

## SESSION 1

### THE LAMB, THE SEALS AND TRIBULATION

We Cover:

- Revelation 1 to 7 and other reference scriptures.
- How Revelation 6 and 7 compares to Jesus's teaching in Matthew 24 (Mark 13 and Luke 21)?

Introduction: A summary of the book of Revelation and the partitioning of the sessions:

Revelation 1 to 7: Session 1 – John's vision of Jesus, churches, the throne room in heaven and the 7 seals.

Revelation 8 to 11: Session 3 – The 'Wrath of God' trumpet judgements – the witnesses.

Revelation 12 to 16: Session 4 – The woman, beasts, tribulation, rapture and judgements.

Revelation 17 to 19: Session 5 (including Daniel), Rise & fall of Babylon, Armageddon.

Revelation 20 to 22: Session 6 and 7. The Millennium and the New heaven and the New earth.

SUMMARY OF REVELATION:			
Rev 1:	John on the Isle of Patmos Blessed is he that reads the book Written to 7 churches Announcement: Jesus is coming and every eye will see Him. Sees vision of Jesus		
Rev 2:	Letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Century AD) - Four of the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira		
Rev 3:	Letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Century AD) - Three of the seven churches: Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea		
Rev 4:	Entering the "hereafter" phase of the book of Revelation		
Rev 5:	Vision of the throne in heaven and the One who sat on it The 24 elders, the 4 beasts and the angels Book/scroll with 7 Seals The Lamb is worthy to open book/scroll		
<i>Start of parallel sequence</i>			
Rev 6:	The Lamb opens the Seals 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Seal: Tribulation (5 <sup>th</sup> Seal – Great Tribulation)  6 <sup>th</sup> Seal: Sun, Moon and Stars  The great day of His wrath is come.	Rev 12:	<Birth of Christ> War in heaven and overcomers The woman in the wilderness
		Rev 13:	Beast out of the sea – the Antichrist and the Antichrist 'system' Given power over all Beast out of the earth - the False prophet Deception by wonders and miracles Image, Mark of the beast
		Rev 14:	144,000 3 Angels with messages The Son of man coming in the clouds Reaping of the harvest
Rev 7:	144,000 -> Sealed in foreheads Great multitude appearing in heaven Came out of the Great Tribulation	Rev 15:	The victorious standing on sea of glass Song of the Lamb & Song of Moses 7 Angels given 7 vials -> the wrath of God
Rev 8:	Wrath of God. 7 <sup>th</sup> Seal is opened. Start: Voices, thunderings, lightnings, an earthquake 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet	Rev 16:	Wrath of God. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> Vial
Rev 9:	5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet		
Rev 10:	Little book: 7 Thunders Sealed up and not written		

SUMMARY OF REVELATION:			
Rev 11:	Gentiles tread holy city 42 months Two witnesses – prophesy 1260 days Antichrist makes war and kills them Their dead bodies 3½ days Ascended to heaven 7 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet Kingdom of our Lord and Christ End: Voices, thunderings, lightnings, an earthquake, great hail	Rev 16: (cont'd)	“It is done” End: Voices, thunders, lightnings, an earthquake, great hail
<i>End of parallel sequence</i>			
Rev 17:	Judgement of Babylon Gives detail of the great whore (woman) and the beast (with 7 heads and 10 horns)		
Rev 18:	Destruction of Babylon (in 1 hour)		
Rev 19:	Marriage supper of the Lamb The battle of Armageddon Christ comes to establish His kingdom/reign on earth Antichrist and False Prophet cast into lake of fire and brimstone		
Rev 20:	Satan bound for 1,000 years Jesus’ 1,000 reign on earth – The Millennium Satan loosed out of his prison Battle of Gog and Magog Satan cast into lake of fire Great White Throne judgement Death and hell cast into lake of fire Not found in book of life cast into lake of fire		
Rev 21:	New Heaven and a New Earth – New Jerusalem		
Rev 22:			

The events covered in [Session 1](#):

Session one firstly covers the ‘big picture’, Who Jesus is, the purpose of the book of Revelation and God’s instructions to the ‘churches’, (warnings and encouragements).

Then follow scenes from the Throne in Heaven, where the Lamb opens the seals, after which the ‘end times’ commence in Revelation 6, with the Tribulation leading up to the Second Coming of Jesus and God’s wrath commencing.

Chapter 1: SUMMARY




Revelation 1 paints a beautiful picture of who Jesus is as the King of Kings, Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16). There is no end to the glorious titles we can ascribe to Him!

The purpose of the Book of Revelation is to show all believers, all God’s servants up to Jesus’ second coming, ‘the things which must come to pass’ (v1). It is prophecy, containing both Warnings and Encouragements.

**Blessing:** Jesus declares a blessing on all those who read or hear and keep the words therein: “*Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein*”. (Rev 1:3) Jesus repeats the same blessing at the end, the last chapter of the book of Revelation: “Behold, I come quickly: *blessed is he that keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book*” (Rev 22:7)

GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL to get to know the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ!

