

# Behold, I Come Quickly...

## A Study of Revelation

### PART 2 Revelation 4:1 - 11:19

### TRIBULATION

### LESSON 4 Revelation 6:3 - 6:17

### SUDDEN DESTRUCTION

**Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.** (Revelation 22:7)

Rev 6:1-17

#### Warning Against Antichrists

**1JO 2:18** Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

The spirit of Antichrist has been at work in the Church Age since the moneychangers in the Temple, to the invisible ones who manipulate the nations in our present age. Their evil hearts are set to prepare the world for the "beast" system, therefore, God has permitted this so that His prophecy will be fulfilled.

**REV 17:17** For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

In this study we will probe the depths of wickedness in the human heart in order to better understand "a world ruined by man" as described in the Seal Judgments.<sup>1</sup>

#### War

**REV 6:3** And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

**4** And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

This red horse rider is the personification of war. With his great sword he will elevate war to a scale never before experienced on earth.<sup>2</sup> "The color red is symbolic of war and bloodshed." Worldwide and civil war is indicated. However, Israel is not involved because of the covenant protection of the Antichrist.<sup>3</sup>

**MAT 24:6** And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...

<sup>1</sup> Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, pp. 95, 96.

<sup>2</sup> Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, pp. 98, 100.

<sup>3</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 88.

In addition to national defense and territorial issues, why do nations continually wage war? Are there hidden benefits not generally realized by the ordinary citizen? In the introduction to a book introducing a government study called REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, Leonard C. Lewin asks and answers these questions:

***Why is war so wonderful? Because it creates artificial demand... the only kind of artificial demand, moreover, that does not raise any political issues: War and only war, solves the problem of inventory.***<sup>4</sup>

The report itself states:

***The organization of a society for the possibility of war is [a nations] principal political stabilizer.***<sup>5</sup>

The Report foresees a time when independent nations will no longer have the capability to wage war. Peace will be kept by a world army called "peace keepers." This was the gist of the U.S. State Department document called FREEDOM FROM WAR (State Department document 7277), presented to the United Nations General Assembly by President Kennedy on 25 September 1961, in which the United States, in a three phase program, proposed to reduce its war making capability, in concert with the Soviet Union, while at the same time strengthening the "peace keeping" capability of the United Nations.<sup>6</sup> This was one move toward uniting the world into a New World Order.

Another move toward setting up a one-world New World Order was the 1967 government study called REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE. This study was leaked to the press, but the government immediately attempted to defuse it by saying that it was a hoax. However, none other than the respected economist John Kenneth Galbraith validated the report by stating that he had been invited to participate.<sup>7</sup>

The purpose of the study was to explore ways to "stabilize society" if war, or the threat of war is removed as an option. This may prove necessary if nation states are dissolved in favor of a world government. The study examined ways that a government can preserve and perpetuate itself in power, and to control its citizens for the purpose of preventing them from rebelling.<sup>8</sup> The conclusions drawn from this report are that a substitute for war in a peaceful society must (1) be economically wasteful (solves the problem of inventory and provides steady employment for the masses), (2) represent a credible threat of great magnitude (focuses public attention away from government, allowing willing acceptance of government imposition of restrictive controls), and (3) must provide a logical excuse for compulsory government service (a type of slavery that controls rebellious undesirable elements of society).<sup>9</sup> Note carefully how, according to the "Report," the government views its citizens as described in the following:

***The arbitrary nature of war expenditures and other military activities make them ideally suited to control the essential class relationships [necessary class relationships, i.e. management, skilled, and unskilled workers]. Obviously, if the war system were to be discarded, new political machinery would be needed at once to serve this vital subfunction. Until it is developed, the continuance of the war system must be assured, if for no other reason, among others, than to preserve whatever quality and degree of poverty a society requires as an incentive, as well as to maintain the stability of its internal organization of power...***<sup>10</sup>

***The permanent possibility of war is the foundation for stable government; it supplies the basis for general acceptance of political authority. It has enabled societies to maintain necessary class distinctions and has ensured the subordination of the citizen to the state... No modern political***

<sup>4</sup> Leonard C. Lewin (Intro.), REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, New York, NY: 1967, p. 35 - Quoted from: David T. Bazelon, THE POLITICS OF THE PAPER ECONOMY, *Commentary*, November 1962, p. 409. Emphasis in original.

