



REVELATION 6.9-17

THE GREAT DAY OF GOD’S WRATH

Church Raptured:

- The Church (Bride of Christ) has been raptured from earth BEFORE the 1st seal is broken.
 - **Barnhouse:** “If the Church is to come through the tribulation judgments that are to come upon the earth, then, say it plainly, there is no blessed hope in the Bible.”¹
- The Rapture is NOT the same as the second coming of Christ:

Contrasts Between the Rapture and the Second Coming

Rapture	Second Coming
Christ comes for His own (John 14:3; 1Th. 5:28; 2Th. 2:1).	Christ comes with His own (1Th. 3:13; Jude 1:14; Rev. 19:14 ¹¹).
Christ comes in the air (1Th. 4:17).	Christ comes to the earth (Zec. 14:4; Acts 1:11). ¹²
Christ claims His bride (1Th. 4:16-17).	Christ comes with His bride (Rev. 19:6-14 ¹³).
Removal of believers (1Th. 4:17).	Manifestation of Christ (Mal. 4:2). ¹⁴
Only His own see Him (1Th. 4:13-18).	Every eye shall see Him (Rev. 1:7 ¹⁵).
Tribulation begins (2Th. 1:6-9).	Millennial Kingdom begins (Rev. 20:1-7 ¹⁶).

¹ Donald Grey Barnhouse, *Revelation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971), 77.

Saved are delivered from wrath (1Th. 1:10; 1Th. 5:9).	Unsaved experience the wrath of God (Rev. 6:12-17). ¹⁷
No signs precede rapture (1Th. 5:1-3).	Signs precede Second Coming (Luke 21:11, 15). ¹⁸
Focus is Lord and Church (1Th. 4:13-18).	Focus is Israel and kingdom (Mat. 24:14). ¹⁹
World is deceived (2Th. 2:3-12).	Satan is bound so he cannot deceive (Rev. 20:1-2). ²⁰
Believers depart the earth (1Th. 4:15-17). ²¹	Unbelievers are taken away from the earth (Mat. 24:37-41). ²²
Unbelievers remain on earth.	Believers remain on earth (Mat. 25:34). ²³
No mention of establishing Christ's Kingdom on earth.	Christ has come to set up His Kingdom on earth (Mat. 25:31, 34). ²⁴
Christians taken to the Father's house (John 14:1-3).	Resurrected saints do not see the Father's house (Rev. 20:4). ²⁵
Imminent —could happen at any moment.	Cannot occur for at least 7 years. ²⁶
Precedes the career of the man of sin. (2Th. 2:1-3).	Terminates the career of the man of sin (Rev. 19:20).

WHY DOES THE CHURCH NEED RAPTURING?

- Dr. David Hocking: "There is a day coming to planet earth that will make all previous days seem insignificant by comparison! It will not be a pleasant day; It is a day filled with terror and panic such as the people of earth have never experienced!" ²

Revelation 6:9 When He opened **the fifth seal**,
I saw **under the altar**
the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God
and for the testimony which they held.

Fifth Seal:

- 5th seal – begins the second half of the 7 years of Tribulation
 - Great Tribulation coming now

Matthew 24:21–22

21 For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

² Dr. David Hocking, *The Book of Revelation, Understanding the Future*, © 2014 HFT Publications, p. 297

- The futurist interpretation takes these as the first martyrs of the tribulation of Daniel's 70th Week.
The fifth seal corresponds to Mt 24:8-28, martyrdoms. Re *14:12-20.³
- **Seals #1- #4** – the 4 horsemen: a time of great destruction and death



Matthew 24:4–8

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: **“Take heed that no one deceives you.**

5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ **and will deceive many.**

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

See that you are not troubled;

for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

- We now leave the era of the **“beginning of sorrows”** and head straight on to the vehement persecution of the Tribulation Saints.

Matthew 24:8–10

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

³ Jerome H. Smith, *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: The Most Complete Listing of Cross References Available Anywhere—Every Verse, Every Theme, Every Important Word* (Nashville TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992), 1514.

10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

- The false global religion (**the whore of religious Rome**, *Rev 17:9, 18*) riding comfortably upon the back of the Beast (**the Global Antichrist**) becomes drunk and arrogant with the blood of the Tribulation Saints:

Revelation 17:3–6

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness.

And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

5 And on her forehead a name was written:

**MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Here's a group of Tribulation saints that came to faith **AFTER** the Rapture of the Christian church.

- They have refused to worship the Beast (Antichrist) and take the mark of his worship.
- They will suffer greatly for their perseverance to the WORD and the SPIRIT.
- They are pictured as resting under the ALTAR of Sacrifice in the Tabernacle of Heaven.
 - When the Old Testament priest presented an animal sacrifice, the victim's blood was poured out at the base of the brazen altar (Lev. 4:7, 18, 25, 30). In Old Testament imagery, blood represents life (Lev. 17:11). So, here in Revelation, the souls of the martyrs "under the altar" indicates that their lives were given sacrificially to the glory of

God. The Apostle Paul had the same idea in mind when he wrote Philippians 2:17 and 2 Timothy 4:6. ⁴

- **Slain for the same reason John was sent to Patmos.**

- An identifying key to true Christian life.

