

An Understanding of the Prophetic Message in Revelation

I. God's Redemption Plan & Global Events

- Isa 46:9-10
 - Only God knows the future
 - Prophecies make the Bible vulnerable (i.e. what if these don't happen?)
- Interpreting meanings of prophecies
 - Primary meanings (past or future contexts)
 - Practical meanings (applications)
 - Prophetic meanings (Revelation is prophecy – Rev 1:3)

- Matt 24:36-37 – don't know day or hour the Lord will return
- Rev 1:3; 22:6-7 – need to be knowledgeable of Bible prophecies
- Mark 13 – so need to keep watch
- Our posture: NOT alarmist, BUT “watch and pray” (Lk 21:36) as the Day of the Lord will come “like a thief” (2 Pet 3:10) [e.g. terrorist threat – be vigilant, but not paralyzed by it; watchful yet live normally]

- Jerusalem has God's imprint
 - Hinnom, Tyropoeon and Kidron valleys converge to form shape of "shin" over Jerusalem
 - "Shin" is first Hebrew alphabet for "Shaddai" (name of God)



- Medical fact
 - Chemistry of the blood—the father alone contributes to the blood of an embryo
 - Jesus' blood from God the Father, not any man (i.e. Adam)
 - Thus, Jesus has unblemished blood (i.e. no “inherited” sin nature in Him)

- Shroud of Turin is a better proof of resurrection than the Empty Tomb
 - Watch Paul Bromley on Youtube (“The Shroud of Turin: A Scientific View”)

- Global Events
 - Known or recorded earthquakes of at least 7.0 magnitude since 1 AD – only one in every 66 years ... until recently
 - Drying up of great rivers as prophesied (e.g. Euphrates and Nile) – Rev 16:12
 - Worldwide pestilence (e.g. SARS, Zika)
 - Wars (coming of nuclear wars as prophesied in Eze 38:1-23 and Zech 14:12 [“flesh and tongue will rot”])

II. Israel & Middle East

- Birth of Israel on 15 May 1948
- Revival of Hebrew language
- Land of Israel becomes fertile, populous and prosperous (“the desert blooms”)
- Temple Mt back to the Jews in 1967 after Six-Day War (19 years after 1948)
- Sealing of the Eastern Gate on the Temple Mt by Sultan Sulaiman I in 1541 to prevent the Jewish Messiah from returning to the Temple (as prophesied in Eze 43:1, 4)
- Rebuilding of Temple Mt one day (Jews preparing and getting ready for the coming of the Messiah with their 3rd Temple)

The sealed Eastern Gate of Temple Mt today



- Jewish prayer shawl (tallit)
 - blue in color (dye made from sea snails)
 - After the temple fell in AD 70, sea snails disappeared
 - When Jews gotten back Jerusalem in 1967, sea snails strangely returned
- Scientists found fault line under Mt of Olives (prophesied in Zech 14:4)
- Gas and oil also found in Israel in 2009
 - When Arab Spring began in 2010, Egypt cut off energy supply to Israel
 - Israel now exports 40% of her gas
- We are now in Zech 12:2-3; Psalm 83?
 - Many nations hostile to Israel (e.g. Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank, Syria, Iran, Iraq)

III. Four Horsemen of Revelation

- The seals and horses
 - The seals will be fulfilled literally and are physical events; seals 5 & 6 not caused by men
 - The horses are caused by men and are progressive (from slow trot to fast gallop; “beginning of birth pangs” in Matt 24:8)

- White Horse (Rev 6:1-2)
 - A figure of military authority
 - Has bow but with no arrows – signifying conquest in the name of peace
 - Rise of world leader of a world system
 - Palestine on world stage
 - Recognized by UN as non-member state on 29 Nov 2012
 - Became member of International Criminal Court (can sue Israel)
 - Recognized by Vatican in Feb 2013
 - Palestinian flag flew at UN HQ on 10 Sep 2015

- Geography of Israel today viz-a-viz pattern of temple sanctuary (from centre outwards):

Temple Mt (Holy of Holies) >>> Jerusalem
(Inner Court) >>> Land of Israel (Outer
Court)

- Red Horse
 - Battle of Gog (see Eze 38-39)
 - World leader emerges among Turkey, Iran, Libya, and Syria (a coalition to destroy Israel)
 - On 10 June 2010, Israel viewed Turkey as an enemy
 - Battle of Gog NOT Battle of Armageddon
 - Armageddon is whole anti-God world against Christians and Jews
 - Gog is probably nuclear attack by Russia and 5 others against Israel (Russia from North and supports Iran's nuclear program – see Eze 39:8-16)

- Israel planned to attack Iran in 2014, but stopped by Obama
 - Obama agreed on nuclear deal with Iran (with lifting of sanctions in exchange of stopping its nuclear weapon program)
 - Soon after this deal, Iran test-fired two missiles marked “Israel must be wiped out” on 9 March 2016
- Multiple threats facing Israel now (e.g. Palestine, ISIS, Iran)

- Arab Spring

- “nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Mark 13:8a)
- Damascus after 4 years of civil war is now a heap of ruins (see Isa 17:1)
- Fall of Gaddafi (Libya) and Mubarak (Egypt)
- Obama sided with the Muslim Brotherhood and engineered the Arab Spring
- ISIS was US trained and funded at first (trained in Jordan and Turkey) in order to rid Assad in Syria
- But Assad was backed by Russia and Iran
- ISIS then went “out of control” and moved into Iraq
- ISIS uses oil to finance its terrorism
- ISIS wants to invade and destroy Jerusalem, Vatican and the Christian Cross in order to re-establish the Caliphate (akin to Ottoman Empire)

- War against ISIS is WW III
 - 54 groups now fighting ISIS (including the major world powers)
 - Other conflicting nations – Russia vs Turkey; Iran vs Saudi Arabia; Migrant Crisis in Europe (associated terror attacks)