# REVELATION 1

Revelation of Jesus Christ (v1)		<b>Who is Jesus in the book of Revelation?</b>	
Show his servants. Things which must come to pass! (v1)		He is the Word of God. (v2, v9, Rev 19:13) He is, He was, He is to come. (v4, v8) He is the faithful witness & the first begotten of the dead. (v5) He is the Prince of the kings of the earth. (v5) He is the Alpha and Omega. (v8, v11, Rev 21:6, Rev 22:13) He is the beginning and the ending. (v8, Rev 21:6, Rev 22:13) He is the Almighty. (v8, Rev 11:17, Rev 15:3, Rev 16:14, Rev 19:15) He is the first and the last. (v11, v17, Rev 2:8, Rev 22:13) He has the keys of hell and of death. (v18) He is the Lion of the tribe of Juda. (Rev 5:5) He is the Lamb. (Rev 5:6,8,12,13, Rev 6:1,16, Rev 7:9,10,14,17, Rev 12:11, Rev 13:8, Rev 14:1,4,10, Rev 15:3, Rev 17:14, Rev 19:7,9, Rev 21:9,14,22,23,27) He is the King of Kings & the Lord of Lords. (Rev 17:14, Rev 19:16) He is the root and the offspring of David. (Rev 5:5, Rev 22:16) He is the bright and morning star. (Rev 22:16)	
John bare record of: (v2) The word of God. The testimony of Jesus Christ. All things that he saw.			
He will come with clouds. Every eye shall see Him. (v7)			
Write: In a book and send to the 7 churches. (v4, 11)		<b>What vision did John see?</b>	
Ephesus Smyrna Pergamos Thyatira Sardis Philapellia Laodicea		The Son of man in the midst of 7 golden candlesticks Clothed with garment down to the foot with a golden girdle(v13). Head and hair white like wool (snow). (v14) Eyes were as flame of fire. (v14) Feet like fine brass like in burning furnace. (v15) Voice as sound of many waters. (v15) Right hand seven stars. (v15) Mouth a sharp two-edged sword. (v16) Countenance was as the sun shining in his strength. (v16)	
Write: The things that John saw. The things which are & the things that shall be hereafter. (v19)			

The most 'revealing' verse in Revelation chapter 1 is verse 7:

Amen (v6)  
He will come with **CLOUDS**.  
**Every eye shall see Him**.  
Also those that pierced Him.  
All the earth shall wail because of Him.  
Amen (Rev 1:7)

<b>Rev 1:7</b>	← COMPARE →	<b>Jesus: Matt 24:30</b>
<sup>7</sup> Behold, he cometh with <b>CLOUDS</b> and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.		<sup>30</sup> And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the <b>CLOUDS</b> of heaven with power and great glory.

Rev 7:1 JESUS comes with **clouds** .....Compare this with the gospels, which record Jesus' own words.  
What did JESUS say about his future, when He Himself will come in the CLOUDS?

**JESUS' SECOND COMING IS WHEN HE COMES IN THE CLOUDS**

**Jesus said:**

**Matt 26:64** <sup>64</sup> Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming **in the clouds** of heaven.

**Mark 13:26** <sup>26</sup> And then shall they see the Son of man coming **in the clouds** with great power and glory.

**Luke 21:27** <sup>27</sup> And then shall they see the Son of man coming **in a cloud** with power and great glory.

**Jesus said:**

**Mark 14:61-62** <sup>61</sup> —, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming **in the clouds** of heaven.

**Paul said:**

**1 Thess 4:16-17** <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them **in the clouds**, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Jesus prophesied that his second coming is in the clouds. In addition, in Mark 14:61-62 as above, Jesus also confirms that EVERYONE, even the counsel of High Priest and Pharisees condemning him to be crucified, will see his second coming, his appearing.

Even the angels, at his ascension, confirm that Jesus' second coming is in the clouds:

**Two men in white apparel (two angels) said:**

**Acts 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud** received him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; <sup>11</sup> .... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven.

**EVERY EYE SHALL SEE JESUS (Rev 1:7)**

**Jesus said:**

**Matt 24:27** For as **the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west;** so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**Luke 17:24** As lightning shines from one part of heaven to the other, so shall **ALSO** the Son of man be in his day.

Jesus emphasises that no one will be unaware of this event. His coming will be like lightning lighting up the entire sky. (Matt 24:27 above)

Note the meaning of the greek words for Jesus' appearing:

**JESUS APPEARING - Verses**

**Tit 2:13** <sup>13</sup> Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious **appearing [G2015]** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

**2 Tim 4:1** I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his **appearing [G2015]** and his kingdom;

**2 Tim 4:8** <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his **appearing [G2015]**.

**1 Tim 6:14** <sup>14</sup> That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the **appearing [G2015]** of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**G2015**  
 (παρουσία, εμφάνισις ap-if-an'-i-sh)  
 From G2016; a manifestation, that is, (specifically) the advent of Christ (past or future): - **appearing, brightness.**

**1 Pet 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the **appearing [G602]** of Jesus Christ:

**G602**  
 ἀποκάλυψις ἀποκαλύψις  
 ap-ok-al'-oop-sis  
 From G601; disclosure: - **appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation.**

**Heb 9:28**

<sup>28</sup> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he **appear [G3700]** the second time without sin unto salvation.

**G3700**  
 ἀπανομοί, δέδοται  
 οριζομαι οριζομαι  
 op-tan'-om-ahee, op'-tom-ahee  
 ..... **to gaze (that is, with wide open eyes, as at something remarkable);**

**EVERY EYE SHALL SEE JESUS (Rev 1.7)**

**Words describing Jesus' APPEARING:**

With a brightness (lighten)  
 Be revealed  
 A manifestation  
 To gaze (that is with wide open eyes,  
 as at something remarkable)

Jesus' coming is 'clearly visible'.

Revelation matches Jesus's searing words to the council of the High Priest and Pharisees who were about to condemn Him to death on the cross: "YOU shall **SEE** the Son of man .... coming in the **clouds** ..." (Mark 14:61-62- see above). Compare with Rev 1:7 '...he will come with **Clouds**, every eye shall **SEE** him ... **ALSO** those who pierced him ..."

Hence we can establish:

- Jesus second coming is in the Clouds of Heaven (Both in Revelation and the gospels)
- All on earth will see him, even the deceased who caused his death will see him. (""")

Our Lord Jesus personally prophesied about His own future return, and His coming as the King of kings. Hence our understanding of revelation needs to align with what Jesus preached about His own return.

His words are THE end-time reference point. Who would know better than JESUS!

Revelation 1 introduces **seven churches** which serve as an example to all future churches, containing warnings and encouragements (chapter 2 & 3) to equip believers throughout the centuries up to the Coming of the King.

