

Revelation 5

The Throne of God continued...

In the previous chapter, John was caught up to Heaven to show him future events. In order to provide a *reference point* for when these events would *start*, John was taken to the Throne of God where he saw *God the Father* seated on the Throne, and the *Spirit of God* in front of the Throne. Missing from this scene was the Son of God, which tells us that John was being shown events prior to the *Ascension of Jesus Christ* to Heaven. In this chapter, the scene in Heaven continues when John, next, sees a *Scroll with Seven Seals* in the right hand of Him who sat on the Throne.

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. Rev. 5:1-3

As we will read later, the *Scroll with Seven Seals* contained a description of the future events that were to be shown to John but whose contents were sealed. When no one could be found who was worthy to open the scroll, it caused John to weep until he saw the *Lamb of God* appear and take the scroll from the one seated on the Throne.

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. Rev. 5:6-7

The description of the *Lamb, looking as if it has been slain*, and standing at the center of the Throne is an unmistakable account of the *Ascension of Jesus Christ* to Heaven following His crucifixion. Accordingly, the appearing of the *Lamb* at the Throne tells us that the *Timeline of Events* has moved from the period *before the Ascension of Jesus Christ*, to *right after* this event. In this way, we are given a picture of *when* the events of the *Seven Seals* will start, i.e., the events of the *Seven Seals* begin after the *Ascension of Jesus Christ*. Having been given the above starting point, John was next shown the opening of the *First Seal*.

Revelation 6

In the previous chapters, we read how John was taken up to Heaven in order to show him the things that must take place in the *Last Days* through the opening of the *Scroll with Seven Seals*. Before the *Seven Seals* were opened, John witnessed the progression of events from the Lord's ministry on earth to His ascension to Heaven, which meant that the events of the *Seven Seals* would begin following the *Ascension of Jesus Christ*. After being given the above order of events, John watched as the Lamb opened the *First Seal*.

When the Lamb opened the *First Seal*, John saw a rider on a *white* horse who is described as a conqueror bent on *conquest*.

I watched as the Lamb opened the *first of the seven seals*. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a *white horse*! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a *conqueror bent on conquest*.

Rev. 6:1-2

The opening of the next *Three Seals* revealed *red*, *black*, and *pale* horses, which are described as bringing *war*, *famine*, and *death*.

When the Lamb opened the *second seal*, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery *red* one. Its rider was given power to *take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other*. To him was given a large sword. Rev. 6:3-4

When the Lamb opened the *third seal*, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a *black horse*! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "*Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!*" Rev. 6:5-6

When the Lamb opened the *fourth seal*, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a *pale horse*! Its rider was named *Death*, and *Hades* was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Rev. 6:7-8

In the *Book of Zechariah*, the *Four Horsemen* are further identified as the *four spirits of heaven* who stand before the Lord of all the earth.

With the first chariot were *red horses*, with the second chariot *black horses*, with the third chariot *white horses*, and with the fourth chariot strong *dappled horses*. Then I spoke and said to the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?" The angel replied to me, "*These are the four spirits of heaven, going forth after standing before the Lord of all the earth.*" Zech. 6:2-5

From the above passages, we learn that in the events of the *Four Horseman*, John was being shown the progression of *wars* and the heavenly *forces* behind them. The description of these wars begins with a king who rides out as a conqueror bent on conquest (*white horse*) and who initiates war (*red horse*). The disruptions of *war* lead to famines (*black horse*) and combined together, the above circumstances bring death by sword, famine, and plague (*pale horse*). The above wars will also bring death by the *wild beasts* of the earth, which also increase in numbers in lands affected by *war*, as seen in the following example.

The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the *wild animals* will multiply around you. Deut. 7:22

When John was shown the wars of the *Four Horseman*, after being shown the *Ascension of Jesus Christ*, it meant that the *wars* of conquest, which have always plagued the earth, would continue following the *Ascension of Jesus Christ*. These same *wars* were also described by the Lord who said that *wars* and rumors of *wars* would continue like *birth pains* until the *end* comes.

“You will hear of *wars* and *rumors of wars*, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be *famines* and *earthquakes* in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.” Matt. 24:6-8

In these passages, Christ compared the *Last Days* to a woman in childbirth and tells us that *wars* and *rumors of wars*, along with *earthquakes* and *famines*, will increase in magnitude and intensity the closer we get to the *end*. Thus, the *first* event to take place following the *Ascension of Jesus Christ* will be the continuation of *wars* and their devastating consequences. These are the same wars that we see taking place *today* and that will continue until the *end*.

The Fifth Seal and the Prayer of the Martyrs in Heaven

Along with increasing *wars*, *famines*, and *earthquakes*, the events of the *Last Days* will also include an *increase* in the number of those who will be *slain* because of the *Word of God* and their testimony. These martyrs will cry out to God for *judgment* and *revenge* as revealed through the opening of the *Fifth Seal*.

When he opened the *fifth seal*, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you *judge* the inhabitants of the earth and *avenge* our blood?” Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to *wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.* Rev. 6:9-11

The above scene describes how as we approach the *end* of the *Last Days*, the souls of the *Martyrs in Heaven*, who have been killed since the time of Christ, will be gathered at the altar of God. These martyrs will call out to the Lord and ask, “*How long until you judge the inhabitants*

of the earth and avenge our blood?" **[1]**

In answer to their cries, the *Martyrs in Heaven* will be told that they must wait a little longer until their brothers and sisters were *killed* just as they had been. This is a reference to a future period of world-wide persecution, known as the *Great Tribulation*, when the *full number* of God's people will be killed. The fact that the *Martyrs in Heaven* were told to wait a *little* longer tells us that the *Great Tribulation* will take place over a relatively short period of time. Once the *full number of brothers and sisters* are killed in the *Great Tribulation*, the condition given to the *Martyrs in Heaven* will have been fulfilled, which will lead to the next events of the *Sixth Seal* when the *Wrath of God* will be poured out.

The Wrath of God

When the *Sixth Seal* was opened, John saw the people on earth crying out in fear as they attempted to hide from the *Wrath of God*.

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the *generals*, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, *hid in caves* and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" Rev. 6:12-17

In these verses, we read how the *Wrath of God* will be poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, after the *Great Tribulation*, by means of a *Great Earthquake*, which will remove every mountain and island from its place, and a tremendous storm that will suddenly fill the sky like a scroll being rolled up. The severe storm will contain large hail that will cause the people on earth to hide in *caves* and to cry out in fear of Him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb. The mention of *kings* and *generals* among those who will attempt to hide from the *Wrath of God* tells us that these events will take place during a great *war*, known as the *Battle of Armageddon*, which we will read about in later chapters.

Order of Events

In the opening of the *First Six Seals*, we are given the following list of the *events* that will take place in the *Last Days* and the *order* in which they will occur.

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines (Seals 1-4)**
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge (5th. Seal)**
- 3. The Full Number of Brothers and Sisters are Killed – The Great Tribulation**

4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm – The Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal)

5. To be Announced (7th. Seal)

Revelation 7

In the previous chapter, John was given an overview of the major events that will take place in the *Last Days* through the opening of the *First Six Seals*. Before revealing the opening of the *Seventh Seal*, John was shown the servants of God who will live through these events; namely, the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* and the *Martyrs of the Great Tribulation*. The fact that John was shown the *144,000* and the *Martyrs of the Great Tribulation*, before he was shown the opening of the *Seventh Seal*, tells us that the events of the *144,000* and the *Martyrs of the Great Tribulation* will take place *within* the events of the *Seven Seals* themselves.

The 144,000 From all the Tribes of Israel

When John looked, he saw the four angels who were given the power to harm the *land* and the *sea* before the *144,000* were sealed.

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the *land* or on the *sea* or on any *tree*. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the *land* and the *sea*: “Do not harm the *land* or the *sea* or the *trees* until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: *144,000 from all the tribes of Israel*. Rev. 7:1-4

In the above verses, the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* are described as a *Remnant* of faithful Israelites who will be set apart by a *seal* that will be placed on their foreheads. The sealing of the *144,000* from all the Tribes of Israel will *not* be dependent upon the *144,000* being able to recognize their tribal affiliation or prove their ancestry. Instead, the *Seal of God* will be placed by the angels and will not be visible to those on earth. In this way, the *144,000* will be set apart from the *Inhabitants of the Earth* before the angels are released to harm the *land*, the *sea*, and the *trees*.

From this account, the question often arises as to whether the *144,000* are a *literal* or *symbolic* representation of God’s people. In answer to this question, it can be said that in *every* instance in the *Old* and *New Testament* where the phrase *Tribes of Israel* is used, it *always* refers to the literal *Twelve Tribes of Israel*. (See: **Matt. 19:28**, **Lk. 22:30**, **Acts 26:7**, **Jas. 1:1**) No other group of people, including the church, is *ever* described as the *Twelve Tribes of Israel*. From this we can say that the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* will come from the *literal* descendants of Jacob (Israel).[1]

The Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees

In the above passages, we read that after the *144,000* are sealed, the angels will be released to harm the *land*, the *sea*, and the *trees*. The purpose of the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* will be to warn the *Inhabitants of the Earth* before the Prayer of the Martyrs for *judgment* and *revenge* is answered, as previously described in the events of the *Fifth Seal*.

When he opened the *fifth seal*, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you *judge* the inhabitants of the earth and *avenge* our blood?” Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to *wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.* Rev. 6:9-11

In the above account we read how when the *Martyrs in Heaven* pray for judgment and revenge, they will be told that they must wait a little while longer until their brothers and sisters were killed just as they had been. This event will be followed by the sealing of the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* and the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*. The purpose of the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* will be to provide an opportunity for the *Inhabitants of the Earth* to repent before the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* for *judgment and revenge* is answered. In this way, the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* will be similar to the events that took place during the *Exodus of Israel* from Egypt. In that case, it was the children of Israel who cried out to God, and it was Moses and Aaron who struck the land with plagues as a warning to the people of Egypt. In the same way, when the *Martyrs in Heaven* cry out for *judgment and revenge*, God will send two prophets, known as the *Two Witnesses*, who will call down the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* as a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. (We will read more about the *Two Witnesses* in a later chapter.)

The Martyrs of the Great Tribulation

When the *Two Witnesses* call down the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will *not* repent and, instead, will respond by attacking God’s people in the events of the *Great Tribulation*. The martyrs of this event are described in the following passages, which tell us that the martyrs of the *Great Tribulation* will form a *great multitude* from every *nation, tribe, people, and language*.

After this I looked, and there before me was a *great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”...Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the *great tribulation*; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

Rev. 7:9-10, 12-14

As these passages describe, rather than repenting at the sight of the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to the warnings of the two prophets by killing God’s people in the events of the *Great Tribulation*. In the above verses, the word that is translated as *tribulation* is the Greek word *thlipsis* (SEC 2347)*, which means affliction.^[2] By itself, this word can refer to *any* suffering that Believers experience for their faith but, in these passages, the word *tribulation* is preceded by the word *great* to describe the period when the

brothers and sisters will be killed in numbers so great that they cannot be counted. These are the same *brothers and sisters* who are mentioned in the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* who were told that their blood would not be revenged until the *full number* of their *brothers and sisters* were killed just as they had been. When God's people are killed in the *Great Tribulation*, this condition will have been met, and the *Wrath of God* will be poured out as we previously read in the events of the *Sixth Seal*.

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" Rev. 6:12-17

From the above account, we can construct the following list of events that will take place in the *Last Days*.

- 1.) During the *Last Days*, the world will experience *wars, famines, and plagues*, which will increase in frequency and destruction the closer we get to the *end*.
- 2.) In addition to *wars, famines, and plagues*, during the *Last Days*, God's people will suffer increasing persecution and martyrdom. These martyrs will be gathered before the Throne of God where they will cry out for *judgment and revenge* as described in the events of the *Fifth Seal*.
- 3.) When the *Martyrs in Heaven* pray for judgment and revenge, they will be told that they must wait until the *full number of their brothers and sisters were killed just as they had been*.
- 4.) Following the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven*, the *144,000* will be sealed and two prophets will appear who will call down plagues as a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth* before the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* for *judgment and revenge* is answered.
- 5.) Rather than repenting during the events of the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to God's warning by hardening their hearts and attacking God's people in the events of the *Great Tribulation*.
- 6.) When the full number of God's servants are killed in the *Great Tribulation*, the condition given to the *Martyrs in Heaven* concerning their brothers and sisters who would be killed will have been fulfilled, and the *Wrath of God* will be poured out, as described in the events of the *Sixth Seal*.

Those will Live Through the Events of the Seven Seals

The above account gives us the three groups of people who will be present on earth during the events of the *Seven Seals* as follows 1.) The *144,000 From all the Tribes of Israel*, 2.) The followers of Christ from every nation, including those who will be martyred in the *Great Tribulation*, and 3.) The *Inhabitants of the Earth*, which is a description of the unrepentant among mankind.

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines** (Seals 1-4)
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge** (5th. Seal) – The 144,000 are sealed
The Plagues on the land, the sea, and the trees begin
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – The full number of God's people are killed
- 4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm** – The Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal)
- 5. To be Announced** (7th. Seal)

Revelation 8

The Seventh Seal

In the last chapter, the opening of the *Seventh Seal* was delayed in order to show John the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* and the *Martyrs of the Great Tribulation*. In this chapter, John is returned to the opening of the *Seventh Seal*, which revealed a period of *silence*.

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence for about half an hour in heaven. Rev. 8:1

In the *Scriptures*, *silence* is used to describe the end of *war* as can be seen in the following passages.

