

| TIMELINE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE END OF TIME (FUTURIST, PRE-TRIBULATIONIST, PRE-MILLENNIALIST) ¹ | | | | |
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| THE EVENT | | NOTES | REFERENCE IN REVELATION | OTHER BIBLICAL REFERENCES |
| Babylonian Captivity | | | | |
| Restoration Period (7 Sevens) | | From decree of Cyrus to building of the walls of the city of Jerusalem it took 7 sevens or 7 times 7 years or 49 years | | Daniel 9:25 ⁱⁱ |
| Silent Years (Sixty-two Sevens) | | 62 x 7 years equals 434 years (times of trouble) until the Roman occupation, John the Baptist prepares the way, Christ arrives and is crucified | | Daniel 9:26 |
| Crucifixion | | Messiah (referred to in Daniel as the Anointed One) is cut off | | Daniel 9:26 |
| The Church Age | | The years between the founding of the Christian Church and the start of the Tribulation | 2:1-3:22 | Isaiah 61:1-2 |
| Rapture | R A P T U R E | Only for the Church, supporting evidence: absence of mention of church in chapters 6-18 (during Tribulation), in those chapters Old Testament symbols and language used to describe Israel not Church, John represents Church and told to "Come up hither... was in the spirit." Saints don't live through this time period (page 147); effect on Earth is devastating (page 154). | 4:1 Occurs pre-tribulation (letter to Philadelphia 3:10) | 1 Thessalonians 1:10 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 John 14:1-3 |
| Tribulation (One Seven or 7 Years) | F I R | Antichrist (Beast) covenants with Israel | 6:1-18:24 also Chapter 13 | Daniel 9:27 |
| 1st Seal Coming of Antichrist | S T ½ | Rider on White Horse with Bow: the Antichrist arrives and conquers based on diplomacy (no arrow in bow), Futurists view this as the coming of one world government (page 144) which accounts for opposition to the U.N. | 6:1-2 (Crown given to him, not taken by conquest) | Ezekiel chapters 38-39 Daniel 9:26 (Rider is "prince who shall come" (Antichrist). |
| 2nd Seal War | T R I B U L A T I O N | Rider on Fiery Red Horse: War ravages the Earth. This war results from a revolt against one world government. Hal Lindsey sees red rider as Russia and her Arab allies. War starts that escalates into Armageddon. "Great sword" (welded by rider) is Nuclear Bomb (Ray Stedman). | 6:3-4 | Matthew 24:6 "wars and rumors of wars" |

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| 3 rd Seal Economic Upheaval | Rider on Black Horse with Scales: Famine and inflation (a day's wage [a penny, see Matthew 20:2, 9] is required for a day's food) follows war but the rich are immune. Social Security ends (page 145). Heavy toll on common people only. | 6:5-6 | Jeremiah 4:27-28, Lamentations 4:8-9 |
| 4 th Seal Death | Pale Horse with Death as Rider: ¼ of the Earth's human population dies, since Rider is followed by Hades, these are the unsaved that die (with mark of beast). At today's population, 1½ billion would die. Beasts (typical biblical symbol) may represent a revolt of nature or governments. | 6:7-8 Chapter 13 | Matthew 24:21 (great tribulation, great distress, great suffering) |
| Post-Rapture Revival? | Many turn to God, else there would be no Martyrs to slay (see 5 th Seal) | | |
| 5 th Seal Call for Justice in Heaven | Souls of Slain: Martyrs (in white robes = faithful) call for justice before God. These are the "Tribulation Saints." | 6:9-11 | Some Futurists: Anyone converted post-Rapture must be martyred, except 144,000 (page 146) |
| 6 th Seal Catastrophe on Earth | Great Day of His Wrath , earthquakes, blackened sun, blood moon, stars fall: volcanic eruption, or nuclear war devastate Earth. 1st Nuclear exchange per Lindsey (Gregg ⁱⁱⁱ , page 125) | 6:12-17 | Matthew 24:29 (darkened Sun, Moon, & stars) |
| Sealing | Sealing God's Servants (occurs concurrent with mark of Beast), four angels hold back destruction until faithful are sealed. These are those who befriend Jesus in the Tribulation. | 7:1-3 13:14-14:1 | Matthew 25:31-46 (promises and separation of followers & non- followers) |
| 144,000 | 144,000 (end of 1 st ¼ Tribulation), these Jewish Christians preach the same Gospel as Jesus & Paul. | 7:4-8 | Joel 2:28-32 dreams & visions Galatians 1:8-9 no other gospel, 144K preach same gospel as Paul |
| Great Soul Harvest | Great Multitude represents greatest Soul Harvest in all history. Because of verses 16-17, it is assumed these Tribulation Saints have suffered great persecution, but once in Heaven, will suffer no more. | 7:9-17 13:5-7 | |