## REVELATION 2 & 3: SUMMARY

The warnings and encouragements to the seven churches follow the same pattern for each church:

- **Heralding statement:**
- **A commendation**
- **Warnings and/or criticism, (if any) about apathy, worldliness, deception, false teachings, infiltrators, and persecution.**
- **An instruction followed by an encouragement – the rewards for those who overcome.**

**Written to the church of Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)**

These things says:  
He who holds the seven stars in His right hand  
Who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks (v1)

<b>Commended for:</b> (v2-3, v6)	<b>Criticized for:</b> (v4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their works, their labor and their patience</li> <li>• Not bearing with them that are evil</li> <li>• Testing those who say they are apostles and are not &amp; finding them to be liars</li> <li>• Having endured, having patience and laboring for Jesus' name sake</li> <li>• Hating the deeds of the Nicolaitanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaving their first love</li> </ul>

**Warning:**  
Fallen? .... Repent and do the first works; or else: (v5)  
**'I will come quickly and remove the church out of it's place'. (v5)**

**He who overcomes:**  
Can eat of the tree of life,  
which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (v7)

**Written to the church in Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)**

These things says:  
The first and the last,  
which was dead and is alive. (v8)

**Commended for:** (v9)  
Their works and tribulation and poverty (but they are rich).

**... the blasphemy of them: (v9)**  
**That say they are Jews, and are NOT. But they are the synagogue of Satan**

**Fear none of those things 'you' shall suffer  
The devil will cast some of you into prison  
That you may be tested  
You shall have tribulation 10 days  
Be faithful unto death  
Crown of life (v10)**

**He who overcomes:**  
Shall not be hurt by the second death. (v11)

**Written to the church in Pergamos (Rev 2:12-17)**

These things says:  
He who has the sharp sword with two edges. (v12)

<b>Commended for:</b> (v13)	<b>Criticized for:</b> (v14-15)
Their works. Holding fast on Jesus' name. Not denying faith.	Having them that hold to the doctrine of Balaam -> Eating things sacrificed unto idols, -> to commit fornication Having them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes

**... where Satan's seat is & where Satan dwells. (v13)**

**Warning:**  
Repent; or else: (v16)  
**'I will come quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.'**

**He who overcomes:**  
Eat the hidden manna.  
Given a white stone with a new name written on it.  
He that receives it is the only one who'll know the name. (v17)

**Written to the church in Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29)**

These things says:  
The Son of God.  
His eyes like a flame of fire & His feet are like fine brass. (v18)

<b>Commended for:</b> (v19)	<b>Criticized for:</b> (v20-24)
Their works, charity, service, faith, patience & works.	Letting that woman Jezebel (a prophetess) teach -> seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. She repented not. Doctrine -> the depths of Satan

**Warning: Repent of their deeds; or else:**  
**'I will cast her into a 'bed' & them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation.'**  
**'I will kill her children with death.'**  
All churches shall know that:  
**'I am He that searches the minds and hearts.'**  
**'I will give unto every one of 'you' according to your works'. (v22-23)**

**'Hold fast till I come.' (v25)**

**He who overcomes & keeps Jesus' works unto the end:**  
Power over nations.  
Will receive the morning star. (v26-28)

**Jesus shall rule them with a rod of iron.  
As He received from His Father (v27)**

**Written to the church in Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)**

These things says:  
He that has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars. (v1)

Commended for: (v4) Few have not defiled their garments	Criticized for: (v1-2) Their works, has a name ['lives'] but is dead. Works not perfect before God.
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Warning: (v2-4) 'Be watchful. Strengthen things that remain, that are ready to die. Remember what you have received and heard. Hold fast and repent.'  
'Those that have not defiled their garments shall walk with me in white for they are worthy.'

'If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.' (v3)

**He who overcomes:**  
Shall be clothed in white raiment. Their name will not be blotted out of the book of life. Jesus will confess their name before His Father and before His angels. (v5)  
(Rev 6:9-11, Rev 7:13-14, Rev 19:7-8)

**Written to the church in Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)**

These things says:  
He that is holy, he that is true. He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts & shuts, and no man opens. (v7)

Commended for: (v8)  
Their works, Kept Jesus' word, Did not deny His name. (They have little strength, they have an open door & no man can shut it).

That say they are Jews, and are NOT. They lie. They are the synagogue of Satan. ('They will come and worship before thy feet.') (v9)

'Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.' (v10)

'Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.' (v12)

**He who overcomes:**  
Be made a pillar in the temple of God. He shall go out no more. Will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem which comes down out of heaven from my God. Will write on him my new name. (v12)(Rev 22:3-4)

**Written to the church of the Laodiceans (Rev 3:14-22)**

These things says:  
The Amen. The faithful and true witness. The beginning of the creation of God. (v14)

Criticized for:  
Their works: neither being cold nor hot. Rich with many goods, have need for nothing -> They are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. (v15-17)

Warning: 'Because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.'  
'As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.' (v15, v19-20)

'I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.' (v18)

**He who overcomes:**  
Sit with Jesus on his throne. (Rev 20:4)  
As Jesus overcame & sat down on His Father' (v21)

Overcomers (sample of 4 churches):

Ephesus: To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Smyrna: .... shall not be hurt of the second death.

Pergamos: ... will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows saving he that receives it.

Thyatira: And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, **to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron;** as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star.

The purpose of the Book of Revelation is to show all believers, God's servants, 'the things which must come to pass' (Rev 1:1). The inclusion of these letters in the Book of Revelation similarly reflects this purpose, to show every church through the ages 'the things which must come to pass', in particular the challenges that each body of believers throughout their ministry, may face.

The letter to Thyatira (in the middle of the 7) is the only letter that adds an additional condition to the overcomers (he that overcomes, **and** keeps my works unto the end...). All other 'overcomers' receive a reward without further conditions. Thus, it seems that those who endure to 'the end' as faithful servants will be assigned 'power over nations' during the Millennial reign of Christ.

**Kings, Priests and rulers:** Our destiny is to serve God in the Millennial world as kings, priests and rulers.

Revelation 1:5, 6 - Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood And has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Revelation 4:26-28.... And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: .....

Revelation 5:10 - And hast made us unto our God *kings and priests*: and we shall *reign on the earth*.  
 Jesus' parables often conclude with similar rewards of rulership for the faithful. For example, in the parable of the talents, the master commends the faithful servant with: 'have thou authority over ten cities' (Luke 19:17)

In the Millennial World, when Jesus will be reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, all believers serve either as priests or as the rulers over peoples, cities or nations, in proportion to our service on earth, or so it seems.

