

Eschatology: A Study in the Book of Revelation

*“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.”
Revelation 1:1ab*

Lecture	Scripture	Eschatological Topics ¹	Summary	Theological / Pastoral Topics
01 - “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1a) <i>Friday, May 14, 2021</i>	Rev. 1:1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Book of Revelation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Author ○ Background ○ Interpretation ● “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1-3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Nature of the Revelation ○ The Source of the Revelation ○ The Recipients of the Revelation ○ The Prophecy of the Revelation 	Many teachers of prophecy emphasize what is to come. The Apostle John sets emphasis from the beginning of Revelation. The emphasis is not on what is to come but Who is to come. We must not diminish the importance of the revelation of these future events, but we must properly understand what is to come as a sovereign orchestration crescendoing for Who is to come. We will approach Revelation with a Christ-centric lens, “for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”. (Rev. 19:10) Revelation is not written in mystery, but written plainly and clearly that all who read, hear, and keep what is written will be fully and completely blessed. The time is near.	Preeminence of Christ Inspiration / Inerrancy / Infallibility / Perspicuity / Sufficiency of Scripture Blessedness of the Revelation
02 - “I...Will Take You To Myself” (John 14:3) <i>Friday, May 21, 2021</i>	Rev. 4:1a ² ; Rev. 19:6-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Rapture of the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Views on the Rapture of the Church ○ The Pre-tribulation Rapture of the Church³ ● The Bema Judgment ● The Marriage of the Lamb⁴ (Rev. 19:6-10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Church ○ Israel 	The next event on Scripture’s prophetic timeline is the rapture of the church. Jesus promised a return for his bride, and both John and Paul, in their epistles, encouraged the church to look for the blessed hope. Scripture is not vague, but clear concerning the imminence of the rapture and the need for us to prepare for it. Following the rapture, the seven year period called the tribulation will commence for all those who dwell upon the earth. It will be a time of salvation for the believing remnant of Israel ⁵ and judgement for the unbelieving world ⁶ .	Soteriology: Glorification The Blessed Hope OT Prophecy & Covenants The Rejection of the Messiah

¹ Listed are all the topics that could be covered within the scripture text for that lecture. **Practically speaking, not all the possible topics will be covered in the depth desired.** Some topics will be condensed to a definition with summarized application to the class course as a whole.

² Revelation 3:10 -- “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, **I will keep you from the hour of trial** that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.” Revelation 4:1 begins with, “After this...”. What is “after this” referring to? After the “[things] that are...” (Rev. 1:19) The things that are is the present church age signified by the seven churches of Asia Minor in Revelation 2-3. “After this...” the church is not seen again until Revelation 19 at the Marriage of the Lamb.

³ For the sake of practicality, the focus may remain on Midtribulation vs Pretribulation with a brief mention and definition for the other two positions.

⁴ “The marriage of the Lamb is an event that has particular reference to the church and takes place in heaven. The marriage supper is an event that involves Israel and takes place on the earth. In Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24; and Matthew 25:1-13, where Israel is awaiting the return of the bridegroom and the bride, the wedding feast or supper is located on the earth and has particular reference to Israel. The wedding supper, then, becomes the parabolic picture of the entire millennial age to which Israel will be invited during the tribulation period, which invitation many will reject and so they will be cast out, and many will accept and they will be received in. Because of the rejection the invitation will likewise go to the Gentiles so that many of them will be included. Israel, at the second advent, will be waiting for the Bridegroom to come from the wedding ceremony and invite them to that supper, at which the Bridegroom will introduce His bride to His friends (Matt. 25:1-13).” *Pentecost, J. Dwight; Things to Come, pg. 227-228*

⁵ Daniel 9:24 -- “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.” (cf. Jeremiah 30:7)

⁶ Revelation 3:10 -- “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.” (cf. Isaiah 24:1,5)

