (6th Seal)

Then I watched while the Lamb opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake, and the sun became as black as sackcloth. The full moon became red like blood. The stars in the sky fell to the earth like a fig tree dropping its figs when the wind blows. The sky was split in the middle and both sides rolled up like a scroll. And every mountain and island was moved from its place. Rev. 6:12-14

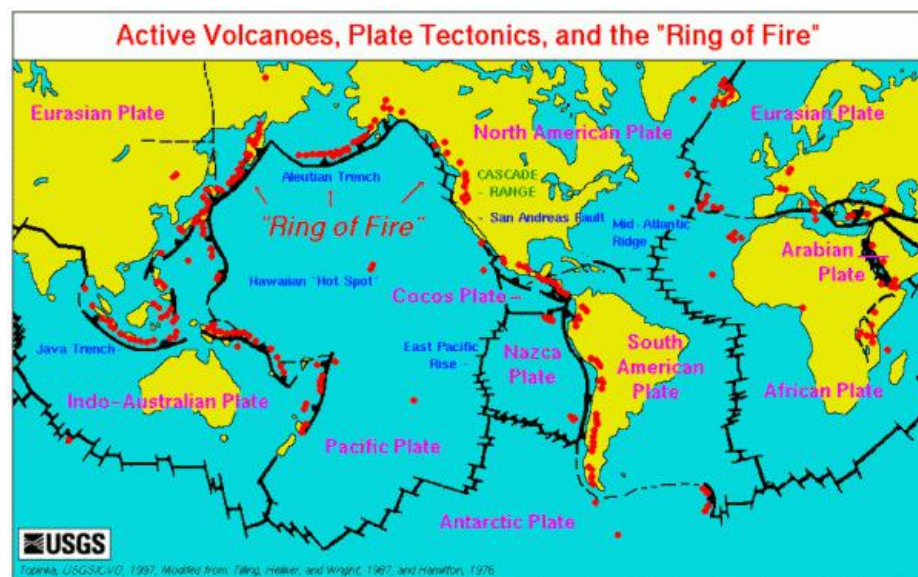
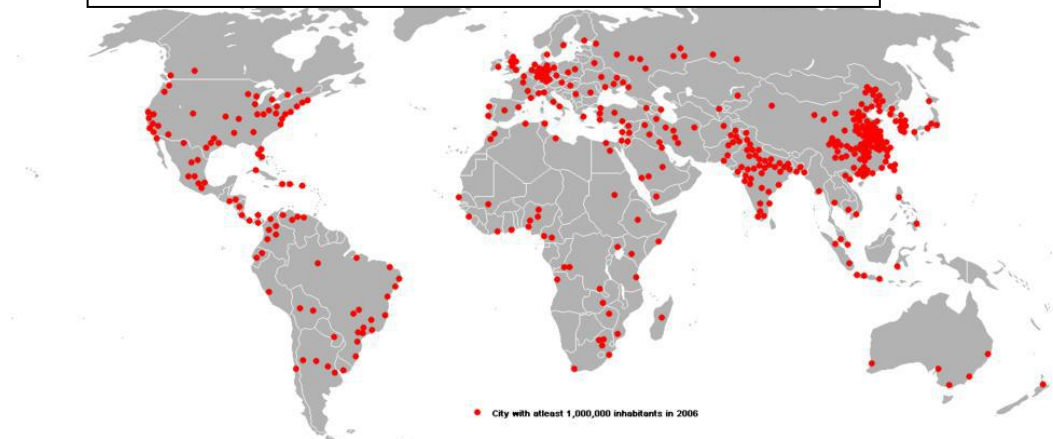


- Natural Disasters have occurred for many, many years, but **the frequency and intensity** of which they occur reach a **fervent pitch** in the End Times.

Rank	Death toll (Highest estimate)	Event	Location	Date
1.	4,000,000 ^{[2][nb 1]}	1931 China floods	China	July 1931
2.	2,000,000 ^{[3][4][5]}	1887 Yellow River flood		September 1887
3.	830,000 ^[6]	1556 Shaanxi earthquake		January 23, 1556
4.	655,000	1976 Tangshan earthquake		July 28, 1976
5.	500,000+ ^[2]	1970 Bhola cyclone	East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)	November 13, 1970
6.	316,000 ^[7]	2010 Haiti earthquake	Haiti	January 12, 2010
7.	300,000+ ^[8]	526 Antioch earthquake	Byzantine Empire (now Turkey)	May 526
8.	300,000 ^[9]	1881 Haiphong typhoon	Vietnam	October 8, 1881
9.	273,400 ^[10]	1920 Haiyuan earthquake	China	December 16, 1920
10.	229,000	Typhoon Nina		August 7, 1975

- Several factors will attribute to catastrophic destruction in the near future:
 - 1) The **population** on Earth in large concentrated urban cities
 - 2) The **location** of these cities in geo-hazard risk areas
 - 3) The **"due"** factor....see pictures below

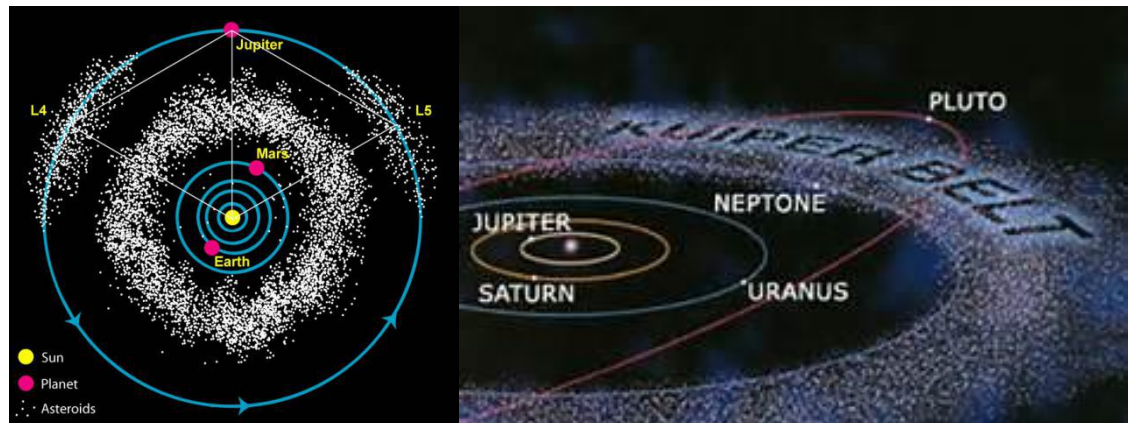
• **Cities with Population Greater Than 1,000,000 People**



- When faced with the facts about global destruction from heavenly objects, **it is only by the Grace of God that we have not been destroyed by now.** See map of previous impacts that left craters.



- There are millions of: asteroids in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter & Comets in the Kuiper Belt beyond Pluto. This main asteroid belt holds more than 200 asteroids larger than 60 miles (100 kilometers) in diameter....*The asteroid that could destroy Life on Earth is about 10 kilometers.* Scientists estimate the asteroid belt also contains more than 750,000 asteroids larger than three-fifths of a mile (1km) in diameter and millions of smaller ones. Many of these asteroids cross Earth's orbit on a regular basis and scientists agree that **it is not 'if' but 'when'** they will hit the Earth.



- An asteroid striking land would be catastrophic, but the damage might be far worse if it crashed at sea. Towering waves, called tsunamis, would race outward and crash down upon the coastlines, which are home to more than half the world's population.

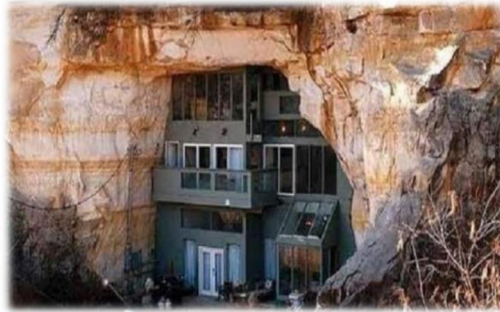


- When these natural disasters occur, the effects on the human mindset and the Global Economy will be tremendous. Jesus stated that these are not the last events, but just paving the way for the Day of the Lord which is shortly to come.



As a woman is about to give birth, she feels birthing pains sometimes called contractions. As the birth gets closer the contractions occur more frequently and with greater intensity. The first six seals of Revelations are very much the same as the birthing process. All of these Seals are linked and they will have **Global Impact** on mankind. So much so that people will say the words found in the last verses of Revelations Chapter 6:

Then all the people—the kings of the world, the rulers, the army commanders, the rich people, the powerful people, every slave, and every free person—hid themselves in caves and behind the rocks on the mountains. They said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us. Hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne. Hide us from the anger of the Lamb! The great day for their anger has come. No one can stand against it.”