Revelation 4: SUMMARY

John hears a voice sounding like of a trumpet talking with him; which said, "Come up hither, and **I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**' And immediately I was **in the spirit**: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne..." (Rev 4:1)

John next describes the glorious throne room of God and all the worshippers around the throne.




REVELATION 4	
	<p style="text-align: center;">A door open in heaven.                      First voice like a trumpet: Come up.                      Show you the things which must be hereafter. (v1)</p>
<p><b>Worship to God the Father – on the Throne:</b></p>	
<p>4 Beasts (rest not day and night) saying:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Rev 4:8b                      "Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."</p>	
<p>24 Elders (Fall down &amp; cast their crowns before him that sat on the throne)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Rev 4:11                      "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."</p>	
<p><b>The Throne in Heaven:</b></p>	
<p>One sat on the throne, like a jasper &amp; a sardine stone. (v3)                      A rainbow surrounds the throne and it looks like an emerald. (v3)                      Round about the throne - 24 elders sitting on 24 seats. (v4)                      24 elders clothed in white robes, on their heads crowns of gold. (v4)                      From out of the throne - Lightnings, thundering and voices. (v5)                      7 lamps of fire burning before the throne = 7 Spirits of God. (v5)                      Before the throne - Sea of glass, like crystal. (v6)</p> <p>In the midst &amp; round about the throne:                      4 beasts:   1<sup>st</sup> like a lion                                        2<sup>nd</sup> like a calf                                        3<sup>rd</sup> had face of man                                        4<sup>th</sup> like a flying eagle. (v6 &amp; v7)                      4 beasts had each 6 wings, full of eyes within. (v8)</p>	
	

The description of the seven Spirits of God may be seen in Is 11:2.

Revelation 5: SUMMARY

**The Book or Scroll:** The theme of Rev 5 is a book (scroll) sealed with seven seals.... but no man in heaven or earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or even to look at it!

John is distressed and even weeps because no one is worthy to take the book from God's hand and open it.

REVELATION 5			
In the right hand of God the Father is a book/scroll sealed with 7 seals: (v1)		4 Beasts & 24 Elders (fall down before the Lamb, each with a harp & golden vial - prayers of the saints). Sung a new song:	<b>Worship to The Lamb:</b>
Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? (v2)		Rev 5:9-10 "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."	
The Lion of the tribe of Judah. The Root of David. (v5) Therefore The Lamb (Jesus) is worthy to open the book. (v5)			Angels (10,000 x 10,000 & 1,000 1,000's) & 4 Beasts and 24 Elders. Saying with a loud voice:
In the midst of the throne and of the 4 beasts and in the midst of the elders:	Every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, in the sea saying:		Rev 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"
Stood a Lamb as it had been slain Having 7 horns and 7 eyes = 7 Spirits of God (v6)		Rev 5:13 "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."	

What John saw: "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon." (Rev 5:1-4)

However, Jesus, the Lamb of God, is worthy and able to open the book:

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. (Rev 5:5-6)

## THE LAMB

Rev 5:9 <sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, 'Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;'

Why is the Lamb worthy to open the book?

The Lamb:
Jesus is the Lamb of God. (John 1:29, 36) He takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)
Christ our Passover, sacrificed for us. (1 Cor 5:7-8)
Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. (1 Pet 1:18-19)

The precious blood of the Lamb:
Jesus' blood of the New Testament for the remission of sins. (Matt 26:28) Redemption through His blood.
The forgiveness of sins. (Eph 1:7, Col 1:14) Cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

Additional scriptures:

The lion of the tribe of Judah

– Gen 49:1, Gen 49:8-12, Num 24:16-19

The root of David

– Rom 1:3-4, 2 Tim 2:8, Rev 22:16



The Lamb is mentioned 28 times in the book of Revelation as follows:

The Lamb:	
<b>Rev 5</b>	Worthy is <b>the Lamb</b> that was slain. (Rev 5:6, 12) <b>The Lamb</b> is worthy to open the book. (Rev 5:8) Worship unto <b>the Lamb</b> for ever and ever. (Rev 5:12, 13)
<b>Rev 6</b>	<b>The Lamb</b> opens the first seals. (Rev 6:1) Men wanting to hide from the wrath of <b>the Lamb</b> (Rev 6:16)
<b>Rev 7</b>	Multitude stood before the throne and before <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 7:9) Salvation to our God .... and unto <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 7:10) Made their robes white in the blood of <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 7:14) <b>The Lamb</b> in the midst of the throne, shall feed them. (Rev 7:17)
<b>Rev 12</b>	Overcame by the blood of <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 12:11)
<b>Rev 13</b>	The book of life of <b>the Lamb</b> slain. (Rev 13:8)
<b>Rev 14</b>	<b>A Lamb</b> stood on mount Sion. (Rev 14:1) The 144,000 follow <b>the Lamb</b> wherever He goes. (Rev 14:4) .... Shall be tormented with fire and brimstone ... in the presence of <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 14:10)
<b>Rev 15</b>	The song of <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 15:3)
<b>Rev 17</b>	These shall make war with <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 17:14) <b>The Lamb</b> shall overcome them. (Rev 17:14)
<b>Rev 19</b>	The marriage supper of <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 19:7) Blessed him called to the marriage supper of <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 19:9)
<b>Rev 21</b>	The bride, <b>the Lamb's</b> wife. (Rev 21:9) The twelve apostles of <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 21:14) The Lord God Almighty and <b>the Lamb</b> are the temple. (Rev 21:22) <b>The Lamb</b> is the light of the city. (Rev 21:23) <b>The Lamb's</b> book of life. (Rev 21:27)
<b>Rev 22</b>	The throne of God and <b>the Lamb</b> . (Rev 22:1, 3)

## Revelation 6: SUMMARY

Rev 6:1 'And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard as it were the noise of thunder,.....'

