

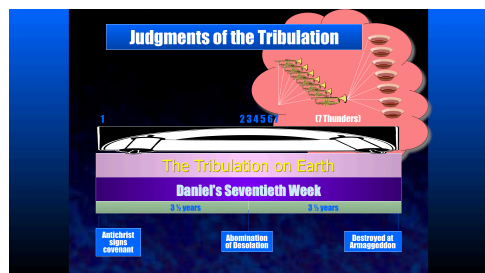
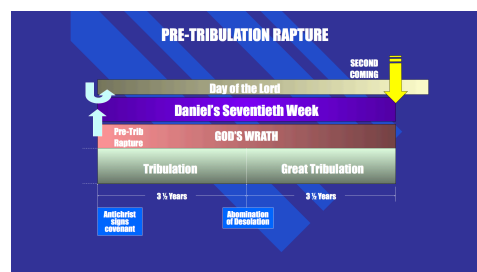
**What will happen on earth (Rev. 6-19) is an extension of the authority of the Lamb whom John saw in heaven (Rev. 4-5).**

Ever since the flood, this wicked world has been storing up wrath for the Day of Wrath (Rom. 2:5). All of God's stored-up wrath is contained in the 7-sealed scroll that was given to the Glorious Lamb, Jesus Christ, to judge the whole world (Rev. 5:7). All judgment has been given to Jesus Christ (John 5:22-23), the Lamb, as if slain.

We can't separate some of these judgements as God's wrath and others as Satan's wrath (cf. Job). Though God uses Satan to do it, all judgment (wrath) comes from the nail-scarred hands of the Glorious Lamb, Jesus Christ.

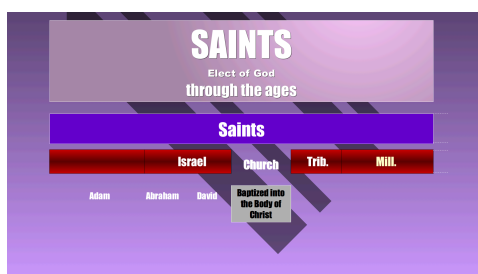
Chapter 6 starts the 7-year Tribulation Period known as Daniel's 70th Week, or the "time of Jacob's Trouble." Purpose of the Tribulation: 1) prepare Israel for her Messiah; 2) pour out judgment on unbelieving world.

The Church has been raptured to heaven -- Chart: Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Just before chapter 6 events, the rapture of Church-age saints removes the Restrainer of evil -- the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit resumes His pre-Pentecost ministry. When the Restrainer is taken away, the Day of the Lord begins (2 Th. 2). It begins with unveiling the identity of the Man of Lawlessness (Antichrist). It begins with the 7 seal judgments here in chapter 6.



Each series of 7 judgments moves in chronological progression through the Tribulation with ever-increasing intensity. In the 7th seal are the 7 trumpets; in the 7th trumpet are the 7 bowls.

Before we begin our discussion of the Tribulation, or Daniel's 70th week, let's talk about "saints" during the Tribulation.



These 7 seals start the sequence of the Lord's judgments on a sinful world. "The Tribulation" = "70th Week" = "Jacob's (Israel's) trouble."

## **1 WE SEE THE GLORIOUS LAMB, JESUS CHRIST, BREAK OPEN 1st 6 SEAL JUDGMENTS.**

The 1st 4 seal judgments are sometimes called "The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse." => signs of broad conditions on earth. With the release of each horseman, one of the four living creatures gives a thunderous "Come!"

### **SEAL #1: White horse, 6:2**

Rider had 1) a bow, 2) a crown given to him, 3) he went out conquering & to conquer.

1. This reveals the Antichrist as the Satanic imitation of Jesus (Rev. 19). Christ cannot be this rider because Jesus comes to the earth at the end of the Tribulation, armies come with Him, and famine and death do not follow.

This rider is the false king, the little horn of Daniel 7; king of fierce countenance in Daniel 8; prince of Daniel 9:26; the beast out of the sea in Rev. 13:1 ff.

2. Antichrist is revealed as a military conqueror who overthrows 3 kings. He forms a 10-nation alliance, and makes a peace contract with Israel that will last 3 1/2 years.

### **SEAL #2: Red Horse, 6:3-4 (mid-pt in Daniel's 70th week of 7 years)**

1. Rider granted ability to (1) take peace from the earth; (2) cause men to slay one another.
2. This signifies bloody warfare that takes away the false peace established by the Antichrist. Link the opening of this 2nd seal to the vents of Ezek. 38-39 war of Gog and Magog and the Abomination of Desolation in the middle of the Tribulation (Dan. 11:40-44; 9:27; 2 Th. 2; Rev. 12:12).

### **SEAL #3: Black Horse, 6:5-6**

1. Rider had a pair of scales in his hand to signify a time of economic disaster & imbalances. Especially for the common folk who do not buy "the oil and the wine," usually commodities for the rich. Situation would be such that one would have to spend a day's wages for 1 loaf of bread with no money left to buy anything else.
2. Signifies a time of famine, the aftermath of war.

**SEAL #4: Ashen Horse, 6:7-8**

1. Rider called Death, & Hades was following with him. Hades, or the place of the dead, follows death.
2. He had authority over 1/4 of the earth to kill people.  
Wild beasts go berserk and kill people.

**SEAL #5: 6:9-11**

1. Reveals souls who are saints in heaven ("brethren," v.11) who were killed during the Tribulation on earth. They are given white robes.  
Isaiah foretold the desire of saints during the Tribulation in Isa. 24:14-16a.
2. The altar is apparently an altar associated with the temple found in heaven (cf. 112:19; 15:5-8) in connection with the presence of God and the Lamb. "Underneath" may simply mean that the altar was raised high on a platform.