- **Black Horse (Rev 6:5-6)**
 - **This is the coming financial crisis**
 - The system now prints money to pay up and NOT to add more value (i.e. $\text{USD } 1 \neq \text{USD } XXX [\text{Bond Value} + \text{Interest}]$)
 - The Panama Papers exposed more of the ills of the world's financial system today
 - Germany wanted to take back gold from US in 2013; Holland and Texas wanted to do same in 2015
 - Cyprus and Greece did “bail-in” (i.e. their banks used deposits of people to bail themselves out)
 - China is “crashing”; Japan is using –ve interest rates (i.e. give interests to borrowers instead of charging them)
 - Collapse of global financial system will lead to one world virtual currency as solution to wipe out world's debts (see Rev 13:17-18); IMF proposing this (i.e. from real cash and virtual cash to one virtual system)

- Pale Horse
 - Famine & pestilence
 - Contaminated, radioactive water dumped into sea after Fukushima (11,500 tons)
 - Gross damage to sea life because of high level of radiation

- Seal 5
 - Persecution of Christians and Jews (e.g. beheading of Christians – see Rev 20:4-6)
 - Rev 6:9-11
 - God would “wait a little longer” (2 Pet 3:9)
 - Believers would be killed, BUT pre-believers would be saved at the same time
 - God is waiting for the right moment!

- **Seal 6**
 - **Sun darkened, moon no light, stars fall, heavenly bodies shaken (Mark 13:24-25 compared with Rev 6:12-14)**
 - **Both solar and lunar eclipses will happen**
 - **One event that can bring about this effect is the Supervolcano Eruption that will lead to a Great Earthquake**
 - **BIG ONE coming to West Coast of US??**
 - **Yellowstone Supervolcano (Yellowstone Park is the mouth of this volcano)**
 - **4,000 years overdue – can erupt one more time**
 - **This would hit 25 million of US population**
 - **Ashes would cover the sky worldwide after 3 weeks (“sun black as sack cloth; moon turned blood red”)**
 - **People would need to hide because of toxicity and can be choked to death (Rev 6:15)**
 - **Rev 8:7**
 - **Hail and fire mixed with blood (volcanic hailstones)**
 - **Rev 8:8; 16:3-4**
 - **Sea turned into blood (e.g. Lake Monoun in 1984 and Lake Nyos in 1986 [both in Cameroon]; oil leak in Mexico Gulf in 2010 also made sea red)**
 - **Rev 16:11-18**
 - **World’s largest undersea volcano is Tamu Massif (NW Pacific Ocean)**
 - **The 2nd largest is east of Japan**

Lake Nyos in Cameroon exploded in Aug 1986, killing some 1,700 people. The water then turned blood red.



IV. Consequences of Against Israel (Gen 12:3)
(Read William Koenig's "Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel")

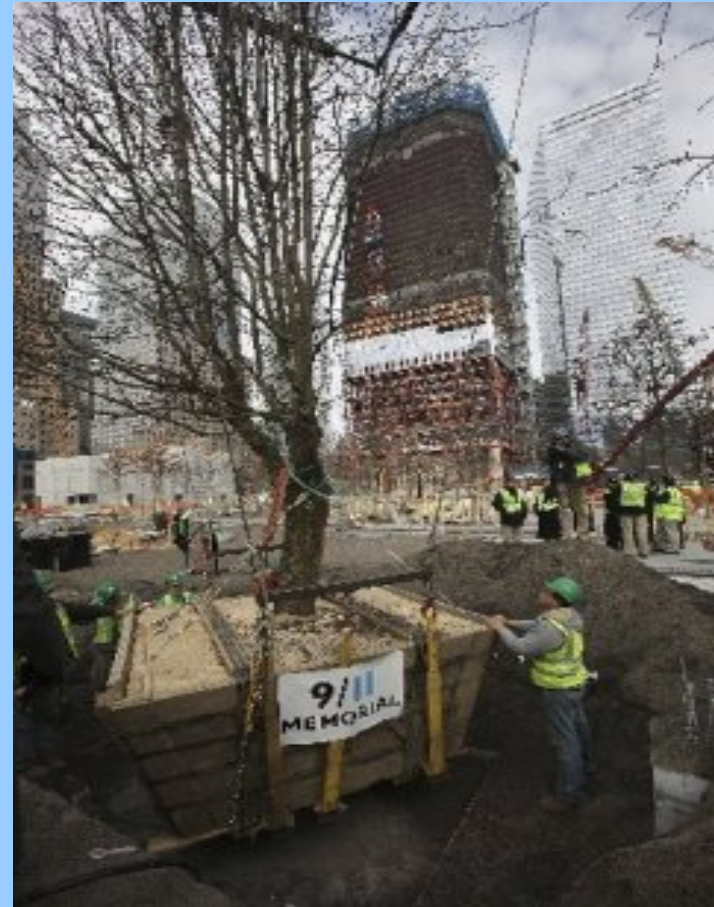
Event	Consequence
Oslo Accord (30 Oct 1991) - George Bush Snr promoted this - Demanded Israel award land to Palestinians in exchange for peace	Perfect storm hit on 31 Oct 1991 - Hit Bush's hometown in Maine
US forced Ariel Sharon (PM of Israel) to give up Gaza	Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on 23 Aug 2005
US, UN, EU and Russia called Israel to stop construction in East Jerusalem (19 March 2010)	Volcanic eruption in Europe on 20 March 2010
Japan condemned Israel for construction in East Jerusalem (11 March 2011)	Big 9.0 earthquake hit Japan on 11 March 2011
Obama forced Israel to establish future Palestinian state (19-20 May 2011)	Multi-vortex tornadoes hit US from 21-26 May 2011
EU backed Obama for ME peace treaty (22 May 2011)	Ecoli outbreak became serious in Europe (including Britain and Sweden) from 22 May 2011
US backed peace treaty in ME (30 Oct 2012)	Hurricane Sandy hit US just earlier on 29 Oct 2012 – much chaos to many states and closure of NY Stock Exchange from 29-30 Oct

