

A Glimpse of the Future, Part 2 Revelation 6-11

Intro

- first session: identified 4 phases of end times, based primarily on Matthew 24
 - beginning of birth pains, great tribulation, cosmic disturbance, day of the Lord
- today: examine Seals and Trumpets in Revelation, identify many similarities

Revelation 6-8:1, Seven Seals

Beginning of Birth Pains

- Rev 6:1-2, ¹ “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!’” ² 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 6:3-4, ³ “When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come!’” ⁴ Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.”
- Rev 6:5-6, ⁵ “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. ⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a day’s wages, and three quarts of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!’”
- Rev 6:7-8, ⁷ “When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, ‘Come!’” ⁸ 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.”
 - “pale” horse (Gk, *chloros*): (1) light green, color of young grass; (2) pale greenish gray, a color of death
 - “plague” (Gk, *thanatos*): (1) sentence of death; (2) plague, pestilence, pandemic disease
 - “wild beasts” (Gk, *therion*): (1) any living creature other than man; (2) wild, evil or dangerous creatures
- Rev 6:9-11, ⁹ “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. ¹⁰ 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?’” ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.”
 - “slain” (Gk, *sphazo*): slaughtered, killed, murdered

Great Distress/Tribulation

- nothing specifically related to Israel in this series

Cosmic Disturbance

- Rev 6:12-15,
 - ¹² 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, ¹³ and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.
 - ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

Day of the Lord

- Rev 6:16-17, ¹⁶ “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! ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?’”
 - “day” (Gk, *hemera*): a period or unit of time (24-hour day, season, daylight), or an indefinite length of time
- Rev 7:3-4, ³ “‘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.’ ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.”
- Rev 7:9, 14, ⁹ “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 in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. . . . ¹⁴ 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 8:1, “When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”
 - Zeph 1:7, “Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near.”
- the seven seals end before any description of God’s wrath or Jesus’ kingdom

Revelation 8-11, Trumpets

- Iteration: typical literary method in ancient middle eastern cultures & is common in the Bible

Beginning of Birth Pains

- Rev 8:7, “ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon 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 8:8-9,⁸ “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,⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”
- Rev 8:10-11,¹⁰ “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 —¹¹ 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 8:12, “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 9:1-5,¹ “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.² 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.³ And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.⁴ They 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.⁵ They were not given power 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 a man.”
 - Rev 9:12, “The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.”
 - woe (Gk, *ouai*): (1) exclamation of grief; (2) horror, woe, dreadful event
- Rev 9:13-16,¹³ “The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God.¹⁴ It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.”

Great Distress/Tribulation

- Rev 11:1-3,¹ “I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, ‘Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there.² 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.³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.’”

Cosmic Disturbance

- Rev 11:13-14,¹³ “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.¹⁴ The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.”
 - “hour” (Gk, *hora*): (1) hour; (2) a particular point (or short span) in time
 - “the second woe” – really great calamity

Day of the Lord

- Rev 11:15, “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 Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.’”
- Rev 11:16-17, ¹⁶ “And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: ‘We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.’”
- (flashback) Rev 10:7, “But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”
 - “accomplish” (Gk, *teleo*): (1) complete, fulfill; (2) bring to an end, finish; (3) make happen
 - Eph 3:4-6, ⁴ “In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”
 - 1 Co 15:51-52, ⁵¹ “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”
- Rev 11:18 (continuation of vv 16-17), “The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great — and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”
 - 1 Th 1:10, “Jesus ... rescues us from the coming wrath.”
 - 1 Th 5:9, “For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- **Post-tribulation, pre-wrath rapture**

Blessing

- Revelation – the only book in the Bible that pronounces a blessing on those who read it
- Rev 1:3, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”
- Rev 22:7, “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”