

REFUEL
Bible Study

THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

A VISION OF HEAVEN

APOSTLE JOHN

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TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

AIM

The apostle John receives an extended heavenly message.

The book of Revelation is a pastoral-apocalyptic prophecy given to strengthen persecuted believers: it reveals Christ's victory, exposes the true nature of empire and evil, calls the church to endurance, and promises final justice and renewal.

**Ronald Trail, *An Exegetical Summary of Revelation 1–11, 12–22* 2nd ed.
(Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2008).**



Objective

- Seals: Initiate (the Lamb opens)
- Trumpets: Warn (wake-up calls)
- 144,000: Assure (God marks His own)
- Bowls: Complete (final outpouring)

01 REVIEW FOUR VISION CYCLES

- Seven Seals
- Seven Trumpets
- 144,000
- Seven Bowls

02 GOD'S PURPOSE CARRIED OUT

- Explain what each emphasizes,
- Locate them generally in Revelation

03 GOD'S PROMISES FOR US

- State one takeaway for faithful living



Revelation Outline

Major movements of Revelation



COSMIC CONFLICT

Cosmic conflict / identity of God's people – ch. 12–14.
144,000 again – ch. 14 (as faithful/worshipful company)



FALL OF BABYLON
(WORLD SYSTEM) –
CH. 17–18

FINAL DEFEAT OF
EVIL / FINAL
JUDGMENT – CH. 20

SEVEN TRUMPETS

Seven Trumpets – ch. 8:2 to ch. 11

INTERLUDE

Interludes – ch. 10; ch. 11:1–14

SEVEN BOWLS

Seven Bowls – ch. 15–16

VICTORY OF
CHRIST – CH. 19

NEW
CREATION –
CH. 21–22



Vision of Heaven

And I saw...

OBSERVATION

John sees a **seven-sealed scroll** in the right hand of God upon his throne.



THE PROCLAMATION

A **mighty angel** asks if anyone is able to break the seals and open the scroll.



THE INVESTIGATION

An unsuccessful threefold search is made.

- A. In heaven (5:3a)
- B. On earth (5:3b)
- C. Under the earth (5:3c)

MANIFESTATION

Jesus Christ now steps forward to take the scroll from the right hand of the enthroned one

1. He is called the **Lion of Judah** (5:5a-b).
2. He is called the **Lamb of Jehovah** (5:6).



THE SUPPLICATION

The **twenty-four elders** fall down before the Lamb, holding gold bowls filled with the prayers of God's people.



THE EXALTATION

Universal Praise & Worship of God for His Wonderful work of redemption
All of heaven's angels, redeemed, all of creation in heaven in the earth and under the earth.

John ...laments/continuously weeps over this (a delayed promise.) Then He is assured someone is indeed worthy to open the seals.

Tribulation Cycles

SEALS

Unveiling | Initiating

Seals initiate the unveiling of judgment in history

God is sovereign over history; the Lamb initiates what unfolds; suffering and upheaval do not mean God lost control.

TRUMPETS

Warning | Judgement

Trumpets warn with partial judgments, partial warnings (judgment with restraint)

Warning judgments; merciful alarms that call the world to turn

144,000

Assurance | Identity

God knows and seals His people - the interlude shows God guards identity in the middle of upheaval

God marks/claims His people; protection in ultimate terms (belonging, identity, spiritual security.)

BOWLS

Wrath Brought to Completion

The Seven Bowls: Final Justice, Final Exposure, Final Call to Wake Up

Complete the wrath of God (15:1) in the sense of bringing judgment to its full, final expression.



SEVEN SEALS → TRUMPETS → BOWLS

Unveiling | Initiating

Seals initiate the unveiling of judgment in history; trumpets warn with partial judgments; bowls complete with finality; the 144,000 passages assure God's people in the middle.

Seven Seals Overview

(REV 6–8:1) THE LAMB OPENS HISTORY'S CRISIS CYCLE

Johns vision...

1-4: FOUR HORSEMEN

White, Red, Black, Pale



5: MARTYRS' CRY

A mighty angel asks if anyone is able to break the seals and open the scroll.



6: COSMIC DISTURBANCE

the “day of wrath” imagery; terror of unmasked judgment.

7: SILENCE → TRUMPETS

Silence, then transitions into trumpets



WHAT IT MEANS

“The Seals show the Lamb governing history. Before the last seal, God answers: ‘Who can stand?’—those He seals.”



HOW BELIEVERS RESPOND

Seals unveil escalating human + spiritual collapse under God's sovereignty. **The interlude shows God guards identity in the middle of upheaval.** Believers are encouraged to endure persecution, continue in worship, and hold to hope: justice is delayed, not denied.

