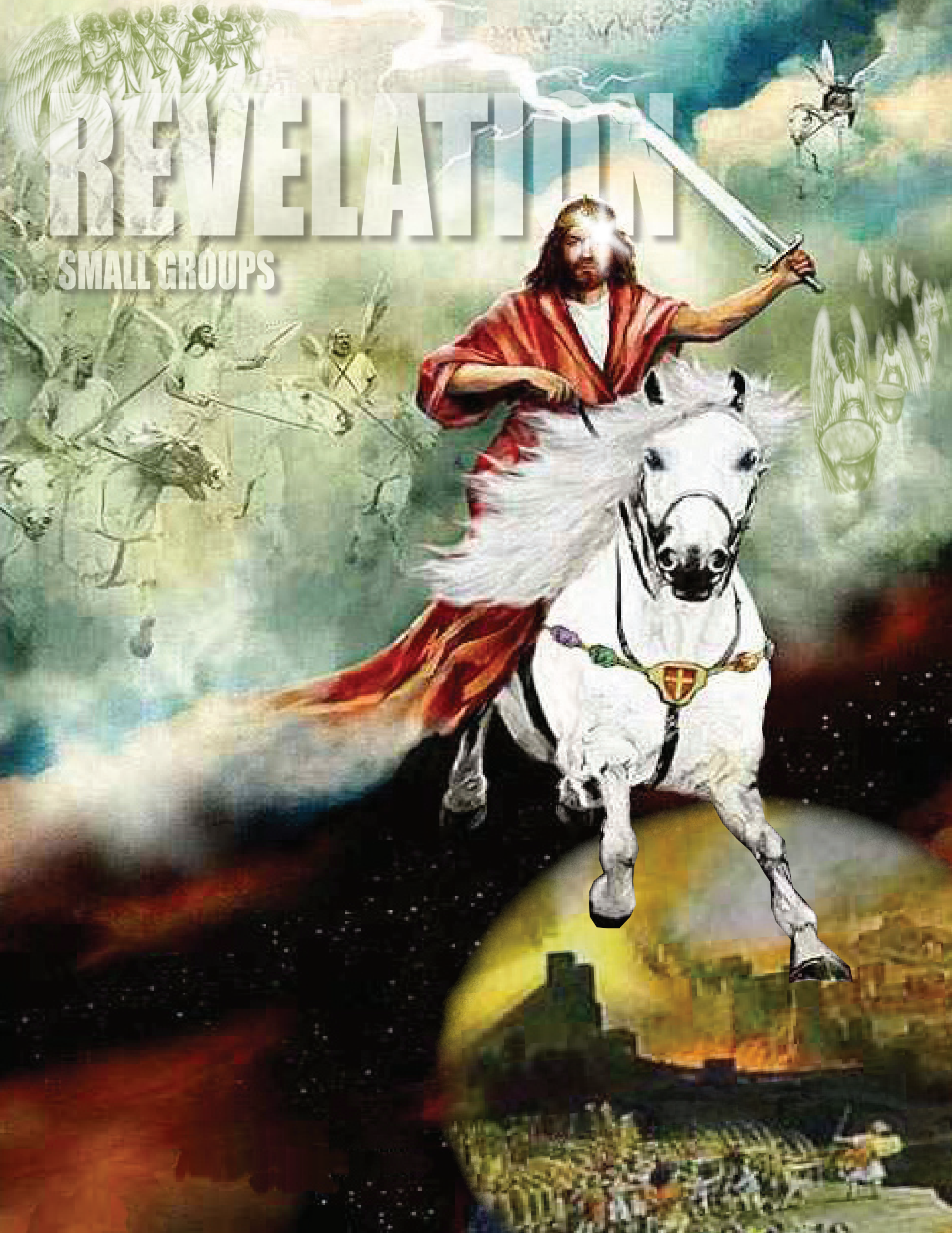


# REVELATION

SMALL GROUPS



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# REVELATION *into the Future*

In Chapter 1 of Revelation Jesus, the first and last, beginning and end, the One Who was and is and is to come speaks to John. Jesus writes through John.

## CHAPTERS 2-3

In Chapters 2-3 we are introduced to the Seven Churches. To each Church Jesus describes Himself, tells them something good about what they do, tells them something bad, and then leaves them with a promise. The promise is left in the form of "To him that overcometh I will..."

To Ephesus Jesus Holds the Seven Stars who are angels or pastors, seven candlesticks which are churches; they are His. They worked hard and had patience and hated the works of the Nicolaitans - who were corrupters of people. They had left their first love. The overcomer would eat of the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God.

To Smyrna Jesus was the first and last, was dead and is alive. They had works, tribulation, and poverty (but they were rich spiritually). The overcomer would not be hurt with the second death.