<p>03 - “Worthy is the Lamb” (Rev. 5:12) <i>Friday, May 28, 2021</i></p>	<p>Rev. 4:1b-5:14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Throne Room (4:1b-5:14)⁷ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Wonder of the Throne (4:1b-6a) ○ The Worship at the Throne (4:6b-11) ○ The Worry at the Throne (5:1-5) ○ The Worthy One at the Throne (5:6-14) ● The Tribulation Defined 	<p>Following the rapture of the church, John sees in the Spirit the Throne room in heaven. The Throne is central to Revelation 4 and 5, being mentioned 19 times. From this same Throne, toward which worship ascends, judgment will descend to the earth during the time of tribulation. Make no mistake--God is the author and executor of all that befalls those who dwell upon the earth. The Lamb opens the seven-sealed title deed to the earth commencing the complete sovereign judgment of God toward an unbelieving world.</p>	<p>The Worship of God</p> <p>The Sovereignty of God</p> <p>The Holy Vengeance of God</p>
<p>04 - “You Have...Begun To Reign” (Rev. 11:17) <i>Thursday, June 3, 2021</i></p>	<p>Rev. 6:1-11:18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Six Seals of the Tribulation (6:1-17) ● The First Interval (7:1-18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 144,000 Sealed (7:1-8) ○ The Tribulation Martyrs (7:9-18) ● The Seventh Seal of the Tribulation (8:1-5) ● The Six Trumpets of the Tribulation (8:6-9:21) ● The Second Interval (10:1-11:14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Angel and the Little Scroll (10:1-11) ○ The Two Witnesses (11:1-14) ● The Seventh Trumpet of the Tribulation (11:15-18) 	<p>The time of Tribulation is upon us. The seals are ready to be broken. The seals of the scroll take place one after the other and will cover the entire tribulation period. The opening of the seventh seal unveils more intense judgments, prior to which the silence in heaven is a reminder that in judgment the Lamb has not forgotten mercy. (Hab. 3:2) Following the seventh seal, the seven angels holding seven trumpets are prepared to sound their trumpets from heaven toward earth. These judgments are greater in intensity than the seven seals and will be released in the last half of the 70th week⁸. The two witnesses, whose ministry in Jerusalem will wreak havoc upon the earth, will be martyred before they are resurrected and ascend to heaven. These witnesses are one more reminder that the Lamb has not forgotten mercy in the midst of judgement. This gospel will be preached to every creature.</p>	<p>Goodness and Severity of God</p> <p>The Worship of God</p> <p>Evangelism (Compassion of God)</p> <p>Depravity of Man</p>
<p>05 - The Long War Against God <i>Thursday, June 10, 2021</i></p>	<p>Rev. 11:19-14:20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Temple of God in Heaven Opens (11:19) ● The Seven Actors of the Tribulation (12:1-13:18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Woman - Israel ○ The Dragon - Satan ○ The Male Child - Christ ○ Michael - The Angels ○ Offspring - The Jewish Remnant ○ The Beast out of the Sea - The Antichrist ○ The Beast out of the Earth - The False Prophet ● The Third Interval (14:1-20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three Angel Messengers (14:1-13) ○ The Reaping of the Earth (14:14-20) 	<p>The prophetic lens zooms out to view a dramatic panoramic of cosmic history from the opening act of time to the closing act of the great tribulation⁹. Seven actors are identified and described. These cosmic actors remind us there has been a long war against God. The Victor and the foes have existed long before our time and will engage in conflict as the future becomes the present. Again, the mercy of God is on display as three angels fly throughout the sky sharing the eternal gospel. (Rev. 14:6) The work of all the evangelists throughout the tribulation is rewarded as a large host is reaped from the earth. (Rev. 14:15) After the last interval we are very near the revelation of Jesus Christ as the conquering King, for this Gospel has been preached throughout the whole world. (Matt. 24:14)</p>	<p>Survey of Biblical History</p> <p>Evangelism (Compassion of God)</p> <p>Soteriology: Man’s Depravity</p> <p>Spiritual Warfare</p>

⁷ The Book of Revelation is dramatic, this portion is no exception. Revelation is a book for the head and for the heart. John’s emotions are on display as he stands before the Throne of the Almighty.