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| 7 th Seal Silence in Heaven | Silence in Heaven, this is ominous, like the silence before a jury foreman reads a verdict. Heaven is usually filled with rejoicing, but in anticipation of what follows...there is silence. | 8:1 | One of the angels is probably Gabriel: Luke 1:19 Daniel 9:21 |
| Censer with Fire | Censer is filled with the prayers for vengeance by Saints, when thrown upon Earth...signals the start of God's Great Day of Wrath. The Seven Trumpets then sound. | 8:2-6 | 5 of the Plagues in Egypt have parallels in Revelation: Exodus 7-11 ^{iv} (see below) |
| 1 st Trumpet Hail & Fire | Hail, fire, blood and one-third Earth & trees burned, massive loss of vegetation leads to ecology out of balance. Maybe symbolic (trees=great men & leaders, grass= common people). Most Futurists view as literal hail, thunder (fire) and blood. | 8:7 | Exodus 9:18-19 Plague of hail (thunder & fire) |
| 2 nd Trumpet Mountain | Mountain ablaze thrown into sea. In scripture the sea represents Gentiles & mountain represents a kingdom. So Kingdom of Antichrist falls upon (conquers) Gentile nations. Ancient Babylon also viewed as destroying mountain. Also literally viewed as a meteor hurling towards the Earth ablaze or a huge Hydrogen bomb ("something like a mountain"-- Lindsey) exploding in the ocean kills one-third marine life and sea turns blood red. | 8:8-9 | Similar to Exodus 7:17 Water to blood, fish die, cannot drink Jeremiah 51:25 |
| 3 rd Trumpet Blazing Star | Great blazing star (Wormwood): symbolically a great person (Pope, religious leader) who claims authority becomes an apostate with grave (bitter) results (one-third humankind follows his lead). Literalist suggest a great comet, breaking up upon entry into the atmosphere which poisons (with radiation) one-third of the Earth's waters. Lindsey sees this as another thermonuclear device in a series of exchanges (Gregg, page 167). | 8:10-11 | Interesting side note: Chernobyl is Russian word for Wormwood. |

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| <p>4th Trumpet One-third Sun, Moon, Stars and Day turns Black</p> | <p>Symbolic lessening of light of spiritual perception. Some literalists view as switch of day and night hours...16 hours of darkness and 8 hours of light each day rather than the reverse. Others suggest a diminishing amount of light as might follow in a Nuclear Winter (Lindsey) with tremendous pollution from explosions</p> | <p>8:12</p> | <p>Exodus 10:21-23 Plague of darkness II Thessalonians 2:11-12 Luke 21:25-26</p> |
| <p>3 Woes Announced</p> | <p>An eagle (or angel, depending on interpretation) warns that the worst is yet to come. Described as “Hell let loose on Earth.” Previous 4 are physical (divinely instigated) woes while next three are produced by spiritual (demonic) forces.</p> | <p>8:13</p> | |
| <p>5th Trumpet Star Falls from Heaven to Earth, Locust from Pit (1st Woe)</p> | <p>Symbolically, same apostate as in 8: 10 (the Pope)? Locusts represent the “spiritual plague of the last days” (Gregg page 175). Literalists suggest the fallen star is Satan himself. Smoke and locust^v swarm from abyss (the bottomless pit or prison house of demons). The wicked (those not sealed) will be subject to the horrendous attack of demon spirits and torture. Demonic possession and affliction will be common. Ryrie suggests that men will be driven to suicide but pills, poisons, drowning; even bullets will have no effect. Lindsey suggests locusts may be Cobra helicopters (Vietnam era), others suggest tanks (in a great war) spraying nerve gas.</p> | <p>9:1-12 20:1 (some see the star as same as angel in this verse, but that doesn’t fit with idea of a fallen star)</p> | <p>Exodus 10:3-6 swarm of locust, Gog in Ezekiel 38, Futurists, like Lahaye, focus on two types of evil spirits (fallen angels, followers of Satan): those who are free to inhabit humans (Matthew 12:43-45) and those confined (2 Peter 2:4) to “gloomy dungeons.”^{vi}</p> |
| <p>6th Trumpet Releases 4 Bound Angels (2nd woe)</p> | <p>Four angels @ Euphrates (attach from the east or Orient?) released to kill 1/3rd of population. Euphrates was boundary between East & West, always had to be defended (Romans feared invasion by Parthians. This Trumpet coupled with Fourth Seal (6:7-8) destroys half of the population of the Earth.</p> | <p>9:13-15 7:1 Some suggest same angels, Lahaye suggest evil angels because they are bound. 16:12 2nd Euphrates reference</p> | <p>Exodus 11:4-6 Plague of death to the first born children Evil angels hate human kind because God love us (John 3:16)?</p> |

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| Euphrates River | | Greatest river of boundaries in the Bible: formed one boundary of garden of Eden, a boundary for Israel (Genesis 15:18), eastern boundary of Egypt, and a border of the Persian Empire. Symbolizes Israel's enemies. | Man's first sin near Euphrates River, Babylon built by Nimrod, tower of Babel, and man's last sin (Antichrist's city of rule) | Revelation 18 City of Babylon rebuilt. |
| Army of Horsemen | | 200 million strong; either demonic spirits or actual human armies (probably from Orient), led by 4 evil angels (page 174). During Gulf War I, all 31 UN nations fielded only 1 million soldiers. China has only 2.3 million. Literalists suggest this was John's understanding of an incomprehensible scene with weapons of modern warfare (tanks= fire, smoke, and sulfur), banners, etc. Moorehead suggests this is "the imperial army of the Antichrist and possibly consists mainly of Mohammedans (Muslims)." Lindsey suggests "the hordes are forces of Asia, possibly with China dominant." In 1961, the armed militia of China was estimated at 200 million, according to Lindsey. | 9:16-19 | Many futurist view these are demonic troops because of the description (9:17) ^{vii} |
| No Repentance | | Half the world killed (approx. 1 ½ billion people—page 175), physical catastrophes, demonic possession, wars and pestilence...and the remaining half of the population remain hard hearted. The new "gods" worshiped will be "murder, sorcery, fornication and stealing." (Gregg, Page 201) | 9:20-21 | 1 Timothy 4:1 Ephesians 4:17-19 Jeremiah 17:9 (Choices of heart) Hebrews 11:25 (Moses' choice vs. the unrepentant of the last days) |
| Mighty Angel with Little Book | | Angel may be Christ. Others (Lahaye) identify the angel as simply one given great authority and power. Angel stands on sea and land indicating power over all the Earth. The little book (scroll) may represent "a divine principle that while God has revealed much, there are secrets which God has not seen fit to reveal to man at this time" (Walvoord--Gregg 207). | 10:1-4 Interlude (continues through 11:14) before 7 th Trumpet and start of second half of (Great) Tribulation | Doesn't this sound like Restoration philosophy? |