To Pergamus Jesus was the One who has a sharp two-edged sword. They held fast to Jesus' name. Some of them held to the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. They were promised to eat of the hidden manna, and be given a white stone with a new name on it.

To Thyratira Jesus is the Son of God with eyes like fire and feet like brass. They had works, love, faith, patience, and works. They allowed Jezebel (an evil lady) to influence them. The overcomer would have power over nations to rule and would be given the Morning Star.

To Sardis Jesus is the One Who has the seven Spirits and seven Stars. A few of them had not defiled themselves and were worthy. They were a dead church whose works were not perfect. The overcomer would be clothed in white, and not have his name blotted out of the book of life, but Jesus would confess him before His Father and the Angels.

To Philadelphia Jesus is the Holy and True, Who has the key of David and permanently opens and shuts. They kept God's Word and did not deny Him. Some said they were Jews but were really of the synagogue of Satan. The overcomer would be made a pillar in the Temple of God with God's name written upon him.

To Laodicea Jesus is the Amen, Faithful, and True Witness, beginning of the Creation of God. Nothing good is said of them. They were lukewarm. The overcomer would be allowed to sit with Him in the Father's throne.

## CHAPTERS 4-5

In Chapter 4 John is told to "Come up Here." There are many who believe that this is the Rapture. Chapters 2-3, written to the Churches, and then verse one in chapter 4, "Come up here," is a cryptic way of explaining the Rapture. Each Church has the phrase "He that hath an ear to hear

let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.” In Revelation 13:9 “He that hath an ear to hear let him hear.” There is no mention of Churches there. This may or may not be proof of a Rapture before the rest of the events of Chapters 4-5.

This is an argument from what is not contained in the passage rather than what it actually states. I have no problem with anyone who believes this, however I do not believe this to be the case. I am good to agree to disagree. I hope that we will be taken before any more of the events of this book, but I don't see that we are. There is no indication that any reader of the book should think he will miss out on seeing the AntiChrist.

John sees the throne of God in Heaven, and the One who sits on the throne looks like brilliant colors of green and all the shades of the rainbow. Around the throne there are twenty-four Elders, or representatives of Humanity. Inside the circle of twenty-four are four living creatures, who are Seraphims, with six wings and eyes all over. One has the face of a lion, the second a calf, the third a man, and the fourth a flying eagle. They cease not day and night to say, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was and is and is to come.” When the beasts give glory and honor and thanks to the One Who sits on the throne, the twenty four elders fall down and cast their crowns before the throne.

In the right hand of the Father there is a book with writing on the inside and outside and it is sealed with seven seals. They look for someone to open the seals of the book but no one is able. Then stands the Lamb, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David. Since He is the One Who redeemed us with His blood, He has earned the right to open the seals of the book. His appearance is as a Lamb that was slain. It is interesting to note that at the beginning of the book of Revelation, Jesus is the Lamb having been slain, but ends with Him as the Word executing Justice and Ruling over the people.

# Session 1 - The First Five Seals

## REVELATION 6

In Matthew 24 Jesus taught on the same events that Revelation 6 talks about. There is continuity in the passages when placed side by side.

Revelation 6 begins with five seals being opened.

The first seal is a white horse whose rider has a bow and a crown that is given to him, and he goes to conquer. Jesus said that many would come saying they were the Christ and deceive many. This is the ascent of the Anti Christ. In 2 Thessalonians 2 we are told that the Holy Spirit is withholding the AntiChrist from taking his place, He is literally holding back evil. When the first seal is opened the Holy Spirit steps aside and allows the AntiChrist to enter into power. In fact, the AntiChrist's crown is given to him.

*What are the ways that the description of the rider on the white horse differs from Revelation 19:11-15, and Revelation 1:13-16?*

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The Second seal is a red horse whose rider takes peace from the earth so that the people of earth kill each other. Jesus said there would be wars.

The third seal is a black horse whose rider brings famines to the world.

The fourth seal is a pale (greenish) horse whose rider brings disease and death.

The fifth seal shows the souls of the people who were killed for the Word of God, coming out of Great Tribulation. The reason they are killed is that the AntiChrist stands and declares himself as God, making all sacrifice to stop and forcing the world to worship him. He wages war on the saints. He kills them because they do not worship Him.