“Therefore, her young men will fall in the streets; all her soldiers will be silenced in that day,” declares the Lord. Jer. 50:30

“In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!” Amos 8:3

As these passages describe, to *defeat* your enemies in war is to *silence* your enemies. Accordingly, the *silence* of the *Seventh Seal* will follow the defeat of God’s enemies at the *Battle of Armageddon* as described in the events of the *Sixth Seal*, and completes the list of events that were shown to John through the opening of the *Scroll with Seven Seals*.

Summary of the Seven Seals

In the opening of the *Seven Seals*, John was given an overview of the major events that will take place in the *Last Days* beginning with the *wars, famines* and *plagues* that will increase like birth pains. The wars of the *Last Days* will be accompanied by a growing number of martyrs, who will maintain their testimony of Jesus to the point of death. These martyrs will cry out from Heaven for their blood to be avenged. The prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* will be followed by the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, which will serve as a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, before the prayer of the martyrs for *judgment* and *revenge* is answered. The *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to the warning of God by killing God’s people in the events of the *Great Tribulation*. After the *Great Tribulation*, the blood of the martyrs will be avenged through the *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm*, which will occur on the day of the *Battle of Armageddon*, when the people on earth will attempt to hide in caves from the *Wrath of God*. The *Wrath of God* will be followed by the *Silence in Heaven* that will signal the defeat of God’s enemies.

Having been given the above *order of events*, John was next shown the judgments of *Seven Trumpets* and the plagues of the *Seven Bowls*, which will add more details to the events that were described in the opening of the *Seven Seals*. Specifically, the sounding of the *Seven Trumpets* will describe the judgments that will avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven*, and the pouring

out of the *Seven Bowls* will describe the plagues that will avenge the blood of the martyrs of the *Great Tribulation* itself. In this way, the events of the *Seven Seals* provides the context in which the events of the *Seven Trumpets* and the *Seven Bowls* will take place.

The Seven Trumpets

Following the opening of the *Seven Seals*, John was, next, shown the sounding of *Seven Trumpets*. When we read that John was shown the events of the *Seven Trumpets*, after he was shown the events of the *Seven Seals*, it does *not* mean that the events of the *Seven Trumpets* take place next, but that John *saw* them next. Accordingly, the judgments of the *Seven Trumpets* will occur *within* the events of the *Seven Seals*, starting from the point of the *Fifth Seal*, when the *Martyrs in Heaven* will pray for judgment and revenge. This can be seen in the following verses that describe how John shown the prayer of the Martyrs in Heaven, before he saw the sounding of the Seven Trumpets.

And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. Rev. 8:2-6

In the above verses, we read that *before* the angels prepared themselves to sound the *Seven Trumpets*, John was taken back to the prayer of the saints going up before the Throne of God, which is another description of the events of the *Fifth Seal*, when the *Martyrs in Heaven* will pray for *judgment* and *revenge* as repeated below.

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. Rev. 6:9:11

When John was given another view of the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven*, followed by the seven angels who will sound the *Seven Trumpets*, it tells us that the events of the *Seven Trumpets* will begin *after* the *Martyrs in Heaven* pray for *judgment* and *revenge*. Accordingly, the sounding of the *Seven Trumpets* will announce the judgments that will take place after the *Martyrs in Heaven* pray for *judgment* and *revenge*. In the previous chapter, we read that these judgments will be carried out by the four angels who will harm the *land*, the *sea*, and the *trees* after the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* have been sealed (See Revelation Chapter 7). Accordingly, the sounding of the *Seven Trumpets* will describe these *same* judgments, in more detail, as well as four additional judgments that will follow the prayer of the Martyrs.

The First Trumpet

As described above, the *First Three Trumpets* will announce the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* that will take place after the *Martyrs in Heaven* pray for *judgment and revenge*. The purpose of these plagues will be to *warn the Inhabitants of the Earth* before the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* for *judgment and revenge* is answered. As a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* will *not* directly harm the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, themselves, but will harm the world around them, beginning with the sounding of the *First Trumpet*, when a third of the *trees* will be burned up.

The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. Rev. 8:7

In the *Scriptures*, *hail* and *fire* represent judgment,^[11] and *blood* represents revenge.^[12] When we read that *fire* and *blood* will be hurled down on the earth, it does *not* mean that literal *blood* and *fire* will fall from the sky but is another description of the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* for *judgment and revenge*. The actual *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, which will take place following the prayer of the martyrs, will be a world-wide drought that will cause a third of the *earth*, a third of the *trees*, and all the green *grass* to be *burned up*.

The Second Trumpet

When the *Second Trumpet* was sounded, John saw something *like* a huge mountain that was thrown into the *sea* and a third of the *sea* turned into *blood*.

The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Rev. 8:8-9

In these verses, when the word *like* is used to describe the mountain that is all *ablaze*, it means that the *Scriptures* are *not* speaking of a literal mountain but something that is *like* a huge mountain. Accordingly, when *stones*, *boulders*, or *mountains* are used symbolically in the *Bible*, they represent *kingdoms*.

“Before your eyes I will repay *Babylon* and all who live in *Babylonia* for all the wrong they have done in *Zion*,” declares the Lord. “I am against you, you destroying *mountain*, you who destroy the whole earth,” declares the Lord. Jer. 51:24-25

In the *Book of Daniel*, the increase and eventual reign of the *Kingdom of God* on earth is *also* described as a *rock* that will strike the kingdoms of the world and that will grow to become a *huge mountain* that fills the whole earth.

While you were watching, a *rock* was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the

summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the *rock* that struck the statue became a *huge mountain* and filled the whole earth... “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a *kingdom* that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.” Dan. 2:34-35, 44

In the above verses, the statue of iron, bronze, silver, and gold represent the kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome that followed the time of Daniel.[3] The *stone* that struck the statue and that grew to be a *huge mountain* represents the *kingdom* of God that will endure forever, while the previous kingdoms will be swept away. Likewise, when the *Scriptures* describe a *stone*, *boulder*, or *mountain* being hurled into the sea; it is a description of a *city*, *nation*, or *kingdom* being destroyed in battle.

Then a mighty angel picked up a *boulder* the size of a large millstone and *threw it into the sea*, and said: “With such violence the great *city of Babylon* will be thrown down, never to be found again.” Rev. 18:21

From the above precedence in *Scripture*, we learn that when the *Second Trumpet* is sounded and the *huge mountain* is hurled into the sea, it represents a *huge kingdom* that will be defeated in battle. The fact that the *mountain* is all *ablaze* tells us that the defeat of this kingdom will come as a result of the *judgment* of God.

The defeat of the huge kingdom that is thrown into the sea will be accompanied by the second *Plague on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, when a third of the *sea* will *turn to blood*. When the waters turn to blood, it will be a *literal* event as can be seen by how a third of the living creatures in the sea will die and a third of the ships will be destroyed.[4]

The Third Trumpet

In the events of the *Third Trumpet*, we will learn the identity of the kingdom that was *thrown into the sea* as well as the name of a *great star* that will also fall from the sky.

The *third* angel sounded his *trumpet*, and a *great star*, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—the name of the star is *Wormwood*. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter. Rev. 8:10-11

In the *Revelation*, *stars* often represent angels.

“The mystery of the seven *stars* that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven *stars* are the *angels* of the seven churches.” Rev. 1:20

Accordingly, the description of the *great star* that fell from the sky, it is a description of a great angelic being hurled to the earth. The fact that the *great star* is described as *blazing like a torch* is an indication that it, too, will fall to the earth as a result of God’s judgment. In a later chapter, we read how the *great star* will be given the key to the shaft of the *Abyss* and is named

Destroyer.

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. Rev. 9:1

They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). Rev. 9:11

From the above *Scriptures*, we can conclude that in the events of the *Second* and *Third Trumpets*, the great star represents Satan, whose name is Destroyer, and the huge mountain that is thrown into the sea represents his kingdom. When the *Second Trumpet* is sounded, the *kingdom* of Satan, consisting of the *angels* who follow him, will be thrown into the sea like a *huge mountain all ablaze*. Following the defeat of his angels, Satan himself will fall from the sky, *blazing like a torch* in the events of the *Third Trumpet*.^[5]

In conjunction with the fall of Satan to the earth, when the *Third Trumpet* is sounded, the third *Plague on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* will take place, when a third of the *waters* on earth will turn *bitter*, and those who drink from the poisoned waters will die.

The First Three Trumpets: A Warning to the Inhabitants of the Earth

In the events of the *First Three Trumpets*, we are given more details to the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, which will occur after the events of the *Fifth Seal* when the *Martyrs in Heaven* will pray for judgment and revenge. As discussed in the previous chapter, the purpose of these plagues will be to *warn the Inhabitants of the Earth* before the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* for *judgment and revenge* is answered.

In addition to the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, the sounding of the *First Three Trumpets* will also announce great judgments in the heavens, when Satan and his kingdom will be defeated and hurled to the earth. When Satan falls from the sky, he will become enraged and will entice the *Inhabitants of the Earth* to attack Israel as described in the events of the *Fourth Trumpet*.

The Fourth Trumpet

In the description of the *Fourth Trumpet*, we read how the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* by attacking God's people, beginning with an *Attack on Jerusalem* as described in the events of the *Fourth Trumpet*.

The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and 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. Rev. 8:12

Although, these verses do not mention Israel directly, we know that the events of the *Fourth Trumpet* are referring to an attack on Israel based on the description of how a third of the *sun, moon, and stars* will be *struck*. In the *Scriptures*, the *sun, moon, and stars* are used to represent

Israel. This is first seen in the story of the patriarch Joseph who had a dream in which the original family of Israel is described as the *sun*, the *moon*, and the *twelve stars*.

Then he (Joseph) had yet another dream, and informed his brothers of it, and said, “Behold, I have had yet *another* dream; and behold, the *sun* and the *moon*, and eleven *stars* were bowing down to me.” He also told *it* to his father (Jacob) as well as to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have had? Am I and your mother and your brothers actually going to come to bow down to the ground before you?” And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. Gen. 37:9-11

The *sun*, the *moon*, and the *twelve stars* are *also* used to portray Israel in the *Revelation* itself.

A great sign appeared in heaven: a *woman* (Israel) clothed with the *sun*, with the *moon* under her feet and a crown of twelve *stars* (the *Twelve Tribes of Israel*) on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth... She gave birth to a son, a male child (Jesus), who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. Rev. 12:1-2, 5

In these verses, the *woman*, who will give birth to the *Son* is an obvious reference to Israel, who is again described as the *sun*, *moon*, and *twelve stars*, which is the same way that Israel is depicted in the events of the *Fourth Trumpet* when a third of the *sun*, *moon*, and *stars* will be struck.

In the events of the *Fourth Trumpet*, the attack against Israel is further described as a time when a third of the day and a third of the night will be *without light*. This is a *literal* event that will take place when smoke from the burning fires will darken the sky. This is a familiar theme in the *Scriptures* where the darkening of the heavens is used to describe the destruction of a city or nation that comes under the judgment of God.

“Son of man, take up a lament concerning Pharaoh king of *Egypt* and say to him... When I snuff you out, I will *cover the heavens and darken their stars*; I will *cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. All the shining lights in the heavens. I will darken over you; I will bring darkness over your land*, declares the Sovereign Lord. ...For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “The sword of the king of *Babylon* will come against you.” Ezek. 32:2, 7-8, 11

See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. *The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. ...See, I will stir up against them the Medes, who do not care for silver and have no delight in gold. Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants, nor will they look with compassion on children. Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the pride and glory of the Babylonians, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. Isa. 13:9-10, 17-19*

In the above examples, the overthrow of Egypt by the Babylonians and the destruction of Babylon by the Medes are *also* described as a time when clouds blocked the light of the *sun* and the *moon* so that the skies became *dark*. As in these instances, when Israel is struck, smoke from the burning fires will cause a *third of the day* and a *third of the night* to be *without light*.

The Attack on Jerusalem

The attack on Israel is one of the pivotal events that will take place in the *Last Days* and is described throughout the *Scriptures*. To better understand this event, we must depart from the narrative of the *Revelation* in order to read how the *Attack on Jerusalem* is described in the rest of *Scripture*. In the *Gospel of Luke*, the Lord warned of the future *Attack on Jerusalem* by telling the people that when they saw their city being surrounded by armies, they were to *flee to the mountains* for safety.

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.” Lk. 21:20-22

Consistent with God’s previous judgments against Israel, when Jerusalem is attacked, the Lord will spare a *Remnant* who will be saved from destruction by *fleeing to the mountains*. From these verses, we learn that whenever we read about those in the country *not entering the city* or those in the city *fleeing to the mountains*, we are reading about the *Attack on Jerusalem*, as repeated in the following passages.

“It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.” “Where, Lord?” they asked. He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.” Luke 17:30-37

We know that the above verses are describing the *Attack on Jerusalem* because they contain the *same* warning concerning *not entering the city* as we saw in the previous passages, which described how Jerusalem would be surrounded and attacked. In these instructions, the people on housetops are told *not* to go inside their homes to retrieve their possessions before fleeing to the mountains. This tells us that the *Attack on Jerusalem*, which is described in the sounding of the *Fourth Trumpet*, will come as a complete *surprise* to the residents of the city who will not have time to gather anything from their homes before escaping from the destruction.

The suddenness by which the *Attack on Jerusalem* will take place can also be seen in the above reference to *Lot* who had to suddenly *flee* from *Sodom* to avoid being killed in the destruction of that sinful city. Jesus used the example of *Lot’s wife*, who hesitated and was destroyed, to emphasize how the people living in Judea should *not* attempt to *save their life*, in the form of gathering their possessions, before *fleeing to the mountains*.^[6] Also, in these verses, we are told

that *half* of the people will be *taken* and the other half *left*, which is a reference to how *half* of the survivors of the attack will be *taken* into exile and is another *identifier* for the *Attack on Jerusalem*.