The Pause Before The Wrath

Chapter 7 pauses the action to accomplish 2 distinct events:

- 1) To prepare a remnant of Jews by sealing them for protection before the last perilous events to come
- 2) To remove The Church of Christ before the last wrathful events occur



The 144,000 People of Israel

After this happened I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth. The angels were holding the four winds of the earth. They were stopping the wind from blowing on the land or the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming from the east. This angel had the seal of the living God. The angel called out in a loud voice to the four angels. These were the four angels that God had given the power to hurt the earth and the sea. The angel said to them, "Don't harm the land or the sea or the trees before we mark the foreheads of those who serve our God." Then I heard how many people had God's mark on their foreheads. There were 144,000. They were from every tribe of the people of Israel: Revelation 7:1-4



Israel was chosen to be an example for other nations of how God would bless mankind if they obeyed His commands by faith. A remnant of Israelites will have another chance to perform this **original mission** which was to be **ambassadors to the World** of God's Word and Blessings. But their mission will be a dangerous and perilous one. And just as a crew has to wear protective gear at a dangerous contaminated nuclear site, so are the 144,000 workers for God sealed with the protective Holy Spirit. These Israelites will be the **lights pointing people to Jesus** in a world darkened by the absence of God's Church of Believers. They will work at a time when the anti-christ will have power on the Earth and even

the mention of Jesus could lead to severe persecution or even death. But despite the risks, they will lead many tribulation period people to Christ. And their work will be necessary because of the 2nd distinct event that happens in Chapter 7 of Revelations which is often called “The Rapture”.

The Rapture of The Church

Then I looked, and there was a large crowd of people. There were so many people that no one could count them all. They were from every nation, tribe, race of people, and language of the earth. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They all wore white robes and had palm branches in their hands. They shouted loudly, “Victory belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9, 10

Then one of the elders asked me, “Who are these people in white robes? Where did they come from?” I answered, “You know who they are, sir.” And the elder said, “These are the ones who have come out of the great suffering. They have washed their robes with the blood of the Lamb, and they are clean and white.” Revelation 7:13, 14



- In Christian eschatology the **rapture** (the exact word rapture is not found in Bible) refers to the belief that either before, or simultaneously with, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth, believers who have died will be raised and believers who are still alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (the resurrected dead believers) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
- The timing and ‘which group’ of believers will be taken ‘when’ is the subject of much debate. And Jesus himself said that **Only God the Father actually knows** when all these events will occur.

- A key glimpse into the predicted occurrence of the Rapture can be found in Matthew Chap 24. Jesus said *that just as the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man*. Remember that Noah's living family was removed and placed in the Ark of safety before the destruction of Floods came.
- With careful study of the many scriptures and commentaries on this subject I have attached what I believe is the most plausible flow on the Road to Eternity. **Again only God knows for sure.**
- I believe that the **Rapture is the first of (3) distinct events** on the **Road to Eternity** that scripture speaks of. This belief is supported by Revelations Chapter 7 where a great multitude of Redeemed Believers are in heaven. They arrive long before the 7th and last Trumpet that will announce the Reign and Rule of Christ (Revelation 11:15-18) or before the military Return of Christ (Revelation Chapter 19).
- Contrary to the 1st bullet point on this topic, the scriptures do not mention resurrected saints in Chapter 7. It is more likely that the dead Pre-Tribulation Saints are in the 3rd Event.

THE ROAD TO ETERNITY

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SCRIPTURES</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TIMING</u>
1 <u>The Rapture</u> (Like the days of Noah)	<u>Rev. 7:9-14</u> <u>Matt 24:36-44</u>	Removal of the Living "Believers" (except for the 144,000 sealed Jews) before the final wrath of God and the distress of the Antichrist Regime.	Before the start of the 7th Seal in Revelations. The 7th Seal has 7 Trumpets that will be blown in The Tribulation Period.
2 <u>The Second Coming of Christ</u> (The first resurrection)	<u>Matt 24:27-31</u> <u>I Cor. 15:50-52</u> <u>I Thes. 4:13-18</u> <u>Matt. 19:28-30; 20:8-16</u> <u>Rev. 11:15-18</u> <u>Rev. 19:11-21</u> <u>Rev. 20:4-6</u>	The Tribulation dead in Christ and Living Tribulation Saints rise and meet Christ in the air. Visible to all mankind.	At the sound of the 7th and last Trumpet during the Tribulation Period. Jesus said that only God the Father knows the exact timing.
3 <u>The Great White Throne Judgment</u>	<u>Rev. 20:11-15</u> <u>II Cor. 5:1-10</u> <u>St. John 3:16-21</u> <u>Matt 25:31-46</u>	The people from all generations are resurrected and judged. Those 'found' in <u>The Book of Life</u> will be judged for their works (not on whether they are saved) and live with Christ for eternity. Not hurt by 2nd death. Those people 'not found' in <u>The Book of Life</u> will be judged for <u>Rejection of the Savior</u> . They will die again (the 2nd death) and be thrown, along with Satan and his posse, into the Lake of Fire for eternity.	At the end of the Millennium, Christ's 1000 year reign on Earth, Satan is released and defeated. Then will be the Great White Throne Judgment.

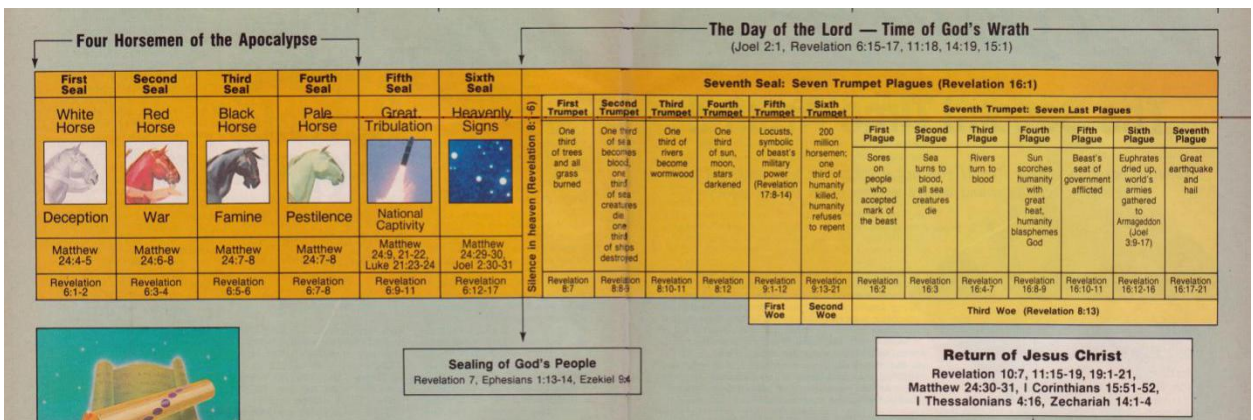
Many people in school have had classes where they had several tests and then a big final exam at the end. In some of these classes if you did well enough prior to the final exam, you could choose to skip the final exam and accept your grade based on class work and regular tests. Depending on the teacher, the final exam could be very difficult and worth skipping. The 7th Seal in the Book of

Revelations is “**The Final Exam**” and I guarantee you that it will be the **most difficult test for any human ever taken**. And it is for this reason that our God **removes the “Living Believers”** from the Earthly scene.

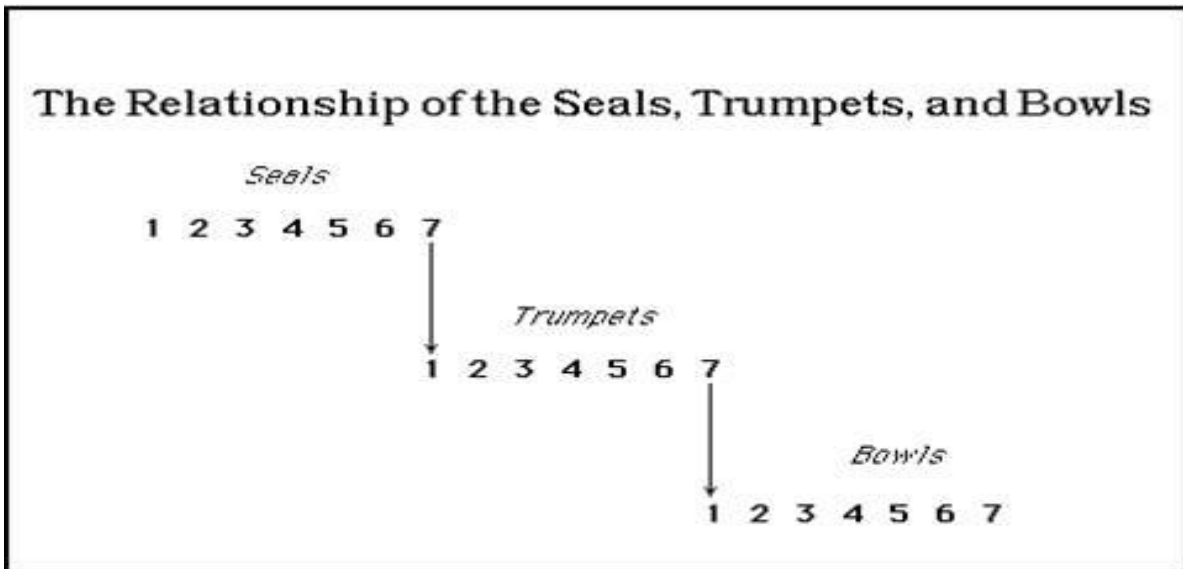
The Seventh Seal: Time of God’s Wrath

The Lamb opened the seventh seal. Then there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God. They were given seven trumpets. Revelation 8:1, 2

The entire Book of Revelations only covers 7 Seals. The first 6 Seals are covered in Chapter 6 of the Book of Revelations. The 7th Seal spans Chapter 8-19.....and you can tell that Jesus the Revelator wanted to emphasize this Seal due to its length in the book.