“THE LAMB IS IN CONTROL—EVEN WHEN THE EARTH IS NOT.”



FIRST Seal

CONQUEST EXPANDS

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN HEARS

The first living creature was like a lion. “Come and see.”



WHAT JOHN SEES

1. John looks, and behold—a white horse.
2. The rider has a bow.
3. The rider is given a crown.
4. The rider goes out conquering and to conquer (a forward-driving, expanding conquest).

White = THE SYMBOLISM OF VICTORY

Bow = CONQUERING

Crown = EXPANDING VICTORY

WHAT IT MEANS

That **it was given** springs from the divine sovereignty. God uses history for history’s judgment and in this way **works out his purpose**.

Option A: “Victory/Conquest” The rider represents conquest/imperial expansion—power that advances and wins.

Option B: “Counterfeit righteousness” (deception reading)



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

Discernment: believers learn that not every “winning” power is righteous.

Confidence in Christ’s rule: conquest may surge, but the Lamb governs history’s scroll.

Refusal to idolize power: Christians do not view dominance, or cultural “wins” as automatically godly. Believers stay loyal even when conquest pressures compromise.

SECOND Seal

PEACE COLLAPSES INTO WAR

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN HEARS

The second living creature was like an ox.
“Come and see.”



JOHN SEES

1. John sees a fiery red horse.
2. The rider is permitted to take peace from the earth, resulting in people killing one another.
3. The rider is given a large sword.

WHAT IT MEANS

When the text says ‘it was given,’ it’s telling us this is not random chaos—God is still governing what is permitted and setting boundaries even over terrifying realities.

Symbolizes the outbreak and escalation of violent conflict—peace collapses into war, bloodshed, and strife.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Realism without fear: believers face conflict without losing hope.
2. Deeper dependence on God: stability is not the foundation; God is.
3. Prayer for justice and peace: suffering is interpreted before God, not merely endured silently.

Red = WARFARE, BLOODSHED/KILLING

Sword = KILLING POWER, CIVIL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT,

THIRD Seal

WAR PRODUCES SCARCITY AND INEQUITY

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN HEARS

The third living creature had a face like a man.
“Come”

- a voice “in the midst of the four living creatures” announcing prices and issuing a command:
- “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius...”
- “Do not harm the oil and the wine.”



JOHN SEES

1. a black horse.”
2. The rider is holding a pair of scales (a balance for weighing food)

WHAT IT MEANS

That “it was given.”

Portrays severe economic scarcity—food becomes rationed and priced beyond reach—yet the scarcity is also divinely limited.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

God is still governing history, even in scarcity.

For the believer it produces:

Dependence on God: believers learn to trust God when systems fail.

Endurance: scarcity tests perseverance without destroying hope.

God sets limits. The crisis is not infinite, and not ultimate. The church is called to faithful witness in hardship, not fear-driven speculation.

Black = FAMINE/SCARCITY

Scales = RATIONING AND SCARCITY

Prices = A TYPICAL DAY'S WAGE

FOURTH Seal

SCARCITY AND CONFLICT CULMINATE IN
WIDESPREAD DEATH (LIMITED, YET
SEVERE)

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN HEARS

The fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. “Come and see.”



WHAT JOHN SEES

1. John looks and behold—a pale horse (a sickly, corpse-like color).
2. The rider’s name is Death.
3. Hades is following behind him

WHAT IT MEANS

“Authority was given to them over a **fourth of the earth**” to kill by sword, famine, pestilence (plague/disease), and wild animals.

Portrays mass death as a consequence of the previous seals—war, scarcity, and collapse culminate in widespread mortality, yet it is still limited under divine authority.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Sober realism: believers learn not to confuse suffering with God’s absence; Revelation names reality without denial.
2. Hope anchored in sovereignty: even death is under God’s limit—Death is not lord; Christ is.
3. Urgency and readiness: the fragility of life calls believers to faithfulness now, not later.

Pale = SICK, PERSON DEATH

Sword = DEATH MULTIPLIES

Wild Animals = NATURE’S THREAT INCREASES

FIFTH Seal

PERSECUTION INTERPRETED; JUSTICE PROMISED; ENDURANCE COMMANDED

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN SEES

1. “underneath the altar” the souls of those who had been killed because of:
2. the Word of God, and
3. the testimony they held/bore.



JOHN HEARS

1. The martyrs cry out with a loud voice:
2. “How long, Sovereign Master, holy and true, until you judge and avenge/vindicate our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

WHAT IT MEANS

Reveals the spiritual meaning of suffering: the church’s persecution is seen as sacrificial witness before God, and God promises vindication—though not yet, because His redemptive plan still includes further witness and suffering.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. A theology of suffering: believers learn that persecution is not failure; it is faithful witness that heaven calls “sacrifice.”
2. Confidence in God’s justice: evil is not ignored; it is scheduled for judgment.
3. Patience that is not passive: “rest” means trusting God’s timing while continuing faithful testimony.

