

## NOW BEGINS THE SEAL JUDGMENTS

### CHAPTER 6

Chapter six begins the process of what is known as the seal judgments. These judgments are believed by many scholars to cover approximately the first 21 months or the first 25% of the Tribulation period. Verse 1 indicates that Christ himself opens all seven of the seal judgments of which six are recorded in chapter six and the seventh is recorded in verse 1 of chapter 8. (Chapter 7 is what is called an interlude chapter → meaning John is now recording details about events that were taking place during this period but may not be directly related to the 'Judgments'. Remember this is the sealed scroll with seven seals that comes directly from God the Father, Rev. 5:1, which was taken and opened by Christ. (Gods judgments → Jesus Christ is the implementer)

Listed below is a brief summary of the seven seal judgments, so that you can more easily follow the scripture;

- 1) The first four seal judgments are the direct results of man's sin against other men. Note: the primary reason for the dramatic increase in the sin of men during this period is that the church and its protector, the Holy Spirit, have been removed. The salt and the light are gone. The world is now controlled or ruled by 'darkness'.
- 2) The fifth seal is the saints which had been martyred during the first part of the seven year tribulation period. And they are now in heaven standing before God requesting that God bring justice to the inhabitants of the earth for their wrongful death, which God does, but it does not start until chapter 8, verse 1.
- 3) The sixth seal is the physical earth revolting against man because of all of the devastation they unleashed on planet earth in seals 1-4. If you want to talk about 'Climate Change' this would be the time.
- 4) The opening of the seventh seal releases seven additional angels carrying another seven judgments. These seven judgments are called the 'Seven Trumpet Judgments', which begins the direct judgment from God the

Father. These Trumpet judgments will be much more severe than the first seven seal judgments. We know this because just the reported death toll during the opening of the first six seals is 25% of the world population and the reported death toll of the sixth Trumpet alone is 33.3% of the world's population. Keep in mind that I am just using the numbers recorded in the scripture to show a relative relationship between the seven seal judgments and the seven trumpet judgments. The actual death toll will be much higher in both given the types of events that are being described in both, (the seven seal and the seven trumpet judgments) with no mention of the deaths associated with the other six judgments in either the 'seal judgments' or the 'trumpet judgments'. This will truly be a time of great death for both men and animals, as well as, physical destruction of the earth!

## CHAPTER SIX ANALYSIS:

### FIRST SEAL JUDGMENT:

#### VERSE 1:

"I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a loud voice like thunder, 'Come!'"

Verse 1 state that the Lamb or Jesus Christ is the one who is opening the firsts of the seven seal judgments. Then one of the four living creatures that were in God's throne room, (see Rev.4:6) said "Come". He is summoning the "White Horse" that appears in verse two.

#### VERSE 2:

"I looked and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest."

Based on the command, "come" issued by the first of the four living creature a, "White Horse" appeared before John. Its rider is the Antichrist. However, some

Bible scholars believe that this “rider on a white horse” is Christ, which is not true for a variety of reasons some of which I will list below:

- 1) Christ is the one who is opening the “First Seal judgments from God”; therefore he cannot be the main character in the first seal judgment.  
Rev. 6:1
- 2) The “seven seal judgments” are judgments that are directed against a sinful and unrepentant earth by God the Father and delivered by Christ, Rev.5:1, 7. Also, Christ does not arrive on earth until the end of the seven year tribulation period; see Rev. 19:11-21.
- 3) Opening of the first seal indicates the beginning of the seven year Tribulation period; remember Christ does not return to earth until the end of the seven year Tribulation period as stated in (b) above. Also, when Christ returns, it is to end the Tribulation period and the reign of the Antichrist/Satan on planet earth. Dan. 9:26-27, “After the sixty-two ‘sevens’, the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’. In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to the sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” tells us that the “destroyer” or the Antichrist will be in control during Daniels seventh week, which has been identified as the seven year Tribulations period.
- 4) Then vs. 2 begins to describe the rider on the white horse none of which match the description of Christ when he returns to earth to rule after the Tribulation period, Rev. 19:11-21. We can compare these two ‘riders’ in class.

VERSE 2:

“I looked and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.”

Now we will analyze verse 2 in more details, as follows:

- 1) Verse 2 opens with John stating that the next thing he 'saw' was as follows: **"I looked, and there before me was white horse!"** This statement in itself carries no meaning. The meaning comes in the description that is in the following words. However, do not confuse this **"white horse"** and its 'rider' with the one in Rev. 19:11-21, which is Jesus Christ. The **"white horse"** in verse 2 indicates the entrance of the 'Antichrist' on the scene on planet earth. This is also the beginning of the seven year tribulation period.
- 2) **"It's rider held a bow"**, however, he did not have any arrows indicating that he will conquer primarily with brilliant strategies, intrigue, a winning personality, a great orator, with extremely brilliant deception skills and a great liar, see 2 Thess. 2:9-10, **"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing."** Christ on the other hand will return in power with the armies of heaven, Rev.19:11-16, focus on verse 15, **"Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations."** Keep in mind the key to the power of the antichrist is from God and is limited to what God allows Rev. 13: 7; **He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."** However, I do not think the antichrist actually becomes the **"beast"** of Rev. 13:1 until the middle of the tribulation period based on the events of Revelations Chapter 12. This **"rider"** is the one who makes a 'covenant' with the Jews for seven years and then break it in the middle of the seven years, Dan. 9:27. This verse is quoted above, verse 1, #3.
- 3) **"... and he was given a crown,"** the Antichrist will convince the ten horns or revived Roman Empire to give him control of their countries → **"a crown"**, Dan. 7:7-8, **"After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts and it had ten horns. While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted**

before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.” This will all be accomplished primarily through skillful diplomacy and deception. Christ on the other hand comes in power from heaven, Rev.19:11-16. Keep in mind that the antichrist power is based on worldly power→ granted by God and Christ power is heavenly power also granted by God the Father at this point in time.

- 4) “... and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.” This is a verse that has had much discussion by many biblical scholars; however, my opinion is that God put this line in, with a special focus on, “as a conqueror” to let men know that this leader is an imitation and not the real thing. Meaning he is not a real conqueror but a ‘wannabe’ conqueror. Remember all power is given or granted by God and the power of the antichrist has been limited by God, over the earth, to seven years total: of which the first three and one half years will be somewhat limited given during the first three and one half years Satan will be working through the Antichrist, however, during the last three and one half years Satan, I believe will indwell the body of the Antichrist on planet earth. Just an opinion. Again see Revelations chapter 12 and 13:1-10. I also believe that Dan. 8:23-25 will give you a good view of how this process will work, “In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the Holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of peace. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human hands.”

## SECOND SEAL JUDGMENT:

VERSE 3:

“When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come!’”

Verse 3, begins with the Lamb or Jesus Christ opening the second seal and then the second of the four living creature summoning the next horse, “When, the lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” Again it is Christ that opens the second seal; however, it is the second of the four living creature that summons the “red horse”. John is again the observer. Also, note the order: Lamb→second living creature→ John.

VRESE 4:

“Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.”

The imagery used in this verse appears to be very straight forward in terms of its wording. I will point out specific points which I believe God/Jesus Christ is making, which are as follows:

- 1) John does not specifically state that he “watched” as the second seal was opened as he did in verse 1.
- 2) The first thing John records or states is, “Then another horse came out...” which would be the second horse in this chain of events. Again keep in mind that each of the four horses described in this chapter depict or describe another type of judgment that is being brought against the earth and man in general. Also keep in mind that these are judgments by God through Jesus Christ but being implemented by man himself. You talk about dumb: man has evolved by this time in history to where he is determined to destroy himself! Of course he will need Satan’s help to complete the mission!
- 3) Next John defines the color of the horse, “...a fiery red one.” With “fiery red” indicating ‘Blood’. And there will be plenty of ‘blood’ shed on the earth during this period.
- 4) John concludes this verse with a brief description of the type of events that will be caused or created by the “rider” of this horse, “Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.” There are many things which could be said

about this portion of verse 3, however, I will limit my comments to the following:

- a) The “rider” of this horse is the ‘antichrist’.
- b) This “rider” → “was given power...” The power that this ‘rider’ was given actually was third hand: first, God granted the power to Satan → if you read closely Revelations chapter 12 you will find the story of Satan being expelled from heaven to the earth and being allowed to make war against Gods people, which will extend to the entire world. Second: then Satan will ‘empower’ the antichrist to conquer the world, Rev. 13:7b, “And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.” And third, the antichrist will actually be the implementer of the destruction.
- c) The antichrist will use this “power” → “to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other.” See Rev. 13:7a, “He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them.” Also, Rev. 13:15, “he was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.” I think the words; “make men slay each other” is an interesting statement. This one statement could encompass such actions as: war, civil out breaks, riots, racial unrest, and poor vs. rich, nuclear vs non-nuclear. You get the idea! The antichrist will be able to instill such a passion in men that they will be willing to spill the blood; millions or billions of men, women and children will die during this period on time. This will truly be the ultimate time in history for men to act out their evil desires.
- d) John closes this verse by stating, “To him was given a large sword.” Which confirms our above conclusion; with the word “sword” meaning ‘war’. However, John adds to our explanation by stating that the antichrist will have a “large sword” indicating that the wars will be wide spread even global. Jesus Christ himself talks about this in Matt. 24:6-7a, “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nations will rise against nations, and kingdoms against kingdoms” I was not sure

whether to use this as an example for (c) above or this portion of the verse, 1 Thess. 5:3, “While people are saying, ‘Peace and safety,’ destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”

Also, I think there is another point which should be very important to all Christians within the words “was given”. This rider was granted by God, the creator of the universe, the ability and power to do these things. Remember the Book of Revelations is a book of the Bible which tells the story of how God the creator directs and controls the affairs of men and Satan to complete his plan for men and Satan. Man and Satan have free will to create bumps in the timeline of God plan but God controls the end result of the plan. This is a fact not an opinion.

Note:

1) It needs to be pointed out that the “nonmilitary conquest” of the first rider (Antichrist) on a white horse did not last long. However, that should come as no surprise to Christians as the Antichrist is the great liar and counterfeiter.

2) “But since war itself is at the very root of mankind’s social system, it is not likely that peace will ever be a serious goal.” Book Title, “Report from Iron Mountain”/ Phillips. I will read the complete conclusion from this report in class.

### THIRD SEAL JUDGMENT:

VERSES 5 & 6:

“When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come!’ I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four



living creatures, saying, 'A quart of wheat for a day's wage, and three quarts of barley for a day's wage, and do not damage the oil and the wine!'"

Verse 5&6 need to be interpreted together:

- 1) "When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" Again this appears to be the same sequence as in the first two 'seal judgments' above, "the Lamb → the third of the four living creatures →" and John. Also, there is the same command by the 'third creature', "Come" which is directed at the "black horse". Again it is the Lamb or Jesus Christ that opens the third seal; however, it is the third living creature that summons the "black horse" and again John is the observer.
- 2) "I looked, and there before me was a black horse." I think the use of the words "black horse", when it follows or is associated with a world war as indicated in verses 2 & 4 is referencing a famine. We know famine always follows war plus the rest of verse 5 and all of verse 6, would indicate famine and intense mourning on a global scale. Christ talked about this famine in Matt.24:7b, "There will be famines and earthquakes in various places." Also, I think Jeremiah provides us with some insight as to these types of conditions after the fall of Jerusalem and the Jews exile to Egypt, Lam. 5:10, "Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine." KJV
- 3) I think this part of the verse is a continuation of the events that will be taking place during this period; first there is 'war' then there is 'famine' then there will be 'inflation'. This is the normal sequencing of events during a wide spread conflict → 'war'. Inflation always follows when the supply of anything becomes scarce. And in this case the "rider" is on the back of the "black horse" indicating 'inflation' rides in on the back of 'scarce food supply' or 'famine'. "Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then in the next part of this verse God confirms our definition or explanation from above → Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creature, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wage..." A 'voice' in the middle of the four living creatures makes the statement about the cost of food during this period. He states that if a person works all day they will earn only enough money to feed one

person for one day. This would mean that if a father or mother was working and had a family of four each person in the family would only get one fourth of the food required to sustain life each day. The outcome of this over time would be a slow death for the entire family. Note: the Greek historian Herodotus says that a choenix (quart) of corn was a soldier's daily supply of food. Also, "barley" was normally sold to slaves and weighting out "wheat" was a sign of scarcity, Lev. 26:26, "When I cut off your supply of bread, ten women will be able to bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out the bread by weight." And again in Ezek. 4:10-17. Also, the 'voice' that makes this statement is not identified. However, I think we can assume that this 'voice' is from the throne room of God the Father, which means the words are true. This will truly be a 'terrible' time for the people on the earth living during this period.

