

I. REVIEW:

- A. The title of the book is the **“unveiling of the glory of Jesus Christ”** (Rev. 1:1). The Father wants to glorify *this man*: His heart and values, excellent character (Isa. 4:2; Hag. 2:7; Phil. 2:9) and *the plan* which He has commissioned Jesus to implement upon the earth (Rev. 4:1; Jer. 23:20; Dan. 11:33; Rev. 15:3; Isa. 26:9).

¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants... (Rev. 1:1)

- B. In **Part Three** of the book of Revelation we see the **“beauty realm”** of God where the Father in His eternity and sovereignty rules all creation and His vast resources are on display (Rev. 4). Jesus, the only one *worthy: qualified, capable* and *confirmed* among the human race, takes *the scroll* from the Father which is the **“title deed”** of the earth, returning the rule of the earth back to mankind under the *last Adam* (Rev. 5). The scroll is also the **“battle plan”** how to remove all that hinders love and transition the earth under the rule of Jesus in preparation for the Father’s coming at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 21–22).

⁷ Then He [Jesus] came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (Rev. 5:7)

¹³ Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He came to the Ancient of Days [the Father]... ¹⁴ To Him was given... a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion... (Dan. 7:13)

- C. In **Part Four** of the book of Revelation **“Jesus’ Battle Plan”** there are **“five chronological sections”** that describe events unfolding on earth in a sequential order. Each **“chronological section”** is followed by an **“angelic explanation”** to help us understand the **“why’s”** behind the **“what’s”** of that section
1. **The five chronological sections** tell us **“what happens to the Antichrist’s empire and his followers”** in twenty-one judgment events (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls) that intensify in severity, as they unfold on earth in a sequential order. They are the **main storyline** of judgment released against the kingdom of darkness upon the earth through the praying Church in the order that they occur.
 2. **The five angelic explanations** follow each of the chronological sections and function as a “parenthesis,” pausing the storyline, while an angel explains to John the “why” and “what” regarding the events he just witnessed, like **“Why God’s wrath is so severe?”** and **“What will happen to God’s people?”** including:
 - a) **What Satan will do to oppose us**, using the Antichrist’s persecution and Babylon’s seduction.
 - b) **What Jesus will do to help us** through angelic intervention and the prophetic ministry of the Two Witnesses, while releasing power, provision, protection, direction and reward.

II. INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN SEALS (REV. 6)

- A. In Revelation 5:7, Jesus took the scroll sealed with seven seals from the hand of the Father. One by one, Jesus will open each seal to release a terrifying judgment against the wicked. The seal events *alert* as they prepare the nations for God’s coming glory.

⁷He [Jesus] came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him [Father]...⁹and they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals...” (Rev. 5:7-9)

1. All twenty-one judgments, including the seal judgments are *literal* (not symbolic). Many thought Old Testament prophecy was symbolic until the rebirth of Israel, requiring a literal fulfillment to these events.