Seals 1-4 all take place during the first part of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. Daniel 9:24-27. The Prince (AntiChrist) makes a covenant with many for a seven year period. In the middle of the week he receives a deadly wound and comes back to life. Upon coming back to life He is filled with the spirit that ascends out of the bottomless pit (Revelation 17:8). He then commits the "abomination of desolation," where he stands in the Temple of God showing himself as God. This is when he begins to wage war against the saints. Nowhere does the Bible say that there are seven years

of tribulation. It does give us a time after he stands in the Temple and declares himself as God as 42 months. In Revelation 12, while the beast tries to destroy the believers, they are helped by nature for 1,260 days, which is the same amount of time. *It is possible the first four seals last 3 ½ years and the fifth seal lasts 3 ½ years?*

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*How do you understand “Great Tribulation”? How long is it? (Revelation 13:5, Revelation 11:2-3) What happens?*

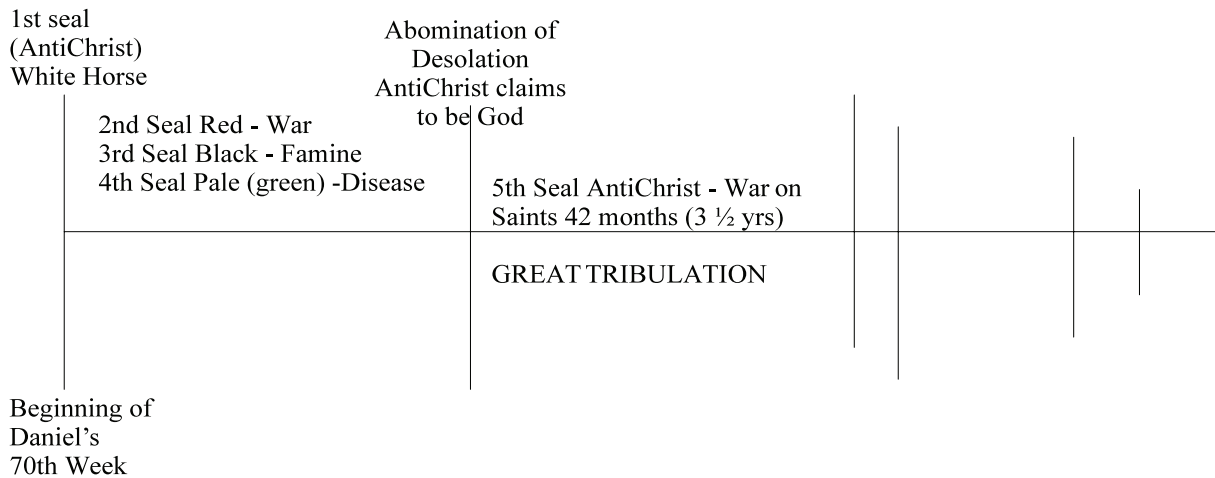
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# Session 2 - The Sixth Seal

## REVELATION 6

The first of two of the biggest events in prophecy is the Abomination of Desolation, when the AntiChrist declares himself as God and wages war on the saints (fifth seal).

The second big event is the sixth seal, when the sun and moon go dark, stars fall from Heaven, and the earth experiences horrific earthquakes. Immediately after the Tribulation (fifth seal of saints being killed) is the sixth seal. The sixth seal is referenced many times in scripture as “Sun Darkened and Moon as Blood”. It is placed in time after the Tribulation (fifth seal) and before God pours out His wrath on the earth. The sixth seal is a sign that the whole world will see. The sixth seal is not a natural event, it is supernatural. Then Jesus appears, coming from Heaven in the clouds with His Angels and sounds the trumpet and gathers together the Christians with Him. After the Christians are gathered God begins to pour out His wrath on the earth.

*What events come before the sixth seal?*

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*What event immediately follows the sixth seal?*

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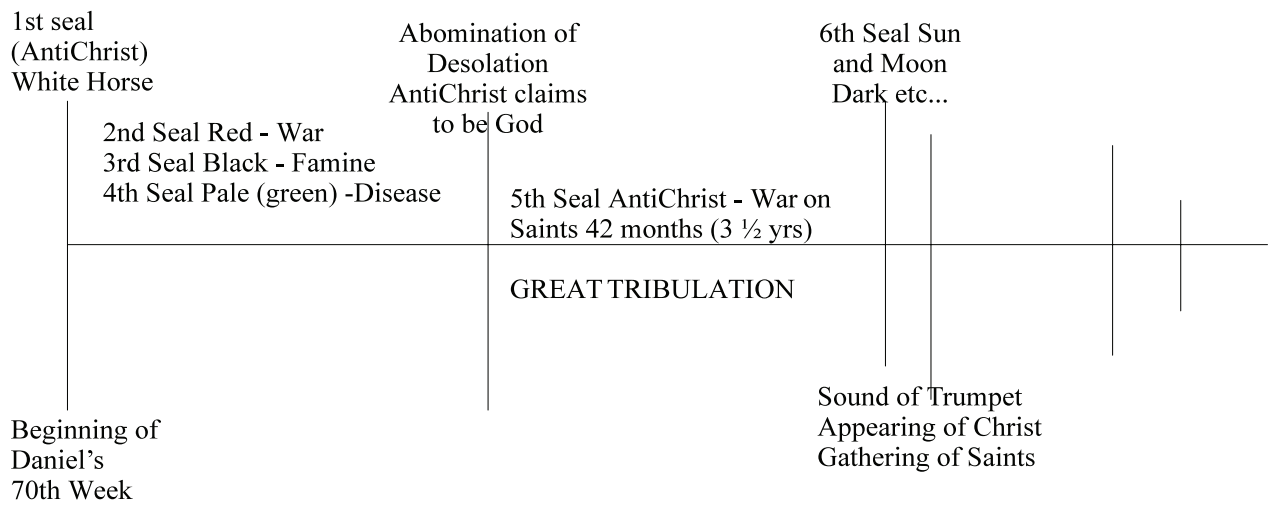
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*The sixth seal gives insight into what happens to the saints before God pours out His wrath. What does it show?*