- 4) "...and do not damage the oil and the wine!" There has been a lot of discussion about what these words mean, however, to me it is very straight forward → the lifestyle of the rich will not be affected. I have two basic reasons why I have such a strong opinion on this issue: 1) in John's day oil and wine were items only associated with the rich, 2) all throughout history the rich are rarely affected by war and certainly not to the extent of the average person. This divide between the 'rich' and the 'poor' will become greater and greater during this period and will happen at an ever increasing rate, which will create an ever growing hatred between the social groups. The results of this will be ever increasing unrest and wars between social groups and nations. Again this will truly be and awful time to be alive on planet earth.

## FOURTH SEAL JUDGMENT:

VERSES 7 & 8:

"When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, 'Come!' I looked and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named death and Hades, was following close behind him. They were given power

over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beast of the earth.”

Verses 7 & 8 need to be interpreted together:

- 1) “When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a pale horse.” Again it is Christ/the Lamb that opens the fourth seal; however, it is the fourth of the four living creature that summons the “pale horse” and again John is the observer.
- 2) The original text on this described the horse as “pale green” some believe this is a “corpse-like” color. Remember when Luke recorded Jesus answer about this time period he used the words, “famine and pestilence”, Luke 21:10-11, “Then he said to them: ‘Nations will rise against nations, and kingdoms against kingdoms. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.” Therefore, opening up the issue of disease and a variety of other issues all of which are very harmful to humans. The next part of this verse really solidifies the true meaning of this of this horse.
- 3) “Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him.” This is the first of the four seals that has a name and, “Its rider was named Death” and his companion was named, “Hades”. I do not think there is any question that in this case the rider named “Death” can mean anything other than physical death, given that in the last part of verse 8 it specifically states that 25% of the people on planet earth will die. I believe that the word “Hades” here means a holding place for the souls of unsaved people until the time of the ‘Great White Throne Judgment’, Rev. 20:11-15, versus the other possible interpretation of these people going directly to “Hell”. Some scholars compare this to the words of Ezek. 14:21, “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: How much worse will it be when I send against Jerusalem my four dreadful judgments—sword and famine and wild beast and plague—to kill men and their animals.” Also, it is very possible, even likely. That part of the people killed in verse 8 (25% of the earth’s population) could be saved and their souls would go directly to heaven,

Rev. 7:14b, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

- 4) "They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beast of the earth." The first part of this seems to be very straight forward; the "They" that is being spoken of is "Death and Hades" and the "power" which has previously been defined as "war/sword" and "famine/inflation" is now expanded to include "plague, and by the wild beast of the earth." and the number to be killed is set at 25% of all the people on planet earth. However, the second part of this new method of killing people, "and by the wild beast of the earth." Appears to be a bit more troubling to interpret. Some scholars believe that this "beast" is the Antichrist, Rev. 13:1, "the Beast out of the sea"; others believe that during this time period, some men who rise to power will become so beastly and savage that this is what these words are referring too. Then there is the simplest interpretation and that is, the world will be in a state of utter chaos given 25% of all people will be dead and the physical destruction to the environment so severe that animals will no longer be afraid of men and so hungry that they will be forced to attack anything that looks like food. I like this interpretation because it is exactly what the Bible says.

Note: The first four seals had to do with Gods judgments on the unrepentant people of planet earth, (remember the church was just Raptured prior to the beginning of the seven year Tribulation period). Now the events of the fifth seal will take place in heaven. Also, keep in mind that the 'first four seal judgments' are all about God allowing men to unleash their evil desires/hearts on other men. None of the 'first four judgments' are directly from God. This is just the warm up portion of the seven year tribulation period and already at least 25% of the human race is dead. Not bad for a human start → the divine start is yet to come and the judgments get progressively worst.

## FIFTH SEAL JUDGMENT:

VERSES 9-11:

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’”

Verses 9-11 will need to be interpreted together.

- 1) “When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar, the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.” I will list the key points to this sentence, as follows:
  - a) Again it is Christ that opens the seal, however, Christ is now referred to as “he”. Note in the better translations the word “Lamb” is used for the opening of the first seal and the pronoun “he” is used for the rest of the seals. John is the observer/communicator and there is no living creature involved in this seal. Remember there were only four living creatures mentioned in Revelations 4:6.
  - b) The subject of this seal is “the souls of those who had been slain” of Christians who had been killed/ martyred because of their belief in “...the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.” since the Rapture of the church.

Note:

Remember we began Revelations chapter 4 with the rapture of the church. However, we cannot be sure how much time, if any, will pass between the rapture and the beginning of the seven year Tribulation period. In my study I have heard a number discussed anywhere from zero time passing up to two years. The other issue that is worth noting is the last five words of this sentence, “...the testimony they had maintained.” The wording here leads me to believe that the pressures of this very evil period will require great spiritual strength by “young” converts to “maintain” their “testimony”. It will truly be a very difficult time for

Christian's during this period. Keep in mind that if these are the saints who have been martyred for their testimony since the rapture they are very young Christians estimated at 0-2 years. Remember in the Old Testament God required the 'blood' of the 'sacrifice' to be put on the "horns of the alter" and the rest to be put at the "base of the alter", Lev.4:7, "The priest shall then put some of the blood on the horns of the alter of fragrant incense that is before the Lord in the Tent of Meeting. The rest of the bulls blood he shall pour out at the base of the alter of burnt offerings at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting." Also some scholars believe that this is the same heavenly alter that Christ shed his blood on to redeem men of their sins. "It was necessary, then for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a manmade sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence." Heb.9: 23-24.

- 2) "They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Again these are the "souls" of the people saved and martyred since the rapture of the church, and are the same souls speaking to God the Father during the opening of the fifth seal. I believe that this is another verse that not necessarily proves but strongly indicates that the church has been raptured prior to the beginning of the Tribulations. My logic is simple, during the time of the church, Christians are compelled to pray for their enemies and not hold their enemies sins against them. Acts 7:60, "Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep." Also, Jesus on the cross said this, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." During the church age Christians are commanded to pray for their enemies because we are living in an age of grace and mercy. People who are saved during the Tribulation period will certainly pray for the souls of unsaved people. However, as I have already stated before, I think during this period, which is a time of wrath and vengeance the peoples actions will be more closely align with the Old

Testament. Remember how the Jews in Old Testament would cry out for God to bring wrath on their enemies. Note: some scholars believe that during the Tribulations saved people will return to preaching "The Gospel of the Kingdom" just as John the Baptist did prior to Christ. They believe that the time of "The Gospel of Grace", as we know it will have passed when the church is raptured and now looking forward all Christians will be looking for the second coming of Christ to set up his Millennium Kingdom. I am sure about one point in this interpretation and that is saved people will be preaching that Christ will soon return and set up his earthly kingdom for 1000 years. I am also sure this will certainly not go over well with the Antichrist and the rest of the leaders of the world. Again to clarify this concept I will summarize below:

One → During the Old Testament time period the ability to be saved was primarily based on 'Faith' → Abraham & the Law → Moses, which is what was preached.

Two → During the New Testament/time of the church on earth, salvation was based on faith in Jesus Christ, which is what was preached; 'The Gospel of Jesus Christ'.

Three → During the Tribulation Period salvation will be again based on faith/the blood of Jesus Christ, however, I believe there will be TWO parts to the preaching during this period: one, 'salvation' → the blood of Jesus Christ and two; 'Gospel of the Kingdom' which will focus on the 'soon return of Jesus Christ to planet earth.

We can discuss this issue more in class.

- 3) "Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was complete." I will try to explain what I think this verse is trying to tell us. With the opening of the fifth seal Christ has so far delivered four great judgments sent by God the Father. This was accomplished by; first, the removal of the church and second; allowing the true evil nature of man to surface, resulting in men killing men to satisfy all of their evil desires and three; by God allowing

Satan to have direct rule over the earth. We know for sure that at least 25% of the world's population has been killed at this point in time and it is my opinion many more people were killed during the opening of the first four seals, which is not included in the 25% number. Also, I am not sure that this number includes the Christian who have been martyred during this period that are now crying out to God. Therefore, to me this is Gods way of letting us know certain things about his plan, his character and a glimpse of what is going on in heaven at this point in time.

- a) His Plan → he is point blank telling these martyred souls that at this point there is more time left before he “completes” his plan and brings this seven year process to a conclusion. Rev. 19:11-21 He has already told us in Daniel and other books of the Bible that time to completion, start to finish is seven years.
- b) His Character → I think he is communicating to his martyred saints and to his living saints, that because of, “the testimony they had maintained” to death, once in heaven they would be cared for and comforted, “given a white robe” denotes righteous and caring, comforting and heavenly clothing. Note: I think these souls are in heaven, and are being comforted and cared for but they have not yet received their “Glorified Body”. I have two reasons for my opinion; 1) they are still in judgment mode and to me if you are in a glorified state you will not be in judgment mode, 2) Rev. 20:4b-5, “And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their forehead or their hand. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” states that this group will be part of the first resurrection and that is when they will receive their Glorified Bodies. (My opinion on this may not be 100% correct but there appears to be some type of transition process that will take place during this time period!)



- c) God always wants to communicate with his saints/servants, therefore, he provides us with a glimpse of what is going on in heaven at this point in time. The saints who have been martyred since the rapture of the church are in heaven (a good thing) and being cared for, given white robes, (another good thing) and in general being loved by God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and I would assume by the raptured church and angels. Remember God always wants to keep his saints informed as to what is going on in the world. When we get to Rev. 6: 15-17 compare how the unsaved men of earth are doing to the words of this verse!

## SIXTH SEAL JUDGMENT:

VRESES 12-14:

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.” These are the words that John used to describe what he saw. I will break these verses down into small segments to make them more understandable. Verses 12-14 will be interpreted together.

- 1) “I watched as he opened the sixth seal.” Again Christ is the one opening the sixth seal and again Christ is referred to as “he”. Also, John is again the observer/communicator.
- 2) “There was a great earthquake.” There are two primary views about how to interpret this portion of the verse:

a) Some scholars have tried to say that these events are symbolic of the great upheaval that will be occurring within society during this period. I do not think there is any question that there will be great upheaval during this period in history; however I do not think this is the primary message of these words.

b) The second view would be to interpret this verse based on actually what John wrote, and that is, literally physical events will be happening on planet earth actually as John states. I have three reasons for my opinion, which are as follows:

One→ If John had wanted us to take these events as something other than literal he would have said, these events were “like” this description, (he wrote in the words of his day a description as best he could describing what he saw),

Two→ In Rev.6:15-17 which follows this description notice how “all” men on planet earth react to these events, if there had been social events normally the rich are excluded from the pain,

Three→ The description of these events recorded by John in Rev. 6:12-14 sound just like how men today would describe these events if they really were physically happening. Also, we need to keep in mind that these events are judgments from God and they are very similar to Old Testament events that were sent by God. See list below:

- “The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to the earth, as late figs drop from the fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.” I will provide other scripture that uses this same type of language and keep in mind that these events actually happened.
- Exodus 10:21-23, “Then the Lord said to Moses, “stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt—darkness that can be felt. So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all Israel had light in the places where they lived.” Notice how God protected Israel during this judgment on Egypt.

- Matthew 27:45-46, “From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Elon, Elon, lama sabachthani?” —which means,” My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.
- The prophet Joel predicted this in the book of Joel, Joel 2:30-31, “I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”
- The prophet Isaiah also predicts these events, Isa. 13: 9-13, “See, the day of the Lord is coming – a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins; I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. I will make man scarcer than pure gold, Therefore, I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.” Again Isaiah records the following word from God, Isa. 34:2-4, “The Lord is angry with all the nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them; he will give them over to slaughter. Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a stench; the mountain will be soaked with their blood. All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; the entire starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.” I went ahead and added a few extra verses because I think it really describes the events taking place in the Tribulation period. Also, the people today that view God as one dimensional – love only—should read how God judges unrepentant sinners.
- These are Jesus’s words as recorded in Matthew 24:29, “Immediately after those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

- Joshua 10: 12-13, “On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: “O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O moon, over the valley of Aijalon.” So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the book of Jasher. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going about a full day.”

