

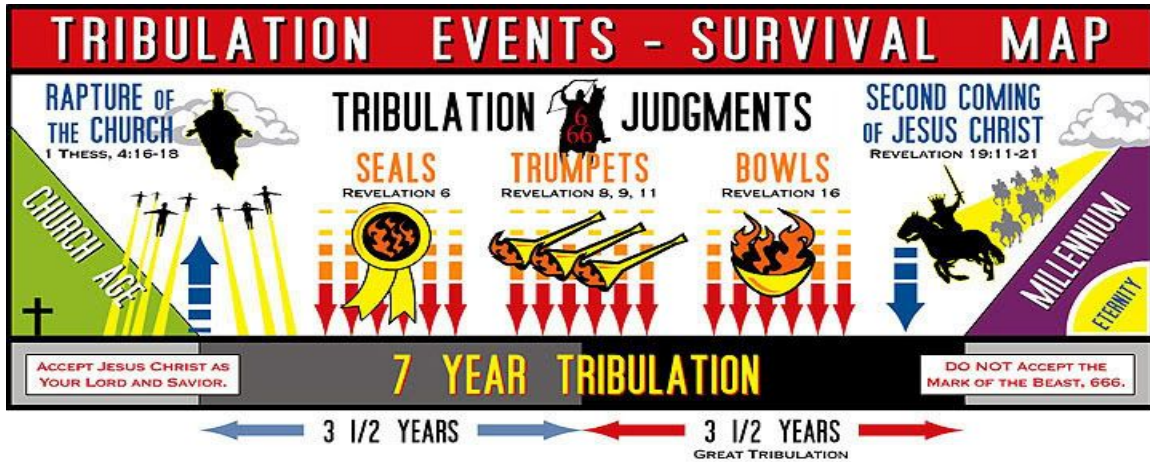


The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST

Chapter 15

“Great & Marvelous Are Your Works!”

Review:



> *Let us understand and proclaim the SEAL, TRUMPET, & BOWL judgements found in The Book of Revelation:*

- ***The first seal.*** The first seal introduces the Antichrist (Revelation 6:1–2). From the biblical description, we gather several details: he rides a white horse, which speaks of peace; at the beginning of the tribulation, the Antichrist will come under the pretense of bringing peace to the world (cf. Daniel 9:27).
- ***The second seal.*** When the Lamb opens the second seal, great warfare breaks out on the earth (Revelation 6:3–4). This is symbolized by a rider with a large sword on a fiery red horse.
- ***The third seal.*** The breaking of the third of the seven seals causes famine (Revelation 6:5–6). The rider that John sees is riding a black horse and “holding a pair of scales in his hand.”
- ***The fourth seal.*** The fourth seal is opened, and John sees a pale horse. “The rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him” (Revelation 6:7–8). The result of this fourth seal is that one fourth of the earth’s population are killed “by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.”
- ***The fifth seal.*** The scroll’s fifth seal reveals those who will be martyred for their faith in Christ during the tribulation (Revelation 6:9–11; cf. Matthew 24:9). The souls of these martyrs are pictured as dwelling under the altar in heaven.
- ***The sixth seal.*** When the Lamb of God opens the sixth seal, a devastating

earthquake occurs, causing massive upheaval and terrible devastation—along with unusual astronomical phenomena: the sun turns black, and the moon turns blood-red, and “the heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place” (Revelation 6:12–14).

- ***The seventh seal.*** When the Lamb opens the seventh seal, “there was silence in heaven for about half an hour” (Revelation 8:1). The judgments that lead up to the close of the tribulation are now visible in the scroll and are so severe that a solemn silence falls upon all of heaven. The seventh seal obviously introduces the next series of judgments, for John immediately sees seven angels who are handed seven trumpets ready to sound (verse 2).

Once the seven seal judgments are finished, the next part of the tribulation, featuring the seven trumpet judgments, is ready to begin.

- ***The first trumpet.*** When the first angel sounds his trumpet, the world experiences “hail and fire mixed with blood” (Revelation 8:7). One third of the world’s trees are burned up in this plague, and all the grass is consumed. This judgment bears some similarities to the seventh plague in Egypt (see Exodus 9:23–24).