Martyrs = SACRIFICES TO GOD

Altar = BLOOD WAS Poured AT THE BASE OF THE ALTAR

Under = NEARNESS AND SAFETY

White Robes = PURITY / RIGHTEOUSNESS / VINDICATION

SIXTH Seal

GOD BEGINS TO UNVEIL HIS ANSWER: THE DAY OF THE LORD IS APPROACHING; JUDGMENT IS BEING REVEALED.

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN SEES

1. a great earthquake
2. the sun becomes black like sackcloth
3. the moon becomes blood-red
4. the stars fall like unripe figs shaken from a tree by a strong wind
5. the sky splits and rolls up like a scroll
6. every mountain and island is moved from its place



JOHN HEARS (THE SCENE IMPLIES)

1. The scene carries the “Day of the Lord” atmosphere: creation itself responds to God’s judgment.
2. (In the following verses, the reaction of people becomes audible: panic, hiding, and terror—“who can stand?”)

WHAT IT MEANS

Portrays the arrival of God’s decisive intervention—the ‘Day of the Lord’ imagery—signaling that final judgment is approaching and that the martyrs’ deaths will be vindicated.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Confidence in vindication: believers learn that God will publicly answer injustice.
2. Holy fear (reverence): the Day of the Lord is not a metaphor for believers; it is a call to worship and seriousness.
3. Hope under pressure: suffering is not final; God will intervene.

INTERLUDE

THE SEALING OF GOD'S PEOPLE:

What John saw...

JOHN SEES

1. Four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so that no wind blows on land, sea, or trees (a picture of judgment restrained).
2. Another angel ascending from the east with the seal of the living God, crying out loudly:

A great multitude that no one can number, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches, worshiping.



JOHN HEARS

John hears the number of those sealed: 144,000, sealed from the tribes of Israel (12,000 from each listed tribe).

WHAT IT MEANS

Revelation 7 is the pastoral interlude that answers the terror of Seal 6: 'Who can stand?' Answer: those whom God seals—His servants preserved through tribulation and brought to salvation and worship.

The sealing of the 144,000 of Israel”



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Assurance: believers learn that God's judgment does not erase God's people; it distinguishes them as His.
2. Identity: “servants of God” is the central identity—not victims, not statistics, not forgotten.
3. Worship under pressure: the vision forms worshipers who can praise in tribulation because the end is certain.

SEALING IS OWNERSHIP, IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, AND PRESERVATION—A MARK THAT THESE BELONG TO GOD BEFORE INTENSIFIED JUDGMENT FALLS..

SEVENTH Seal

SILENCE IN HEAVEN (REVELATION 8:1)

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN SEES

There is silence in heaven for about half an hour.

What is striking about the scene:
Heaven, which has been filled with worship, proclamation, and activity, becomes quiet—a deliberate pause.



JOHN HEARS

SILENCE

WHAT IT MEANS

Seal 7 signals the scroll is now fully opened and introduces the next phase of judgment, marked by a dramatic, reverent silence before what follows.

7 Trumpets



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Reverence: believers learn to approach God's judgment with seriousness, not spectacle.
2. Confidence that prayers matter: the silence teaches that heaven attends to the cries of the saints—God hears.
3. Patience and trust: the pause models waiting under God's timing, not forcing outcomes.

**“In Scripture, trumpets are heaven’s alarm system:
–warning, judging, and moving history toward the return of Christ.”**



SEALS → TRUMPETS → BOWLS

Warning | Judgement Meant to Wake the World

After the silence of the seventh seal, heaven moves into ordered action: appointed messengers receive appointed instruments



The trumpets are not only judgment—they are God’s response to the prayers of the saints.

Is this before or after the rapture?

PRE-TRIB

RAPTURE BEFORE TRIBULATION

- Church removed before the seal/trumpet/bowl judgments.
- “Wrath” = tribulation period judgments.

PRE-WRATH

RAPTURE BEFORE GOD’S WRATH, BUT AFTER SOME TRIBULATION

- Seals may include persecution/tribulation.
- God’s wrath is often associated especially with the later judgments (many place it around/before trumpets or escalating into bowls).
- Rapture happens before wrath, not necessarily before tribulation.

POST-TRIB

RAPTURE AT CHRIST’S COMING AFTER TRIBULATION

- Church present through tribulation; protected spiritually (and sometimes physically) amid judgments.
- Rapture and Second Coming closely connected.