- **Is 9/11 a wake-up call for US?? (Read Jonathan Cahn's "Isaiah 9:10 – Judgment")**
 - **US leaders (Obama and John Kerry) quoted Isa 9:10 ("The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild ...") separately to encourage US to rebuild after 9/11**
 - **Freedom Tower today replaces Twin Towers in NY**
 - **Sycamore tree behind St Paul's Chapel downed by falling beam from tower debris and shielded this chapel**
 - **Coniferous tree today replaces fallen sycamore tree (fulfillment of Isa 9:4)**
 - **St Paul's Chapel was where Washington first dedicated US to God**
 - **Cross of Hope was found when a rescue worker was looking for survivors**
- **9/11 and 2008 financial crisis happened in the month of Elul (a time of repentance)**
- **Tree of Hope died in 2014 – a final warning for US??**
- **Millions unemployed in US in 2015 (also worst year for stocks as 70% of investors lost money)**

St Paul's Church in NY



Tree of Hope in NY



Cross of Hope in NY



V. Heavenly Signs

- God's redemptive acts
 - Flood – one family (Noah's)
 - Red Sea – one race (Israel)
 - Cross & Empty Tomb – whole mankind

- Shroud of Turin
 - C14 dating of Shroud was on repaired portion of it (that's why it pointed to medieval era, not NT era)
 - No fossilized skin on Shroud (so no body decay)
 - No evidence of secondary bleeding
 - That means body separated from cloth NOT by way of being unwrapped (no tearing of skin tissues)
 - Likely reason: body was first levitated and then “radiated” through the cloth to form the images on it

- Luke 21:25-26 (“roaring and tossing of the sea ... heavenly bodies will be shaken”)
 - Nibiru or Planet X
 - Collision course with Earth between 2012 – 2016?
- Rev 12:1-4
 - Woman and red dragon with 7 crowns on heads
 - Research done by Rock Larson using stellarium astronomy software
 - Astronomy (science) is NOT astrology (divination)
 - Stars are God’s heavenly cloak (see Psalm 19:1; 147:4)

- Star of Bethlehem
 - Newly appeared bright object
 - Visible in night sky for a period of type (1 year in this case)
 - Stopped and stood over Bethlehem
 - So it's not a comet BUT a star indeed
 - Stood in conjunction with Jupiter and Venus in 3-2 BC (12 April)

- Jupiter and Regulus came together on 11 Sep 3 BC
 - Jesus was conceived at this time (see Rev 12:1-2)
- Jupiter and Venus came together again for a 2nd time on 17 June 2 BC
 - Jesus was born (Rev 12:3-4)
 - This heavenly sign is coming back again

- Signs in the Heavens at Jesus' Birth
 - We know that the “wise men” followed a “star” in search for the newborn King of the Jews as recorded in Matthew 2:2 where we read - “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him’” (NKJV).



- Our Savior was born on the 17th day of Tamuz, 2 BC under the “Star of Bethlehem” which was beneath the constellation Leo – as seen with Stellarium software.
- Again, Stellarium presents this evidence, which brought the Magi (wise men) to the rulers and scholars of Jerusalem seeking the King of the Jews. The Magi saw Jupiter/Regulus in Leo, and then followed this heavenly presentation knowing a King was conceived in Judah.
- Then, nine months later – they watched Jupiter/Venus connect beneath Leo, the child was born. This was “The Star of Bethlehem.” This is when the angels came to the shepherds in the field on that warm, late spring season night.
- These signs in the heavens caused the Magi to pack up and began traveling thousands of rugged miles to present gifts to the King, and our Savior. The wise men from the east understood the signs in the heavens, while the scholars and Magi of the day in Judah, Samaria, and Jerusalem did not “look up”, comprehend and see.

- Jesus' Death
 - Earthquake recorded in Jerusalem in 33 AD
 - Blood moon too on 3 April 33 AD
 - Sun, Earth and Moon were in alignment (Sun in line with Aries the Ram – Lamb of God??; Moon in line with Virgo)

- Blood moon
 - Full lunar eclipses on 15 April 2014 (Passover) and 8 Oct 2014 (Tabernacles)
 - 4 blood moons over 2 years and coinciding with Jewish festivals make one TETRAD



Signs in the Heavens on the Day of the Cross

- Act 2:14-21 is where Peter tells of the signs in the heavens on the day of the Cross. He quotes Joel 2:28-30 - “I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood ...”
- We read in Luke 23:44 that darkness fell on the face of the earth.
- There was a solar eclipse (sackcloth sun) that day and a lunar eclipse (blood moon) occurring before the Lords’ death on the cross.
- Again, the people of Jerusalem, including scholars of that day, did not recall the words of Joel. Peter reminded them. Those people and scholars in Jerusalem did not reconcile Joel’s prophetic writing with the solar and lunar events of that blessed Passover 50 days before, when He was on the cross and died as “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29).
- They also did not recognize or maybe accept the impact of a mighty earthquake, ripping the Temple veil down the middle, bringing believers into the Holy of Holies at the time of His death on the cross. They were spiritually blind!



Signs in the Heavens in Revelation 12

- **The same signs in heavens that told of His conception (on Feasts of Tabernacles), the day of His birth (17th of Tamuz) and the Day of the Cross (on Passover) occurred September 29, 2011 (on Feasts of Trumpets).**
- **Is this just a coincidence or is it another sign of the end of the age? This sign is recorded in John's book of Revelation. Along with this sign within Revelation chapter 12, there is information regarding the spiritual and physical war that will begin very soon.**
- **“And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and with a crown like garland of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and she cried out in her birth pangs, in the anguish of her delivery ... And the dragon stationed himself in front of the woman who was about to be delivered, so that he might devour her child as soon as she brought it forth. And she brought forth a male Child, One Who is destined to shepherd all the nations with an iron staff, and her Child was caught up to God and to His throne” (Rev 12:1-5 Amplified Bible).**

This sign in the heavens is to occur on 23 September 2017 (Shabbat Shuvah).