It is very easy to get confused with what is happening when you get to the 7th Seal because the 7th Seal contains 7 Trumpets and the 7th Trumpet contains 7 Bowls. But the Trumpets and Bowls are all a part of the 7th Seal.....and the 5th – 7th Trumpets are also called the 3 Woes.



Let us discuss a few key points of the Trumpets seen in the picture below:



- The trumpets played a prominent part in events recorded in the Hebrew bible. They were used to call people together, to move the tribes, and to celebrate the festivals. They were also used to sound the alarm in a time of war and the coronations of kings.
- "When the Lamb breaks the seventh seal, there will be silence in heaven for about half an hour. On earth, however, no such silence will occur. The silence in heaven translates on earth to the **rise to power of the beast**"
- With God's People now removed and/or protected, God can get down to the business of Wrath for an unrepentant Satan (and his demons) and mankind (that choose Satan over God)
- As the first 4 trumpets sound, spiritual warfare, catastrophe and violence sweep the Earth, taking away the peace from a third of its people and creation
- God's wrath, **which is actually perpetrated by 'Evil-hearted' Mankind and Satan**, is progressive but not completely devastating. These (1/3) punishments are intended to lead the human race to repentance. Tragically for the most part, **humanity refuses to heed God's mercy in judgment.**

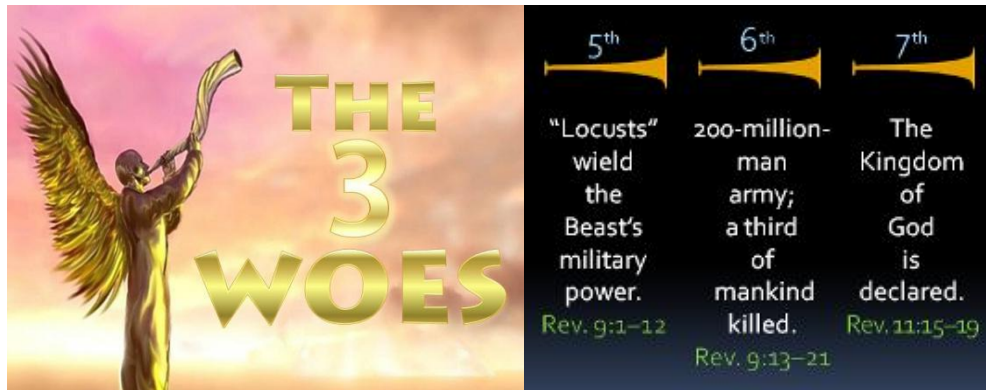
Earlier in this lesson I mentioned because the Book of Revelations covers so much territory of time, alternate resources (other bible books, historical events/people references, and modern facts and technology detail) are definitely required to gain a clearer understanding of the book's plot. In teaching the Book of Revelations, I have found it easier to adjust the order of reading after Chapter 8. For after this chapter is when many other resources are a must to maintain plot clarity. Now is the time that we shall include other resources and deviate from straight-line reading between Chapters 9-19. We will cover all of these chapters just with a different outline of Reading. I like to call this outline: **THE FINAL COUNTDOWN.**

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN	
Scripture Background	Subject Focus
Ezek 38:8; Mat 24:15,16; Zech 12; Dan 9:27; Rev 16	THE PLACE
Gen 10; Isaiah 19; Ezek 38,39; Dan 11:40-45; Joel 2:20; Rev 9:14-16	THE PLAYERS
Daniel Chapters 2,7	THE REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
I Thes 5:3; II Thes 2:4; Rev Chap 13; 17:15; 19:20; 20:10	THE FALSE PROPHET AND THE ANTICHRIST
Gen Chap 11; Isaiah Chap 47; Rev Chap 17,18; II Pet 3:4; II Tim Chap 3	BABYLON AND THE HARLOT
Matt 18:15-20; Heb 10:27-31; Rev Chap 11	THE TWO WITNESSES
Rev Chapters 14-16	THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES
Dan 9:27; 11:40-45; Ezek 38:14-22; 39:3-6; Mat 24:22; James 4:1,2; I Thes 5:3; Rev Chap 16; Zech 12:2,3; 14:1,2 Rev 11:15-19; Chap 19; Mat 24:30,31; I Cor 15:51-52; I Thes 4:16; Zech 14:1-4	WORLD WAR III & THE RETURN OF THE MESSIAH
Heb Chap 4; IPet 2:9; Rev Chap 19, 20:10	THE MILLENNIUM & THE DRAGON'S LAST STAND
I Cor 6:1-3; Rev Chap 20:11-15	THE FINAL JUDGMENT
Rev Chap 21, 22	THE NEW HEAVEN & THE NEW EARTH

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound! Revelation 8:13



When I was a kid and 2 kids were engaged in conflict, one would draw a line and say "if you cross that line, we will fight". And if one kid crossed the line sometimes the other kid would draw another line....giving his opponent a chance to change his mind. This would go on until someone backed down or there was a fight. The conflict is between God and his enemies who refused to repent. There will be no more lines drawn. After the 6th Trumpet is complete God's Wrath will no longer have any Qualifiers like 1/3. His justice will be honest, swift and complete. The time of Mercy has past.

Before we discuss the final devastating acts of the Final Countdown, we need to get a clear understanding of the setting which includes the place, characters/nations and specific prophesied events that pertain to the apocalypse but may be found in other parts of the Bible. Let us begin.

The Place (Israel)



Ground Zero - In terms of nuclear explosions and other large bombs, the term "ground zero" (sometimes also known as "surface zero") describes the point on the Earth's surface closest to a detonation. In the case of an explosion above the ground, *ground zero* refers to the point on the ground directly below the nuclear detonation and is sometimes called the hypo-center. Generally, it is also used in relation to earthquakes, epidemics, and other disasters to mark the point of the most severe damage or destruction. In the Final Countdown the small country of Israel (*about the size of New Jersey*) will

become Ground Zero. It will be the geographical Center of the World. The location and names of the Characters such as 'King of the East' will be relative to the Ground Zero location of Israel. Listed below are a few key points about Israel and its role in the Final Countdown:

- Few groups of people can trace their history and genealogy as far back as the people of Israel. This is amazing considering its multiple creations, dispersions, destructions, and persecutions.
- Israel was first destroyed and dispersed by the Assyrians (Northern Kingdom 722 BC) and the Babylonians (Southern Kingdom 587 BC). The second destruction and dispersion was at the hands of the Roman Empire (1st Century).
- **Bible Prophecy was fulfilled when Israel became a nation again for the third time on May 14th, 1948.**



- The second significant reason that Israel will play a large part in the Final Countdown is the **Rebuilding of the Hebrew Temple** for the 3rd time. The future Antichrist will desecrate the Temple and proclaim himself as God (Mat 24:15, 16).
- The old Temple was built on the site that is currently where the "Dome of the Rock" resides. This mosque is the second "holiest" place for the Muslim faith next to Mecca. The site is known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, from which the Prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended to heaven.
- On the south end of the Haram Al-Sharif complex is Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest place in Islam.
- Israel according to scripture will be the **gathering place of armies for the War of all Wars**. The place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon**. Armageddon means the Mount of Megiddo, which has also given its name to the great plain of Jezreel which belts across the Holy Land from Mediterranean to the Jordan.

For many many years, we have seen on our news everyday that the Middle East is an unstable hotbed of social, political, economic, military, and religious activity. And anything that happens in the Middle East is always a concern for Israel because Israel is now and will continue to be Ground Zero for the Final Countdown. **Watch news and events in this location very carefully.**



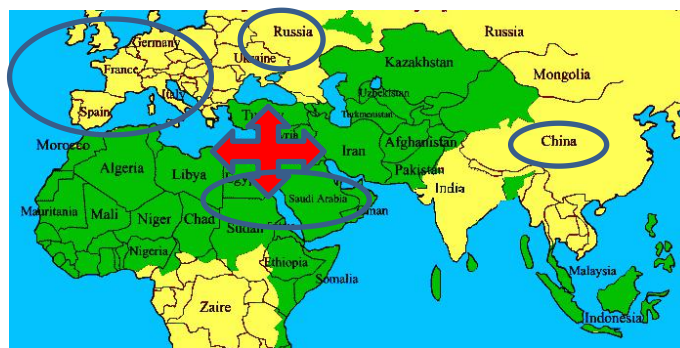
The Players

One Armed Boxer is a 1971 Hong Kong martial arts film starring Jimmy Wang Yu. It is about a skilled Chinese martial artist who loses an arm and must exact revenge on his rival school. Released worldwide during 1972, the film came to the United States in late 1973 with a name change: it was released to U.S. theaters as The Chinese Professionals.