Quick Poll

Rapture timing—
where are you right
now (no debate,
just temperature
check):

**A) PRE-TRIB (BEFORE
SEALS/TRUMPETS/BOWLS)**

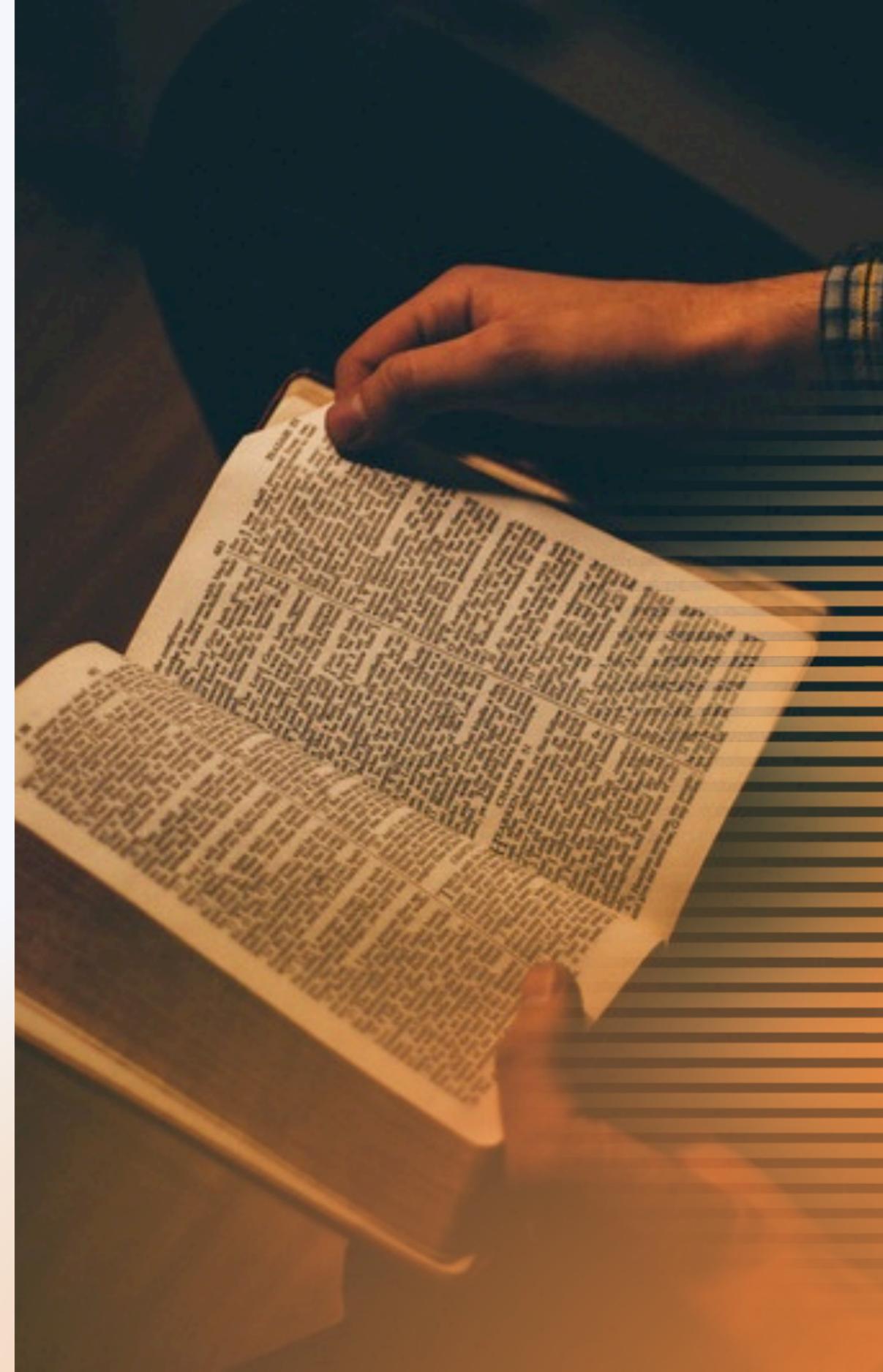
**B) PRE-WRATH (BEFORE
BOWLS)**

**C) POST-TRIB (AFTER
TRIBULATION)**

**D) STILL STUDYING /
UNDECIDED**

What Does The Scripture Say?

“Christians disagree on when the rapture happens, but Revelation is very clear about who God is judging and what God calls His people to do.”



TRUMPETS Overview

(REV 8:2)

THE SEVEN ANGELS AND THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Johns vision...