- **Shabbat Shuvah ("Sabbath [of] Return" שבת שובה) refers to the Shabbat that occurs during the Ten Days of Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Only one Shabbat can occur between these dates.**
- **This Shabbat is named after the first word of the Haftarah (Hosea 14:2-10) and literally means "Return." It is perhaps a play on, but not to be confused with, the word Teshuvah (the word for repentance).**
- **Jupiter (representation of God) is with Virgo (virgin), while Venus (representation of Jesus) is in Leo (King of Judah).**
- **All these planets are in a line, while Saturn (representing Satan/Dragon) is nowhere in sight.**
- **This is to occur 70 years after 1947. This may be a sign of the season of God's Sabbath rest for 1000 years as our Lord reigns.**

VI. Understanding the Order of Revelation



	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
	2:1-7	2:8-11	2:12-17	2:18-29	3:1-6	3:7-13	3:14-22
JESUS among the Lampstands	holds 7 stars & walks among 7 lampstands	the first and last, who died and came to life again	holds the sharp double-edged sword	eyes of blazing fire & feet of burnished bronze	holds 7 spirits of God and 7 stars	holy and true; holds key of David	the Amen, faithful witness, ruler of God's creation
I know your deeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hard work & perseverance, intolerance of evil & falsehood hate Nicolaitan practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> afflictions & poverty scandal of synagogue of Satan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> where you live (Satan's throne) faithfulness (even to death – e.g. Antipas) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deeds, love & service perseverance doing more than at first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have kept word and not denied – Satan's synagogue will acknowledge endured patiently 		
But I have this against you...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you have forsaken first love 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers like Balaam – idolatry & sexual immorality Teachers of Nicolaitans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolerate 'prophets' Jezebel – sexual immorality & idols she's had time to repent, so... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reputation of life but actually dead deeds not complete in my sight 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lukewarm not rich but pitiful, blind, naked I rebuke those I love:
Repent... let him who has an ear hear what the Spirit says to the churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> do what you did at first or lampstand removed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> don't fear suffering (prison, persecution 10 days, death) be faithful (& receive crown) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> repent or I will fight with sword of mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cast her on bed of suffering (adulterers also & children die) God searches hearts and repays Hold on to gospel not jezebel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wake up Strengthen what's dying Remember & Obey what heard Or I will come (like a thief in night) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold on to your crown (I'm coming soon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repent Buy gold, clothes & save (to overcome poverty, nakedness and blindness) Open door (to eat with Christ)
For all who overcome...	right to eat from tree of life in paradise	not hurt by the second death	I will give hidden manna, white stone with new hidden name	I will give authority over nations (Ps2:9) & the morning star	a few who have not soiled – dressed in white and in book of life	a pillar in temple – never leave; name of God, city & new name	right to sit with me on my throne (just as he did with Father)
7 Virtues for ALL churches	Love Jesus	Endure Persecution	Teach Soundly	Don't tolerate evil	Spiritually Alive	Wait Patiently	Be Humbly Dependent

THE SEVEN CHURCHES REVELATION 2-3

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1 EPHEBUS (2:1-7)

Positives = toil and patient endurance for Jesus' sake, abhorrence of evil and false teaching
Negatives = abandoned first love
Command = remember, repent and return to previous good works
Disobedience = will have their lampstand removed
Obedience = will eat from the tree of life

2 SMYRNA (2:8-11)

Positives = enduring opposition and slander and being spiritually rich
Negatives = none
Command = be faithful to the point of death
Disobedience = none
Obedience = will be given the crown of life and will not be hurt by the second death

3 PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

Positives = holding fast to Jesus' name and not denying his faith
Negatives = some have accepted false teaching
Command = repent
Disobedience = will face war from the sword of Jesus' mouth
Obedience = will be given hidden manna and a white enscribed stone

4 THYATIRA (2:18-29)

Positives = love, faith, service and faithful endurance
Negatives = toleration of false teaching, idolatry and sexual immorality
Command = reject false teaching and hold fast to Jesus
Disobedience = tribulation and death
Obedience = will be given authority over the nations and given the morning star



5 SARDIS (3:1-6)

Positives = none
Negatives = spiritually dead and incomplete in works
Command = wake up, strengthen faith and repent
Disobedience = will be opposed by Jesus who will come like a thief
Obedience = will walk with Jesus, be clothed in white, will have names in the book of life and confessed by him before the Father and angels

6 PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Positives = kept Jesus' word, not denied his name and patiently endured
Negatives = none
Command = hold fast
Disobedience = none
Obedience = will be kept from the hour of trial, made a pillar in the temple of God and have the name of God, New Jerusalem and Jesus written on them

7 LAODICEA (3:14-22)

Positives = none
Negatives = spiritually lukewarm, wretched, pitiable, poor and blind; need to buy spiritual gold and salve to become spiritually rich, clothed and seeing
Disobedience = be zealous, repent and hear Jesus' voice
Obedience = will eat with Jesus and sit with him on his throne

PATMOS (1:9)

An Aegean island south of Samos, where prisoners were exiled by the Roman authorities. John was sent here 'on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus' (1:9) and received his prophetic revelation during this stay.