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| Eat the Little Book | | John consumes the word of God and must speak (write) the prophecy, The sweetness of the little book means the message is good (for the faithful) but the bitterness (sourness) means judgment and pain are coming to the Earth. ^{viii} “There will be no more delay!” (10:6) The end is coming. | 10:5-11 10:7 “the mystery of God would be finished.” ^{ix} | Jeremiah 15:16 Ezekiel 3:1-3 (Eat words) |
| Measuring the Temple | R E C A P 1 st | The temple, measured by John, may represent a temple yet to be built by the Jews (Gentiles are outside) for the reinstatement of the Old Testament sacrificial cult, not recognizing that Christ has come and died as our sacrifice before God. Another view: faithful Jews in inner court; apostates (Gentiles) in outer court. | 11:1-2 | 2 Thessalonians 2:4 (Apostate in Temple) Daniel 9:27, 12:11 abomination in temple |
| Two Witnesses | H A L F T R I B U L A T I O N | Two witnesses to prophesy for 42 months (1260 days based on 30 day month or 3½ years). This event occurs concurrent with first half of Tribulation (?). Witnesses have power over rain, plagues, turning water to blood (see 1 st and 2 nd trumpets). | 11:3-6 | Futurists name witnesses as Elijah (1 Kings 18:35-38) and Moses ^x (plagues and water to blood), others suggest Enoch and John the Baptist, others “two prophets who will be raised up from among those who turn to Christ in the time following the Rapture.” ^{xi} |
| Beast in Abyss Let Loose | | Beast comes up from Abyss (concurrent with 5 th Trumpet?) and kills two witnesses “when they have finished their testimony.” (11:7) Holy City likened to Sodom (immorality and inhospitable behavior) and Egypt (symbol of materialism). Witnesses lay dead in street for 3½ days. Viewed by entire world (television, CNN?) | 11:7-10 1 st of 36 references to the Beast. Beast out of Pit may be Satan, Beast from sea is world dictator, beast from land is false religious leader (Gregg 235). | |
| Resurrection of Two Witnesses | | Witnesses taken into Heaven, severe earthquake hits—10 th of city (Jerusalem) destroyed and 7,000 die. Some survivors give glory to God, 2 nd woe passes. Lindsey suggests event will bring about conversion of many Jews. | 11:11-14 | |

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| 7 th Trumpet 3 rd Woe | P A R E N T H E T I C | Loud voices in Heaven, 24 elders worship God, earthquake in Heaven? Parenthetical passage (before start of Great Tribulation) includes persecution of God’s children (Chapter 12), the Antichrist (beast coming out of sea) and the false prophet (Chapter 13), heavenly vision (Chapter 14) introduction of 2 nd half of Tribulation (Chapter 15). | 11:15-19 | Problem: 11:15 have “kingdoms of this world ...become the kingdoms of our Lord” (Christ)? 11:18 has resurrection occurred? Or are these praises for the future? |
| Woman & Birth of Male Child | A L I N T E R L U D E | Most Futurist view woman as Israel (or “messianic community, the ideal faithful Israel”—Mounce) and male child as Christ. The dragon is Satan (verse 9). “Seven heads and ten horns” interpreted as revived Roman Empire (10 emperors and the city of Rome built on 7 hills correspond to horns and heads). The dragon cast down 1/3 of the stars—frequently interpreted as angels. Reference may be to war in Heaven with Satan taking 1/3 of the angels with him in revolt (Jude 1:6 and 2 Peter 2:4). Others view this as Satan gathering 1/3 of those who politically or spiritually oppose him under his power. Woman (Israel or Church) flees into the wilderness for 1260 days (3½ years – the Great Tribulation), which is the 2 nd half of Daniel’s seventieth week (Daniel 9:24-27) and culminates in the 2nd Coming of Christ. | 12:1-6 See 19:15-16 12:5-6 for dispensationalist represents 2000 years (so far) of the Christian dispensation. Other views of woman: Others see woman as “the church.” Catholics view her as Virgin Mary. Mary Baker Eddy said she was the woman and Christian Science was the man-child. | Genesis 37:9 (Joseph and dream of 11 stars bowing), Psalm 2:9 (Messiah & rod of iron) Daniel 11:40-45 World War with Jews safe in Edom, Moab & Ammon (modern day Jordan) |
| War in Heaven | | Chronologically out of order, but refers to Satan and his host losing the war in Heaven and being cast out. After Satan is cast out, he knows his time is short, so he vents his wrath on the Earth. Some futurists believe the war in heaven continues through all ages up until the mid-point in the Tribulation when Satan is cast out from Heaven. Angels include “announcing angel” (Gabriel) and “commanding angel” (Michael), see Daniel 12:1, page 202. Saints have victory over Satan in 3 ways: Blood of the Lamb, by word of their testimony, gave up their lives (verse 11) | 12:7-12 12:10 Satan, the Accuser | Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28 Michael is greater angel, protects Israel Jude 1:9 Michael less powerful than Satan Ephesians 2:2 Satan & his angels lead men & women into sin |

