



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group - Prophecy Series

Lesson #8: Revelation (2/3): Chapters 4 through 19

Thursday, October 27, 2016

This is the second of three lessons focused on the book of Revelation. As discussed in our last lesson (Lesson #7), there are certain divisions within this book that allow us to focus on certain themes and concepts that can be covered in an abbreviated time period. **Figure 1** below provides a three-part outline for Revelation that includes the following sections. This week we are focusing on Section #2 that focuses on *Earth and the Coming Calamity with Judgment*.

- Section #1: Focus on Heaven and the Coming King as Judge
- **Section #2: Focus on Earth and the Coming Calamity with Judgment**
- Section #3: Focus on NEW Heaven and Earth with the Coming Kingdom as resulting Joy

Focus:	Heaven		Earth							New Heaven & Earth				
Divisions	Letter to the Seven Churches		Opening the Seven Bowls	Blowing the Seven Trumpets	Describing the Seven Signs	Pouring Out the Seven Bowls	Destroying the Enemies of God	Making All Things New						
Chapters	1	3	4	6	7	9	10	13	14	16	17	19	20	22
Topics:	Coming King (Judge)		Coming Calamity (Judgment)									Coming Kingdom (Joy)		
Place:	Aegean Island of Patmos													
Time:	Approximately 95 – 96 A.D.													
Author:	The Apostle John													

Figure 1: Graphical overview of Revelation

This particular section deals with the “bulk” of Revelation and specifically the judgment part of the book. It is pretty clear that the Lord is pouring out His wrath on mankind in preparation for the coming Kingdom. As in everything God does, there is a purpose. **The primary purpose of the Tribulation period, which is included in this section of Revelation, is to drive Israel to repentance so that they may recognize Jesus as the Messiah.** It is clear in studying Revelation, as well as other prophecies from books of the Bible such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel that this does indeed take place; Israel does come to see Jesus as Messiah and turns her heart to God once again. As Paul said in Romans 11:25 (*italics added*), “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a *partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*”. Refer to **Table 1** for a detailed listing of events presented in Revelation 9-16.

Table 1 – Tribulation Events According to Revelation 9-16

Judgment	Description
First Half of the Tribulation period (Revelation 6)	
1 st Seal	Antichrist goes forth to conquer (restoration of the former Roman Empire) – <i>White horse</i>
2 nd Seal	Open warfare breaks out on earth (cf. Matthew 24:6-7) – <i>Red horse</i>
3 rd Seal	World-wide famine resulting from war (cf. Matthew 24:7) – <i>Black horse</i>
4 th Seal	¼ of earth dies due to sword, plague, famine, and wild beasts (cf. Ezek. 14:21) – <i>Pale horse</i>
5 th Seal	Death of Believers
6 th Seal	Cosmic calamity: great earthquake, black sun, red moon, unseated mountains and islands
Midpoint of the Tribulation period	
Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nation of Israel (Matthew 24:9-24 and Daniel 9:27). • Resurrection of the Antichrist and his allotted 42 month reign. • Satan's forced removal from Heaven (Revelation 12:7-12). • Changes in worship including the end of Jewish worship in the Temple; worship by the world of both the Antichrist and Satan.
Last Half of the Tribulation period	
The Seven Trumpet Judgments (unleashed by the breaking of the 7 th seal: Revelation 8:1-2)	
1 st Trumpet	Hail and fire mixed with blood, is hurled down to earth where a third of the earth will be burned up, as well as a third of the trees and all the green grass. Revelation 8:7.
2 nd Trumpet	A huge mountain that will be on fire is thrown into the sea. A third of the sea will turn into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea will, and a third of the ships will be destroyed. Revelation 8:8-9.
3 rd Trumpet	One-third of the earth's fresh water will be contaminated, that was accompanied by the death of many people. Revelation 8:11-12.
4 th Trumpet	A third of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened. Additionally, a third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. Revelation 8:12-13.
5 th Trumpet	Known also as the "first woe", locust-like creatures emerge from the Abyss and for five months they torment mankind. Many also believe that Satan is prevented from entering Heaven anymore and allowed by God to unleash on mankind. Revelation 9:1-12.
6 th Trumpet	An army from the east, likely under demonic influence, will destroy one-third of mankind. Known also as the "second woe". Revelation 9:13-21.
7 th Trumpet	Known as the "third woe" and recognizes that the end is near. Notice in verse 17 the specific wording noting that the reign of Christ <i>has begun</i> . Revelation 11:14-19.
The Seven Bowl Judgments	
1 st Bowl	The pouring out of this bowl brings terrible sores on all those who follow the Antichrist (Revelation 16:2).
2 nd Bowl	The bowl turns all the seas into blood, causing death of all the creatures in the seas.
3 rd Bowl	When the bowl is poured out all the fresh waters of the earth are turned to blood.
4 th Bowl	This bowl gives power to the sun that causes terrible heat on the earth and intense suffering. People know these judgments come from God, yet they blaspheme Him anyway and refuse to repent of their evil (Revelation 16:9, 11, and 21).
5 th Bowl	The pouring out of this bowl brings a supernatural darkness over the kingdom of the Antichrist.
6 th Bowl	With the emptying of this bowl the Euphrates River is dried up and demonically inspired men head for their own destruction to a place called Armageddon (Revelation 16:16).
7 th Bowl	This final judgment brings about the greatest destruction to nature ever witnessed in the history of mankind. A massive moving of the earth's crust will be accompanied by huge hailstones falling from heaven.