<sup>5</sup> Lewin (Intro.), REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, p. 39. Bracketed words added for clarity.

<sup>6</sup> John F. McManus, CHANGING COMMANDS: The Betrayal of America's Military, Appleton, WI: The John Birch Society, 1995, pp. 127, 199-210.

<sup>7</sup> G. Edward Griffin, THE CREATURE FROM JEKYLL ISLAND, Appleton, WI: American Opinion Publishing, Inc., 1994, p. 524.

<sup>8</sup> Griffin, THE CREATURE FROM JEKYLL ISLAND, p. 516.

<sup>9</sup> Griffin, THE CREATURE FROM JEKYLL ISLAND, p. 518.

<sup>10</sup> Lewin (Intro.), REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, pp. 40, 41. Bracketed words added for clarity. Emphasis mine.

***ruling group has successfully controlled its constituency after failing to sustain the continuing credibility of an external threat of war.***<sup>11</sup>

***Credibility is the key. Whether the substitute is ritual in nature or functionally substantive, unless it provides a believable life-and-death threat it will not serve the socially organizing function of war.***

***The existence of an accepted external menace, then, is essential to social cohesiveness as well as to the acceptance of political authority. The menace must be believable, it must be of a magnitude consistent with the complexity of the society threatened, and it must appear, at least to affect the entire society.***<sup>12</sup>

If a nation did not have the threat of war a substitute would have to be found to replace it. Such replacement might be a credible threat from space such as UFO's or meteorites (whether true or not) or the threat of environmental destruction are among the possibilities seriously considered. During the post-World War II era, the "Cold War" and the ever possibility of nuclear holocaust provided the necessary threat. The Report indicates that the threat must be believable and it must be wasteful; it must consume a share of the gross national product.<sup>13</sup> Other threats that might be used for the "socially organizing function of war" might include threats to the environment such as global warming, the need for government run health care, increases in social welfare expenditures, or the economic threats in a collapsing economy.

The problem of the external threat is solved in Orwell's book, 1984, by maintaining a perpetual state of war and shifting alliances. The war did not have to actually exist to be effective, only that the population believed that it existed.<sup>14</sup>

## **Famine**

**REV 6:5** And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

**6** And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

**MAT 24:7** ...and there shall be famines...

Famine is the natural aftermath of war.<sup>15</sup> Nations may choose to deal with famine and excess population by "destroy[ing] surplus members of his own species by organized warfare," or by "total control of conception with a variant of the ubiquitous 'pill,' via water supplies or certain essential foodstuffs, offset by a controlled 'antidote'"<sup>16</sup>

The "balances" become the weapon of the black horse rider. The "balances" represent the power of commerce to generate prosperity or calamity, inflation or depression, plenty or starvation.<sup>17</sup> It is believed by some that the Stock Market Crash of 1929 was purposely manipulated by the Federal Reserve. James Perloff, in his book THE SHADOWS OF POWER, reports:

***The Federal Reserve, instead of moving to stimulate growth and recovery, contracted the money supply by more than one third between 1929 and 1933, thus sustaining the Depression and giving no relief to the thousands of banks [not owned by the oligarchy] dying from runs.***<sup>18</sup>

According to A. Ralph Epperson in his book THE UNSEEN HAND:

***After the Stock Market Crash of 1929, even a casual observer had to notice that the ownership of the banking system had changed.***<sup>19</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Lewin (Intro.), REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, p. 81. Emphasis mine.

