**Revelation Part Two**

**A Great Cleansing for The Great Renewal**

**12/5/23**

**Purpose: To Reveal the complete identity of Jesus Christ and to give Hope and**

**Warning to believers.**

Revelation is the culmination of the Bible. A new kingdom where we will reign with Christ without an evil presence (no more injustice, evil, pain, or tears). God is purifying the earth, preparing for His glorious kingdom, and doing away with evil and sin once and for all. Revelation is a blessing and should lead you closer to Jesus, not to fear.

Christ is revealed as the true king, bringing His kingdom with Him—righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. He is loving, merciful, and the one rightful judge. He provides an open door to all of us without favoritism.

Romans 8: 19-24 paraphrased

Christians see the world as it is—physically decaying and spiritually infected with sin. But Christians do not need to be pessimistic because we have hope for future glory. We look forward to the new heaven and new earth that God has promised, and we wait for God's new order that will free the world from sin, sickness, and evil.

When studying this Book, avoid making predictions, as we can miss the whole point and get into the weeds. Let's keep the big perspective of God's glorious plan—only He is the rightful judge and able to bring peace and solve the world’s problems.

Topics covered: End Times Tribulation—The Rapture, The Seven Seals, The Seven Trumpets, The Seven Bowls, the Anti-Christ, The Abomination of Desolation, The Mark of the Beast, The Two Witnesses, The Wedding of the Lamb, The Battle of Armageddon and Gog and Magog, The Return of Christ, Millennium, Final Judgment, the New Heaven and Earth (Chapters 6 to 22).

The timeline is from trusted Biblical teachers specializing in the end-of-time prophecies. It provides a Futurist Perspective; I did not provide a copy because it is predictive.

**The Rapture**

Biblical Definition—*For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with archangel's voice, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

There are no warning signs for the Rapture or the Wedding of the Lamb, but there will be warning signs for the Tribulation

*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—*

*in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)*

*The day of the Lord will be like a thief in the night. While people are saying peace and safety… (1 Thess 5: 2-3)*

We know God is good. We know He is not demanding perfection but a heart that loves and wants to know Him.

**Pre, Mid, Post, Pre-Wrath Tribulation**

[Pretribulationalists](https://www.compellingtruth.org/pretribulationism.html) believe that the church will be taken away before the Tribulation begins. [Midtribulationalists](https://www.compellingtruth.org/midtribulationism.html) believe the Rapture will occur at the mid-point of the Tribulation, And [posttribulationalists](https://www.compellingtruth.org/posttribulationism.html) say Jesus will come for His church before the final battle. A "pre-wrath" view of the Rapture is yet a fourth position.

The one belief many views have in common is that the church will not suffer the "wrath of God," which is the period when God sends judgment to the world. What is less clear is what constitutes the "wrath of God"—does it include all Seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments or just some?

*Jesus who delivers us from the coming wrath* ([1 Thessalonians 1:10](https://www.bibleref.com/1-Thessalonians/1/1-Thessalonians-1-10.html)).

*God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

*Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.* (Revelation 3:10)

Many of these verses and writings on eschatology are translated differently. Some believe “I will keep you from the hour of trials” means we won’t experience the Tribulation, others believe God will keep us strong through it, and still others believe this refers to a general time of great distress in the church.

**Marriage Supper of Lamb**

[Matthew 25:1-13](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-1_25-13/), Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids—Historical reference to Jewish Weddings of the past, and Revelation 19: 6-9.

**Times of Tribulation**

**Tribulation Signs**

### *For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.* (Mark 13:8)

### One of the signs is That lawlessness will increase the love of many and will grow cold (Matthew 24:12 ). A particularly destructive disease comes with false teaching and loose morals—the loss of true Love for God and others. Sin cools your Love for God and your sensitivity to the needs of others by turning your focus on yourself.

**Seven-Year Tribulation** This time is characterized by great upheaval, trials, persecution, natural disasters, and the rise of a world leader called the Antichrist/Beast.

**Start of the Tribulation—**The Peace Treaty starts the Tribulation (Read Daniel 9:27) or the Rapture.

**The Middle Point of the Tribulation is the Abomination of Desolation.**

The final 3/12 years is often called the "Great Tribulation." This period is marked by unprecedented suffering, persecution of believers, cosmic disturbances, and divine judgments.

