

# Chapter Fifteen

## **The Things That Will Take Place After These Things (The Seals)**

(Revelation 6:1-17)

Chapter six starts to reveal the beginning of the great Day of Judgment, God's wrath upon man.

Even though we as Christians are praying for peace in the world, if we are honest with ourselves we know that there will not be any peace and unity. We are headed toward a final war, which is Armageddon.

When there is peace in Israel, watch out, it will not last long. (We shouldn't be here)

"The interpretation of the following events depends upon the understanding of other portions of the prophetic word. If the events portrayed are taken in any literal sense, it should be clear that they describe an event yet future.<sup>1</sup>

For the sake of our study on Revelation we will take it from the futuristic view point. (These events have not happened yet)

There is evidence that the events pictured in the seals, trumpets, and vials are a concentrated prophecy of the latter half of Daniels seventieth week. A period of 3 ½ years which is designated as a time of wrath and the great tribulation.<sup>2</sup>

There is a similarity between the progress of chapter 6 as a whole and the description given by our Lord, of the end of the age in Matthew 24:4-31. In both passages Walvoord puts the order as follows:

**I.** War (Matt. 24:6-7; Rev. 6:3-4)

**II.** Famine (Matt. 24:7; Rev. 6:5-6)

**III.** Death (Matt. 24:7-9; Rev. 6:7-8)

**IV.** Martyrdom (Matt. 24:9-10, 16-22; Rev. 6:9-11)

**V.** The sun darkened, the moon darkened, and the stars falling (Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12-14)

**VI.** A time of divine judgment (Matt. 24:32-25:26; Rev. 6:15-17)

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<sup>1</sup> John F. Walvoord, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, p.122

<sup>2</sup> John F. Walvoord, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, p.123

The picture before us, in a word, is God's revelation of the dramatic and terrible judgment which will climax the present age. This constitutes a warning to those who are living carelessly in unbelief to beware lest this age engulf them. The prophecy of the end of age is a spur to Christians to snatch souls as brands from the burning and thus prepare them for the coming of the Lord.<sup>3</sup>

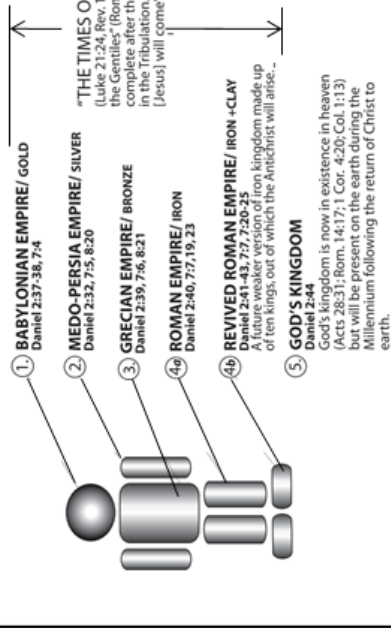


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<sup>3</sup> John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p.123

