

THE SECOND COMING GENERATION SESSION 6: THE TRIUMPHAL RETURN

- I. Our goal is to present a deep dive into the Word of God so that can become confident in God's plans and purposes for the End of the Age. This Biblical narrative gives us the foundational reality of where we are going as the Body of Christ.
- II. During the Second Coming generation God will mature the Body of Christ and the glory of Jesus will rest on the church. There will be a great Harvest to occur for this reality to take place. The Church will rise with great authority. This will all take place while God allows the antichrist to be raised up so that evil will also mature to its fullest.
- III. In the generation in which the Lord returns, God will shake all nations to judge the kingdom of darkness, purify the Church, and bring in the great harvest including the salvation of Israel. This process will be seen in the beginning of birth pangs and in the release of the seals, trumpets, and bowls judgments, culminating in the kings dying at Armageddon (Rev. 19:19). **Haggai 2:6-7 — "...I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they [unbelievers] shall come to the Desire of All Nations [Jesus]..." says the LORD.**
- IV. THE SEALS:
 - A. Jesus took the scroll sealed with seven seals from the hand of the Father (5:7). It represents the title deed of the earth and the action plan required to cleanse the earth. One by one, Jesus will open each seal to release a terrifying judgment against the wicked. **Revelation 5:7-9 — "He [Jesus] came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him [Father]...9 and they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals..."**
 1. The seven seals are literal (not symbolic), future (their fulfillment is still in the future), progressive (increasing in intensity), and numbered (released in a sequential order).
 2. One's view of the timing in which Jesus will open the seals is one interpretive key to Revelation. I believe Jesus has not yet opened the first seal—the bowls of prayer must be full. **Revelation 5:8 — "When He [Jesus] had taken the scroll...the twenty-four elders fell down...each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."**
 3. The seven seals will escalate the process of the Lord shaking all the nations by bringing judgment to the kingdom of darkness (the harlot Babylon — Rev. 17) and purifying the Church, while creating the optimum context for many to be saved (the end-time harvest).
 4. Principle of judgment: God's end-time judgments will remove all that hinders love. He will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will.

5. The first four seals are brought about by the actions of sinful men. The fifth, sixth and seventh seals involve supernatural actions from heaven.
6. Each seal naturally leads to the unfolding of the next seal. For example, the release of the Antichrist in the first seal (Rev. 6:2) leads to a World War in the second seal, which in turn causes famine and economic crisis in the third seal, followed by death and disease, etc.

B. FIRST SEAL: ANTICHRIST'S POLITICAL AGGRESSION (6:1-2)

The opening of the first seal speaks of the Antichrist's political aggression (6:1-2).

Revelation 6:1-2 — "I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying... "Come and see." 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."

1. Through the Antichrist, God will judge the harlot Babylon for murdering the saints (17:6, 16).
2. **Revelation 17:4-7 — "The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns."**
3. **Revelation 17:14-18— These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."**

C. SECOND SEAL: WORLD WAR (6:3-4)

The opening of the second seal speaks of the release of the final world war.

Revelation 6:3-4 — "When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. 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."

D. THIRD SEAL: FAMINE AND ECONOMIC CRISIS (6:5-6)

The opening of the third seal speaks of releasing famine and economic crisis (6:5-6). This famine and economic collapse will follow the world war seen in the second seal (6:4).

Revelation 6:5-6 — “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. 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.”

E. FOURTH SEAL: DEATH TO ONE-FOURTH OF THE EARTH'S PEOPLE (6:7-8)

The opening of the fourth seal speaks of the death of one-fourth of the earth's population.

Revelation 6:7-8 — “When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” 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.”

F. FIFTH SEAL: PRAYER RELEASING JUDGMENT (6:9-11)

The opening of the fifth seal is related to the power of the prayer movement that will release great judgment on Antichrist's empire as seen in the trumpet judgments (Rev. 8-9).

Revelation 6:9-11 — “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar [altar of incense in heaven] the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God...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?” 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 [martyred] as they were, was completed.”

G. THE SIXTH SEAL: COSMIC DISTURBANCES (6:12-17)

The opening of the sixth seal will release a great earthquake with signs in the heavens (6:12-17). This seal begins God's specific answer to this prayer of the martyrs in heaven. It is followed by the release of the trumpet and bowl judgments on the Antichrist's empire (Rev. 8-9; 16).

