

Preparation for the Age to Come

Revelation 6 & 7

▮ A Structure for Understanding the Book of Revelation

• Rev. 1-3 ~ The Present

- [Rev. 1](#) ~ John's Calling to Prophecy
- [Rev. 2-3](#) ~ The letters to the Seven Churches

• Rev. 4-22 ~ The Future

- [Rev. 4-5](#) ~ The Heavenly Throne Room
- ~~[Rev. 6-22](#) ~ Jesus' Heavenly Battle Plan~~
 - Rev. 6 ~ [Chronological Sect. 1](#) - The **SEAL JUDGEMENTS** against the kingdom of darkness.
 - Rev. 7 ~ [Angelic Explanation 1](#) - How are the saints protected?
 - ~~Rev. 8-9~~ ~ [Chronological Sect. 2](#) - The **TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS** against the Antichrist's empire.
 - Rev. 10-11:14 ~ [Angelic Explanation 2](#) - The saints receive DIRECTION by the great increase of prophetic ministry.
 - Rev. 11:15-19 ~ [Chronological Sect. 3](#) - The SECOND COMING PROCESSION and **the rapture of the church**.
 - Rev. 12-14 ~ [Angelic Explanation 3](#) - The Antichrist's violent CONFRONTATION against the saints and all that is good requires that all his evil governments be replaced.
 - Rev. 15-16 ~ [Chronological Sect. 4](#) - The **BOWL JUDGEMENTS** destroy evil infrastructures in society (Ps. 2:9).
 - Rev. 17-18 ~ [Angelic Explanation 4](#) - The SEDUCTION by Babylon's evil religion will infiltrate every social structure, requiring that Babylon be totally destroyed.
 - Rev. 19-20 ~ [Chronological Sect. 5](#) - Jesus' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY to Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21:8).
 - Rev. 21-22 ~ [Angelic Explanation 5](#) - The RESTORATION of all things (Acts 3:21; Rev. 21:9-22:5).

▮ What has taken place on the earth by the end of Rev. 6?

- **The Antichrist...**The Antichrist, who was first revealed as "a man of peace," a "modern savior," later showed his true stripes as a "man of sin," demanding to be worshipped (The 1st Seal - White Horse).
- **World War...**A devastating "world war" has taken place, so bad that it eventually destroys the Antichrist's own resources (The 2nd Seal - Red Horse).

- **Famine and Economic Crisis...**Following the war, there was a huge famine and economic crisis, with sorrow, sadness and mourning across the earth. The economic crisis resulted in the buying power being reduced to about one tenth of what it is today (The 3rd Seal - Black Horse)
 - **Death...**The spirit of Death (pale green, the Greek word can also be translated “pestilence” or “disease.”) has ravaged the earth causing one-fourth of the earth’s population to die (The 4th Seal - Pale Green Horse).
 - **Judgement...**When Jesus broke the 5th Seal, the cries of the martyrs in heaven released judgement on the Antichrist’s empire and the influence of the Antichrist’s leaders was removed. The intercessors on earth also became aware of this cry and were stirred to join them.
 - **Geophysical events...**Major geophysical upheaval took place around the same time as well. There were unprecedented world-wide earthquakes, major solar eclipse, and even something that looked like stars were falling from heaven. Leaders from every nation, political group, the rich and poor across the whole earth were gripped with fear because of these cataclysmic events (The 6th Seal).
 - **The Cry...**All this happens over a period of 18-24 months! This result is that “everyone—the kings of the earth, the rulers, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful, and every slave and free person” hid themselves from God who was bringing this judgement. As God’s judgement is being released, the sentiment across the earth is, “**who is able to survive?**”
- **What about the praying church? How are they impacted by this world-wide devastation?**
- They are **sealed**.
 - **The “sealing” of Gentile believers** is different than the sealing that takes place in Rev. 7.
 - ¹ Then I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so they did not blow on the earth or the sea, or even on any tree. ² And I saw another angel coming up from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea, ³ “**Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.**” (Rev 7:1–3 NLT-SE)
 - **These four angels are identifiable as the first four of the seven angels that will blow their trumpets in succeeding chapters.** If one carefully compares what happens under the judgments of the seven angels you will see that the first four affect the land, the sea and the trees. At this point they are told to hold back until a very important group of individuals are sealed by God.
 - **Believer today are already sealed.** The “seal of God on the foreheads of his servants” is a seal given to unredeemed Jews that are set apart as last days evangelists who will eventually bring in a harvest of Jewish believers. As far as the sealing of Gentile believers goes, Paul tells us in the letter to the Ephesians, “You were sealed with that Holy Spirit of

promise," (Ephesians 4:30). The presence of the Spirit of God in every individual Christian is the unmistakable mark of God's ownership. Paul declares in Chapter 8 of Romans, "His Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God," (Romans 8:16 KJV). **The Holy Spirit himself, then, is the seal of God.**