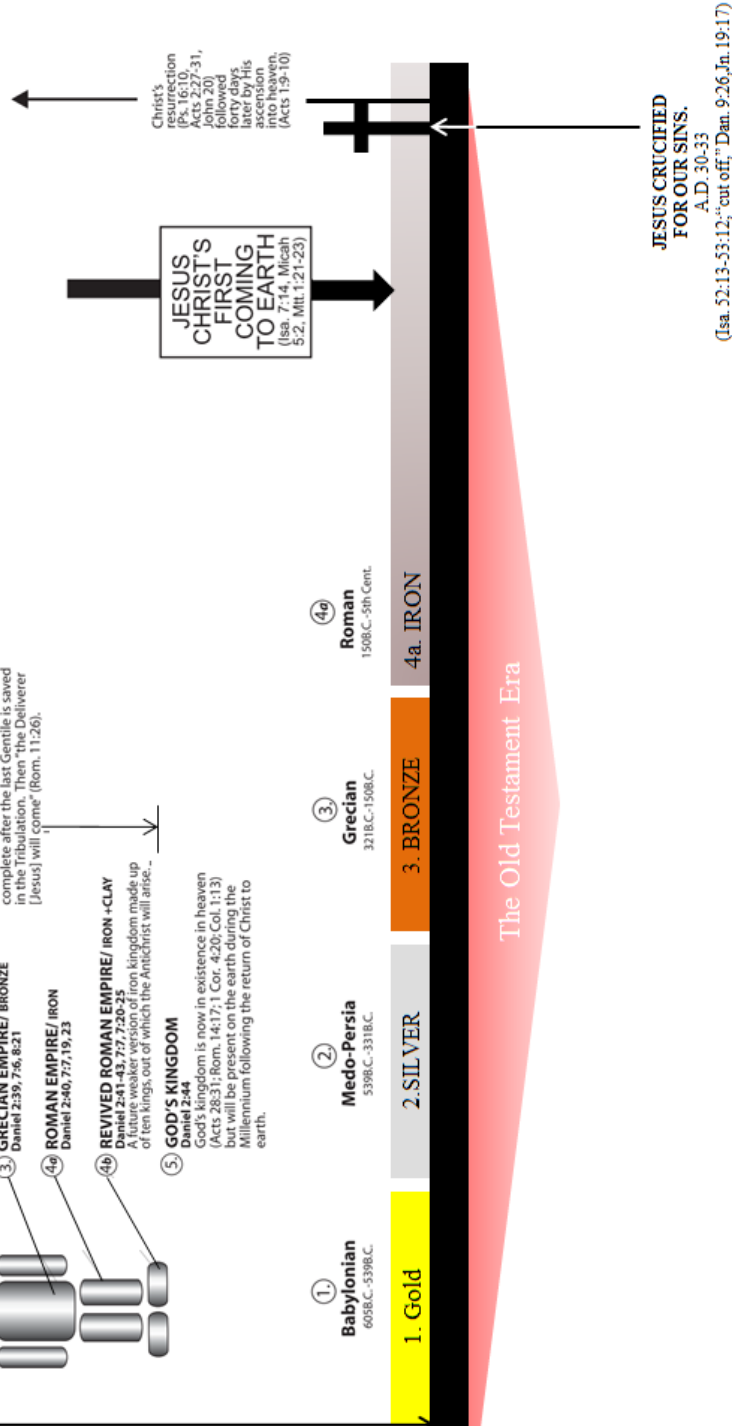
# NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM OF COMING KINGDOMS THAT WOULD PRECEDE THE ESTABLISHING OF GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH

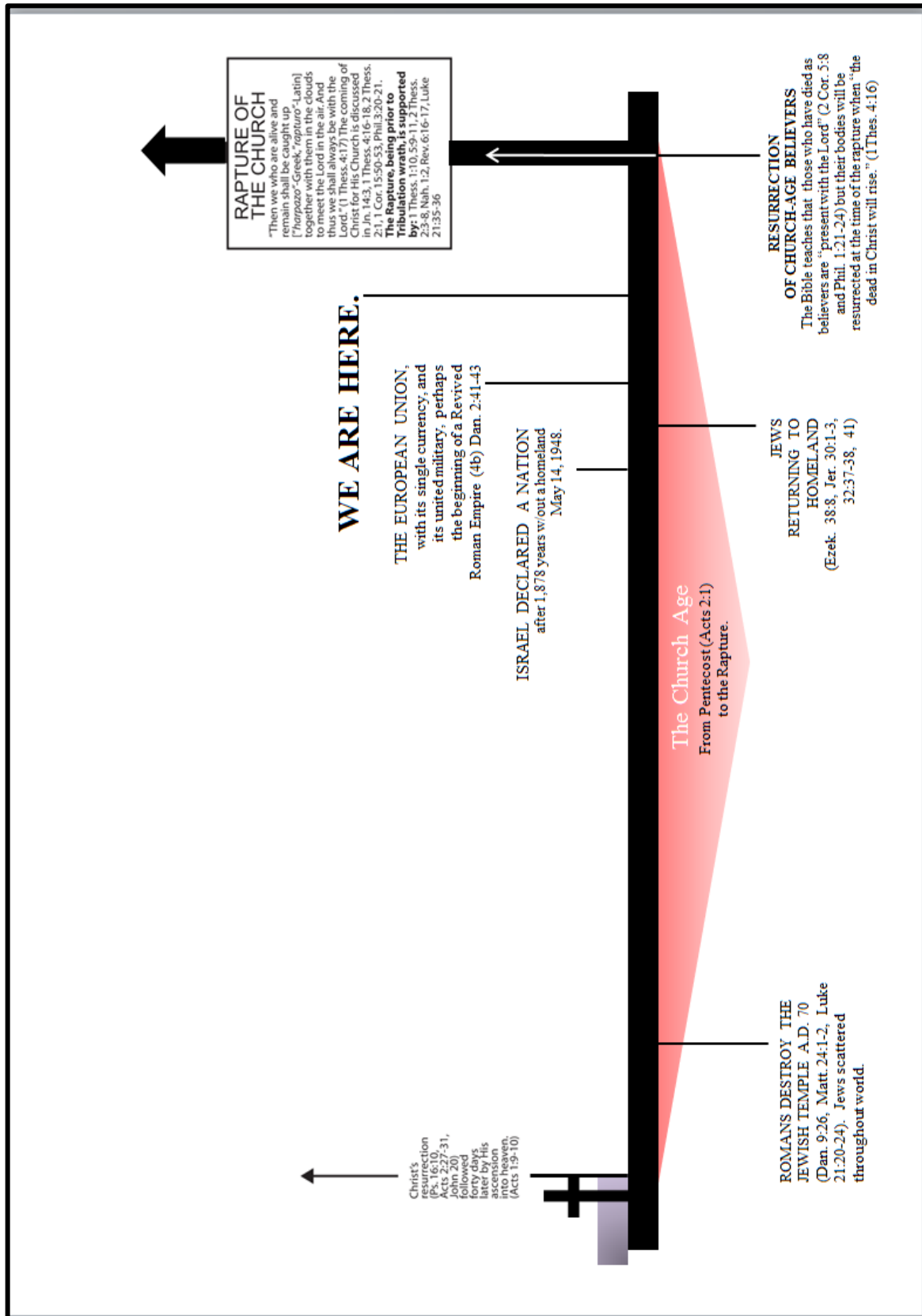
God gave the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel in Daniel chapter 2. The interpretation includes the prophecy that God would set up an everlasting kingdom during the time of the ten kings of the revived Roman Empire (see 4b below). Daniel said, "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." (Daniel 2:44) This will happen when Jesus returns to earth immediately after the Tribulation.