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. *Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.* Zech. 14:2

“How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be *taken as prisoners* to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” Lk. 21:23-24

In the *Gospel of Matthew*, we learn further details concerning the *Attack on Jerusalem* through a comparison to the *days of Noah* when the people knew *nothing* about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the *days of Noah*, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; *and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.* That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; *one will be taken and the other left.* Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; *one will be taken and the other left.*” Matt. 24:36-41

In these verses, the *Attack on Jerusalem* is identified by the description of those who are *taken* and those who are *left*, which is *also* found in the Luke’s description of this *same* event. In *Matthew’s* account, the people of Israel are reminded how *Noah* escaped from the *time of punishment* by entering the Ark, while, those who were destroyed in the flood were *eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage* before the flood came. This is a reference to how leading up to the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the people will be carrying on with their daily activities and will be completely unaware of their pending destruction. Only those who act to save themselves by fleeing from the city, *before* the destruction begins, will be spared just as it was in the *days of Noah*. (We will learn more about how this surprise attack will be accomplished, in a later chapter.)

The Great Tribulation

In *Mathews* account of the *Attack on Jerusalem*, we read that this event will be followed by a *Great Distress* that will never be equaled.

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— *then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those*

days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be *great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.*” Matt. 24:15-21

The above verses are another account of the *Attack on Jerusalem* as can be seen by how they contain the same warning concerning *fleeing to the mountains* as was used in earlier passages to describe this same event. In this account, the disciples are told that the *Attack on Jerusalem* would be followed by a *Great Distress* that will never be equaled. The word that is translated as *Distress* is the Greek word *thlipsis* (SEC 2347), which is the same word that is translated as *Tribulation* in the previous chapter, where it used to describe the period when the great multitude of God’s people will be killed.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. Rev. 7:9

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great *tribulation (thlipsis SEC 2347)*; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Rev. 7:13-14

The *Great Distress (Tribulation)* will be a continuation of the attack against God’s people that will start with the *Attack on Jerusalem* and that will expand into an attack against all of God’s people who maintain their testimony of Jesus. The description of the great multitude who will be killed brings us back to the narrative of the *Seven Trumpets*, and the events leading up to the *Great Tribulation*, which are summarized below.

- As we approach the end of the *Last Days*, the *Martyrs in Heaven*, who have been killed since the time of Christ, will pray for judgment and revenge.
- Following the prayers of the *Martyrs in Heaven* and the sealing of the 144,000, the *First Three Trumpets* will sound that will announce the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*, which will serve as a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth* before the *prayer of the Martyrs in Heaven for judgment and revenge is answered*.
- The *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to the warnings of God by attacking God’s people during the *Attack on Jerusalem*, when a *Remnant* will *flee to the mountains*.
- Following the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will attack the rest of God’s people in the events of the *Great Distress (Tribulation)*, which will never be equaled.
- After the full number of God’s people have been killed in the *Great Tribulation*, the condition given to the *Martyrs in Heaven*, concerning their *fellow servants* who would be killed, will have been met, and the *Wrath of God* will be poured out.

The Last Three Trumpets

When the *Inhabitants of the Earth* kill God’s people in the events of the *Great Tribulation*, they will become guilty for all the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven* that has been shed since the time of

Christ. Consequently, following the *Great Tribulation*, the *Last Three Trumpets* will be sounded that will avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven* as announced by an eagle who will cry out concerning the *Three Woe's* that will accompany the *Last Three Trumpet* blasts.

As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!" Rev. 8:13

The mention of the *Three Woes* that will be poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth* is in contrast to the plagues of the *First Three Trumpets*, which will *only* harm the *Land*, the *Sea*, and the *Trees*. When the *Last Three Trumpets* are sounded, the *Wrath of God* will fall directly on the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, themselves, in order to avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven*.

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines** (Seals 1-4)
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge** (5th. Seal) – The 144,000 are sealed
 - 1/3 of earth is burned up in world-wide drought (1st. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of sea turns to blood, Satan's angels are cast from Heaven (2nd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of waters are poisoned, Satan is hurled to the earth (3rd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of Israel is struck, the Attack on Jerusalem (4th. Trumpet)
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – The full number of God's people are killed
 - The Last Three Trumpets are sounded
- 4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm** – The Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal)
- 5. Silence in Heaven** – The enemies of God are defeated (7th. Seal)

Revelation 9

The Last Three Trumpets

In the previous chapter, we read how during the sounding of the *First Three Trumpets*, great plagues will strike the *Land*, the *Sea*, and the *Trees* in order to *test* the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. Rather than being humbled by these plagues, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to God's warning by attacking Jerusalem, as described in the events of the *Fourth Trumpet*, and by killing God's people in the events of the *Great Tribulation*.

When the full number of God's people are killed in the *Great Tribulation*, it will fulfill the condition given to the *Martyrs in Heaven* who were told that their blood would *not* be avenged *until* the full number of their brothers and sisters were killed just as they had been.

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. Rev. 6:9-11

Accordingly, following the *Great Tribulation*, the *Last Three Trumpets* will be sounded that will bring *Three Woes* to the *Inhabitants of the Earth* in order to avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven*. Those who will live through the events of the *Last Three Trumpets* will be **1.)** The *Remnant of Israel* who will manage to remain hidden from the *Beast*(the *antichrist*) during the events of the *Great Tribulation*, including those who will *flee to the mountains* before the *Attack on Jerusalem* begins. **2.)** The *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* who will exist *within* the hidden *Remnant of Israel*, and **3.)** the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, which is a description of the unrepentant on earth. Missing from the earth will be the great multitude of God's people from every nation, tribe, people, and language who will be killed in the *Great Tribulation* as described in Revelation Chapter 7.

The Fifth Trumpet

The *First Woe* that will fall on the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, in order to avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven*, will be announced by the *Fifth Trumpet* when a cloud of locusts that have the sting of scorpions will descend upon the earth.

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. Rev. 9:1-3

In the previous events of the *Second Trumpet*, Satan is described as a great *star* that fell to the

earth.^[1] When the *Fifth Trumpet* is sounded, he is again depicted as the *star* that fell from the sky who will be given the keys to the shaft of the Abyss. (The Abyss is the prison where the rebellious angels are held until the *Day of Judgment*. To read more about the Abyss, click here; Hades, the Abyss, Hell, Paradise, Heaven, and the New Heaven and Earth.) When Satan unlocks the Abyss to free the captive demons, it will bring a *Plague of Locusts* upon the earth. The *Plague of Locusts* that will come down on the earth will form a giant cloud that will darken the sky. The locust will be given power like that of scorpions and the agony resulting from their *sting* will cause people to long to die.

They (the locusts) were told not to harm the *grass* of the earth or any *plant* or *tree*, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. Rev. 9:4-6

The command given to the locust to not to harm the *grass* or any *plant* or *tree* is in contrast to the plagues of the *First Three Trumpets* that will harm the *Land*, the *Sea*, and the *Trees*, but *not* the *Inhabitants of the Earth* themselves. In this way the judgments of the *First Three Trumpets* will serve as a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, and the *Woes* of the *Last Three Trumpets* will judge the *Inhabitants of the Earth*.

In addition to being prevented from harming the *grass* or any *plant* or *tree*, The locust will *also* be forbidden from stinging those who have the seal of God on their foreheads, which is a reference to the *144,000 From all the Tribes of Israel* who will not be harmed by the judgments that will occur at this time.

Following the events of the *Fifth Trumpet*, two more *Woes* will follow in the events of the *Sixth* and *Seventh Trumpets*.

The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come. Rev. 9:12

The Sixth Trumpet

The sounding of the *Sixth Trumpet* will announce the release of *Four Angels* who, in turn, will release a two-hundred-million man army, and a third of mankind will be killed in the ensuing war.

The *sixth angel* sounded his *trumpet*, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to *kill a third of mankind*. The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand (two-hundred million). I heard their number. Rev. 9:13-16

The war that will take place when the *Four Angels* are released at the Euphrates River will bring about the *Three Plagues of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur* that will kill a *third of mankind*.

The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. Rev. 9:17-18

In the *First Century*, horses were instruments of war. Accordingly, the *horses* with the heads of *lions* are a description of the modern-day weapons that will be used in this war and that will carry *riders*. The fire (*red*), smoke (*blue*), and sulfur (*yellow*), which will come out of the mouths of the horses, is a description of the fiery discharges that will come from these weapons and that will kill a third of mankind. From this, we can conclude that the *Three Plagues of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur* are a *First-Century* description of a *Twenty First-Century* war.

The reference to the river Euphrates, which formed the original *eastern* and *northern* borders of Israel, implies that the two-hundred-million-man army will come from the lands *east* and *north* of Israel. Accordingly, we can conclude that this war will be between the *ruler* that will *Attack Jerusalem* (See Revelation Chapter 8), and a massive army from the *east* and *north* that will challenge his rule. (We will read more about this war in a later chapter.)

Those Who Did Not Repent

The important thing to note about the events of the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets* is that they will occur *after* those who hold to their testimony of Jesus are no longer on earth, having been killed in the *Great Tribulation*. We know this because those who suffer through the plagues of the *Last Three Trumpets* are described as those who *still did not repent*, which excludes God's people.

The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts. Rev. 9:20-21

The *rest of mankind*, who are described in the above verses, are the same *Inhabitants of the Earth* who will ignore the warnings of the *First Three Trumpets*, which is why in the events of the *Last Three Trumpets* they are described as those who *still* did not repent .

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines** (Seals 1-4)
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge** (5th. Seal) – The 144,000 are sealed
 - 1/3 of earth is burned up in world-wide drought (1st. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of sea turns to blood, Satan's kingdom defeated (2nd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of waters are poisoned, Satan cast out (3rd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of Israel is struck, the Attack on Jerusalem (4th. Trumpet)
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – the full number of God's people are killed
 - The Plague of Locusts (5th. Trumpet)
 - The Plague of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur (6th. Trumpet)

– To be announced (7th. Trumpet)

4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm – the Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal)

5. Silence in Heaven – the enemies of God are defeated(7th. Seal)

Revelation 10

The Seven Thunders and the Little Scroll

In the previous chapter, John was shown the judgments of the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets*, which will avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven*. Before being shown the events of the *Seventh Trumpet*, John saw a mighty angel holding a *Little Scroll*, and he heard the voice of *Seven Thunders*.

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a *little scroll*, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the *seven thunders* spoke. And when the *seven thunders* spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “*Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.*”

Rev. 10:1-4

As in the events of the opening of the *Seven Seals*, when John was shown the events of the *Little Scroll* and the *Seven Thunders*, before being shown the sounding of the *Seventh Trumpet*, it tells us that the events of the *Little Scroll* and *Seven Thunders* will take place *within* the events of the *Seven Trumpets* themselves.[1]

The Little Scroll

When John looked, the *Little Scroll* laid open in the Angel's hand, which meant that the contents were meant to be *read* and *understood* by John. When John asked to see the scroll, he was told to eat it in order to prophesy *again* concerning the nations.

So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’” I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, “You must prophesy *again* about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.” Rev. 10:9-11

When John was given the *Little Scroll* to eat, the words tasted sweet as honey, reflecting how they were the *Word of God*, but his stomach turned sour due to the contents of the scroll, which contained a description of the additional judgments that would fall upon the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. These are the same generation of *Inhabitants of the Earth* that John had prophesied about in the events of the *First Six Trumpets*, which is why John was told to prophesy *again* concerning the many peoples, nations, languages and kings.

The Seven Thunders

After being given the *Little Scroll* that laid open in the angel's hand, John also heard the voice of

Seven Thunders. In contrast to the *Little Scroll* whose contents John was told to record, when John attempted to write down what the *Seven Thunders* said, he was told to *seal up* what he had heard, which meant that the words of the *Seven Thunders* were *not* yet to be revealed.

The use of a *sealed* scroll to delay the understanding of a prophecy is a familiar theme of the *Scriptures* as can be seen in a similar event involving the prophet Daniel who was also told to *seal up* a vision that concerned the distant future.

“The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but *seal up* the vision, for it concerns the distant future.”. Dan. 8:26

I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and *sealed* until the time of the end.” Dan. 12:8-9

As in the case of Daniel, when we read that John was told to *seal up* the words of the *Seven Thunders*, it tells us that the revealing of what the *Seven Thunders* said will *not* be made known until we get closer to the time when the events of the *Seven Thunders* take place.

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines (Seals 1-4)**
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge (5th. Seal)** – The 144,000 are sealed
 - 1/3 of earth is burned up in world-wide drought (1st. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of sea turns to blood, Satan’s kingdom defeated (2nd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of waters are poisoned, Satan cast out (3rd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of Israel is struck, the Attack on Jerusalem (4th. Trumpet)
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – the full number of God’s people are killed
 - The Plague of Locust (5th. Trumpet)
 - The Plague of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur (6th. Trumpet)
 - To be announced (7th. Trumpet)
- 4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm** – the Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal)
- 5. Silence in Heaven** – the enemies of God are defeated (7th. Seal)

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses and the Conclusion of the Seven Trumpets

In the previous chapter, the narrative of the *Seven Trumpets* was interrupted when John saw an angel holding a *Little Scroll* accompanied by the voice of *Seven Thunders*. In this chapter, the description of the events of the *Seventh Trumpet* continue to be delayed in order to provide John with more details concerning the judgments of the previous *Six Trumpets*. (To read about the *First Six Trumpets*, see [Revelation Chapter 8](#)) The re-telling of the events of the *First Six Trumpets* begins with a description of the *Attack on Jerusalem*, which was first explained in the sounding of the *Fourth Trumpet*.