<sup>12</sup> Lewin (Intro.), REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, p. 47. Emphasis mine.

<sup>13</sup> Lewin (Intro.), REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, pp. 58, 59.

<sup>14</sup> Orwell, 1984, pp. 35, 36.

<sup>15</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 89.

<sup>16</sup> Lewin (Intro.), REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE, p. 48, 73 - Tests may have already been conducted in countries of Southeast Asia.

<sup>17</sup> Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 114.

<sup>18</sup> James Perloff, THE SHADOWS OF POWER: The Council on Foreign Relations and the American Decline, Appleton, WI: Western Islands Publishers, 1988, pp. 56, 57.

<sup>19</sup> A. Ralph Epperson, THE UNSEEN HAND: An Introduction to the Conspiratorial View of History, Tucson, AZ: Publius Press, 1985, p. 180. Bracketed words added for clarity. "Oligarchy:" "A form of government in which the power is vested in a few, or a state so governed; also, those who form the ruling few." WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, Springfield, MA: G. & C. Merriam Co., Publishers, 1961, p. 586.

This assured the defeat of the Republican Herbert Hoover in favor of the Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1932 election.<sup>20</sup> More importantly for the banking insiders, it consolidated the control of banking assets in the hands of few insider banks controlled by the Federal Reserve.<sup>21</sup>

Surprisingly, we hear a voice, almost like a commodity broker, speaking from the throne room influencing prices, controlling supply and demand. More than that though, this may mean weather changes, which influence agricultural production. Wheat and barley are representatives of the barest necessities, while oil and wine would be luxuries. However, in biblical times oil and wine as well as wheat and barley may have been considered necessities by most households. Oil may also pertain to fuel supplies. Famine will have the greatest impact on the lower and middle classes as the rich can still afford their luxuries.<sup>22</sup> In the abundance of their luxuries men may be starving for the necessities.

**REV 6:7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.**

**MAT 24:7 ...and there shall be ... pestilences...**

Pestilence and plague will rage out of control. Former Washington State governor and marine biologist, Dixie Lee Ray, Ph.D., writes the following in her book, TRASHING THE PLANET:

*"With the introduction of DDT to control the vectors of disease," wrote Claus and Bolander in 1977, "it seemed, for the first time in history, that man could look forward to a life of dignity, freed from the scourges of maiming disease and famine. It is no wonder, then, that its applications were greeted with general high enthusiasm."*

*Was the prospect of more people living better also anathema to the population-control and zero-growth organizations? There is some reason to believe so... The attack on DDT rested on three main allegations: that DDT caused the death of many birds and could lead to the extinction of some bird populations; that DDT was so stable that it could never be eliminated from the environment, and that DDT might cause cancer in humans. None of these charges has ever been substantiated... Actual counts... by the Audubon Society... have shown that many bird populations were in fact increasing throughout the years of heaviest DDT spraying... DDT breaks down harmlessly in the natural environment... Laboratory studies have reported liver deformations in mice [at doses 100,000 times any possible ingestion], but not in any other experimental animal (including rats)... The National Cancer Institute... in 1998... declared DDT was not a carcinogen... at the 1971 hearing ... [the conclusion] after considering 300 technical documents and the testimony of 150 scientists, was that a total ban on DDT was not desirable, based on the scientific evidence... [The hearing concluded in April 1972] Nevertheless, two months later, on June 14, 1972, William Ruckelshaus, EPA administrator, banned all uses of DDT unless an essential public purpose could be proved... Years later, Ruckelshaus admitted that "decisions by government involving the use of toxic substances are political..."<sup>23</sup>*

A conclusion reached by Dixie Lee Ray and others is that DDT saved lives, and that was not desirable. The main goal was population reduction through abortion and other effective means.<sup>24</sup> In the area of politically motivated programs such as the global warming or other environmental issues, facts do not matter.<sup>25</sup>

The "pale horse" is a green horse. The Greek word translated "pale" is "cloros," the same word used to describe the color of grass. The word for "death" is "thanatos" implying death from all causes, not necessarily only pestilence. The "beasts," "theerion," indicates wild, dangerous, or venomous beasts. Where "theerion" (beasts) is used elsewhere in Revelation it refers to an ungodly, powerful, evil leader, or in Daniel "beasts" indicate "government."<sup>26</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Perloff, THE SHADOWS OF POWER: The Council on Foreign Relations and the American Decline, pp. 57, 58.