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| Woman Persecuted but Preserved | Israel flees into wilderness and aided by United States (“two wings of a great eagle”) per Lindsey. The flood from the serpent’s (dragon’s) mouth (12:13) is “the overflowing horde of men and weapons sent after the Jews in the wilderness by the beast” (Morris). Ironside interprets flood as “evil teachings...in contrast to the water of life given by...Jesus.” Flood also interpreted as literal flood in desert (page 204)! “War with rest of her offspring” means Satan’s wrath directed against faithful Jews. | 12:13-17 | |
| The Beast (Antichrist) | Beast from the sea interpreted as a Gentile (sea=Gentile or Mediterranean) from a Mediterranean nation. Viewed as a final secular authority (dictator leading ten powers, formed, from the old Roman Empire) exercising satanic power. The animal traits are symbolically as follows: lion was Babylon (insatiability), bear was Medo-Persia (persistence of purpose) and leopard was Macedonia or Greece (swiftness of conquest). Gregg pages 281, 283. “Deadly wound” refers to the successful assassination of the eschatological (study of “last things”) antichrist and his resurrection. | 13:1-4 See 17:10 Seven Kings | Political ruler as opposed to religious leader (second Beast), Daniel 7: 3-7 lists fourth beast as terrifying but non-descript = Roman Empire |
| War with the Saints | 42 months (3 ½ years –Great Tribulation) ^{xiii} the Beast blasphemes God, His tabernacle and those who dwell in heaven | 13:5-10 See 12:17 | Isaiah 14:13-14 Satan wants to be worshipped |
| Second Beast (False Prophet) See page 223 for 5 characteristics | False prophet, like a lamb...this beast is a religious leader. Mounce says second beast “stands for the role of false religion in effecting the capitulation of mankind to the worship of secular power. It is the universal victory of humanism.” ^{xiii} Some Futurist view second Beast as the Antichrist and he will be a Jew, a false messiah (Gaebelein). This Beast forces people to worship an image of the first Beast (verse 14). The image will have the power of “breath” (speech?) and may be set up in the rebuilt temple (the abomination of desolation). ^{xiv} | 13:11-15 see 16:13, 17:1-5 (ecumenical power), 19:20 and 20:10 (Final Judgment of Beasts) Note: some Futurist point to the head of the Catholic Church as False Prophet, they’re obviously Protestants. | Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11:31, Daniel 12:11 Matthew 24:15 Matthew 7:15 ^{xv} False Prophets |

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| Mark of the Beast | | The number 666, maybe a symbolic “mark” of allegiance, but some point to a cashless society where everything is bar coded. “Eventually this number will be placed on the body of the possessor, possibly as an implanted computer chip or a laser tattoo....” (Gregg, Page 303) 6 is an incomplete number (7 being perfection) and 666 is an unholy trinity of imperfection (Satan, Antichrist & False Prophet?). | 13:16-18 | Gen 1:26-31 Man created on 6 th day |
| Heavenly Vision | O V E R V I E W | Chapter 14 stands apart from what precedes and follows (chapters 12-13 and 15-16). Viewed variously as six parts of a vision dealing with the “closing up of the Great Tribulation and the introduction of the kingdom” (Ironsides) or a “full outline of the dealings of God in the latter-day crisis” (William Kelly) or “commentaries on the various aspects of the main action of the book...not...in chronological order” (Gregg, page 311)...“a table of contents of the things in the remainder of the book” (Ryrie). Mount Zion is viewed as literally the mountain in Israel or as Heaven. 144K are viewed by some as same group as in Chapter 7 and by others as a different group (not defiled virgins—probably meaning not corrupters or idolaters—not sexual virgins. See page 229. ^{xvi} | 14:1-20 Pictures the Lamb and the redeemed (1-5), the everlasting gospel (6-7), Babylon is fallen (8), firestone & brimstone for followers of the Beast (9-12), blessed are the dead (13), and the harvest & the vintage (14-20) Chapter 7 (144K) | Hebrews 12:22-24 Mt. Zion |
| Babylon is Fallen | | First reference to Babylon in Revelation. Refers (sometimes) to literal city, religious system, political system...all derivative of evil Babylonian empire. Foundation of Babylon was idolatry. | 14:8 | |
| Fire & Brimstone for Followers of Beast | | Eternal judgment of those with the mark of the Beast is covered in graphic detail. “The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever....” | 14:9-12 | |
| Blessed are the Dead | | Second of 7 beatitudes found in Revelation. Those who die “I the Lord” or for Christ’s sake are blessed forever. | 14:13 See also 1:3 16:15 19:9 20:6 22:7 22:14 | |