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.” Rev. 11:1-2

In the above verses, the *Attack on Jerusalem* and the ensuing occupation of the city is described as a time when the Gentiles will trample on the holy city for *42 months* (3 ½ years). Prior to the *Attack on Jerusalem*, two prophets known as the *Two Witnesses* will prophesy in Jerusalem for *1,260 days*, which also equals 3 ½ years.

And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days (3 ½ years), clothed in sackcloth. ...They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. Rev. 11:3, 6

Although we are *not* given the identity of the *Two Witnesses*, the timing of their ministry can be seen in the description of the powers that will be given to the two prophets. In the preceding verses, we are told that *Two Witnesses* will be given the power to shut up the *heavens* so that it will not rain, to turn the *waters* into blood, and to strike the *earth* with plagues as often as they want. These are the same *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* that were first mentioned in the events of the *Seven Seals*, and that were further described in the sounding of the *First Three Trumpets* as follows:

- When the *Two Witnesses* shut up the heavens so that it will not rain, the ensuing *drought* will cause a third of the earth, a third of the *trees*, and all the green grass to be *burned up* as described in the events of the *First Trumpet*.
- The power given to the *Two Witnesses* to turn the *waters into blood* matches the description of the *Second Trumpet* when a third of the sea will be turned into blood.
- When the *Two Witnesses* call down plagues as often as they want, it will lead to the plague on the waters when the springs of waters will become bitter as described by the sounding of the *Third Trumpet*.

The above explanation adds to our understanding of the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the*

Trees which will warn the *Inhabitants of the Earth* before the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven* is revenged. In this account, we learn that the actual *warning* to those on earth will come from the mouths of the *Two Witnesses* who will preach in Jerusalem and call down the plagues.

The Purpose of the Ministry of the Two Witnesses

As described above, the purpose of the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* will be to provide an opportunity for the *Inhabitants of the Earth* to repent before the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven* is revenged. We first read about the avenging of the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven* in the events of the *Fifth Seal*, which is repeated below.

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. Rev. 6:9-11

Combining the above information, we learn that when the *Martyrs in Heaven* pray for *judgment and revenge*, God will send the *Two Witnesses* who will call down the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* as a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth* before the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven* for judgment and revenge is answered. In this way, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will be given an opportunity to repent and to escape from the judgments that will avenge the blood of the *martyrs* that was shed by past generations.

Rather than repenting at the sight of the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* and the preaching of the two prophets, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will strike back at the *Two Witnesses*, but anyone who tries to harm them will be killed by the words that come from the prophets mouths.

If anyone tries to harm them (the *Two Witnesses*), fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. Rev. 11:5

The account of the *Two Witnesses* has its comparison to the events of Moses and Aaron who testified to Pharaoh and who *also* became loathsome to the people of Egypt because of the plagues they called down.^[1] In the same way, the two prophets will be hated by the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, who will refuse to repent, and who will become enraged when the *Two Witnesses* call down the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees*.

The Fourth Trumpet and the Rise of the Beast

Following the account of the *Two Witnesses*, we are next introduced to the *Beast*, which is the name given to the future ruler who will blaspheme God and persecute His people. Today, this ruler is more commonly known as the *antichrist*, although, in the *Revelation*, the word *antichrist* is never used. Instead, the *Revelation* calls this ruler the *Beast*.^[2] The rise of the *Beast* will come in opposition to the *Two Witnesses* and will culminate when the *Beast* goes up to Jerusalem and

kills the two prophets.

Now when they (The *Two Witnesses*) have finished their testimony, the *beast* that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified (Jerusalem). For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. Rev. 11: 7-10

When the *Beast* (the *antichrist*) enters Jerusalem and kills the *Two Witnesses*, it will *not* be an isolated event but will take place as part of a larger *Attack on Jerusalem* itself, which was first shown to John in the events of the *Fourth Trumpet*.

The Description of the Beast

The picture of a *beast* to describe a ruler is first introduced to us in the *Old Testament* through the prophet Daniel who was given a dream in which he saw four different *beasts*. In His dream, the four *beasts* represented four different *kings* and their *kingdoms*.

“These great *beasts*, which are four in number, are four *kings* who will arise from the earth.”

Dan. 7:17

“Thus he said: ‘The fourth *beast* will be a fourth *kingdom* on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.’ Dan.7:23

In these verses, we learn that the imagery of a *beast* is used in the *Scriptures* to describe either a *king* or his *kingdom*. Accordingly, the description of the *Beast* who will kill the *Two Witnesses* represents both the *king* who will kill the two prophets and the *kingdom* over which he will rule.

Further descriptions of the *Beast* can be found in another prophecy of Daniel, which describes how a future world *ruler* will make a *Seven-Year-Covenant* with the nations and put an end to the worship of God in the temple .

The people of the *ruler who will come* will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the *middle* of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an *abomination that causes desolation*, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” Dan. 9:26-27

In these verses, the *Ruler Who Will Come* is a description of the *Beast* (the *antichrist*) who will attack Jerusalem and kill the *Two Witnesses*. The *Seven-Year Covenant* that the *Beast* will make with the nations will take place during the 3 ½ years that the two prophets will testify in Jerusalem, followed by the 3 ½ years that the Gentiles will trample on the holy city.

Accordingly, when the *Beast* is said to put an end to sacrifice and offering at the Temple, *in the middle of the seven*, it is a reference to how the *Beast* will attack Jerusalem and kill the *Two Witnesses* after they have prophesied for 3 ½ years.

The Abomination that Causes Desolation

In Daniel's description of the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the *abomination that causes desolation* refers to an idol that the *Beast* will place in the Temple and the unclean sacrifice that he will perform in the Holy place. This same prophecy was referred to by the Lord who warned the people that when they saw the *Abomination that Causes Desolation* standing in the temple, they were to flee to the mountains.

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress (Tribulation), unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. Matt. 24:15-2

From these passages we learn that before the *Attack on Jerusalem* takes place, the *Beast* will desecrate the Temple in Jerusalem.[3] Accordingly, Jesus warned the people that when they saw this event take place, they were to flee to the mountains without stopping to gather any of their possessions. In addition, the Lord warned the people that following these events, the *Great Distress* (Tribulation) would begin. [4]

The Two Witnesses are Caught Up

The account of the ministry of the *Two Witnesses* ends with the description of how the breath of life will come into their dead bodies before they are called up to heaven.

But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. Rev. 11:11-13

The Seventh Trumpet

After providing more details to the events of the *First Six Trumpets*, the narrative of this chapter returns to the sounding of the *Seventh Trumpet* by telling us that the *Second Woe* has passed.

The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. Rev. 11:14

The passing of the *Second Woe* is a reference to how, earlier, we read that the *Last Three*

Trumpets would be accompanied by *Three Woes* that would strike the *Inhabitants of the Earth*.

As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!” Rev. 8:13

Based on the above passages, we know that the announcement that the *Second Woe* has passed refers to the passing of the events of the *First Six Trumpets*. Accordingly, this announcement is then followed by the next verse, which describes the events of the *Seventh Trumpet*.

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” Rev. 11:15

Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, 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. Rev. 11:19

When the *Seventh Trumpet* is sounded, there will be an *earthquake* and *severe hailstorm*, followed by the *Reign of Christ on Earth*. This is the same *Great Earthquake* and the *Severe Hailstorm*, which was first described in the events of the *Seven Seals* as repeated below.

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?” Rev. 6:12-17

The fact that both the *Sixth Seal* and the *Seventh Trumpet* describe the events of the *Battle of Armageddon* and the *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm*, which will defeat God’s enemies, corresponds with how John was, first, given a general description of the events of the *Last Days* through the opening of the *Seven Seals* and then provided with more details to these same events through the sounding of the *Seven Trumpets*.

The description of the events of the *Seventh Trumpet* completes this chapter’s review of the *Seven Trumpets* as follows:

- Following the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven*, the *Two Witnesses* will preach in Jerusalem, for 3 1/2 years, and will call down the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* as described by the sounding of the *First Three Trumpets*.
- When the *Two Witnesses* begin preaching in Jerusalem, the *Beast* (the antichrist) will form a

Seven-Year-Covenant with the nations.

– At the end of the *1,260 days* (3 ½ years), and in the middle of the *Seven-Year-Covenant*, the *Beast* will go up to Jerusalem to offer an unclean sacrifice at the Temple (the *Abomination that Causes Desolation*). Those who heed the words of the Lord will flee from Jerusalem when they see this event take place.

– Following the *deseccration of the Temple*, Jerusalem will be set on fire in a sudden attack as described by the *Fourth Trumpet*. During the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the *Two Witnesses* will be killed by the *Beast*.

– Following the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the Gentiles will occupy Jerusalem during the second 3 ½ years of the *Seven-Year-Covenant*, and the *Great Tribulation*, which has never been equaled, will begin.

– After the full number of saints have been killed in the *Great Tribulation*, the condition given to the *Martyrs in Heaven*, concerning their brothers and sisters, who would be killed, will have been fulfilled, and the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets* will be sounded that will announce the judgments that will avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven*.

– When the *Seventh Trumpet* is sounded, a *Severe Hailstorm* and *Great Earthquake* will strike the enemies of God and loud voices will announce the *Reign of Christ* on earth.

Revelation 12

The Woman and the Dragon

In the previous chapters, the events of the *Seven Trumpets*, were shown to John, including the events of the Fourth Trumpet when the Beast (the antichrist) will Attack Jerusalem and kill the *Two Witnesses*. In this chapter, the events of the *Fourth Trumpet* are re-described through the characters of the *woman*, the *dragon*, and the *Beast*. Before describing these events, the identities of the *woman* and the *dragon* were revealed to John through the account of the birth of Christ, where we learn that the *woman* represents Israel and the *dragon* represents Satan.

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. Rev. 12:1-6

In the above passages, Israel is depicted as the *woman* clothed with the *sun*, with the *moon* under her feet, and a crown of twelve *stars* on her head. This is a symbolic description of Sara and Jacob (the *sun* and the *moon*), and their twelve sons who became the *Twelve Tribes of Israel*. As previously discussed, this same description of Israel is found in the *Old Testament* where the original family of Israel is also described as the *sun*, the *moon*, and the twelve *stars*.^[1] The *dragon* who stands over the *woman* is a symbolic reference to Satan who incited king Herod to kill all the male infants in Bethlehem following the birth of Christ.^[2] The *son*, who is snatched up to heaven, is an obvious reference to Christ who was resurrected following His crucifixion, and who will *rule* the nations with an *iron scepter*. In this description of the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the *woman* (Israel) is described as fleeing into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, which is another account of how a *Remnant* will flee from Jerusalem in order to escape from the attack. When we read that the woman will be taken care of for 1,260 days (3 ½ years), it tells us that the *Remnant* that flees to the wilderness will be kept safe from the *Dragon* throughout the entire 3 ½ year period of the *Great Tribulation* that will follow the *Attack on Jerusalem*.

After giving the above account, the *Revelation* re-tells the events of the *Attack on Jerusalem* using the characters of the *woman* and the *dragon* whose identities we now know.

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him... When the dragon (Satan) saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the

woman (Israel) who had given birth to the **male child** (Jesus). The **woman** was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness (flee to the mountains), where she would be *taken care of* for a time, times and half a time (3 ½ years), out of the *serpent's* reach. Then from his mouth the *serpent* (Satan) spewed *water like a river* (Gentile armies), to overtake the **woman** and sweep her away with the **torrent**. But the earth helped the **woman** by *opening its mouth* (an earthquake) and swallowing the *river* that the *dragon* had spewed out of his mouth. Then the *dragon* was enraged at the **woman** and went off to *wage war* against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

Rev. 12:7-17

In this account of the *Attack on Jerusalem*, we read how Satan and his angels will be defeated in the *War in Heaven* and hurled to the earth. These are the same events that were shown to John in the sounding of the *Second* and *Third Trumpets*, which portrayed the defeat of Satan and his angels as the *huge mountain* that was hurled into the sea, and the *great star* that fell from the sky. Following the *War in Heaven*, Satan will entice the *Beast* (the antichrist) to lead an *Attack on Jerusalem* and to pursue the *Fleeing Remnant*, which is described as the *serpent* (Satan) sending a *river* (gentile army) to pursue the **woman** (Israel). When the armies of the serpent attempt to overtake the *Fleeing Remnant*, they will be destroyed when the earth *opens its mouth* and *swallows* the *river*, which is a description of how the earth will be split open and will swallow the pursuing armies. After escaping from the chasing armies of the *dragon*, the *Remnant* that flees into the wilderness will be kept out of Satan's reach for a *time* (1 year), *times* (2 years) and *half a time* (1/2 year), which equals 3 ½ years. During the 3 ½ years that the *Fleeing Remnant* will be kept hidden in the wilderness, Satan will wage a *war* against those who keep God's command and hold fast their testimony about Jesus, which is another description of the *Great Tribulation*.

Anyone who is familiar with the *Old Testament* will recognize the similarities between these events and the *Exodus* of Israel from Egypt. In the *Exodus*, it was the armies of Pharaoh who pursued the escaping children of Israel and it was the sea that was divided and made a way of escape for the Israelites. Once Israel had passed through the sea, the waters swallowed up Pharaoh's army. When the future *Attack on Jerusalem* takes place, Israel will once again be pursued by an army but, this time, it will be the *earth* that is divided in an earthquake and that will swallow up the chasing armies of the *Beast*. These *same* events were described by the prophet *Zechariah* who foretold how an *earthquake* would split the Mount of Olives in two in order to provide a way of escape for the *Fleeing Remnant*.