I will try to provide a little more background and details about the wording of these verses below:

- 3) “The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair...” The key words within this verse are as follows:
  - a) “The sun...” normally denote ‘governing authority’, Gen.1:16, “God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day...”
  - b) Traditionally when the Bible uses words like, “...turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair...” It is referencing a time of trouble and sorry for man, Ezek. 7:18 &19b, “They will put on sackcloth and be clothed with terror... Their silver and gold will not be able to save them in the day of the Lord’s wrath.” & Isa. 50:3, “I clothe the sky with darkness and make sackcloth as covering.” & Jonah 3:5, “The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.”
  - c) Also ‘sackcloth’ was normally worn by ‘prophets’, Matt. 3:4, John’s clothes were made of camel hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist.”
  - d) It would appear obvious to me that the actual physical events will cause a great deal of destruction and death on planet earth, however, I think this could also be symbolic of the increasing spiritual darkness that will be covering the earth, which will be the results of Satan’s increasing power on planet earth. Remember the church is in heaven. Just an opinion!
  - e) My last comment or question on this issue would be: Has this ever happened before? And the answer is yes;

- For three days Egypt became dark prior to the exodus of the Israelites, Exodus 10:21-23, “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt—darkness that can be felt. So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all of Egypt for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the place where they lived.”
- The darkness that covered the earth during the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Matt. 27:45, “From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

And has it been prophesied? The answer is yes.

- The prophet Zechariah actually speaks of a day that will not be dark or clear and associates it with an earthquake at the time of the Lords return. This day that Zechariah prophesied is the very same day that is spoken of in this verse in Revelations, (the prophecy then the actual event), Zech. 14:1-7, focus on verse 6-7, “On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime—a day known to the Lord. When evening come there will be light.” The prophet Joel also predicted this event in Joel 2:31-32, “I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”
  - Then some may say that all of this was many years ago: On May 19, 1790 there was a day in New England called the ‘dark day’, that day was so dark that the stars were visible and the chickens went to roost. Scientist blamed this event on forest fires, fog and clouds→ all unconfirmed. Just food for thought!
- 4) “...the whole moon turned blood red...” In Gen. 1:16 above we found that the “sun” was “the greater light” and was put there “to govern the day”.

The rest of this verse states that the 'moon' was created as, "...the lesser light to govern the night." Scholars over the years have developed many views about what this part of the verse means. Most of which do not make any sense to me, therefore I will not waste time quoting them. What I do know is the "moon" gets its light from the "sun" and has been defined as the 'lesser' of the two. The "moon" is normally associated with 'tides' and 'crops' and even human behavior. Also to me the phrase "turned blood red" indicates 'death' and the word "whole" indicates a there will be a lot of death. Also John Hagee has put forth an assertion that that the timing of the 'blood moons' are somehow connected with Jewish holidays. We can discuss this more in class.

- 5) "...and the stars in the sky fell to the earth, as late figs drop from the fig tree when shaken by a strong wind." To me this portion of the verse should be taken literally. The actual "stars in the sky—fell to the earth..." which will cause a great deal of physical destruction and death. Remember this is a time of 'judgment' and a 'call to repentance'. And because of the tremendous amount of destruction and death the governing authorities and social fabric of the earth will be torn apart. Some scholars believe that there is a second or implied interpretation of this verse, "...as late figs drop from the fig tree when shaken by a strong wind." The unripe figs that fall to the earth and are covered over by the leaves and they never ripen. Therefore, when the wind of God's wrath comes the people/figs who are not really his will be covered over by the leaves (of sin) and never develop in his grace. Also, in Gen. 1:16b-18, God provides us with the responsibility or job of the "stars" which may help with our understanding of this verse, "He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness." An example of this type of event and how people react happened on Nov. 13, 1833, when 'meteors' fell to the ground for about three hours. The local people were so terrified they thought the world was ending.
- 6) The last part of this event is recorded in verse 14, as follows: "The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was

removed from its place.” Again I think this portion of the verse should in general be taken literally even though it opens with symbolism being used to describe the “sky”. However, I think the big question is; ‘What will cause this to happen’? There have been two views discussed as to ‘What would cause such an event’, which is as follows:

One→ God would cause all of the ‘plates’ that encompass the earth to move/earthquakes and volcanoes to erupt, which would cause all land masses to move at one time;

Two→ during a world war, men would unleash all of their nuclear weapons at one time therefore, creating vast destruction across the entire earth. Given the first ‘seal judgments’ involved the evil actions of men it would seem to be reasonable to assume that this portion of the judgment could have been caused by man. Again, this is just an opinion based on assumptions. The secondary or implied interpretation of this verse is again because of the immense physical destruction all governmental order and social structure would be non-existent.

I have tried to list scripture from other parts of the Bible to show you that these very same physical type events have already happened within the history of the world. Last, the people who do not believe that these things are possible or that they will literally happen just as the Bible predicts do not really understand that the one speaking these words is the Creator of the universe. Gen. 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” God can do anything he wants with this earth, as a matter of fact he will, Rev. 21:1, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,”  
Sounds good to me!

VERSES 15-17:

“Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us

from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Verses 15-17 will be interpreted together.

- 1) "Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains." I think this verse was inserted to let all people know but specifically Christians that finally the world will realize that all of these events are not from natural causes and cannot be explained by 'science', but judgments from the Creator/God. Also keep in mind what the 'martyred saints' in the 'fifth seal judgment' ask God to do on their behalf. This verse list seven groups or types of people who are "hiding" from 'God and his Lamb': 1) "kings of the earth, 2) the princes, 3) the generals, 4) the rich, 5) the mighty, 6) and every slave, 7) and every free man..." This list would cover every man, woman and child on planet earth at this point in time.

Note: I would like to point out three other issues surrounding this verse: One, this is a real inflection point in the Book of Revelations, from this point forward all unsaved people will "hate" God for the judgments he is bring on them, even though they deserve them. Two, it appears that many if not the majority of these unsaved people will not change. They will not repent and be saved. Three, all of these judgments will also fall on the saved people of the world during this time period, as well as, the unsaved people. The saved people will also be persecuted and killed by the unsaved world, which is discussed in some detail in chapter 7. However, the scripture does not specifically state how they will react to this situation except what we saw in verses 9 & 10 of this chapter, "...the testimony they had maintained" & "How long , Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

- 2) "They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand." Remember one of the



primary purposes of the Tribulation period is to jolt the people of the earth into recognizing their sin and repenting of them. Instead their hearts become harder (remember Pharaoh's heart during the time of Moses, see Exod.14:4, 8, 17) and they call on earthly/physical things to hide them from the face of "God and his Lamb". Again God is the Creator, he created everything and nothing made or in your heart can be hidden from God or Jesus Christ.

#### OPINION:

I know I am really slow sometimes in understandings God's word and even slower in putting it in to practice but the people living during this period are really slow! I would hope that if I just witness 25% of the world's population perished from a war and because of this war the world is now experiencing the greatest famine and disease outbreak it has ever seen followed by the biggest earthquake the world has ever seen, total darkness, stars crashing into the earth, the sun and the moon change colors and wild beast eating people and they know that all of this is coming from the Creator → you would think they would begin to believe they are doing something wrong and decide to change their ways and 'repent' and ask God for forgiveness → but not this bunch! They are totally brain dead → Just an opinion!

Chapter 6 ends with John watching Christ open six of the seven seals judgments contained within the Seven Seal Scroll given to Christ by God the Father. Note: it is my opinion that John is in heaven while these events are happening, however, he is observing what is happening on planet earth as each seal is opened.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To understand the Book of Revelations the reader has to understand the sequencing of events that are taking place within each chapter and is the chapter a continuation of the events/judgments or an interlude which normally further describes in more detail other events going on during the actual judgment period. The key to this is to understand that, **THERE ARE INTERLUDE CHAPTER, WHICH ARE CHAPTERS BETWEEN THE OPENING OF EACH SIX AND SEVENTH JUDGMENT (Seal, Trumpet or Bowl)**. That means there will be an interlude chapter with a more detailed explanation of what is going on during the six previous judgments before the seventh judgment is opened. This will include

the seal judgments the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments. I will outline how this works below.

## OUTLINE OF JUDGMENT VS INTERLUDE SCRIPTURE

Chapter 6 → Describes Christ opens six of the seven seal judgments

Chapter 7 → Is an interlude chapter between the opening of the six and seventh seal. This interlude chapter has been put in to further or better describe other events going on during this period between the opening of the first seal and the sixth seal, as well as, a more detail description of the outcome of the judgment events themselves.

- a) Chapter 7:1-8 talks about God claiming or sealing his own, 144,000 Jewish, I assume men. I believe that this will take place somewhere between the opening of the first and sixth seal.
- b) Chapter 7:9-17 talks about the people who were saved during this same time period and were then martyred. They are standing before the throne of God. I believe this is the people and event recorded in the 'fifth seal' judgment, Rev. 6:9-11.

Chapter 8 → Begins with the opening of the seventh seal and ends with the opening of the fourth Trumpet judgment.

- a) Chapter 8:1-2 describes the opening of the seventh seal which is another judgment containing seven Trumpet judgments. Again all of these judgments are from God the Father.

NOTE: Always keep in mind the connectivity that exists between the Seal judgments and the Trumpet judgments and the Bowl judgments. The seventh Seal judgment introduces all seven Trumpet judgments, then, the seventh Trumpet judgment introduces all seven Bowl judgments and the seventh Bowl judgment introduces the return of Christ.

- b) Chapter 8: 3-13 describe the opening of the first four Trumpet judgments.

Chapter 9 → describes the opening of the fifth and sixth Trumpet judgment.

Chapter 10 → begins another interlude chapter between the opening of the sixth and seventh Trumpet. I believe this chapter conveys to the reader two things:

- 1) There will be no more delay in God accomplishing or completing his “mystery”.
- 2) The outcome will be either ‘sweet’ or ‘sour’ for mortal man.

Chapters 11-14 are also interlude chapters which we will discuss in more detail when we get to that point in our discussion of the Book of Revelations along with chapters 15-22.

## CHAPTER 7 → INTERLUDE CHAPTER:

Chapter 7 opens with John still in heaven and still observing what is happening on planet earth, “After this I saw...” John’s observation appears to be focused on two groups of newly saved believers. This first group is known as the; “144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.” which I assume are Jewish men given the scripture is using the twelve “tribes” of Israel to describe each group. The second group is called; “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language...” which I am assuming represents the, non-Jewish portion of humanity or the ‘Gentile’ portion of humanity that were martyred during the first part of the seven year tribulations. Some scholars believe that chapter 6 and 7 are somehow related, however, it is my opinion that there is no connecting or continuation of thought between these two chapters. My opinion is that chapter 7 is just a more detailed description (what is called an interlude chapter) of what is happening on earth during this time period. Also keep in mind, every word that God the Father and the Lamb write carries an important meaning for men.

Verses 1-8:

“After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or

on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: 'Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the forehead of the servants of our God.' Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000."

Verses 1-8 appears to be indicating that there will be somewhat of a lull in the wars, death, famine, plagues, wild beast and inflation on earth (seal judgments) while God seals (means protects) his Jewish chosen or elect. My primary reason for believing that there will be a physical lull in the wars on earth is based on the sequencing of events as I read Revelations chapters 6, 7 and 8. I think it needs to be made very clear that this lull in judgment events on planet earth are totally controlled by God the Father to accomplish his 'will' "...sealed; 144,000 from all the tribes in Israel." and not by the political leaders on earth who I am sure will try to take credit for the them. Sounds a lot like politicians today, they always take credit for the good and none of the bad. Remember unless otherwise stated I take every word literally. A summary of the sequencing is as follows:

- 1) Chapter 6 ends with the opening of the sixth seal. The results of this will be that at least 25% of the earth's population killed in some type of war, famine, plague, wild beast and inflation. Plus the deaths that will be related to the first four judgments, where God allows man to destroy himself. Remember this is the period of time just after the church is raptured and its 'protector' the Holy Spirit is removed from the earth. (Note: the Holy Spirit is still on the earth but is not functioning as the protector of the church as the church is in heaven.)
- 2) John then immediately states in Chapter 7:1, "After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the winds of the earth

to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or the sea or on any trees.” I will break this verse down into its basic subsets, which are as follows:

- a) “After this I saw...” Meaning this is the next thing John saw during his vision.
- b) Next, “...four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the winds of the earth to prevent and wind from blowing on the land or the sea or on any trees.” There are two major views on the meaning of this part of the verse: One, is we take this statement literally and Two, we take this statement symbolically. However it is my opinion that it could be both. We will discuss!