- Rev 6-16
 - Successive in order??
 - Seals >>> Trumpets >>> Bowls
 - Simultaneous in order??
 - Seals + Trumpets + Bowls
 - Successive, Speeded, Simultaneous??
(David Pawson's view)
 - Seals → Trumpets → Bowls

- Rev 11
 - 7th Trumpet
 - Kingdom of world becomes kingdom of the Lord
- Rev 16
 - 3rd woe
 - Kingdom of Beast (world) still there
- Thus, Rev 16 should precede Rev 11

- Rev 8
 - 7th Seal is opened (i.e. the last of 7 seals)
- Rev 13
 - Sounds like 5th Seal here
- Thus, Rev 13 should precede Rev 8

- Rev 4-9
 - John in heaven
- Rev 11
 - John back on earth
- Rev 12-16
 - John in heaven again (??)
- But John in heaven only once
 - So, Rev is NOT to be read sequentially according to chapters

- Reading flow of Revelation
 - Chap 1 – Intro
 - Chap 2-3 – 7 churches
 - Chap 6-11 – 7 Seals & 2 Witnesses
 - Chap 12 – Introducing the Beast
 - Chap 13-16 – Rise of the Beast & 7 Bowls
 - 5th Seal – Great Tribulation
 - This is intense persecution of believers (largely Jews, but also Gentiles)
 - This is NOT God's wrath in Rev 8??
 - So, Rapture will be somewhere during the Great Tribulation BUT before Rev 8 (i.e. God's wrath)??
 - After the 7th Trumpet
 - Kingdom of world becomes kingdom of the Lord (Rev 11)

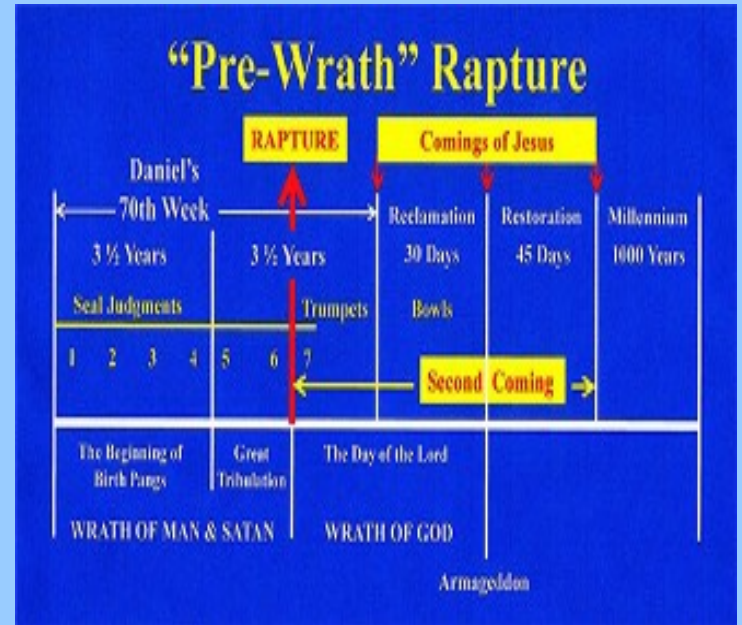
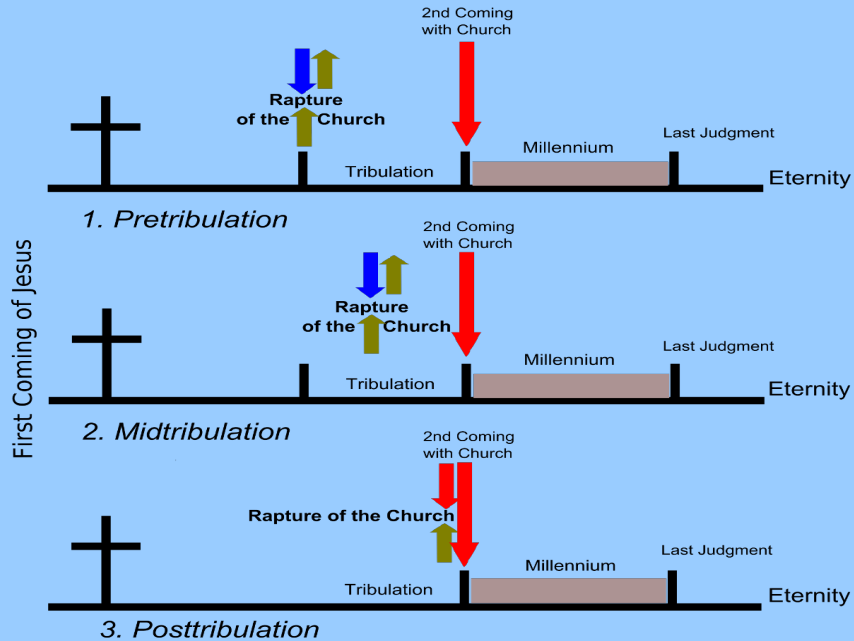
- Rapture
 - 1 Thess
 - Trumpet call
 - Meet the Lord in the cloud
 - 1 Cor 15:51-52
 - Twinkling of an eye
 - Final call (last trumpet)
 - Mal 3:17-18
 - God will spare the righteous from the Day of the Lord (referring to Great Tribulation or God's wrath in Rev??)
 - 2 Pet 2:9
 - God will deliver the righteous from trials

- Timing of Rapture
 - 2 Tim 2:1-4 – after the rebellion has occurred
 - Matt 24:29-31 – 6th Seal (Rev 6:12)
 - Angels will gather the elect worldwide (Rev 7:1) with loud trumpet call – i.e. Rapture will occur when 6th Seal happens
 - Rapture happens when the world is chaotic (e.g. supervolcano eruption)??
 - 2 Pet 3:10 – Lord will come like a thief

- God's wrath
 - Happens at 2nd half of Daniel's 70 weeks?? (Dan 9:27)
 - Rev 10 – mystery of God “done with” before 7th trumpet
 - Great turning of Jews to Jesus as Messiah
 - Rev 19:14 – Jesus' 2nd coming onto earth (Armageddon)

Views of Timing of Rapture

Comparison of Christian Tribulation Views



Arguments for Pre-Tribulation Rapture

1. Is There a Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

In the Rapture, the true Church of God is removed so they will not go through the trial that will come upon all the earth to try men's souls (they have no need to). Christ does not come back to take possession of the earth at that time. The total membership making up the body of Christ must arise like Jesus to unite with Jesus (Groom meets Bride). We must go before the Bema seat judgment to be given the crowns that will allow us to rule and reign with Jesus when we return.