Revelation 6:12-17 — “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. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth...Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 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, 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! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

H. THE SEVENTH SEAL AND THE RELEASING OF THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS (8:1-6)

The seventh seal includes the release of fiery trumpet judgments on the Antichrist's empire in conjunction with the prayers of all the saints (8:1-6). The fifth seal (6:9-11) focuses on the prayer of the martyrs in heaven, and the seventh seal points to heavenly help that the prayer movement on

earth receives in partnering with Jesus in the release of the trumpet judgments. **Revelation 8:1-6** — **“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.”**

1. Silence in heaven: There will be a dreadful yet glorious silence in heaven for half an hour in anticipation of God’s judgments as the seven angels prepare to release them (8:1). It is estimated that it took a priest about a half an hour to offer incense in the temple (Lev. 16:13; Lk 1:10, 21). There will also be silence on the earth in light of God’s end-time judgments (Ps. 46:10; Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13).
2. An angel will be given much “heavenly” incense to offer with the prayers of the saints. This will provide a supernatural strengthening of the end-time prayer movement that results in releasing fire on earth with cosmic disturbances and an earthquake (8:3-5). The prayers of the saints are imperfect because of human weakness (Rom. 8:26). The only thing needed to be “added” to our prayers is the perfect intercession (incense) of Jesus, which may be what is given to the angel.
Romans 8:26 — **“...the Spirit helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for...”**
Romans 8:34 — **“Christ...at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”**
3. Prayer of all the saints: The prayers of all the saints are both accumulated from history as well as accelerated in the generation in which the Lord returns. The end-time prayer movement will be the most powerful force on earth as it functions under the leadership of Jesus.
4. God’s trumpet and bowl judgments are not released on the saints, but on the Antichrist’s empire. They will destroy the resources of the Antichrist’s armies. The trumpet and bowl judgments parallel the ten plagues of Egypt against Pharaoh (Ex. 7-12). The walls of Jericho fell after Joshua blew seven trumpets (Josh. 6) as a prophetic picture of the fall of the Antichrist kingdom.
5. As Moses released the plagues on Egypt through prayer, and as the first apostles released God’s power through prayer in the book of Acts, so the praying Church will be involved with Jesus as He releases His judgment on the Antichrist. The miracles of Exodus and Acts will be combined and multiplied on a global level. The Old Testament prophets prophesied that miracles like those seen in Egypt in Moses’ generation would occur in the end-time (Mic. 7:15; cf. Isa. 10:22-25; 11:12-16; 30:30; Jer. 16:14-15; 23:7-8; Ezek. 38:22; Joel 2:30).

Micah 7:15 — “As in the days when you came out of...Egypt, I will show them wonders.”
John 14:12 — “The works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do...”

V. THE RELEASE OF THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS (8:6)

- A. The trumpet judgments have a 3-fold purpose. First, to hinder the Antichrist empire's spread of evil and persecution by destroying their natural resources. Second, to warn unbelievers of increased judgment by God and rage from Satan, thus creating an optimum environment for people to get saved. Third, to rally the saints to pray with unity as they see the trumpets unfold.
Revelation 8:6 — “So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.”
- B. The seven trumpets are literal (not symbolic), future (their fulfillment is still in the future), progressive (increasing in intensity), and numbered (released in a sequential order).
- C. They are supernatural acts of God released against the Antichrist's empire through nature (first four trumpets) and demons (fifth and sixth trumpets). I do not believe they are to be understood as merely natural acts portrayed in symbolic language.
- D. The trumpet judgments are “limited” to one-third as highlighted twelve times (8:7-12). In other words, they are warnings of more to come in the seven bowls (16:1-21). The limitation of the trumpets to a partial judgment warns and gives opportunities to repent.
- E. The first four trumpets punish the Antichrist's empire by destroying their natural resources that support life (yet without directly touching people). The fifth and sixth trumpets will directly afflict humans by demonic torment and then killing one-third of the human race.
- F. In the first four seals, God lifts restraints off humans so that they destroy one another's resources. In the first four trumpets, God will destroy the resources of Antichrist's empire. In the fifth and sixth seals, the heavens will be opened to release supernatural activity (6:9-11). In the fifth and sixth trumpets, God lifts His restraints off the demonic realm (9:1-21). The first five trumpets (8:7-12) parallel the plagues of Egypt. The first (8:7) parallels the seventh plague of hail with fire and blood (Ex. 9:22-26). The second and third (8:8-11) parallel the first plague of the Nile turning to blood (Ex. 7:19-25). The fourth (8:12) parallels the ninth plague of darkness (Ex. 10:21-23) and the fifth (9:1-11), the eighth plague of locusts (Ex. 10:12-20).
1. THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS: DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (8:7-12)
 The first four trumpets will destroy the resources of the Antichrist's empire (8:6-12), affecting the environment (trees, grass, sea, rivers, sky), food supplies (vegetation, meat, fish), sea trade, water supplies, and both light and heat (sun, moon, stars). Their purpose is to destroy, not kill.