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# Session 3 - The 144,000 and the Seventh Seal

## REVELATION 7-8

After the Sixth Seal, before the earth can be hurt by the angels, they seal 144,000 Israelites. There are 12,000 from each tribe. After they are given the seal of God in their foreheads, a great number of people from every nation, people group, and language stand before the throne with white robes and palms in their hands. These people came out of Great Tribulation and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. The Lord will now take care of these people and they will not hunger or thirst anymore. The Lamb will provide light, heat, food and water for them and will wipe the tears from their eyes.

The people from every nation with robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb come out of Great Tribulation. As the 144,000 are sealed on earth there is a scene in Heaven that shows the nature of the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation is affliction placed upon the saints of God. As the AntiChrist kills them, they stand before God's throne seeking vengeance (chapter 6 fifth seal). Now in Chapter 7, these that have come out of Great Tribulation see the ray of hope as all believers are gathered in Heaven.

When the Angel opens the 7th seal there is silence in Heaven for half an hour. The cause for this silence may be that the seventh seal is opened quickly after the sixth, and Heaven is silent as Christ and His angels are gathering His saints. The Seventh Seal also lines up seven angels prepared to sound their 7 Trumpets. The Seven trumpets are God's wrath given to the earth.

*What job do you think the 144,000 have while still on earth?*

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*Why is it important that each of them is from one of the 12 tribes?*

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How might this fit with Romans 11:26... "so all Israel shall be saved"?

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# Session 4 - The Seven Trumpets

## REVELATION 8-11

### Chapters 8-9 Trumpets

The First Angel sounds, and hail and fire mingled with blood are put on 1/3 of the trees, and all green grass is burnt up.

The Second Angel sounds, and a great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea, and 1/3 of the sea becomes blood, 1/3 of sea life dies, and 1/3 ships are destroyed.

The Third Angel sounds, and Wormwood, the burning star, falls from Heaven, and 1/3 of the waters become bitter and many die. Wormwood may be an Angel, or may be an actual star. The idea is that an object from the celestial will fall to the terrestrial and poison the waters. This is not a natural event. There is no star moving out in space that is named Wormwood that can be found and tracked to show fulfillment of the third trumpet. The trumpet calls Wormwood to collide with the earth, again all supernatural. "Prophets" that identify Wormwood in space are only leading people astray. The seals "ALL" must be opened before the trumpets sound, so we should not be deceived by false prophets predicting the end by stars they chart that may be Wormwood.

The Fourth Angel sounds, and 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened, so they provide 1/3 less time of light. This may be one way that God helps protect any who get saved after the sixth seal and the gathering that takes place with it. Shorter days allow for people to hide better.

The Fifth Angel sounds, and an Angel falls from Heaven to earth, and a key to the bottomless pit is given to him. He opens the bottomless pit and smoke rises out of the pit, and locusts that look like scorpions come out. They have the shape of a locust, face of a man, hair of a woman, teeth of a lion, breastplates of iron, tails like scorpions that sting, and sound like horses running to battle. They hurt men for five months, but are not allowed to kill them. They are told not to hurt the 144,000 that were sealed with the seal of God. The locusts have a leader with the Hebrew name Abaddon and the Greek name Apollyon. This leader is not the Devil, but another creature created by God.

Through the fifth trumpet we understand that the 144,000 are sealed after the gathering together of saints, and on the earth during God's judgment. As they witness, along with an angel who is preaching the everlasting Gospel (Revelation 14:6), those who have not received the mark of the beast are able to be saved.

The Sixth Angel sounds, and the four angels which are bound under the River Euphrates are loosed and prepare an army of 200,000,000 horsemen. They kill 1/3 of men.

