

Chapter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Heaven				X	X														1 <sup>st</sup> half		X		
Earth		X	X			X		X	X							X		X	2 <sup>nd</sup> half	X			
Explanatory	X					X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X					X	
Setting	Opening	7 Churches	7 Churches	RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH		4 Horsemen Explanatory Chapter Chapter 6 is a breakdown of entire tribulation period 6 of the 7 seals are opened	Explanatory Chapter 144,000 of Israel are sealed Multitude come out of the Great Tribulation	Mid Tribulation Rapture Chapter 7:14		Continuation of the Trumpets	Explanatory Chapter	Last half of the Tribulation Explanatory Chapter	Explanatory Chapter	Explanatory Chapter	Explanatory Chapter	Picks up where chapters 8, 9 leaves off	Mystery Babylon The Beast with 7 heads and 10 horns Teach in conjunction with Chapter 13	Post Tribulation Rapture of the 2 Witnesses of Chapter 11		Lord's Decent to Earth Great Earthquake of Revelation 6	Millennial reign of Jesus	New Jerusalem / New Heaven Chapters 21 and 22	Closing



## Keys to Understanding the Book of Revelation.

- One of the keys to understanding the Book of Revelation is to understand that two parallel accounts are given during the same 7 year period. One account is in heaven and the other is on earth.

Earth: Chapters 6, 8, 9, 16, last half of 19, first half of 20  
 Heaven: Chapters 4, 5, first half of 19, last half of 20

- Explanatory chapters (chapters that provide extra information) are mixed in, in order to broaden certain details. These chapters do not necessarily aid in the continuance of the story(s) but provide critical information. For example, Chapters 7 and 14 explain the 144,000.

Explanatory: Chapters 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, parts of 20, 21 and 22

3. Another major key is to REMEMBER, according to Revelation 1:19, this Book deals **with Past, Present, and Future events**. An example is Chapter 12 and satan's attempts to thwart God's plans.
4. The Book of Revelation is an account of how the antichrist is frustrated at every turn by God. Some teach that he will have great power to rule the entire earth. Such teaching is nonsense. In truth, the antichrist is a total failure that frustrates even his father, the devil.
5. In truth, the Book of Revelation is a book of love in which God tells us exactly what will happen so that we do not have to go through it. It is a time when the dispensation of Grace has come to an end and the time of God's wrath is at hand.

## How do we know the Church does not go through the Tribulation?

1. There is no mention of the Church after Revelation 3
2. In Revelation 4 and 5, the Saints are learning a New Song. Halfway through the tribulation process (Chapter 14) the 144,000 sealed Jews are in heaven also learning the New Song. However, the great multitudes that are saved just prior to the Great Tribulation (Chapter 7) do not get to learn the New Song.
3. The Tribulation period is a time of God's wrath upon the wicked. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 tells us that God has not appointed us to the wrath that will come upon the wicked (Jeremiah 30:23-24; 2 Thess 2:8)
4. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 - For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so until He is taken out of the way*. This is the Church. Some teach this is referring to the Holy Spirit but cannot be so for several reasons
  - a. As we will see from the Book of Revelation, the Holy Spirit is active throughout the Tribulation period because it is by the Holy Spirit that we are drawn to God. (Joel 2:28-32 – Notice that the Holy Spirit is poured out till the coming of the “Great and dreadful day of the Lord when the sun will be darkened and the moon turned to blood (Revelation 6).
  - b. 144,000 Jews are sealed and multitudes accept Jesus as Lord during the Tribulation (Rev 7).
  - c. The 2 Witnesses are able to perform signs and wonders through the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. Revelation 3:10 – Jesus tells the Church in Philadelphia, “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”
6. In Revelation 11, we are told the exact day that Jesus will return to earth.
  - a. Vs 3 – “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
  - b. Vs 7-8 – The two witnesses are killed at the end of their appointed ministry.
  - c. Vs 9 – Their dead bodies and allowed to remain in the streets for 3.5 days.
7. Several other reasons that will not be discussed in this short synopsis.