“A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.” Zech. 14:1-5 [3]

In the account of the *woman* and the *dragon*, we see how the wrath of Satan will be poured out on God's people after he suffers a series of defeats, beginning with the *War in Heaven* when Satan and his angels will be hurled to the earth. After being hurled to the earth, Satan will be filled with rage and will entice the *Beast* (the antichrist) to attack Jerusalem. When the *Remnant* escapes into the wilderness and the armies of the *Beast* are swallowed up by the earth, Satan will be filled with even more fury and will react by waging a *war* against those who keep God's commands and hold fast to their testimony of Jesus in the events of the *Great Tribulation*. In this way, the *Great Tribulation* will come as a result of the *Wrath of Satan* whose angels will be defeated in the *War in Heaven*, and whose earthly armies will be destroyed when they pursue the *Remnant of Israel* into the wilderness.

Revelation 13

The Dragon and the Beast

In the previous chapter, the characters of the *woman* (Israel) and the *dragon* (Satan) were used to describe the *Attack on Jerusalem* and the *Great Tribulation*. In this chapter, these *same* events are explained through the characters of the *dragon* and the *Beast* (the antichrist). As we read earlier, the title of the *Beast* can refer to either a *king* or his *kingdom*.

“These great *beasts*, which are four in number, are four *kings* who will arise from the earth.”

Dan. 7:17

“Thus he said: ‘The fourth *beast* will be a fourth *kingdom* on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.’ Dan.7:23

As in the above examples, the *Beast* of the *Revelation* represents both the *king* who will blaspheme God, and his *kingdom* that will carry out the *Attack on Jerusalem* and the *Great Tribulation*. Before describing these events, the *Revelation* gives us more details concerning the rise of the *Beast* (the antichrist), and the *dragon* (Satan) who will empower him.

The Rise of the Beast

The description of the rise of the *Beast* begins with the image of the *dragon* standing on the shore of the sea as the *Beast* emerges from the waters.

The *dragon* stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a *beast* coming out of the sea. It had *ten horns* and *seven heads*, with *ten crowns* on its *horns*, and on each head a blasphemous name. Rev. 13:1

In order to understand the above account of the rise of the *Beast* (*the antichrist*), it is necessary to interpret the following *Biblical* symbolism.

– The *dragon* represents the devil, who is Satan.

The great *dragon* was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or *Satan*, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Rev. 12:9

– The *Sea* that the *Beast* comes from represents the Gentile (Non-Jewish) nations.

Then the angel said to me, “The *waters* you saw, where the prostitute sits, are *peoples, multitudes, nations and languages*.” Rev. 17:15

– The *seven heads* of the *Beast* represent either seven kings or seven kingdoms.

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven *mountains* (kingdoms)[1] upon which the woman sits, and they are seven *kings*; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. Rev. 17:9-10 *NASB

– The *ten horns* are ten kings who will give their authority(*crowns*) to the *Beast*.

The *ten horns* you saw are *ten kings* who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.” Rev. 17:12-13

Based upon our understanding of the *Biblical* symbolism, we can say that when the *Beast* (the antichrist) is described as coming out of the *sea*, it means that the *Beast* will come from the Gentile nations. The *dragon* who stands on the shore is the devil or Satan. The description of him standing on the shore of the sea as the *Beast* emerges is a word picture that describes how Satan will bring forth and empower the *Beast*. The *ten horns* of the *Beast* represent the ten kings who will give their authority to the *Beast*.[2]

In addition to the *Revelation* account, more information concerning the rise of the *Beast* (the antichrist) is given to us by the prophet *Daniel* who also wrote about the *Beast* with the *ten horns*.

“The fourth *beast* is a fourth *kingdom* that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The *ten horns* are *ten kings* who will come from this kingdom. After them *another king* will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws.” Dan. 7:23-25

In these verses, we learn that a *Fourth Kingdom* will appear on earth from which ten kings will arise as represented by the *ten horns*. From these ten kings another king will come (the *Beast*) who will *subdue* three of the ten kings. This explains why the *Beast* emerges from the sea with *ten horns*, representing the ten kings who will form this kingdom, but with only *seven heads*, representing how the *Beast* will subdue *three* of the kings.

After describing the *ten horns* and *seven heads* of the *Beast*, the *Revelation* next describes the *kingdom* of the *Beast* as a *fourth beast* with the body of a *leopard*, the feet of a *bear*, and a mouth like a *lion*.

And the beast which I saw was like a *leopard*, and his feet were like those of a *bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a *lion*. And the *dragon* gave him his power and his throne and great authority. Rev. 13:2

In order to understand the above symbolism, we must, again, look to *Daniel* who wrote about these same, three *beasts*. In *Daniel*'s account, the *lion*, the *bear*, and the *leopard* represent the

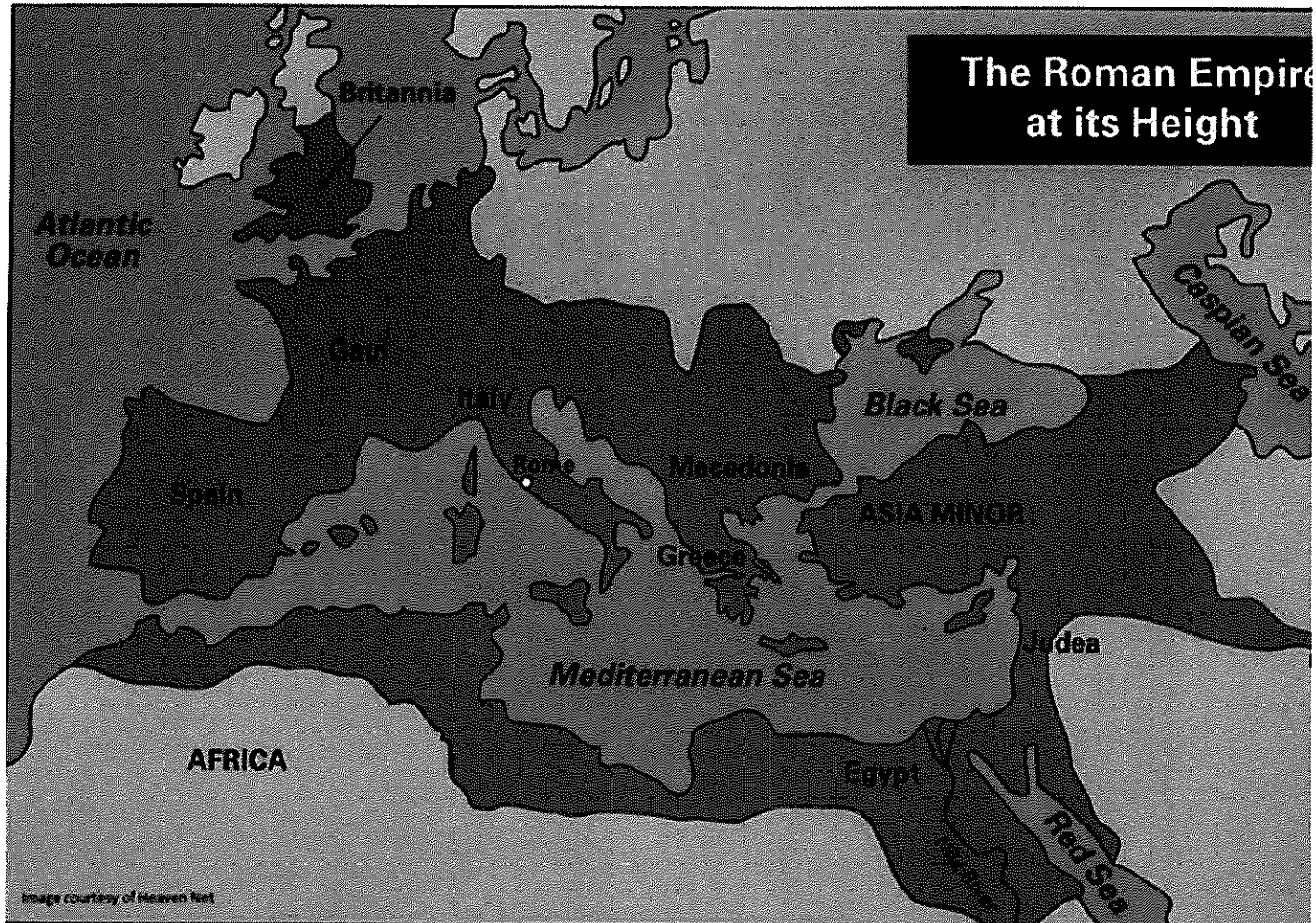
three successive *kingdoms* of Babylon, Persia, and Greece and their corresponding *kings*.

Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts were coming up from the *sea*, different from one another. The first was like a *lion* and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a *bear*. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, ‘Arise, devour much meat!’ After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a *leopard*, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.”
Dan. 7:2-6

In the above description, the *lion* represents the kingdom of *Babylon* and its king *Nebuchadnezzar* who, because of his pride, was given a mind like an animal until he was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man.^[3] The *bear* represents the kingdom of *Persia* and *Cyrus the Great*. The three ribs in its mouth represent *Cyrus’s* three great conquest over the kingdoms of the Medes, Lydia, and Babylon. The *leopard* represents the kingdom of *Greece* and its king *Alexander the Great* whose speed of conquest is depicted by the leopard with four wings on its back. The four heads of the leopard represent the four generals who divided *Alexander’s* kingdom following his death. Accordingly, when the *Beast* is described as having the body of a *leopard*, the feet of a *bear*, and a mouth like a *lion*, it is the *Scriptures* way of showing us that the *Fourth Kingdom* will follow the three previous kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, and Greece. Based on the historical account, this would make the *Fourth Kingdom* the kingdom of Rome.

The Re-Emergence of the Ancient Roman Empire

When we look at a map, we notice that the Ancient Roman Empire encompassed the regions surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Today, this same area includes the block of European nations that border the Mediterranean Sea to the *north*, and the nine North African and Middle Eastern countries that encircle the Mediterranean Sea to the *south*. Together, these nations form the boundaries that once defined the Ancient Roman Empire. Daniel tells us that from these same nations will come the *Fourth Kingdom* and the ten kings (the union of European states being considered as one king) who will give their power to the *Beast* (the antichrist).



The future, *Fourth Kingdom* of the *Beast* was also described by Daniel in a vision of an enormous statue with a head of *gold* and a body made up of *silver*, *bronze*, and *iron*.

“Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure *gold*, its chest and arms of *silver*, its belly and thighs of *bronze*, its legs of *iron*, its feet partly of *iron* and partly of baked *clay*.” Dan. 2:31-33

From Daniel’s account, we learn that the head of gold represents the Babylonian Empire, the chest of silver the Persian Empire, and the torso of bronze the Greek Empire.^[4] In this description, the *Fourth Kingdom* of the Roman Empire is represented by the statue’s *legs of iron*, which symbolize how Rome would *break* and *crush* its enemies.

“Finally, there will be a *fourth kingdom*, strong as *iron*—for *iron* breaks and smashes everything—and as *iron* breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the *feet and toes* were partly of baked *clay* and partly of *iron*, so this will be a *divided kingdom*; yet it will have some of the strength of *iron* in it, even as

you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly *iron* and partly *clay*, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron *mixed* with baked clay, so the people will be a *mixture* and will *not remain united*, any more than iron mixes with clay.” Dan. 2:40-43

In the vision of the statue, the feet and ten toes that descend from the legs of *iron* form a word picture that describes how ten future kings will come from the descendants of the Ancient Roman Empire. These are the same ten nations that will give their authority to the *Beast*. The description of the feet and ten toes as being partly *iron* and partly *clay* represents how the *Beast* and the ten nations will crush their enemies like *iron*, just as the Ancient Roman Empire did, but will *not* remain united just as *iron* does *not* bond with *clay*. The division that will exist within the kingdom of the *Beast* will be due to the *mixture* of peoples who will make up this kingdom, and is further evidenced by how the *Beast* will be forced to *subdue* three of the kings.

The Ruler Who Will Come

Further testimony that the *Beast* will come from the remnants of the Ancient Roman Empire is given to us in another prophecy by Daniel that tells us that the *Ruler Who Will Come*—will come from the people who will *destroy the city and the sanctuary*.

...“The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.” Dan. 9:26-27

The description of the people of the *Ruler Who Will Come*, who will destroy the city and sanctuary, is another reference to the Ancient Roman Empire that invaded the land of Israel and destroyed the city of Jerusalem and its sanctuary in 70 A.D. Daniel said that the *Ruler Who Will Come*, would come from these same people.

All of the above points to the *Beast* as being the head of a nation, which, itself, will be part of a *Ten-Nation Coalition* of European, Middle Eastern, and North African countries, whose descendants once formed the Ancient Roman Empire, and who will give their power and authority to the *Beast*.

Fatal Wound

One event, in particular, will gain the attention and admiration of the whole world towards the *Beast*. In this event, one of the *heads* (kings) of the *Beast* will suffer a *fatal wound*, but the wound will be healed. When the king comes back to life, it will fill the world with wonder and will add to their awe of the *Beast*.

One of the *heads* of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. People worshiped the dragon (Satan) because he had given authority to the *beast*, and they also worshiped the *beast* and asked, “Who is like the *beast*? Who can wage war against it?” Rev. 13:3-4

The account of the *Beast* with the fatal wound is another instance where the symbolism of the *Beast* is used to describe both a *king* and his *kingdom*. In this case, the *Beast* with ten heads is a description of the *kingdom* of the *Beast*, which will consist of ten kings (*heads*). The king with the fatal wound is the *Beast* himself who will seemingly come back from the dead. When the *Beast* recovers from the fatal wound, it will amaze the *Inhabitants of the Earth* who will worship the *Beast*. The description of the *beast* who comes back to life can also be applied to the *kingdom of the Beast*, which, as a re-emergence of the Ancient Roman Empire, will also amaze the *Inhabitants of the Earth*.

The Beast and the Great Tribulation

After identifying the *Beast* as a future *kingdom* that will rise up from the descendants of the Ancient Roman Empire, we are then given another description of the *Great Tribulation*, which will be carried out by the *Beast* following the *Attack on Jerusalem*.