<sup>21</sup> Epperson, THE UNSEEN HAND: An Introduction to the Conspiratorial View of History, p. 180.

<sup>22</sup> Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, pp. 115, 116. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 129. Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 89.

<sup>23</sup> Dixie Lee Ray, Lou Guzzo, TRASHING THE PLANET, New York, NY: Harper Perennial, Harper Collins Publishers, 1990, pp. 70-73. Bracketed words added for clarification.

<sup>24</sup> Dixie Lee Ray, Lou Guzzo, ENVIRONMENTAL OVERKILL: Whatever Happened to Common Sense?, New York, NY: Harper Perennial, Harper Collins Publishers, 1993, pp. 76-80.

<sup>25</sup> Ray, Guzzo, ENVIRONMENTAL OVERKILL: Whatever Happened to Common Sense?, p. 150. Emphasis in the source cited.

<sup>26</sup> Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, pp. 116-118. LaHaye, REVELATION ILLUSTRATED AND MADE PLAIN, p. 105.

This verse could also refer to a revolt on mankind from the animal kingdom. The animal kingdom may include viruses. Sickness and disease usually follow war and famine. Today the specter of biological warfare is a real possibility. We've seen the possibilities with Gulf War Syndrome. Our government has even acknowledged this as a real threat, especially from Muslim nations.<sup>27</sup>

## Persecution

**REV 6:9** And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

**10** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

**11** And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

**MAT 24:9** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. **10** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another....

**21** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

The souls under the alter that were slain for the word of God represent those martyrs that became believers and were slain during the first few years of the Tribulation since all believers before the Tribulation had been raptured into Christ's presence before the Tribulation.<sup>28</sup> These martyrs appeal to God to avenge their wrongful death.

**REV 17:17** For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The "white robes" are symbolic of their righteous deeds.<sup>29</sup>

In defense of a mid-tribulation or pre-wrath rapture, there are some that argue that the first five seals are not the wrath of God upon mankind. David Levy, using Renald Showers' argument to the contrary, responds as follows:<sup>30</sup>

- “1. Absence of the word wrath does not prove that the first five seals will not involve God's Day of the Lord wrath.
2. All seven seals are part of a common pattern, purpose (function), and program in preparation for Christ to take possession of the earth.
3. Revelation portrays Christ as the judge and ruler over the world, exercising God's wrath in all seven seals to destroy His foes and restore and rule over His theocratic Kingdom on earth.
4. An examination of the first five seals provides specific evidence that they too will involve the wrath of God.”

Even though the agents of the first few seal judgments may be portrayed as man's bad acts, all of the judgments indicated by the seals can be shown to have been judgments previously brought by God on rebellious mankind through earthly agents. Throughout Scripture, the weapons of God's punishment and wrath have been the use of nation against nation. It should also be noted, in particular, that in the third seal it is a voice in the midst of the four beasts that administers the famine. The voice in the midst of the beasts must be either the Father or Christ; thus it is the Father or Christ who administers the famine, not mankind, Satan, or Antichrist. These seal judgments are clearly within the framework of God's wrath.<sup>31</sup>

## Panic

**REV 6:12** And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

<sup>27</sup> Lindsey, THERE'S A NEW WORLD COMING, p. 91. Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 89.

<sup>28</sup> Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 118.

<sup>29</sup> Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 120.