The plot consists of two rival gangs (Ching Te School) with Jimmy Wang Yu as Tien Lung vs. the Chao gang. The 2 gangs have a few brief fights where the Chao gang gets utterly embarrassed. Chao plans his revenge by hiring a group of mercenary martial artists from Shanghai. This group consists of two karate experts and their teacher, a Judo master, a Taekwondo expert, two Thai boxing fighters, a Yoga expert, and two mystic Tibetan lamas. With this group, Chao easily destroys the Ching Te School and all of their businesses, leaving everyone dead except for Tien Lung who loses his right arm. Tien Lung vows revenge and begins his training to destroy anyone and everyone who stands in his way.

Watching the movie for me was exciting because of the different characters. They all came from different locations and they all had different lethal styles. Yet Tien Lung learned all their styles and what counter style would defeat each. The characters in the Final Countdown will all be lethal and will all come from different parts of the World. They will all come to fight in Israel and against Christ and they will all be utterly destroyed. Let us meet the Key Players in the Final Countdown:



- It is believed by many commentators that **Russia** and its allies, the **King of the North**, will be a major player during the final countdown events of World History. Ezek 38:15, 16 speaks of a force from the uttermost North. Due north of Israel is Moscow. It should be noted that Russia is **currently establishing itself in the Middle East with hard alliances** with Syria, Iran and other nations.










- **The King of the South** and his allies are believed to be led by **Saudi Arabia and Egypt**. This Sunni Muslim alliance will have allies from the 1) Black African nations, Cush, 2) Arabic African nations, Put, and 3) Other Sunni Arabic nations. (Ezek 30; Dan 11). Political instability has led to many nations south of Israel to proxy dictatorships and military rule. The Saudi's are **actively forming this Sunni Muslim alliance today** to fight against arch enemy Iran and the Shia Muslim alliance for control of Middle East Oil.
- The 3rd Major Player, the **King of the East**, is believed to be **China and its allies**. The original Greek words translated "east" (Rev 16:12) are literally anatoles heliou, which mean, "the rising of the sun." This was the ancient use for East Asian nations.
- China's Population is 1,439,323,776 (2020 EST.). China's Military manpower - fit for military service: males age 15-49: 199,178,361 (2000 EST.) [Rev 9:14-16]
- The 4th and final major Player is the **revived Roman Empire, a United Western Europe**, will be discussed in a future lesson.
- The United States of America is not mentioned specifically as a major player. Some believe that the USA might be aligned with the Roman Empire, but will not have the dominant leadership role of other major players above.
- "Key information for each of the Major Players that may impact the final events are:
 - 1) Geography and environment
 - 2) Economy and Natural Resources
 - 3) Trading partners and currency
 - 4) Military capability

If one turns on the nightly news or reads the internet news, you can see that all of the major players are in place and some have already started to make aggressive moves toward the Final Countdown.



The Revival of the Roman Empire

“That was your dream. Now we will tell the king what it means. King, you are the most important king. The God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. He has given you control, and you rule over people and the wild animals and the birds. Wherever they live, God has made you ruler over them all. King Nebuchadnezzar, you are that head of gold on the statue. “Another kingdom will come after you, but it will not be as great as your kingdom. Next, a third kingdom will rule over the earth—that is the bronze part. Then there will be a fourth kingdom. That kingdom will be strong like iron. Just as iron breaks things and smashes them to pieces, that fourth kingdom will break all the other kingdoms and smash them to pieces. Daniel 2:36-40

SEVEN WORLD EMPIRES			
<p>EGYPT (c. 2100 B.C. to c. 1400 B.C.) A son of Ham was the first king of Egypt. When Joseph went to Egypt, foreign "Shepherd Kings" may have been in control. The Hamites were back in power at the time of the Exodus.</p>	<p>REV. 13 & 17 1. Egypt 2. Assyria 3. Babylon 4. Medo-Persia 5. Greece 6. Rome 7. Anti-Christ</p>  <p>DANIEL 2</p>	<p>DANIEL 7 BABYLON</p>  <p>Lion with Eagle's wings</p>	<p>DANIEL 8</p>  <p>MEDO-PERSIA</p> <p>Ram with two horns. Higher: Persia, the stronger of the two.</p>
<p>ASSYRIA (c. 1100 B.C. to 606 B.C.) The ancient city of Nineveh finally rose to power over her rival Babylon. The Assyrians ruled the world with force and fear, and demanded great sums of tribute money.</p>	<p>BABYLON (606 B.C. to 538 B.C.) Babylon was even older than Nineveh. Daniel lived in this great, impregnable city and saw it fall to the Medes and Persians. —Dan. 2:37, 38; 7:4; & Daniel 5.</p>  <p>Head of Gold: BABYLON</p>	<p>Bear raised up on one side: MEDO-PERSIA Ribs: three conquered kingdoms.</p> 	<p>MEDO-PERSIA (538 B.C. to 333 B.C.) Cyrus the Great freed the Jews to return and rebuild the Temple. About 454 B.C. Artaxerxes let them rebuild Jerusalem. Dan. 9:25</p>
<p>MEDO-PERSIA (538 B.C. to 333 B.C.) Cyrus the Great freed the Jews to return and rebuild the Temple. About 454 B.C. Artaxerxes let them rebuild Jerusalem. Dan. 9:25</p>	<p>BREAST & ARMS OF SILVER: MEDO-PERSIA</p> 	<p>Belly & thighs of Brass: GREECE</p>  <p>Leopard with 4 heads (Egypt, Assyria, Turkey, Greece) Wings: speedy conquest</p>	<p>GREECE (333 B.C. to 146 B.C.) Alexander the Great conquered the world in only 10 years! The Greek culture and language later greatly helped spread the Gospel. Dan. 2:39; 7:6; 8:5-8</p>
<p>ROME (44 B.C. to 455 A.D.) By the time Jesus was born, Augustus Caesar ruled the world with almost complete control. This period of world peace allowed the message of Jesus to go into all the world more easily.</p>	<p>LEGS OF IRON: ROME Rome divided into East & West</p> 	<p>GREECE</p>  <p>FINAL WORLD POWERS!</p>	<p>GREECE</p> <p>Little Horn: —Anti-Christ</p> <p>Alexander the Great: the great horn 4 horns: Egypt, Assyria, Turkey, Greece Little horn: —Anti-Christ</p>
<p>TODAY The feet are today, a mixture of nations, clay democracies and iron dictatorships. Dan. 2:41-43</p> <p>ANTI-CHRIST The toes are the time of the final 10 kings of the Anti-Christ. —The most terrible time in the history of the creation, but also the greatest finish with the return of Jesus Christ to rule the Earth with His saints for the next thousand years. Dan. 2:44, 45</p>	<p>FEET OF IRON & CLAY: TODAY!</p> <p>1000 Yrs. Ten Endtime Kingdoms. Rock: Christ's Kingdom overthrowing worldly government</p> <p>The End!</p>	<p>ROME Today & Anti-Christ</p> <p>Beast with 10 horns: 10 Endtime Kingdoms. 3 are broken by the "Little Horn" — Anti-Christ —, the rest surrender.</p> <p>ANTI-CHRIST KINGDOMS OF ROME, TODAY & THE END</p>	<p>ROME Today & Anti-Christ</p> <p>Alexander the Great & his 4 successors.</p>

- Daniel Chap 2 & 7, written about 6th Century BC, show us 4 of the 7 Great World Empires that have Power over the whole Earth.
- These are the kingdoms: 3) Babylon, the head of Gold (lion with eagle's wings); 4) Inferior to Babylon, the Media-Persian empire (bear); 5) The Bronze Greek empire (the leopard); and 6) The Iron Roman empire which broke to pieces all other kingdoms (dreadful beast)
- All of these World Kingdoms were defeated and destroyed by another kingdom except for the Roman Empire.



- The first phase of the Roman Empire fell from within. The Roman influence on the Western World is huge from government to infrastructure.



- The 4th and final major Player in the Final Countdown is the **revived Roman Empire, a United Western Europe**. This Empire's second phase will emerge shortly before the Return of Christ. Also, this is the group in which it is believed that The Antichrist will emerge.
- We are not speaking of a revived Roman Empire in the physical, geographical sense, although some of these countries were a part of the old Empire. We are speaking of these countries which are the depository of people, the culture, and tradition of Rome.