Revelation 1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos **for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Revelation 12:11 **And they conquered him** by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives until death. ⁵

Revelation 20:4 **Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

Matthew 5:10–12

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 15:20–21

20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’

If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

John 16:2–4

⁴ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 588.

⁵ W. Hall Harris III, Elliot Ritzema, et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Re 12:11.

2 They will put you out of the synagogues; **yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.**

3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

4 But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. "And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying,

"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then **a white robe** was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, **until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**

O LORD -

- 1203. **δεσπότης despótēs**; gen. despóτου, masc. noun. Master, one who possesses supreme authority, despot. More commonly used as a comp. noun with οίκος (3624), house, household, i.e., oikodespótēs (3617), **master in respect to his slaves** (1 Tim. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:21; 1 Pet. 2:18).⁶
 - Lord is **δεσπότης [despotēs]** **which emphasizes His ownership of the saints, as a master has slaves,⁷⁰ or a ruler over a household (Tit. 2:9).⁷¹ Let us always keep in mind that He can do whatever He desires with His sheep.** In this case, He allows their slaughter as a testimony to their faith and the evil unfolding below which will finally be judged.⁷

How many Saints of the Lord must be persecuted unto death before the Lord avenges His own?

- This proves immortality of the soul and full consciousness between death and resurrection.⁸
- **Spirits without any substance could not wear robes.** The fact that they will be given robes supports the concept that when believers die they are given temporary bodies in heaven

⁶ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

⁷ Friberg, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, 107. Friberg, Timothy, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller. *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.

⁸ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

which are later replaced by resurrection bodies at the time of resurrection (cf. 20:4).⁹

- **This section of Scripture is the first intimation that the reign of Antichrist is to witness the greatest revival that the world has ever seen.** More millions will be saved under the preaching of God's witnesses in these seven years than in many times that period in this present age.¹⁰

12 I looked when He opened **the sixth seal**, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

Sixth Seal:

- **Hal Lindsay: "The earthquake described in this sixth judgment will be of a magnitude never before known by mankind.** It will be "the granddaddy of them all." The particular Greek word used here actually means "a violent, catastrophic shaking." This meaning, coupled with the darkening of the sun and moon, leads me to believe that the Apostle John is describing an earthquake set off by many nuclear explosions."¹¹
- **A worldwide seismic shaking that will affect every nation of the earth**
 - The vast worldwide network of unstable earthquake belts around the world suddenly will begin to slip and fracture on a global basis and a gigantic earthquake will ensue. This is evidently, and naturally, accompanied by tremendous volcanic eruptions, spewing vast quantities of dust and steam and gases into the upper atmosphere. It is probably these that will cause the sun to be darkened and the moon to appear blood-red.¹²

Joel 2:30–32

**30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:
Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.**

⁹ John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 948.

¹⁰ Barnhouse, Donald Grey. *Revelation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House. 1971, p. 132

¹¹ Lindsay, Hal, *There's A New World Coming*, p. 43

¹² Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 121.

**31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.**

32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Zephaniah 1:15–17

**15 That day is a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of devastation and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloominess,
A day of clouds and thick darkness,**

16 A day of trumpet and alarm
Against the fortified cities
And against the high towers.

17 "I will bring distress upon men,
And they shall walk like blind men,
Because they have sinned against the LORD;
Their blood shall be poured out like dust,
And their flesh like refuse."

Isaiah 13:6–13

6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand!

It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

7 Therefore all hands will be limp,
Every man's heart will melt,

8 And they will be afraid.

**Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them;
They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth;**

They will be amazed at one another;
Their faces will be like flames.

9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes,
Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,
To lay the land desolate;
And He will destroy its sinners from it.

**10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations
Will not give their light;**

**The sun will be darkened in its going forth,
And the moon will not cause its light to shine.**

**11 “I will punish the world for its evil,
And the wicked for their iniquity;
I will halt the arrogance of the proud,
And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.**

12 I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold,
A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens,
And the earth will move out of her place,
In the wrath of the LORD of hosts
And in the day of His fierce anger.

13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth,
as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up,
and **every mountain and island was moved out of its place.**

- To those on the earth it will seem that the sky is shaking as well as the earth, and it will appear as though the stars themselves are being shaken loose from their moorings in the heavens and then plummeting to earth. ¹³

Haggai 2:6–7

6 “For thus says the LORD of hosts:

**‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth,
the sea and dry land;**

7 and I will shake all nations,
and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations,
and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.

- **Jack Hayford:** *“This earthquake is more than a seismic event. Every island and mountain moved out of its place! This is not simply a buildup of forces of tectonic plates followed by an explosion in some location. Even if we had a horrendous earthquake that circled the whole Pacific Rim, that would not move every mountain and island out of its place. We are talking about a cosmic event, it changes the face of the planet. **I believe the Bible reveals that this is when the Rapture takes place.**”*

¹³ Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 122.

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

16 and said to the mountains and rocks,

“Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

17 For the great day of His wrath has come, **and who is able to stand?”**

The question is an important one!

- Who is able to stand, to endure through all of this?
- No Christian deserves to stand before the Lord through catastrophe.

Psalm 130:3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

Psalm 1:5–6

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,

Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

- **BUT**, Christians have the wonderful assurance that though the world fall apart around us – **we have PEACE through Christ Jesus!**
 - **THAT** is what enables Christians to stand

Romans 5:1–2

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also **we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,** and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”