- ***The second trumpet.*** In heaven, a second angel sounds a trumpet. The result is that “something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea” (Revelation 8:8). A third of the sea turns to blood, a third of the ships sink, and a third of ocean life dies (verse 9). This judgment is similar in some ways to the first plague in Egypt (see Exodus 7:20–21).

- ***The third trumpet.*** The third trumpet judgment is like the second, except it affects the world’s freshwater lakes and rivers instead of the oceans. Specifically, “a great star, blazing like a torch” falls from the sky and poisons a third of the water supply (Revelation 8:10). This star is given the name Wormwood, and many people die (verse 11).

- ***The fourth trumpet.*** The fourth of the seven trumpets brings about changes in the heavens. “A third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night” (Revelation 8:12).

- ***The fifth trumpet.*** The fifth trumpet (and the first woe) results in a terrifying plague of “demonic locusts” that attack and torture the unsaved for five months (Revelation 9:1–11). The plague begins with a “star” falling from heaven. This star is most likely a fallen angel, as he is given “the key to the shaft of the Abyss” (verse 1). He opens the Abyss, releasing a horde of “locusts” with “power like that of scorpions” (verse 3). For five months,

these locusts torment people, whose agony is so great that they will wish to die, “but death will elude them” (verse 6). The locusts are not allowed to kill anyone, only to torture them.

- ***The sixth trumpet.*** The sixth trumpet (and the second woe) involves the onslaught of another demonic horde (Revelation 9:12–21). Once the sixth trumpet sounds, a voice from the altar of God calls for the release of “the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates” (verse 14). These four angels had been kept in captivity for just this purpose: to wreak destruction during the tribulation (verse 15). These four wicked angels lead a supernatural cavalry of thousands upon thousands to kill a third of humanity (verse 16).

- ***The seventh trumpet.*** The seventh trumpet (and the third woe) sounds, and immediately there are loud voices in heaven saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever” (Revelation 11:15). The twenty-four elders say, “The time has come for . . . destroying those who destroy the earth” (verse 18). Obviously, God is about to wrap things up once and for all. At the sound of the seventh trumpet, the temple of God is opened in heaven, and “within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a severe hailstorm” (verse 19).

Thus end the seven trumpet judgments. All is set for the seven angels with the seven bowls of God’s wrath. These angels stand inside the now-open temple, ready to step forward and bring the final judgments on earth (Revelation 15).

- ***The first bowl.*** The first angel pours out the first bowl on the land, “and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image” (Revelation 16:2). This plague is targeted at those who have committed themselves to the Antichrist; tribulation saints will not be affected by these sores.

- ***The second bowl.*** The second bowl is poured out on the sea, turning the water “into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died” (Revelation 16:3). A third of the sea life had already perished with the sounding of the second trumpet (Revelation 8:9), and now the rest of the sea life is gone. The oceans are dead.

- ***The third bowl.*** When the third bowl of God’s wrath is poured out, the rivers and freshwater springs also turn into blood (Revelation 16:4–5).

- ***The fourth bowl.*** The fourth angel pours out his bowl on the sun, “and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat” (Revelation 16:8–9). Rather than repent of their sin, the wicked inhabitants of the earth “cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him” (verse 9).

- ***The fifth bowl.*** The fifth of the seven bowls causes the kingdom of the beast to be plunged into great darkness. The pain and suffering of the wicked intensify, so that people gnaw their tongues in agony (Revelation 16:10–11). Still, the followers of the Antichrist “refused to repent of what they had done” (verse 11).

- ***The sixth bowl.*** The sixth angel pours out his bowl of judgment on the Euphrates River. That river is dried up in preparation for the kings of the East making their way to their own destruction (Revelation 16:12). John then sees three unclean spirits “that looked like frogs” coming from the mouths of Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet (verse 13). These demons perform miracles and deceive the kings of the earth and gather them to the final battle on the Day of the Lord (verse 14). Under demonic influence, “the kings [gather] together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon” (verse 16).

- ***The seventh bowl.*** The seventh bowl is emptied into the atmosphere. A loud voice in heaven says, “It is done!” (Revelation 16:17). The seventh bowl results in flashes of lightning and an earthquake so severe that “no earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake” (verse 18). Jerusalem is split into three parts, and the cities of the world collapse (verse 19). Islands are flooded, and mountains disappear (verse 20). Giant hailstones, “each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people” (verse 21). Those under judgment “cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible” (verse 21).