JOHN SEES

“the seven angels who stand before God.” Seven trumpets are given to them.



WHAT IS IMPLIED BY THE SCENE

The angels are not wandering; they are positioned in God’s presence, ready for assignment. It indicates prominence and readiness—they serve in immediate proximity to God, poised to carry out His will. The trumpets are not taken; they are received—they come by authorization.



WHO ARE “THE SEVEN ANGELS”?

Special angels/archangels assigned close to God’s throne

WHAT IT MEANS

This verse introduces a special, authorized group of angels who will sound trumpets announcing and executing end-times warning judgments—signals that the ‘Day of the Lord’ is unfolding under God’s command.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN THE BELIEVER

1. Reverent alertness: believers recognize that God’s actions in history are purposeful—calls to wakefulness, not spectatorship.
2. Confidence in God’s order: even judgment unfolds with structure, messenger, and authorization—God is not scrambling.
3. The trumpet cycle will repeatedly echo that God responds to the cries of His people; believers are formed to pray rather than panic.

1st Trumpet

(REV 8:7)

TRUMPETS AS 'DAY OF THE LORD' ALARM

2nd Trumpet

(REV 8:8–9)

John hears...

EARTH/VEGETATION STRUCK

Hail and fire mixed with blood; one-third of the earth/trees burned; all green grass in the affected zone burned.

★ ★ ★

MEANING

- A limited, measured judgment that targets the land's productivity and stability.
- Echoes Exodus plagues imagery and "creation reversals": God can strike what humans assume is secure.

★ ★ ★

CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Sobriety and repentance: God's warnings are not theoretical.
- Detachment from false security (economy, land, prosperity assumptions).
- Endurance: suffering and disruption do not mean God has lost control.

John hears...

SEA STRUCK

Something like a burning mountain thrown into the sea; one-third of the sea becomes blood, one-third of sea life dies, one-third of ships destroyed.

★ ★ ★

MEANING

- Judgment extends to the sea—the engine of trade, food supply, and "global" movement.
- Many still do not repent (9:20–21)

★ ★ ★

CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Interpret disruption as a wake-up call, not just "bad luck."
- Keep witnessing even when culture turns hostile (10–11).
- Measure success by faithfulness, not comfort.

AND THE SEQUENCE IS CONTROLLED.

3rd Trumpet

(REV 8:10–11)

TRUMPETS AS 'DAY OF THE LORD' ALARM

4th Trumpet

(REV 8:12)

John hears...

FRESH WATERS POISONED (“WORMWOOD”)

A great star burning like a torch falls on one-third of rivers and springs; waters become bitter; many die.



MEANING

- Targets fresh water—the essential of life—showing the depth of human vulnerability.
- “Wormwood” functions as a symbol of bitterness/poison and death-producing consequence.



CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Renewed dependence: daily provision is from God, not guarantees.
- Discernment about “poisoned sources” (spiritual and moral as well as physical).
- Compassionate witness: believers proclaim warning with grief, not triumphalism.

John hears...

HEAVENLY LIGHTS DIMINISHED

One-third of sun, moon, stars struck; light reduced (interpreted either as time or intensity—either way, a real darkness).



MEANING

- A cosmic sign: creation itself signals that God is acting in judgment.
- Darkness communicates disorientation, removal of “normalcy,” and approaching Day-of-the-Lord seriousness.



CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Hope anchored beyond circumstances: believers learn to live by revelation, not by “light” of the age.
- Watchfulness: spiritual alertness replaces complacency.
- Stability: even cosmic terror is under divine governance.

INTERLUDE

(REV 8:13)

TRUMPETS AS 'DAY OF THE LORD' ALARM

5th Trumpet

(REV 9:1–12)

John hears...

THE EAGLE ANNOUNCES THREE WOES

An eagle (cries “Woe, woe, woe” to the earth-dwellers (hostile to God).



MEANING

“Earth-dwellers” is a technical Revelation label for those aligned against God.



CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Clarity: the conflict is spiritual and moral, not merely political.
- Assurance: God distinguishes His sealed people from those targeted by wrath.

John hears...

FIRST WOE: DEMONIC TORMENT

A star-being receives a key to the abyss; demonic locusts emerge; they torment (not kill) the unsealed for five months; people long to die.



MEANING

- Judgment now includes demonic release—but still under permission (“was given,” “it was told”).
- The “five months” emphasizes limited duration: even hellish torment is bounded by God.



CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Assurance of spiritual security: sealing means ownership and protection from wrathful judgment.
- Seriousness about spiritual warfare without panic (God sets limits).
- Torment reveals the horror of rebellion—prompting prayer for repentance.

AND THE SEQUENCE IS CONTROLLED.