Those who survive the trumpets do not repent for the evil they have done.

## Chapter 10

Another mighty angel comes from Heaven, clothed with a rainbow on his head, face like the sun, feet as pillars of fire, and voice like a lion that roars. When he speaks, 7 thunders utter. John is not allowed to write about the seven thunders. He is then given a book and told to eat it. It is sweet to the taste, but makes his belly bitter. John is then told that he still has to prophesy to kings and many people. This lets him know these things are yet future, not expected imminently.

## Chapter 11

The setting of this chapter comes before the seven trumpets and before the sixth seal, during the time of the AntiChrist. John is given a measuring stick to measure the Temple and altar. The court of the temple is not to be measured because it is given to the Gentiles to trample for 42 months. Power is given to two witnesses, whom I believe are Elijah and Enoch, to prophesy for 1,260 days (or 3 ½ years). If anyone tries to hurt the witnesses, fire comes out of their mouths and kills them. The AntiChrist is given the ability to overcome the two witnesses and kill them. Their dead bodies are left in the street for 3 ½ days while the earth celebrates and sends gifts. After three days the two witnesses stand up alive and are called up to a cloud while their enemies watch. During the same hour an earthquake destroys 1/10 of the city and kills 7,000 people. Those who survive in the city are afraid and give glory to the God of Heaven.

The Temple of God is opened in Heaven, and there are lightnings and voices and thunderings, and an earthquake and great hail. The Lord is ready to bring His wrath.

We saw in the 7 trumpets that people do not bring glory to God. In this time before God is pouring out His wrath, the people still give glory to God after a miraculous event.

*What separates people who can be saved and can't be saved during the end times?*

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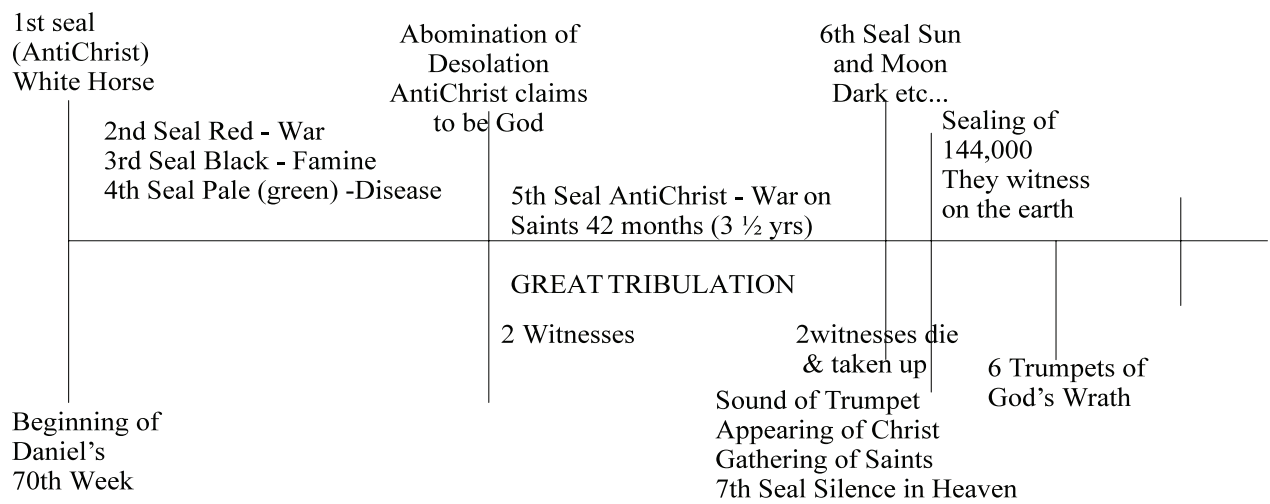
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*How do you think Christians will respond to the preaching of the two witnesses?*

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# Session 5 - ANTICHRIST

## REVELATION 12-14

Chapter 12 tells the story of Israel as it relates to Christ and Israel. John sees a woman, who represents the 12 tribes of Israel, who gives birth to a Son. The Son is Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The Dragon, the Devil, tries to destroy the Son as soon as He is born. God takes the Son to Heaven. The Dragon then tries to destroy the woman, who is now representative of all saved believers. She is hidden in the wilderness for 1,260 days. There is a great war in Heaven, and Michael and his angels expel the Dragon and cast him to the earth. The Devil has a short time to destroy the saints. The earth helps the woman for three and a half years. The Dragon then makes war with the seed of the woman.