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| Harvest & Vintage | | Are the harvest (verse 14-16) and the Vintage (verse 17-20) two separate events? The first for the righteous elect and the second for the evil of the world? If the Harvest is of the righteous, is this the Rapture or a second Tribulation Saints Rapture? Note: 1,600 furlongs = 175 miles (Ryrie) or 200 miles (Walvoord). | 14:14-20 | |
| Song of Moses & the Lamb | G R E A T T R | Takes place in Heaven (sea of glass), the Saints do not experience the wrath of God, but have experienced the wrath of the devil (12:12) and persecution of the Beast (13:15). Song of Moses refers to God's faithfulness and earthly deliverance. Song of the Lamb refers to spiritual deliverance. | 15:1-4 | Exodus 15 Judges 5 |
| Angels with 7 Last Plagues | I B U L A T I O N | Angels are given bowls filled with wrath of God to pour on earth. Judgment is "not vindictive but vindicative" (Ryrie). Indicates relationship between prayer and divine retribution prayer for by Saints. This is the third Woe of the 7 th trumpet. Often called the "last plagues" before Christ's victorious return. | 15:5-8 5:8 Bowls of incense = prayers of Saints | |
| | | Antichrist breaks covenants with Israel | 15: | Daniel 9:27 |
| 1 st Bowl (of Wrath), also 1 st Plague | | Boils or sores. Some view as literal sores caused by a plague or radioactive pollution (Lindsey), others see as symbolic of sickness of society ("internal corruption will be outwardly manifested"—Gaeblein). | 16:1-2 | |
| 2 nd Bowl, also 2 nd Plague | | Sea becomes like blood of dead man. Sea (symbolically) represents Gentiles. Bierderwolf suggests that others are "making the sea in this instance represent the nations in a restless state and this [bowl] as designating the moral and spiritual death among nations," but he believes the plague is literal. May be red tide (microorganism), or appearance of loathsome blood red water, may affect only Mediterranean (traditionally considered the "sea") or all seas on Earth. May be result of death of sea in nuclear exchange (Lindsey). | 16:3 8:8-9 See 2 nd Trumpet | Man: "eye for an eye," God's vengeance "blood for blood (of Saints)." Exodus 7:17 |

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| 3 rd Bowl, also 3 rd Plague | Rivers & streams turn to blood. Literal or symbolic? “All the joys of life, typified by rivers and fountains of water, are poisoned and corrupted.” (Gaebelein) Literal: God gives the bloodthirsty, blood to drink. | 16:4-7 8:10-11 See 3 rd Trumpet | |
| 4 th Bowl, also 4 th Plague | Sun scorches people with fire. Symbolically, the Sun is the power of the New Roman Empire that torments its subjects or the supreme source of light (God/Christ) “which should have been for man’s comfort becomes a curse instead...the means of his bitter suffering” (Gaebelein). Literalists see great flares of nuclear fire burst...from the surface of the sun” (Stedman) or the result of “a full-scale nuclear exchange [that upsets] the balance of the atmosphere” (Lindsey). | 16:8-9 8:12 Opposite of 4 th Trumpet where Sun is dimmed | Malachi 4:1-2 (“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace.”) Nahum 1:6 |
| 5 th Bowl, also 5 th Plague | Darkness spreads over throne of the Beast. First four plagues “affected forces of nature (men, sea, rivers, sun), [but] 5 th bowl [plague] affects the political power of the beast” (Gregg, page 371). Symbolic darkness (blindness)? Or literal? Lindsey says “God’s blackout of this Revived Roman Empire [allows]...200 million Oriental soldiers into the area of the Middle East, the subject of the next judgment.” “Pains and sores” (verse 11) show the earlier plagues are still in effect. Despite catastrophic plagues, followers of the Beast curse God. | 16:10-11 | Amos 5:18 Nahum 1:8 Zephaniah 1:15-17 (“walk like blind men”) Mark 13:24 (“after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened”) |
| 6 th Bowl, also 6 th Plague | Euphrates dries up, allows the Kings of the East ^{xvii} to cross, three demon spirits loosed, and leads to Armageddon ^{xviii} . Many futurists view the “drying up” as literal--enabling Eastern or Oriental powers to move into position for battle. Others see a symbolic removal of any barriers to the great battle of Armageddon. Kings of the East are interpreted as lost tribes of Israel or dominions of Persia (Afghanistan) or Japan (“kingdom of the rising sun”) or Mongolian races allied with India or all countries of the Orient (Japan, China, India) or simply Red China | 16:12-16 9:16-19 (200 Million gathered at Euphrates) | Daniel 11:40-45 (“tidings out of the east”) |

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| | | (Lindsey). Three unclean spirits are viewed symbolically as the “spirits” who deceive leaders of all nations into joining the great battle. The Futurists’ view is divided on whether the Kings of the East come a) to battle the Antichrist or b) to join him in battle against the coming Christ, or c) to battle the Antichrist but are deceived into joining forces with him. Walvoord says the battle “reflects a conflict among the nations themselves in the latter portion of the great tribulation as the world empire so hastily put together begins to deteriorate.” | | |
| 7 th Bowl | | The 7 th Bowl unleashes a plague of thunder, lightning, earthquakes and hail. Lindsey sees this judgment as the “earth...shaken either by a literal earthquake or by a full-scale nuclear exchange of all remaining missiles... [Lindsey states] I lean toward the nuclear conflict.” Stedman agrees “coming on the heels of...Armageddon [this] probably describes the effect of nuclear warfare...” The end of the Tribulation brings “utter destruction of every spiritual and religious institution that man has built up apart from God. It is the absolute overthrow of civilization...the complete wreck of all man’s hopes [for a livable world], while rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ” (Ironsides). The hail is the weight of a talent (100 pounds)...enough to kill a man...but not stop men from blaspheming God. Tribulation period for Israel will put an end to sin (page 138) and “seals up vision and prophesy (page 139) | 16:17-21 | |
| The Harlot | V I S I O N | After the 7 th Bowl, the second coming is imminent, but John has a vision within a vision regarding Babylon-- the Harlot. Chapter 17 describes the Harlot, who comes to power in the first half of the Tribulation, and is destroyed at the start of the Great Tribulation. The Harlot represents the | 17:1-6 Description of woman mirrors “ecclesiastical pomp” in the Roman catholic and Greek Orthodox | |