Most of us have heard of the four 'horsemen of the Apocalypse'. These grim and dramatic horsemen comprise the first four seals of Revelation 6. These horses picture trouble, wars, famines, death, and destruction. World history is coming to a climax, where mankind's attempts at running the world are shown to be a complete failure.

Only Jesus is worthy and able to bring the current chaotic state of the world to its climactic end and herald the age of Peace, the millennium, the 1000-year rule of Jesus Christ on this earth (Rev 20) and after that the New Heaven and the New Earth (Rev 21 and 22)!

The interpretation of the seals of Revelation 6 is to fully align with what Jesus preached about His own return. Hence each seal is compared with what Jesus said about the trouble represented by it.

As stated previously, our Lord Jesus personally prophesied about His own future return, and His' coming as the King of kings. His words are THE end-time reference point.

**The first seal** introduces the white horse, 'conquering to conquer', indicating a Global World rulership. The colour white seems to picture a 'peaceful' conquest. The bow in the rider's hand pictures an indirect weapon, possibly an indication of stealth and the unseen nature of the conquest. Note also that no arrows are seen, perhaps indicating the invisible nature of the attack. The rider on the horse, with the crown and bow, most likely pictures the Antichrist and/or the Antichrist 'System', but operating in the background, mimicking Jesus who will also come on a white horse (Rev 19:11-16), but with a flaming sword! The crown accentuates not only the global rulership, but also that a particular person is involved.

What did Jesus say about the 'Antichrist'? →

**REVELATION 6:1-2**

**1<sup>st</sup> Seal**

**WHITE HORSE**  
Man with bow  
Crown given to him  
Went conquering,  
and to conquer



**'Antichrist'**  
'Subtle' global conquests

**Jesus said:**  
**Matt 24:4-5**  
(Mark 13:5-6, Luke 21:8)

4. ...., Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, **I am Christ;** and shall deceive many.

**John 5:43**

43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

## What did Jesus say about 'war'?

REVELATION 6:3-4

**2<sup>nd</sup> Seal**

**RED HORSE**

Power given him  
Take peace from earth  
Kill one another,  
Given him  
a great sword



**'War'**

### Jesus said:

Matt 24:7-8  
(Mark 13:8, Luke 21:10)

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.  
<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.

**The second seal:** The rider on the second horse, the red horse, has power given to him "to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." (Rev 6:4) The focus is on a rider who takes peace from the earth. The use of the word 'WAR' is avoided, hence the 'killing of one another' may include violent crime, disorder, civil unrest and 'hidden methods' claiming lives. The rider seems to be intentionally **taking** away peace, probably also by disabling societal structures protecting the individual (justice and police) and promoting the violent to take the law into their own hands.

**The third seal:** The rider on the third horse, a black horse; has a pair of balances in his hand and is announcing basic foods at outrageous prices, a penny in those days being a full day's wages (Matt 20:2). This rider indicates the onset of hyperinflation leading up to famine, a logical consequence of widespread war, violence and societal breakdown.

Nevertheless 'oil and wine' is still being produced, probably for the instigators of the famine, the world rulers.

## What did Jesus say about 'famines'?

REVELATION 6:5-6

**3<sup>rd</sup> Seal**

**BLACK HORSE**

Pair of balances in his hand  
1 measure of wheat -> for a penny  
3 measures of barley -> for a penny  
Hurt not the oil and wine



**Famines**

### Jesus said:

Matt 24:7-8  
(Mark 13:8, Luke 21:10)

<sup>7</sup> For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines** and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.  
<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.

## What did Jesus say about 'death'?

REVELATION 6:7-8

**4<sup>th</sup> Seal**

**PALE HORSE**

His name was Death  
Hell followed him  
Power over 1/4 of earth  
Kill with: sword, hunger, death, beasts of earth



**Death**

### Jesus said:

Matt 24:7-8  
(Mark 13:8, Luke 21:10)

nation against nation kingdom against kingdom famines pestilences, earthquakes	<b>Sword Hunger Death Beasts of the earth</b>
--	---

Matt 24:22 <sup>22</sup> 'And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.'

**The fourth seal:** The rider on the fourth horse, a pale horse: "And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." (Rev 6:8) Here we have death on a scale never seen before, matching Jesus' words of a time of trouble 'such as never was...' (Matt 24:21). Each event is announced by one of the beasts (seen in Rev 4), confirming that each event has a defined start and a specific duration before the next event commences. It also seems that the events are sequential and continuous. Therefore, all the deaths – a quarter of the earth as mentioned in the fourth seal - are said to be due to a combination of all the four horsemen.

The events following the horsemen of Revelation, the remaining three seals, in chronological order are:

- Persecution of believers – martyrs.
- Extreme cosmic events and the distress at the Lamb's coming judgement.
- The commencement of the 'WRATH of GOD' judgements on the wicked.

**The Fifth Seal: Persecution:** John sees the souls of the Martyrs, slain for their faith. He saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: *“<sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?<sup>11</sup> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”* (Rev 6:10-11)

Revelation 7 also describes this multitude of martyrs coming out of the Great Tribulation.

**What did Jesus say about 'martyrs'?** →

**REVELATION 6:9-11**


**5<sup>th</sup> Seal**

**SOULS OF THEM THAT WERE SLAIN**

Under the altar  
For the word of God & for their testimony

'When 'judge and avenge our blood?  
On them that dwell on the earth?  
White robes given to every one of them.  
Wait until their fellow servants/brethren be killed as they were

**Martyrs**



**Jesus said:**

**Matt 24:9**  
Shall deliver you up to be afflicted.  
Shall kill you.

**Luke 21:16** (summarised)  
You shall be betrayed by:  
Parents, brethren, kinsfolks and friends. They shall cause some of you to be put to death.

