



God's Revelation of the Future

The Book of Revelation
(Background)

The Seven Seals

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The Book of Revelation

“This is a book of judgments and of doom. The darker side of the picture is never for a moment concealed. God is just. Sin must be punished. Impenitence and rebellion issue in misery and defeat. Here is no sentimental confusion of right and wrong. Here is no weak tolerance of evil. There is mention of ‘the Lamb that hath been slain,’ but also of ‘the wrath of the Lamb.’ There is a ‘river of water of life,’ but also a ‘lake of fire.’ Here is revealed a God of love who is to dwell among men, to wipe away all tears, and to abolish death and sorrow and pain; but first his enemies must be subdued. Indeed, The Revelation is in large measure a picture of the last great conflict between the forces of evil and the power of God. The colors are lurid and are

The Book of Revelation

borrowed from the convulsions of nature and from scenes of human history, with their battles and their carnage. The struggle is titanic. Countless hordes of demonic warriors rise in opposition to him who is 'King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.' Upon [the forces of evil] 'woes' are pronounced, 'bowls' of wrath are poured out, and overwhelming destruction is visited. A brighter day is to come, but there is thunder before the dawn."

-- Charles Erdman, *The Revelation of John*,
(quoted by John MacArthur in *Revelation 1-11*)

The Book of Revelation

- Four introductory questions ...
 - Who wrote the book and to whom?
 - When was the book written?
 - Why was the book written?
 - What is the book's overall structure?

The Book of Revelation

- Who wrote the book and to whom?
 - Most agree that John, the apostle, wrote Revelation.
 - 1:1 – The revelation of Jesus Christ ... to his servant, John
 - 1:4 – John, to the seven churches
 - 1:9 – I, John, your brother and partner
 - 22:8 – I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things.

The Book of Revelation

- Who wrote the book and to whom?
 - The entire book was written and sent as a letter to seven churches in Asia (1:4-6).

The Seal Judgments

- Revelation 1:4-6

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Seal Judgments

- Revelation 1:11

[John is told,] "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

The Book of Revelation

- When was the book written?
 - Most who hold to a pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church hold that Revelation was written in the mid-nineties.

The Book of Revelation

- Why was the book written?
 - The book is a revelation, a disclosure of things that were previously concealed.

The Book of Revelation

- **Why was the book written?**
 - The book is a revelation, a disclosure of things that were previously concealed.
 - **1:1** – The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John.
 - **22:6** – And [an angel] said to [John], "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

The Book of Revelation

- Why was the book written?
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 - The book is a declaration that God is sovereign and almighty and as such it glorifies him.

The Book of Revelation

- Why was the book written?
 - The book is a revelation, a disclosure of things that were previously concealed.
 - The book is a declaration that God is sovereign and almighty and as such it glorifies him.
 - The book brings promise of blessing.
 - 1:3 – “blessed is the one who reads”
 - 22:7 – “blessed is the one who keeps”

The Book of Revelation

- What is the overall structure?
 - Futurists see the basic outline in **1:19** where three divisions are indicated.

1:19 – Write therefore [1] the things that you have seen, [2] those that are and [3] those that are to take place after this.

The Book of Revelation

- A brief outline based on 1:19
 - Opening (1:1-8)
 - Things that you have seen (1:9-20)
 - A vision of the Son and the command to write
 - Things that are (2:1-3:22)
 - The “individual” letters to the seven churches
 - Things that are to take place (4:1-22:5)
 - Events following the Rapture to the new creation
 - Closing (22:6-21)

The Book of Revelation

- A plan for considering 6:1-19:10.

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The Book of Revelation

- A plan for considering **6:1-19:10**.
 - First, we will consider the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.