6th Trumpet

(REV 9:13–21)

TRUMPETS AS 'DAY OF THE LORD' ALARM

INTERLUDE

(REV 10:1–11:14)

John hears...

SECOND WOE: DEATH BY RELEASED FORCES

A voice from the altar (linked to prayers) commands release of four angels bound at Euphrates; a vast cavalry executes judgment; one-third of humanity killed; survivors do not repent of idolatry and wickedness.

★ ★ ★

MEANING

- The altar/voice connection highlights that these judgments are, in part, in response to the prayers of God's people (vindication theme).
- The bound angels suggest restrained evil released at God's appointed time.

★ ★ ★

CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Perseverance in prayer: heaven hears; God acts at appointed times.
- Evangelistic urgency: delay is mercy; hardness is real; the time to call people is now.

John hears...

LITTLE SCROLL AND TWO WITNESSES

Little Scroll and Two Witnesses (Preparation for Trumpet 7)

★ ★ ★

MEANING

Re-centers the church's role: prophetic witness under pressure, sweetness and bitterness of proclaiming God's word, and costly testimony.

★ ★ ★

CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Calling clarity: witness is not optional.
- Resilience: God's people testify even in hostile environments.

AND THE SEQUENCE IS CONTROLLED.

7th Trumpet

(REV 11:15–19)

John hears...

THIRD WOE: THE KINGDOM PROCLAIMED

Loud voices announce: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.” Worship erupts; judgment language appears; temple opens; ark seen; lightning, rumblings, earthquake, hail.



MEANING

- The climactic theological announcement: God’s reign is being consummated.
- This trumpet functions like a hinge: it introduces the final outworking (bowls and final judgments) while proclaiming the sure end—God reigns.
- The ark/temple imagery signals covenant faithfulness: God remembers His promises as He judges.



TRUMPETS AS ‘DAY OF THE LORD’ ALARM

CALLS THE BELIEVER TO

- Hope and worship under pressure: history is headed somewhere.
- Confidence in vindication: God will reward His servants and judge evil.
- Courage for witness: the church endures because the kingdom outcome is settled.



The trumpets are partial, escalating, divinely bounded judgments that warn the world, expose spiritual realities, answer the prayers of the saints, and form believers into watchful, repentant, fearless witnesses anchored in the certainty of God’s coming kingdom.



AND THE SEQUENCE IS CONTROLLED

Quick Poll

When you hear
“wrath,” do you
think primarily:

**A) GOD’S ANGER IS
OUT OF CONTROL**

**B) GOD’S JUSTICE IS
FINALLY REVEALED**

**C) I’M NOT SURE HOW
TO HOLD IT TOGETHER**



SEALS → TRUMPETS → **SEVEN BOWLS**

Wrath Brought to Completion

THE BOWLS ARE NOT RANDOM SUFFERING; THEY ARE TARGETED JUSTICE—ESPECIALLY TOWARD BEAST-ALLEGIANCE

The Bowls = Final Justice + Final Exposure + Final Warning

- God completes judgment
- Humanity hardens or humbles
- Jesus calls believers to stay awake and stay in holiness

Set Up of 7 BOWLS

(REV 15)

FINAL JUSTICE, FINAL EXPOSURE,
FINAL CALL TO WAKE UP

Johns vision...

JOHN SEES

Another great and marvelous sign”: seven angels with seven “last plagues.” They are “last” because through them God’s wrath reaches its full, climactic expression

★ ★ ★

JOHN HEARS

A sea of glass mixed with fire and the overcomers standing on/beside it, holding harps

★ ★ ★

JOHN HEARS

They sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb (15:3–4): a worship anthem that frames the bowls as just, true, holy judgments.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE 7 ANGELS

1. The heavenly sanctuary/temple is opened; the seven angels emerge in clean, shining priestly/royal attire (15:5–6), underscoring the holiness and authority of the mission.
 2. One of the four living creatures gives the angels seven golden bowls full of God’s wrath (15:7): this is the formal commissioning.
-
- ★ ★ ★

WHAT IT MEANS

The bowls complete God’s justice, dismantle beast-systems, and expose the human heart—while Christ calls His people to stay awake and stay clean.

★ ★ ★

THE BELIEVERS TAKEAWAY

The bowls show God bringing history to a moral conclusion, exposing hardened rebellion, toppling beast-powered systems, and calling believers to worship, endurance, discernment, and watchfulness.

KEY SHIFT: “WARNINGS INTENSIFY,
BUT HEARTS CAN STILL HARDEN.”