- The 2nd phase of the Roman Empire will have 10 horns or 10 seats of power, but (3) of them will have to be subdued by the Antichrist. Currently, the European Union is established with a single currency, the Euro.

Many men have attempted to revive the Roman Empire including Charlemagne, Napoleon, and Hitler, but have not been successful because the prophecy's time was not yet due. From Europe's vantage point, a United Europe offers Europeans greater leverage:

- 1) Militarily against common enemies of Western Europe
- 2) Economically against powers like the USA, China, and Japan...
- 3) Politically as a dominant World Leader.

In the final countdown events, the Revived Roman Empire will be an extremely powerful force which will fight, unite, and lead the other players into World War III.

The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet



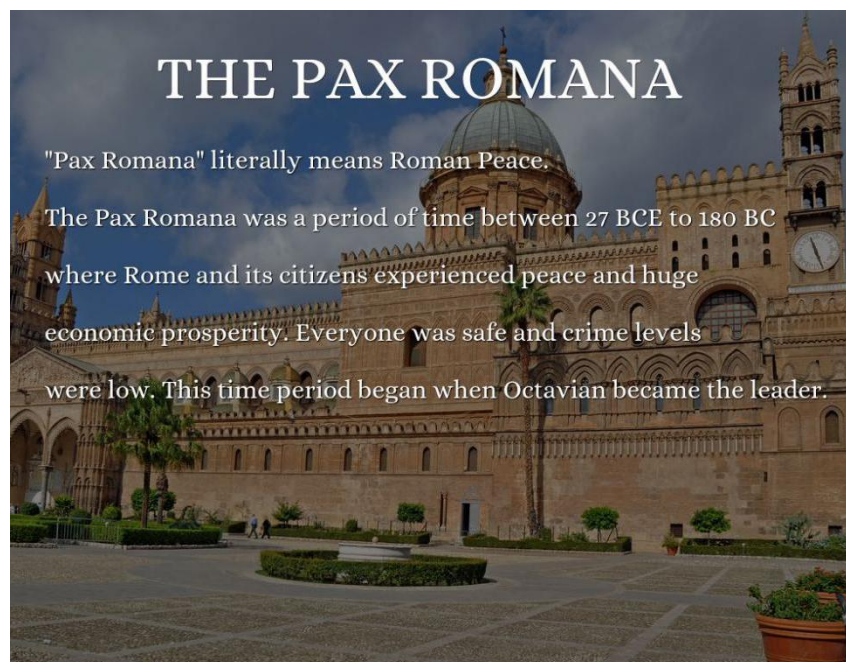
Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. There was a crown on each of its horns. It had an evil name written on each head. This beast looked like a leopard, with feet like a bear's feet. It had a mouth like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast all of its power and its throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast looked as if it had been wounded and killed, but the death wound was healed. All the people in the world were amazed, and they all followed the beast. People worshiped the dragon because it had given its power to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast. They asked, "Who is as powerful as the beast? Who can make war against it?" The beast was allowed to boast and speak insults against God. It was allowed to use its power for 42 months. The beast opened its mouth to insult God—to insult his name, the place where he lives, and all those who live in heaven. It was given power to make war against God's holy people and to defeat them. It was given power over every tribe, race of people, language, and nation. Everyone living on earth would worship the beast. Revelation 13:1-8

The first 8 verses in Revelation Chapter 13 are referring to The Anti-Christ that is given power to rule on Earth by the Dragon (Satan).



Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he talked like a dragon. This beast stood before the first beast and used the same power the first beast had. He used this power to make everyone living on the earth worship the first beast. The first beast was the one that had the death wound that was healed. The second beast did great miracles. He even made fire come down from heaven to earth while people were watching. This second beast fooled the people living on earth by using the miracles that he had been given the power to do for the first beast. He ordered people to make an idol to honor the first beast, the one that was wounded by the sword but did not die. The second beast was given power to give life to the idol of the first beast. Then the idol could speak and order all those who did not worship it to be killed. The second beast also forced all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to have a mark put on their right hand or on their forehead. No one could buy or sell without this mark. (This mark is the name of the beast or the number of its name.) Anyone who has understanding can find the meaning of the beast's number. This requires wisdom. This number is the number of a man. It is 666. Revelation 13:11-18

Verses 11-18 in Revelation Chapter 13 are referring to The False Prophet that will assist the Anti-Christ in his rule on Earth. He will be a master of deception.

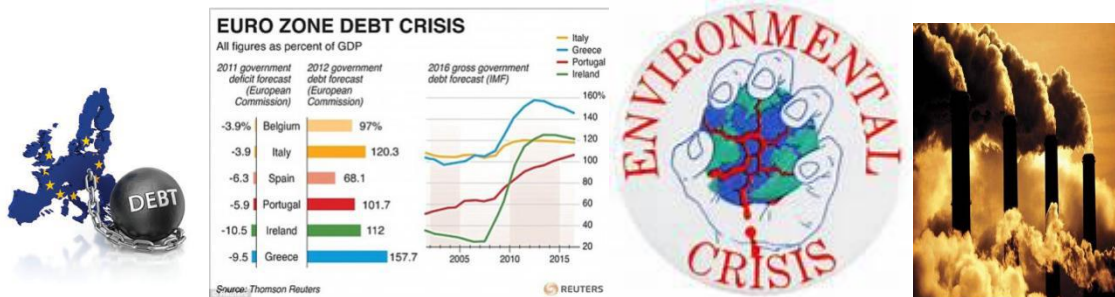


- The Roman peace, Pax Romana, was seen by some as a temporary World Utopia and was unlike anything the world had seen. Its people were deeply grateful.

- Arnold Toynbee, a historian, said many years ago that 'By forcing on mankind more and more lethal weapons, and at the same time making the world more and more **interdependent economically**, technology has brought mankind to such a degree of **distress** that we are ripe for deifying of any new Caesar who might succeed **in giving the world unity and peace.**'



- There are many seeds which are planted in the breeding ground for dictators; anarchy, lawlessness, moral decadence, human desperation, and false hero worship fertilize the fields that produce despots.



- A dictator does not thrust his rule upon people from the top down, without provocation. His tyranny is the end of the result of chaos in the society that results in his rise to despotic power. Hitler used Germany's Economic depression to rise to power. And with today's constant threat of terrorism, debt crisis, environmental stress, and global crime rates soaring, it will be easy to wish for a powerful leader to change the fortunes of humanity.
- The word 'Antichrist' never occurs in the book of Revelations, it is only found within John's epistles, 1 John 2:18, 2:22, 4:3 and 2 John 1:7.
- It means against Christ, or an opposition Christ, a rival Christ. The word is used only by the apostle John. Referring to false teachers, he says (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2John 1:7), "Even now are there many antichrists." This name has also been applied to the "little horn" of the "king of fierce countenance" (Daniel 7:24, 25; 8:23-25). It has been applied also to the "false christs" spoken of by our Lord (Matthew 24:5,23,24). To the "man of sin" described by Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4,8-10). And to the "beast from the sea" (Revelation 13:1; 17:1-18).



- The Antichrist will rise to power on a wave of world euphoria, as he temporarily saves the world from its desperate economic, military & political problems with a brilliant 7-year plan for world peace, economic stability & religious freedom.

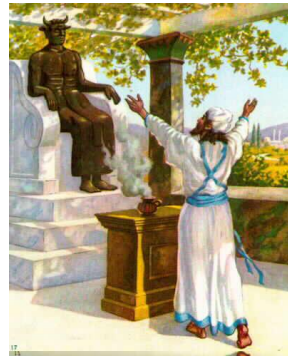
Conquests

- Like the beasts that describe him (Rev 13:2), his conquest will be rapid, he will be strong and powerful, and there will be an air about him which is self-assured and proud.
- According to prophecy the Antichrist will not only be a master of political intrigue, but also a military genius. Daniel describes several major wars that he fights during his 7-year reign.



- Like Hitler, who was one of history's antichrist archetypes, he will have great charisma & speaking ability, "a mouth speaking great things".

- The Bible spells it out in years, months & days exactly how long the **Antichrist will reign with full power...3-1/2 years, or 42 months, or 1260 days** (Rev. 12:6, 14) which was the same amount of time of Jesus' first earthly ministry.
- The antichrist will be **given his power and authority by the Dragon, Satan himself**, and he will be able to work all kinds of miracles. Some believe that he will miraculously recover from a fatal head wound as he comes to power.
- For a time, most of the world is going to think the Antichrist is wonderful, as he will seem to have solved so many of the world's problems. But three-and-a-half years into his seven year reign he will break the covenant & invade Israel.