Chapter 13 introduces us to the work of the Dragon. A Beast arises out of humanity-this Beast is the AntiChrist. The dragon, Satan, gives power, position, and authority to the Beast. The Beast receives a deadly wound, but then is brought back to life, mimicking the death, burial and resurrection of the Real Christ. When he comes back to life, a spirit rises out of the bottomless pit and possesses him (Revelation 17:8). The AntiChrist commits the Abomination of Desolation at this time by proclaiming himself as God.

Everyone on earth begins to worship the Dragon that gives power to the Beast and to worship the Beast, saying, "Who is able to make war with him?" He has power to speak blasphemy against God and God's name for 42 months. (In 2 Thessalonians 2, the AntiChrist stands in the Temple of God as God, declaring that he is God.) References in Scripture to 42 months or 1,260 days or 3 ½ years all refer to the second part of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week.

The Beast is given power over the saints to kill them. Another beast comes up out of the earth who does great miracles and makes fire come down from Heaven, who deceives those who live on the earth and makes them worship the first Beast. This second beast is the False Prophet. Anyone who does not take the mark of the Beast in their hand or their forehead is not able to buy, sell or trade.

Chapter 14 takes us back to the 144,000. They are sealed and are singing a new song before the throne. No one knows this new song except the 144,000. They were redeemed from among men out of the earth. They have been gathered to the Lord. They are all virgin males. They are gathered sometime after the fifth trumpet, as they are present for the locust creatures.

An Angel flies in Heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to all nations and languages on earth. He says, "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Whoever has received the mark of the beast or worshiped him will drink the wrath of God being tormented with fire forever and ever.

We can gather from the Angel preaching and the 144,000 witnesses that there are some who are saved during God's wrath. The only ones who can be saved are those who have not received the mark of the AntiChrist.

One like the Son of man has a golden crown and a sharp sickle in His hand. He thrusts His sickle into the earth and gathers the believers to Himself.

Two possible options for the first sickle are the gathering after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, or possibly the gathering of the 144,000. I believe the first sickle is the gathering after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal.

Another angel appears and thrusts his sickle into the earth, and it is the wrath of God. These are the seven trumpets and seven bowls of wrath. At the end of this time, during the seventh trumpet and bowl, there will be a battle at Armageddon, at which the blood will flow as high as the horses' bridles for two hundred square miles.

*How big do you see the Battle of Armageddon as being?*

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*Describe the two sickles and the comfort you can draw from each one of them.*

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# Session 6 - The Seven Vials (Bowls) of Wrath

## REVELATION 15-16

Chapter 15 starts with another sign in Heaven, with the seven angels having the seven last vials, or bowls, filled with the wrath of God. The people in Heaven are singing to God. After they sing to God, He opens the Temple of Heaven. No one is able to enter the Temple until the last seven plagues are fulfilled. The Temple opens with the seventh trumpet, so now the seven last bowls of wrath are ready to be poured out.

### Chapter 16

The first bowl is poured on the earth and causes a sore to develop on all the people who have the mark of the Beast.

The second bowl is poured on the sea, and it becomes as blood, and everything in the sea dies.

The third bowl is poured on the rivers and fountains of water, which are turned into blood.

The fourth bowl is poured on the sun and it scorches people with the heat of fire. They blaspheme the name of God and do not repent.

The fifth bowl is poured on the kingdom of the Beast, and it is turned dark, and they gnaw their tongues in pain. They blaspheme the name of God because of their pain and do not repent of their evil.

The sixth bowl is poured on the River Euphrates and it dries up, and three spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the Beast, prophet, and dragon. They work miracles and gather together all the kings of the armies of the earth to the battle of Armageddon.

The Lord comes as a thief. Blessed are those who watch and are prepared.

In 1 Thessalonians 5 it tells us that we as Christians are not overtaken by His coming like a thief, because we are watching and prepared. God has not appointed us to His wrath. While the world is punished by the Trumpets and Bowls, we are not afraid because He has already gathered His saints before He lets His wrath loose on the earth.

God gathers the armies to Armageddon, which is a 14 mile by 20 mile by 30 mile triangle. This valley is about equal to 200 square miles.

The seventh bowl is poured into the air and a voice comes out of the Temple saying, "It is done." There are thunder, lightning, earthquakes and voices. Jerusalem is divided into three parts, and the capital cities of the nations fall. Babylon (described in chapter 17-18) is judged by God with His fierce wrath. Islands and mountains are moved and great hail, weighing 113 pounds, falls out of Heaven. Men respond by blaspheming God.

Do the bowls concern you?

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Why do you think people continue to blaspheme God even after see the Trumpets and Bowls of wrath?

