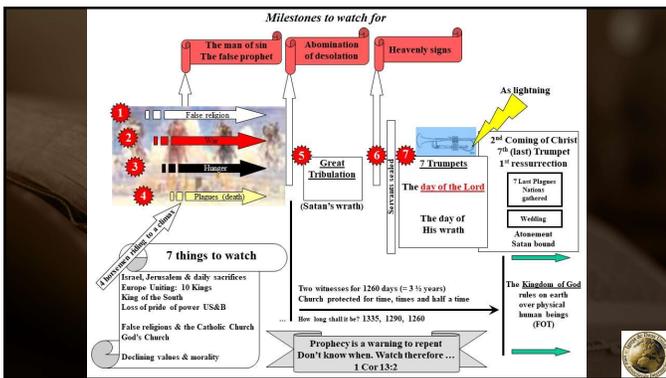


The first 5 seals

- The first **4 seals** are the first four horsemen (**Rev 6:1-8**):
 - False religion;
 - Wars;
 - Hunger;
 - Death and Hades (power given to them over ¼ of the earth to kill by wars, hunger, death and by the beasts of the earth).
- Watch **ourselves** and various geo-political, religious and social conditions.
- Israelite nations will lose the pride of their power (**Lev. 26:19**).
- The power of the holy people will be completely shattered (**Dan 12:7**).
- Will lose liberty (social justice; cancel culture) (**Is 1:4-5; 5:20; Lev 26:31-33**).
- The Beast and the False Prophet to appear (**2 Thes 2:3-12**).
- The abomination of desolation and the **protection of a part** of the Church (**Mat 24:15; Rev 3:10; 12:13-16**).
- Israelite nations will be overthrown (**Ps 83:2-8**).
- The 5th seal:** The great Tribulation – Satan’s wrath for 3 ½ years.



The Great Tribulation

- All people (*not only* true Christians) will be forced to follow the **first** beast's directives (**Rev 13:7-8**).
- The **second** beast, which as we understand represents the Catholic Church, which will be lead by "*the man of sin,*" "*the lawless one,*" the false prophet (**Rev 13:11-13; 2 Thes 2:3-10**).
- **The mark of the beast** vs the **sign** of God (**Rev 13:16; 14:9; Ex 13:6-9; 31:13, 17; Deut 6:5-8; 11:18**).
- **The image of the beast** (**Rev 13:14-15; 14:9**).
- **The number of his name**; calculate the number; of a man – **666** (**Rev 13:17-18**).
- The Book of Revelation Unveiled (p.51 – *The mark and number of the Beast*)
<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-book-of-revelation-unveiled/the-mark-and-number-of-the-beast>



God's Work during the Tribulation

- What was taught by the Church of God (as a physical organization on the earth) enters a different phase.
- A portion of the church has been protected from "**the presence of the serpent**" (**Rev 12:14**).
- The rest of the church is persecuted by "**the dragon**" (**Rev 12:9, 17**).
- What was freely taught by the Church as a physical organization now becomes a work **underground** because there is a **famine "of hearing the words of the Lord"** (**Amos 8:11**).
- With the destruction of the Church as an organized physical entity (**Dan 12:7**), God is not hindered to preach a warning.
- The Two Witnesses appear during these 3½ years and they *will not be "cancelled"* (**Rev 11: 3, 5**).
- The Two Witnesses frustrate the Beast and the False Prophet (**Rev 11:7**).



The king of the South pushes

- The beast receives great power from Satan (**Rev 13:4**).
- The second beast uses the power of the first beast, performs great miracles, and causes the whole earth to worship the first beast (**Rev 13:12-13**).
- But the King of the South (Sunni's ?) pushes against the first beast (King of the North) – (**Dan. 11:40**).
- Read the Bible study guide *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy*, chapter "*The Coming of Islam*", for further explanation:
<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-middle-east-in-bible-prophecy/the-coming-of-islam>



The 6th seal – the heavenly signs

- **The 6th seal:** The heavenly signs signal the beginning of God’s wrath – the great day of His wrath has come” (Rev 6:12, 16-17).
- The effectiveness of the tribulation is abridged / curtailed (Mat 24:22 – G2856 – koloboo – mutilate, shorten, abridge, curtail).
- Otherwise “no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”
- The wrath of God will be poured on the Day of the Lord (the 7th seal), which consists of 7 Trumpets.
- **Joel 2:31** – “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.”



The heavenly signs and God’s wrath

- A day for a year (Num 14:34; Ezek 4:4-7).
- The day of the Lord is symbolized by the **7th seal** which unveils the 7 Trumpets.
- The last Trumpet symbolizes the first resurrection and Christ’s coming.
- The last Trumpet unveils the 7 Last Plagues which complete the wrath of God (Rev 15:1).
- Gr 5055 – *teleo* = to bring to a close, to finish, to end.
- However, before the wrath of God is poured on the earth, those that repented during the Great Tribulation will be sealed (protected from the effect of these Trumpets).



Many will repent during the Tribulation

- Although the whole world will be deceived, there will be many people that had been called (during the work of the Church era) – or are being called during the Great Tribulation.
- They will now realize they should have acted, but now during the Tribulation will repent.
- **Mat 22:14** – “For many are called, but few are chosen.” Note the context of this parable! (v. 5-10).
- That is why we preach the gospel *as a witness to the world* before the Great Tribulation. They will be given a hope (maybe by the Two Witnesses) not to give up during these horrible days.
- God always gives people a chance to repent (Lev 26:40-42, 44).
- Who knows if God will relent? Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! (Joel 2:1-2, 10-11, 12-14, 31-32).



Many will repent during the Tribulation

- Before God punishes the world with His wrath, He will also protect (seal) those who repent during the Great tribulation (**Rev 7:1-3**).
- Who are they? (**Rev 7:13-14**).
- Two groups: 144,000 Israelites (**Rev 7:4**) and a great multitude of gentiles (**Rev 7:9**).
- Joseph and Manasseh! But the tribe of Dan is not represented amongst the 144,000.
- ‘washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God...’ (**Rev 7:13-15**).
- **Do these people need to be (at this stage) spiritual beings?**
If they are spiritual, why do they need to be sealed?



An afflicted and poor people (Zeph 3:12)

- **1 Pet 1:17-19** – Today we are redeemed by Christ’s blood.
- **Heb 10:14** – Christ has perfected us forever, but we are still being sanctified.
- **Heb 10:19-22** – We enter today (spiritually speaking) in the Holy of Holies by Jesus Christ’s blood, having our hearts and body washed with pure water.
- These in **Rev 7:13-15** are physical beings which need to be sealed – so that they do not suffer the punishments of God’s wrath. That way, Jesus Christ will guide them to the fountains waters (**Rev 7:16-17**).
- **Rev 7:16-17** is a quote from **Is 49:10**. Let us see the context of **Is 49:8-13**.
- The context is the second Exodus: **Jer 31:6-10; Is 11:11; 43:5-7; Jer 16:14-15; Hosea 11:11; Zech 10:8-12**.
- Now, God’s wrath (during the 7 Trumpets) can be poured.
- We see that the rest of the population from here onwards do not repent!