Idealistically, it would be good for you to read Revelation 4 through 19; however, it is recognized that this is a large section to read in one week. In the event that you do not have time, consider reading the following “highlight” sections and be prepared to answer the questions presented below.

- Revelation 5 The Lamb Opens the The Book with Seven Seals
- Revelation 7:4-8 The 144,000
- Revelation 11:1-14 The Two Witnesses
- Revelaion 13 Beast from the Sea and Beast from the Earth
- Revelation 19 Marriage of the Lamb and the Coming of Christ

Questions for Consideration

1. In reading Revelation 5, what does this passage tell us about why the Lamb was worthy to open the Book with Seven Seals?

2. According to Revelation 7:4-8 who are the people who comprise the 144,000?

3. There is a little known passage in the Bible indicating that women might not be in Heaven. Read Revelation 8:1 to see if you can determine why (*please note* – this is just a joke!).

4. Answer the following questions after reading Revelation 11:1-14.
 - a. Who do you think the Two Witnesses might be? Try and use Scripture to support your answer (hint: Read Hebrew 9:27).

 - b. For how long are the Two Witnesses given power? Express this time period in years; consider one year equal to either 12 months or 360 days.

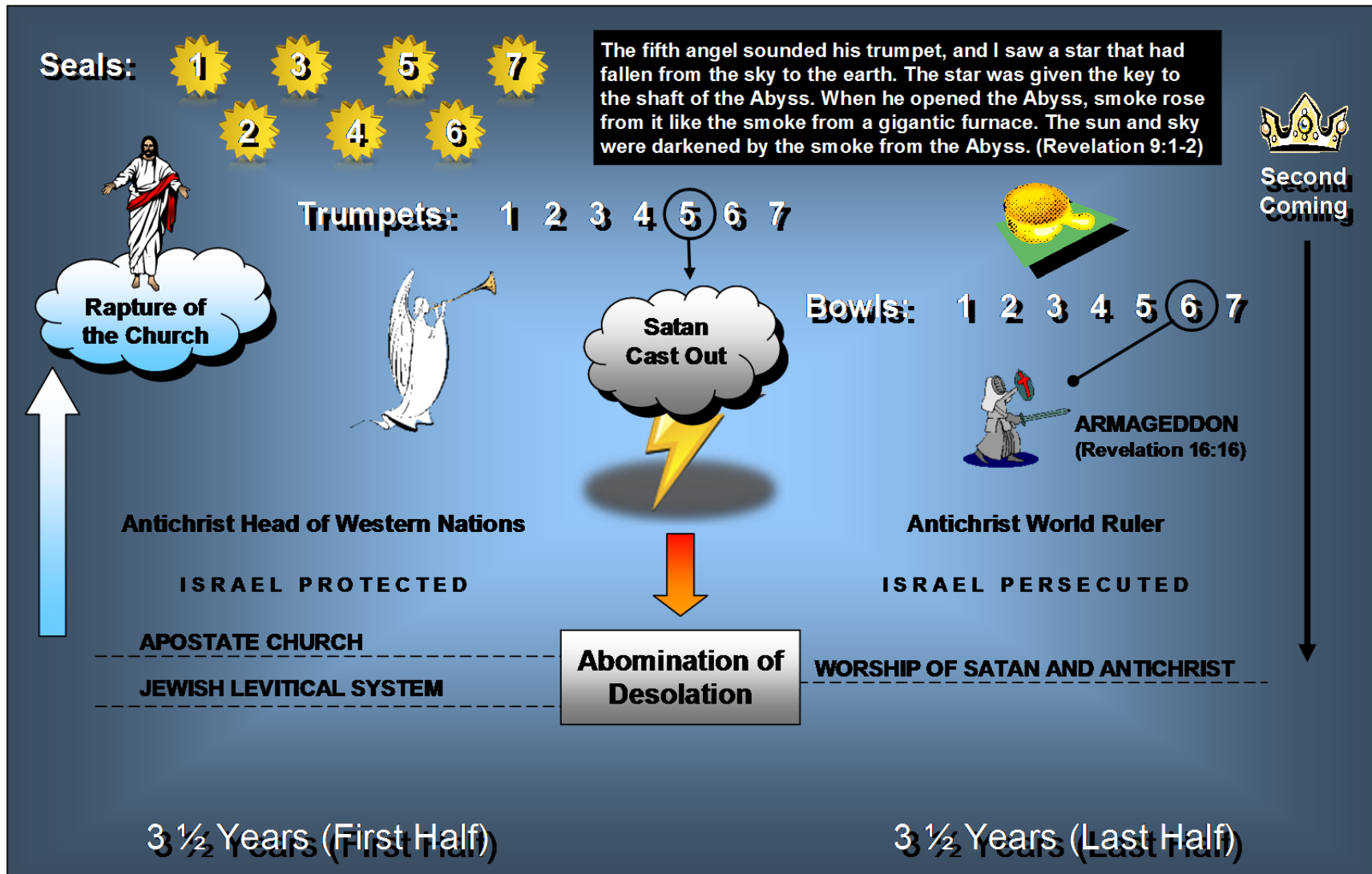
 - c. Considering that John wrote Revelation around 95-96 A.D., do you think it was challenging for him to consider that the entire world would see the deaths of the Two Witnesses? Is this difficult for you to envision living in 2016?