> **In Ch. 15 of Revelation we have three “Great & Marvelous Works”:**

- **Work #1 – We see a Great & Marvelous Sign! (v1-2)**
- **Work #2 – We hear Great & Marvelous Songs! (v3-4)**
- **Work #3 – We witness a Great & Marvelous Testimony! (v5-8)**

- **Work #1 – We see a Great & Marvelous Sign! (v1-2)**
(v1) Seven angels with the seven last plagues for in them **the wrath of God is complete.**

(v2) **We see victory:**

- Victory over the *beast* – false Christ (Messiah)!

- Victory over his *image* – false worship!
- Victory over his *mark* – false identification!
- Victory over the *number of his name* (“666” – Rev. 13:18) – false allegiance!

~ How can we have VICTORY in these last days?

Let us go back to the future: Daniel Ch. 3 – “Trust & Obey”

(Insight on Daniel 3:6 – Scofield writes: Here is a case of enforced state religion, involving the worship of a man-made image. This phenomenon, appearing at the beginning of the times of the Gentiles and continuing from time to time through history (e.g. Roman emperor worship, Japanese Shinto shrines, and soviet veneration of Lenin), will reappear at the end of the age when, not only the dragon, but the beast and the image of the beast also will be worshiped under compulsion (Rev. 13:4-15; 14:9-11; 19:20; 20:4; cp. 2 Th. 2:4). There will be increasing stress upon worship at the end of the age, but it will be satanically directed.)

- Work #2 – We hear Great & Marvelous Songs! (v3-4)

(v3-4) The tribulation saints are singing the “song of Moses” and the “song of the Lamb!”

Warren Wiersbe writes in his commentary, “This entire scene is reminiscent of Israel following the Exodus. The nation had been delivered from Egypt by the blood of the lamb, and the Egyptian army had been destroyed at the Red Sea. In thankfulness to God, the Israelites stood by the sea and sang “the song of Moses.”

The Tribulation saints whom John saw and heard were standing by the “sea of glass” in heaven (Rev 4:6), just as the Israelites stood by the Red Sea. They were singing “the song of Moses” and also “the song of the Lamb.” “The song of Moses” is recorded in Ex 15, and its refrain is: “*The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation*” (Ex 15:2).

When Israel returned from Babylonian Captivity and reestablished their government and restored temple worship, they used this same refrain at the dedication services (Ps 118; see especially v. 14).

In the future, when God brings His people back to their land, Isaiah prophesied that they would sing this song again (Isa 11:15-12:6). “The song of Moses” is indeed an important song in the hymnal of the Jewish nation.”

~ The “song of Moses” is found in Exodus 15:1-21 (Let us read.)
Also Deuteronomy Ch. 32.

~ Then they sing the “song of the Lamb;” in this song it is proclaimed that our God is: Almighty, just & true, holy, He is the final judge!

- Jesus is the Son of God; “Immanuel” being translated “God with Us!”
(Matthew 1:23) Let us observe some Scriptures:

Jesus is “Almighty” – Mark 4:35-41 – “Peace be still!”

Jesus is “just & true” – John 8:2-12 – “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Jesus is “holy” – Mark 2:1-12 – “all were amazed and glorified God”

Jesus is “the final judge” – Matthew 25:31-46 – “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Jesus offers all who believe in Him - Peace, the forgiveness of sins, He will cause you to rise up and walk with him, and He will give you eternal life!

- Work #3 – We witness a Great & Marvelous Testimony! (v5-8)
(v5-8) The temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened – this is a testimony of judgment! (Seven angels – seven plagues – seven bowls full of the wrath of God!) While there’s still time, we must proclaim a testimony of salvation! How?

#1 – *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* – Romans 3:23

#2 – *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* – Romans 5:8

#3 – *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* – Romans 6:23

#4 – *“That is you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved.”* – Romans 10:9-10

(These four verses are commonly called the “Romans Road to Salvation.”)

- Romans 10:14-15 - *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet*

of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"