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| | <p>O F T H E H A R L O T</p> <p>religious “Babylon,” which is viewed as symbolic of a global ecumenical religious system, which rides on the back of the one world government. Many protestant Futurists view the Harlot as the Roman Catholic Church.^{xix} Some Futurists (Ryrie and Walvoord) view this religious Babylon as different from the commercial or political Babylon of chapter 18 (Gregg, page 405). See Lahaye pages 260-285. Scarlet Beast is viewed as same as Beast from the sea (Antichrist) in Chapter 13. The Harlot “sitting on” (controls) the Beast for the first half of the Tribulation period. Then the “man of sin” throws off religion and requires everyone to worship him.</p> | <p>churches (Gregg, page 401)</p> | |
| <p>Mystery of Harlot</p> | <p>Seven mountains regarded as reference to Rome (built on seven hills) but not by all Futurists. Seven heads are equated to seven mountains and seven kings (17:9) by John. Walvoord and Seiss interpret as seven empires throughout history (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome is the 6th, with the Antichrist heading the 7th empire as king and also the ruler (resurrected) of the 8th kingdom/empire. Seiss sees this as symbolism for the empires that were “each and all the lovers, supporters, and defenders of organized falsehood in religion, the patrons of idolatry....” See Lahaye’s views on other world religions (page 264-265). The abomination is equated throughout Old Testament as idol worship.</p> | <p>17:7-11 13:1 (blasphemies) 21:2 city as a religious system</p> | |
| <p>Mystery of Ten Kings and Kingdoms</p> | <p>These 10 kings reign concurrently while the 7 kings represent empires in succession. The 10 kings are confederates of the Beast and will “make war with the lamb” (verse 14). They will also destroy the Harlot (verse 16). “Religious Babylon, who sought political alliances and power will in the end be destroyed by a political alliance” (Ryrie).</p> | <p>17:12-18</p> | <p>Daniel 11:36-39 Parallel in the willful king who seeks worship of himself only.</p> |

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| Babylon is Fallen | | In Chapter 17, the Beast and his confederates kill the Harlot Babylon, In this chapter, God destroys the Beast (called “Babylon”), which represents the political and commercial system. There is mourning at the fall of this Babylon (political/commercial system) but not the Harlot called Babylon. | 18:1-3 See 16:19 These are the same events described. | |
| “Come Out to Me” | | Final call by Christ to “those believers who will be living in the tribulation days and who like believers in every age will be tempted to compromise” (Ryrie). Still time to avoid her (Babylon’s) plagues and her consumption “utterly...with fire.” | 18:4-8 | |
| Apostles & Prophets Avenged | | Futurists view Babylon as a symbol of pagan worship and idolatry, also a real city. Many Futurists anticipate that Babylon will be rebuilt in modern Iraq and become a major commercial & religious center (some place the religious Babylon, the Harlot, in Jerusalem). The merchandise mentioned in this passage includes luxury items (silk, fine linen, bronze, marble, gold, precious stones and pearls)—causing men & women to lament the loss. While merchants and rich lament the loss, the Apostles and Prophets will rejoice at the removal of Babylon—making way for “the city of God.” | 18:9-24 | |
| Marriage of the Lamb | S E C O | Christ is united with his Bride (the Church). This takes place in Heaven and precedes the Second Coming or Glorious Appearing. | 19:1-10 18:20 Call for rejoicing at the fall of Babylon. | |
| Rider on White Horse: Glorious Appearing/ Second Advent | N D A D V E N T | The rider is Jesus Christ, identified as “Faithful and True” (verse 11), “King of Kings” (verse 16), “Lord of Lords” (verse 16), The Word of God” (verse 13). He comes followed by the armies of Heaven to “strike all nations” (verse 15). He comes for all living on Earth and judges by his “Word.” The Beast and the False Prophet are thrown into the “lake of fire” (verse 20) and all others are “killed with the sword” (verse 21). The birds “were filled with their flesh” (verse 21). | 19:11-21 (also 17-21) | Matthew 24:30 Titus 2:13 |

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| <p>When discussing the Millennium (1000 year reign of Christ) Futurists may be premillennialist (Christ comes before the Millennium), postmillennialist (Christ comes at the conclusion of the Millennium), or amillennialist (There is no golden age when Christ reigns on Earth). While Futurists may adopt any of these three approaches, I'll focus only on the premillennialist view below, which seems to follow most closely the popular Futurist view adopted by Lahaye and the <i>Left Behind</i> series.</p> | | | | |
| Dragon Bound | M I L L E N N I U M | Satan ^{xx} is bound after the war of Armageddon and after Christ's Second Coming. Name of angel with key to bottomless pit is unknown, but Michael is a candidate since he gains mastery over Satan in Chapter 12 and he is called "the archangel" in Jude 9. Satan bound and sealed in bottomless pit for 1000 years (verse 2-3), where he cannot deceive the nations (verse 3) but will be released at the millennium's end for "a little while" (verse 3). | 20:1-3 12:7 | Jude 1:9 Virtually all Old Testament prophets and Psalmists anticipated golden era of great peace & justice reigned over by expected Messiah |
| Millennium (Thousand Year Reign) | | Those seated upon "thrones" (verse 4) are generally thought to be all the saints of the Old and New Testament (Alford, Gaebelein, Milligan, Weidner), though others believe they are God, Christ and angels or 24 elders or the martyred of the Tribulation. Whoever is in this group, they are given the right to judge and "shall be priests" (verse 6). This time is considered the First Resurrection – a resurrection of Saints to reign on Earth. These individuals will not experience the second death. The 1000 years is taken literally by some and by others symbolically. The assumption is that during the Millennium many generations will be born but life spans may be longer too (see Isaiah). | 20:4-6 | Isaiah 65:20 2 Peter 3:8 "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." |
| Satan "At Large" | | Satan will be allowed to tempt humankind for a season. This is the time of testing for those born during the Millennium, when they must choose God over the temptations of the Devil. Nations of Gog and Magog will be crushed during Armageddon but regain some strength during Millennium and rise up to fight the Saints. Ultimately, the Saints do not fight the battle. It's fought by God: "fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them" (verse 9). | 20:7-10 | Ezekiel 38-39 (Gog & Magog) |