2. The judgments are *future* (their fulfillment is still in the future). John received this revelation in 90 AD and Jesus told him they involved “things which must take place after this” (Rev. 4:1).
 3. The judgments events are *progressive* (increasing in intensity). As each one occurs, Jesus increases their intensity to reach the optimum levels of pressure to accomplish His purposes.
 4. The judgments are *numbered* (released in a sequential order). For the second seal to occur (final world war), the first seal must happen (Antichrist’s schemes implemented and peace treaty achieved). Each judgment sets up the situation for the next to occur effectively.
- B. *When is the first seal opened?* The answer provides an interpretive key to the rest of Revelation. We believe Jesus has not yet opened the first seal as the bowls of prayer must be full. The prayer movement is still growing and in many places of the earth in its infant stages.
- ⁸When He [Jesus] had taken the scroll...the twenty-four elders fell down...each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Rev. 5:8)***
- C. *Jesus Himself*, the Lamb of God, *releases the seven seals of judgment* (5:5; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12; 8:1).
- ¹I saw when the Lamb [Jesus] opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” (Rev. 6:1)***
- D. *The Church*, including those alive on earth and those in heaven, *partners with Jesus* in releasing each judgment event (Ps. 149:6-9; Mt. 16:18-19; Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 15:2-8; 22:17), just as He released the ten plagues of Egypt against Pharaoh through the prophetic decrees and prayers of Moses (Ex 7-12).
- ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake [God’s answer to prayers]. (Rev. 8:4-5)***
- E. The seal judgments affect everyone on the planet as the Lord shakes the entire earth with zeal for righteousness (Hag. 2:6-9; Heb. 12:25-29). *For the unbelievers*, it will remove all the things they falsely trust in and expose their own mortality, causing them to cry-out for salvation or further hardening their hearts. *For the Church*, they will cause unity, purity and preparedness for the Lord’s return and deeper partnership. *For the Kingdom of darkness*, they will initially allow for greater ability to express evil and harm, but soon after will hinder and eventually stop Satan and the Antichrist from achieving their agenda on the earth.
- ⁶“...I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷and I will shake all nations, and they [unbelievers] shall come to the Desire of All Nations [Jesus]...” says the LORD. (Hag 2:6-7)***
- F. *Principle of judgment*: God’s end-time judgments will remove all that hinders love. He will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number at the deepest level of love without violating anyone’s free will.
- G. God’s judgments against the wicked in the first four seals result from *God taking His restraining hand off evil men* (Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Th. 2:6-7), exposing the lawlessness and violence in the human heart that lies beneath the surface (Gen. 6:5; Isa. 1:25; Jer. 17:9; Mal. 3:2-3; Heb. 4:12-13; Rev. 2:23). The Antichrist will act violently against the nations including the harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:16).
1. The first four seals are brought about by the actions of sinful men.
 2. The fifth, sixth and seventh seals involve supernatural actions from heaven.
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III. FIRST SEAL: ANTICHRIST'S POLITICAL AGGRESSION (REV. 6:1-2)

¹I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying..., "Come and see." ²I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Rev. 6:1-2)

- A. The opening of the first seal speaks of the Antichrist's political aggression (6:1-2; cf. Dan. 9:26; Ezek. 38:17). Riding a horse and carrying a bow reveal his going forth with war in mind even though it appears peaceful.
- B. **White**: The color white symbolizes righteousness because the Antichrist's reign will appear righteous initially. He will be the counterfeit to Jesus who rides a white horse with truth (Rev. 19:11-16).
- C. **Bow**: The Antichrist's rule will initially be gained by an "arrowless bow." This speaks of his bloodless victories or peaceful conquest using deceptive diplomacy. A bow speaks of *striking at a distance*. Since there are no arrows, it is commonly understood as a *threat of war*, without war breaking out yet.
- D. Daniel saw the Antichrist's schemes and "peaceful" seizure of power before war (Dan. 8:23-25; 11:21, 24).

²³And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king [Antichrist] shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. ²⁴His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [2 Thes. 2:9; Rev. 13:2]; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. ²⁵Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means. (Dan. 8:23-25)

²¹... but he [the Antichrist] shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue....²⁴ He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province... (Dan. 11:21, 24)

- E. **Crown**: the Antichrist wears a crown as a symbol of his political authority (Rev. 13:1-2, 7).
 - 1. The Antichrist will receive authority, or permission, to act from God. It is Jesus who opens the first seal. He possesses all authority (Mt. 28:18) and in His plan gives the Antichrist a limited sphere to act for 3½ years. The fact that God's battle plan includes releasing the Antichrist on the earth is an offense to the natural mind (Dan. 2:21; Rom. 13:1, 4; Mt. 11:6; 1 Cor. 2:14).

⁷And authority was given him [Antichrist] over every...nation. (Rev. 13:7)

¹⁸All authority has been given to Me [Jesus] in heaven and on earth. (Mt. 28:18)

¹There is no authority except from God...the authorities that exist are appointed by God...⁴He is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. (Rom. 13:1, 4)

In various times of human history, God has elevated wicked leaders to serve as instruments of his will¹. By raising up the Antichrist, He will expose the evil in the human heart, judge the harlot Babylon for murdering the saints (Rev. 17:6, 16), mature the Church and create the optimum environment for Israel's salvation.