 - d. In the end what happens to the Two Witnesses?

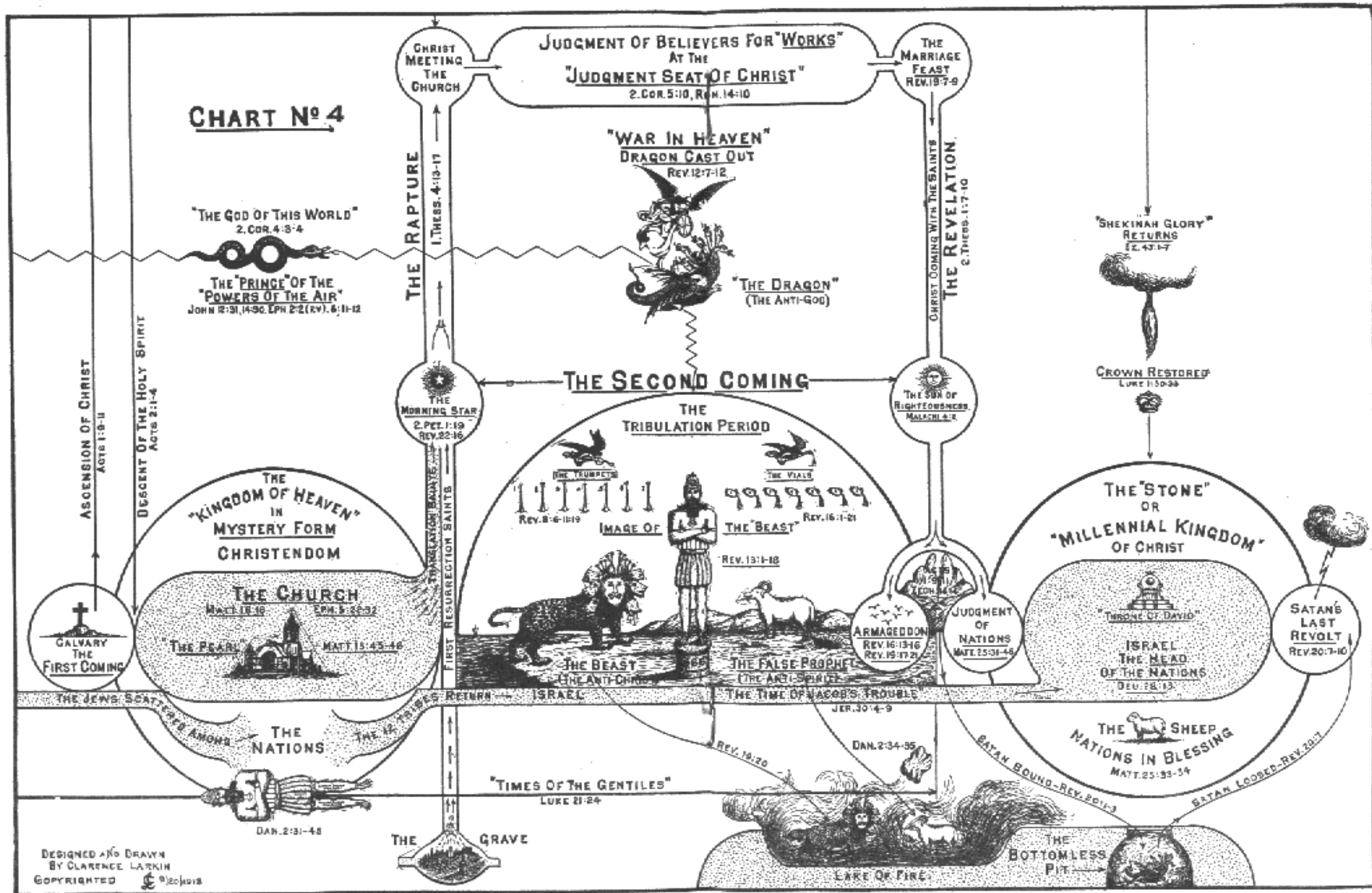
5. What are the consequences for not taking the Mark of the Beast according to Revelation 13:16-18?

6. What battle is described in Revelation 19:17-21? What is this often described as a “battle” and not a “war”? If this distinction significant?

A Graphical Representation of the Tribulation Period



Benware, Paul N., *Understanding End Times Prophecy*, Mood Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 2006, page 316.
 Modified by Chris Alexander to address timing of Satan's removal from Heaven in relation to the 5th trumpet.



Clarence Larkin, *The Greatest Book on Dispensational Truth in the World*, Copyright 1918, page 12.