The Tribulation timeline is in Revelation and Daniel— Daniel 9:27, 7:25, 12:7, Revelation 11: 2-3, 13:3, and Mark 13:14.

**The Anti-Christ and Satan's Unholy Trinity — Revelation 13**

Read Chapter 13

Here are some symbolic representations associated with the Antichrist:

1. The Beast from the Sea: This beast is described as having 10 horns (human power, strength, a kingdom, Deut 33:17, Ps 89:17) and seven heads with blasphemous names written on its heads. It resembles a combination of different animals (like a leopard, bear, and lion). The imagery symbolizes great power, authority, and a kingdom that opposes God. It often represents political power or an oppressive empire that persecutes believers.
2. The Second Beast from the Earth: Horns like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. This symbolic imagery portrays a figure that seems harmless or even good (horns like a lamb) but promotes the agenda and power of the first beast, a political power that opposes God. It performs great signs, deceiving and compelling people to worship the first beast, and develops a religious system supporting the Antichrist's rule.
3. The Mark of the Beast. A mark that the second beast causes people to receive on their right hand or forehead, 666, is symbolic and signifies allegiance to the Antichrist's authority.

**The Counterfeit Trinity (God, Christ and the Holy Spirit)**

The Devil/Dragon (Counterfeits God)

The Beast (Counterfeits Jesus)

The False Prophet (Counterfeit Holy Spirit) (the beast of the earth, some think Jewish). He seems to do good but works to deceive through his miracles. This is reminiscent of Pharaoh's magicians, who duplicated Moses' signs in Egypt (Exodus 7: 1-13)

The Mark of the Beast, 666, copies and mocks the Seal that God places on His followers (7: 2-3). The number of the beast—moral depravity and hostility toward God and His people. It is the **Anti-Shema** that Jewish people in the OT put on their foreheads and tassels on their hands. *Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.* (The Shema – Deuteronomy 6: 4-5)

**Seals, Trumpets, and Judgments**

Three Sets of **7** Divine Judgments, 21 total.

The 7 seals, trumpets, and bowls are connected.

Scholars disagree on the meaning and timeline of these events.

1. Concurrent events from different perspectives.
2. Sequential/progressive manner.
3. Symbolic – more about conveying theological truths and messages.

**7 Seals—First 3 ½ years**

4 Horses:

1st Seal—White Horse, a conqueror bent on conquest (Antichrist, false peace)

2nd Seal—Red Horse (war)

3rd Seal—Black (famine)

4th Seal—Pale (death). ¼ of the earth is killed by war, famine, and plague. [Zechariah 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Zech%201.8); [6:1-8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Zechariah%206.1-8).

5th Seal—a little while. The fifth Seal presents a vision of martyrdom and the souls of those martyred for their faith. These souls, seen under the altar, cry out to God for justice, asking how long it will be before God avenges their deaths.

6th Seal—The Day of the Lord. "Day of the Lord" is a concept found throughout the Bible, often signifying a time of divine judgment, the culmination of God's intervention in human history, and the establishment of His sovereign rule.

7th Seal—Read Rev 8: 1-5. This symbolizes the judgment of God released on earth in answer to the prayers of the saints for justice for those who had oppressed and killed them. No matter how strong our desire to exact revenge and retaliate on our enemies, our work is to pray, asking God for his justice to be done.

**Abomination of Desolation –** marks the middle of the Tribulation. The Anti-Christ breaks the peace treaty and sets up the Abomination of Desolation, setting himself as God to be worshiped in the Temple—2 Thess2: 3-4, Daniel 9:25-27, Matthew 24: 15-16, Mark 13:14, Revelation 13: 14-15..

**7 Trumpets**

**1st Trumpet** (Rev 8:7): Hail and fire, mixed with blood, are thrown to the earth, and 1/3 of the earth, trees, and all the green grass are burned up.

**2nd Trumpet** (Rev 8: 8-9)A huge mountain-like object all ablaze is cast into the sea, resulting in 1/3 of the living creatures in the sea dying and 1/3 of the ships being destroyed.

**3rd Trumpet** (Rev 8:10-11) Wormwood star falls into the rivers and springs, resulting in 1/3 of the water becoming biter and many dying.

**4th Trumpet** (Rev 8:12)1/3 of the light was gone

**5th Trumpet or First Woe** (there are three) Rev 9: 1-12 A star falls from heaven, releasing a swarm of locust-like creatures who torment people who do not have the Seal of God for five months.