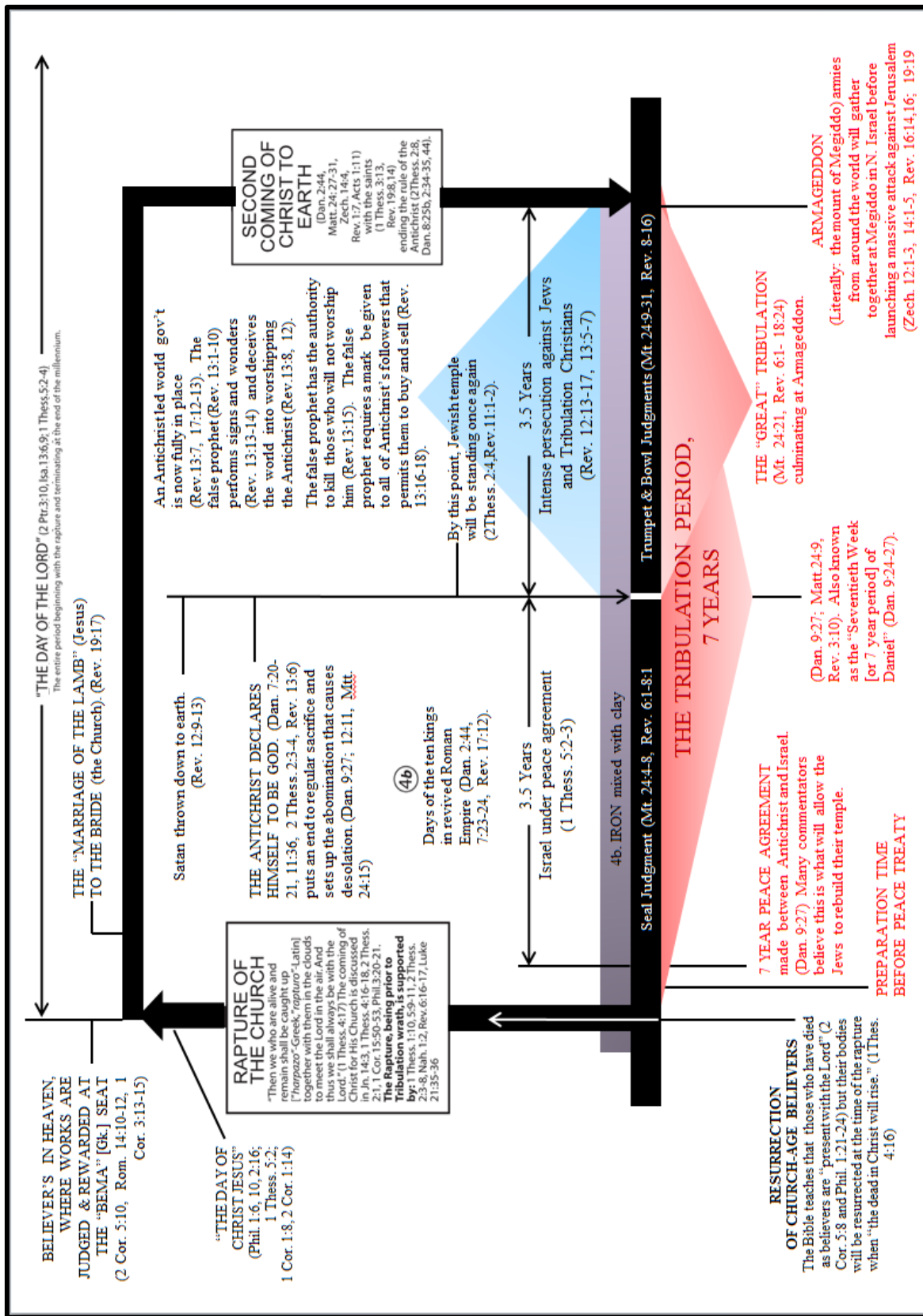
# A BIBLICAL TIMELINE OF END TIME EVENTS

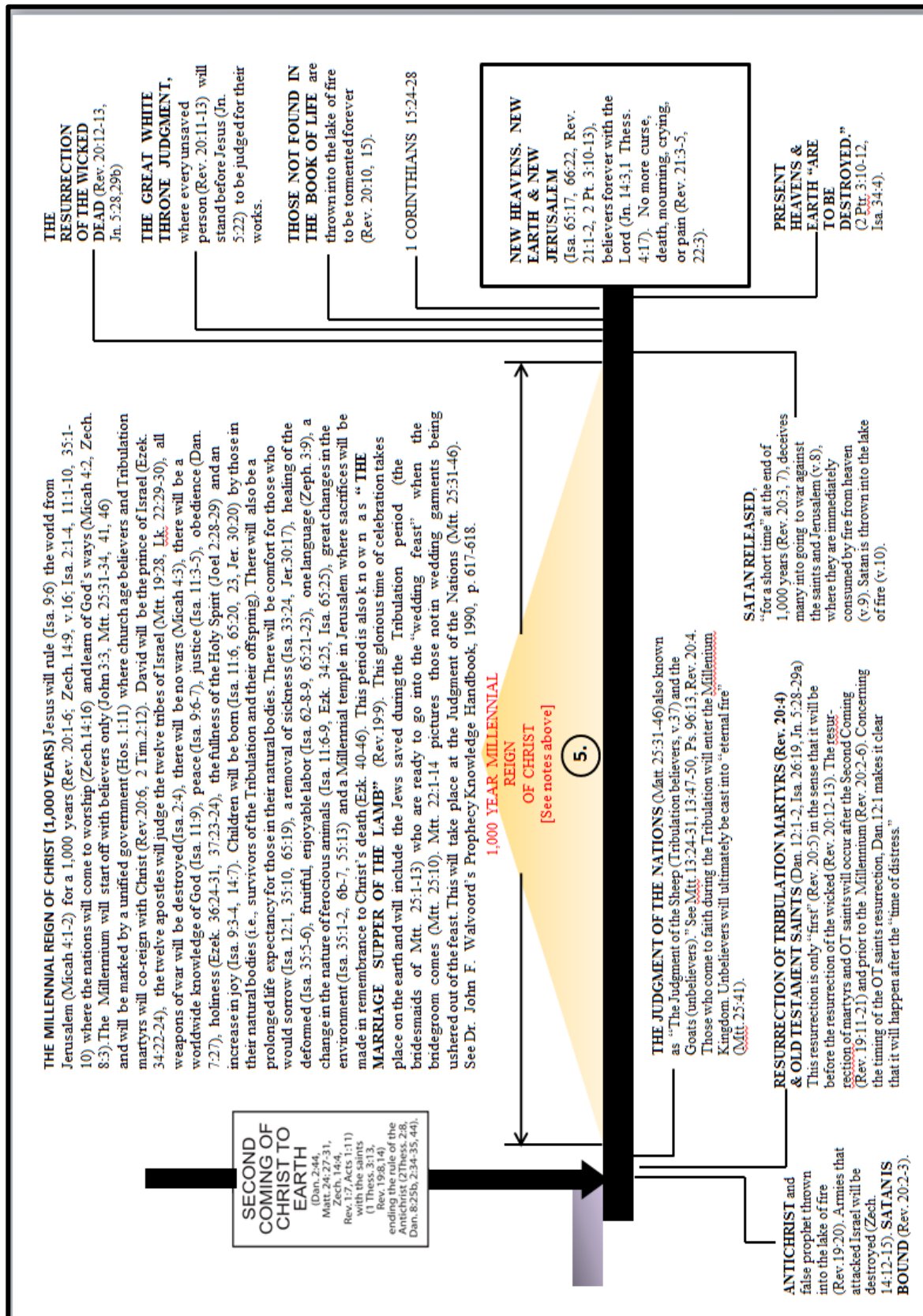
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## I. THE FOUR HORSES AND THEIR RIDERS. (6:1-8)