ONE→ Based on the ‘worldly items’ being affected in verses 1-3 it is my opinion that these four angels are somehow connected with or part of the next four trumpet judgment Rev. 8:6-12, that God will unleash on the earth. However, it does not appear that they are the same angels as the ones in the first four trumpet judgments because those four are in heaven and the four in this verse appear to be on planet earth. However, if you jump forward to Chapter 8 verse 1-12 you will find that when Christ opened the seventh seal it contained seven more angels with seven trumpet judgments. And the trumpet judgment from the first four of angels, in Rev.8: 6-12 all appear to be directed, for the most part, at the land, the sea and the trees, which is basically the same items (the land, the sea and the trees) that the four angels in Rev.7:1 are protecting until God deals his 144,000. This could just be a coincidence but it seems very logical to me that the angels in Rev. 7:1 are temperately holding back the actions of the angels in the first four Trumpet judgments. Note: I always interpret the Bible as it is written unless it states otherwise or there are other scriptures better explaining a word or phrase.

TWO→ The other view would be that this verse is symbolic and has another meaning. The scholars who believe in the ‘symbolic’ approach believe that the words within this verse represent the ‘governmental, political and social troubles’ of the entire earth during this period: 1) “four wind” means all of the governments of the earth→ north, east, south and west. They use Rev. 20:8, “...Satan will be released form his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth...” & Jer. 49:36 to

validate their point; 2) “land” meaning all the land of the earth; 3) “sea” meaning, the people of the entire world. They use Rev. 13:1 to validate their point, “And I saw the beast coming out of the sea...” & Dan. 7:2-3; 3) “trees” meaning, the might and pride of the earth. They use Dan. 4:22 to validate this point, “...you, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.” and Ezekiel Chapter 31.

## Summary;

It appears to me that God has sent these “four angels” to the earth to ‘control’ the actions that were going taking place or getting ready to take place on the earth, both from a nature standpoint (Rev. Chapter 8) and from a human standpoint (Rev. Chapter 6). The reason for this lull in activity is clarified in verse 3 of this chapter (7), “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Sorry I may have been a little wordy about the details or meaning of this verse but the reason for this verse is straight forward.

- 3) In verses 7:2-3, John states, “Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ‘Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.’” Meaning he/John sees another angel coming from another direction; the “east” commanding the four other angels not to release “...the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any trees...” And the reason is then clearly defined, “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” It appears God suspends all hostile actions on earth until his “servants” are sealed. I think there are several points worth pointing out in these verses, which are as follows:
- a) The “...angel coming from the east...” must possess great authority as he is ‘commanding’ the other four angels. He also speaks in “...a loud voice” indicating authority and power. Last, I would like to point out that when

Jesus Christ returns to end the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' he will also return from the "east", Matt. 24:27, "For as lightening comes from the east and flashes to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." There is no clear indication that this 'angel' is or is not Jesus Christ but it is obvious that he has great authority.

- 4) In verses 7: 4-8, John states, "Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Ruben 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000." The number of the group was 144,000 Jewish, I assume men. The group was made up of 12,000 from each tribe of Israel. I think there are four things worth noting in this passage:
- a) This is just another point for the case that one of the primary reasons for the Tribulation period is that God is resuming his direct dealings with the Jewish nation of Israel, Daniels seventh week.
  - b) God still has work for his people (the Jews) to do in the Tribulation period and they are part of his end times plan, not the church. Remember there is a group of scholars who believe that Israel is no longer Gods chosen people and the church has replaced Israel in terms of 'end time's prophecy'.
  - c) I have used a direct quote from a book written by Clarence Larkin, "The Book of Revelations" because I think it describes and explains this verse and my next point better than and in more detail than I ever could.

Quote: "There is a remarkable difference in the names of the Tribes as here recorded and the names of the original Twelve Tribes. Here the names of Dan and Ephraim are omitted, and the names of Joseph and Levi are substituted. Why is this? The reason is plain. In Deut. 29: 18-21, we read that the Man, woman, or family, or Tribe, that should introduce idolatry into Israel, should have their or its name "blotted out" from under heaven, and be separated out of the Tribes of Israel. This is just what the Tribes of Dan and Ephraim were guilty of when they permitted Jeroboam to set up "Golden Calves" to be worshipped, one at Dan in the "Tribe of Dan", and

the other at Bethel in the “Tribe of Ephraim.” 1 Kings 12:25-30. This is the reasons why the Tribes of Dan and Ephraim are omitted from the list in this chapter, and the names of Joseph and Levi substituted. But as the Tribes of Dan and Ephraim are in the list of the Twelve Tribes that shall occupy the Holy Land during the Millennium (Ezek. 48:1-7, 23-29), it is evident that the Sealing of the Tribes in this chapter is more for Heavenly Preservation, than to keep them for Earthly Inheritance, and this view is confirmed by the fact that they are later seen with the Lamb on the Heavenly Mount Zion, Rev. 14:1-5. The omission of their names in this list of these “Sealed Ones” is to show that the Tribes of Dan and Ephraim must pass through the Great Tribulations unprotected by sealing. Again I think this quote is very accurate and straight forward.

Verses 9-17:

In the rest of chapter 7, verses 9-17, John vision shifts back to heaven and he/John begins to record what is going on in heaven. The time period I would assume would be the about the end of the ‘sixth seal judgment’ because the scene being recorded is about the ‘saints who had been martyred’ during, I assume the first part of the seven year tribulation period. The scene being recorded in verses 9-17 provides the details about this event from the view point of two different groups: 1) ‘the martyred saints’ & 2) ‘the angels, elders and living creatures’. However, the core theme of verses 9-17 is ‘worship of God the Father and the Lamb, Jesus Christ. I will break these verses down into smaller sub-sets to make them more manageable to discuss.

Verses 9-10:

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb’.”



- 1) **"After this I looked..."** Meaning, after what John saw/recorded on Rev. 7:1-8. This was the next thing John saw and recorded in his vision.
- 2) **"...and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language..."** Meaning, this group of 'tribulation saints' that was being described as 'very large' or 'too many to count' also we are told they came from every part of the earth. Remember the time period in which these people were martyred would be approximately 21 months. This means many people will be saved during the first 21 months of the seven year tribulation period. However, it also indicates that they will be martyred. This time period is defined as the period of time during the first six seal judgments.
- 3) **"...standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb."** To me the meaning of this verse is straight forward John is now back in the 'throne room of God the Father and the Lamb' as recorded in Revelations chapters 4 & 5, focus on Rev. 5: 6-7 and also verse 13b. This is confirmed in the reminder of this verse Rev. 7:10b, **"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to his lamb."**
- 4) **"They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."** Based on the timing/interlude language in this verse and the timing of when the fifth seal judgment was opened and the language in the fifth seal I believe that the martyred saints speaking in the fifth seal are also part of this larger group. Description of the martyred saints in the fifth seal, Rev.6:9-11; 1) **"...under the altar the souls of those who had been slain..."** 2) **"They called out in a loud voice..."** 3) **"Then each of them was given a white robe..."** The last part of Rev. 6:11 states the following: **"...and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was complete."**; which in my mind confirms that these are one and the same martyred saints. Just an opinion!
  - a) The issues of, **"...and they were holding palm branches in their hands."** Is sufficient because this is the same thing the people did when Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem in what has become known as 'The Triumphal Entry', John 12:12b-13, **"...Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm**

branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel! "' Palm trees are also used in the building of the first temple or carved in to the walls and furniture of the millennial temple, see Ezekiel chapters 40 and 41 & 1 Kings Chapter 6.

- 5) "And they cried out in a loud voice..." which we have already stated this is the same description as in the martyred saints in Rev. 6:10.
- 6) Again I believe that this verse Rev. 7:10b confirms that John is back in the throne room of God the Father and the Lamb, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to his Lamb." Again, remember this is the final seven year period in which people can be saved and ending with the second coming of Jesus Christ. These saints in verse 10b are talking about "salvation", however, if you look back at the martyred saints in Rev. 6:10 they are calling for judgment, "They called out in a loud voice, 'How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?'" Or this could be the same group speaking about two separate issues at different times: first, about God bringing justice to the unsaved of the earth for the evil that they had committed on Gods saints; two, this same group praising God and his Lamb for their free gift of salvation.

Verses 11-12:

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!'" These two verses provide us with the rest of the physical layout of this portion of John's vision: remember the vision is in heaven. Remember the first part of the physical layout was recorded in verse 9, "...standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." I will break this verse down into its major subsets, as follows:

- 1) "All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures." There are several points I would like to make about this scene:
  - a) It would appear that "All the angels" at least in this part of heaven are encircling the "throne" and they are also encircling "the elders and the four living creatures." My assumption is these are the same elders (24) and the same 'living creatures' we saw in chapters 4 & 5. As a matter of fact this is almost identical to the scene recorded in Rev. 5:11, "Then I looked and heard the voices of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders." Also if you look at the words used as praise in Rev. 4:11 and Rev. 5: 9-10 & 12 & 13b and Rev. 7:10 & 12 & 15-17 you will find they all have the same basic theme. I think these verses can provide us with what we will be doing in heaven. Just an opinion!
  - b) The issue of a circle "around" again indicating 'completeness' or 'strength'. In Rev. 4:3b the circle was a "rainbow".
- 2) "They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!'" There are several points worth making about this verse:
  - a) The first part of this verse describes 'how' and 'where' they worship, "they fell down on their face before the throne and worshiped God..."
  - b) The next part of this verse indicates the method or the form of their worship and list seven forms: "Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength..."
  - c) The last part of this verse confirms who they are directing all of this worship too: "...be to our God for ever and ever."
  - d) Also, there are scholars who have developed a view that the first "Amen" is an answer or confirming the cry of the 'multitudes' and the second "Amen" is the confirmation of the truth of their praise. Not sure this matters but now if you hear this view you will know what is being said.

Verses 13-17:

Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?' I answered, 'Sir, you know.' And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' Therefore, 'they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Verses 13-17 continues to provide the reader with information about the 'martyred saints': 1) the time period from which they came, 2) what they did to get there, and 3) the benefits they will receive in heaven. Sounds like the bad times are behind these saints and let the good times roll. Just an opinion! Again I will break these verses down into subsets to make them more manageable.

- 1) Verses 13-14 provides the reader with more details about the "great multitude" that was introduced in verse 9 about, "Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?' I answered. 'Sir you know.' And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'" Again I will break these verses down into its basic subsets.
  - 1) First→ The first part of the question asked by the elder, "Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in the white robes—who are they...'" Then the 'elder' answers his own question in the next sentence of this verse, "These are those who have come out of the great tribulations"
  - 2) Second→ The second part of the question asked by the 'elder', "...and where did they come from?" I believe this question is answered in more detail in Rev. 6:9b, "...I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained."
  - 3) Third→ The verse also provides the reader with the reason why their robes are "white" → "...they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood

of the Lamb.” which refers back to the subject matter contained in Revelations Chapter 5, which is why Jesus Christ is “worthy”, focus on verses 9-10, in chapter 5, “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open the seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priest to serve our God, and they will reign on earth.”