<sup>30</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 90, 91. Renald Showers, MARANATHA, OUR LORD COME! A Definitive Study of the Rapture of the Church, Bellmawr, NJ: The Friend's of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., 1995, pp. 110-121.

<sup>31</sup> Showers, MARANATHA, OUR LORD COME! A Definitive Study of the Rapture of the Church, pp. 110-121.

**13** And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

**14** And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

- **Earthquakes**

Jesus speaks of the increase of earthquakes.

**MAT 24:7** ...and there shall be ... earthquakes...

**MAR 13:8** ...and there shall be earthquakes in divers places...

**LUK 21:11** And great earthquakes shall be in divers places...

J. Dwight Pentecost writes:

*The sixth seal (6:12-17) speaks of the great convulsions that will shake the whole earth. This may signify the condition in which every authority and power loses its control over men and anarchy reigns.*<sup>32</sup>

**LUK 21:25** And there shall be **signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars**; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; **26** Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for **the powers of heaven shall be shaken**.

The "earthquake" (seismos) of verse 12 literally means "shaking" and can also apply to the air or sea. To those on earth it will appear that the sky is falling. The word "star" (aster) may refer to asteroids plummeting to earth, which would cause great devastation and loss of life.<sup>33</sup>

- **Blackouts**

There is a blackout clearly prophesied to occur **before** the "terrible day of the Lord" begins. Joel speaks of the darkened sun and bloody moon.

**JOE 2:30** And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

**31** **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood**, before the **great and terrible day of the LORD** come.

A consensus seems to be that there are at least four blackouts, and that the harmony of the blackouts is as follows:

1. During the Sixth Seal judgment – Revelation 6:12. Joel 2:30, 31.
2. During the Fifth Trumpet judgment – Revelation 9:2; Joel 1:1-15; 2:10, 11.
3. During the Fifth Bowl judgment – Revelation 16:10. Isaiah 60:2.
4. After the Tribulation, just before the Lord's return – Matthew 24:29, 30. Joel 3:14-17.

The first blackout is positioned to occur before the "Great Tribulation," or the most terrifying "great and terrible" of the escalating Tribulation judgments. In reading Revelation 16:10 and Isaiah 60:2, it seems to be a darkness of despair rather than an actual darkness, if they are actually parallel passages.<sup>34</sup> (Refer to ADDENDUM – FIGURE 1 for the timeline of the Tribulation).

Other prophecies speak of darkness or blackouts. See also Zephaniah:

**ZEP 1:15** That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, **a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,**

<sup>32</sup> Pentecost, THINGS TO COME, A Study in Eschatology, p. 360.

<sup>33</sup> Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 122.

<sup>34</sup> Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 216, 230, 272, 276, 357. Walvoord, THE PROPHECY KNOWLEDGE HANDBOOK, p. 389. Duck, REVELATION: God's Word for the Biblically Inept, p. 99. J. Vernon McGee, THRU THE BIBLE, Vol. V, Revelation, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983, p. 1025. Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, A COMMENTARY, Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments, Isaiah 60:2, Vol. 2, p. 751.

See Isaiah as well:

**ISA 13:9** Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. **10** For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: **the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.**

- **The Sky is Falling**

Revelation 6:14 is a continuation of the previous verse (Rev 6:13). If impacted by asteroids the earth's crust may begin to slide causing displacement of landmasses and mountains. The heavens may appear to dissolve due to being obscured by dusts and gases from the devastation of the earth.<sup>35</sup> The time is not yet ready for the future destruction of the heavens and earth and the new heavens and new earth recreated by God.

