

END TIME ORDER OF EVENTS

Revelation School

June 2008

As an introduction to this study, I am going to quickly go through the timing, or order of events, in the Book of Revelation, I will go through chapter by chapter, giving you a brief resume of what it is all about and where it fits. So here goes:

Revelation 1:1-3

God the Father gave Jesus this prophecy to show us what is to take place shortly.

Revelation 1:9-10

John was on the Isle of Patmos in 95-96 AD. The rest of Revelation 1 is a description of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The last sermon Jesus preached on this earth had an audience of one.

Revelation 1:17-19

In verse 17 we see John falling, an appropriate reaction. In verse 19 John is told to write the message down and Jesus Himself divides the message up into three sections –

- What John had seen.
- What is now
- What will take place later on and most of the book of Revelation comes into this third category - that is from chapter 4 – to the end of Revelation.

Here is some background information you will find helpful for understanding the book of Revelation.

1. The tribulation is a period of **Holy War**. Holy War is not what the Islamic nations say it is – they say if you do not like another nation they declare war and say it is a ‘holy war’, which means they are not afraid to die in it.

That is not the biblical idea of Holy War. Holy War is when God starts fighting against a nation and it is when **God Himself** declares war on part of the earth. It has happened many times in history, but there is still more to come. An easy example would be in

Genesis 7

this gives us the flood – which was universal - which means that this judgement came on **all** mankind. God tells the people of the earth that they have 120 years to repent. God does not just judge, He *always* gives a period in which people can repent first. That shows us God’s love, and after the period given for them to repent – the flood came. Noah was preaching faithfully all the time he was building the ark. ‘Judgement coming, change your minds.’ But they didn’t, and God declared Holy War. He used the flood and you always find He uses the elements as His weapons. Hailstones, earthquakes, wind, famine etc. So there is Holy War. You can find other examples of Holy War in the books of Joshua and Judges, where God does

use the Israeli army, but He also uses the natural elements against the Amorites. But again, God gave the Amorites 400 years to repent, but they did not – you will find that in

Genesis 15.

Where God is about to give Abraham the land and He tells him that He cannot do it yet, because the 'iniquity of the Amorites' has not reached its height.

So in the Tribulation period, Holy War is declared on the earth, which has not repented, and again God uses the elements to judge.

2. The tribulation is seen from the position of heaven. John is taken to heavenly places and looks down on the earth. In the ancient world, the king, or whoever was in charge, would have a battle plan - he would set up his headquarters on a hill overlooking the battleground so he could see what was going on, and he issued his battle orders from there, at various stages of the battle. You see this with Moses when he ascended the mount and held up his arms as commanded by the Lord – when he kept his hands up they were winning, when his hands dropped, the battle began to go to their adversaries. The orders given by the king were not given a time limit, he would wait for the first order to be completed before he gave another order to bring in the next phase of the battle plan. The book of Revelation is seen just like that.

God is seen in heaven in charge and He is reading out His battle campaign.

Revelation 5:1-5

Deals with the Seal judgements. One Seal is on the outside of the Scroll – which is the title deed to the earth – the other seals are on the inside, so there is one seal outside, and six inside, and the inside ones hold various sheets of the Scroll together. When you break a seal on the outside, you can open up the Scroll until you reach the next seal and you go on like that until you have opened all the seven seals. When all the seals are broken, you have God's battle plan fully laid out, and so this Scroll deals with **His** battle plan for the tribulation period. The first Scroll covers the beginning of the Tribulation period, the last one covers the end of the Tribulation period, and Jesus opens up the Scroll.

Revelation 6:1-2

Verses 1 and 2 are the first Seal. A horse always means warfare, but a white horse means victory – Jesus comes back on a white horse! Here at the beginning of the tribulation you have a battle and it is a victorious battle. That is the start of the campaign of the leader of the tribulation period. This is the 'man of sin' as the bible calls him or the Antichrist himself. In a short space of time, this man is leader of the whole world. Incidentally, the fact that he carries a bow but no arrows indicates that it is a **political** victory that he wins, not a military one.

Revelation 6:3,4

The second Seal. A red horse always means warfare but a different kind of warfare from the white horse. This warfare has a lot of bloodshed, but does not actually achieve anything much. So the

tribulation period starts with peace but it does not last for long and a battle starts up and peace is no longer found on the earth.