The *beast* was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for *forty-two months*. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. It was given power to *wage war* against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the *beast*—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. Whoever has ears, let them hear. "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for *patient endurance* and *faithfulness* on the part of God's people. Rev. 13:5-10

The description of the *Beast* who will exercise his authority for forty-two months is another description of the 3 ½ years following the *Attack on Jerusalem* when the armies of the *Beast* will occupy the city. During this period, the *Dragon* (Satan) will empower the *Beast* to *wage a war* against God's people in the events of the *Great Tribulation*. In this description of the *Great Tribulation*, we learn that during this time, the *Beast* will gain authority over every *tribe, people, language, and nation*.

The False Prophet

The rise of the *Beast* will be facilitated by the accompanying rise of a *False Prophet* who is described as the *Second Beast*. The *Second Beast* will come out of the *earth* and will speak the words of the *dragon*.

Then I saw a *second beast*, coming out of the earth. It had two horns *like a lamb*, but it spoke *like a dragon*. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And it performed great *signs*, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Rev. 13:11-13

The *False Prophet* will augment his message with great *signs* including making lightning come from the sky. The signs of the *Second Beast* will be similar in purpose to those performed by Pharaoh's magicians in the days of Moses and Aaron. At that time, the sorcerers of Egypt performed wonders that were comparable to those of the two prophets in order to detract from their message.^[5] In the same way, during the rise of the *Beast*, the signs of the *False Prophet* will delude the *Inhabitants of the Earth* into worshipping the *Beast* and ignoring the warnings of the *Two Witnesses*.

With these signs he (the *False Prophet*) had deluded those who had received the mark of the *Beast* and worshiped its image. Rev. 19:20

The rise of the *False Prophet* will culminate with the *Attack on Jerusalem*, when the *Beast* will kill the *Two Witnesses*, which leave the *False Prophet* as the leading prophetic voice in the land. (To read about the *Two Witnesses* see [Revelation Chapter 11](#).)

During the *Great Tribulation*, the *False Prophet* will impose the worship of the *Beast* and will order *all* those who refuse to worship the *Beast* to be killed. In addition, the *Second Beast* will implement the *Mark of the Beast*, which is the number of the *Beast* that everyone will be forced to receive in order to buy or sell.

Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast (the *False Prophet*) was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a *mark* on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. Rev. 13:14-17

This chapter ends with a call to those who have wisdom and insight to calculate the number of the *Beast*, which is 666.

This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666. Rev. 13:18

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines (Seals 1-4)**
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge (5th. Seal)** – The 144,000 are sealed
 - 1/3 of earth is burned up in world-wide drought (1st. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of sea turns to blood, Satan's kingdom defeated (2nd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of waters are poisoned, Satan cast out (3rd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of Israel is struck, the Attack on Jerusalem (4th. Trumpet)
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – the full number of God's people are killed
 - The Plague of Locusts (5th. Trumpet)
 - The Plague of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur (6th. Trumpet)

- 4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm** – the Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal, 7th. Trumpet)
- 5. Silence in Heaven** – the enemies of God are defeated (7th. Seal)
- 6. The Reign of Christ on Earth**

Revelation 14

In this chapter, the *Revelation* summarizes the events that were shown to John through the sounding of the *Seven Trumpets* beginning with a description of the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* who will be sealed before the judgments of the *Seven Trumpets* begin. (The *144,000* are described in Chapter 7, and the events of the *Seven Trumpets* are described in Chapter 8.)

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. Rev. 14:1

Whenever we read about the Lord ruling from *Mount Zion*; we are reading about the *Reign of Christ on Earth*. Accordingly, when John sees the *144,000* standing with the Lamb on *Mount Zion*, it tells us that the *144,000 From all the Tribes of Israel* will live through the judgments of the *Seven Trumpets* and will rule with Christ on earth following these events. (We will read more about *Reign of Christ on Earth* in a later chapter.)

The First Three Trumpets

After being shown the *144,000* who will reign with Christ on Mount Zion, John was given an overview of the events of the *Seven Trumpets* beginning with an announcement concerning the judgments of the *First Three Trumpets*

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." Rev 14: 6-7

The elements that are described in the above passages, namely, the *heavens*, the *earth*, the sea, and the *springs of water*, are the same elements that are described in the events of the *First Three Trumpets* as follows.

1.) When the *First Trumpet* is sounded the *heavens* will be shut up, causing a world-wide drought, and a third of the *earth* will be burned up.

The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. Rev. 8:7

2.) When the *Second Trumpet* is sounded, a third of the *sea* will turn to blood.

The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Rev. 8:8-9

3.) When the *Third Trumpet* is sounded the *springs of water* will become bitter.

The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the *springs of water*— the name of the star is Wormwood. *A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.* Rev. 8:10-11

In the above verses, we see how the description of the *Hour of God's Judgment* contains the same elements that were shown to John through the sounding of the *First Three Trumpets*. The mention of the gospel being carried to every nation, language, tribe, and people is also a reference to the *First Three Trumpets*, and the *Two Witnesses* who will announce these judgments, and whose words will be carried to everyone on earth.

And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” They have power to shut up the *heavens* so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the *waters* into blood and to strike the *earth* with every kind of plague as often as they want. Rev. 11:3 4-6

The Fourth Trumpet

Next, John was shown the events of the *Fourth Trumpet* through the description of the fall of *Babylon the Great* who will make the nations follow in her adulteries.

A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is *Babylon the Great,*’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.” Rev. 14:8

In the *Scriptures*, when a city is symbolically referred to as *Babylon*, it is a reference to the ancient city of Babylon where man first organized a collective *rebellion* against God.[1] When the city of the *Beast* is called *Babylon the Great*, it tells us that the rebellious city will eclipse the sin of the *first* Babylon and will serve as the culmination of all other rebellions that have occurred against God. The actual identity of the city is made known to us when we read that the city will commit the sin of *adultery* with the nations. As the *only* nation that has been *married* to God, *only* the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem can commit the sin of *adultery* against Him, which would make Jerusalem the city known as *Babylon the Great*. [2] The transformation of Jerusalem into *Babylon the Great* will take place after the *Attack on Jerusalem*, when the *Two Witnesses* will be killed and the *Beast* (the antichrist) will occupy the city as described in the events of the *Fourth Trumpet*. During this attack, a *Remnant* will escape by fleeing into the wilderness where they will be kept safe for 3 1/2 years. Following the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the *Beast* will rule his kingdom from the fallen city known as *Babylon the Great*, and the *Great Tribulation* will begin. During the *Great Tribulation*, all those who refuse to worship the *Beast* will be killed. (The *Beast* and the *Great Tribulation* are described in [Chapter 13](#).) The eventual destruction of the *Beast* and his kingdom will be announced by the angel who will call out “Fallen! Fallen is *Babylon the Great*”.

The above description is followed by the warning concerning the *Inhabitants of the Earth* who will worship the *Beast* and receive his mark. Unlike the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel*,

who will reign with Christ on *Mount Zion*, those who take the *Mark of the Beast* will be tormented with burning sulfur for ever and ever.

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. Rev. 14:9-12

In addition to the above warning, John heard a voice from heaven pronounce a special blessing over those who will be killed for refusing to worship the *Beast* or receive his *mark*.

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” Rev. 14:13

In a later chapter, we will read how the blessing that will follow the *Martyrs of the Great Tribulation* will take place during the *1,000 Year Reign of Christ*, when the *Martyrs of the Great Tribulation* will be resurrected to reign with Christ and the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel*.

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet

After the events of the *Great Tribulation*, the *Wrath of God* will be poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth* through the judgments of the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets*, which will announce the *Plague of Locusts* that will cause people to long to die, and the *Plagues of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur* that will kill a third of mankind. In the following verses these judgments are described as the *Son of Man* swinging of a sharp sickle through the harvest. We are told that the harvest will be *ripe*, meaning the escalating sin of mankind will reach its height before the Son of Man cuts down the wicked just as a sickle cuts through ripened grain.

I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Rev. 14:14-16

(You can read about the judgments of the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets* in [Chapter 9](#).)

In addition to the above judgments, the next verses describe how the armies’ of the nations will be gathered to *Armageddon* in a desperate attempt to destroy the *Hidden Remnant* who will have been kept safe from the *Beast* during the entire 3 1/2 years of the *Great Tribulation*. When the armies of the *Beast* surround the *Hidden Remnant*, a *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm*

will destroy the armies of the nations.

Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp *sickle* and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great *winepress* of God's wrath. They were trampled in the *winepress* outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. Rev. 14:17-20

4ft high for 185 miles

In the above passages, the *Battle of Armageddon* is compared to the the harvesting of grapes, when the wicked will be thrown into the *winepress* of His wrath and crushed until their blood flows as high as the horses' bridles. These same events were described by the prophet *Joel* who also used the imagery of the trampling of grapes in a *winepress* to describe how the armies of the nation's will be gathered together and then destroyed.

"Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the *sickle*, for the harvest is *ripe*. Come, trample the grapes, for the *winepress* is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!" Joel 3:12-13

NOTE: *In a later chapter, we will read how the armies of the nations will be gathered at Armageddon but will advance to the Valley of Jehoshaphat where the actual "Battle of Armageddon" will take place.*

The Seventh Trumpet

Following the trampling down of God's enemies at the *Battle of Armageddon*, the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel* will be gathered to Jerusalem and the *Reign of Christ on Earth* will begin as described in the events of the *Seventh Trumpet*.

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." Rev. 11:15

Combining all of the above, we get the following summary of the events of the *Seven Trumpets* as listed below.

The Seven Trumpets and their Related Events

- Prior to the sounding of the *Seven Trumpets*, the *144,000 from all the Tribes* will be sealed. This *Faithful Remnant* will live through the events of the *Seven Trumpets* and will reign with Christ on earth following the sounding of the *Seventh Trumpet*.
- Following the sealing of the *144,000*, the plagues on the *heavens*, the *earth*, the *sea*, and the *springs of water* will be called down by the *Two Witnesses* as a warning to the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. These same events are described in the sounding of the *First Three Trumpets*.

- The *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to God’s testing by attacking Jerusalem and killing the *Two Witnesses*, as described in the events of the **Fourth Trumpet**, when the *sun, moon, and stars* will be struck. (The sun, moon, and stars represent Israel. See: **Gen. 37:1-11, Rev. 12:1-6**)
- When Jerusalem is attacked, a *Remnant* will escape into the wilderness where they will be kept hidden for 3 1/2 years.
- After attacking Jerusalem, the armies of the Gentiles will occupy Jerusalem for 42 months, and the *Beast* will establish his rule in the fallen city. During this period, *Fallen Jerusalem* will be given the name of *Babylon the Great* who will lead the nations astray in her adulteries.
- During the 42 months that the *Beast* occupies Jerusalem, the *Great Tribulation* will take place. Those who take the *Mark of the Beast* during this period will later be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the Lamb forever and ever, while those who are killed by the *Beast*, for refusing to take his mark, will be blessed and will, later, be resurrected to reign with Christ along with the *144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel*.
- Following the *Great Tribulation*, the *Wrath of God* will be poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth* as described in the events of the **Fifth and Sixth Trumpets** when the *Plague of Locusts* will cause people to *long to die*, and the *Plagues of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur* will *kill a third of mankind*.
- After the Plagues of the **Fifth and Sixth Trumpets**, the *Beast* will lead the nations in an attempt to destroy the *Hidden Remnant*, who will have been kept safe in the wilderness throughout the 3 1/2 years of the *Great Tribulation*.
- When the armies of the *Beast* surround the *Hidden Remnant* of Israel, the **Seventh Trumpet** will be sounded and a *Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm* will destroy the surrounding armies of the *Beast* at the *Battle of Armageddon*, which is described as the Lord trampling His enemies like grapes in a great winepress. This same earthquake will destroy the city from which the *Beast* will rule known as *Babylon the Great*.
- The defeat of God’s enemies at the *Battle of Armageddon* will be followed by the loud voices that will announce the *Reign of Christ on Earth* after the events of the **Seventh Trumpet** have been completed.

The Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines** (Seals 1-4)
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge** (5th. Seal) – The 144,000 are sealed
 - 1/3 of earth is burned up in world-wide drought (1st. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of sea turns to blood, Satan’s kingdom defeated (2nd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of waters are poisoned, Satan cast out (3rd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of Israel is struck, the Attack on Jerusalem (4th. Trumpet)
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – The full number of God’s people are killed
 - The Plague of Locusts (5th. Trumpet)
 - The Plague of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur (6th. Trumpet)
- 4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm** – The Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal, 7th. Trumpet)
- 5. Silence in Heaven** – The defeat of God’s enemies (7th. Seal)
- 6. The Reign of Christ on Earth**

Revelation 15

The Seven Last Plagues

In this chapter, the *Revelation* returns to the description of the order of events of the *Last Days* and the pouring out of the *Seven Last Plagues*.

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is *completed*. Rev. 15:1

The *Seven Last Plagues* will come in addition to the judgments of the *Seven Trumpets* and will complete the *Wrath of God* on the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. As in previous events, the timing of the *Seven Last Plagues* is made known to us by who John saw at the Throne of God before the *Seven Last Plagues* were poured out.

And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb. Rev. 15:2-3

In these verses, those who were *victorious* over the *Beast* and the number of his name is a description of those who will refuse to take the *Mark of the Beast* and who will be killed in the events of the *Great Tribulation*. When John testified that he saw the pouring out of the *Seven Last Plagues*, *after*, he saw the *Martyrs of the Great Tribulation* at the Throne of God, it tells us that the *Seven Last Plagues* will take place *after* the events of the *Great Tribulation*. This follows the pattern of how John was shown the *Ascension of Christ* prior to the opening of the *Seven Seals*, and how he saw the *Martyrs in Heaven* before the sounding of the *Seven Trumpets*. In each case, *who* John sees at the Throne of God tells us where we are at in the *Timeline of Events* before the next events begin on earth.

