

THE BOOK OF

Revelation

Sunday Evening / April 9, 2006 -

continued to Wednesday Evening / April 12, 2006

Chapters 8 - 12

CHAPTER EIGHT

! Seal # 7 Silence in heaven – Rev. 8:1-6. Here we read of the intercessory prayers of believers. Although God may not answer all our prayers immediately, He does not throw them aside, but keeps them for the proper time of fulfillment.

NOW WE COME TO THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

1. The 7th seal brought a half hour of silence in heaven. Why? I believe all the heavenly host have learned what is about to hit Planet Earth and they are silenced by its terrible implications.

! First Trumpet: Rev. 8:7

The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown down upon the earth. One-third of the earth was set on fire so that one-third of the trees were burned, and all the green grass.

These are literal judgments on the earth that are devastating.

! Second Trumpet: Rev. 8:8-9

Then the second angel blew his trumpet, and what appeared to be a huge burning mountain was thrown into the sea, [9] destroying a third of all the ships; and a third of the sea turned red as blood; and a third of the fish were killed.

The sea is probably the Mediterranean Sea. The burning mountain could be virtually anything God decided to use, including a meteor.

! Third Trumpet: Rev. 8:10-11

The third angel blew, and a great flaming star fell from heaven upon a third of the rivers and springs. [11] The star was called "Bitterness" because it poisoned a third of all the water on the earth and many people died.

! Fourth Trumpet: Rev. 8:12

The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and immediately a third of the sun was blighted and darkened, and a third of the moon and the stars so that the daylight was dimmed by a third, and the nighttime darkness deepened.

Jesus prophesied this horrible time in **Luke 21:25-26**

"Then there will be strange events in the skies--warnings, evil omens and portents in the sun, moon and stars; and down here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. [26] The courage of many people will falter because of the fearful fate they see coming upon the earth, for the stability of the very heavens will be broken up.

Now we come to another of those "parentheses." **Rev. 8:13**

As I watched, I saw a solitary eagle flying through the heavens crying loudly, "Woe, woe, woe to the people of the earth because of the terrible things that will soon happen when the three remaining angels blow their trumpets." We are now warned that as awful as the first four trumpets were, they will be surpassed by that which will now follow. These three "woes" will actually be the fifth, sixth and 7th trumpet judgments. The 7th trumpet will introduce the last half of the Tribulation - or the vials of judgment.

CHAPTER NINE

! Fifth Trumpet: Rev. 9:2-3

And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. [3] And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

These "locusts" represent an increased number of demons and demonic activity on the earth. They have the power to cause pain and misery. Their assault will be directed against the non-believers and will not be permitted to torment the tribulation saints.

! Sixth Trumpet: The release of the four major demon leaders Rev. 9:15-16

And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. [16] And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

The sixth angel releases four fallen angels who are let loose to terminate one-third of the remaining population of the world.

CHAPTER TEN and ELEVEN 1-14

The first nine chapters of Revelation brought us to the middle of the 7-year Tribulation

Period after the Rapture of the church. Now chapters ten and eleven (through verse 14) give us another of those parenthetical sections. Here we will see more of the powerful work of angels during this time.

1. In this chapter when John is told to “eat the little scroll (10:9-11) it meant that the apostle was to “digest” in his mind and heart those things that had transpired already for more was on its way. And, in this case, “the worse was yet to come.”

2. In Chapter 11 we read about THE TWO WITNESSES. **Rev. 11:3**

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

God will send two powerful witnesses to the earth to preach the gospel and prophesy about the future. They will perform their ministry with signs and wonders and great power. They will be a huge threat to Antichrist and the entire wicked world for 3 ½ years. Verses 7-11 teach us they will be killed and: **Rev. 11:8-12**

And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. [9] And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. [10] And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. [11] And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. [12] And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

CHAPTER 11:15-19

! Trumpet # 7 - does not initiate anything on the earth but introduces the next series of judgments - the seven vials or bowls.

We will now have a lengthy parenthetical section from Rev. 12:1 - 15:4. We receive fabulous information both background and prophetic as we approach the last half of the tribulation period..

CHAPTER 12

1. We learn immediately why Israel and the Jews have been so hounded throughout history. Again LaHaye: “It should not come as a surprise that so much space is given in the book of Revelation to the nation of Israel. She dominates the pages of the Old Testament because she is God’s nation of destiny. That He is NOT THROUGH WITH HER is seen in the prophetic time of Jacob’s trouble (the tribulation).”