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| | | The Devil is defeated and thrown into eternal torment (verse 10) to join the Beast (Antichrist) and False Prophet. | | |
| End of the World, Final Judgment | | Heaven and Earth melt away (verse 11) before the Throne of God. In the final judgment everyone is judged (the “dead, small and great” (verse 12) including those held by “Death and Hades” (verse 13). Some Futurists believe only the wicked dead are judged as the Saints have already been resurrected and standing with Christ as judges & priests. Anyone found in the “Book of Life” is spared “the lake of fire” (verse 15). All are judged based on “their works, by the things which were written in the books” (verse 12). There appears to be the Book of Life plus another set of books (listing individual human deeds). Being cast into the lake of fire is the “second death” (verse 14-15). Death and Hades are also cast into the lake of fire...so Death dies and no longer afflicts men and women. | 20:11-15 3:21 & 21:5-8 (seem to confirm that the one judging on the throne is Jesus) 3:5 (promise to church at Sardis) 6:8 (riding upon a pale horse) | Luke 10:20 Hebrews 12:23 Isaiah 26:21 |
| When discussing the final two chapters of the Book of Revelation, the division of beliefs focuses on two interpretations: the Literalist and the Non-Literalist view. The Literalist (and most Futurists fall in this camp) anticipates a literal new creation of Heaven and Earth; in fact, God will create a new universe. Detail below follows this interpretation. The Non-Literalist are divided between those taking a Symbolic view (the new creation is actually in Heaven not a new literal Heaven and Earth) and those taking a Spiritual approach (the new creation is really manifest in the individual believer or the “New Covenant Church”). | | | | |
| New Creation | N E W C R E A T I O N | All creation is made new. God creates a new Heaven & Earth and the old is done away. God dwells with his people and there is no more sorrow or grief. This section (verses 1-8) is an outline for the remainder of the book, as shown in the endnote table. ^{xxi} In this new era of the future there is no war, no sin. | 21:1-8 | |
| New Jerusalem | I O N | The New Jerusalem and Babylon (17:1) are contrasted in this passage even though both are represented as a woman. The New Jerusalem is identified as the Bride (Church), while Babylon was depicted as a whore; the Bride is dressed in the “Glory of God” (verse 11), but the Harlot is dressed in scarlet robes. The glory/brightness of | 21:9-21 | Malachi 3:16-17 (faithful like jewels) |

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| | | <p>the bride-city is compared to a “most precious stone, like jasper stone, clear as crystal” (verse 11; i.e. diamonds). The city is square running 1500 miles (1200 Furlongs) on each side with 3 gates on each side (See Luke 13:29) named for the tribes of Israel, with 12 foundations (named for the Apostles). A 144 cubits tall wall surrounds the city (216 feet) so it (the wall) doesn’t obscure the city. The shape of city resembles the Holy of Holies. Bride-city is adorned with jewels (see Isaiah 54:11-12), walls of refined, pure gold (transparent) and each gate made of a pearl (“Pearly Gates”).^{xxii}</p> | | |
| Habitation of God | | <p>There is no temple because God lives amongst the Saints in the city. No need for a separate temple. The entire city is the Holy of Holies. No need for the Sun or Moon for God illuminates all. Compare Isaiah 60:19, 3, 13, 11, 5, and 21 (in that order) with Revelation 21: 23-27 for description of the New Jerusalem (residence of God). These passages speak of the “realities of the New Covenant age” (Gregg, page 497).</p> | 21:22-27 | |
| Renewal of World | | <p>Key features of the new world include a “pure river of water of life” (verse 1), the tree of life which bears 12 fruits, no more curse and no need for lamps or the Sun. Some disagreement on whether one Tree of Life or many (see Ezekiel 47:7, 12). Questions arise as to why Saints in New Creation need fruit to eat and what “nations” need to be healed with leaves of the tree of life?</p> | 22:1-5 | <p>Zechariah 14:8 (Living water) John 7:37-39 “If anyone thirsts...rivers of living water.”</p> |
| Affirmation of God’s Word | E P I L O G U E | <p>This is the start of an epilogue to the book. Opening declaration affirms the truth of the book by an angel, which echoes the words of God (21:5). The book ends as it began with the declaration that these events are predicted which “must shortly take place” (21:6 and 1:1, 3). Whereas Daniel’s vision was to be sealed until the end of time (Daniel 12:4) John’s is unsealed (verse 10), because “I am coming quickly” (verse 7).</p> | 22:6-10 | Daniel 12:4 |

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| God's Work Complete | The paradox is that these verses basically say, "time is too short for anyone to change" (verse 11) and yet the book's message is "time is short, change while you can!" Jesus confirms he'll reward each one "according to his work" (verse 12). Excluded from the City of God are those who sin (see verse 15). | 22:11-15 | Matthew 26:45 |
| Final Blessing | Speaker is Jesus, the "Bright and Morning Star" (verse 16). Debate exists on whether "Come" is issued to all believers or to those who hear the Book of Revelation read in the churches or to Christ (urging him to come quickly). | 22:16-17 | Numbers 24:17 "a Star would arise in Jacob" 2 Peter 1:19 John 7:37 "Come" |
| Final Curse | The warning to not change the "book" is probably not aimed at those who sincerely attempt to interpret it, but possibly to copyists who often added or deleted text from scriptures (Gregg, page 503-504). Similar warnings exist in Deuteronomy and Proverbs—not regarding adding to the text but warnings that the message of the book is to be heeded. This warning (regarding adding or subtracting from the Book of Revelation) is sometimes applied to the entire Bible, yet Revelation was chronologically not the last book written. | 22:18-19 | |
| Conclusion | Christ is coming quickly, the grace of Jesus the Christ be with you... Amen. | 22:20-21 | |

All page number references to *Revelation Unveiled* by Tim LaHaye (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 1999), unless noted otherwise. Second major source is Steve Gregg book, see endnote iii.