Seven Bowls

SYMBOLS & MEANINGS

I saw, and behold...

| SCENE ELEMENT | SYMBOLISM | TODAY'S LENS | REVELATION |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Temple opened | Judgment flows from God's holy presence | God's justice is not random | Temple opened (15:5) |
| Sea of glass + fire | Throne-room purity + imminent judgment | God reigns; fear God not chaos | Sea of glass + fire (15:2) |
| Bowls 'full' | Wrath at full expression (not "used up") | God is patient, but not permissive | Bowls 'full' (15:7) |
| Smoke; no entry | Unstoppable completion; intercession window closed | Respond now; don't presume | Smoke; no entry (15:8) |



Movement 1: "Creation Struck"

John sees..

1st Angel pours out
1ST BOWL
(REV 16:2)

Poured on the earth.

ACTIONS

Produces foul/terrible, painful sores on those who have the mark of the beast and worship its image.

BELIEVER'S ENDURANCE

Holy resistance. Refuse the "mark" systems of compromise; integrity matters.

2nd Angel pours out
2ND BOWL
(REV 16:3)

Poured into the sea.

ACTIONS

Sea turns to blood like a corpse's blood—thick, dark, putrid imagery. Everything living in the sea dies.

BELIEVER'S ENDURANCE

Detachment from the world's security. Don't anchor your hope in systems God can overturn overnight.

3rd Angel pours out
3RD BOWL
(REV 16:4–7)

Poured into rivers and springs.

ACTIONS

They become blood God is just because the persecutors shed the blood of saints and prophets, so they are given blood to drink—the punishment fits the crime (16:5–6).

BELIEVER'S ENDURANCE

Assurance for the wounded. God sees injustice; no sacrifice, persecution, or martyrdom is forgotten.

**BOWLS ARE FRAMED AS RIGHTEOUS ACTS, NOT CRUELTY
GOD JUDGES FALSE WORSHIP + INJUSTICE**



Movement 3: Deception Mobilizes War

John sees..

6th Angel pours out

6TH BOWL

(REV 16:12–16)

Poured on the Euphrates River.

ACTIONS

Its water dries up to prepare a way for
“the kings from the east” (16:12)

Three unclean spirits like frogs come from
dragon, beast, false prophet; demonic signs
gather kings to battle;

The gathering point is named
Armageddon (16:16)

BELIEVER’S ENDURANCE

Discernment and vigilance. Test
“signs,” resist propaganda, stay
awake and spiritually clothed.

7th Angel pours out

7TH BOWL

(REV 16:17–21)

Poured into the air.

ACTIONS

A loud voice from the throne declares:
“It is done”; lightning, thunder,
unprecedented earthquake; cities
collapse

BELIEVER’S ENDURANCE

The end is not chaos; it is conclusion
—God finishes what He started.

»»»»» JESUS: “I COME LIKE A THIEF... BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO STAYS AWAKE...”

“IT IS DONE”: COSMIC COLLAPSE AND FINAL BLOW »»»»»

How the Bowls Preach to Us Today

1

ALLEGIANCE CHECK

Allegiance check: What has your loyalty—Christ or comfort/culture?

2

WORSHIP AS WARFARE

Worship as warfare: The overcomers worship before the bowls pour out (Rev 15).

3

JUSTICE CONFIDENCE

Justice confidence: God sees the blood of the saints; He judges truly (16:5–7).

4

DISCERNMENT IN DECEPTION

Discernment in deception: Not every “sign” is from God (16:13–14).

5

STAY AWAKE & STAY CLOTHED

Stay awake + stay clothed: Holiness and readiness are not optional (16:15).

JUSTICE COMPLETED - ALLEGIANCE EXPOSED - BELIEVERS PREPARED



**“REVELATION
DOESN'T JUST
PREDICT THE END—IT
TRAINS THE
CHURCH TO
ENDURE.”**

INSPIRATIONAL WORD

INSPIRATIONAL WORD

Quick Poll

Which cycle most challenged you today?

A) SEALS (CRISIS)

B) TRUMPETS (WARNINGS)

**C) SEALING/144,000
(IDENTITY/PROTECTION)**

**D) BOWLS (FINAL
ACCOUNTABILITY)**

Seven Seals

THE LAMB IS WORTHY OF TRUST WHEN THE HEADLINES AREN'T.

REVELATION

God rules even when the world unravels.

BIG LESSON FOR BELIEVERS:

The seals reveal what happens when humanity resists God—and how the Lamb still reigns.

SO WHAT?

When life breaks open, don't assume God is absent—assume God is active.

TRUTH TO LIVE:

I will be faithful under pressure because Jesus already holds the outcome.