**2PE 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; **in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

**REV 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

**REV 6:15** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens 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 that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

This will have been such a fearful experience that men will attempt to find shelter from the devastation. There will be no escape from the continuation of God's wrath. There will be nowhere to hide. At the end of the terrible wrath of the Lamb, the Great Tribulation, those that are still on the earth will see Jesus Christ "coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

**MAT 24:30** And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

The effect of the first of the seal judgments has been so great that fearful man now realizes that it is the wrath of God falling on them.<sup>36</sup>

## The Day of the Lord

**REV 6:17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

It must be noted that John is not saying that this verse is the beginning of the Tribulation. In fact, the tense of the Greek verb *helthen* translated "is come" or "has come" indicates "a previous arrival of the wrath, not something that is about to take place." Therefore it is an acknowledgement by the people on earth that they are already experiencing the wrath of God.<sup>37</sup>

The Tribulation is a period which lasts seven years as indicated by Daniel 9:27 "... and he shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week [seven]**..." In fact, Daniel 9:27 is an overview of the seven-year Tribulation.<sup>38</sup>

**Dan 9:27** And he [**Antichrist**] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [**Beginning – Israel protected**]: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate [**Mid – Israel persecuted**], even until the consummation [**end**], and that determined [**decreed**] shall be poured upon the [**one who makes**] desolate [**Antichrist**] [**End – Israel preserved**].

<sup>35</sup> Morris, *THE REVELATION RECORD*, pp. 122, 123.

<sup>36</sup> Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, pp. 92, 93.

<sup>37</sup> Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, pp. 92, 93.

<sup>38</sup> Tim LaHaye, Ed Hindson, General Editors, *THE POPULAR BIBLE PROPHECY COMMENTARY*, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2006, pp. 254-258.

The Tribulation is divided into two 3-1/2 year segments (see ADDENDUM – FIGURE 1). The first 3-1/2 years is known as the Tribulation, while the last 3-1/2 years is called the Great Tribulation where the most severe judgments will occur. Both halves are known as “the day of the Lord. It is probable that with the opening of the sixth seal the first half of the Tribulation is brought to an end and the second half is about to begin.<sup>39</sup> Evidence that the Seal’s are part of the first 3-1/2 years is that Israel will have it relatively easy until the breaking of the covenant and the abomination of desolation at the mid-point (Matthew 24:15-21), after which will be increased suffering.

**Matt 24:15** When ye therefore shall see **the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) **16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17** Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: **18** Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. **19** And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! **20** But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: **21** For **then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Following the Rapture, the Day of the Lord mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:1 and 2 is known as that period indicated by Daniel’s seventieth week (seven year Tribulation period) and the millennium (one-thousand year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth). According to John Walvoord, the period after the Rapture and before the beginning of the seven-year tribulation is a period of preparation and is included as part of the Day of the Lord.

**1TH 5:1** But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. **2** For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord** so cometh as a thief in the night.

**2PE 3:10** But **the day of the Lord** will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. **11** Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

After that, the period known as the Day of God will unfold with a New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem.

**2PE 3:12** Looking for and hasting unto the coming of **the day of God**, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

In 2 Thessalonians 2:2, Paul writes this in response to a rumor that the day of the Lord had already come.

**2 Thess 2:2** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ [the Lord] is at hand.**

**3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for **that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition;

**4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. **KJV**

The wording of 2 Thessalonians 2:2 should refer to the “day of the Lord,” not the “day of Christ.”<sup>40</sup> J. Dwight Pentecost says that the Authorized Version (KJV) is incorrect in this instance.<sup>41</sup> He is not the only one, J. Vernon McGee, a supporter of the King James Version, agrees.

*In many good Bibles with notes you will find the note in the margin – if it has not already been changed in the text – that this should read ‘the day of the Lord is at hand’ rather than ‘the day of Christ is at hand.’<sup>42</sup>*

The context of 2 Thessalonians 2 is of the Tribulation, therefore the term day of the Lord is appropriate to that context. The events that follow 2 Thessalonians 2:2 are elsewhere in Scripture called the day of the Lord.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Leon J. Wood, THE BIBLE & FUTURE EVENTS, An Introductory Survey of Last-Day Events, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1973, p. 61.