Other sources:

<https://tms.edu/msj/why-a-pretribulational-rapture>

Rapture ≠ Return of Christ (i.e. His 2nd Coming to Earth)	
Rapture	Return
•Christ comes for His own (1Th 4:13-18)	•Christ returns with His own (Rev 19:14)
•Believers taken to Father's House (John 14:3)	•Believers come with Jesus to Earth (Matt 24:30)
•He is seen only by believers (1Cor 15:52)	•Every eye will see Him (Matt 24:30)
•No mention that Earth is judged	•Earth judged (Rev 20:4-5)
•He comes to present the Church to Himself (2Cor 11:2)	•He comes with His Church for judgment and to set up his Kingdom (Rev 19:6-9; Zech 14:3-4; Jude 1:14-15; Rev 19:11-21)
•Casts Satan onto Earth (Rev 12)	•Binds Satan for a thousand years (Rev 20)
•Occurs in the twinkling of an eye (1Cor 15:52) – Latin word “rapio” means to “snatch away” as in a quick blink	•Comes to earth to do battle at specific locations (Isa 63:1-3; Rev 16:16; Zech 12:9-10)

2. Ten Scriptural Proofs That the Rapture is Pre-Tribulation

Proof 1: Two different pictures are painted.

In the Old Testament, there were two different pictures painted of the Messiah—one suffering (Isa. 53:2-10, Ps. 22:6-8, 11-18) and one reigning as King (Ps. 2:6-12, Zech. 14:9,16). As we look back on these scriptures, we see they predicted two separate comings of the Messiah—the 1st coming as a suffering Messiah and the 2nd coming (still future) as a reigning King.

In the New Testament, we have another picture added. Again, we have two pictures painted which don't look the same. These two different descriptions of Jesus' coming point to two separate events we call "the rapture" and "the second coming."

Proof 2: A door opens in heaven (Revelation 4:1).

The door in heaven is opened to let John into heaven. John's call into heaven is prophetic of the Church being caught up at the rapture.

In Revelation 19:11, heaven is opened again, this time to let the armies which are already in heaven out. This is the Church, which has been raptured at a previous time, following Jesus out of heaven at the second coming.

Proof 3: "Come up here" (Revelation 4:1).

A voice called for the apostle John to "Come up here," and immediately he was in heaven. This could be a prophetic reference to the rapture of the Church. The words "Come up here" are spoken to the two witnesses who are killed in the middle of the Tribulation, who are resurrected and ascend into heaven (Rev. 11:12). Therefore, the phrase "Come up here" could mean the Church is raptured in Rev. 4:1. The word "Church" is mentioned 22 times in Rev. 1-3, but is not mentioned again until Rev. 22:17.

Proof 4: Holy ones are already with Jesus in heaven (Zech. 14:5; Rev. 19:14).

The armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, follow Jesus out of heaven at His second coming (Rev. 19:14, Zech. 14:5, Col. 3:4). These are not angels because Rev. 19:8 tells us the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. In order to come out of heaven we first have to go in, indicating a previous rapture.

Proof 5: Kept from the hour of testing (Rev. 3:10).

Revelation 3:10 says we will be kept out of the hour of testing which will come upon the whole earth (the Tribulation). It is incorrect to believe that "keep" means to keep through, or protect through the Tribulation. But this verse says He will keep us from the hour of testing. It is not just the testing, but the time period. E.g. if a student is excused from the hour of testing (exam), he can go home. The Church will be called home before the hour of testing.

Proof 6: Both wicked and righteous both can't be taken first.

First Thessalonians 4:13-17 says the righteous are taken and the wicked are left behind.

Matthew 13:30, 49 says the wicked are taken first and righteous are left behind. This points to two separate events, the rapture and the second coming.

Proof 7: Jesus returns from the wedding.

When Jesus returns to earth at the second coming, He will return from a wedding (Luke 12:36). At the rapture, Jesus is married to His bride, the Church. After the wedding, He will return to earth.

Proof 8: Jesus will receive us to Himself, not us to receive Him (John 14:2-3).

Jesus said He would prepare a place for the Church in heaven, then He would come again to receive us to Himself. Why would Jesus prepare a place for us in heaven and then not take us there? At the rapture, He will come to receive us to Himself, "that where I am (heaven), there you may be also." If the rapture occurred at the same time as the second coming, we would go up to the clouds and then immediately come back to earth. That would contradict John 14:2-3.

Proof 9: The sheep and goats are separated (Matt. 25:31-46).

If the rapture occurred at the second coming, why would the sheep and the goats need to be separated immediately after the second coming? A rapture at the second coming would have already separated the sheep and the goats. With a Pre-Tribulation rapture, the people saved after the rapture will need to be separated after the second coming.

Proof 10: Who will populate the Millennium?

If the rapture occurs at the second coming and the wicked are cast into hell at that time, who will be left to populate the Millennium? Only people in their natural (non-resurrected) bodies will be able to have children (Matt. 22:30). With a Pre-Tribulation rapture, the people saved after the rapture who are alive at the second coming will populate the earth during the Millennium.

3. More Insights on the Rapture of the Church

Those who are born of the Spirit and who are ready, will go in the Pre-Tribulation rapture and escape the time of the Tribulation. People who identify themselves as Christians by tradition and culture but who do not have the indwelling Holy Spirit will go through the great trial on earth. Going through the Tribulation will cost most of those who continue to identify with Jesus after the Rapture their lives. It will be a trial by fire; those who overcome by losing their life for His namesake will be saved. Those cowards that seek to save their lives by denying Jesus will lose their souls.

How can a Church that is kept out of the trial go through the trial?

If the Philadelphia Church is kept from the hour (time) of the Tribulation then how can she possibly go through part or all of it? She is also given crowns. The crowns are given at the judgment seat of Christ in heaven after the rapture but before the second coming.