The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments

The Seals (Background - 5:1-7)

- | | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | 6:1,2 | one on a white horse - produces peace | } | a group - the four horsemen |
| 2. | 6:3,4 | one on a red horse - brings war | | |
| 3. | 6:5,6 | one on a black horse - indicates famine | | |
| 4. | 6:7,8 | one on a pale horse - indicates death | | |
| 5. | 6:9-11 | martyrs | | |
| 6. | 6:12-17 | earthquakes, sun dark, moon blood, stars fall | | |
| 7. | 8:1 | no content given (silence in heaven) | | |

The Trumpets (Background - 8:2-6 & Three Woes - 8:13; 9:12; 11:14)

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------|--|---|--|
| 1. | 8:7 | hail, fire | } | a group - natural objects involved (note 1/3s) |
| 2. | 8:8,9 | mountains of fire cast into sea | | |
| 3. | 8:10,11 | star from heaven | | |
| 4. | 8:12 | sun, moon, stars smitten | | |
| 5. | 9:1-12 | angel opens pit, sun darkened, locusts | } | a group - the three woes |
| 6. | 9:13-21;11:14a | angels loosed, army seen | | |
| 7. | 11:14b-19 | no content given (temple opens) | | |

The Bowls (Background - 15:1-16:1)

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 1. | 16:2 | sore upon those with mark of the beast |
| 2. | 16:3 | every living creature in the sea dies |
| 3. | 16:4-7 | rivers become blood |
| 4. | 16:8,9 | sun scorches |
| 5. | 16:10,11 | darkness |
| 6. | 16:12-16 | river Euphrates dried up |
| 7. | 16:17-21 | earthquake, city divided, hail |

The Book of Revelation

- A plan for considering **6:1-19:10**.
 - First, we will consider the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.
 - Second, we will examine the various “insets” that interrupt the flow of the judgments series.

The Insets of Revelation

The insets represent parenthetical sections in Revelation 6:1-19:10. They interrupt the chronological flow of the book found in the seals, trumpets, and bowls sequence.

→ Seals 1 - 6	6:1-17
The 144,000 Sealed	7:1-8
The Great Multitude	7:9-17
→ Seal 7 and Trumpets 1 - 6	8:1-9:20
The Angel with the Scroll	10:1-11
The Two Witnesses	11:1-13
→ Trumpet 7	11:14-19
The Woman & the Dragon	12:1-17
The First Beast	13:1-10
The Second Beast	13:11-18
The 144,000 Upon Zion	14:1-5
The Three Messages	14:6-13
The Harvests	14:14-20
→ Bowls 1 - 7	15:1-16:21
The Destruction of Babylon	17:1-18:24
Rejoicing in Heaven	19:1-10

The Book of Revelation

- A Reminder/Caution/Plea

The book of Revelation is unique among the books of the Bible. As we study this book we must take care that we do not become so occupied with the events it foretells that we lose sight of the triune God who is at work here. This book, from start to end and perhaps more than any other, manifests God as the awesome, sovereign, all powerful, righteous, and loving God that he is. He is GOD! So, let us use this study to worship HIM as it blesses us!

The Judgments Series

- The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments
 - How do the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments interrelate?

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 - To some degree the three series of judgments are successive.