**SEAL #6: 6:12-17**

1. Catastrophic confusion from God, 6:12-14.  
How is this explained? Literal sense makes sense. Explain vv. 12-13 by a worldwide earthquake & resultant volcanic eruptions worldwide.  
v. 12 -- earthquake literal. Sun to black. Moon to red.  
v. 13 -- stars fell to earth  
v. 14 -- sky split apart (cf. Isa. 34:4)  
v. 14 -- mountains & islands moved.  
Isaiah foretold that during this period of time the earth will be shaken, Isa. 24:19-24.
2. Chaotic conclusion of people, 6:15-17.  
v. 15 -- judgments equalize people.  
vv. 16-17 -- they acted as if it was the end of the world -- "hide us!"  
They knew that the judgments were from God. Cf. Isa 2:19, 21, where men will go into caves when God rises to make the earth tremble.

Even when people know that God is punishing them, they still don't repent!

(Before the 7th Seal, pause for a parenthesis: 144,000, 7:1-17).

7:1 "after this" in the vision, not the order of events.

2 parts to chapter 7: Looking back around the earth, 7:1-8; Looking ahead toward heaven, 7:9-17.

Who will tell your unsaved friends & relatives about Jesus after the Rapture?? Some say it is too late when you are "Left Behind" -- no chance after the Rapture. They might use Heb. 9:27, but that verse says no chance after death. Others might use 1 Thess. 2:10-12, but the point there is that willful rejection of the truth will be judged, and it doesn't necessarily specify before or after the rapture.

## **2 IN THE MIDDLE OF GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENTS ON THE WORLD, COUNTLESS THOUSANDS WILL BELIEVE IN CHRIST, 7:1-17.**

Remember, the Holy Spirit will resume the same ministry He had before the Day of Pentecost.

### **Vision 1: Looking back, around the earth, 7:1-8**

A. Before God's wrath is poured out on the whole earth, only the 144K men of Israel will be sovereignly protected, 7:1-8.

1. Angels are told not to harm anything until God's seal of protection is given by God's grace, 7:1-3.
  - a. 4 angels hold back the 4 winds of judgment, 7:1.
  - b. 1 angel prevents judgment until they can seal, 7:2-3.

What is the seal? Cf. Rev. 14:1 -- His name & name of His Father on the forehead (cf. Ezek. 9:4). Ownership; Security; Protection.

NOTE: What are the reasons for this sealing to take place at the **beginning** of the 7 year Tribulation Period?

- 1) No judgment occurs on the earth until these 144K are sealed (cf. v.3).
  - 2) These 144 K are "first-fruits" (cf. Rev. 14:4).
  - 3) Part of the multitude who is killed will be seen in the 5th seal (6:9-11).
2. God sealed 144K representatives as a remnant from every tribe of Israel, 7:4-8.
    - a. Who are the 144, 000?
 

They were 12,000 celibate Jews from each one of the 12 tribes who had the seal of God & who had been redeemed as first fruits to be His witnesses during the time of Tribulation. The Holy Spirit will empower them -- cf. Joel 2:28-29.

The probable content of their message -- cf. Matt 24:14.
    - b. Why are there 12, 000 from each tribe?
 

These are representatives of the totality of the nation of Israel. Why Israel? God's promise! God has a future for the nation of Israel, in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Contract (Gen. 12:1-3).

Why is the tribe of Dan omitted here? Usually Levi is omitted, but here it is Dan and Ephraim. Tribes chosen here are in 6 pairs. Dan is classified with Naphtali because: 1) Did not take their inheritance - Ezek. 48:32; 2) One of first to go into idolatry; 3) Small in number. Ephraim is with "Joseph."

Point: God has a future for the nation of Israel because He gave them an unconditional promise that He must keep (cf. Rom. 9, 11).

### **Vision 2: Looking ahead, toward the throne, 7:9-17**

B. A great multitude of people will be redeemed, 7:9-17.

1. The great multitude of earthly redeemed will prompt heavenly rejoicing, 7:9-12.
  - a. Includes Jews and Gentiles saved during the Tribulation. There are so many that they couldn't be counted, 9.

Note: No saved saints during the Tribulation are ever referred to as --

- 1) Members of the Body of Christ
- 2) Those indwell by Christ
- 3) The Bride of Christ
- 4) Those who look forward to translation without dying.



- b. This great multitude will prompt heavenly rejoicing, 7:10-12.

2. This great multitude of earthly martyrs will have a unique place in heaven, 7:13-17.
  - a. Identity: earthly redeemed out of the Tribulation, 7:13-14.
  - b. Future: unique ministry before God's throne, 7:15-17.

All judgment (wrath) comes from the nail-scarred hands of God's Glorious Lamb, Jesus Christ, on every unbeliever.

All grace comes from the nail-scarred hands of God's Glorious Lamb, Jesus Christ, on every person who believes in Jesus.

God's grace parallels God's wrath during the Tribulation.

By God's grace through the ministry of the 144,000, many people will be saved and will be martyred in the Tribulation Period.

Out of the darkness of Jacob's trouble comes the light of the glorious Gospel.

God loves to redeem those who suffer from the agonies of their sin. He does His best work in spiritual graveyards (Eph. 2:1-10).

**IN THE MIDDLE OF GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENTS ON THE WORLD, COUNTLESS THOUSANDS WILL BELIEVE IN CHRIST.**