- a) **First trumpet:** It will destroy food supplies by burning one-third of the earth's vegetation (8:7). A supernatural event, like a meteor storm, with hail and fire will burn the earth's trees and grass. **Revelation 8:7 — “The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. A third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.”**
- b) **Second trumpet:** It will destroy food supplies and sea trade (8:8-9). A huge burning object like a mountain will fall from heaven turning one-third of the sea into blood and destroying one-third of the sea and ships. Some see this as referring only to the Mediterranean Sea (18:18; Isa. 2:12-16). The second trumpet corresponds to the first plague of Egypt where the rivers became as blood, causing the fish to die and polluting the land (Ex. 7:14-25; Ps. 105:29; 78:43-44). **Revelation 8:8-9 — “The second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”**
- c) **Third trumpet:** It will poison one-third of the earth's fresh water supply (8:10-11). A great burning star or meteoric mass will fall from heaven poisoning fresh water (rivers and springs). The saints will be protected as they were during the Egyptian plague on the Nile (Ex. 7:14-25). **Revelation 8:10-11 — “The third angel sounded: And a great star fell...burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.”**
- d) **Fourth trumpet:** It will destroy light and heat by darkening one-third of the sun, moon and stars (8:12). This supernatural work of God will affect heat, health, agriculture, navigation, etc. Our lack of understanding of how this will occur is not a sufficient reason to see this as symbolic. This trumpet corresponds to the ninth Egyptian plague from which Israel was spared (Ex. 10:23).
Revelation 8:12 — “The fourth angel sounded: 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 were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.”
Exodus 10:21-23 — “The LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.” ...there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days... But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.
2. UNDERSTANDING THE FIFTH AND SIXTH TRUMPETS (REV. 9)
 The fifth and sixth trumpet judgments will release two demonic armies on the earth. In one sense, the demons come in response to the worship of their loyal demonized followers (13:8).

In the fifth and sixth trumpets, God lifts His restraints off the demonic realm so that their

hatred for humans is manifest. The demonic realm beneath the earth is opened, releasing them (9:1-21).

Demons hate the people who worship them as much as they hate Christians—they hate them all because they were made in God's image. Satan is a murderer from the beginning (Jn. 8:44). He never changes. His hatred will not be openly seen on earth until the fifth and sixth trumpets. Many will be deluded in thinking that Satan will give them favor for their loyal service to him. People will be turned over to Satan to experience the terrors of his hatred in order to give them opportunity to repent before progressing in evil by taking the mark of the Beast, which will be blasphemy. God wants unbelievers to see the truth about Satan, but He will honor the choice of the wicked by turning them over to the sin they love (Rom. 1:24-28).

1 Timothy 1:19 — “Some...whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

1 Corinthians 5:5 — “Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

Romans 1:24-28 — “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies...For this reason God gave them up to vile passions...exchanging the natural use for what is against nature...God gave them over to a debased mind...”

a) FIFTH TRUMPET: TORMENT BY DEMONIC LOCUSTS (9:1-11)

The fifth trumpet will release an army of demonic locusts who will inflict pain on people (9:4).

Revelation 9:1-6 — “The fifth angel sounded: I saw a star fallen [descended] from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. He opened the bottomless pit...out of the smoke locusts came on the earth. To them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth...but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months...like the torment of a scorpion...In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.”

b) SIXTH TRUMPET: DEATH BY DEMONIC HORSEMEN (9:12-21)

In the sixth trumpet, four demons will be released to lead a demonic cavalry to kill one-third of the human race. In the fifth trumpet, people will seek to die (9:6). Their prayer will then be answered as the demons they worship kill them. This parallels the tenth plague (Ex. 12:29-32).