⁸ “Chapters 1-3 present the development of the church in this present age. Chapters 4-11 cover the events of the entire seventieth week period and conclude with the return of Christ to the earth to reign in 11:15-18. Thus the seals are the events of the first three and one-half years and the trumpets events of the last three and one-half years.” *Pentecost, J. Dwight; Things to Come, pg. 215*

⁹ “According to the instructions given John in 10:11, chapter 12-19 survey the seventieth week a second time, this time with a view to revealing the actors on the stage of the drama.” *Pentecost, J. Dwight; Things to Come, pg. 215*

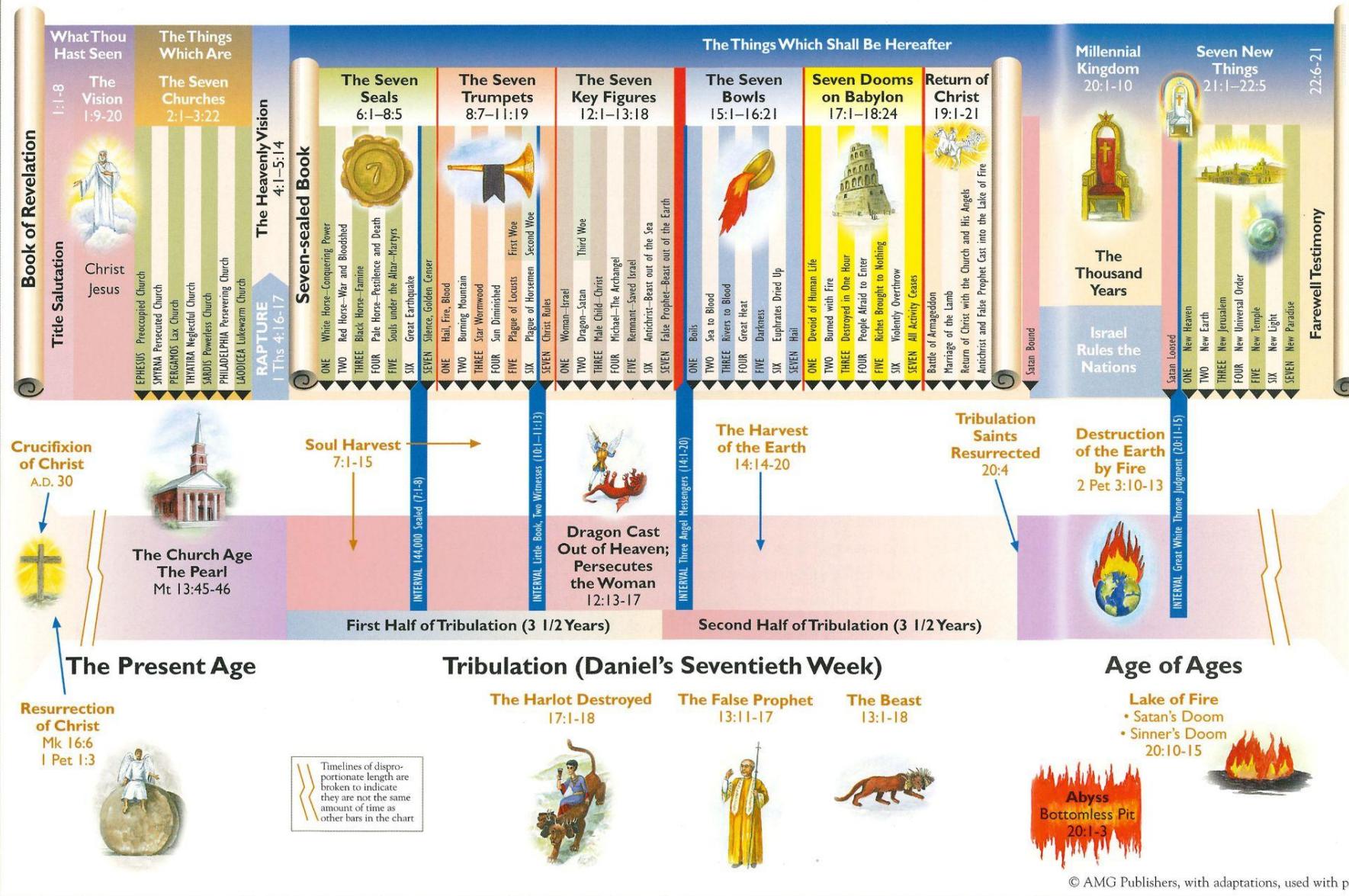
<p>06 - "It Is Done" (Rev. 16:17) <i>Friday, June 18, 2021</i></p>	<p>Rev. 15:1-19:5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Seven Bowls of the Tribulation (15:1-16:21) ● The Great Whore (17:1-18) ● The Fall of Babylon the Great (18:1-24) ● The Rejoicing in Heaven (19:1-5) 	<p>The seventh trumpet introduced the seven bowls filled with the wrath of the Lamb. These are poured out in the final months of the Great Tribulation¹⁰, just prior to the Return of the King. We will trace the origins of the religious and the political system of man symbolized in the Great Whore and the Great City of Babylon. These two great symbols will receive the fullness of God's wrath through the bowl judgments. Enraged, the nations will set themselves against the Lord and His Anointed; but the Lord will have the final Word. (Ps. 2:1-6)</p>	<p>Origins and Progression of the World and her Religions</p> <p>The Worship of God</p>
<p>07 - "I Have Set My King" (Ps. 2:6a) <i>Friday, June 25, 2021</i></p>	<p>Rev. 19:11-20:6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Return of King Jesus (19:11-14) ● The Battle of Armageddon (19:15-21) ● The Incarceration of Satan (20:1-3) ● The Resurrection of the Tribulation / OT Saints (20:4-6) ● The Judgement of the Gentile Nations ● The Millennial Kingdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Views on the Millennial Reign of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amillennial ■ Postmillennial ■ Premillennial ○ The Millennial Reign of Christ 	<p>This is the moment for which all the redeemed have been looking forward to: the return of the King. This is no ordinary king, but the King of kings, bearing the name above every name. Awaiting His arrival are all the Gentile nations gathered at Armageddon for the last battle prior to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom. Satan will be bound, the Gentile nations judged, and the kingdom will be established. The tribulation saints and the Old Testament saints will be resurrected and will join the Lamb and the Bride of Christ at the Marriage Supper.</p>	<p>The King of kings</p> <p>The Kingdom of God</p> <p>The OT Covenants Fulfilled</p> <p>The Church and Israel Eternally United</p>
<p>08 - "I Make All Things New" (21:5b) <i>Friday, July 2, 2021</i></p>	<p>Rev. 20:7-22:21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Final Rebellion (20:7-10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gog and Magog¹¹ ○ The Defeat of Satan ● The Destruction of the Earth ● The Great White Throne Judgement (20:11-15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Final Resurrection ○ The Final Judgement on Sinners ● The Eternal State (21:1-22:5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The New Heavens and the New Earth ○ The New Jerusalem ● The Conclusion of the Book of Revelation (22:6-21) 	<p>Following a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity, where the Lamb rules from the throne of David, Satan will be loosed and lead a revolt with unredeemed humanity from the four corners of the earth. Satan will be defeated and thrown into the lake of fire. The second resurrection occurs for all, small and great. They will appear before the Great White Throne to be judged guilty for their names being absent from the Book of Life. A New Heaven and New Earth replace the corrupted earth that was passing away. These great events whet our appetite for His soon return. He who makes all things new says, "'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20)</p>	<p>Soteriology: Man's Depravity</p> <p>The Partial Passing (Eschaton)</p> <p>The Final Destinations</p> <p>Evil Vanquished</p> <p>Paradise Restored</p>