## Chapter Break Down

Revelation 1,2,3      Introduction and message to the seven churches

Revelation 4,5      **Rapture 1 (Pre-Tribulation.) No mention of the Church past Chapter 3**

- Scene before God's throne
- Identification of the 24 elders
- Jesus receiving book with the 7 seals
- NOTE: Vs 9-10 (Mounce Reverse Interlinear Translation) “...**And they sang a new song**, saying “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation. AND YOU MADE THEM KINGS AND PRIESTS TO GOD AND THEY WILL REIGN ON THE EARTH.” In Revelation 1:6 the

Church is referred to a kings and priests. The scene of Revelation chapters 4 and 5 is before the throne. **The Church cannot be in heaven and on the earth at the same time.**

Revelation 6

**Revelation 6 gives a brief synopsis of the entire tribulation period**

Opening of the first 6 seals (Seals 1-4) are the 4 Horsemen (**Ride throughout the entire 7 year tribulation period**)

1. White horse – Antichrist
2. Red horse – War (Ezekiel 38 and 39)
3. Black horse – famine
4. Pale horse – Death (accompanied by hell)
5. Martyred Tribulation Saints
6. Upheaval of nature reserved until end of Tribulation (Great earthquake caused by Jesus return; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 11:19; Revelation 16:19)

Revelation 7

**1<sup>st</sup> Explanatory Chapter** - Two groups of BELIEVERS are revealed (explanation into issues surrounding the tribulation)

- 144,000 Jewish evangelists (begin early in the tribulation: vs 1-8; Rev 14:1-5; Ezek 9:4)
  - o Vs 3 – They were not sealed
  - o Vs 3 – They will be sealed in order to become bond servants to the Lord
  - o Vs 4 – They are now sealed
  - o In Revelation 14, they are before the Throne of God. **Therefore, they must be raptured around mid-tribulation (some think they are raptured after the great multitude. My thought is that they are raptured with the great multitude at mid-tribulation**
- The great multitude (Mid Tribulation saints) caught up to God's Throne
  - o Vs 9 – They are of every nation, tribe, peoples, and languages
  - o Vs 9 – They stand before the throne of God
  - o Vs 14 – They came out of (just prior to) the Great Tribulation (last 3 ½ years). Notice that this group is not taught the NEW SONG as is the Church (Revelation
- NOTE: After the start of the Tribulation the two groups of ministers will be the 144,000 and then Angels (Chapter 14)... BUT NO MENTION OF THE CHURCH!

**Rapture 2 (Mid-Tribulation.) Verses 7-19, the Great Multitude is before the Throne of God just prior to the start of the Great Tribulation (2<sup>nd</sup> 3 ½ years of the tribulation)**

Revelation 8

Seventh seal is broken (Silence for about 30 minutes. )

**Chapter 8 and 9 pick up where Chapter 6 leaves off.**

Preparation for 7 Trumpets

- 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet - fire mingled with blood (vs 7)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet – Mountain burning with fire cast into the sea (vs 8)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet – Great star fell from heaven (vs 10)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet – 1/3 sun, moon, and stars darkened (vs 12)
- Proclamation of the 3 Woes (Woe, woe, woe)

Revelation 9

Fifth Trumpet – 1<sup>st</sup> Woe (The 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet is the 1<sup>st</sup> Woe)

- Demon locust, no death, five months

Sixth Trumpet – 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe begins

- 200 million man army

Revelation 10

**2<sup>nd</sup> Explanatory Chapter**

- 7 Thunders (remain a mystery – John was told to seal them up)
- Time no longer (vs 6) – This means no more delays concerning return of Jesus

Revelation 11

**3<sup>rd</sup> Explanatory Chapter (Dealing with last half of the Tribulation to the end. (Great Tribulation))**

- 2 Witnesses
  - o They shall have power as found with 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet Rev 8:7 – turn water to blood
  - o When they have finished their testimony, the antichrist will make war with them
  - o They will be killed and left in the streets for 3 days
  - o NOTE: These 2 witnesses frustrate the antichrist. They daily minister the soon return of Jesus.
- Great earthquake (Same earthquake as written in Chapter 6:12-14 and Zach 14:1-11)
  - o End of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe (vs 14)
  - o 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet is sounded (vs 15)