- 4) Last→ If the words above from chapter 6 sound a lot like the next 3 verse from chapter 7, it is because they are very similar.
- 5) The next three verses 15-17 provide the reader with the benefits that the martyred saints will receive because they “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Meaning “salvation” (verse 10 above) Rev. 7:15-17, “Therefore, ‘they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Again I will break this verse down into its basic subsets:
  - a) First→ “Therefore” Meaning because of the martyr’s belief that the “blood of the Lamb” is the basis of their ‘salvation’ they will receive the following benefits.
  - b) Second→ I will list the ten benefits that they will receive;
    - “...they are before the throne of God...”
    - “...and serve him day and night in his temple...”
    - “...and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.”
    - “Never again will they hunger...”
    - “Never again will they thirst.”
    - “The sun will not beat upon them...”
    - “...nor any scorching heat.”
    - “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd...”
    - “...he will lead them to springs of living water.”
    - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation Chapter 21 & 22 provide a lot more details about the New Heaven, the New Earth and the New Jerusalem as well as how and where the saints of Jesus Christ will live and be taken care of throughout eternity.

## CHAPTER 8:

Chapter 8 begins with the opening of the seventh seal judgment. This will conclude the seal judgments, which were all opened by Jesus Christ. However, the seventh seal introduces the seven Trumpet judgments that will be delivered by, “...seven angels who stand before God...” The physical position of these angels in heaven indicates to me that they are very powerful and are highly thought of by God the Father. I think to correctly understand how these judgments work we need to think of them as one continuous process, where the last of each type of judgment, (seal, trumpet or bowl) leads to the next group of judgments and the final ‘bowl’ judgment leads to the ‘second coming of Jesus Christ’.

### Summary:

- a) Chapter 8:1-2 describes Christ opening the seventh seal which is another judgment containing seven Trumpet judgments. Again all of these judgments are from God the Father. However, keep in mind the seal judgments were from God but delivered by Christ and the Trumpet judgments will be from God but delivered by “seven angels”, see Rev.8:2.
- b) Chapter 8: 3-5 describes an angel combining much incense with the prayers of the martyred Tribulation saints, see Rev. 6:9-11 and Rev. 7:9-17.
- c) Chapter 8:6-13 describe the opening of the first four Trumpet judgments.

Analysis of chapter eight is as follows:

### VERSE 1:

“When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”

The interlude in chapter 7 has ended and once again God the Father begins with his judgments on a world that refuses to acknowledge him as the God of Creation, repent of their sins and worship him. Chapter 8 begins with Christ opening the seventh seal judgment, which causes, “silence in heaven for about half an hour.” I will list below some of the interpretations that scholars have developed about the meaning of this thirty minute period of time:

- 1) Some scholars believe this is God's way of giving man his last thirty minutes of grace. This interpretation does not seem realistic given that the trumpet does not result in the return of Christ. The moment just prior to Christ's second coming will be the last moment that men and women living at this time will be able to repent and be saved. However, it is true that God has always given man many chances to repent and finds no pleasure in condemning man to eternal hell. “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9
- 2) Some scholars believe that all of heaven grew silent as a way of showing their sadness and sorrow about what was going to happen to man and the earth, because they knew that the next judgments were going to be coming directly from God the Father and were going to be much more severe and destructive than anything the world has ever seen. Remember the seal judgments were really more about God letting man destroy himself. These events were limited to how man's sin nature could maximize death and destruction on his fellow man with the current arsenal of weapons in his possession and the related aftermath created by such weapons. I cannot imagine how awful these days will be given man's history with much less destructive weapons. However, I think heaven knows that the next judgments which will be from God the Father will be many times more severe and that is the reason for their silence. There are several Old Testament quotes which I think speak about this moment, “Be silent in the presence of the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand.” Zeph. 1:7, also, “Be still before the Lord all mankind, because he has

roused himself from his holy dwelling” Zech. 2:13. I also think this verse ties in to verses 3-5 which I will discuss when we get to them.

VERSE 2:

“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Verse 2 is really a continuation of verse 1. Remember the seven Trumpet judgments are a direct result of the opening of the seventh seal. Note: remember the seven seal, the seven trumpets and the seven bowls judgments should be viewed as one continuous judgment process being carried out by God during the seven year Tribulation period. We also need to keep in mind that Trumpets in the Old Testament were used to call attention to something. It could be positive, like a Festival or a Feast; however, it could also be used as a call to war or judgment. See the following scripture for the ways that Trumpets are used in the Bible, Exodus 19:16, Josh. 6:13-16, Amos 3:6, Zeph. 1:14-16. I think it is also worth noting that the seven angels involved in these Trumpet judgments must be very important or close to God the Father. My reasons for this assumption are very simple, 1) they are standing before God the Father and I do not think that just anyone gets to be in this position unless they are very important, 2) they have been chosen to be part of God’s final plan to reclaim planet earth and place his Son on the Throne as ruler of all of creation. Again, I do not think that just anyone in heaven will be given this position of honor. Some scholars believe that these angels are on the order of Gabriel who we know has stood before God in the past, “The angel answered, I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God...” Luke 1:19.

VERSE 3-4:

“Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.”



I believe that these verses defines the most important attribute relating to answering the question; 'why there was a thirty minute silence in heaven before any action was taken after Christ opened the seventh seal'. "Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden alter before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angels hands." As I have stated in the past I believe that Gods relationship with man during this seven year period will be more like that of the Old Testament. Therefore, if we look back at how the nation of Israel worshiped God in the Old Testament during the time of the tabernacle we will find the following:

- 1) The tabernacle had two alters, each of which served a separate purpose.
- 2) The first alter was a brass alter and stood in the outer court. This alter was used to kill the animals used in the sacrificial process and then to actually burn them as a sacrifice.
- 3) The second alter was made of gold, it was much smaller and was in the Holy Place. Also, it is important to remember that this golden alter stood in front of the veil separating the Holy of Holies.
- 4) Given the above layout of the alters within the tabernacles the sacrificial process was as follows: 1) the priest would take a coal from the brass alter of sacrifice, place it in an incense burner and walk it to the Holy of Holies, 2) he would then place the coal from the brass alter on the golden alter in the Holy of Holies and sprinkle incense on it, 3) the mixing of the coal and incense would create a sweet aroma that was pleasing to God, 4) this process was in the Old Testament to demonstrate to the people what God required of them for their prayers to be answered by God. I think it is important to note that there can be no forgiveness unless there is the shedding of blood. Therefore, given the above Old Testament process let's look at what verses 3-4 have to say;
  - 1) "Another angel" this angel seems to be a very powerful angel serving as a High Priest. There are many scholars who believe that this "angel" is Jesus Christ. I will discuss this issues more in number 7 below.

- 2) "...who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar" This angel is already in the presence of God so the brass altar portion of this process is bypassed. Also, Christ blood has already paid for the sins of all men so the sacrifice portion is assumed.
- 3) The next sentence states, "He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of the saint, on the golden alter before the throne." I believe that "much incense" denotes that God did not want to rush this moment, given much incense would require more time to rise up to God vs. less incense which would require less time to rise up to God. Indicating this time is very important to God.
- 5) Given the above analysis what does all of this really mean and why are these two verses so important. My opinion is that we are at a real turning point in the seven year Tribulation period. Up until this point God has allowed man to do all he can to destroy himself and the perfect earth that God gave him to rule over. He has allowed the evil in men to martyr, "a great multitude that no one could count", Rev.7:9, his saints and as of this point in time he/God has not answered the prayers of his martyred saints. (Note: remember from chapter 7 the prayers of these saints are for justice not forgiveness.) All of this is about to change.
- 6) Verse 4 opens as follows, "The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand." I think God has stopped all of heaven, for thirty minutes, to let them know that the time of HIS/GODS judgment has come. The blood of the perfect sacrifice has been made, the blood of The Lamb of God, much Heavenly Incense has been added at the Heavenly Golden Alter before God and last but not least—Gods time table has run its course. And now God the Father is now going to bring judgment on man and the earth and very soon end man's opportunity to be saved by the blood of Christ.
- 7) Now to answer the question; 'Was this angel Jesus Christ?' My opinion is that there is no way to be 100% sure that this angel is Jesus Christ. However, based on the angels 'actions' and 'location' within this verse it would appear to be a high probability that it is Jesus Christ. I will explain as follows:

- a) Remember at this point in time Jesus Christ is functioning as ‘savior and ‘judge’ for all of mankind. As judge he/Jesus Christ is acting as the ‘implementer’ of Gods judgment on planet earth and as savior he is continuing to act as an intercessor or mediator and Jesus Christ is the ‘High Priest’ for the church. If you look closely at verses 3 & 4 it appears this “angel” is functioning in all of these capacities: “Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden alter before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.” Again, looks a lot like a ‘High Priest’ interceding before God the Father for the martyred saints. And we all know that all prayers go through Jesus Christ. Again, just an opinion!
- b) Also, many scholars Rev. 10:1 as an example of where Jesus Christ is portrayed as an angel, “Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.” Read the rest of Chapter 10 to get the complete description of Jesus Christ and his actions. And again many scholars believe that the angel in Revelations chapter 18 is Jesus Christ. I will not quote the entire chapter, however we can read in class.
- c) Last, I also think 1 Timothy 2:5 provides us with a good description of how Jesus Christ in our intercessor or mediator, “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.”

#### VERSE 5:

“Then the angel took the censer, filled with the fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lighting and an earthquake.”

Notice verse 5 opens with the word, **“Then”** indicating to me that something has been completed (seven seal judgments) and now something else or different is going to happen (seven trumpet judgments). However, this next step does not start the Trumpet judgments from God and appears to me to be somewhat like a mini-interlude section. To me verse 5 indicates that these prayers from the martyred tribulation saints; Rev. 5:8b, **“Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”** have become very personal to God, almost to the point of he is angry. I know God cannot be angry in a human sense but I think he can in a Godly sense and I think that is the exact point in time where we are in this verse. Note; Godly anger to me means that he/God is about to judge someone or something for their sins. I have several reasons for my belief that God is “angry”, which are as follows: 1) **“the angel took the censer, filled with fire from the alter, and hurled it on the earth”**, there are three parts of this statement that indicate intense emotion to me, at least emotion as we know it, a) **“filled with fire”**, **“hurled it”** and **“on the earth”**. All of these words indicate strong emotion to me. 2) The results of the angel’s action indicate judgment or destruction, **“...and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and earthquakes.”** Again, all of which indicate Gods judgment. There are two other places in the Book of Revelations where this same language is used: 1) Rev. 4:5a, **“From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.”** Indicating the power, authority and holiness of God the Father and again in Rev. 16:18, where the intent of the language is exactly like that in Rev. 8:5a. Rev. 16:18, **“Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake.”** This language comes just after the seventh ‘bowl’ judgment is poured out, which is the final judgment and just before the, ‘second coming of Jesus Christ’. Also notice the words in Rev. 16:17 which are just before the ones above, **“The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘It is done!’”** Again at this point all that is left to happen in the seven year tribulation period is the ‘second coming of Jesus Christ’.

Also, these same words are used in Rev. 11:19, when the ‘seventh trumpet judgment is sounded, **“Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his**

temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumbles, and peals of thunder, an earthquake and a hailstorm.”

Last, I think it is interesting to note that this same type of language is used at the opening of the ‘seventh’ seal, trumpet and bowl judgments, which are as follows:

- 1) Seventh Seal Judgment, Rev. 8:1-5
- 2) Seventh Trumpet Judgment, Rev. 11: 15-19
- 3) Seventh Bowl Judgment, Rev. 16: 17-21

(We will read in class)

We are now ready to discuss the seven Trumpet judgments starting in verse six of chapter 8. Keep in mind that the first four Trumpet judgments are recorded in chapter 8 verses 6-13 and the fifth and sixth Trumpet judgments are recorded in chapter 9, verse 1-21 and the seventh trumpet judgment is recorded in Rev. 11:15-19.

## TRUMPET JUDGMENTS BEGIN:

Remember the Trumpet Judgments are directly from God but delivered by his angels where the Seal Judgments were delivered by Christ. Another difference seems to be that in the Seal judgments Christ used the evil already within men to create the judgments, where in the Trumpet judgments God is directly demonstrating his power and control of the earth and all of Creation. I have listed below a simplified list of how the first four Trumpet judgments will impact the earth/universe and man in general.

First Trumpet → One third of the land, the trees and the vegetation are destroyed by fire.

Second Trumpet → One third of the sea (salt water), was turned to blood and one third of sea life died and one third of the ships were destroyed.

Third Trumpet→ One third of the earth's fresh water system that supplies life to all living things was destroyed.