**Mark 13:12** (summarised)  
Children shall rise up against their parents. Shall cause them to be put to death.

**Mark 13:9** Be beaten  
**Luke 21:12** Lay hands on you

**The Sixth Seal:**

**REVELATION 6:15-17**

**6<sup>th</sup> Seal**

**SUN, MOON AND STARS**

Great earthquake  
Sun black as sackcloth  
Moon as blood  
Stars of heaven fell on the earth

Fig tree -> untimely figs shaken by a mighty wind

Heaven departed as a scroll  
Every mountain & island moved



Fear – All men trying to hide

From the wrath of the Lamb



**GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH IS COME**

**What did Jesus say about the 'sun, moon and stars ...'?**

**Jesus said: Matt 24:29-31 (SUMMARY)**

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS: (v29)**

Sun shall be darkened (v29)  
Moon shall not give her light (v29)  
Stars shall fall from heaven (v29)  
Powers of heaven shall be shaken (v29)

↓  
**THEN**

Sign of the Son of man appear in heaven (v30)  
All the tribes of the earth shall mourn (v30)

**See the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory**

Send His angels with a great sound of trumpet. (v31)

**They shall gather together His elect**

Jesus' words (Matt 24) will be covered in detail in Session 2.

The Sixth Seal describes extreme cosmic events and the 'lost' hiding 'from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the **wrath of the Lamb**, in distress and fear at Jesus' second coming.

Aligning and comparing this with Jesus's words, we find that the extreme cosmic events in the Rev 6 6<sup>th</sup> seal match the cosmic events in Matt 24:29-31 as follows:

<u>Rev 6:12-16 (6<sup>th</sup> Seal)</u>		<u>Matt 24:29-31</u>
Sun became black as sackcloth of hair	<->	The sun shall be darkened
Moon became as blood	<->	Moon shall not give her light
Stars of heaven fell unto the earth	<->	Stars shall fall from heaven
Great earthquake, Heaven departed as a scroll, rolled together	<->	Powers of the heavens shall be shaken
Every mountain and island moved out of their places		
Men hid themselves, said rocks fall on them and hide from One who sat on throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.	<->	Tribes of earth mourn.
For the great day of his wrath is come.		
		Son of Man appears in power and glory
		Send angels with sound of a trumpet
		<b>Gather together the elect</b>

Compare Revelation 6 and Jesus' words in Matt 24 in dot point format:



Thus: The elect are raptured at the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, after the tribulation of those days & before the Wrath of God judgements.

Note the **ELECT** are gathered (the rapture) at Jesus' second coming, AFTER the tribulation as per Matt 24:29 above.

The question now is: 'Who are the Elect in the New Testament, does it refer to all believers?'

The answer is 'YES'.

Refer to the elect in the verses below, (there are many more if you do your own search):

### Who are the elect in the New Testament?

**Col 3:11-12b**  
<sup>11</sup> Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.  
<sup>12</sup> Put on therefore, as the **elect [G1588]** of God...

**The elect:** (referred to in these verses)  
 Greek & Jew  
 Circumcised & uncircumcised  
 Barbarian & Scythian  
 Bond & Free

**The elect [G1588]:**  
 Those in Christ:  
 -> ALL BELIEVERS  
 -> THE SAVED

**1 Pet 1:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,  
<sup>2</sup> **Elect [G1588]** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

**The elect:** (referred to in these verses)

The strangers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia



**G1588**  
 ἠλεκτοί ἐκλεκτοί  
 ek-lek-tos'  
 From G1586;  
 select; by implication favorite:  
 - chosen, elect.

**Rom 8:32-33** <sup>32</sup> He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, ....  
<sup>33</sup> Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's **elect [G1588]**? It is God that justifieth.  
**The elect [G1588]:** (Rom 8)  
 The Spirit of God dwells in them. (v9)  
 Christ in them. (v10)  
 They that are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. (v14)  
 The Spirit bears witness that they are the children of God. (v16)  
 Jesus was delivered up for us all (v32)

**2 Tim 2:10** <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure all things for the **elect's [G1588]** sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.  
**Tit 1:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's **elect [G1588]**, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; <sup>2</sup> In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;  
**Rev 17:14** <sup>14</sup> These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and **chosen [G1588]**, and faithful.

**The elect [G1588]:**  
 Those that obtain salvation which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 2:10)  
 Those that have faith... Acknowledge the truth ... confident of eternal life. (Tit 1:1-2)  
 Those that are called, chosen and faithful. (Rev 17:14)

-> **All believers are the elect.** Raptured at the 6<sup>th</sup> seal,

**after the tribulation** of those days

It's the <b>elect</b> who are gathered (raptured) (Matt 24:31) ... <b>AFTER THE TRIBULATION</b> (Matt 24:29)	<b>Matt 24:29-31</b> <sup>29</sup> Immediately after the tribulation of those days ..... <b>they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven</b> with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and <b>they shall gather together his elect [G1588]</b> from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
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Both Paul (Col 3:11-12) and Peter (1 Pet 1:1-2) confirm that the elect are all believers.

Hence end-time believers /elect will have to endure the tribulation before the rapture (gathering of the elect) but will not have to endure the WRATH of GOD.