### I. FIRST SEAL - RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE. (6:1-2)

**Revelation 6:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." <sup>2</sup> And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.



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**Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)** <sup>27</sup> Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

**Matthew 24:4-5 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them: "**Take heed that no one deceives you.**" <sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. **(The Olivet Discourse)**

**Mark 13:5-6 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "**Take heed that no one deceives you.**" <sup>6</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many.

**Luke 21:8 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> And He said: "**Take heed that you not be deceived.** For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

A. The Lamb opens the first seal

B. One of the four living creatures says "Come"

C. John sees a white horse and its rider. **(Mr. False Security)**

1) The man had a bow. **(Doesn't say he was given arrows)**

2) A crown was given to him. (The Greek word for crown "**stephanos**" used here is a victors crown not a crown of sovereignty.)

3) The man went out conquering and to conquer.

a) He will conquer the world with no blood shed.

b) He will conquer by deceit.

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> **For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them,** as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

*2 Thessalonians 2:8-11(NKJV)* <sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <sup>9</sup>**The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,** <sup>10</sup>**and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** <sup>11</sup>And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe the lie,

c) His conquest will be by agreement not conflict.

*Daniel 9:24-27 (NKJV)* <sup>24</sup> "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. <sup>25</sup> "Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. <sup>26</sup> "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. <sup>27</sup> **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.** And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

d) He will spread a false religion.

*Matthew 24:4-5 (NKJV)* <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> **For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.**



e) His many conquests.

**Daniel 8:23-27(NKJV)** <sup>23</sup> “And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. <sup>24</sup> His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and *also* the holy people. <sup>25</sup> **“Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his <sup>£</sup>rule;** And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart. He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without *human* <sup>£</sup>means. <sup>26</sup> “And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future.” <sup>27</sup> And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king’s business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

**Daniel 11:36-39(NKJV)** <sup>36</sup> **“Then the king shall do according to his own will:** he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. <sup>37</sup> He shall regard neither the <sup>£</sup>God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them* all. <sup>38</sup> But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. <sup>39</sup> Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, *and* advance *its* glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

## II. SECOND SEAL - RIDER ON THE RED HORSE. (6:3-4)

**Revelation 6:3-4 (NKJV)** <sup>3</sup> When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." <sup>4</sup> Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

**Matthew 24:6-7a (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation



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will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. **(The Olivet Discourse)**

**Mark 13:7-8a (NKJV)** <sup>7</sup> But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end *is* not yet. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

**Luke 21:9-10 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end *will not come* immediately." <sup>10</sup> Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

A. The Lamb opens the second seal

B. The second living creature says "Come"

C. John sees a fiery red horse and its rider. **(Mr. Peace Killer)**

1) This rider was granted to take peace from the earth, and for people to kill one another.

a) All that happens will be under God's control; this is God pouring out his wrath on humanity.

b) This rider will take away the false peace promised by the first rider.

2) A great sword was given to him. (The Greek word for sword is "**Machaira**" and it refers to the short stabbing sword that a Roman soldier carried into battle. Used by assassins also)

a) Men will start to slay each other on a grand scale.

b) Violent slaughter will be the norm.