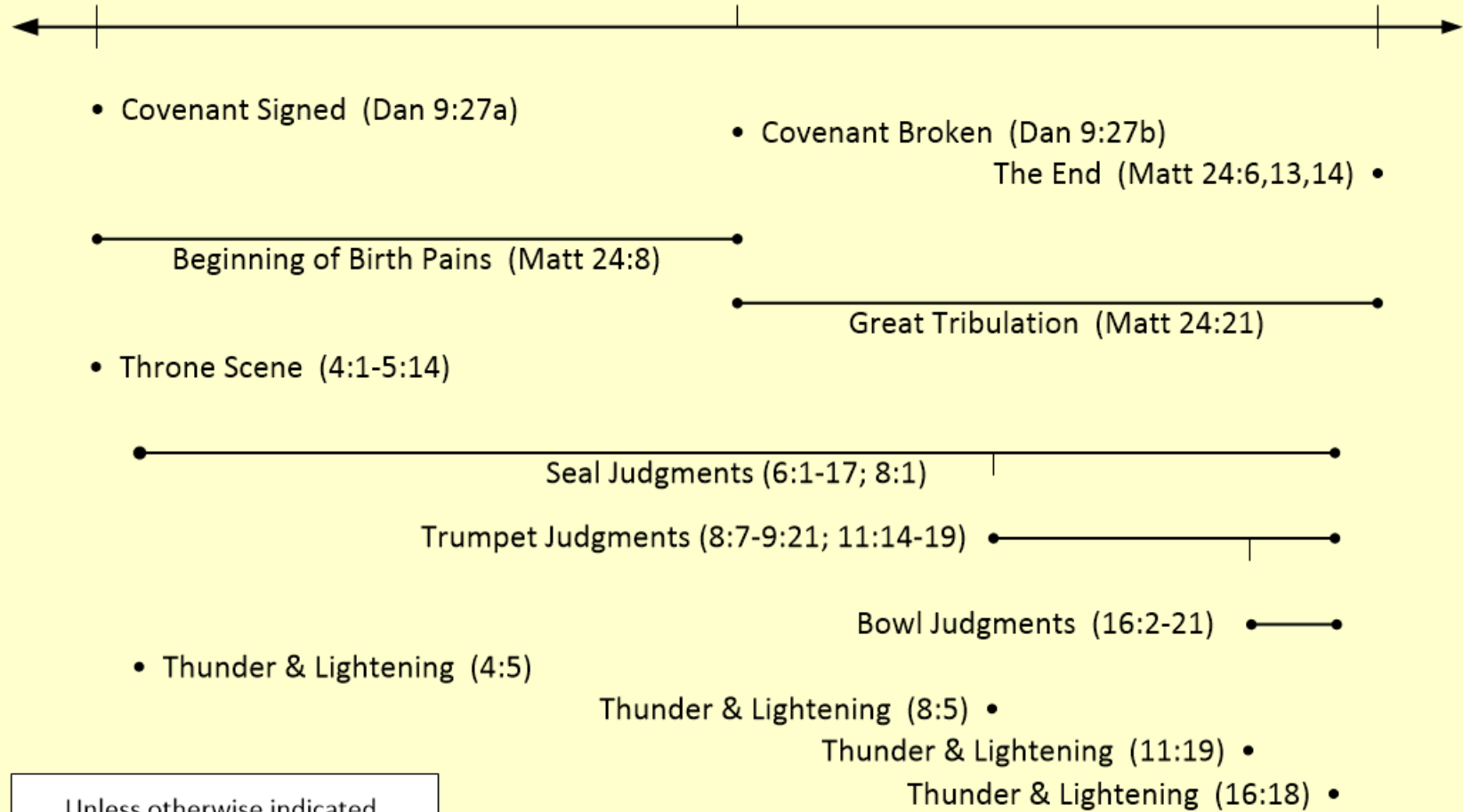
The Judgments Series

- The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments
 - How do the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments interrelate?
 - To some degree the three series of judgments are successive.
 - However, because the 7th seal consists of the seven trumpet judgments and the 7th trumpet consists of the 7 bowl judgments, there is also overlapping.

The Judgments Series

- The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments
 - How do the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments interrelate?
 - Punctuated by thunder and lightening references
 - 4:5a – before the seals
 - 8:5 – “between” the seals and trumpets
 - 11:19b – “between” the trumpets and bowls
 - 16:18 – after the bowls

The Chronology of the Judgments



Unless otherwise indicated,
references are from Revelation.



The Judgments Series

- What value do these “judgment” passages have for us?

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The Judgments Series

- What value do these judgment passages have for us?
 - We learn about God himself.
 - We rejoice in seeing righteousness and justice triumph.
 - Yet, we do sorrow for those who have rejected God and will be judged.



The Judgments Series

- Are these judgments limited or global in nature?

The Seal Judgments

- The Seven Seals
 - These are the seals on the seven-sealed scroll given to the Lamb (5:1, 2b, 5b, 7).

The Seal Judgments

- Revelation 5:1-2, 5b, 7

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of [the Father] who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ... ^{5b} "behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." ... ⁷ And [the Son] went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

The Seal Judgments

- The Seven Seals
 - These are the seals on the seven-sealed scroll given to the Lamb (5:1-7).
 - Thus, it is the Lamb, the Son himself, who is opening these seals and in the process unleashing their associated judgments.

The Seal Judgments

- The 1st Seal – 6:1-2

¹ Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.