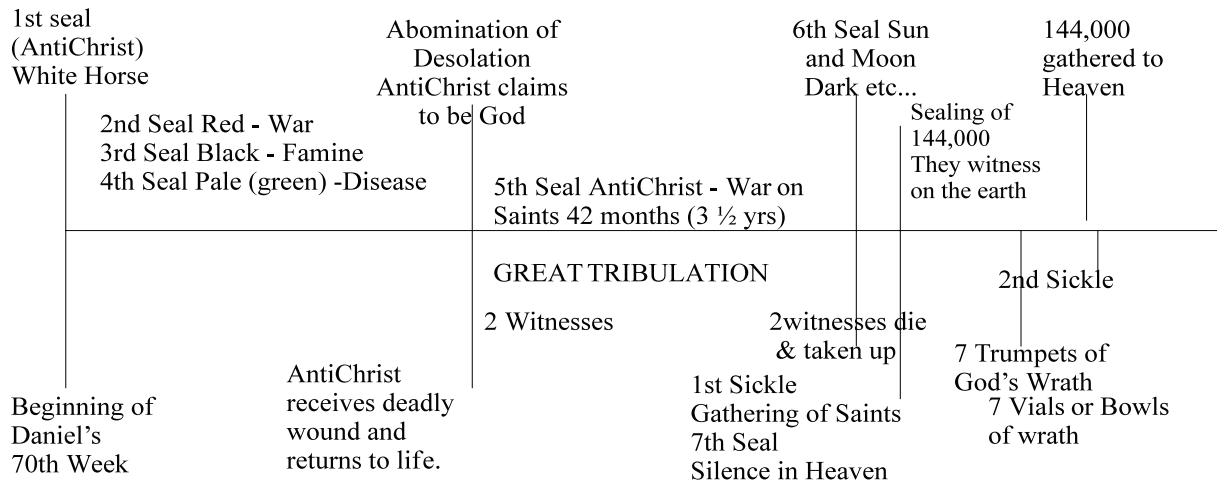
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# Session 7 - The Great War and End of the Lamb's Enemies

## CHAPTER 17-19

The Enemies of the Lamb.

1. The Great Whore - The Religious, Economic, and Political systems of the Devil.

Every nation of the earth has partnered with her.

Every King of the earth has come into agreement with her.

She is responsible for the death of the prophets, apostles, and Jesus.

Every nation turns their back on her when God begins to judge her.

The merchants of the earth weep for her.

2. The Beast

Was alive, is not at the time of the writing of John, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.

He has seven heads which are seven mountains. This is a reference to seven Kingdoms that are under the influence of the Great Whore.

The seven kingdoms are this:

Five have come and gone at the time of the writing.

One is in power at the time of the writing of John.

One is to come, and when it comes it has a brief time frame.

The beast is the eighth kingdom that comes out of the 7<sup>th</sup>. This happens when he receives the deadly wound and comes back to life. The spirit of AntiChrist ascends out of the bottomless pit. This is during the second half of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, beginning with him committing the Abomination of Desolation.

The ten horns that the Beast has are 10 nations that align with the AntiChrist.

The 10 Nations have one agenda - to be in common with the AntiChrist.

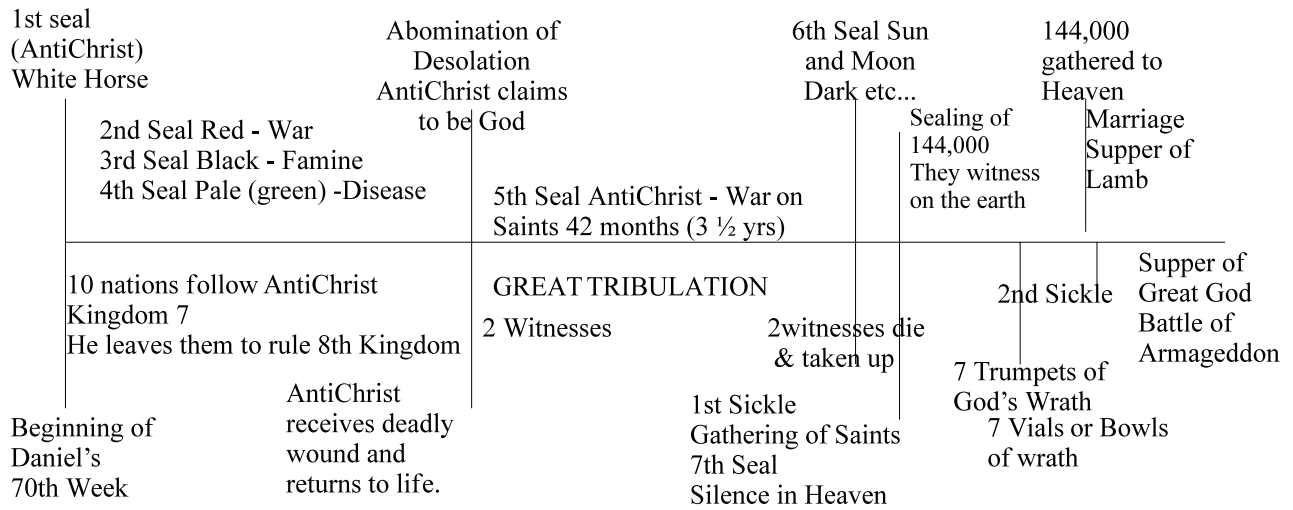
They join in war against the Lamb.