- 2. The Antichrist will also get his authority and rule from Satan and sinful leaders (13:2).

²...The dragon [Satan] gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. (Rev 13:2)

¹ Pontius Pilate (Jn. 19:11); Pharaoh (Ex. 9:16; Rom. 9:17); Nebuchadnezzar (Joel 2:1-11; Jer. 25:9; 27:6; 43:10; Dan. 2:37-38); Cyrus (Dan. 5:31; Isa. 44:28; 45:1-13); The ten kings (Rev. 17:12-17); The Antichrist (Ezek. 38:16-17; 39:2).

IV. SECOND SEAL: WORLD WAR (6:3-4)

A. The opening of the second seal speaks of the release of the final world war (6:3-4).

³When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.”

*⁴Another horse, **fiery red**, went out. It was granted to the one who sat on it to **take peace from the earth**, and that people should **kill one another**; and there was given to him a **great sword**. (Rev. 6:3-4)*

B. **Great sword**: This sword speaks of extreme forms of bloodshed coming from war and violence. The Antichrist will start by using an “arrowless bow” (6:2), and then he will use a “great sword.” The restraint on evil is further removed, allowing many to do violently on the earth.

C. **Take peace from the earth**: The time of peace and security will end (1 Thes. 5:3; Zech. 1:11) at the opening of the second seal. God will take peace from the nations made drunk by the great Harlot (17:6, 16).

*³For when they say, “**Peace and safety!**” then **sudden destruction** comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1 Thes. 5:3)*

D. Both Jeremiah and Daniel saw the final world war when the second seal was opened and the ungodly nations attacked against each other. (Dan. 11:40-45; Jer. 25:29-33)

E. After the Antichrist gains the upper hand by controlling many nations and resources through deceitful diplomacy, he will break the covenant and trample down many nations through warfare. (Dan. 7:15-27)

F. The timing of the breaking of second seal is probably Daniel 9:27 when the Antichrist breaks the covenant.

*²⁷He [Antichrist] shall **confirm a covenant** [peace treaty] with many for **one week** [seven years]; **But in the middle of the week** [seven years] He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate...” (Dan. 9:27)*

V. THIRD SEAL: FAMINE AND ECONOMIC CRISIS (6:5-6)

A. The opening of the third seal speaks of releasing famine and economic crisis (6:5-6). This famine and economic collapse will follow the world war seen in the second seal (6:4).

*⁵When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a **black horse**, and he who sat on it had a **pair of scales** in his hand. ⁶And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a **denarius**, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.” (Rev. 6:5-6)*

B. **Pair of scales**: This speaks of an economic crisis. The greatest economic pressures and the most severe famine in history are yet to come against the nations who embrace the ways of the Harlot.

C. **Denarius**: A denarius was equivalent to wages for one day’s work.

1. A quart of wheat is the amount that one man would eat for one day on a minimal diet. Today if someone made an annual salary of \$50,000, this would come out to about \$200 for a few handfuls of wheat.

2. The economic crisis will cause one’s earning power to be reduced to working all day to afford food for one person for one day. This represents about 10 times less buying power than in the world today.

D. **Wheat and barley**: Wheat is superior in taste and nutrition to barley. Barley, an inferior grain, will be three times cheaper than the price of wheat.