Revelation 9:13-18 — “The sixth angel sounded: I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels [fallen demonic beings] who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the

horsemen was two hundred million... I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them...out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed..."

VI. THE RAPTURE AND REPLACEMENT OF WORLD GOVERNMENTS (REV. 11:15-19)

A. SEVENTH TRUMPET:

This is the third chronological section in which events in Jesus' end-time action plan are seen. At the seventh trumpet, an announcement in heaven will declare that the Lord will take over and replace all the governments on earth. At this time, He will also do three things—He will judge the dead, reward the saints, and destroy the leaders who are responsible for destroying the earth.

Revelation 11:15-18 — “The seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” And the twenty-four elders...worshiped God, saying: “We give You thanks... because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants...and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

1. Paul prophesied that the rapture will occur at the seventh trumpet (1 Cor. 15:51-52).
1 Corinthians 15:51-52 — “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
Revelation 10:7 — “..in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His...prophets.”
2. The saints who are alive at the time of Jesus' coming will be raptured.
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 — “The Lord will descend from heaven...with the trumpet of God...We who are alive... shall be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”
3. THE CHURCH AS THE ECCLESIA (GOVERNMENTAL RULING BODY): (The Rock)
 The book of Revelation can be seen like an end-time book of Acts so that the saints worldwide may have a unified prayer focus in knowing the sequence of God's judgments on the Antichrist. It is like a “canonized prayer manual” that will equip the Church to partner with Jesus in prayer. Imagine hundreds of millions of saints unified with Jesus and one another. The end-time prayer movement will need the unified prayers of the entire body of Christ worldwide to release this measure of power against the Antichrist who will be the greatest oppressor in human history.
4. A primary theme in Revelation is God's judgment against the Antichrist's empire. A secondary theme is the Antichrist's persecution of the saints (12:12; 13:4, 8). In the Tribulation, the Church need not fear that they will be powerless victims. Rather, they will be operating in

power under Jesus' leadership. **Only 12 of the 403 verses (3%) in the book of Revelation refer to persecution.**

5. Principle of judgment: God's end-time judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. The Lord will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will.
6. Christianity is more about relating to and partnering with Jesus to see God's glory and kingdom released on the earth and to drive evil off the planet than it is about escaping hell. The Lord wants to release His purposes on earth in context to deep partnership with His beloved people.
7. The Lord told Moses to divide the sea rather than waiting for God to do it (Ex. 14:15-16), and He told Moses to speak to the rock to release God's provision of water from it (Num. 20:7-8).
Exodus 14:15-16 — "The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me?.. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it..."
Numbers 20:7-8 — "The LORD spoke to Moses, "...speak to the rock...it will yield its water."

VII. INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH (REV. 15:1-16:21)

- A. The fourth chronological section of the book of Revelation describes the seven bowl judgment events that Jesus will release upon the Antichrist's empire. I see the events in this section as occurring right after the sounding of the seventh trumpet in which an announcement in heaven declares that the Lord is taking over and replacing all the governments on earth.
Revelation 11:15 — "The seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord... and He shall reign forever and ever!"
- B. Paul prophesied that the rapture would occur at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:51-52). These seven trumpets in the book of Revelation are the only trumpets that are numbered in the Bible (Rev. 8-9). I believe that Paul's "last" trumpet is the seventh trumpet mentioned in Revelation 10:7; 11:15 since it is the "last" trumpet mentioned in Revelation. If the rapture does not occur at the seventh trumpet, then it must occur sometime after it to occur at the "last" trumpet. The last trumpet by definition cannot be before the seventh trumpet (or any other trumpet)—it is the very last to sound in this age.
1 Corinthians 15:51-52 — "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed [the rapture]."
- C. Daniel prophesied that the abomination of desolation would continue for 1,290 days (43 months).
Daniel 12:11 — "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [1290 days]."