**& before the Wrath of God judgements.**

**1 Thess 5:9**  
 For God hath **NOT** appointed us to **WRATH**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

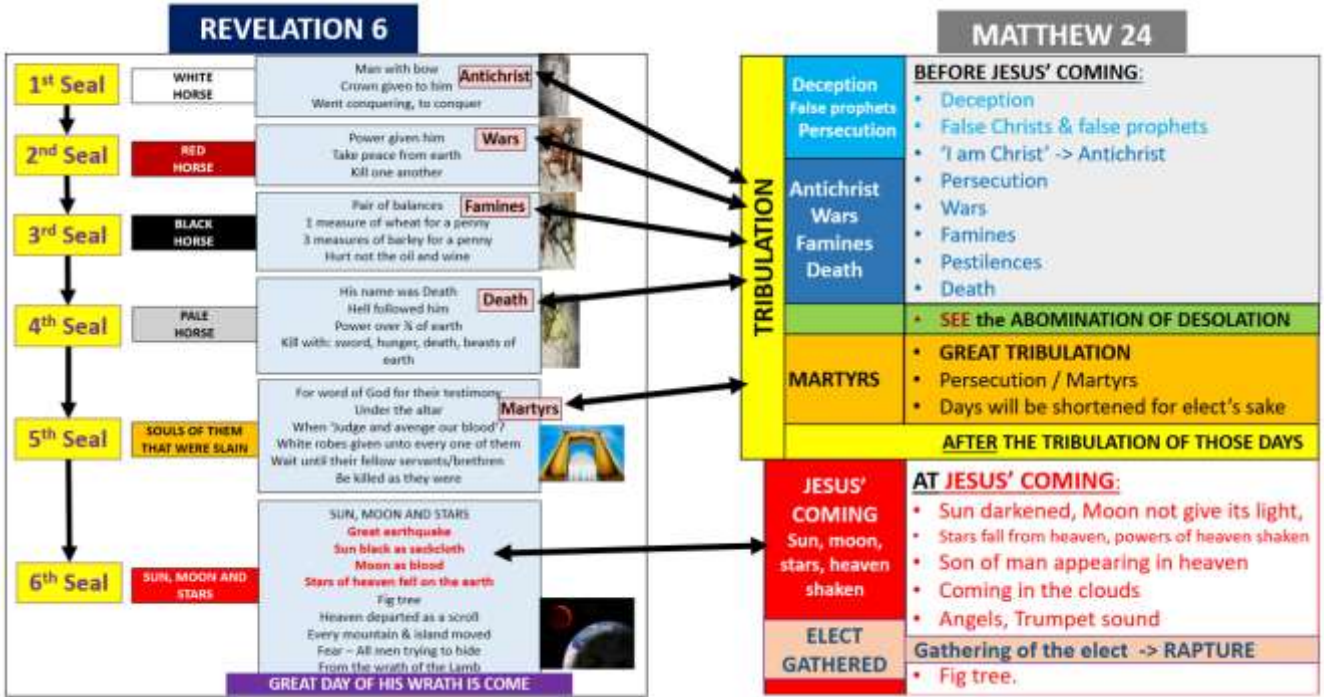
The WRATH is the next event, from which the lost are hiding. (Rev 6:15-17)

**BUT**, to believers, the elect, 1Thess 5:9 applies: "For God hath **not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"

Hence, Both Jesus and Revelation 6 teach A PRE-WRATH RAPTURE – 1<sup>st</sup> the tribulation (caused by man), then the rapture followed by the wrath of God. (God's judgements on the wicked)

Question: Do the 'Tribulation before the rapture' events match Jesus's teaching both in sequence and content?

Answer: YES, this will be covered in detail in Session 2, however below is a preview:



'The great day of His wrath' (Rev 6 v30), starts on the same day as the rapture, and is after the tribulation and the cosmic events of the sun & moon being darkened. Matt 24 events align with the Rev 6 events.

Question: Is the tribulation not the whole period of trouble preceding the Millennium?

Answer: No, The Tribulation and the 'Wrath of God' are two separate and distinct events. Tribulations are caused and implemented by man, while the outpouring of God's Wrath is by GOD alone. (They are supernatural events, much like the plagues of Egypt in Genesis)  
Following the rapture, Revelation 7 confirms that there will be a multitude that no one can count, in heaven, which come out of the GREAT TRIBULATION.

Question: Does that mean end-time believers will have to **endure the tribulation**, i.e. the first five seals?

Answer: Yes, this is the clear teaching of Jesus, confirmed by Revelation 6's sequence of events.

Question: The extreme end time events described by Jesus (and in Revelation), are they also described and confirmed by the Old Testament Prophets? Also does Paul in the NT mention the Wrath of God? (i.e. The Wrath judgements poured out before the establishment of the Millennium, Jesus becoming the Ruler, King of Kings on this earth?)

Answer: Yes. The Old Testament prophets (8 quoted below) mention the cosmic events and the Wrath of God prior to the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

They often describe this time of judgement as 'The Day of the Lord', which is also mentioned by Paul.

## THE DAY OF THE LORD – Brief Comparison between the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal and the Day of the LORD

Covered in detail in Session 8



**Revelation 7: SUMMARY**

Revelation 7 confirms that the rapture has now occurred, with those who *'have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb'*.(v14) standing before the throne, covered with robes and with palms in their hands.

REVELATION 7														
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOUR ANGELS TO HURT THE EARTH AND SEA</b></p> <p>Four angels holding the four winds. (v1)            Another angel having the seal of the living God. (v2)            Hurt NOT earth, sea or tree until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. (v3)            144,000 sealed. (v4)</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>144,000 sealed on their foreheads (v4)</b></p> <p>12,000 each from the tribes of:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Juda</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Nephthalim</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Issachar</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Reuben</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Manasses</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Zabulon</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Gad</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Simeon</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Joseph</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Aser</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Levi</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Benjamin</td> </tr> </table>	Juda	Nephthalim	Issachar	Reuben	Manasses	Zabulon	Gad	Simeon	Joseph	Aser	Levi	Benjamin
Juda	Nephthalim	Issachar												
Reuben	Manasses	Zabulon												
Gad	Simeon	Joseph												
Aser	Levi	Benjamin												
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GREAT MULTITUDE BEFORE THE THRONE (v9)</b></p> <p>No man could number  <u>All</u> nations, kindreds, people &amp; tongues            Stood before the throne            Stood before the Lamb            Clothed in white robes            Palms in their hands</p>														
<p>Who are they in white robes?            Where (whence) did they come from? (v13)</p>	<p>Serve God day &amp; night (v15)            Hunger no more (v16)            Thirst no more (v16)            No sun/heat on them (v16)            The LAMB which is in the midst of the throne shall dwell among them            shall feed them            shall lead them to living fountains of waters            shall wipe away all tears. (v17)</p>													
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THOSE THAT CAME OUT OF GREAT TRIBULATION (v14)</b></p>														
<p>washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb</p>														


The same verse (v14) adds that these believers have come 'out of Great Tribulation.' Their robes and palms confirm that these are not 'souls' in heaven, but that they have received their resurrection bodies. Paul clearly describes how and when our resurrection bodies are received in 1 Cor 15.

What did Jesus say about the 'Great Tribulation'?