- E. **The oil and the wine:** These represent luxuries that the ruling class will continue to enjoy during the economic crisis. The wealthy elite from the Antichrist's regime will continue to prosper during this time (Rev. 18).
- F. The Lord has promised **a supernatural supply of food and water for the Church during the Great Tribulation** (Micah 7:15). Just as God supernaturally fed Elijah *by ravens* (1 Kgs. 17:2-7), *the hand of angels* (1 Kgs. 19:5-8), and His people *with mana from heaven* (Ex. 16) and *water from the rock* (Ex. 17:5), He will do so again. The Church will do **greater works** than Jesus (John 14:12) *multiplying food* for multitudes beyond **5,000** (Mt. 14:13-21) and **4,000 people** (Mt. 15:32-39) as *ongoing supply* will occur like *the flour and oil* with Elijah (1 Kgs. 17:8-15)) and *the oil* with Elisha (Kgs. 4:1-7) who also *fed 100 men* miraculously (2 Kgs. 4:42-44).
- G. One of the **most convincing signs of supernatural provision** for the Church is *Elijah's testimony of supernatural provision* for a 3 1/2 year famine in ancient Israel. His story serves as *a prophetic picture* of the Church prevailing during the final 3 1/2 of natural human history (Lk. 4:25; Jas. 5:17). Furthermore, the same Elijah will return after being in the Lord's presence 3,000 years. What amazing miracles will He do in these final 3 1/2 years (Mal. 4:5; Mat. 17:11; Rev. 11:3-6; Zech. 4:11-14)?

V. FOURTH SEAL: DEATH TO ONE-FOURTH OF THE EARTH'S PEOPLE (6:7-8)

- A. The opening of the fourth seal speaks of the death of one-fourth of the earth's population (6:7-8).
*⁷When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."
⁸So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was **Death**, and **Hades** followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (Rev. 6:7-8)*
- B. **Pale horse:** This is literally pale green or ashen. It is the color of death or the decay of a corpse.
- C. **Death and Hades:** Death is what happens to the physical body, which goes to the grave. Hades is the prison where the departed spirit of an unbeliever goes before going to the lake of fire after the Millennium (Rev. 20:11-15). Isaiah calls the Antichrist "death" when referring to his covenant (Isa. 28:14-22).
- D. **One-fourth:** John saw one-fourth of the world's population killed by the sword, hunger, death (pestilence), and wild beasts. Some estimate that the population of the earth in 2050 will be 10 billion people. One-fourth of this 10 billion is about 2.5 billion. Thus it is possible that the number of deaths will exceed 2 billion people, which is 50 times greater than the death total seen in World War II (conservatively estimated at 50 million deaths).
- E. **Hunger:** the starvation seen in the third seal will continue to escalate in the fourth seal.
- F. **Death:** The second use of "death" in verse 8 is probably related to martyrdom, pestilence and disease. Fatal diseases will spread across the earth unlike any other time in human history. The saints will continue to be protected at this time (Psalm 91:1-10).
- G. **Wild beasts:** Hungry beasts will come out of the wild to the city looking for food. They will probably be seen roaming in the open seeking to devour people because of great hunger. Some will be demonized. God will give the saints authority over all wild beasts and animals (Ps. 91:13; Lk. 10:19).
- H. These are similar to **"God's four severe judgments"** Israel experienced for not listening to the prophets (Ezek. 5:17; 14:21). The same principle of judgment occurs to those in the Harlot Babylon system that have not listened to the witness of the Church whom they will persecute and martyr while temporarily enjoying false peace and security (Mat. 24:9, 14; Dan. 11:33; 2 Thess. 3:5).

²¹“How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it? (Ezek. 14:21)

VI. FIFTH SEAL: PRAYER RELEASING JUDGMENT (6:9-11)

- A. The opening of the fifth seal is related to the power of the prayer movement in heaven that will release great judgment on Antichrist’s empire as seen in the trumpet judgments (Rev. 8-9).

⁹When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar [altar of incense in heaven] the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God...¹⁰And 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?” ¹¹Then 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 [martyred] as they were, was completed. (Rev. 6:9-11)

- B. The fifth, sixth, and seventh seals involve heavenly activity. The judgment of each seal increases in intensity. The fifth seal is more severe than the four that precede it.
- C. The shedding of the blood of the saints stirs up God’s vengeance (Rev. 19:2) and fuels the prayer movement. These martyrs were killed during the Great Tribulation. Many think the fifth seal speaks of judgment against the Church or isn’t judgment against the wicked. In fact, this seal is bad for the Antichrist as God will respond to the martyrs’ cry for justice, serving as a main turning point in the story line in the book of Revelation.