- D. The Antichrist will set up the abomination of desolation after he stops the sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple, which will be rebuilt. He will put an image of himself in the holy place and require people to worship him as God (Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:14-18).
Matthew 24:15-16 — “When you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”
- E. Daniel emphasized a 1,290-day (43 month) period that begins on the day the abomination is set up; however John only addressed a 1,260-day (42 month) period that also begins at that time. John highlighted three activities that will continue for exactly 1,260 days (42 months). Notice that John's 1,260 days (42 months) are 30 days short of Daniel's time period (Dan. 12:11).
1. Provision: God will supernaturally provide for Israel for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 12:6, 14).
 Prophecy: The two witnesses will prophesy for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3).
 2. Persecution: The Antichrist will war against the saints (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5-7) and dominate Jerusalem (Rev. 11:2; Dan. 12:7) for exactly 1,260 days.
- F. The Antichrist's activities will continue for an additional 30 days after Israel's provision in the wilderness (Rev. 12:6), the prophesying of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3), and the persecution of the saints and Jerusalem (Rev. 11:2) are over. This coincides with the sounding of the seventh trumpet.
- G. In other words, on the 1,260th day (42nd month or 31/2 years) after the abomination of desolation begins, I believe that the seventh trumpet will sound, the Church will be raptured (Rev. 11:15), and the Antichrist's unchallenged domination of Jerusalem will come to an end. His focus will then change in a dramatic way during the final 30 days (the 43rd month) as He stops persecuting Israel and the Church to rally the nations to make war against Jesus (Rev. 17:14; 19:11, 19).
- H. There will be three types of people on earth when Jesus appears in the sky: The **redeemed** will be raptured during Jesus' worldwide procession across the sky. The **reprobate**, who took the mark of the Beast, will be killed (some executed). The **resisters** are the unsaved survivors of the Great Tribulation, who will refuse to worship the Antichrist, even though they were not saved. Scripture refers to them as those left **or** those who remain (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16). These will have an opportunity to be saved after Jesus returns to earth and will populate the millennial earth.

VIII. JESUS' ROYAL PROCESSION: THREE STAGES

At the seventh trumpet, I believe that Jesus will rapture the Church and make His royal procession across the earth. In my opinion, His coming with all the saints involves a royal procession that has three stages, which will include many events occurring over a 30-day period.

Stage 1: Jesus' procession across the sky to rapture the Church (Mt. 24:30-31; Rev. 1:7)

Stage 2: Jesus' procession on the land marching through Edom (Jordan) to Israel (Isa. 63)

Stage 3: Jesus' procession into Jerusalem (from the Mount of Olives?), followed by His coronation

- A. **Stage 1:** Every person will see Jesus' royal procession across the sky (Rev. 1:7) just before He raptures the Church (Mt. 24:30-31). With trumpets, His kingship will be announced over each nation. His coming to gather His elect will not be a secret coming, but one that is seen by everyone.

Revelation 1:7 — “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.”

Matthew 24:30-31 — “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened...Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather [rapture] together His elect [saints] from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

1. **The sign:** In my opinion, the sign of the Son of Man may be related to His royal procession around the whole earth. Jesus will come with all the angels and saints from heaven (Mt. 25:31; 1 Thes. 3:13) as He travels on clouds in the Father's glory (Mt. 16:27), great power (Mk. 13:26), and flaming fire (2 Thes. 1:8). He will descend with a great shout, the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God as He raises the dead (1 Thes. 4:14-16).
2. **Mourn:** Every unbeliever will see Him clearly enough to have a deep emotional response described as mourning. Thus, Jesus will travel close enough to the earth and slowly enough across the face of the earth for every unbeliever to see Him clearly enough to understand what is happening so that they mourn over having not received Him before this time.

- B. **Stage 2:** Jesus' royal procession on the land as He travels through Edom (modern-day Jordan) on His way to Jerusalem with great victory over the armies of the Antichrist (Isa. 63:1-6; cf. Ps. 45:3-5; 110:5-6; Hab. 3:12; Rev. 19:19). In my opinion, Jesus will march to Jerusalem as the “greater Moses” as He releases the bowl judgments on the Antichrist functioning as an “end-time Pharaoh.” Jesus will liberate Jerusalem and kill the Antichrist's armies, ending the abomination of desolation.

Isaiah 63:1-4 — “Who is this who comes from Edom [modern Jordan], with dyed garments from Bozrah [ancient capital of Edom], this One [Jesus] who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?—“I [Jesus] who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress...in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come...”