More information concerning the specific timing of the *Seven Last Plagues* is given to us in the naming of the plagues themselves. In order to be the *Last* plagues, the *Seven Last Plagues* must start *after* the plagues of the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets*, and *end* during the final plague of the *Seventh Trumpet* when the enemies of God will be destroyed by a *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm* at the *Battle of Armageddon*.

The Seven Last Plagues and the Seven Trumpets

The relationship between the *Seven Last Plagues* and the *Seven Trumpets* can be seen in how, earlier, we read that at the end of the *Last Days*, the *Martyrs in Heaven* who have been killed since the time of Christ will pray for their blood to be *avenged*.

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you *judge* the inhabitants of

the earth and *avenge* our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. Rev. 6:9-11

In answer to their prayer's, the *Martyr's in Heaven* will be told that their blood will not be avenged *until* the full number of their brothers and sisters were killed just as they had been. Accordingly, following the prayer of the *Martyrs in Heaven*, the *Two Witnesses* will be sent to warn the *Inhabitants of the Earth* of the judgments to come when the prayer's of the *Martyrs in Heaven* will be answered. The preaching of the *Two Witnesses* will be accompanied by the *Plagues on the Land, the Sea, and the Trees* of the *First Three Trumpets*, which will serve as additional warnings to the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. Rather than repenting at the sight of these plagues, and the preaching of the *Two Witnesses*, the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will kill the two prophets in the events of the *Attack on Jerusalem* as described by the *Fourth Trumpet*. (See Chapter 11) The *Attack on Jerusalem* will be followed by the *Great Tribulation* when the *Inhabitants of the Earth* will kill the *full number* of God's people. This, in-turn, will fulfill the condition given to the *Martyrs in Heaven*, and the judgments of the *Last Three Trumpets* will be poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth* in order to avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven* as promised.

Having understood the above events of the *Seven Trumpets*, in this chapter, we read that seven additional plagues will be poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. The purpose of the *Seven Last Plagues* will be to avenge the blood of those killed in the *Great Tribulation* itself. In this way, the *Wrath of God* will be completed on the *Inhabitants of the Earth* for *all* the blood of God's people that has been shed since the time of Christ, including the blood of those killed in the *Great Tribulation*.

All of the above adds to our understanding of the events of the *Last Days* as follows:

- When the *Martyrs in Heaven* pray for judgment and revenge, they will be told that they must wait until the *full number* of their brothers and sisters were killed just as they had been.
- Following the *Prayer of the Martyrs in Heaven*, *Two Witnesses* will begin preaching in Jerusalem and calling down plagues in order to warn the *Inhabitants of the Earth* of the judgments to come as a result of the above prayer.
- The *Inhabitants of the Earth* will respond to the warnings of the *Two Witnesses* by attacking Jerusalem and killing the two prophets.
- After the *Attack on Jerusalem*, the *Beast* will occupy the fallen city, and the *Great Tribulation* will begin when the *full number* of God's servants will be killed.
- Following the *Great Tribulation*, the condition given to the *Martyrs in Heaven* will have been met, and God will avenge the blood of the *Martyrs in Heaven* through the plagues of the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets*.
- Following the plagues of the *Fifth* and *Sixth Trumpets* God will avenge the blood of those killed in the *Great Tribulation*, itself, through the *Seven Last Plagues*.

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

The *Seven Last Plagues* are also known as the *Seven Bowls of God's Wrath* because *Seven Bowls*

will be given to the *Seven Angels* to pour out the plagues.

After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, and the seven angels who had the *seven plagues* came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels *seven golden bowls* full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. Rev. 15:6-7

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines (Seals 1-4)**
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge (5th. Seal)** – The 144,000 are sealed
 - 1/3 of earth is burned up in world-wide drought (1st. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of sea turns to blood, Satan’s kingdom defeated (2nd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of waters are poisoned, Satan cast out (3rd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of Israel is struck, the Attack on Jerusalem (4th. Trumpet)
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – the full number of God’s people are killed
 - The Plague of Locusts (5th. Trumpet)
 - The Plague of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur (6th. Trumpet)
 - The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath – to be announced
- 4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm** – the Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal, 7th. Trumpet)
- 5. Silence in Heaven** – the enemies of God are defeated (7th. Seal)
- 6. The Reign of Christ on Earth**

Revelation 16

The Seven Bowl of God’s Wrath

In this chapter, we are given the description of the *Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath*, which will pour out the *Seven Last Plagues*. The pouring out of the *Seven Bowls* will complete the *Wrath of God* against the *Inhabitants of the Earth* who will shed the blood of God’s holy people during the *Great Tribulation*. The first of these plagues will cause festering boils to break out on those who take the *Mark of the Beast*.

The *first* angel went and poured out his *bowl* on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. Rev. 16:2

When the *Second Bowl* is poured out, every living creature in the sea will die^[1], and when the *Third Bowl* is poured out, the rivers and springs of water will turn into blood.

The *second* angel poured out his *bowl* on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died. Rev. 16:3

The *third* angel poured out his *bowl* on the rivers and springs of water, and they became

blood. Rev. 16:4

When the *Seven Bowls of God's Wrath* are poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, the voice of the martyrs at the alter of God will respond by proclaiming that God's judgments are true and just.

Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments." Rev. 16:5-7

The above exchange is a reference back to the events of the *Fifth Seal* when John first saw the *Martyrs in Heaven* praying at the Throne of God for judgment and revenge. At that time, the martyrs were told that their blood would *not* be avenged until the full number of their brothers and sisters were killed in the *Great Tribulation*.

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you *judge* the inhabitants of the earth and *avenge* our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. Rev. 6:9-11

Following the *Great Tribulation*, these martyrs will declare that God is true and just when they witness the *Wrath of God* being poured out on the *Inhabitants of the Earth* as promised.

Despite the suffering that the worshipers of the *Beast* will experience during the events of the *Seven Last Plagues*, they will refuse to repent and glorify God as can be seen in the events of the *Fourth Bowl*.

The *fourth* angel poured out his *bowl* on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. Rev. 16:8-9

The Battle of Armageddon

Following the events of the *Fifth Bowl*, which will cause darkness to fall over the kingdom of the *Beast*, the *Sixth Bowl* will be poured out to make way for the kings from the East. In addition to the kings from the East, the *Dragon*, the *Beast* and the *False Prophet* will send out demonic spirits to entice the decimated kings of the world to gather at *Armageddon*.

The *sixth* angel poured out his *bowl* on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of

God Almighty. "Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed." Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called *Armageddon*. Rev. 16:12-16

In the above verses, the *dragon* represents Satan, the *Beast* is another name for the antichrist, and the *False Prophet* is the one who will cause anyone who does not worship the *Beast* to be killed. Together, these three will send out demons in order to gather the kings of the whole world to battle. At the time of the gathering of the kings to *Armageddon*, the *Remnant of Israel*, who will escape into the wilderness during the *Attack on Jerusalem*, will be the *only* nation or group of people, left on earth, who are openly defying the *Beast*. (To read about the *Remnant* who will escape during the *Attack on Jerusalem*, see Revelation Chapter 8.) Accordingly, the gathering of the armies at *Armageddon* will be an attempt by *Satan*, the *Beast*, and the *False Prophet* to strike back at God by striking His people.

When the armies of the nations encircle the *Remnant* of Israel, the *Seventh Bowl* will be poured out and a severe *earthquake* and huge *hailstones* will destroy the gathered host.

The *seventh* angel poured out his *bowl* into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a *severe earthquake*. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The *great city* split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered *Babylon the Great* and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge *hailstones*, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. Rev. 16:17-21

When the *Seventh Bowl* is poured out, a loud voice will announce, "*It is Done*", signifying how the *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm* of the *Seventh Bowl* will complete the *Wrath of God* on the *Inhabitants of the Earth*. These are the same events that were originally shown to John through the opening of the *Sixth Seal* when the generals and everyone else will hide in caves from the same *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm*.

I watched as he opened the *sixth seal*. There was a *great earthquake*. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, *hid in caves* and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" Rev. 6:12-16

These are *also* the same events that are described in the sounding of the *Seventh Trumpet*, which will announce the *Reign of Christ* on earth and the same *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm*.

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” Rev. 11:15

Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, 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. Rev. 11:19

In each of the above accounts, we read of the *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm*, which will destroy the armies of the *Beast* at the *Battle of Armageddon*, and that will cause everyone to hide in caves. In the description of the pouring out of the *Seventh Bowl*, we learn the additional information that the *Great Earthquake* will be larger than any earthquake that has ever occurred on earth, and the *Severe Hailstorm* will contain hailstones that weigh about a hundred pounds. In this way, the events of the *Seven Seals*, the *Seven Trumpets* and the *Seven Bowls* will all conclude with the *Battle of Armageddon*.

NOTE: The Revelation is divided up into Three Sections that take place in consecutive order. The First Section consist of the first three chapters of the Revelation, which contain John’s vision of Christ and the Letters to the Seven Churches. The Second Section contains the chapters that describe of the opening of the Seven Seals, the sounding of Seven Trumpets, and the pouring out to the Seven Bowls. The Third Section contains the final three chapters that describe the events that will occur following the Battle of Armageddon, including the Reign of Christ on Earth and the Day of Judgment. In this way, the Revelation is written in consecutive order with the events of the First Section being followed by the events of the Second Section, which, in turn, are followed by the events of the Third Section. Within this order, the events that are described in the Second Section, including the Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, and Seven Bowls, overlap one another.

Babylon the Great

The destruction of the armies of the *Beast* at the *Battle of Armageddon* will also lead to the destruction of the city from which he will rule known as *Babylon the Great*.

The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered *Babylon the Great* and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Rev. 16:19

When the *Great Earthquake* destroys the armies of the *Beast* at the *Battle of Armageddon*, it will also strike the *great city* known as *Babylon the Great*, which will serve as the center of his rule. The use of the words, the *great city*, to describe *Babylon the Great* are the same words that are used to describe Jerusalem in the events of the *Two Witnesses*.

Their (the *Two Witnesses*) bodies will lie in the public square of the *great city*—which is figuratively called *Sodom* and *Egypt*—where also their Lord was crucified (Jerusalem). Rev. 11:8

When we read that, both, *Babylon the Great* and Jerusalem are described as the *great city*, it tells us that Jerusalem is the city that is symbolically referred to as *Babylon the Great*. In this verse, Jerusalem is *also* figuratively called *Sodom* and *Egypt*, which is a description of how under the rule of the *Beast*, Jerusalem will become a slave to sin (Egypt), and will lead the rebellion against God (Babylon), before she is destroyed at the *Battle of Armageddon* for her wickedness (Sodom).

The future rule of the *Beast* over Jerusalem can also be seen in the following prophecy by *Daniel* that describes how the *Beast* will invade Israel and *pitch his royal tents* at the *beautiful holy mountain*.

“The king (the *Beast*) will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place... He will also invade the Beautiful Land (Israel). Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Cushites in submission. But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain (Mount Zion). Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.” Dan. 11:36, 41-45

In these verses, the *king* is identified as the *Beast* by how he is described as subduing the three nation of Egypt, Libya, and Cush, which corresponds with how earlier we read that the *Beast* will subdue three of the ten kings in his coalition.^[2] The *Beast* is further identified by how he will *annihilate many*, which refers to the events of the *Sixth Trumpet* when the *Beast* will fight a war against the nations from the *north* and *east* and a *third of mankind* will be killed. Having identified the king as the *Beast*, we are then told that he will *set up his tents* at the beautiful, holy mountain (*Mount Zion*), which is to say the *Beast* will establish his headquarters in Jerusalem after attacking the city. When the *Beast* establishes his rule on *Mount Zion*, the fallen city of Jerusalem will lead the world in the rebellion against God as *Babylon the Great* just as the ancient city of Babylon once did. When the armies of the *Beast* are destroyed by the *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm* at the *Battle of Armageddon*, the city of the *Beast* will *also* be destroyed and the *Reign of Christ* on earth will begin.

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines** (Seals 1-4)
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge** (5th. Seal) – The 144,000 are sealed
 - 1/3 of earth is burned up in world-wide drought (1st. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of sea turns to blood, Satan’s kingdom defeated (2nd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of waters are poisoned, Satan cast out (3rd. Trumpet)
 - 1/3 of Israel is struck, the Attack on Jerusalem (4th. Trumpet)
- 3. The Great Tribulation** – the full number of God’s people are killed
 - The Plague of Locusts (5th. Trumpet)

– The Plague of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur (6th. Trumpet)

– The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath (Bowls 1-5)

– The nations are gathered at Armageddon (6th Bowl)

4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm – the Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal, 7th. Trumpet, 7th. Bowl)

5. Silence in Heaven – the enemies of God are defeated (7th. Seal)

6. The Reign of Christ on Earth

Revelation 17

The Great Prostitute

Following the account of the pouring out of the *Seven Bowls of God's Wrath*, the *Revelation* continues the description of the city from which the *Beast* will rule known as *Babylon the Great*. In this chapter, *Babylon the Great* is also described as the *Great Prostitute*, which is a reference to how, after *Jerusalem* comes under the rule of the *Beast* (the antichrist), she will sell herself to the kings of the earth and will be used by the nations to commit sins against God.[1]

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the *great prostitute*, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet *beast* that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. The name written on her forehead was a mystery: *babylon the great* the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth. I saw that the *woman* was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. Rev. 17:1-6

In the description of the *Great Prostitute*, the *woman* is described as sitting by many waters, which is a *literal* description of how the kingdom of the *Beast* will consist of the nations that encircle the Mediterranean Sea, and a *symbolic* description of how *Fallen Jerusalem* will rule over the Gentiles nations. (In the *Revelation*, water or oceans represent the Gentiles.[2]) When the *woman* is described as sitting on the *Beast*, it is a word picture that describes how *Fallen Jerusalem* will derive her power and wealth from the *Beast* who will rule his kingdom from the city. When the *woman* is seen drunk with the blood of God's holy people, it is a description of how the *Beast* will conduct his *war* against God's people (the *Great Tribulation*) from *Fallen Jerusalem*.