Fourth Trumpet→ One third of the light (sun, moon and stars) that is required to support food growth and even life itself was destroyed.

Note: each time one of the first four Trumpet judgments was sounded the impact on the earth was at a one third rate.

TIME LINE UPDATE→ It is my opinion that all of the Seven Seal Judgments and Six of the Trumpet Judgments will take place in the first 42 months or first half of the Seven Year Tribulation Period. It is also appears that the Seven Seal Judgments will take about 21 months and the Six Trumpet Judgments will take the remaining 21 months. Again these are only estimates. You would think that after 42 month of hell on earth God would have everyone attention by this time but once again men refuse to repent and believe, Rev. 9:20-21, **"The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."** The fact that men now know that there is a God of creation and that he/God is bringing all of these judgments and still refuse to repent seems inconceivable to me! Just an opinion!

Also, it is my opinion that a specific correlation exist between the first four Trumpet Judgments and the first six days of creation. God will be undoing what he/God did during creation and appears to be primarily focused on ending 'life/living things or what they require to sustain life. I will try to list, and explain what I believe to be the relationships between these two events. However, before we start our analysis I will provide you with a basic outline of creation by day and event below.

DAY ONE→ Created **"light"**, which created **"day and night"**.

DAY TWO→ Created **"...and expanse between the waters to separate water from water... God called the expanse 'sky'."**

DAY THREE → Created "...the dry ground 'land' and gathered waters he called 'seas'." Then God created "Vegetation; seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seeds in it..."

DAY FOUR → Created the 'the sun the moon and the stars', "...the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars..."

DAY FIVE → Created all sea life and birds, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

DAY SIX → Created all 'land' living animals' and man, "God made the wild animals according to their kind, the livestock according to their kind and all the creature that move along the ground according to their kind...Then God said let us make man in our image..."

We can use this above list of the first six days of creation as a quick reference in our study of the first four trumpets.

The First Trumpet Judgment was primarily directed at the land and the vegetation on the land, Rev. 8:7, "The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the grass was burned up." These events seem to correlate very closely with the third day of creation: dry land was created and the first living thing was created, vegetation/trees /plant life, Gen: 1:9-13, "And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' And it was so. God called the dry ground 'land', and the gathered water he called 'sea'. And God saw it was good. Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and on the land that bear fruit with seeds in it, according to their various kinds.' And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day."

The Second Trumpet Judgment was primarily directed at the sea, the living things within the sea and the ships on the sea, Rev. 8: 8-9, "The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea

died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” Even though the sea was created during the third day of creation I believe that God is focusing his judgment on living things. Therefore, that is why I think that God is really focusing his Second Trumpet on the things living in the sea, which was the second living thing created on day five of creation. Also, the Second Trumpet Judgment would destroy one third of the ships on the sea and presumably all the men on these ships and man was not created until the ‘sixth’ day of creation, Gen. 1: 20-23, “And God said, ‘Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.’ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.’ And there was evening and there was morning of the fifth day.” Note: birds were also created on the fifth day of creation but are not mentioned in the Trumpet Judgments. Gen. 1:20-23

The Third Trumpet Judgment was primarily directed at the rivers and springs or what we commonly call the fresh water system. I cannot specifically find any reference to fresh water in the six days of creation. However, we all know that fresh water is one of things required to sustain every living thing on the earth. We also know that God in the creation process provided everything that man required to sustain life. The question is did God give us the answer? I believe the answer is; Gen. 2: 5-6, “...and no plant of the fields had yet sprung up; the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams/mist came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.” The concept of fresh water is made even more plain in Gen. 2: 10-14 where the first four ‘named rivers’ are described in terms of location, “A river watering the garden flowed from Eden, and from there it divided; it had four head streams. The name of the first is Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) The name of the second river is Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.” Note: Genesis chapter 2 should



be viewed as a complementary chapter to Genesis chapter 1 as it adds many details about the creation process that were left out of chapter one. God is now going to take away one third of the fresh water and I believe that many people will die from this judgment.

In the world today there are many areas that have severe fresh water shortages and many people died each year because of fresh water shortages or because the water they are drinking is unsafe. I can even imagine wars breaking out over the rights to fresh water.

The Fourth Trumpet Judgment was primarily directed at the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars. Again I think the major issue here is that one third of the day is without light and we all know that sun light is required to sustain plant life, and that plant life is required to sustain animal and human life. To clearly understand the process of light we will need to look at two portions of the book of Genesis. God actually created 'light' on the first day of creation and he defined it as 'day', Gen. 1:3-6, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light, 'day' and the darkness he called, 'night'. And there was evening and there was morning of the first day." However, God did not define the function of light and darkness or create the heavenly bodies, (sun, stars, and moon) until the fourth day, Gen. 1: 14-19, "And God said, 'Let there be light in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth. And it was so. God made two great lights- the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning – the fourth day." Again, I think God is slowly removing all of the things he provided man during the creation process to sustain life. This period of time will truly be a very harsh and terrible time for all of creation, man, animals and the land.

CONCLUSION:

God does not tell us in the Book of Revelations if he is deliberately reversing the creation process; however, there does seem to be a very strong correlation that is in reverse order, between these two events, creation and the tribulation period. Again these are just some of my observations and assumptions, you need to read the scripture and decide for yourself. Also, keep in mind that at the end of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' Jesus Christ returns to rule all of creation for 1,000 years at the end of which all of this creation will be destroyed and a New Jerusalem and Heaven will be created. Just some food for thought!

Also, we are not told in Revelation chapter 20: 1-6 if all of this destruction to earth's environment will be reversed during Jesus Christ 1,000 reign on planet earth. However, it is my opinion, based on the words in Zechariah chapters 12-14 that the destruction to the earth will be healed. Read and focus on Zech. 14:16-21.

Now we will begin our study of the actual verse involved with the Trumpet Judgments.

VERSE 6:

**"Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them."**

I believe that verse 6 was inserted to let the reader know the following:

- 1) Now at this very moment God the Father is going to begin answering the prayers of the martyred saints. **"They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"** Rev.6: 10
- 2) The time God has allotted before he begins his direct judgment on men and planet earth for all of their evil, sin and rebellion has run out. Remember the first four seal judgments were more or less the works of evil men. It is true that God set these events in motion with the introduction of the 'antichrist' but the existing evil that resides within men triggered these events. Also, remember early on during the Tribulation process men will "know for sure" that these events are being controlled and sent by God. **"Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty,**

and every slave, and every free man hide in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?'"

Rev. 6: 15-17

- 3) Finally think about the scene that is taking place in heaven; first, Christ opens the seventh seal, which reveals to all of heaven that God the Father is about to begin the process of judging men for their sin's and the time table is now set for the end of this creation and the creation of a "new heaven and a new earth"; then, heaven falls deathly silent because they know what this means, (I cannot even imagine what must be going through Satan's mind); last, "Another angel" brings the censer filled with incense before God, which contains the prayers of the martyrs which are already in heaven. Actually "under the altar" in heaven, Rev.6:9. Now, Gods time table is complete and God the Father gives the command and to the angel (remember this could be Jesus Christ) to throw the censer filled with fire to earth announcing that judgment will be forthcoming. God then gives the nod to the seven angels with the seven Trumpets to begin to sound them on earth. This must have been an awesome sight for John and all of heaven. My point is that God is always 100% in control and that he knew this moment would come before time began.
- 4) These "seven angels" are the same ones in verse 2 above. Also, keep in mind that in verse 2 these angels, "...were given seven trumpets." And now in verse 6 they are, "...preparing to sound them." With verses 3-5 being like an interlude section. Providing additional information about these judgments or even the 'purpose' of these judgments.

NOTE: There are a variety of facts that I believe you will need to keep in mind when reading about the seven Trumpet judgments, which are as follows:

- 1) Keep in mind that one of the primary uses of trumpets in the Bible is connected with war and announcing destruction in the Old Testament. See Num. 10:9, Judges 7:8, 12-18. Also, it is particularly interesting that in Joshua chapter 6 which describes the battle of Jericho that in which God

gave Joshua the following instructions, Josh. 6:3-4, “March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priest carry trumpets of rams’ horn in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priest blowing the trumpets. There certainly seems to be a similarity in the use of the number seven by God when he decides to bring judgment. However, trumpets are also used for a variety of reasons listed throughout the Bible.

- 2) The first four trumpets are about actions that God will take against nature but will have a severe impact on all humanity. These actions, by God, will be directed at many of the things in nature that provide for man’s very survival. Basically what the first four trumpets do to man and planet earth is destroy one third of the thing on planet earth that sustain life, like: trees, green plants, sea water, fresh water, the heavenly bodies and other supernatural events that will for sure change the balance of nature as it relates to man being able to sustain life. Also, these types of shortages in the food supply will create wars like the earth has never seen. A starving man has nothing to lose if he dies while trying to take food from other men. It appears that during this time in history men will even being forced to eating other men to survive, as recorded in scripture, of the siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- 3) The fifth and sixth trumpets seem to be even more supernatural in nature and even involve such things as demonic beings or demonic forces.

VERSE7:

“The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.”

Verse 7 actually begins the Trumpet judgments. The Trumpet judgments are also delivered by angels, however, these angels are not being directed by Christ, these angels are sent directly from God the Father, Rev. 8:2. Also, remember these angels are sounding their Trumpets from heaven and I am assuming in the

presence of God the Father. My assumption is based on the fact that the Bible did not say that they left heaven or that they are now on earth. I believe that based on Rev.8:1-5 it would seem reasonable to 'assume' that God the Father is taking a personal interest in overseeing these judgments. Just an assumption! The first part of this verse explains the action taken by the angel and the second part explains the results.

- 1) Action: "The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth."
- 2) Results: "A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up."

#### ANALYSIS:

Currently there are two primary schools of thought on how to interpret this verse, symbolically or literally. I believe that this verse and the rest of the trumpet judgments should be taken literally mainly because when symbolism is used in the Bible the sentence prior to the example or point being made always leads in with the word "like" or some other word letting the reader know that this is just an example of what is being said. The other way that a point is made is when Jesus is speaking and specifically states that this is a parable. There is one last reason why it would be very dangerous to take any verses like these symbolically, if you take the first part of the verse symbolically then you will have to take the last part of the verse symbolically, which would open the interpretation of this verse to anything you wanted it to say. I agree that the first part of the verse seems a little hard to understand, based on my current level of knowledge, however, the second part seems very straight forward. Therefore, my conclusion is that God is going to create some type of event, which I or we may not fully understand today, that will basically destroy one third of all the vegetation on planet earth. The results of this will be the greatest ecological disaster that man has ever experienced. I am not qualified to discuss the total impact on man because of this event but I am sure it will result in the following:

- 1) Extreme famine, people will be almost starting the next day, grain/vegetables and meat,

- 2) I would imagine anything being built with wood would almost stop immediately,
- 3) The next second the world will lose 33.3% of its oxygen reproduction capability,
- 4) Everything will become very expensive and the poor would starve and the rich would survive. This would for use create civil unrest and even wars,
- 5) Knowing that the church will no longer be on earth to curb man's sin nature I would imagine that lawlessness will be the standard and only the very strong will survive and you will be required to kill to get what you need to survive and kill to keep what you have,
- 6) Last, I am sure if it has not already happened by this in the Tribulation period most people remaining alive will begin to have a feeling of helplessness, given neither they nor their leaders will be able to stop or even curb these events. Also, remember at this point they will know that these events are from God.

Also, I think that we need to keep in mind when deciding whether these events are symbolic or literally, the following scripture/prophecy:

These events were 'literally' prophesied in Joel 2:30-31, "I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Also in the New Testament Peter repeated this same scripture from Joel in Acts 2:17-21.

In Exodus 9:18 God brings "hailstorms" as judgment on Egypt for not letting his people go, "Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded until now." Again in Isa. 28:17, "I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place." Also see Isa. 28:2.

God has used "fire" in several place within the scripture and it can be used for both good and judgment: For good, 2 Kings 2:11, "As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and

separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.”, For judgment, Gen. 19:24, “Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from the Lord out of heaven.” , also, 1 Kings 18:38, “Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the earth.”, Deut. 32:22, For a fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realm of death below. It will devour the earth and its harvest and set afire the mountains.” Also see Isa. 33:14 and Luke 16:24.