<sup>40</sup> Wood, THE BIBLE & FUTURE EVENTS, An Introductory Survey of Last-Day Events, p. 87.

<sup>41</sup> Pentecost, THINGS TO COME, A Study in Eschatology, pp. 231, 232.

<sup>42</sup> McGee, THRU THE BIBLE, Vol. V, p. 412.

<sup>43</sup> Wood, THE BIBLE & FUTURE EVENTS, An Introductory Survey of Last-Day Events, p. 55.

The implication is that the day of the Lord (the Tribulation) will follow the rapture of the church (see ADDENDUM – FIGURE 1).<sup>44</sup>

In contrast to the day of the Lord, Pentecost writes that the day of Christ is not the same event as the day of the Lord, and when used elsewhere in Scripture it refers to “the expectation of the Church, her translation, glorification, and examination for reward.”<sup>45</sup>

2 Thessalonians 2:3 refers to the day of the Lord not occurring until there “come a falling away first.” The Greek word for “falling away” is *apostasia*. It is generally thought that this word means apostasy, or a departure from the faith. McGee agrees that it does refer to that, but believes it refers to much more.<sup>46</sup>

*But I think it means more than that, as a careful examination of the word will reveal.*<sup>47</sup>

The root word of *apostasia* actually means “departure or removal from.” In this respect, Paul is saying that before the day of the Lord there will be a removing.<sup>48</sup> McGee further comments:

*There are two kinds of removing that are going to take place. First, the organized church will depart from the faith – that is what we call apostasy. But there will be a total apostasy when the Lord comes, and that cannot take place until the true church is removed. The Lord asked, ‘...when the Son of man cometh [to the earth], shall he find [the] faith...?’ (Luke 18:8). When He says ‘the faith,’ He means the body of truth which He left here. The answer to His question is no, He will not find the faith here when He returns. There will be total apostasy because of two things: (1) the organization of the church has departed from the faith – it has apostatized and (2) there has been another departure, the departure of the true church from the earth. The departure of the true church leads into the total apostatizing of the organized church. The Day of the Lord cannot begin – nor the Great Tribulation Period – until the departure of the true church has taken place.*<sup>49</sup>

**ADDENDUM:**

**FIGURE 1 – ISRAEL IN THE TRIBULATION**<sup>50</sup>

Pentecost		Second Coming of Christ			Great White Throne Judgment
Church Age	Rapture	----- 70th Week - Tribulation -----		Millennium	New Heaven New Earth New Jerusalem
	Period of Preparation Ten Nations United	Period of Peace [Israel] 3-1/2 Years of Peace	Period of Persecution [Israel] 3-1/2 Years of Great Tribulation		
	Seven-year Covenant Signed		Covenant Broken		
	Day of the Lord 2 Peter 3:10-11				Day of God - Eternity 2 Peter 3:12

<sup>44</sup> McGee, THRU THE BIBLE, Vol. V, p. 412.

<sup>45</sup> Pentecost, THINGS TO COME. A Study in Eschatology, p. 232.

<sup>46</sup> McGee, THRU THE BIBLE, Vol. V, p. 413. See also: Wood, THE BIBLE & FUTURE EVENTS, An Introductory Survey of Last-Day Events, p. 87.

<sup>47</sup> McGee, THRU THE BIBLE, Vol. V, p. 413.

<sup>48</sup> McGee, THRU THE BIBLE, Vol. V, p. 413. See also: Wood, THE BIBLE & FUTURE EVENTS, An Introductory Survey of Last-Day Events, p. 87.

<sup>49</sup> McGee, THRU THE BIBLE, Vol. V, p. 413.

<sup>50</sup> Walvoord, THE PROPHECY KNOWLEDGE HANDBOOK, p. 485. See also: Tim LaHaye, Ed Hindson, General Editors, THE POPULAR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BIBLE PROPHECY, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2004, p. 254.