They turn on the Great Whore because God puts it in their hearts to do so.

The only political, economic, and religious system that can claim the life of the apostles and prophets and Jesus is the Jewish religion of the Pharisees. God has called His people to come out from this and be separate.

The Bride of Christ goes to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, while those on earth who have survived God's judgment and blasphemed Him, are prepared for the Supper of the Great God. The enemies of God assemble an army lead by the Beast and False Prophet.

Jesus appears on a white horse and makes war. He has eyes like a flame of fire, crowned with many crowns, and a name that no one but Himself knows, as He is clothed in garments dipped in blood - The Word of God. His armies follow him upon white horses with bright clean clothing. Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword with which he kills the enemy. They are pressed under the fierce wrath of God at Armageddon. The army that stands against God is taken to the Supper of the Great God, as their flesh is given to the birds of the air. The Beast and the false prophet are thrown together alive into the Lake of Fire which burns with fire and brimstone.



*If the world were to be divided up into ten ruling nations how would you interpret the 10 nations?*

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*What is the difference between the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Supper of the Great God?*

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# Session 8 - Millennial Kingdom and Final Judgment

## REVELATION 20

An angel comes down from Heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a chain. He grabs the Dragon, the old serpent, the Devil, aka Satan, and he is bound for 1,000 years. During the 1,000 years those who refused the mark of the Beast are able to rule with Christ. Those who were killed at the Supper of the Great God have to wait till the end of the 1,000 years for judgment. Those who were resurrected out of the Great Tribulation rule with Christ.

After the Millennial Kingdom where Christ physically rules on the earth, Satan is released and given a short time to deceive the nations. He gathers a huge army together at Gog and Magog to fight Jesus. Jesus once and for all destroys His enemies with fire and casts the Devil into the Lake of Fire to be tormented day and night forever and ever.

John sees the Great White Throne, and all the dead stand before God. These dead were taken from the earth, the sea, and hell. They all stand before God to be judged. Whoever's name is not found written in the Book of Life is thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the Second Death, which is not a death that extinguishes life, but is perpetual punishment for rejecting Christ.

*1. How do you understand the Millennial Reign?*

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*2. What is most concerning to you about the Great White Throne Judgment?*

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# Session 9 - Everything is New

## REVELATION 21-22

God makes a new Heaven and a new earth. He destroys the old heaven and earth. There is a new Jerusalem, which is beautifully prepared like a bride for Christ. God lives with man and man lives with God. God does away with tears, sorrow, crying and pain. God says, "It is done." Sin and death and the enemy have been eradicated; all things have been made new. All the unbelievers have their part in the Lake of Fire, but the saved spend eternity with God.

An angel shows John the Lamb's wife (not Bride anymore, because the relationship was consummated at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, where all believers were brought together to form the complete body in Heaven) New Jerusalem. The city is made of precious stones and has 12 gates with 12 angels, and the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, with three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, three gates on the west, and 12 foundations (names of 12 apostles). It is 1,500 miles square. The city has no need for a sun or temple because the Lamb is there, and He is the light. All the saved will walk in His light. The gates never shut, and there is never night, there is no sin or anything corrupt there.

There is a river that flows out of the throne, and the Tree of Life, which produces 12 different kinds of fruit, each in his own season. We will see God's face and His name will be written in our foreheads. There is no need for external light sources because the Lord God is the light. We will reign for ever and ever with Him.

You are blessed if you keep the words of this prophecy, but if you add to or take away from the words of this book, the plagues will be added to you, or your name will be removed from the Book of Life.

*What are your favorite descriptions of all things being new?*

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*What are you most looking forward to?*

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# 12TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

3911 South 12th Street in Kalamazoo, Michigan  
church 269-353-8133 or pastor cell 269-362-1074

Pastor Thaddeus Stout

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday School - classes for all ages . . . . . 10am

Sunday Worship Worship . . . . . 11am

Wednesday AWANA . . . . . 6pm

Wednesday Evening Adult . . . . . 6:30pm

*visit [www.12thstreetbaptist.net](http://www.12thstreetbaptist.net) for upcoming events*

Will you accept Christ as your personal Savior today?

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23

There is none righteous no not one.

ROMANS 3:10

But God demonstrated His love toward us, in that,  
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8