- **The sealing of the 144,000**...a group of Jews that are chosen to evangelize the Jewish people.
 - Jesus makes a statement in the 24th chapter of Matthew, which relates to these 144,000 Jews, and is often misunderstood and misapplied. In unfolding the events of the future, Jesus had said, "**This gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come,**" (Matthew 24:14 NIV).
 - This group of 144,000 select men from Israel, will fulfill the word of Jesus that this "gospel of the kingdom" will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the final judgments of God will come. **This group proclaims the gospel during that seven-year period that we call "the last days" of this age.**
- They are **protected**.
 - **Goshen-like regions**
 - ¹⁰ **You can live in the region of Goshen**, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. ¹¹ **I will take care of you there**, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.'" (Gen 45:10–11 NLT-SE)
 - But this time **I will spare the region of Goshen**, where my people live. No flies will be found there. Then you will know that I am the LORD and that I am present even in the heart of your land. (Ex 8:22 NLT-SE)
 - **Cities of Refuge**
 - Cities of Refuge were towns in the Kingdom of Israel and Kingdom of Judah in which the perpetrators of manslaughter could **claim the right of asylum**; outside of these cities, blood vengeance against such perpetrators was allowed by law. The Torah names just six cities as being cities of refuge: Golan, Ramoth, and Bosor, on the east of the Jordan River, and Kedesh, Shechem, and Hebron on the western side.
 - According to classical rabbinical authorities, the cities of refuge were not places of protection, but **places where atonement was made**.
 - On August 7, 1975, **Bob Jones** sees two angels who speak about an outpouring of the Spirit in Kansas City (like an atomic explosion of light) that would be characterized with prophetic and intercession. In January 1984, the Lord showed Bob Jones that "prophetic and intercession" would need to be joined with "compassion and worship" to be complete. This would result in releasing revival in the Church, power evangelism (world missions), justice in society, **pockets of mercy ("cities of refuge")** and worldwide intercession for Israel.
- They **understand** the times and know what to do (Sons of Issachar).

- From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men **understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.** (1 Chr 12:32 NLT-SE)
- **This is why God is preparing us**, not to escape the coming trials, but to have understanding in the midst of them! Without understanding and faith, the likelihood is that we will become offended at the plans of the Lord and eventually turn away from Him to other gods.

▸ **What can we learn from our experience together on November 24th?**

- **While we were praying...**It all happened in the atmosphere of corporate prayer. This was no coincidence.
 - ¹ On the day of Pentecost **all the believers were meeting together** in one place. ² Suddenly... (Acts 2:1–2 NLT-SE)
 - For where two or three **gather together as my followers**, I am there among them.” (Matt 18:20 NLT-SE)
- **We went through it together...**We are being prepared to go through the most important things together.
 - When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. (Rom 1:12 NLT-SE)
- **Fear not...**In the thick of the assault, there was a remarkable absence of fear.
 - The LORD is for me, so **I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?** (Psa 118:6 NLT-SE)
 - So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; **I will not fear; what can man do to me?**” (Heb 13:6 ESV)
- **Increased threat...**We are the greatest threat to the enemy when we delight in spending time together in the presence of the Lord.
 - We are in a war, with a real enemy, who sees us (those who know Christ) as his very real threat. Intelligence of enemy operations is important for victory. This flows both ways, Satan is on the prowl to uncover and take down threats to his work. The purpose here is to shed light on Satan’s method of warfare so we know how to better defend, and then advance the Kingdom of God in enemy territory.
- **Won’t back down...**Evil is increasing on the earth, but with it the authority of the believer is growing as well.
 - ⁵ What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? ⁶ But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.” ⁷ So **humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** (James 4:5–7 NLT-SE)