Additional resources would include: Jesus is Coming by William E. Blackstone and Things to Come by J. Dwight Pentecost.

¹⁰ "The third series of judgements, which complete the outpouring of divine wrath, are the vials (Rev. 16:1-21). Although four of these vials are poured out on the same areas as the trumpets, they do not seem to be the same judgments. The trumpets begin in the middle of the tribulation and depict events during the entire second half of the week. The vials seem to cover a very brief period at the end of the tribulation just prior to the second advent of Christ. These bowls seem to have particular reference to unbelievers, as they undergo the special wrath of God (16:9,11), and have special reference to the Beast and his followers (16:2)." *Pentecost, J. Dwight; Things to Come, pg. 363*

¹¹ At this time we will discuss how the "Gog and Magog" referenced in Revelation 20:8 represents all nations (Magog) and the ruler of those nations (Gog) and not a chronological placement of the battle with Gog and Magog. (Ezekiel 38-39) John Walvord writes: "In describing the nations, the term 'Gog and Magog' is used without any explanation. From the context it would seem that this is not the same event as that described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 where Gog and Magog are prominent; and the battle which follows is entirely different and separated by at least a thousand years from that of Ezekiel's prophecy." [*John F. Walvoord, The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Galaxie Software, 2008), 302.*] With this perspective D. Pentecost agrees. See *Things To Come*, pg. 344-355. Pentecost is joined by Charles L. Feinburg in his book, *Revelation: The Grand Finale*, pg. 146-147.