²Righteous are His judgments...He avenged on her the blood of His servants... (Rev. 19:2)

- D. **Vengeance:** The natural human understanding of vengeance is warped. The word “vengeance” in English conjures up several images and feelings untrue to the nature of Jesus, who is always loving, kind and fair, including when exercising the judgments of God (Ps. 19:9; Rev. 16:7; 19:2; 1 John 4:8). **God’s vengeance is unlike human vengeance: it is fair, measured, deserved, timely, with no malice or evil intent.** His vengeance is righteous and brings about salvation and justice for all (Isa. 59:16-18; 61:2; 10-11; 62:1-2; 63:1, 4-6). *Vengeance, salvation and justice* speaks of the same reality when the Lord returns but from different perspectives. We cannot separate them (Isa. 59:16-18; 61:2; 63:4).
- E. **They cried:** The intensity of the prayer ministry in heaven at this time gives insight into the intensity of the prayer ministry on earth. The Spirit who inspires intercession in heaven will inspire it on earth with unity.
- F. **How long:** The prayer is a cry for justice, not personal revenge, on the Antichrist’s cruelty, removal of the reprobates who oppress God’s people and hate His kingdom, vindication of God’s reputation, and deliverance of His people. The phrase indicates God’s judgment will seem “delayed,” requiring those on earth not to lose faith. “How long...” is the most recorded prayer in Scripture (Zech. 1:12; Ps. 6:3; 13:2; 74:10; 79:5; 80:4; 89:46; 90:13; 94:3; Dan. 8:13; 12:6-13).

⁷“...will not God bring... justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night...⁸He will bring ... justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”(Lk. 18:7-8; NAS)

- G. **Dwell on earth:** The saints will ask God to avenge their blood on those who are presently alive and *dwell on the earth*. This is an interpretive key that these ones do not represent all the martyrs in Church History.

VII. THE SIXTH SEAL: COSMIC DISTURBANCES (6:12-17)

A. The opening of the sixth seal will release a great earthquake with signs in the heavens (6:12-17). The prayers of the martyrs in heaven and that on the earth, releasing God's specific answer. It is followed by the release of the trumpet and bowl judgments on the Antichrist's empire (Rev. 8-9; 16).

¹²He 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. ¹³And the stars of heaven fell to the earth...¹⁴Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵And 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, ¹⁶and 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! ¹⁷For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Rev. 6:12-17)

B. **Great earthquake:** There will be a great earthquake or a worldwide geophysical upheaval (Hag. 2:6; Heb. 12:26-28). Every mountain will be moved, rather than destroyed. No one could hide in a mountain if they were all destroyed. Mountains continue to exist in the seventh bowl (Rev. 16:20).

C. **Sun:** What causes the sun to become darkened? This will be a supernatural sign sent by God (Lk. 21:11), possibly including the natural effects of ash and debris from volcanic eruptions or smoke.

D. **Stars:** The stars can speak of asteroids and meteor showers hitting the earth. The Greek word for stars used here is "aster". An *aster* refers to any shining or flaming mass in the sky, including stars, meteors, asteroids, etc.

E. **Then the sky receded as a scroll:** A window in heaven is opened in some way as seven classes of people in the earth (Rev. 6:15) encounter both the Father and the Son overwhelming them with His power and wrath. This is not Jesus' second coming which occurs after the 7th trumpet (Rev. 11:15-19), but is a precursor to God removing the separating veil between heaven and earth (Eph. 1:10; Rev. 21-22). This is bad news for the wicked but good news for the saints as heaven is coming to earth!