Revelation 6:5-6

The third Seal. Black horse – famine. This money is a day's wage and here you have a picture of the shortage of food and famine on the earth. Luxury goods are not touched.

Revelation 6:7-8

The fourth Seal. A pale horse. In the Greek it is actually a pale green horse and a quarter of the earth is destroyed by warfare, famine and disease. You have animals suddenly killing people as well and we have an horrendous situation developing here upon the earth.

Revelation 6:9-11

And the fifth Seal. Now God begins answering the prayers of all the persecuted saints who get saved during the tribulation period, and God moves in on the earth's history and trouble starts in a big way. You will notice that this is the order that Jesus said it would be in Matthew 24.

Revelation 6:12-14

The sixth Seal is broken and nature starts opposing mankind on the earth. Now we know what this is, the biggest explosion the earth ever had was in 1883 when Krakatoa blew up. The explosion was massive and the results of it were this – for weeks all of Indonesia was in darkness all the time, oil lamps had to be alight all the time so people could see. At night the sky was red, blood red and the moon was the same as well – this is what happens here – meteors hit the earth in vast numbers.

It is estimated that the power of the explosion in Krakatoa was about 13,000 times the yield of the bomb that devastated Hiroshima, Japan. (Source: Wikipedia the online encyclopedia.) Verse 14 talks about hurricanes and tornadoes breaking out. Men seek to die, notice, not to be saved. The 7th Seal is yet to be broken, but that seal is not broken until

Revelation 8:1

The things of the 7th Seal are so amazing that there is total silence in heaven for thirty minutes.

So what about chapter 7, why is there a gap between the opening of the 6th seal and the 7th seal?

Revelation 7

This is the chapter that unlocks the book of Revelation for us. Writers both ancient and modern, when they are writing something, go along with the story and then all of a sudden they will need to refer back to something that has happened in the past. You see it in films frequently when you get wavy lines, a fade out or a flash back to a particular scene and then you go back to the present story. God does the same thing in the book of Revelation. He uses seals, trumpets and golden bowls or vials to show us the chronological order of events, and anything between is **infill detail** which we need.

Revelation 6:17

A question is asked and Revelation 7 is God answering that question. The 7th seal takes us back to the original story in chapter 8 and it is as easy as that. You can see this sort of thing in other places in Revelation.

Revelation 8:2

So the 7th Seal has seven trumpets and these trumpets are the seven stages within the 7th Seal.

Revelation 8 and 9

Deal with the seven trumpets – this is at the end of the tribulation.

Revelation 8:8-13

Revelation 9:1-21

You have the 6 trumpets completed. Where is the 7th trumpet?

Revelation 11:15

The chapter and verses between Revelation 10:1 and 11:14 are the infill detail which we spoke about earlier.

Revelation 11:15-19

The 7th trumpet is sounded. When that is sounded God reveals His Kingdom on earth. Within the 7 trumpets there are seven vials or golden bowls.

Revelation 15:1-7

Revelation 16

All the bowls are poured out on the earth.

Revelation 12,13 and 14

Are infill detail.

Revelation 12

Deals with Satan's attempt to wipe out the nation of Israel and how God deals with Satan.

Revelation 13:

Talks about the political system that is on the earth during the tribulation.

Revelation 14:

Deals with Jesus' victory over that situation and from there on we are back n the main account and the system of seals, trumpets and golden bowls keep us on course as far as chronology is concerned.

Revelation 19:

Deals with the Second Advent of Jesus Christ which occurs at the end of the seven golden bowls.

Revelation 17 and 18

Are infill detail.

Revelation 17

Deals with Mystery Babylon – the religious system and how God deals with that.

Revelation 18

Deals with Mystery Babylon the political system and how God deals with that.

You should now be able to read Revelation for yourself and understand it. So in essence what you have is this:-

Revelation 6,8,9

Revelation 11:15-19

Revelation 15,16 and 19

Are chronological.

Revelation 7,10,11:1-14

Are detail.

Revelation 12,13,14,17 and 18

Are detail.

Revelation 20,21, and 22

Are future and they occur after the tribulation.

Enjoy!