The ancient Jewish marriage ceremony proclaims a pre-tribulation rapture picture:

- * The groom goes to the bride's house and is betrothed to the bride (the faithful on the earth).**
- * He pays the purchase price (his blood).**
- * He returns to his father to prepare a place for the bride ("I go to prepare a place for you").**
- * Later the groom comes for the bride (rapture).**
- * He takes her to his father's house and gives her gifts where she is adorned and prepared for the wedding (judgment seat of Christ where crowns are awarded).**
- * The wedding then takes place before the father and the witnesses (in the father's house).**
- * The groom appears with his bride (second coming in glory with his saints).**
- * Then the wedding feast takes place (on earth with invited guests of the bride and groom).**

Jesus said it would be like in the time of Noah and Lot:

- * The flood came after Noah entered the ark.**
- * Fire destroyed Sodom the day Lot was led out by angels.**

Other OT examples:

- * The 1st Passover in Egypt—all the first-born of the Hebrews were in “safe house” when the angel of death struck that night.**
- * Crossing the Red Sea—the waters came together to drown the whole Egyptian army after the Hebrews were safely on the other side.**

What has been pictured is this—God's wrath for the world in the future will come after the believers have been moved into “heavenly safety”.

Note: Matthew 24 & 25; Mark 13 also deal with the end times. They also are the most used references for those who believe the Church will go through the Tribulation. But in these scriptures, what we really see is Israel going through the Tribulation and the gathering of Tribulation saints to Israel.

Story flow of the book of Revelation

THE SEVEN SEALS PROPHETIC EVENTS

FIRST	False prophets	Deception & False Peace
SECOND	War	Global War
THIRD	Famine	Financial Crisis
FOURTH	Pestilence	Famine & Pestilence
FIFTH	Tribulation	Global Persecution
SIXTH	Heavenly signs	Supervolcano Eruption
SEVENTH	Seven Trumpets	
	1st	Trees injured
	2nd	Sea injured
	3rd	Rivers injured
	4th	Heavenly catastrophes
	5th	First Woe
	6th	Second Woe
	7th	Third Woe (or The Seven Last Plagues) - 7 Bowls
The Return of Jesus Christ		

VII. Prophetic Time Periods & Patterns

- 606 BC – Israel's lost independence to Babylonians
15 May 1948 – Israel regained independence
- 587 BC – Israel lost Jerusalem
10 June 1967 – Israel regained Jerusalem after 6-Day
Way
- 538 BC – Israel returned to land
2016/17 – God reclaims land for Israel (Year of Jubilee –
50th year)??

Significance of 50 Years - Year of Jubilee (Priestly Cycle)

- **9 Dec 1917 – General Allenby of UK invaded Palestine and captured Jerusalem**
- **After 50 years on 10 June 1967 – Israel regained Jerusalem after 6–Day War**
- **50 years later in 2017 – God will reclaim Jerusalem for Israel??**
- **Rabbi Judah Ben Samuel prophesied Israel's future in 1217**
 - **Israel under foreign rule for 8 Jubilee years**
 - **Ottoman Empire ruled Jerusalem for 400 years**
 - **Then they were defeated by General Allenby in 1917**
 - **Jerusalem became no man's land from 1917 to 1967**
 - **Jerusalem came under Jewish rule in 1967**
 - **50 years later in 2017, Israel will take the whole promised land??**

General Allenby entered Jerusalem on foot in 1917 (as sign of respect for the holiness of the city)



1 Day = 1 Year Principle (Eze 4:5-6; 2 Pet 3:8)

- **Passover on 3 Apr 33 AD**
 - Blood moon
 - Three days later, Jesus was resurrected
- **Passover on 3 Apr 2015**
 - Blood moon
 - Three years later in 2017, Church to be raptured??

Rev 17

8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

9 This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while.

11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

12 The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

14 They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.

- The 8 Kings/Kingdoms in Rev 17:
 1. Egypt (political)
 2. Assyria (political)
 3. Babylon (political)
 4. Greece (political)
 5. Rome before Constantine (political)
 6. Rome after Constantine (spiritual - expansion of Christianity under Constantine)
 7. Turkish Ottoman (spiritual - expansion of Islam)
 8. Revival of a past king/kingdom – “who once was, and now is not, but is to come” and “belongs to the seven” (Rev 17:11)

Question: Why leave out the British Empire?

VIII. Romans 11: Israel's Election and Its End-Time Significance

Paul writes to address a divisive issue in the church in Rome. This has to do with the arrogance of the Gentile believers toward their Jewish counterparts in church. This “superior” mentality is probably due to the fact that the Jews have first rejected Christ, resulting in the Gospel being preached to and embraced by the Gentiles who are now larger numerically in the Roman church.

In Chap 1-8, Paul has to first set straight his theology of salvation with the believers in Rome because they are not his “spiritual children” as he is not the founder of the church there.

After stating his theology, Paul writes to settle the divisive issue in Chap 9-11. The “Israel” that he refers to in these three chapters is very much the “literal and physical Israel” as from OT times.

1. Partial Rejection (Romans 11:1-10)

Did God reject His people? The answers are—“By no means!” (v. 1); “God did not reject his people” (v. 2).

Paul says, “Look at me. I’m a Jew that has embraced Jesus. If God had permanently cast off the entire nation, no Jew could be saved.” Yet, Paul had been called by God, converted by faith to Christianity (Acts 9). Paul shares the story of Elijah—concludes that God has always had a remnant among the Jews.

Same today—many Messianic churches exist in Jerusalem today. The existence today of Jews who have received Jesus as Messiah is evidence that God has a plan for Israel.

2. Purposeful Rejection (Romans 11:11-24)

Three purposes God planned to accomplish thru the “transgression of the Jews”:

i. Salvation would come to Gentiles (v. 11b). Study Paul’s missionary journeys in Acts, you see a pattern: Paul would go to the synagogues, Jews first, preached Christ, a few believed, but more often he was kicked out, turned to the Gentiles who believed, started churches. God used Jewish rejection as opportunities to reach out to the Gentiles directly.

ii. Gentile faith would move the Jews to jealousy (v. 11b). The purpose of the Gentile church was to provoke the Jews to seek their Messiah.

iii. One day Israel's fullness will bring greater riches to the entire world (v. 12). Greater blessings would await the world when the Jews would start to accept Christ as their Messiah.