- A. The “woman” is Israel.
 - B. The “child” giving her travail is Christ, the coming Messiah.
2. The red dragon is Satan who we learn in verse 4 took one-third of the former angels of heaven with him in his abortive effort to usurp God on the throne.
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THE BOOK OF

Revelation

Wednesday Evening / April 12, 2006

Part II

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

AntiChrist and the False Prophet

There is no way to properly explain the importance of this vital thirteenth chapter which gives us a close look at both **ANTICHRIST** and his henchman in eternal crime **THE FALSE PROPHET**.

Rev. 13:1-10

[1] And now in my vision I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. [2] This beast looked like a leopard, but it had bear's feet and a lion's mouth! And the dragon gave him his own power and throne and great authority.

[3] I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! All the world marveled at this miracle and followed the beast in awe. [4] They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they worshiped the beast. "Is there anyone as great as the beast?" they exclaimed. "Who is able to fight against him?"

[5] Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he

was given authority to do what he wanted for forty-two months. [6] And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and all who live in heaven, who are his temple. [7] And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to overcome them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. [8] And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb who was killed before the world was made.

[9] Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand. [10] The people who are destined for prison will be arrested and taken away. Those who are destined for death will be killed. But do not be dismayed, for here is your opportunity to have endurance and faith.

1. In the Tribulation period of 7 years, following the Rapture of the Church, the world will be temporarily governed by a “trinity from Hell:”

- ! Satan (the father)
- ! Antichrist (the son)
- ! The False Prophet (the unholy spirit)

2. Antichrist is called by many titles throughout Scripture:

Isaiah 14:4	“King of Babylon”
Isaiah 14:12	“Lucifer”
Daniel 7:8 and 8:9	“Little horn”
Daniel 8:23	“King of fierce countenance”
Daniel 9:26	“The prince that shall come”
Daniel 11:36	“The willful king”
2 Thess. 2:3-8	“Man of sin” “son of perdition” and “that wicked one”
1 John 2:18	“Antichrist”
Revelation 13:1	“Beast”

NATIONALITY OF THE ANTICHRIST by Tim LaHaye

“One of the most frequently-asked questions about the Antichrist concerns his nationality. Revelation 13:1 indicates that ‘he rises up out of the sea,’ meaning the sea of peoples around the Mediterranean. From this we gather that he will be a GENTILE. Daniel 8:8,9 suggests that he is the ‘little horn’ that came out of the four Grecian horns, signaling that he will be part Greek. Daniel 9:26 refers to him as the prince of the people that shall come, meaning that he will be of the royal lineage of the race that destroyed Jerusalem. Historically, this was the Roman Empire; therefore he will be predominantly Roman. Daniel 11:36, 37 tells us that he regards not ‘the God of his fathers’. Taken in context this suggests he will be a Jew. In all probability the Antichrist will appear to be a Gentile and, like Adolf Hitler and others who feared to reveal Jewish blood, will keep his ancestry a secret. The Bible teaches that he will be a Roman-Grecian-Jew, a composite man representing the peoples of the earth. This technically qualifies him to be the embodiment of all evil men.”

— Revelation / Tim LaHaye / Zondervan / p 172

3. The Description of Antichrist in Rev. 13: We are told he has 7 heads and 10 horns. Since there are no seven-headed animals, this composite picture of a leopard, lion, and bear must be a symbol. The seven heads represent governments. It is my own personal belief that these governments are pretty much representative of the present-day European Common Market nations - or Europe, in general.

One of the reasons why I feel it is so paramount to evangelize Western Europe today (possibly the least-reached continent on Earth) is because it will be the headquarters for the coming Tribulational government under Antichrist. This is a matter of rescuing the perishing while we still can!

4. The “miraculous” recover of the Antichrist’s “death”

Rev. 13:3

I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! All the world marveled at this miracle and followed the beast in awe.

It appears that sometime midway through the Tribulation, Antichrist will be killed - or at least appear to be. Satan will try to mimic everything that Jesus did and so his “son” will have to be apparently resurrected from the dead. It is my opinion that the death and resurrection are “faked” as Satan has never had the power of giving life. But millions will be taken in by the charade and worship Antichrist.

THE FALSE PROPHET

Rev. 13:11-18

Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of

a lamb, and he spoke with the voice of a dragon. [12] He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and those who belong to this world to worship the first beast, whose death-wound had been healed. [13] He did astounding miracles, such as making fire flash down to earth from heaven while everyone was watching. [14] And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people of the world to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. [15] He was permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.