**6th Trumpet or Second Woe** (Rev 11: 15-19) Four angels are released, causing a massive army of horsemen numbering 200 million to kill a third of mankind through plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur.

**7th Trumpet – Third Woe**  (Rev 11:15-19) The final trumpet heralds the proclamation that "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and his Messiah." This trumpet also introduces significant events such as lightning, thunder, an earthquake, and the opening of the Temple of God in heaven, revealing the ark of His covenant.

**The 7 Bowls**

Each bowl represents a different judgment of the world, bringing about various calamities and catastrophes as part of the end-times narrative.

1. **First Bowl (Revelation 16:2):** A grievous sore afflicts those who have received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.
2. S**econd Bowl (Revelation 16:3):** The sea turns to blood, causing every living creature in the sea to die
3. **Third Bowl (Revelation 16:4-7):** The rivers and springs of water become blood, and an angel declares God's righteous judgment against those who shed the blood of saints and prophets
4. **Fourth Bowl (Revelation 16:8-9):** The sun scorches the earth with intense heat, causing significant discomfort and pain.
5. **Fifth Bowl (Revelation 16:10-11):** Darkness falls upon the beast's throne, causing agony and distress. Despite the darkness, people do not repent of their wickedness.
6. **Sixth Bowl (Revelation 16:12-16):** The Euphrates River dries up, preparing the way for the kings of the east. Demonic spirits gather the kings of the world for the battle of Armageddon.
7. **Seventh Bowl (Revelation 16:17-21):** A great earthquake occurs, unprecedented in magnitude, splitting the world's cities into ruins. Hailstones, each weighing about a talent (around 75 pounds or 34 kilograms), rain down upon the earth, causing destruction.

**The Judgment of the Beasts**

The judgment upon these beasts is described in Revelation 19:19-20:

"And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone."

**Last Two Battles**—**Armageddon** (16:16) and Battle of **Gog and Magog** (20: 7-10)

Final battle and triumph of good and evil. Armageddon is derived from the Hebrew "Har Megiddo," which means "Mount Megiddo."— a small hill overlooks what Napoleon called the ideal battlefield. Jesus won't need to fight – He will end it, and we will be with Him. Some believe these battles are symbolic.

**Millennium—**The thousand-year period where Christ reigns on earth is often called the "Millennial Kingdom" or the "Reign of Christ." Satan is thrown into the abyss for 1,000 years so he cannot deceive people, and then he is set free to wage war. And he is defeated by a fire from heaven and thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and false prophet have been thrown—judgment of Satan and the Dead.

However, interpretations of these thousand years vary among theologians and Christian traditions:

1. **Premillennialism:** Some Christians interpret the millennium literally, expecting a future period after Christ's return where He will reign physically on earth for a thousand years. This view holds that Christ's second coming precedes the millennium.
2. **Postmillennialism:** Others interpret the thousand years symbolically, believing that the spread of the Gospel and Christian influence will gradually transform the world. They view the millennium as a figurative period during which the world experiences a golden age before Christ's return.
3. **Amillennialism:** This view doesn't necessarily interpret the thousand years literally. Amillennialists often see the thousand years as a symbolic representation of the entire Church Age. They don't expect a literal thousand-year earthly reign of Christ but believe in His spiritual reign over His people throughout history.

**Making all things New, Eden Restored—Revelations 21-22**

Read Revelation 21:3-6

The Bible records the beginning of the world and the end of the world. Revelation is the story of humanity from beginning to end, from the fall into sin to redemption and God's ultimate victory over evil.

The New Eden Restored—The New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven, adorned as a bride. The city is described with stunning imagery, reflecting the restoration of God's original intention for creation—a harmonious dwelling place where God and humanity are united in perfect fellowship. The New Eden signifies the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan to restore and renew creation, bringing about a state of eternal bliss, peace, and communion with God for those who belong to Him.

The Book ends with an invitation to partake in the blessings of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. It also warns about the consequences of rejecting God's offer of salvation. Revelation 22:18-19

**Questions:**

1. What excites you about Heaven, God’s New Kingdom?
2. Why do you think it is important to get rid of evil?
3. What scares or bothers you about this book?
4. How do you see God's Favor over His Children during this time?
5. How does this Book bring you hope?
6. How do you see Jesus differently after reading Revelation?
7. How are you going to live differently after studying this Book?