- At this time he will outlaw all religions, except the worship of himself & his image. The Bible says that the Antichrist will sit in the Jewish Temple exalting himself as God & demanding to be worshiped.
- The Antichrist and the False Prophet are the satanic counterfeit of Jesus and John the Baptist. The False Prophet will demand **unwavering loyalty to the 'Beast'**. He will be a master of Satanic magic.



- He will force this 'beast' worship because he will **have control over the World's economies**. Those who don't worship the 'beast' will not be able to buy or sell and may be put to death.
- The **restraining power** of the "True Believers" to hold back the "Beast" will **no longer be present** for the original Church will be gone. He will make war against those converted to Christianity by the radical 144,000 Christian Jews that were sealed. (Rev Chap 7)



- The number (6) is the number of Man. Tripling the number (6) or (666), is symbolic for **Man becoming as God** or the Trinity. Without this mark of the beast, people will not be permitted to buy or sell.

It is ironic that Paul says the sound of Peace shall be a sign also. *'For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.'* (1 Thessalonians 5:3). My brothers and sisters the day of the Antichrist is upon us. We have in place all the necessary ingredients (economic, environmental, criminal, military distress) for a global Antichrist to rise to power. And we also have all of the technology that he would need to spread his propaganda worldwide and to rule a global nation. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying.



Babylon and the Harlot

The Woman on the Red Beast (Revelations Chapter 17:1-5)

One of the seven angels came and spoke to me. This was one of the angels that had the seven bowls. The angel said, "Come, and I will show you the punishment that will be given to the famous prostitute. She is the one sitting over many waters. The rulers of the earth sinned sexually with her. The people of the earth became drunk from the wine of her sexual sin." Then the angel carried me away by the Spirit to the desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a red beast. The beast was covered with evil names. It had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and red. She was shining with the gold, jewels, and pearls that she was wearing. She had a golden cup in her hand. This cup was filled with terribly evil things and the filth of her sexual sin. She had a title written on her forehead. This title has a hidden meaning. This is what was written:

MYSTERY,

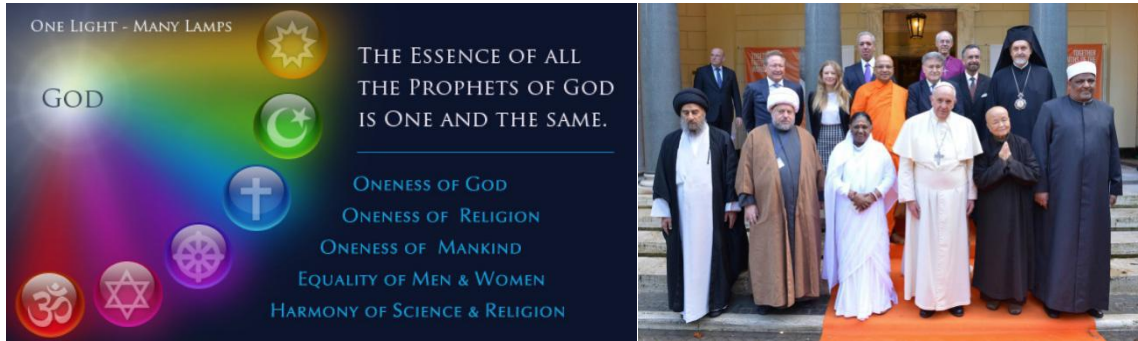
BABYLON THE GREAT,

THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.



- Religion is more than just a belief in a deity. Religion is philosophy and a way of life. It can define who you are, how you view the world around you and how you interact within it. There are as many different types of religion as there are different types of people. If religion is the process of man trying to achieve goodness, perfection, and acceptance with God by his own efforts,

then Christianity, by definition, is not a Religion. Christianity says that man cannot reach God except through the free gift of the Atonement provided by his Son Jesus.



- Interfaith affirms and supports the underlying goodness of each person, and the healing of our world. It does not seek to homogenize religious differences. It honors the sacredness and uniqueness of each faith, and then creates ways by which the many paths can meet on common ground or unite in a new and sacred creative form.



Some believe that before the 7 year Tribulation that there will be one great "World" religious system which will aid the Antichrist in his rise to power.

- One world government or political/religious system is an extremely dangerous proposition unless it is run by Jesus, the Messiah.
- The one world government or political/religious system is called the Great Harlot, or prostitute; the harlot represents a religion, resembling Christianity and the Church, which prostitutes the true meaning of being wedded to Christ, and sells out to all the false religions of mankind.
- The scripture tells us that in the last days there will be a great falling away from the doctrines of Christ (2 Thes 2:3). People will have itching ears to hear self-fulfilling carnal things (2 Tim 4:3). Also there will be a spirit of great delusion.



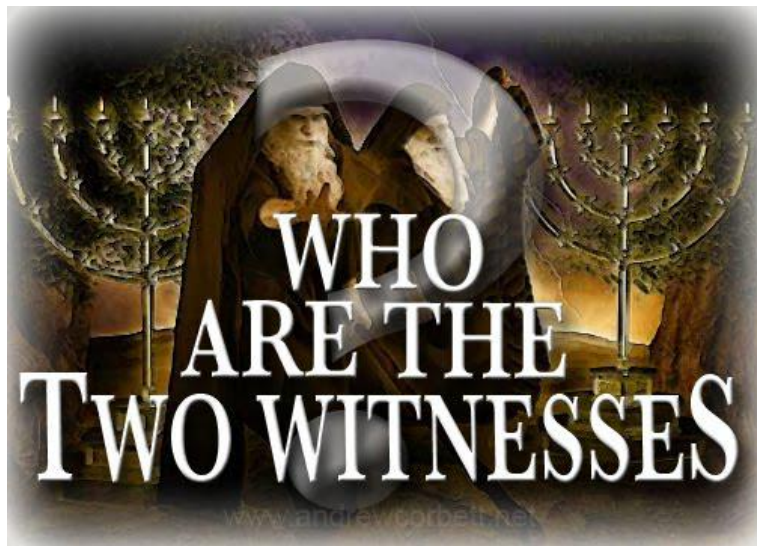
- For a time, the Antichrist will be ridden by the Harlot. But three-and-a-half years into his seven year plan, he will abandon the Harlot and sit in the Jewish Temple exalting himself as God & demanding to be worshiped.
- Babylon is another name synonymous with one world religious system and idolatry. Ancient Babylon was in the same place as the Tower of Babel. During this time all of the nations were united and spoke one language.
- Babylon was a great city, but the people were very self-righteous. They built great towers (ziggurats) to study astrology and to worship their many gods.
- The Babylonians also had great wise men, or magicians, or sacred scribes who were masters in astrology, magic, sorcery, and the black arts. With unity and astrology, they could chart their own destiny. No need for The God. *Sound familiar?*
- Satan's real intention is not to have a godless political situation; he loves religion. That is why he invades churches, mosques, synagogues.... His intentions are to make the religious system look God-like, but have Satan and his principles worshiped.



The Antichrist and the False Prophet are the satanic counterfeit of Jesus and John the Baptist. The False Prophet will demand unwavering loyalty to the 'Beast'. He will be a master of Satanic magic like the wise men of Babylon. And the One World Religion, Babylon, will eventually fall into ruins and the people of Earth will worship the Beast for 42 months. ***“Who is as powerful as the beast? Who can make war against it?”***

THE TWO WITNESSES

And I will give power to my two witnesses. And they will prophesy for 1260 days. They will be dressed in sackcloth. These two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to hurt the witnesses, fire comes from the mouths of the witnesses and kills their enemies. Anyone who tries to hurt them will die like this. These witnesses have the power to stop the sky from raining during the time they are prophesying. These witnesses have power to make the water become blood. They have power to send every kind of plague to the earth. They can do this as many times as they want. When the two witnesses have finished telling their message, the beast will fight against them. Revelation 11:3 – 7a



- The Mosaic Law insisted on the absolute necessity of witnesses in all cases which came before a judge, especially in criminal cases. Not only in criminal cases, but in all cases, it was necessary to have at least two witnesses to make good an accusation against a person (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Numbers 35:30; Matthew 18:16; John 8:17; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19). The two witnesses in Chapter 11 are witnesses for God against the unrepentant Mankind.
- The olive tree was the source of the oil used to provide for the candlesticks. The candlesticks, burning the oil, gave forth light, symbols of Light during the dark Tribulation. These witnesses shall be filled and sustained by the Spirit.
- Some think these two witnesses are Enoch and Elijah, who are to return to the earth for a time; others think the church of the believing Jews and that of the Gentiles; and others believe the old and new testaments.
- They prophesy in sackcloth, a symbol of sorrow and mourning, as those that are deeply affected with the low and distressed state of the church (during the Tribulation) and interest of Christ in the world.