[16] He required everyone—great and small, rich and poor, slave and free—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. [17] And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. [18] Wisdom is needed to understand this. Let the one who has understanding solve the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

1. Jesus very accurately prophesied the rise of Antichrist and this false prophet:

Matthew 24:24

For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great miraculous signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones.

In His Mount Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 and 25, Jesus listed “deception” again and again as a sign of the end time. *One of the reasons why it is paramount for you and me to know the Word is because of the incredible deception being foisted from hell upon the world.*

2. Not only will Antichrist powerfully rule over world governments, but his protégé, the False Prophet, will rule over the world religious system.
3. The False Prophet comes out of the EARTH....indicating he does not originate from the sea of peoples as does Antichrist. He will perhaps be an apostate Jew who helps Israel form the covenant of peace when Antichrist arrived on the scene.
4. He “speaks as a dragon” his words are energized by Satan.
5. He has two horns as a lamb. John the Baptist introduced Jesus by saying, “Behold

the Lamb of God.” Only this “lamb” does not come to save, but to destroy.

6. He will be the false religious power that causes the earth to worship the beast. By “image of the beast” I don’t think it means a statue but rather a “conception” of antichrist.

The book, “The Making of the President 1968”, written by Theodore H. White, told the story of the election of Richard Nixon. A vital part of that process was Nixon’s men who created “an image” of the man which they sold to the American public. In a much larger way, the False Prophet will create an “image” of Antichrist that is acceptable to the majority of humanity.

7. The False Prophet will have supernatural powers (“He doeth great wonders” - vs. 13) which help make the public accept Antichrist.

Check out “miracles.” Satan can do them, too! Matthew 24:24

For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great miraculous signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones.

8. The Mark of the Beast. This will be the official insignia - the logo, so to speak, of Antichrist, without which a person cannot buy or sell.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

1. This chapter begins by introducing 144,000 radical disciples who have faithfully stayed with Christ in the Tribulation time. It is possible - though I’m not sure certain - that these could be the top 144,000 Christians of all time who will enjoy a special position before the throne of God. During the Millennium they will be given prominent places of responsibility.

2. Chapter 14 introduces the *first of five angels* who proclaim a special message during the Tribulation time. It is an unusual assignment for an angel as the proclamation has been given to mankind to do; however, it must be that during this part of the tribulation events are so horrendous that an angel is pressed into service.

3. **“Babylon is fallen!”** This is the political, religious and commercial system of the world at this time and God makes it clear that it is going to collapse! This message is given by *the second angel*.

4. *The third angel* announces the doom of any who have accepted the mark of the beast.

THE BLISS THAT AWAITS THE TRIBULATION SAINTS

Rev. 14:12-13

Let this encourage God's holy people to endure persecution patiently and remain firm to the end, obeying his commands and trusting in Jesus."

[13] And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from all their toils and trials; for their good deeds follow them!"

5. *The fourth and fifth angel* announce the events following our Lord's return when He will destroy Antichrist and his cohort the False Prophet.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

This is a short but vital chapter which reveals three tribulational truths:

- A. We have come to the conclusion of the events of chapters 10-15 concerning conditions on earth to the middle of the Tribulation.
- B. We are introduced to the GREAT TRIBULATION during which the seven angels pour out the bowls of God's wrath.
- C. We learn a bit of the dimensions of God's wrath against sin and Satan.

1. We are given Spirit-blessed insight into a great scene in Heaven at this time:

Rev. 15:2-8 The Message

I saw something like a sea made of glass, the glass all shot through with fire. Carrying harps of God, triumphant over the Beast, its image, and the number of its name, the saved ones stood on the sea of glass. [3] They sang the Song of Moses, servant of God; they sang the Song of the Lamb:

"Mighty your acts and marvelous,

Oh God, the Sovereign-Strong!

Righteous your ways and true,

King of the nations!

[4] Who can fail to fear you, God,

give glory to your Name?

Because you and you only are holy,

all nations will come and worship you,

because they see your judgments are right."

[5] Then I saw the doors of the Temple, the Tent of Witness in Heaven, open wide. [6] The Seven Angels carrying the seven disasters came out of the Temple. They were dressed in clean, bright linen and wore gold vests. [7] One of the Four Animals handed the Seven Angels seven gold bowls, brimming with the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. [8] Smoke from God's glory and power poured out of the Temple. No one was permitted to enter the Temple until the seven disasters of the Seven Angels were finished.