**REVELATION 7:9, 13-14**

**GREAT MULTITUDE BEFORE THE THRONE**

No man could number  
All nations, kindreds, people & tongues  
 Stood before the throne  
 Stood before the lamb  
 Clothed in white robes  
 Palms in their hands



One of the elders said to John:  
 Who are they in white robes  
 Where did they come from?

**Those that came out of GREAT TRIBULATION**

washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb

**Jesus said:**

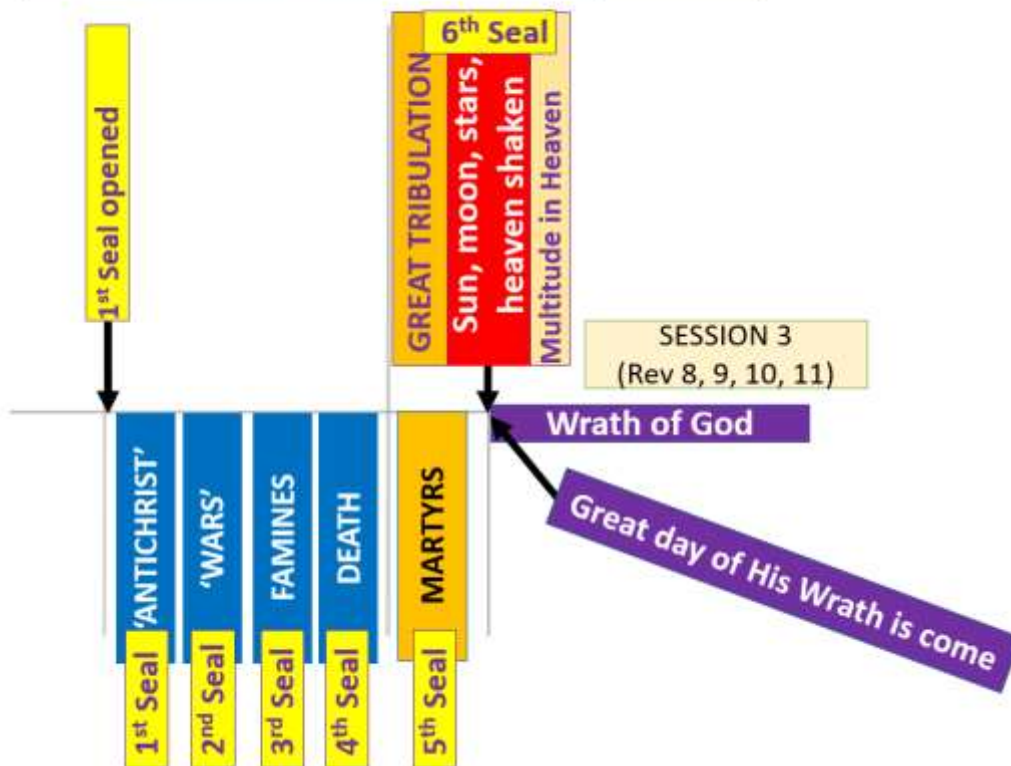
**Matt 24:21-22**  
 (Mark 13:19-20)

<sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

<sup>22</sup> And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Having at this stage established the events in Rev 6, we can now attempt a Timeline of the Tribulation Events leading up to the Wrath of God:

**Rev 6 & 7: End-Time events:** (not to scale)



Question: What about the church not being mentioned after Revelation 3, which may indicate an early rapture?

Answer:

Firstly, this question ignores Jesus' words that the elect will be raptured AFTER the Tribulation (Matt 24:29-31).

Secondly, the word 'Church' does not refer to a building or place but to the body of believers. 'The church' may perhaps not be mentioned after chapter 3, but its synonyms are - MANY times, as in the table below! Believers ("fellow servants, brethren, those washed with the blood of the Lamb, saints, those that have gotten victory over the beast', those beheaded for their faith') are all synonyms for believers, the church.

Hence, the Rev 4:1 early rapture assumption is based on a misleading semantic construct singling out the word 'church', and is thus invalid. Clearly, the reference to believers being beheaded for their faith refers to believers still on earth after chapter 3! As the study progresses it will also become evident that end-time believers will have to endure the Antichrists persecution as well.



## The 'church=believers' are mentioned several times after Rev 3

Rev 6:11	'Their fellow servants and their brethren'
Rev 7:9, 13-14	'Multitude before the throne. Made their robes white with the blood of the Lamb.'
Rev 12:17	'Remnant which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'
Rev 13:7,10	'Given unto him to make war with the saints. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.'
Rev 14:12	'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.'
Rev 15:2	'Them standing on the sea of glass. Them that had gotten victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.'
Rev 20:4	'I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God'

In addition, when comparing revelation 4 with Jesus' and Paul's statements of the rapture, the Rev 4 rapture assumption is also shown to have no scriptural basis.

## Why Rev 4:1 can not be the rapture:

The Rapture:	Rev 4:1
All saved believers that ever lived will meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thess 4:16-17)	Only John is taken up into heaven.
The Son of man will come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (Matt 24:30) Cosmic events: sun, moon and stars.	No Jesus coming in the clouds. No cosmic events.
The angels shall be sent with a great sound of a trumpet and they will gather the elect. (Matt 24:31)	No trumpet. Only a voice that sounded like a trumpet.
At Christ's coming, shall all believers be made alive. (1 Cor 15:22-23, 52) In a moment the dead shall be raised incorruptible. (1 Cor 15:52)	Caught up in the spirit. No bodily resurrection.
There will only be two resurrections. (1 Cor 15:22-24) At 'Christ's coming', and then 'at the end'	Would imply three resurrections: The 'church', the 'elect', then 'at the end'.
When we are raptured, we will always be with Jesus. (1 Thess 4:17)	John was only caught up temporarily. Came back to write the book and prophesy before many people, nations etc. (Rev 10:11)

Hence, Both Jesus and Revelation 6 teach **A PRE-WRATH RAPTURE** – 1<sup>st</sup> the tribulation (caused by man), then the rapture followed by the wrath of God. (God's judgements on the wicked)