- The Two Witnesses stand as representatives of God that cannot be defeated in a darkened world during the first 42 months of the 7 year Tribulation. If you reject them and their message, you reject salvation.
- When they have finished, and only when they have finished their testimony they are killed. They are invulnerable through the power of God, till their work is done. The witnesses have supernatural powers.
- Their dead bodies were insulted by the inhabitants of the earth, and their death was a matter of mirth and joy to the anti-christian world, v. 10. They were glad to be rid of these witnesses, who by their doctrine and example had teased, terrified and tormented the consciences of their enemies; these spiritual weapons cut wicked men to the heart, and fill them with the greatest rage and malice.



- The death of these Two Witnesses happens right before the blowing of the 7th last trumpet. There is **NO MERCY** for unrepentant Mankind **after the 7th Trumpet blows**.
- The Two Witnesses along with the other Martyred and Living Tribulation Saints will visibly rise in plain view of the whole world at the Second Coming of Christ (Matthew 24:27-31).

The Seven Last Plaques

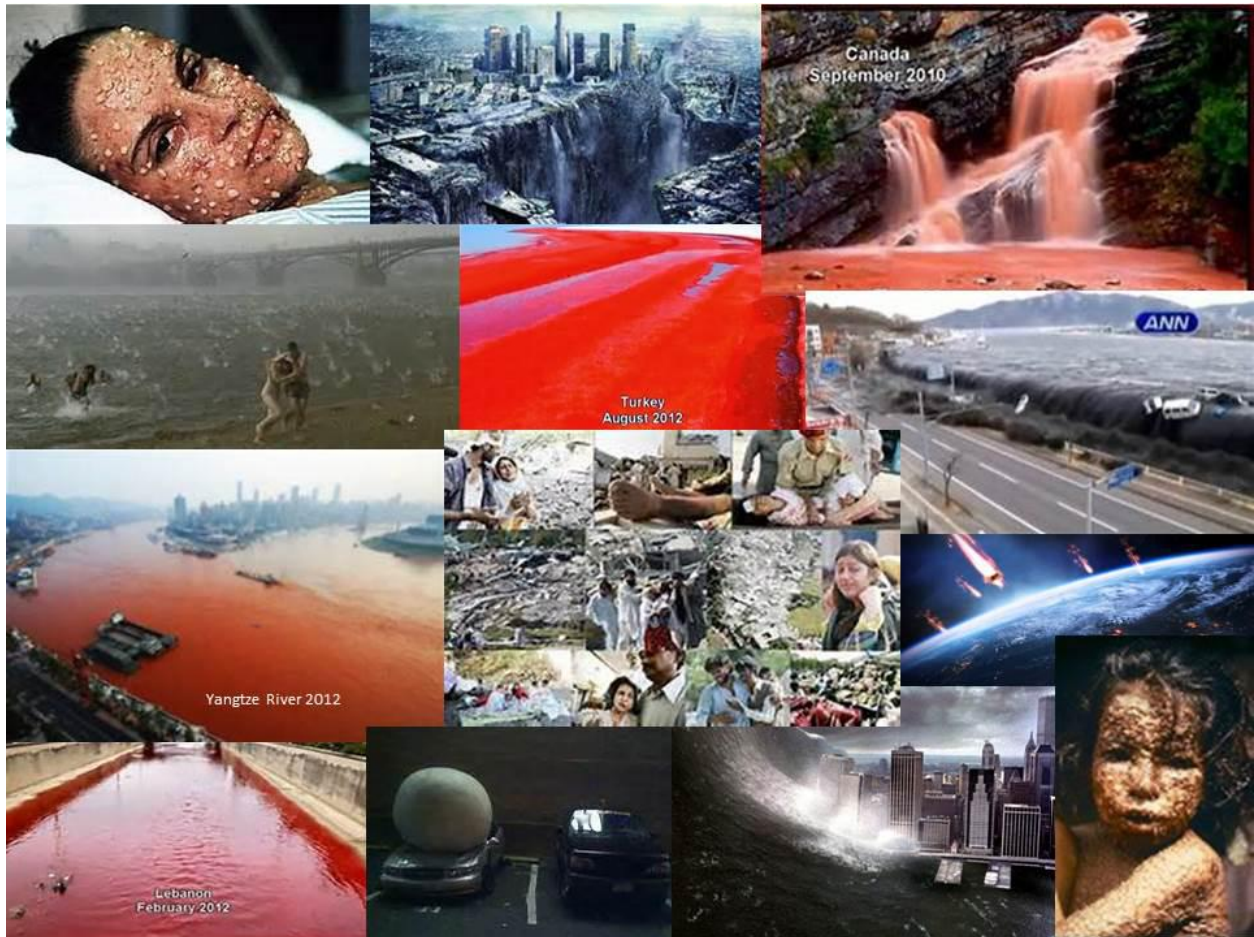
The seventh angel blew his trumpet. Then there were loud voices in heaven. The voices said, "The kingdom of the world has now become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah. And he will rule forever and ever." Revelation 11:15

The people of the world were angry, but now is the time for your anger. Now is the time for the dead to be judged. It is time to reward your servants, the prophets, and to reward your holy people, the people, great and small, who respect you. It is time to destroy those people who destroy the earth!" Revelation 11:18



- God gives mankind both Warnings and Grace with increased intensity until the 7 last plagues. When the last 7 Plagues start only the intensity of Wrath will be prevalent.
- The 7 Last Plagues are poured from 7 Bowls by 7 Angels and are a part of the 7th Trumpet which is all a part of the 7th Seal.
- Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord (Rom 12:19) is the best way to describe the 7 Last Plagues. Payback on God's enemies for what they have done to God's Son and his people will be Exact, Just, and Complete.
- Although there are similarities between the earlier Trumpet Plagues and the 7 Last Plagues, there are distinct differences between them. In the earlier Trumpet Plagues, only 1/3 of things are affected. There are no such qualifiers in the 7 Last Plagues.
- As the Earth convulses, islands disappear beneath the sea. Mountains are leveled. The world's political and economic system is in total ruin.

- Even through all of the Plagues, Revelations Chapter 16 verses 9 and 11 say that they repented not to give God glory and repented not of their deeds.



Please stop for a moment and try to imagine the impact of some of these plagues on mankind.....try to picture the Flint Water Crisis (with lives lost and billions of dollars in costs) across the whole world....try to imagine the effects of a depleted Ozone layer....try to imagine a Greek and Puerto Rico debt crisis in every country.....try to imagine Japan, Hawaii, and all the islands and coastal cities of the world under water....try to imagine an earthquake strong enough to be felt all over the world.....try to imagine hail stones weighing 100lbs falling from the sky....If you can truly imagine these Global catastrophes, then you will not want to be around. It is with this backdrop that Mankind becomes increasingly distraught and leads into its final World War.



World War 3 & THE RETURN OF THE MESSIAH

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates. The water in the river was dried up. This prepared the way for the rulers from the east to come. Then I saw three evil 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. These evil spirits are the spirits of demons. They have power to do miracles. They go out to the rulers of the whole world to gather them for battle on the great day of God All-Powerful. Revelation 16:12-14



“Man cannot stop war because he will not accept the basic reason and cause (lust) for war---nor will he accept the cure (God) for this basic cause. Inside of man there is a selfish, self-centered nature. This is the source of what God calls sin. Sin is basically self-center seeking and striving--- going our own way, with our backs turned to God. It is because of this selfish nature with which we are born that we cannot have consistent peace with ourselves, our family, our neighbor, or on a broader scale, with our nations. We cannot fill the vacuum once filled by God with any other thing.” *Unknown.*



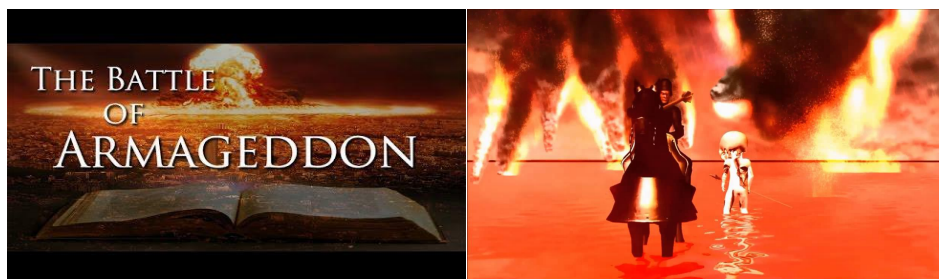
World War I (1914–1918) was regarded at the time as the "war to end all wars," as it was believed there could never again be another global conflict of such magnitude. World War II (1939–1945) proved that to be false, and with the advent of the Cold War in 1947 and the adoption of nuclear weapons, the possibility of a third global conflict became more plausible.



World War III (WWIII or WW3), also known as the Third World War, is a hypothetical worldwide military conflict subsequent to World Wars I and II. Because of the development and use of nuclear weapons near the end of World War II and their subsequent acquisition and deployment by many countries, it is feared that a Third World War could lead to a nuclear holocaust causing the end of human civilization and most or all human life on Earth.