- C. **Stage 3:** Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4), received by the leaders of Jerusalem, followed by His coronation as King (Ps. 24:7-10; Zech. 14:1-5; Mt. 23:39)

Matthew 23:39 — "...you shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Psalms 24:7-8 — "Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! The King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty...mighty in battle. (Ps. 24:7-8)

IX. THE HEAVENLY CONTEXT TO RELEASE THE BOWLS OF WRATH (REV. 15)

John saw end-time believers, who were victorious over the Antichrist, standing on the sea of glass in heaven singing about the glory of God (Rev. 15:1-4). This might describe the martyred saints who are already in heaven singing as they join the Lord as He raptures the Church.

Revelation 15:1-4 — "I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the Beast [Antichrist]...standing on the sea of glass...They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints...For all nations shall... worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested."

The temple opened in heaven, and seven angels received seven bowls of wrath (Rev. 15:5-8).

Revelation 15:5-8 — "After these things...the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. 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. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed."

X. THE SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH (REV. 16)

In the days of the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the saints in heaven gather on the sea of glass to worship the Lord and to participate in the rapture as the seven angels receive the bowls of wrath.

Revelation 16:1 — "I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

- A. First bowl (sores): sores will cause great suffering for those who worship the Antichrist.
Revelation 16:2 — "The first went and poured out his bowl...and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast [Antichrist]..."
- B. Second bowl (food supply): The sea will become blood, killing all the sea life (Rev. 16:3). This will be complete destruction of marine life, not just 1/3 destruction as in the second trumpet. The sea will become like the congealed blood of a dead man, with unimaginable stench. Some believe this refers only to the Mediterranean Sea since that is the context of Daniel 7.

Revelation 16:2 — “Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”

- C. Third bowl (water supply): The earth's fresh water will be poisoned with blood (Rev. 16:4-7). The third trumpet (Rev. 8:10) is similar to the third bowl in defiling the drinking water. The first plague of Egypt struck the Nile with a similar impact as this (Ex. 7:19-21).

Revelation 16:4-7 — “Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord...because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.” I heard another from the altar [heavenly intercession] saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

- D. Fourth bowl (torment): There will be scorching heat from the sun (Rev. 16:8-9). I see this as a supernatural act of God, not merely a natural one. This bowl will intensify the heat of the sun. The fourth trumpet will affect the sun in the opposite way by making it less intense.

Revelation 16:8-9 — “The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.”

- E. Fifth bowl (darkness): Darkness will fall on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11). This darkness will probably have a supernatural, demonic element to it. The ninth plague of Egypt caused darkness for three days (Ex. 10:21-23).

Revelation 16:10-11 — “The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the Beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed God...because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.” The Antichrist's worshipers will not repent, but will blaspheme God (Rev. 16:9, 11, 21), showing their deep hatred of Him. As God's judgments increase, the hatred and blasphemy of the wicked will come fully into the open.

- F. Sixth bowl (global guilt): demons will lure the nations to gather to fight Jesus (Rev. 16:12-16).

Revelation 16:12-16 — “The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon [Satan], out of the mouth of the beast [Antichrist], and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth...to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... They gathered them together to... Armageddon.”

Revelation 17:14 — “These [the 10 kings] will make war with the Lamb...for He is...King of kings.”

Revelation 19:19 — “I saw the Beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies,

gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus]...and against His army.”

Matthew 24:30 — “The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven...all the tribes of the earth will mourn... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds...with power and great glory.”

Matthew 12:31-32 — “Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him...”

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 — “The coming of the lawless one [Antichrist]...with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception...because they did not receive the love of the truth...For this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie...”

G. Seventh bowl (annihilation): shaking by earthquakes and 100lb. hail stones.

Rev. 16:17-21 — “Poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice... from the throne, saying, “It is done!” ...there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city [Jerusalem] was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent [100 pounds]. Men blasphemed God...”

Ezekiel 38:22 — “I will bring him [Antichrist] to judgment...I will rain down on...his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.”

Revelation 19:11-21 — “Behold, a white horse. He [Jesus] who sat on him...judges and makes war...He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood... The armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses...He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him...Then the beast was captured, and...cast alive into the lake of fire...The rest were killed with the sword...”

XI. GLORIOUS SAINTS

Revelation 7:9-14 — “Behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...saying, “Salvation belongs to our God...” Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” ...he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes...in the blood of the Lamb.”

XII. SUMMATION OF THE SECOND COMING

Revelation 19:11-21 — “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

XIII. MILLENNIAL REIGN

Revelation 20:1-6 — “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”