Also, God in the past has used “blood” to signify for both ‘physical and spiritual death’.

- 1) Physical death → Gen. 9:6, “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.” Also see Ezek. 14:19-20.
- 2) Spiritual death → Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Meaning without the physically shedding of Jesus Christ blood man would be condemned to eternal death.

NOTE: I have one last comment that will apply to the first four Trumpets. Men from every time period have worshiped “created things” instead of the Creator. Therefore, it appears that given the level of destruction that God is bringing on the planet called earth, I believe he is giving man an object lesson on who is the creator and who is the created. Also, each of these judgments will have devastating impact on man and his ability to sustain life. Also, keep in mind that the men living going into this time period will be confident that they do not need God and are not subject to his judgment → they are the ‘Big Dogs’ not God. So again God is going to provide them with an object lesson! Remember, when Adam sinned God said, “Cursed is the ground because of you;” Gen. 3:17 and remember this earth will be replaced at the end of the millennium, see Rev.20.

VERSE 8-9:

“The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”

Verse 8 & 9 begins with the second angel that was before God the Father sounding his trumpet. Again the first part of this verse describes the action and the second part describes the results of the action. However, we need to note that in describing the action portion of this verse John had used the word ‘like’ to describe what he was seeing. His description was as follows, “something ‘LIKE’ a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea”. It is my belief that at this point in John’s life and in man’s history they had never seen anything ‘LIKE’ what John was seeing in this portion of his vision, therefore, he described it the best he could and with words that he knew people would understand in his day. There is one more point which needs to be made about this issue and that is that the way John described about what he saw, would have to transcend time. Meaning that as man’s knowledge increased he would be better able to understand what John was actually seeing, however, the men in John’s day still were able to have a reasonable understanding of this judgment.

- a) Action: “The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea.”
- b) Results: “A third of the sea was turned to blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”

#### ANALYSIS:

Again there are currently two schools of thought on how to interpret these two verses, literally or symbolically.

#### SYMBOLIC VIEW:

The scholars who view these verses as symbolic base their belief on the following interpretations of scripture.



- 1) They believe that the “sea” is symbolic for “wicked” men and nations of the earth and
- 2) They use Isa. 57:20 to back up their view. “But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud.” They also believe the “sea” is symbolic for men in general, Dan. 7:2-3, “Daniel said: ‘In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beast, each different from the others, came up out of the sea’.”
- 3) They also point out that “a mountain” can be used as symbolic language to describe a great nation or empire and they use Jeremiah 51: 24-25 to back up their view. “Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion, declares the Lord. I am against you, O destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth, declares the Lord.” They also use Daniel 2:25 to back their view that a mountain can be used to describe a worldwide kingdom; however, in this case it is Christ millennial kingdom. Also see Isa. 2:2 & Jer. 51:25 & Zech. 4:7 for more references to mountains being used to describe nations.

Therefore, their conclusion is that a wicked man (the antichrist) will become the leader of a great nation (revived Roman Empire) that will take over the world and will destroy a third of the sea, in terms of what resides in an on the sea.

Opinion:

I do not disagree that a very wicked man (antichrist) will take over and rule the world and there will be great chaos and many people will die, however, that is not what these verses are talking about. What these verses are saying is that something actually fell in to the sea and actually one third of the sea turned to blood and actually one third of the creatures in the sea died and actually one third of the ships on the sea are destroyed and the men within them. These are actual events, not symbolic. Therefore, it is my opinion that this view is 100% incorrect. However, it will create great harm to humanity and just based on the events will kill many people.

Also, keep in mind when trying to interpret the 'Trumpet Judgments', they are from God the Father. Remember the 'seven seal judgments' are basically God allowing men to destroy men but now it is God the Father bringing judgment and men are powerless to stop these judgments.

#### LITERAL VIEW:

The literal view appears to be the correct interpretation of exactly what the scripture is saying in Revelations chapter 8, verses 8 & 9. However, it needs to be made very clear that John had to use symbolic language, as stated above, to describe as best he could exactly what he was actually seeing. My point here is very simple, that is, John used a very simple symbol to describe what he saw that everyone in his day and in ours would understand to describe a literal or actual event – **“something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea.”** If John had written this today he would have probably said that he saw, something **“like”** a huge COMET or METOR or ASTROD fall in to the sea based on our scientific knowledge today. I think John's point is that what he saw was an extremely large object the size of a mountain that was made up of stone and rock. The second part of his statement indicates that this **“mountain”** came from above or the sky and hit the sea.

Therefore, if I were to summarize the literal view, it would be as follows:

- 1) John saw a very large object fall out of the sky and in to the sea.
- 2) The object was made of rock as it was described as a mountain
- 3) The results of this object hitting the sea is as follows:
  - a) **“...a third of the sea turned in to blood”**, See Plagues of Egypt, Ex.7:19-21, given these verses we know that God has already used these types of judgments in the past to get man's attention.
  - b) **“...a third of the living creatures in the sea died,”**, again see Ex. 7:21, which specifically states that the fish in the water that was turned to blood died. I would imagine this would be from a lack of oxygen in the water.

- c) **"...and a third of the ships were destroyed."** I have no idea about the specific location or size of what John is describing in his vision. However, I do know that most if not all of the scholars who study this type of event agree that the destruction would be almost incalculable to the world's environment. It is believed that a collision of this magnitude would be like hundreds of thermonuclear weapons going off at one time. The results of which would be:
- \* An enormous amount of earth would be hurled in to the air; therefore, we would see a rapid cooling of the earth atmosphere.
  - \*Volcanos and earthquakes would certainly follow all over the earth.
  - \*Huge tsunamis would destroy most if not all of the world's coastlands and all of the people that lived there.
  - \*As stated by John one third of all the worlds' ships would be destroyed and based on my research that would be about 8500 to 9500 ships and all of their crews.
  - \*And as always famine and plague would certainly follow.
  - \*All the people on earth who survive this event will have been affected and mourn but not repent Rev. 9: 20-21, **"Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."** Note: verse 8 & 9 involve the sounding of the second trumpet and Rev. 9: 20-21 provides the reader with the attitude of the men of the earth after sounding of the sixth trumpet. **"The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."** I think we could safely say that the men living during this period were very stubborn and self-centered. However, if you think about it this is no different that the men of every generation.

Opinion:

I agree with the literal interpretation of these two verses, Rev. 8:8-9 mainly because I can find no other reason to interpret these verses any other way. The

results of this trumpet judgment describe actual events that cannot be symbolized and in the action portion of this trumpet judgment John tells the reader that he is giving us his best effort to describe what he was seeing. If we look at some of the Old Testament Prophets we will see that these types of events were foretold: "... even the fish of the sea will be taken away." Hosea 4:3; "...I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea." Zeph.1:3

VERSE 10-11:

"The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—the name of the star was Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter."

Again verses 10-11 begin with the third angel that was before God the Father sounding his trumpet. And again John is in heaven watching the seven angels that were before God the Father sound their trumpets of judgment. This is the third angel sounding his trumpet, and once again the first part of these verses is the action and the second part is the results of the action. John also uses the word "like" in an effort to describe what he was seeing, however, in this case the word "like" is used to describe a characteristic of the primary action being taken. The actual action being taken is; "a great star, blazing LIKE a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water".

- a) Action: "The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the springs and water—the name of the star is Wormwood."
- b) Results: "A third of the water turned bitter, and many people died from the water that had become bitter."

And again there are currently two schools of thought on how to interpret these verses, literally and symbolically.

## SYMBOLIC VIEW:

The scholars who view these verses as symbolic believe that, “a great star, blazing like a torch,” hitting the earth would not or could not inflict enough damage to the earth's fresh water system to basically reduce it by one third. Therefore, they take the position that if the action described by John in verse 10 cannot possibly create the results described by John in verse 11, then it would also not be possible for God to create these results. I really do not even know what to say about people whose vision of God is so small. Remember this is the God of heaven who created the universe in six days.

- 1) The scholars who support the symbolic view base their opinion on the following interpretation of scripture.
- 2) They believe that, “a great star, blazing like a touch, fell from the sky” (NIV) or “and there fell a star from heaven” (KJV) are symbolic for a person or angel that has fallen from God's grace. Examples have been cited like, Attila, Muhammad, the Jewish historian Josephus, Hitler and Satan. However, I cannot find any evidence, reference or correlation in the scripture that would allow this type of assumption to be made. Remember that John's words which are directly from God do not indicate that these two verses should be taken any other way except as they were written.

Note: the majority of the scholars who support this view believe that the “fallen star” is Satan himself and they use Revelations chapters 12 & 13 to support their view, with a special focus on “Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short.” Rev.12:12. In chapter 12 of Revelations John describes how Satan and one third of the angels were cast out of heaven and down to earth. Then Revelations 13:1-10 describe how the Antichrist come to power and is supported and then indwelt by Satan himself at the midpoint of the seven year Tribulations. (Remember Satan can only be at one place at a time.)

OPINION: Much of what these scholars talk about in Revelations chapters 12 & 13 is correct; however these chapters have nothing to do with Rev. 8:10-11. It is an entirely different issue.

- 3) They believe that Satan is given the symbolic name “Wormwood”, meaning bitter and he turns one third of the water bitter. They believe that there are two symbolic portions within the results portion of verse 11, “...A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.”
  - a) They believe that the word “water” references the people of the earth and they use Rev. 17:15, “Then the angel said to me, ‘The water you saw, where the prostitute sits, are, peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.’”, to back up their position.
  - b) They believe that the word “bitter” refers to the direct negative impact that Satan, which is now confined to the earth, will have on humanity, which will result in the deaths of one third of all humanity.

OPINION: As I have already stated in part 1 above, in my opinion I can find no scriptural evidence that any of the verses being used as a reference fit in any way what these scholars are trying to prove. Therefore, it is my opinion that once again men are trying to make scripture fit their personal agenda rather than reading exactly what God has said. Therefore, you need to read carefully and prayerfully interpret these verses and make your own opinion.

LITERAL VIEW:

Again the literal view in my opinion appears to be the correct interpretation of Rev. 8: 10-11. However, there are several items which need to be pointed out just to ensure clarity of interpretation.

- 1) The “great star” that John saw and wrote about is actually a “great star”. The point is John did not say it was something “like” a “great star”, he said it was a “great star”. Therefore, the simple but straight forward conclusion is—John actually saw a “great star”. However, I think we also need to be aware that any large glowing object falling from the sky would be considered a “...great star, blazing like a torch...” to John.
- 2) John then continues to describe the “great star” by saying that it was “blazing like a torch”. To me this is where John is trying to offer additional information about the “great star” that would help or assist the reader in understanding what he was seeing. I think there are two points that need to be made about these “blazing words like torch”, which are as follows:
  - a) John does use additional words to describe the star he is seeing. John describes the “great star” as follows; “blazing like a torch...” meaning that it looks “like” it is on fire. To me these are the same words that I would use to describe a meteor, or a comet or even an asteroid. All of these heavenly objects would for sure look as if they were ablaze after entering the earth’s atmosphere.
  - b) Notice John used the word “like” to indicate to the reader that the actual “great star” was blazing similar to or like a torch but it was not really a torch. I know this comment seems pointless and picky but people who like to interpret scripture symbolically take ever chance to do so. Note: please keep in mind that the Greek to English translation uses the words, “burning as a lamp”. Again I think this was inserted by John to add clarity.
- 3) John is now very specific that the star that looked “like” it was on fire, “fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water”. There is no question in my mind given these are judgments from God and directed at sinful man, that John is telling the reader God is going to poison one third of the fresh water supply on the planet. Also, given the results of this judgment, “many people died from the water”. I am certain that this is what John is trying to communicate. Many scholars and scientist have argued in the past that it is not possible for a single heavenly object to hit one third of the earth’s fresh water system simultaneously. However, based on our scientific knowledge

today we know they were incorrect as it can happen in a variety of way naturally, meaning with or without God's supernatural intervention.