ACTIVITY



SEAL CHECK:

Select one: **Fear** / **Faith** / **Fatigue** / **Focus**

- If you circled **Fear**: name one promise you're standing on to be an overcomer. (Isa 41:10)
- If you circled **Faith**: find one scripture that strengthens your faith. (Phil 4:13)
- If you circled **Fatigue**: name one way you'll seek to be strengthened. (Isa 40:31)
- If you circled **Focus**: name one way you'll encourage someone else. (2 Cor 1:4)



Seven Trumpets

WE KEEP WITNESSING EVEN WHEN PEOPLE RESIST.

REVELATION

Trumpets are warnings—mercy is still speaking.

BIG LESSON FOR BELIEVERS:

God shakes what is temporary to call people back to what is eternal.

SO WHAT?

Don't waste warning seasons—respond, repent, and refocus.

TRUTH TO LIVE:

I will treat God's warnings as love—before they become verdicts.



ACTIVITY



REPENTANCE INVENTORY:

Write one sentence each:

- One thing God is calling me to stop.
- One thing God is calling me to start.
- One thing God is calling me to strengthen.



144,000

WORSHIP IS WARFARE; IDENTITY IS ARMOR.

REVELATION

Sealed doesn't always mean removed—it means owned, protected, and sent.

BIG LESSON FOR BELIEVERS:

God marks His people so they can remain steady while the world becomes unstable.

SO WHAT?

Stop letting the times define you. Let the seal define you

TRUTH TO LIVE:

I belong to Jesus—so I will not be bullied by fear or seduced by compromise.



ACTIVITY



IDENTITY STATEMENT:

Everyone write and say aloud:

“Because I am sealed in Christ, I will _____ this week.”

- Spend more time with God
- Refuse compromise
- Forgive
- Witness
- Serve
- _____



Because I'm sealed in Christ



"BECAUSE I AM SEALED IN CHRIST, I WILL _____"

- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will refuse a shortcut this week—even if it costs me."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will guard my eye gate and ear gate this week."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will pray before I respond this week."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will tell the truth the first time this week."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will honor God with my money this week—no impulsive spending."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will set one boundary that protects my peace and purity."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will choose obedience over approval this week."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will walk away from one temptation without negotiating."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will forgive one person this week and release the debt."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will show up consistently—Word, worship, and wisdom."



Because I'm sealed in Christ



"BECAUSE I AM SEALED IN CHRIST, I WILL _____"

- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will stop calling compromise 'grace' this week."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will stop negotiating with sin like it's a business deal."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will stop being loyal to dysfunction just because it's familiar"
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will stop negotiating with sin like it's a small issue."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will shut down the secret habits that keep me numb."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will stop entertaining what I'd be ashamed to explain to Jesus."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will stop feeding my flesh after midnight—with food, media, etc."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will forgive—and also set a boundary."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will stop blaming everybody else and own my part."
- "Because I am sealed in Christ, I will tell one trusted person the truth about where I'm struggling"



Seven Bowls

READINESS IS NOT HYPE—IT'S HOLINESS.

REVELATION

The bowls are verdicts—final accountability is real.

BIG LESSON FOR BELIEVERS:

God's wrath is not random; it is righteous and targeted against persistent rebellion.

SO WHAT?

Make your allegiance clear before pressure forces a decision.

TRUTH TO LIVE:

I will stay awake, stay faithful, and stay aligned with Jesus—no matter the cost.

ACTIVITY

WAKE-UP & WARDROBE UP IN HOLINESS:

Two questions to seek Holy Spirit to answer prayerfully and privately:

- When pressure hits, what's most likely to make me trade obedience for relief—money, approval, comfort, or fear? or Where do I tend to cave in first—when it costs money, costs comfort, costs approval, or triggers fear?
- What's one specific change I'm making in the next 7 days to stay ready—who will I call, what will I cut off, and what Scripture rhythm will I start?

When pressure hits, —



WHAT'S MY "WEAK SPOT" THAT THE ENEMY KEEPS TARGETING—

- "Where do I have the weakest 'no'—money, attention, pleasure, comfort, or control?"
- "What's the one area where I keep saying 'I'm good' but God keeps saying 'you're not free'?"
- "Where am I most likely to trade obedience for relief?"
- "What temptation has my number because it shows up when I'm tired, lonely, bored, or praised?"
- "What's my favorite 'respectable sin'—the one I can hide under church language?"
- "What non-negotiable will I put in place so I stop falling in the same spot?"
- "What boundary do I need so my weakness doesn't keep writing checks my spirit can't cash?"
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REFUEL

Bible Study

LET US PRAY

THANK YOU

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 21 & 28, 2026



REV. DR. JAMES J. MINNICK, SENIOR PASTOR

PRESENTER - REV. ERICA HALL, ASSISTANT PASTOR