

Revelation 6 Outline

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Chapters 6-18 deal with the Tribulation period on the earth, covering:

- The 7 **seal** judgments are opened (ch6-8v1).
- The 7 **trumpet** judgments are sounded (ch8-11), the last 3 trumpets are 3 woes (Rev 8v13).
- The 7 **golden vial** judgments are poured out on the earth (ch15-16).

The judgments come forth from the only worthy One, the Lamb of Calvary opens the seals. It is “**the wrath of the Lamb**” (ch6v16); all judgment is committed unto the Son (John 5v22,27).

Why the Tribulation Period?

To bring a remnant of Israel to ultimate repentance and salvation.

To deal righteously with the nations that have rebelled against the rule of God and Christ (Psalm 2v1-6).

The Church in Relation to the Tribulation Period

The NT Church will not be on the earth during the Tribulation period.

The Church will be kept from that hour of trial (Rev 3v10).

The Olivet discourse to the disciples (Matt 24-25) is relevant to Israel and the Tribulation period.

The Saviour’s upper room discourse to the disciples (John 14-16) is relevant to the Church.

Christ will come for the Church as the “**Morning Star**” (Rev 22v16) before the Tribulation.

After the Tribulation, He will come to save Israel as “**the sun of righteousness**” (Mal 4v2).

See also Romans 5v9; 1st Thess 1v10; 1st Thess 2v16; 1st Thess 5v9.

The Duration and Divisions of the Tribulation Period

The 7 year period = 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy relating to his people Israel (Dan 9v24-27).

Events at the midpoint (Dan 9v27, 11v31, 12v11; Rev 12) divide the Tribulation into 2 equal halves.

The 1st half = “**the beginning of sorrows**” (Matt 24v8).

The 2nd half = **the time of Jacob's trouble**” (Jer 30v7); the **great tribulation**” (Matt 24v21, Rev 7v14); “**time, and times, and half a time**” (3.5 years, Dan 7v25, Dan 12v7, Rev 12v14); “**forty and two months**” (Rev 11v2; Rev 13v5); “**thousand two hundred and threescore days**” (Rev 11v3, Rev 12v6).

The 1st 4 seal judgments (Rev 6v1-8) occur in the 1st half of the Tribulation (Matt 24v4-8), linked with:

- 4 living ones around the throne of heaven (Rev 4v6-7) give authoritative command for the judgments to “**Come**” forth, after the seals are opened by the Lamb.
- 4 symbolic horses of different colors and their riders (“**4 horsemen of the apocalypse**”).

The 5th seal judgment (Rev 6v9-11) may be around the mid-point of the 7 years.

The 6th seal (Rev 6v12-17) may be opened towards the end of the 7 years, before the return of the Son of man to the earth in power and great glory (Matt 24v29-20).

The 7 trumpet judgments and 7 vial judgments are likely concurrent through the latter half.

v1 – 2: The Opening of The First Seal – a great conqueror, a great deception

The rider on the “**white horse**” with bow and victor’s crown symbolizes a conquering imperial power over the earth promising peace (1st Thess 5v2-3), but it is the great deception of the antichrist one (Matt 24v4-5). People on earth will also be under the “**strong delusion**” sent by God (2nd Thess 2v11-12).

v3 – 4: The Opening of The Second Seal – a great warmonger with a “great sword”

The rider on the red horse takes peace from the earth; a scene of great warfare (Matt 24v6-7).

v5 – 6: The Opening of The Third Seal – a great famine

The rider on a “**black horse**” (see Lam 5v10) carries “**a pair of balances in his hand**”.

The voice from the throne of heaven describes the economic realities of a time of great famine (v6).

v7 – 8: The Opening of The Fourth Seal – a great destruction of life

The rider on a “**pale horse**” personifies “**Death**” (claiming bodies) and “**Hades followed**” (souls & spirits).

A great loss of life will affect “**the fourth part of the earth**”; 25% of the human population.

Mass death caused by wars, famine, “**pestilences**” (Matt 24v7), pandemics, “**wild beasts of the earth**” etc.

v9 – 11: The Opening of The Fifth Seal – a great martyrdom of faithful ones

In heaven, the souls of faithful martyrs will cry to God for vengeance and justice.

God sees their shed blood as a sacrificial offering poured out under the altar.

These are the disembodied souls who were saved and then martyred in the 1st half of the Tribulation.

These are not the NT Church saints, who will already have been raised and given glorified bodies.

Revelation 7 details the “**great multitude**” from the nations that will be saved in the 2nd half of the 7 years.

They are to be patient, “**rest yet for a little season**” until the martyr roll of Tribulation saints is completed.

They are secure in heaven, clothed in those “**white robes**” of imputed righteousness by faith.

v12 – 17: The Opening of The Sixth Seal – a “great earthquake” (v12), a “great day of wrath” (v17)

Great earthquakes are a recurring feature in all the series of judgments (Rev 8v5; 11v13; 11v19; 16v18).

An unprecedented “**great earthquake**” at the end of the Tribulation has global and cosmic consequences.

Multiple cataclysmic events will take place in the cosmos and on the earth (v12-14).

These events can be considered as literal, possibly linked with comets and meteors impacting the earth.

Similar description is given by the Saviour in the Olivet discourse (Matt 24v29-20) before Christ returns.

Similar OT descriptions of “**the day of the LORD**” (Joel 2v10-11, 30-31; Isaiah 13v10; 34v4).

Rebellious men on earth of all strata of society try to hide (v15; Isaiah 2v19) and seek death (v16; Rev 9v6).

But there will be no place to escape “**the wrath of the Lamb**” (v16) upon this whole earth.

There are absolutely no atheists left on earth in that day; everyone acknowledges this is divine judgment.

But sinful man will not repent before God; they will blaspheme His Name (Rev 9v20; 16v9; 16v11).

The Lamb of Calvary will finish this work of judgment; “**and who shall be able to stand?**” (v17; Nahum 1v6).