There are several scenarios of how World War 3 will play out and many of the scenarios share some common view points. I shall mention just a few key points but the actual future events may vary:

- Middle East tensions escalate until it threatens the peace of the whole world
- Israel makes a strong covenant guaranteeing their peace and safety with the charismatic Anti-Christ
- Israel rebuilds the Jewish temple on its old site which is currently where the Dome of the Rock resides
- After three and one half years the Anti-Christ will stand in the temple and proclaim himself as God and demand to be worshiped
- The kings of the South, North, East and West strengthen alliances and prepare for battle. It should be noted that all of these powers are currently gaining access and have installations in the Middle East.
- The great river Euphrates dries up and makes way for the big showdown for world supremacy between world super powers
- All the armies that are left after nuclear wars gather to Armageddon for the final conflict
- The battle ensues at the Valley of Decision and carnage reigns so until blood can be seen up to 4.5 feet high for 200 miles



Revelation 19:11, 16

Then I saw heaven open. There before me was a white horse. The rider on the horse was called Faithful and True, because he is right in his judging and in making war. On his robe and on his leg was written this name:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords



- Christ and his army returns before man utterly destroys mankind
- Mankind may view Christ and His armies as some alien invasion and will fight against Him
- Christ and His armies will make utterly destroy the anti-christ and his regime

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun. In a loud voice the angel said to all the birds flying in the sky, "Come together for the great supper of God. Come together so that you can eat the bodies of rulers and army commanders and famous men. Come to eat the bodies of the horses and their riders and the bodies of all people—free, slave, small, and great." Then I saw the beast and the rulers of the earth. Their armies were gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and the false prophet was also captured. He was the one who did the miracles for the beast. He had used these miracles to trick those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its idol. The false prophet and the beast were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. Their armies were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse. All the birds ate these bodies until they were full. Revelation 19:17-21

THE MILLENNIUM & THE DRAGON'S LAST STAND

I saw an angel coming down out of heaven. The angel had the key to the bottomless pit. The angel also held a large chain in his hand. The angel grabbed the dragon, that old snake, also known as the devil or Satan. The angel tied the dragon with the chain for 1000 years. Then the angel threw the dragon into the bottomless pit and closed it. The angel locked it over the dragon. The angel did this so that the dragon could not trick the people of the earth until the 1000 years were ended. After 1000 years the dragon must be made free for a short time. Revelation 20:1-3



- The Beast and his False Prophet will be captured alive and thrown into the Lake of Fire and their government destroyed. Their leader, Satan the Dragon, will be bound and thrown in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.



- With Satan bound and Christ on his rightful throne, the world will know its first true peace since the fall of Man in the Garden. This peace, which will last for 1000 years, is known as the Millennium.



- Who can imagine the world without the presence of an evil influence? The lion shall lie down with the lamb; All day All week Worship; Friends that are Friends for life; Relationships void of malice; Greed and lust gone; Truth on every street corner...
- The Sabbath day of rest that we should currently observe is symbolic of the rest that will exist in the Millennium. Just as The Godhead worked for 6 days in Creation and rested on the 7th, so the world of mankind will rest for 1000 years also. (*Hebrews Chapter 4*)
- Jesus, whom the world was created for and by, never really got to enjoy it the way he was supposed to. The Millennium will be that opportunity.
- The resurrected Tribulation Saints will reign with Christ in his government. They will govern those who are on Earth that did not except the Mark of the Beast.
- After 1000 years, Satan will be loosed for a brief period. He will try to deceive the nation to war against Christ one final time, but will be defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire.



THE FINAL JUDGMENT



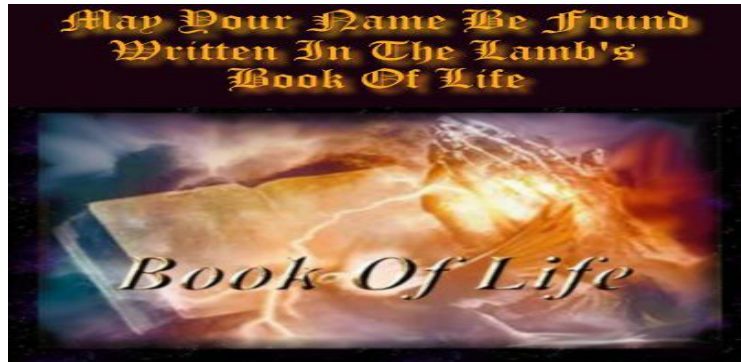
Then I saw a large white throne. I saw the one who was sitting on the throne. Earth and sky ran away from him and disappeared. And I saw those who had died, great and small, standing before the throne. Some books were opened. And another book was opened—the book of life. The people were judged by what they had done, which is written in the books. Revelation 20:11-12



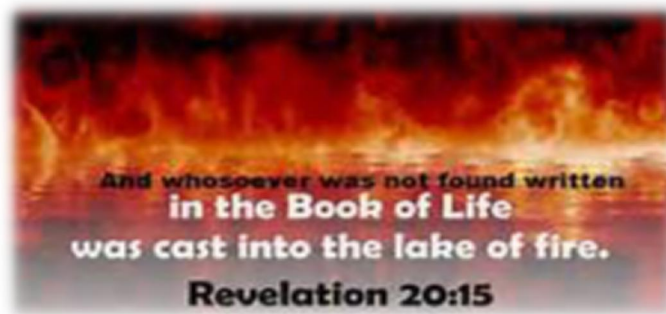
The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them. All these people were judged by what they had done. And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:13-15

- The 3rd and final event on the Road to Eternity is the Great White Throne Judgment
- At the end of the Millennium, Christ's 1000 year reign on Earth, Satan is released and defeated. Then will be the Great White Throne Judgment.
- There is a very misunderstood concept in the Bible concerning Salvation and Works and what roles they play in the Condemnation at the Great White Throne Judgment
- Salvation is the freedom from the Sin Penalty that imputed to Mankind by the fall of Man in the Garden of Eden (1 Cor. 15:22).

- **ALL MANKIND NEED SALVATION. WITHOUT THE ACCEPTANCE AND BELIEF OF THE ATONEMENT WORK OF JESUS, WE ARE CONDEMNED AND ARE NOT FOUND IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.**
- Salvation is God's **gift** to Mankind. You cannot earn it, work for it, buy it, or do anything on your own to attain it. We must accept it **by faith through the grace** of God.
- Salvation was paid for by Jesus at Calvary and he offers it to us for free



- After we have salvation believers demonstrate their faith through their works. And it is these works that are written in the Lamb's Book of Life
- At the Great White Throne Judgment, the people from all generations are resurrected and judged. Those 'found' in The Book of Life will be judged for their works (not on whether they are saved) and live with Christ for eternity. These people are not hurt by the 2nd death.
- Those people 'not found' in The Book of Life will be judged for Rejection of the Savior. They will die again (the 2nd death) and be thrown, along with Satan and his posse, into the Lake of Fire for eternity.



The Great White Throne Judgment will be the last time many people will be in the presence of God.

And it is the **absence of His Presence** that will make Eternity in the Lake of Fire so miserable. At this judgment there will be **NO Negotiation**. The Time is **NOW**. While you have breath in your body, please accept the free gift of salvation. Then the conversation that you and you alone will have with The Creator will be very pleasant. You can start the conversation **now** with the Creator and it should be **daily**... so at the Judgment your conversation will only be a continuation of your **daily** praise and conversation from **now**. Eternity is a long time. Where would you like to spend it? It's your choice **NOW**. **Not later.**

THE NEW HEAVEN & THE NEW EARTH

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Now God's home is with people. He will live with them. They will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone." The one who was sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted."

Revelation 21:1-5



After the sorrow of the last topic on the final judgment come the unexplainable joy, elation and celebration of the New Heaven and Earth. Nothing on Earth can describe what this New Heaven and Earth will look like or feel like. You will have to be there to truly understand its magnitude. I will not spend much time trying to explain this topic to you because it can be formed much better in your own imagination.

And as you imagine what this time will be like also think on these things mentioned in Chapters 21 and 22:

- **UNINTERRUPTED FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS AND HIS FATHER**
- **NO MORE DEATH**
- **NO MORE CURSE**
- **NO MORE SIN**
- **NO MORE SEPARATION OF PEOPLE OR LANDS**
- **NO MORE SICKNESS**
- **NO MORE SORROW OR PAIN**
- **NO MORE WORK**
- **NO MORE POOR**
- **NO MORE WRONG**
- **NO MORE DARKNESS (PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL)**

I could go on forever about what will not exist during this time because **ALL THINGS** are made new. This is truly the **Payday** for the Believer. The words ***“these words are true and can be trusted”*** lets us know that the Everlasting End is worth the struggles and trials that we endure in our current life. All we have to do now is accept the atonement work that Jesus paid and follow His words. But we don’t have forever to make that choice. ***“Behold I come quickly...”*** exhorts us to have a **Sense of Urgency** because whatever state we die in will determine where our eternity will be spent. I hope you choose Jesus and Paradise.
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all people.