F. With the sixth seal the Lord vindicates the martyrs, releases a great outpouring of the Spirit (Hag. 2:6-7) and Great Harvest of souls in the nations (Joel 2:28-32). Both passages are in the context of a great shaking (earthquake), darkening of the sun and falling of stars that the prophets have foretold before the Lord's return (2 Sam. 22:8; Isa. 13:9-13; Joel 3:16; Hag. 2:6, 21, Lk. 21:26; Heb. 12:26).

VIII. FIRST ANGELIC EXPLANATION: WHO CAN STAND? (7:1-17)

A. The angelic explanations are like parenthetical sections that follow the chronological sections. They answer the tough questions such as *Why are God's judgments so severe?* and *What will happen to the saints?* They describe how God helps the saints and the Antichrist attacks them.

B. Angelic explanation #1: God's people sealed for protection—physical and spiritual (7:1-17). This angelic explanation answers the question, "Who can stand?" affirming the security of God's people. God answered this cry by revealing that 144,000 Jewish believers will stand in victory (7:1-8) and Gentile martyrs (7:9-17) shall stand strong without wavering in persecution.

C. John sees a divine sealing on His people that gives them physical and spiritual protection.

¹I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth...²I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels... ³saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea,

or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed... (Rev. 7:1-4)

- D. The 144,000 Jewish servants of God give us a picture of victory (Rev. 14:1-5). They receive a protective seal before God strikes the earth, sea, and trees (Rev. 7:3). Israel received a protective mark on their doors that saved their firstborn. Others will be sealed for protection (Rev. 9:4). The *Goshen principle* speaks of God protecting His people from judgment (Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; Ps. 91; Ezek. 9:6; Zeph. 2:3).

They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (Rev 9:4)

1. In a Elijah's day, the Lord preserved *a believing remnant of 7,000* (1 Kings 19:18; cf. Rev. 14:1-5). He will preserve *one-half* of the city of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:2) and bring *one-third* of Israel through the Great Tribulation and into belief in Jesus as Messiah (Zech. 13:8-9).
 2. This physical deliverance of 144,000 is a “testimony” to the power and grace of God to preserve a “remnant of Israel” (Isa. 10:22-23; Rom. 9:27-28; 11:1-6).
 3. God has protected His servants “in the midst of” trial (Lk. 10:19). *Noah* was preserved in the midst of the Flood (Gen. 6-8; Lk. 17:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:20). *Israel* was preserved in the midst of the ten plagues of Egypt (Ex. 4-12; Micah 7:15). *Rahab* and her entire household were preserved in Jericho's judgment (Josh. 2:17-21). *Daniel* was preserved from being eaten, while in the lion's den (Dan. 6; Ps. 91:13). *Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego* were preserved from fire, but not from the furnace (Dan. 3; Is. 43:2). *Paul* was preserved in the midst of tribulation, imprisonment, stripes, beating, stoning, shipwrecks and perils of various kinds (2 Cor. 6:4-10; 11:22-33). *The Apostle John* was preserved in the midst of the boiling cauldron of oil and didn't die.
- E. Gentile believers (7:9-17) here are shown as martyrs that stood strong spiritually without wavering in persecution. This passage tells us even the weakest saints can be spiritually protected if they ask the Lord for help (cf. Rev. 15:2-4; 20:4). God will also seal protect Gentile believers from death (Rev 9:4; Luke 10:19).

***Behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...**¹⁰saying, “Salvation belongs to our God...”¹³Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”¹⁴...he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes...in the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev. 7:9-14)*

1. There will be multitude of Gentiles saved in the Great Tribulation (Dan. 11:32-35; 12:3, 10; Mt. 24:14; 28:19-20; Rev. 12:10).
 2. However, because they will not worship the Beast (Rev. 13:5), Satan will persecute and kill them (Rev. 12:10-17).
- F. Although some saints—Jewish and Gentile—will be physically protected, not all will be (Dan. 11:32-35). All of us, except the ones raptured, will die from something. Our hope is in the resurrected bodies God will give us (Lk. 21:16-19). The goal should be to depart in the will of God, which is the safest place for us. (Heb. 11:32-40)