**Chapters 12, 13, 17 and 18 are the chronological development of the beast system**

Revelation 12

**4<sup>th</sup> Explanatory Chapter (satan's attempts past, present and future, to thwart God's plans)**

- Verses 1-5 are dealing with the past (this is dealing with Israel, satan, and attempts to kill the Messiah)
- Verse 6- is dealing with the last half of the Tribulation period
- Verses 7-13 are dealing with past to present (at the time of the writing) events
- Verses 14-17 are dealing with future events concerning Israel

Revelation 13

**5<sup>th</sup> Explanatory Chapter (Description of the antichrist and the False Prophet– Teach with chapter 17)**

- Rising up out of the sea – Law of interpretation: When no body of water is identified, it is talking about a body of people...sea of humanity.
- 7 heads and 10 horns (See Revelation 17:10 for interpretation)
- Vs 8 – There will be those who refuse to worship the beast
- Vs 11 – The False Prophet

Revelation 14

**6<sup>th</sup> Explanatory Chapter (The 144,000 finish their ministry and appear with Jesus)**

- Vs 1-5 Correlates with information in Revelation 7:1-8
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Rapture: Vs 5 - 144,000 at God's throne (They are in heaven in time to learn the New Song that the Church is singing)**
- Vs 6-11 – Angels replace the ministry of the 144,000 (These angels proclaim to the world (in every nation, tribe, tongue, and people the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They also tell the world all about the antichrist, his mark, and the judgment that shall come upon them if they worship him. Along with the two witnesses, the antichrist is frustrated at every turn.
- Vs 14 – Jesus is ready to reap the harvest
- Vs 16 – Jesus reaps the harvest at His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- Vs 17-20 – Battle of Armageddon – REVELATION 19:15 Jesus is the one who treads the winepress

Revelation 15

**7<sup>th</sup> Explanatory Chapter (Introduction to the last 7 plagues of Chapter 16)**

Revelation 16

Picks up where Chapters 8 and 9 left off

Revelation 17:9-10:

**8<sup>th</sup> Explanatory Chapter (Interpretation of Mystery Babylon and the symbolism of the antichrist – Teach with Chapter 13)**

- Mystery Babylon – Harlot (whore); This is the false religious system of the world. This must be removed in order for the antichrist to declare himself god.
- Vs 9-11 - “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And they are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. <sup>11</sup>And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”
- Mountains: Law of interpretation: When no particular rock structure is mentioned in the Bible, the law of interpretation dictates that it is dealing with kingdoms. Notice it says seven mountains and they (the mountains) are seven kings. The kingdoms that have come against Israel are:
  1. Egypt
  2. Assyria
  3. Babylon
  5. Medo Persia
  5. Greece
  6. Rome (in power at the time of the writing)
- Five are fallen: at the time of Johns writing the five kingdoms which had fallen are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece... (this makes up 5)
- and one is: Rome was the kingdom that was during the time of this writing (this is number 6)
- and the other is not yet come: Rome revised in some form. (this is number 7)
- and the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth AND IS OF THE SEVEN, and goeth into perdition.”

#### Revelation 19

Jesus returns with His saints (Zech 14:5; Rev 17:14)

- **4<sup>th</sup> Rapture. The two witnesses of Revelation of Chapter 11 after they are killed 3.5 days before return of Jesus**
- Vs 11-21 - Battle of Armageddon
- Vs 20 antichrist and false prophet cast into the Lake of Fire

#### Revelation 20

Millennial (1000) year reign of Jesus

- Martyrs are resurrected
- Saints reign as kings and priests
- Satan bound for the 1000 years
- Israel restored (Is 35; Ezek 36)
- Release of satan for final battle (vs 7-10)
- Resurrection of the wicked dead for Great White Throne Judgment (vs 11-15)

#### Revelation 21, 22

New Jerusalem and New Heaven. Closing of the prophecy