- a) One → when a heavenly object enters the earth's atmosphere it is broken up by heat and then falls at different speeds as the earth rotates, which could then cover the entire planet.
  - b) Two → a heavenly object again breaks apart when it hits the earth's atmosphere except in smaller particles and settles in the atmosphere eventually falling to the earth mixed in with the rain, like acid rain, this could also cover the entire earth.
  - c) Third → a heavenly object again breaks apart when it hits the earth's atmosphere but only hits or lands on a specific portion of the earth (this is assumed to be land given it is affecting the fresh water not the sea) and is absorbed into the underground fresh water system and transferred all over the world. I think you get the idea. Note; please keep in mind that God is in control and that he provided for this very moment before the earth was created.
- 4) John now defines or names the "great star" as "Wormwood". The word "Wormwood" literally means; bitterness. The Greek word translates into a word used to describe a very strong after dinner drink. I do not think there is any question that what John is describing is not an after dinner drink, but that drink is fresh water or drinking water and it is not only bitter; it is poisonous and deadly (as stated in the next portion of this verse). There are a variety of opinions on how this poison will be delivered to the earth's fresh water system, for example, the star will be carrying the poison or the gases surrounding the star will contain poison or when the star impacts the earth's atmosphere poison will be created. It could be any of these or none of these the point is that the star will poison one third of the earth's fresh water because God said it will happen. Remember that this seven year period is a period of Judgment being carried out by God himself on a sinful world. It is man's last chance to repent and be saved. As I mentioned earlier in our discussion of the Trumpet judgments, God appears to be bringing judgment on man in reverse order of when he created the earth and man. Again this specific method or process that God has decided to use appears to be the exact same method he used in



creation, except in reverse order. Another example of 'bitter water' would be when God brought the Israelites out of Egypt. Three days after God parted the Dead Sea and allowed Israel to walk across on dry land the Israelites find themselves in a desert with no water to drink. When water is found it is not drinkable, it is said to be 'bitter'. To solve this problem Moses turns to the Lord, which by the way is the correct answer to any problem. "When Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet." Ex. 15:25 notice in this case God took bitter water and made it sweet. In this example God was blessing his people because they were calling on his name for mercy and forgiveness. In the tribulation period God is now in the process of judging man and the earth because they refuse to acknowledge his name and call on him for forgiveness. Therefore, the process is reversed. For the entire story on Moses and the bitter water see Ex. 15:22-27. Again remember God is the creator of everything and can use anything created or for that matter—not created—for his purpose, which can either be positive or negative in terms of its relationship to man. This same word "wormwood" or "bitter" is used in several other places in the Old Testament and in none of these places does the word carry a positive or favorable meaning for man or his actions. Deut. 29:18; Jer. 23:15; Lam. 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7

Last and maybe the most important point is that God actually tells us that this is what his judgment will be if we continuously reject his laws and decrees. "The Lord said, "It is because they have forsaken my law, which I set before them; they have not obeyed me or followed my law. Instead, they have followed the stubbornness of their hearts; they have followed the Baal's, as their fathers taught them. Therefore, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel says; See I will make this people eat bitter food and drink poison water." Jeremiah 9:13-15

5) John now records the results of this judgment, "A third of the water turned bitter". The simple answer is that now one third of the world's fresh water or drinking water is poison. The impact or results are also simple, "and many people died from the water that had become bitter." The scripture does not tell us how many people died from the poison water. The only hint about the

size of this number is the word, “many” and when you are talking about the number of people on the earth the word many could be a very large number.

Verses 12:

“The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.”

Once again John is in heaven observing the fourth angel that was before God the Father sound his Trumpet of judgment. This judgment is also divided into an action portion and a results portion.

- a) Action: “and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark.”
- b) Results: “A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.”

Once again there are two schools of thought on how to interpret this verse, symbolically or literally. However, before we analyze these two views I would like for us to review the words within the ‘sixth seal judgment’, which are as follows, Rev. 6:12-14, “I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to the earth, as late figs drop from the fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.” We can discuss the similarities between these two judgments in class. Just an opinion → it appears the first four ‘seal judgments’ are created by man hurting man, therefore, it is a strong possibility that the sixth seal judgment has something to do with man hurting man or the results of man hurting man. However, the ‘Trumpet Judgments are from God the Father; therefore, I believe the fourth trumpet judgment will be implemented by a super natural.

SYMBOLICAL VIEW:

The scholars who support this view offer up the following logic to back up their opinion. However, I could not find any words within the 'fourth trumpet judgment' that would indicate that this judgment should be taken symbolically. Remember in other judgments John uses the word 'like' to indicate that he is using descriptive language to describe something he has never seen. Therefore, I cannot support this view; however I am sure that much of what they are describing will actually be happening on planet earth. We will discuss some of these scriptures in the bullet point.

- 1) They believe that the sun, the moon and the stars are symbols that have been used in the bible to describe earthly ruling authorities. They believe that the scripture being used in verse 12 describes when Satan is cast out of heaven which incorporates such words as the sun and the moon has the same meaning as the Rev. 8:12. First, I will quote below the scripture from Revelations describing Satan being expelled from heaven, and then I will quote several other verses that they believe support their symbolic view. "Then another sign appeared in heaven; an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his head. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth." Rev. 12:3-4; Isa. 14:12, "How you have fallen from heaven. O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations." Also see Isa. 13:6-13; Dan. 8:10, "It grew until it reached the host of heaven, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them."; Joel 2:10-11, "Before them the earth shakes, the sky trembles, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The Lord thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command." I will just list some of the others that they use to support their view, Heb. 12:27-28; Matt. 24:29; Nahum 1:1-5; Ezek. 32:7; Haggai 2:6-7 & 21-22.
- 2) They believe that to correctly understand Rev. 8:12 you need to be able to understand these verses in what they call "Bible Figurative Language". I am not exactly sure how to define what this really means except you are taking

what is said in some type of figurative manner when the scripture does not indicate it should be taken symbolically.

- 3) Also, there is the fact that they have no answer for the 'results' portion of this judgment. "A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night." This statement which is impossible to claim is symbolism, they just ignore.
- 4) Last, their conclusion is that this will be a time when one third of the governments will fail, the financial system will fail, there will be no legal system or laws except what mobs and physical might is able to implement. Based on the times I am sure much of this will be true but that is not what the fourth judgments is talking about. Again we can discuss this more in class.

Conclusion:

The scholars that believe in this view (symbolic) are very much in error as to what the words within the fourth trumpet judgment is saying, even if much of what they are describing is actually happening on planet earth. To me this is a classic mistake made by many well intending people who try to make scripture fit their personal belief rather than taking scripture at face value. You should read the scripture for yourself and then make up your own mind as God leads.

LITERAL VIEW:

The scholars who support this view offer the following logic to back up their opinion.

- 1) They believe that we should take the words of God, delivered through John, based on face value unless John indicates otherwise. Remember in the description of the second trumpet John states that what he saw was something "like" the words he was using to describe the actual item/thing, however in the 'fourth trumpet judgment' they is no language being used to indicate that the words mean anything except what they are saying.
- 2) The results of the trumpet are an actual event.

- 3) The events of the sixth seal we know were actual events given the reaction of the people living during this time period. Rev. 6:15-17 and if we compare the events of the fourth trumpet, Rev. 8:12, and the six seal we find that they are very similar. Therefore, I think we can conclude that the events of the fourth trumpet should also be taken literally.
- 4) In the words of Jesus, as recorded in Matt.24:29, Jesus states, “Immediately after the distress of those days, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” These appear to be very specific statements made by Jesus Christ as to what will physically be happening during this time period. We know that these are the same events because in the very next verse Jesus states, “At that time the signs of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and all of the nations of the earth will mourn.” This verse is talking about the second coming of Jesus/Christ. See Rev. 19: 11-21 this same event is also recorded in Luke 25-28.
- 5) They also believe that it would be reasonable to conclude that after two very large heavenly objects hit planet earth that there would be an extremely large amount of dirt and ash thrown into the air therefore, creating the type of event described in the fourth trumpet. They use the Mt. Saint Helens and the Iceland volcanos as examples of what can happen to the atmosphere if just one volcano erupts.

#### CONCLUSION:

Again the scholars who believe in the symbolic view seem to be very much in error. It appears that they are well intending people; however, they are trying to make scripture fit their personal agenda or worst limiting God to what they personally can understand and not what God said. Therefore, it is my opinion that the literal view is the correct view in the interpretation of Rev. 8: 12.

#### VERSE 13:

“As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blast about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

In my opinion verse 13 is used to separate the first four trumpets judgments and the last three trumpets judgments. The question is why separate the first four trumpets judgments from the last three trumpets judgments? Remember the seventh trumpet judgment introduces the seven 'bowl' judgments and the seventh 'bowl' judgment introduces the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ'. I believe that verse 13 was inserted by God the Father specifically to let the reader know that the next three trumpets judgements were going to be much more severe than the first four trumpets judgments. I have based my opinion on a variety of reasons which I will list below.

- 1) In Revelations chapters 8 & 9 John lists six of the seven trumpet judgments with the sounding of the seventh trumpet judgment being recorded in Rev. 11: 15, which introduces the last seven bowl judgments. Also, we know that the sixth trumpet judgment was very important to God the Father because it was the answer to the prayers of the saints that had been martyred during the first part of the tribulation period. Rev. 6: 9-11 & 8:3-5
- 2) The severity of these trumpets judgments is also indicated by the fact when the seventh seal was opened introducing the seven trumpet judgments heaven was silent for thirty minutes or a half an hour. Rev. 8:1
- 3) I believe that Rev. 8:1-5 indicate the importance of these trumpet judgments to God the Father.
- 4) The fact that God took the time to insert this verse in between the first four trumpet judgments and the last three combined with the words he is giving us tells me that something has changed or something is about to happen that is more important than what has previously happened.

To better understand the importance of this verse and what I believe God the Father is trying to tell us I will provide three translations; NIV, KJV and Greek translator and also break this verse down into its basic elements or concepts, which are as follows:

NIV→, "As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blast about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

KJV→ “And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels which are yet to sound!”

Greek Translator→ “And I saw, and I heard one angel flying in mid-heaven, saying with a great voice. Woe! Woe! Woe to those dwelling on the earth, from the rest of the voices of the trumpet of the three angels being about to trumpet.”

- 1) This angel/eagle is in God’s presence therefore he is very important and powerful.
- 2) This angel/eagle is in midair or mid-heaven which indicates a position of power or optimal position to make a very important announcement.
- 3) This angel/eagle is allowed to make this announcement before God and to all of heaven therefore he has God’s permission.
- 4) His announcement is also to the inhabitants of the earth, as well as heaven.
- 5) I believe that the additional warning that the last three trumpet judgments will be much worse than the first four is confirmed by what is known as the ‘three Woes!’, “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blast about to be sounded by the other angels!” The key to why I believe the last three trumpets are more severe than the first four is again the three words, “Woe! Woe! Woe!” and is directly associated with the last portion of this verse, “because of the trumpet about to be sounded”, not the first four but the one’s ‘about’ to be sounded. The number of words within a judgment does not necessarily indicate a more important judgment and nor does fewer words indicates a less important judgment. However, the next three trumpet judgments appear to be very important to God the Father. However, I think it does need to be pointed out that the first four trumpet judgments were covered in revelations chapter 8 verses 6-12. The next two judgments coming after Rev.8:13 require all of Revelations chapter 9 which contains 21 verses. Then the seventh trumpet judgment is covered in Rev. 11:15-19 and the seven seal/bowl judgments are covered in Rev. 16: 1-21. As I have said the

number of words does not necessarily mean things are more important but in this case I think it does.

- 6) There have been scholars who have tried to associate previous scripture about “eagles” with this verse. I believe that the “angel” translation is a better one; however I do think the verse that they have used will be indicative of what will be happening during these terrible days. I will list some of the better ones: Jer. 48:40-42, “This is what the Lord says; ‘Look! An eagle is swooping down, spreading its wings over Moab. The cities will be captured and the strongholds taken. In the day the hearts of Moab’s warriors will be like the hearts of a woman in labor. Moab will be destroyed as a nation because she defied the Lord.’” & Matt. 24:28, “Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.” I am not sure if these verses have anything to do with verse 13 but I do think they paint a very good picture of what things will be like during this period.

Conclusion:

I believe that verse 13 is an additional warning that can be summarized as follows; ‘you ain’t seen anything yet.’ However, this is just my opinion and you need to read the scripture and make your own decision.