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ⁱ Mark 13:32-37 KJV) But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

ⁱⁱ *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament* by Walton, Matthews and Chavalas (InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove IL, 2000), page 744, indicates "It was forty-nine years between the fall of Jerusalem (586 B.C.) and the decree of Cyrus (538). Same text identifies Onias III, high priest murdered by Antiochus Epiphanes as the Anointed One since his murder initiated a seven-year period of persecution in Jerusalem, which included the desecration of the temple. This interpretation would **not** be accepted by the Futurists, who saw the Anointed One as Jesus Christ.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Revelation Four Views: a Parallel Commentary* edited by Steve Gregg (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1997).

^{iv} Plagues not found in parallel in Revelation: Exodus 8:1-4 plague of frogs, Exodus 8:16-18 plague of gnats or lice, Exodus 8:20-22 plague of flies, Exodus 9:8-10 plague of boils, Exodus 9:1-4 Deadly Pestilence.

^v Lahaye believes these swarms will be invisible locust whose sting will be “the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man” (Revelation 9:5) but the pain will last 5 months. This is obviously a literal rather symbolic interpretation (page 172). Believers will be exempt from this judgment!

^{vi} Lahaye writes: “These fallen angels...make up the kingdom of Satan and under his leadership go about seeking to lead human beings in the defiance of God’s will.... The success or failure of their objective is dependent on the number of spirits in a person’s body and whether or not he or she flees for deliverance to Jesus Christ, our only defense against the attacks of Satan.”

^{vii} Revelation 9: 17 (NIV) “Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.” Fire = fiery red, smoke = dark blue, and sulfur = yellow. These are the colors and elements of Hell. Lahaye describes these as imprisoned demons, citing Jude 1:6 to confirm that such creatures exist.

^{viii} Walvoord writes, “the Word of God is bitter in that it not only contains promises of grace but, as the book of Revelation itself abundantly illustrates, it reveals the divine judgments which will be poured out on the earth as God deals in wrath with the wicked world.”

^{ix} Interpreted by Gaebelein that “Evil had apparently triumphed; the heavens for so long have been silent. Satan had been permitted to be the god of this age deceiving nations.... And now the time has come when the mystery of God will be completed.” Or (Ironside) “Everything will be made plain. The mystery of retribution—the mystery of predestination—the mystery of the great struggle between light and darkness and good and evil—all will be explained then.”

^x Moses and Elijah appear at the Transfiguration of Christ, and represent the Law and the Prophets. Malachi 4:5-6 prophesies the return of Elijah before the “great and dreadful day of the LORD.” Others believe the two are Elijah and Enoch because they never tasted death and “it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment,” (Hebrew 9:27).

^{xi} Walvoord, per Gregg page 233.

^{xii} The Beast (AntiChrist) tries to gain control for the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation (one world government, ecumenical movement), in the last 3 ½ years (the Great Tribulation) the Beast will cast off the church and persecute Christians and Jews. Page 219.

^{xiii} Humanism: “A system of thought that centers on human beings and their values, capacities, and worth.” American Heritage Dictionary.

^{xiv} Second beast has been described as “the high priest of the Antichrist’s religious system during the Tribulation period.” Page 224.

^{xv} Matthew 7:15-16 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.”

^{xvi} Another view of “not defiled with women” is those who have kept the marriage covenant or are single virgins (Lahaye).

^{xvii} Literally “Kings of sunriseing.”

^{xviii} Armageddon is Hebrew for “Mountain of Megiddo” which has been interpreted by some symbolically as “Mount of Slaughter.” Gregg, page 387. Per The American Heritage Talking Dictionary, “An ancient city of northwest Palestine on the southern edge of the Plain of Esdraelon. It was the scene of many battles throughout early history because of its strategic position on the route connecting Egypt with Mesopotamia.”

^{xix} Harlot is used elsewhere to refer to “apostate Judaism and alludes to the practice of spiritual adultery” (Gregg, 403). “spiritual adultery is not ordinarily used [to refer to] heathen nations who know not God, but [rather to] people who outwardly carry the name of God while actually worshipping and serving other gods” (Walvoord).

^{xx} Referred to as “the dragon,” “Satan,” the “Devil,” and “that serpent of old.” (Revelation 20:2)

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| Description | In outline section | In remainder of book |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| New Jerusalem | Verse 2 | 21:9-21 |
| God dwells among men | Verse 3 | 21:22-27 |
| Renewal of the world | Verse 5a | 22:1-5 |

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| “words are faithful & true” | Verse 5b | 22:6-10 |
| Work completed | Verse 6a | 22:11-15 |
| Final blessing | Verse 6b-7 | 22:16-17 |
| Final curse | Verse 8 | 22:18-19 |
| From Gregg, page 492. | | |

^{xxii} A pearl is the result of affliction (sand) in the oyster, which becomes a beautiful thing (pearl). “The pearl thus may stand for affliction turned to benefit, even as silver and gold refined by fire are used in Scripture for the same concept” (Gregg, page 496). See Acts 14:22.