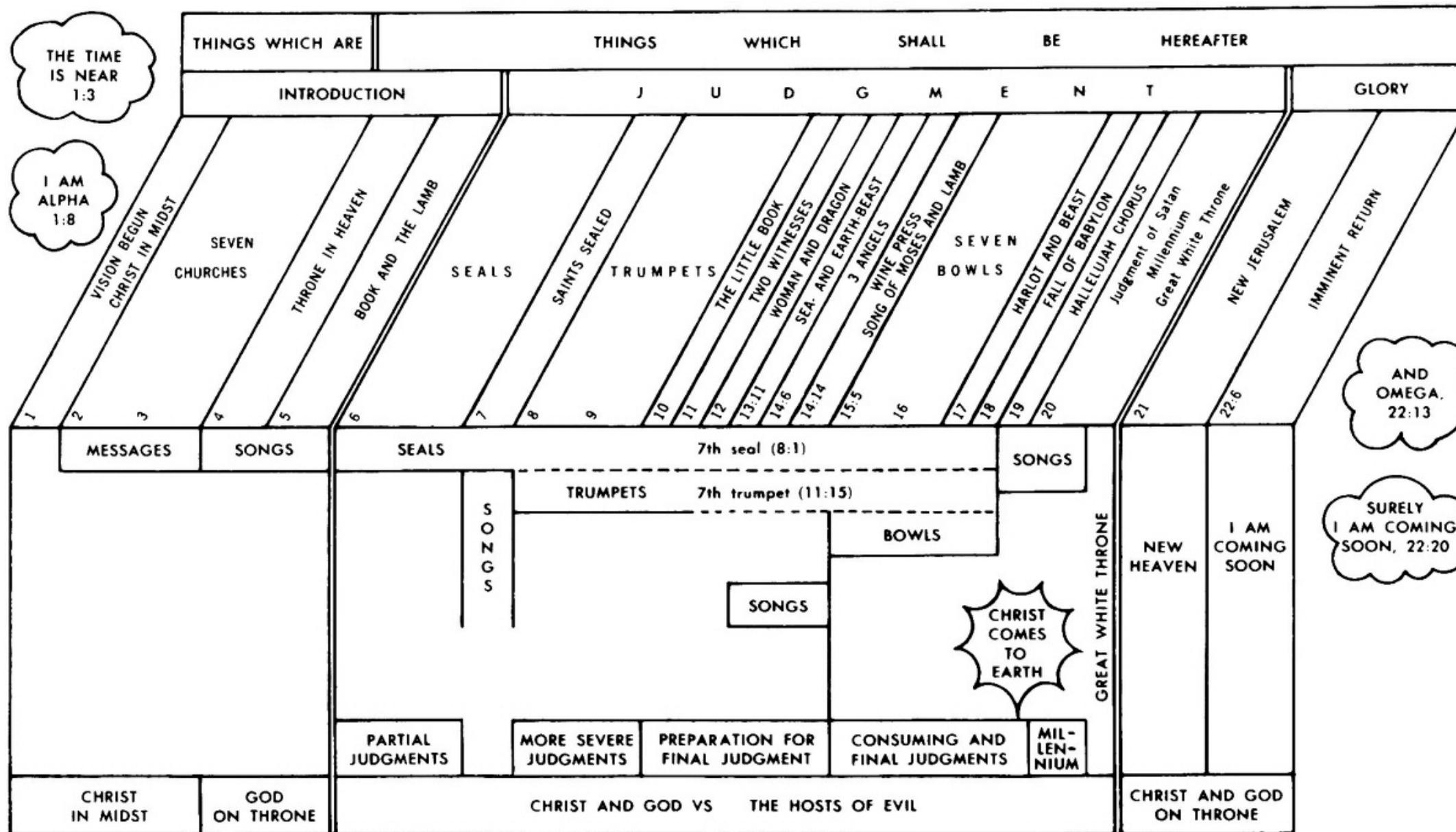
John's Revelation of the Future



LEFT -- Source: "Charting the End Times" by Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice, page 45-46

The contents of the seven sealed scroll are recognizing what is contained within, not necessarily a strict correlation to the timeline seen below. The seven seals contain all that befalls the earth until Christ returns to establish his kingdom.

Please see the timeline on page 6. It is an accurate chronological timeline of how the seals, trumpets, and bowls are dispensed throughout the tribulation.



EVENTS OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