THE SEVEN VIALS (BOWLS) JUDGMENTS

Chapter 16

Rev. 16:1

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

1. Vial # 1 Sores upon mankind - those who follow Antichrist
2. Vial # 2 The sea becomes blood - something corrupts all life in the seas so they die and pollute all the waters
3. Vial # 3 God destroys all remaining sources of water - rivers and springs
4. Vial # 4 Scorching heat from the sun – environment goes crazy
5. Vial # 5 Darkness - a repetition of the 9th plague of Egypt

Nahum 1:6 and 8

Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.[8] But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

6. Vial # 6 The Euphrates River dries up.

“The Euphrates River, one of the most prominent rivers in the Bible, since the dawn of recorded history has stood as a natural barrier between east and west. To those of the western world, the peoples living east of the Euphrates River have been shrouded in darkness, while all the time their numerical superiority has been building up. The Euphrates River is the eastern border of the land God gave to Abraham (Gen. 15:18). It is about 1800 miles long and so large that it forms a natural barrier against the armies of the world. Most people are not particularly conscious of the fact that it served as the eastern border of the Roman Empire. The sixth bowl judgment will dry up that river to make way for the “kings of the east.”

– LaHaye / Revelation/ Zondervan / p. 219

7. Vial # 7 The wrath of God At the sound of this trumpet and the resulting divine wrath, a voice will be heard crying, “It is done!” Finally - to the relief of those still

living, the divine judgment will be over. (The Battle of Armageddon - which we will study in a moment - comes at this time at the end of the tribulation.)

Nahum 1:6-8

Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. [7] The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. [8] But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

CHAPTERS SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN

1. These dynamic chapters tell of the demise of the world religious system (Ch. 17) and the destruction of the one-world political system (Ch. 18) They both are referred to as Babylon. I will not take the time in this study to go through these process; suffice it to say that no matter what Satan builds, God will destroy in His own good time and pleasure.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

1. This joyous segment tells of the heavenly hallelujah chorus and the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Rev. 19:7-9

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. [8] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. [9] And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

ILLUSTRATION: PASTOR'S FILMING OF A WEDDING CEREMONY IN ISRAEL SHOWING THAT THE FESTIVITIES WERE FOR THE GROOM, NOT THE BRIDE. THIS TIES IN WITH I CORINTHIANS 3 AT WHICH TIME EVERY BELIEVER WILL GO THROUGH A JUDGMENT PROCESS TO ASSURE THAT WE WEAR NOTHING TO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER THAT WOULD HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF DISTRACTING ANYONE'S ATTENTION FROM THE GROOM, JESUS CHRIST. THE BRIDE WILL BE THE CHURCH.

2. Just as the Tribulational period is coming to an end, the Battle of Armageddon get

ready to erupt. Satan has had his way for seven years. It is all coming to a sharp end now as Jesus returns to this earth the second time (not to be confused with the Rapture of the Church).

Rev. 16:12-16

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. [13] And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. [14] For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. [15] Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. [16] And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Rev. 19:11-16

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

3. Verses 17 to the end of the chapter give the detail of the ungodly coming to the end of their rebellion against God.

CHAPTER TWENTY

1. The very first thing Jesus will do upon His return is to rid the world of Satan:

Rev. 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. [2] And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, [3] And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should

deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

2. Verses 4-6 tell briefly of the Millennium, that 1,000 year period when Jesus rules supreme over all the earth.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

3. Those who have rejected God will now have to stand before Him at the great white throne judgment:

Rev. 20:11-15

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE

1. Here John sees, by the Holy Spirit, the wonder of the new Jerusalem. What an incredible place it will be - the headquarters of the redeemed:

Rev. 21:10-21 New Living Translation

So he took me in spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. [11] It was filled with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious gem, crystal clear like jasper. [12] Its walls were broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. [13] There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west. [14] The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

[15] The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. [16] When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, it was in the form of a cube, for its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. [17] Then he measured the walls and found

them to be 216 feet thick (the angel used a standard human measure).

[18] The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.

[19] The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve gems: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, [20] the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

[21] The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

1. This final chapter tells of the wonders that God has prepared for His saints. One writer has outlined it as follows:

- * A life of fellowship with Him
- * A life of rest
- * A life of full knowledge
- * A life of holiness
- * A life of joy
- * A life of service
- * A life of abundance
- * A life of glory
- * A life of worship

*It will be worth it all when we see Jesus; Life's trials will seem so small,
When we see Christ.*

*One glimpse of His dear face all sorrows will erase. So bravely run the race
Til we see Christ!*