Today, there is a significant number of Messianic Jews since the 1960s—it is the beginning of the “fullness” to come; the beginning of the prophesied restoration of Jews as God's people in His redemptive plan for the world.

3. The Allegory of the Two Olive Trees—Cultivated vs. Wild (Romans 11:11-24).

The branches broken off from the cultivated tree represent unbelieving Jews who have been temporarily discarded. The grafted-in branches from the wild tree to the cultivated tree are the believing Gentiles. Gentiles are not to become prideful, arrogant or prejudiced against the Jews, for the Jews would always be God's chosen people (see vv. 28, 29). There should be no room in the church of JC for Gentile pride or any feelings of superiority toward the Jewish people. No room in the Christian life for any feelings other than love, concern for the salvation of Israel. Paul makes this very clear here.

Today, we look at what history has taught us when the Jews broke God's covenant by rejecting their Messiah—they were dispersed, persecuted, condemned, humiliated, marginalized, and even murdered (e.g. Holocaust). So, we are to be forewarned by these lessons, and know what it means to obey and fear God. Otherwise, He may likewise not spare us as well (v. 21).

Verse 24 points to a prophetic fulfillment when the natural branches of the cultivated olive tree will be grafted back into it—dead branches back into a living tree will be revived! This refers to a time when unbelieving Jews will turn to Christ and find new life in Him.[\[1\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) Using the “I am the vine and you are the branches” analogy in John 15:5, the cultivated olive tree can be interpreted as Christ and the grafted-in/grafted-back branches as His people.

4. Promised Restoration (Romans 11:25-36)

Verses 25-27 speak of a partial hardening of Israel so that the “fullness of the Gentiles” has been attained (end of church age). Then God will turn again to the Jews and then “All Israel will be saved.” “All Israel” will accept Jesus. Before the fulfillment of the prophetic event of Christ’s Return, there will be a great re-gathering of Israel as God’s people.

i. The meaning of “All Israel will be saved” in Rom 11:26^[1]

When will this happen, i.e. when will the fullness of the Gentiles actually happen? No date on our human calendar. It's all God's plan, His purposes, His calling, and His mercy.

^[1] <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/all-israel-will-be-saved>

ii. Five reasons why Rom 11:26 refers to the nation of Israel as a whole being converted to Christ (but not necessarily every individual Jew):

One: It is unlikely that the meaning of Israel changes between v. 25 and v. 26. The hardened Israel (the nation as a whole) will be the saved Israel (the nation as a whole).

Verses 25-26: “Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel ...” That must refer to the nation as a whole from generation to generation. Paul continues, “... until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved.”

Two: The reference in v. 26 to banishing ungodliness from Jacob fits with the national view of “all Israel.”

Verse 26: “And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.’” This seems most naturally to be a picture of Christ's return at the second coming, and banishing ungodliness from Jacob refers most naturally to the removal of the hardening referred to in verse 25.

The hardening lasts until the full number of the Gentiles comes in, and then Christ comes and lifts the veil and removes the hardening—He banishes ungodliness from Jacob, from “all Israel.”

Note: Jacob’s name was changed to “Israel” after he wrestled with God in Peniel. The 12 tribes of Israel are the descendants of his 12 sons.

Three: The parallel between the two halves of v. 28 point to all Israel as the nation as a whole.

Verse 28a: “As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake.” This half of the verse surely refers to the nation as a whole—they are enemies of God.

So v. 28b surely refers to the nation as a whole as well: “But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.”

The point of v. 28 is to show that even though Israel now is a covenant-breaking, unbelieving nation, it is going to change. The nation will be converted later because of election and love. In other words, the “election” here applies specifically to Israel as the “chosen” people of God.

Four: The parallels in verse 12 point in the same direction.

Verse 12: “Now if their (the Jewish nation's) trespass means riches for the world (salvation for the Gentiles), and if their (the Jewish nation's) failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion!” Here, “their full inclusion” refers to the salvation of “all Israel” and is national.

Five: The nation now rejected will be accepted in v. 15.

“For if their (Jewish nation's) rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their (Jewish nation's) acceptance mean but life from the dead?” So the “acceptance” of the Jewish nation most naturally refers to the salvation of “all Israel”—the salvation of the nation as a whole some day.

5. Implications

- In connection with the second coming of Christ, there will be a great turning of Israel to Christ.
- Thus, we should pray that the full number of the Gentiles comes in AND that the hardening be lifted from Israel. We should work for it with missions to the nations and witness to Israel. Bring the Gospel back to Jerusalem!

It is significant to note that Israel was re-established as a nation in 1948. From the 1960s onward, significant numbers of Jews turned to Christ as their Promised Messiah (known as “Hebrew Christians” or “Completed Jews” or “Messianic Jews”).

More and more Jews finding Jesus in Israel

- The First Wave of Jews coming to Jesus hit in the 1970s in America. The Second Wave were Russian Jews in the 1990s. And now – in what some observers call a Third Wave – Jews in Israel are coming to faith in increasing numbers.
- “I have never seen the breakthrough like we’re seeing now,” said Tuvya Zaretsky, chairman of the board for the Israel branch of Jews for Jesus. “We’re seeing a steady stream of Israelis who are coming to Jesus from all walks of life, though usually among the young. There seems to be a greater openness to spiritual input. We’re thinking it’s a Third Wave of in-gathering.”
- In the 1990s, there were about 3,000 Messianic Jews in Israel; today there are as many as 20,000 (still less than 1% of the population), said Simon Stout, executive assistant of Jews for Jesus in Tel Aviv. Also, one source estimates 150 congregations of like-minded believers in Israel. Of Israel’s 84 cities and towns, 81 have at least one messianic Bible study.
- “It’s been a very unusual turning in Israel,” said Zaretsky, who’s been traveling to Israel since 1971. “The community of believers there has solidified. They’ve found their voice. There’s less antagonism. The situation is changing.”

Source:

<http://blog.godreports.com/2015/04/more-and-more-jews-finding-jesus-in-israel/>

Messianic Jews worshipping in Israel

