

## ***The Church of the Servant King***

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### **PROPHECY SERIES**

(Proph21H\_Revelation\_An Overview of John's Visions of Judgment)

#### **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF JOHN'S VISIONS<sup>1</sup>**

As we progress in our study of the book of Revelation into a study of the trumpet and bowl judgments, it will be helpful to obtain a panoramic overview of the crux of the book of Revelation – chapters 4-20 which provide us with the bulk of the prophetic material, especially the events God will use to thwart Satan's attempts to prevent God's plan of redemption of man and the earth. The climax of God's plan of redemption of man and the earth occurs during the Millennial, Messianic Kingdom of God on Earth during which period the God-Man, Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel will reign over all nations and peoples.

These chapters (chps. 4-20) explain how a sovereign God accomplishes His redemptive plan for the earth and man while, at the same time, allowing man's free will to function and align with Satan's attempts to thwart God's promises. In Revelation 8, we are introduced to the beginning of a crescendo of activity on earth – much of which occurs under the permissive will of God and which allows Satan to seal his doom. The wrath of Satan (and those creatures (man and demon aligned with him) is used by God to accomplish God's purposes.

#### **THE FOCUS OF JOHN'S VISIONS IN CHAPTERS 4—20**

##### **In Heaven**

The throne room of heaven (ch. 4) –

- 24 elders
- 7 lamps of fire
- 4 living creatures

The Lamb on the throne (ch. 5) –

- Takes the scroll sealed with 7 seals

The fifth seal "opening" (6:9-11) –

- The "martyrs" in heaven

The great multitude of saved Gentiles in heaven (7:9-17) –

- Probably "martyrs"

##### **On Earth**

The first four seal "openings" (6:1-8) –

- Seal 1 – White horse – the false Christ
- Seal 2 – Red horse – wars & conflicts
- Seal 3 – Black horse – famine
- Seal 4 – Pale horse – pestilence & death (1/4 of earth)

The sixth seal "opening" (6:12-17) –

- Cosmic signs of the Advent of Christ

The sealing of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses from the tribes of Israel (7:1-8)

<sup>1</sup> Adapted with some changes of my own from Dr. Thomas Constable, "Notes on Revelation," [www.soniclight.com](http://www.soniclight.com)

## THE FOCUS OF JOHN'S VISIONS IN CHAPTERS 4—20

### In Heaven

The seventh seal – preparations for the trumpet judgments (8:1-5)

- 7 angels with 7 trumpets
- Another angel – altar of incense

The announcement of the seventh trumpet judgment (11:15-19) –

- The Kingdom is proclaimed

The expulsion of Satan from heaven (12:1-12) –

- Mid-point of 7 year Tribulation period

The announcement of the seven last judgments (ch. 15)

### On Earth

The first six trumpet judgments (8:6—9:21)

- Trumpet 1 – Vegetation
- Trumpet 2 – Seas
- Trumpet 3 – Fresh water
- Trumpet 4 – Heavens
- Trumpet 5 – Demons, like locusts, plague unbelievers
- Trumpet 6 – 4 demons from the river Euphrates release 200 million horsemen to kill unbelievers

The little book (ch. 10) –

- Contains yet undisclosed, prophetic material
- John commanded to eat the book

The ministry of the two witnesses (11:1-14)

- Moses and Elijah like figures

The activity of Satan (12:13-17)

- Persecution of Israel and Jews

The activity of the two beasts (ch. 13)

- Beast from the Sea – Gentile false Christ
- Beast from the Earth – False prophet of Israel

Judgment at the end of the Great Tribulation (ch. 14)

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- Unbelievers on earth who are assembled for battle against the Lord are eliminated

The seven bowl judgments (ch. 16) –

- Bowl 1 – sores on unbelievers
- Bowl 2 – Seas are poisoned
- Bowl 3 – Fresh water poisoned
- Bowl 4 – Skin of men afflicted
- Bowl 5 – Darkness over the kingdom of the Anti-Christ & Satan
- Bowl 6 – Euphrates dried up
- Bowl 7 – Earth is shaken & great hail storm

Religion in the Tribulation (ch. 17)

Commerce in the Tribulation (ch. 18)

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## THE FOCUS OF JOHN'S VISIONS IN CHAPTERS 4—20

### In Heaven

Victory Praise in Anticipation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent (19:1-10)

### On Earth

The second coming of Christ (19:11-21)

The millennial reign of Christ (ch. 20)

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVENTH SEAL OF REVELATION 8:1-6

We examined the seal openings (a.k.a. seal “judgments”) in our study of Revelation 6. The view or interpretation I presented of the six seals is that they provide a preliminary summary of the pressures that will be released upon the earth during the Tribulation period as permitted and in some cases directly caused by a sovereign God.

The support for any attempt to establish a detailed chronology of the circumstances described in the seal openings should be analyzed closely since, for the most part, the descriptions associated with the seal openings are fairly general. (Notable exceptions include the mention of a quarter of the earth in association with the fourth seal opening and the description of the sixth seal where we observe a close connection to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent).

The trumpets and the vials (or bowls) that we will begin examining in this lesson (Revelation 8) and which judgments continue in future sessions (Revelation 9; 11:15-19; and 15:1-16:21) seem to be continuous once they begin. (The last two trumpets and the first vial (or bowl) are linked together and are described as the “three woes”). Thus, there seems to be a chronology associated with the trumpets and bowls at least.

After the last trumpet, there is no break or silence in heaven as is the case with the seal openings. When the last trumpet sounds, the seven vials or bowls are emptied. The following diagram depicts a fairly common understanding of the relationship and chronology of the seal openings and the trumpet and bowl judgments.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The diagram was obtained from Dr. Thomas Constable, “Notes on Revelation,” [www.soniclight.com](http://www.soniclight.com).



and the bowl judgments. The opening of the seventh seal is then a prelude to the seven trumpet judgments.