

The Book of Revelation
Introduction to the Great Tribulation
Lesson VII

REV. CHAPTERS 6 to 18 : “THE GREAT TRIBULATION”

Earlier we had entitled these chapters as “scenes on earth.” That is not wrong, but we want to use the words, “Great Tribulation” instead.

It shall be our purpose, first , to show you why we believe this. We acknowledge that many do not agree but we feel that when one sees the time element of these chapters, then one escapes the error of trying to find the 144,000 now, or trying to identify the Anti-Christ now, or trying to identify the Angel with the everlasting gospel now. We believe those subjects belong to the future and not to the present time.

INTRODUCTION TO THESE CHAPTERS 6-18

- 1 Revelation 19:11-16, describes the actual RETURN of Christ to this earth.
- 2 Revelation chapters 20-22, describe the events that FOLLOW that return.
- 3 Revelation chapters 6-18 describe the events that immediately precede the return.
- 4 Matthew 24:3 The Question: “What shall be THE SIGN of the Return? (not the Rapture) The Rapture is one event of the 2nd advent but it is not the 2nd Coming. It is rather the going of the remaining portion of the Church to be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 5 Matthew 24:4-51 gives the answer to the question. In a word, the sign will be *great tribulation*.

The Book of Revelation is primarily about Jesus. Out of 403 verses He is mentioned in 174 of them. He is called the “Lamb” 28 times. He is the One who breaks the seals of judgment upon this earth. He is the One who judges ,who finally conquers and who reigns on the earth. **CHRIST IS COMING!** Christ is coming to earth again.

As His First Coming involved a series of events, so will His second. The **FIRST** major sign of the nearness of His Second Coming was the rebirth of Israel as a Nation. The **FINAL** sign of His return to earth will be Great Tribulation.

Today, we can see world-trouble increasing. There are those who say “the nations have always been in trouble.” But there is a major difference. Never has the world, since the First Coming, faced such problems as it is facing today **AT A TIME** when Israel was an active Nation among the Nations. **IT IS ISRAEL’S PRESENCE THAT GIVES SIGNIFICANCE TO CURRENT TRENDS AND CURRENT EVENTS.**

6. **Matthew 24:4-8** Jesus talked about the "beginning of sorrows". **DO NOT** expect things to get better! **Matthew 24:15** "When" Here Jesus connects His prophecy with Daniel's 70th week of seven years. See **Daniel 9:27**. **Matthew 24:21-22** **THEN** or during that week, Jesus said there would be great tribulation. This period is segregated from all other history. This tribulation is a specific period of time. A time of heretofore unseen trouble. It stands out in contrast with the present age of grace. To make this tribulation any part of the age of grace is to mix law with grace.

2 Timothy 3:12 states that all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. In **John 16:33**, Jesus said to His disciples, "in this world we shall have tribulation."

7. Now we should expect nothing else from this world, but trouble! **BUT** we must "rightly divide Scripture" and keep a distinction. Tribulation for the Church from the hands of men has always been promised to the Church. **BUT** Tribulation for the whole world from the Hands of God is quite a different matter.

8. As we shall see, the troubles in Revelation 6 to 18, are poured out on the world of unbelievers, not on the Church. This tribulation is a specific period of time. A time of heretofore unseen trouble. A time separated, segregated from all other history, "never was, never shall be".

9. **Matthew 24:29-30** Immediately **AFTER** this Tribulation, Christ returns to earth It is plainly stated.

10. **THEREFORE**, Revelation chapters 6-18 being events just prior to the return of Christ, **MUST BE** events describing the great tribulation period.

1 REVELATION 6-18: THREE GROUPS OF JUDGMENTS

The seven seals.

The seven trumpets.

The seven vials of wrath

None has happened in the past. None are happening in the present. All are future and will happen in the Tribulation

11 THE SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS

Note again Revelation 5:7 ; 6:1 etc.

Jesus takes the sealed book. Jesus breaks all the seals. Thus chapter 6 cannot take place until after the event of Chapter 5 Revelation 6:1 Jesus breaks seal number one.

Revelation 6:2 is the result. In judgment upon men, a false Messiah appears. In history, Pharaoh, a Jew hater appeared. Haman a Jew hater appeared. Herod a Jew hater appeared. Hitler Jew hater appeared in our lifetime! All were allowed of God All are but types of a coming Anti-Christ As these men were the instruments used of God for judgment upon people in their day, so Anti-Christ will be the cause of greater judgments in His day.

2. Revelation 6:3 Jesus breaks seal number two. Revelation 6:4 is the result. Peace is taken from the earth. 1 Thess 5:1-3, cf Genesis 6:11 Matthew 24:37 There is no peace where there is violence.

3. Revelation 6:5 Jesus breaks seal number three. Revelation 6:6 the result. Famine on earth cf Revelation 7:16 “hunger no more” indicates they had hungered.

4. Revelation 6:7 Jesus breaks seal number four. Revelation 6:8 the result. God sends his four-sore-judgments. Ezekiel 14:21 One quarter or one billion of the population of the earth dies!

5. Revelation 6:9 Jesus then breaks seal number five. Revelation 6:10-11 is the result-martyrs. This will bring judgment upon men later.

Revelation 16:5-6 cf Matthew 24: 9-11. It is evident the Jews will be the ones to suffer most.

6. Revelation 6:12 Jesus Breaks seal number six. Revelation 6:13-15 the result. A great earthquake. Cf Matthew 24:7, Isaiah 2:19,21, Isaiah 13:13. Six seals are broken in chapter six.

Revelation 8:1 the seventh seal is broken. Thus, chapter seven is a parenthesis. It takes place after the sixth seal but before the seventh. THE SEAL JUDGMENTS compare to the “beginning of sorrows” spoken of by Jesus in Matthew. 24:4-12

There are those who believe that the Rider on the white horse Revelation 6:1-2 is Christ. But we believe he is a false Christ because the TRUE Christ is breaking the seals at the time this rider appears. We must conclude that Revelation chapter six does describe a time of trouble. It is but the beginning of greater trouble to come.