When John saw *Fallen Jerusalem* portrayed as the *Great Prostitute*, he was greatly astonished, which prompted the angel to explain to him the mystery of the *woman*. The rest of this chapter contains the angel's explanation of how *Jerusalem* will become the *Great Prostitute* known as *Babylon the Great*.

Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the *woman* and of the *beast* she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. The *beast*, which you saw, *once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the *beast*, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.*" Rev. 17:7-8

The history of the *Great Prostitute* begins with a description of the rise of the *Beast*, which was,

now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss. This is the same description of the *Beast* that we read about in Chapter 13. As we discussed in that chapter, the description of the *Beast* rising from the dead can refer to either the *Beast* who will suffer the fatal wound, but whose fatal wound will be healed, or the *kingdom of the Beast*, which will emerge from the ruins of the Ancient Roman Empire. In both cases, when the *Beast* comes back from the dead, it will astonish the *Inhabitants of the Earth*.

Next, John was given more information concerning the seven *heads* of the *Beast*, which are described as seven *mountains*.

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven *mountains*[3] on which the woman sits, and they are seven *kings*; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth[4] and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. Rev. 17: 9-11 *NASB

Earlier, we discovered that when the word *mountain* is used symbolically in the *Scriptures*, it represents a *kingdom*. (See Revelation 8: the *Second Trumpet*) Accordingly, when John is told that the seven heads of the *Beast* represent seven *mountains* and seven *kings*, it is a reference to the seven *kingdoms* that will precede the kingdom of the *Beast* and the seven kings that will give their power to the *Beast*. (Ten kings will start off following the *Beast*, but he will subdue three of them. (See Revelation Chapter 13)

In the description of the seven *mountains*, the seven *kingdoms* are described as five that have *fallen*, one *which is*, and one that *has not yet come*. The kingdom, *which is*, refers to the Ancient Roman Empire that ruled over Jerusalem at the time of the writing of the *Revelation*. The five kingdoms that *have fallen* are the five kingdoms that preceded the Roman Empire and that also, once, ruled over Israel. Namely, the kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece. The kingdom that will remain a *little while* is a description of the rule of the British Empire, which was given governorship over Jerusalem following the fall of the Ottoman Empire in World I, but whose rule ended prematurely when Britain pulled out of the Holy Land following World War II. (The passing over of the Ottoman Empire, which ruled over Judea in the centuries leading up to the First World War, is consistent with how the *Revelation* is written, which describes the events of John's lifetime and then skips to the final events of the *Last Days*.) The eighth kingdom to rule over Israel will be the kingdom of the *Beast* that *belongs to the seven*, which is to say that the kingdom of the *Beast* will rule over Jerusalem as the seven previous kingdoms had.

Following the description of the seven kingdoms that will precede the kingdom of the *Beast*, John was given more information concerning the *kings* who will give their power to the *Beast*.

“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have *one purpose* and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.” ...” The beast and the ten horns you

saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God's words are fulfilled.” Rev. 17:12-17

The ten kings who will follow the *Beast* will be given authority along with the *Beast* and will form the army that will eventually attack Jerusalem, which is identified as the *prostitute*. Once the *Beast* conquers Jerusalem and makes it the center of his rule, the city will become the *Great Prostitute* who will lead the world astray in her adulteries

The above verses tell us that the ten kings who will give their power to the *Beast* will submit to the *Beast* for the *one purpose* of destroying Israel. The lack of loyalty to the *Beast*, himself, will lead to the rebellion of three of the kings who will be subdued by the *Beast*.

A Surprise Attack

In the description of the kingdom of the *Beast*, we are given a possible scenario for how the *Attack on Jerusalem* will take place. Earlier, we read that the *Attack on Jerusalem* will come as a complete surprise to the people living in the city who will be forced to flee to the wilderness without gathering any of their possessions.

“When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out.” Mk. 13:14-15

The above circumstances seem hard to imagine in the modern era of military satellites that would make the surrounding of a city, without being detected, nearly impossible. We must, therefore, assume that the armies that will attack Jerusalem will already be in proximity to the city based on some other “peaceful” pretext before the attack begins. One such scenario can be inferred from the description of the *Ten-Nation Coalition*, whose armies will come from the territories surrounding Israel and whose formation will most likely be promoted as a “peace-keeping” force in the region. This development would allow for the armies of the *Beast* to be placed in and around Jerusalem for its “peace” and “safety” without causing any alarm. From this position, the gathered forces will be able to suddenly surround and attack Jerusalem, as described in the *Gospel* accounts.

Although the *Attack on Jerusalem* will occur at a pre-determined *day* and *hour* that *no one knows but the Father*,^[5] the people living in Jerusalem have been given the *signs* to watch for that will warn them before this attack takes place. The Lord has forewarned His people that when they *see the Abomination that Causes Desolation* at the Temple and Jerusalem being *surrounded by armies*, they are to flee to the mountains.

The Great City

The final verse of this chapter ends by telling us that the *woman*, with the name *Babylon the*

Great written on her head is the *great city*.

The woman you saw is the *great city* that rules over the kings of the earth.” Rev. 17:18

When the woman known as the *Great Prostitute* is described as being the *great city*, it corresponds with how both Jerusalem and *Babylon the Great* are also identified as the *great city* and confirms how, under the rule of the *Beast*, Jerusalem will lead the rebellion against God as *Babylon the Great* and will commit adultery with the kings of the earth as the *Great Prostitute*.

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the public square of the *great city*—which is figuratively called *Sodom* and *Egypt*—where also their Lord was crucified (Jerusalem).

Rev. 11:1-3, 7-8

The *great city* split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered *Babylon the Great* and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Rev. 16:19

Order of Events of the Last Days

- 1. Wars, Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, and Famines (Seals 1-4)**
- 2. The Martyrs Pray for Judgment and Revenge (5th. Seal) – The 144,000 are sealed**
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- 3. The Great Tribulation – the full number of God’s people are killed**
 - The Plague of Locusts (5th. Trumpet)
 - The Plague of Fire, Smoke, and Sulfur (6th. Trumpet)
 - The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath (Bowls 1 -5)
 - The kings and generals are gathered at Armageddon (6th Bowl)
- 4. The Great Earthquake and Severe Hailstorm – the Battle of Armageddon (6th. Seal, 7th. Trumpet, 7th. Bowl)**
- 5. Silence in Heaven – the enemies of God are defeated (7th. Seal)**
- 6. The Reign of Christ on Earth**

Revelation 18

The Fall of Babylon the Great

Chapter 18 picks up where *Chapter 17* leaves off and continues the story of the fall of the *great city* known as *Babylon the Great*, which is a description of the city of Jerusalem after it comes under the rule of the *Beast*. The fall of *Babylon the Great* will take place at the *Battle of Armageddon* when the *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm* will destroy the armies of the *Beast*. As described in the previous chapters, this same *Great Earthquake* will also destroy the city from which the *Beast* will rule known as *Babylon the Great*.

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Prior to being destroyed by the *Great Earthquake*, the fallen city of Jerusalem will be completely given over to wickedness and will lead the nations into committing acts of immorality against God. In addition, the merchants of the world will flock to *Babylon the Great* and will grow rich by the wealth of her sensuality. As a result, God’s people are warned to come out from the *great city* in order to *not* participate in her sins or receive her plagues.

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The destruction of the *Babylon the Great* will be followed by *three woes*, which are reminiscent of the *Three Woes* that were pronounced over the *Inhabitants of the Earth* during the sounding of the *Last Three Trumpets*. (See *Revelation Chapter 8*) In this case, the *three woes* will be proclaimed over *Babylon the Great* by the kings, merchants, and sea captains who will mourn over her destruction.

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!’ Rev. 18:9-10

The *first woe* to be pronounced over *Babylon the Great* will come from the kings of the earth who will share in her luxury. These kings will announce that in one hour her doom has come, which is a reference to how the great city will suddenly be destroyed by the *Great Earthquake* that will also destroy the armies of the *Beast* at the *Battle of Armageddon*.

The *second woe* will be pronounced by the merchants of the world, who will have gained great wealth from the city, and who will be terrified by her destruction.

The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn and cry out: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!” Rev. 18:15-16

Finally, the sea captains, who will also become rich from the wealth of the great city, will mourn and weep over her demise.

In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’ “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!” Rev 18:17-19

The mention of sea captains and merchants who will be dismayed by the fall of the *Babylon the Great* reflects how the kingdom of the *Beast* will include the great port cities of the Mediterranean Sea, which will belong to the ten nations that will follow the *Beast*. (See *Revelation Chapter 13* to read about the ten nations that will follow the *Beast*.) The sea captains and merchants who service these ports will become rich and will be filled with mourning when *Babylon the Great* is destroyed in one hour by the *Great Earthquake*.

After describing the mourning of the kings and merchants who will weep over the fall of *Babylon the Great*, God’s people are told to rejoice over the fallen city because in her was found the blood of the prophets and all who have been slaughtered on the earth.

In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.” Rev. 18:24

The above description of *Fallen Jerusalem* corresponds with the Lord’s description of Jerusalem who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her.

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Matt. 23:37

Jerusalem’s unwillingness to receive the prophets and those who were sent to her, including the

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Revelation 18

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Revelation 19

Rejoicing over Babylon the Great

In this chapter the threefold woe over *Babylon the Great*, which was declared by the kings, merchants, and sea captains, will be countered by a threefold hallelujah from heaven.

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” Rev. 19:2

And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.” Rev. 19:3

The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!” Rev. 19:4

The Battle of Armageddon

Following the threefold hallelujah over the fall of the *Great Prostitute*, the second half of this chapter re-tells the story of the *Battle of Armageddon*, which will take place when the armies of the *Beast* attempt to destroy the *Remnant* from Israel who will flee to the mountains during the *Attack on Jerusalem*. The *Remnant from Israel* will be kept safe from the *Beast* (the *antichrist*) during the events of the *Great Tribulation*, but will become the target of their rage following the judgments that will lead to the Battle of Armageddon. (See [Revelation Chapter 8](#)) In this account of the battle, the Lord is described as the *Rider on a White Horse* who wages war.

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. Rev. 19:12-13

In these verses, the *Rider on the White Horse* is distinguished from the rider on the white horse, which we read about in the opening of the *Seven Seals*, by the *many* crowns on his head—signifying that He is the *King of Kings* and *Lord of Lords*. (The rider on the white horse of the *First Seal* had only one crown on his head, signifying his single kingship.) In addition, we are told that the *Rider* with many crowns has as his name, the *Word of God*, which identifies this *Rider* as the Son of God. When the Lord rides into battle, the *armies of heaven* will follow Him.

The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of

kings and lord of lords. Rev. 19:14-16

The account of the *armies of heaven*, who will follow the Lord into battle, is a description of the angels in heaven who engage in heavenly warfare. The picture of the angels being dressed in fine linen is a familiar theme in the *Scriptures*, where linen represents faithfulness to the Lord. This can be seen in the account of the *Seven Angels* who will pour out the *Seven Last Plagues* and who are *also* described as being dressed in fine linen.

Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining *linen* and wore golden sashes around their chests. Rev. 15:6

In the previous verses, the description of how the Lord will tread the *winepress* of the wrath of God matches the previous accounts of the *Battle of Armageddon*, which also described how the enemies of God will be cut down and thrown into the *great winepress* of the wrath of God.

“Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat,[1] for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the *sickle*, for the harvest is ripe. Come, *trample the grapes*, for the *winepress* is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!”

Joel 3:12-13

The angel swung his *sickle* on the earth, gathered its *grapes* and threw them into the great *winepress* of God’s wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. Rev. 14:19-20

When the Lord is described as riding on a horse with a sword coming out of His mouth, it does *not* mean that He will *physically* appear on a horse at the battlefield, but is the *Scripture*’s way of showing us that it will be the Lord who will bring about the *Great Earthquake* and *Severe Hailstorm* that will destroy the armies of the *Beast*.

Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. Rev 16:16-21

To the people on earth, the coming of the Lord at the *Battle of Armageddon* will appear as dark clouds, thunderstorms, and lightning, which will suddenly fill the sky and cause all the peoples on earth to mourn.

“Then will appear the *sign* of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.” Matt 24:30

Likewise, when the *Beast* and the kings of the earth are referred to as *waging war* against the rider on the horse, it is a description of how the *Beast* will attack the *Remnant of Israel*—and *not* Christ Himself.

Then I saw the *beast* and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. Rev. 19:19

Throughout history, the way that nations and individuals have fought against God has been to fight against God’s people, which is what will take place at the *Battle of Armageddon*.

The Punishment of the Beast

At the conclusion of the *Battle of Armageddon*, the *Beast* and the *False Prophet* will be thrown alive into the *Fiery Lake of Burning Sulfur*, and the dead bodies of their armies will become food for the birds of the air.

But the *beast* was captured, and with it the *false prophet* who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. *The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. Rev. 19:20-21*

In the *Scriptures*, to die by *fire* is a sign of *judgment*. In the case of the *Beast* and the *False Prophet*, when we read that they will be thrown *alive* into the *Lake of Fire*, it is a sign of their extreme rebellion against God and their corresponding punishment.

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