

We know God and His plans only to the extent that they are revealed to us, But we shall see everything face to face when they actually come to pass before us. Every generation of God's kids have had tribulations and troubles and often felt evil and the wicked seem to get away with everything...

As Job felt: *NLT Job 21:7* “*Why do the **wicked prosper**, growing old and powerful?*”

But we Christians must know now that Christ will come as king and judge (Mt. 14:62). He will come at a time when we do not expect Him. This is why we must always be on guard, awake, and vigilant as sons and daughters of the light and of the day ... It was especially true in the time of the Apostle John as John had suffered and the church was in extreme persecution which would last hundreds of years. .... around 90AD he was boiled in oil and miraculously survived Then around 90AD Domitian Roman Ceasar sentenced John, **As a political dissident to Patmos** A small island off the coast of Southern Turkey about forty miles from Ephesus... home to a Roman penal colony. Where the prisoners **were isolated from contact and influence with their followers. And then punish with hard labor...** John the apostle was the only one left of the apostles....it has been over sixty years since Jesus walked the earth with John all the other apostles have been Martyred a long time ago and almost 30 years since Paul the apostle was beheaded.

It is from there ..John sees the glory of Jesus and is given the History of the Future... Revealing the return of Christ in power and great glory to punish the wicked and establish his Kingdom on this earth and then onto eternity. This book of the bible is called Revelation

Given to John the Apostle through Jesus himself, angels and visions...

*NLT Rev 1:1 This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.*

- This is the major theme of Revelation the History of the Future how do we know it say so ...it is prophetic in nature And the only book of the bible that promises a special blessing to those who read it...

**John is commanded him to write the book we know as The Revelation the revealing of the end and into eternity... then he will show him in three stages ....**

*NLT Rev 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.*

**TIM put up      The Three fold command:**

**1)** Write down what You have seen.... The glorious Jesus and his work on earth... the one in absolute charge...

**2)** The things that are Now...which will pertain to the seven churches....to whom this book is written. And the church age

**3)** Those things to take place after this or the now....the rest of the Revelation to the end and beyond

*In Rev 1 John is told who to write the book too....*

*ESV Rev 1:<sup>11</sup> saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”*

- **This is the now...**making up chapters 2-3 Each church was personally known to John and he personally had oversight of them...
- **And these seven were chosen because they possessed spiritual conditions that were the most representative of what Jesus wanted to address as whole.**
- Each letter was directed to the needs or problems that existed in each congregation....The issues they faced would echo with God’s people through the history of the church age.
- **These churches are a lot like people no two are exactly alike. They come in different sizes and each have their own unique strengths and weakness. Each resides in a different location and context with their own blend of people within their congregation. This is true in the first century and is true in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**
- So Jesus message to each one was different. **This is true in the first century and is true in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.** Each letter was directed to the needs or problems that existed in each congregation....
- **Seven is the number of completion of totality ...so these seven churches the totality of the basic kinds of churches that will always be present on earth during the entire church age. Some of each are in every church to some degree...I wonder what is in ours?**

**The now changes by the rapture in chapter 4.**

**3) those things to take place after this or the now...**

*ESV Revelation 4:1* “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

- Twice in that verse, at the beginning and the end, we are told that John will now be shown what will take place "after this"

Meta Tauta—

- Many commentators feel that this is the place in Revelation where what is called the departure, or rapture, of the church takes place.
- For here on out we begin to enter into the judgments of God against the wicked in the heavenlies...and on the earth...
- **We have the promise of Jesus to the churches...they will be kept from this Hour....**

*Verse ESV Rev 3:10B* ....*I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*

- “and “Keep” is the Greek word, “to guard, watch over, protect,”
- From the hour of trial, or From means ...away... so from It is “the” hour (specific amount of time) of trial ...
- The context shows that of world-wide “trial”...the evil on earth and heavenlies

What are we to do in the mean time...

*NLT REV 3: <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have...what we have is our Faith!!!* Its all going to work out!