### III. THIRD SEAL - RIDER ON THE BLACK HORSE. (6:5-6)

**Revelation 6:5-6 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

**Matthew 24:7b (NKJV)** <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.** **(The Olivet Discourse)**

**Mark 13:8b (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and **there will be famines and troubles.** These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

**Luke 21:11a (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and **famines and pestilences;** and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.



A. The Lamb opens the third seal

B. The third living creature says “Come”

C. John sees a black horse and its rider. **(Mr. Severe Famine)**

1) A pair of scales is in the hand of the rider. **(Used for weighing or measuring)**

2) A voice in the midst of the four living creatures says “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”

a) Denarius during this time represented a day’s wages.

b) Wheat was a better grain than barley. Barley was usually given to the horses.

c) A quart of wheat is what a laboring man ate in one meal.

d) So the time is coming when a person, if they are working during this time, they will spend a day’s wages just for them to eat.

e) If they want to feed their family they will have to buy the barley.

#### IV. FOURTH SEAL - RIDER ON THE PALE HORSE. **(6:7-8)**

**Revelation 6:7-8 (NKJV)** <sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." <sup>8</sup> So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power

was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

**Matthew 24:7-8 (NKJV)** <sup>7</sup>

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. **(The Olivet Discourse)**

**Mark 13:8b (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

**Luke 21:11b (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

A. The Lamb opens the fourth seal

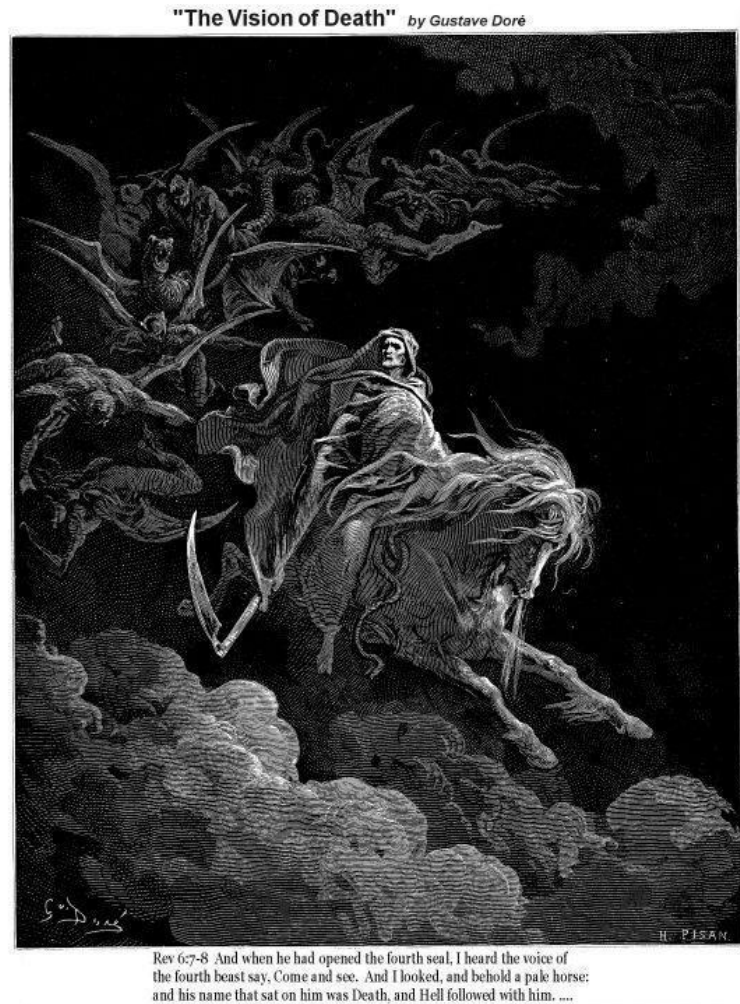
B. The fourth living creature says “Come”

C. John sees a pale horse and its rider. **(Mr. Grim Reaper)**

1) On the horse sits Death and Hades followed with him. **(Hades as in the abode of the dead)**

2) Power was given to them over a fourth of the earth. **(2010 that would be about 1.5 billion deaths)**

3) Power to kill with the sword, famine, plague, and by wild beasts.





**Ezekiel 14:12-18(NKJV)** <sup>12</sup>The word of the Lord came again to me, saying: <sup>13</sup>“Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; **I will cut off its supply of bread**, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. <sup>14</sup>Even *if* these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord GOD. <sup>15</sup>“**If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land**, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, <sup>16</sup>*even though* these three men *were* in it, *as I live*,” says the Lord GOD, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate. <sup>17</sup>“**Or if I bring a sword on that land**, and say, ‘Sword, go through the land,’ and I cut off man and beast from it, <sup>18</sup>*even though* these three men *were* in it, *as I live*,” says the Lord GOD, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered.

D. Some writers feel that this will happen on the last half (3 ½ years) of the seven year tribulation period, or as it is called by some Daniels 70<sup>th</sup> week.

E. This will be time of great sorrows.

**Daniel 12:1(NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> “At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

**Jeremiah 30:7(NKJV)** <sup>7</sup> Alas! For that day *is* great, So that none *is* like it; And it *is* the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

**Joel 2:1-3(NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: <sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains. A people *come*, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any *such* after them, Even for many successive generations. <sup>3</sup> A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land *is* like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.

## II. THE SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR. (6:9-11)

### I. THE FIFTH SEAL - SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR. (6:9-10)

**Revelation 6:9-10 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

**Matthew 24:9-13 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. <sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved. **(The Olivet Discourse)**

**Mark 13:9-13 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. <sup>11</sup> But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup> Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>13</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

**Luke 21:12-19 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. <sup>13</sup> But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. <sup>14</sup> Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. <sup>16</sup> You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head shall be lost. <sup>19</sup> By your patience possess your souls.

**A. The Lamb opens the fifth seal. (Some writers feel this marks the midpoint of the tribulation)**

**B. John sees under the altar those souls who had been slain. (They are souls, because their bodily resurrection has not happen yet. These are the first fruits of those who will be saved or martyred during the tribulation)**

**1) For the word of God**

**2) For the testimony they held. (They will preach the truth calling on people to repent)**

**3) They cried with a loud voice:**

**a) “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood? (This seems to be the cry of all saints throughout the centuries especially the Jews)**

## II. THEIR CONSOLATION. (6:11)

**Revelation 6:11 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

A. A white robe was given to each of them. **(Symbolic of God's gift of eternal righteousness)**

B. They were told to rest a little while longer, until both their fellow servants **(willing to die like martyrs, though they would not)** and brethren would be killed. **(Consoling words – rest)**

## III. COSMIC DISRUPTIONS IN THE DAY OF THE LAMB'S WRATH. (6:12-17)

### I. THE SIXTH SEAL - COSMIC DISRUPTIONS. (6:12-14)

**Revelation 6:12-14 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

**Matthew 24:21-22 (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. **(The Olivet Discourse)**

**Matthew 24:29 (NKJV)** <sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

A. The Lamb opens the sixth seal. **(By the time the sixth seal is broken the tribulation midpoint has passed and the world is experiencing the "Great Tribulation")** Massive persecution of Jews and Christians has broken out. Incredibly for most people, during this time of turmoil from the divine judgments on this world, it will be business as usual.

**Matthew 24:37-39 (NKJV)** <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

**B. Cataclysmic events occur: (6:12)**

- 1) Great earthquake. (Will shake both the earth and the heavens)
- 2) Sun becomes black as sackcloth of hair
- 3) Moon became like blood

**Joel 2:10-11(NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. <sup>11</sup> The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong *is the One* who executes His word. For the day of the Lord *is* great and very terrible; Who can endure it?

**Joel 2:30-31(NKJV)** <sup>30</sup> “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

**Isaiah 13:10-13(NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. <sup>11</sup> “I will punish the world for *its* evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. <sup>12</sup> I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the Lord of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.

- 4) Stars fall to the earth, like ripe figs shaken from a tree by a mighty wind. **(6:13) (Asteroids and Meteors)**

**Isaiah 34:2-4(NKJV)** <sup>2</sup> For the indignation of the Lord *is* against all nations, And *His* fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter. <sup>3</sup> Also their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, And the mountains shall be melted with their blood. <sup>4</sup> All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as *fruit* falling from a fig tree.

- 5) Sky receded as a scroll when rolled up. **(6:14)**
- 6) Every mountain and island moved out of its place.

**II. THE REACTION OF MANKIND. (6:15-17)**

**Revelation 6:15-17 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on



us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

**A.** Great (**Kings**) and small (**Princes**), the generals, the rich, the mighty and the slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and rocks of the mountains.

**B.** They cry out to the mountains and rocks:

1) "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"

2) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"  
(**We see no repentance**).