- What is he coming up there For? John will observe the rest of the book of Revelation watched from the place of heaven is to be

from heaven.

- It is most noteworthy that from here on in Revelation... the church, which has occupied center-stage through the opening chapters, is never mentioned again until the final chapters.
- There are *saints* referred to throughout the book, but the word *church* does not appear again until the Bride of the Lamb is seen at the end.
- John will be shown how God will judge the wicked and ultimately bring in complete righteousness...

**Chapter 5** John is now introduced to an item of central importance, **a scroll which contains the prophecy of impending events to be unfolded in the book of Revelation.** **The History of the Future!**

*ESV REV 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”*

- *John weeps as no one is found..*

*<sup>5</sup> And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, **has conquered**, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

*Tim show scroll...* **\*\*\*\*\*This scroll describes the history of the future.** **1) It reveals the judgments of God to be poured out on the earth. 2) Christ’s Second Coming to rightfully inherit and implement the title deed of redemption to planet earth and His righteous rule.**

- The sealed scroll is finally opened ... The tribulation is on...each

- chapters 6- 8 of Revelation we continue to see two things...the increasing judgments of God against those who hate him war, pestilence, famine, death of a third of the earth...

- Many reject him more vehemently persecuting the people... uncountable numbers of people saved through the tribulation by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists.....those who reject him vehemently persecuting and martyr God's people...

- *NLT Revelation 6:<sup>9</sup> When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. <sup>10</sup> **They shouted** to the Lord and said, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, **how long before you judge** the people who belong to this world and **avenge our blood** for what they have done to us?” <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them.*

- The souls of these martyrs call out for Justice, and God alone can provide that, and along with it, redemption for the rest of His people.

- Side note: 1) **They shouted** Have emotions 2) **how long before you judge** ...aware of time 3) **avenge our blood** ...they know what happened to them, they have memory..

- They are “**under the altar**”? these martyrs, are a sacrifice unto God and now their blood, their souls cry out to God.
- They are the ones saved through the tribulation ...**We are the bride of Christ saved from the great tribulation...**

**The opening of the seventh seal.....which has seven more judgments attached to it...are the direct result of Gods people praying...**

- **But before they sound trumpets ...**

*ESV Rev 8:1 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal,...*

*8:2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.*

- **The seven angels who stand before God:** apparently these are seven powerful are seven angels who stand in God’s presence
- **And to them were given seven trumpets:** In the Old Testament, **trumpets sounded the alarm for war** or gave directions for an attack army...

*<sup>3</sup> And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, <sup>4</sup> and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.*

- So here, before anything *happens* at the opening of the seventh seal, the prayers of God’s people come before the Lord God.

- All the prayers of the suffering saints during the tribulation. Have come before God...the angel throws them back to earth as they will be answered Judgment has come!
- **Significantly, the prayers of God's people set in motion the coming consummation of history.**
- **Know this...**Prayer is “More potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world, more powerful than anything else
- **Then the angel took the censer, filled with the prayers God's people, lit with fire from the altar, and thrown it to the earth:**
- **The resolution of all the problems on earth, will not be solved on this earth until judgment comes, and when the prayers of God's people “come back” to earth, they bring the storm of judgment (noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake).**

*<sup>6</sup>Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.*

- **So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound:** The seventh seal sets in motion seven trumpets that would sound judgment upon the earth.
- **John and saints of his day...***all the to ours and beyond will finally be answered...*
- **As Jesus taught us to pray:**



**ESV Matt 6:**<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Will come to pass!!

- **And as Paul told us the plan** *NLT Eph 1:10* And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

*John tells us how it will happen...*

*NLT Rev 22:20 ... .. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

*So in the mean time...keep your head up in all things*

*Psa 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

*And keep praying* *ESV 1 Thess 5:17* pray without ceasing,

*God answers prayers in the way and time he knows is best...but rest assured all prayer will be answered....*

**end**