

God's Plan for the Future

Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

The Tribulation: An Introduction

Selected Scriptures

The Tribulation = a seven-year period of the most severe judgment ever handed down by Jehovah God upon mankind for sinful unbelief and rebellion against His commands. It is the time after Jesus returns to claim His own—the removal (Rapture) of the Church from the earth (**John 14:1-3** and **1Thessalonians 4:13-18**).

The righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world.

Jeremiah 30:7 – *Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.*

Daniel 12:1 – *At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*

The judgments will climax with Christ's return to the earth to fight a final battle with Satan and his evil forces.

Matthew 24:27-31 – *For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (28) Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. (29) Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (30) Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matt 25:31-46; Rev 19:11-21).*

(Matthew 24:21) The Tribulation will be a time "...such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be."

Two characteristics distinguish the Tribulation from all other difficult times that the world has seen.

1) Its _____ will be worldwide, not localized.

Revelation 3:10 – *"...I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth"*

2) Its _____ will cause unprecedented mass terror.

Revelation 6:16 – *"Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb"*

Revelation 9:6 – *"And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them"*

Revelation 5:1 – *Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals (see also **Matthew 24:3-9**).*

The seven _____ judgments (**Rev 6:1 – 8:5**)

1. The rider on the _____ horse

Revelation 6:1-2 – *Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" (2) And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. (see also Matt 24:4-5; 1Thess 5:3)*

2. The rider on the _____ horse

Revelation 6:3-4 – *When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" (4) And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword. (see also Matthew 24:6-7)*

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3. The rider on the _____ horse

Revelation 6:5-6 – *When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. (6) And I heard what seemed to be 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 wine!"*

4. The rider on the _____ horse

Revelation 6:7-8 – *When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" (8) And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth. (see also Matthew 24:7, 9)*

5. Martyrdom of _____

Revelation 6:9-11 – *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 witness they had borne. (10) They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (11) Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.*

6. The _____ of God's wrath on the wicked (see also Joel 2:1-13)

Revelation 6:12-17 – *When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, (13) and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. (14) The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. (15) Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, (16) calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, (17) for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

7. This seventh seal contains seven trumpet judgments

The seven _____ judgments (Rev 8:6 – 9:21)

1. One-third of earth, trees, and all grass, _____ by fire

Revelation 8:6-7 – *Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. (7) The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.*

2. One-third of sea creatures _____ and one-third of ships _____

Revelation 8:8-9 – *The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. (9) A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

3. One-third of rivers and springs _____

Revelation 8:10-11 – *The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. (11) The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.*

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4. One-third of celestial bodies _____

Revelation 8:12-13 – *The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night. (13-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!"*

5. Five months of torment by _____

Revelation 9:1-12 – *And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. (2) He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. (3) Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. (4) They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (5) They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. (6) And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them. (7) In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, (8) their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; (9) they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. (10) They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. (11) They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon. (12) The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.*

6. One-third of people killed by _____ forces

Revelation 9:13-19 – *Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, (14) saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." (15) So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. (16) The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand [200 million]; I heard their number. (17) And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breast-plates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. (18) By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. (19) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.*

7. Judgments demonstrating that Christ _____ everyone and everything

Revelation 11:15-21 – *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (16) And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, (17) saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. (18) The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." (19) Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. (20) The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, (21) nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

This seventh trumpet contains the seven bowl judgments

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The seven _____ judgments (Revelation 16:1-21)

1. Malignant _____
Revelation 16:1-2 – *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." (2) So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.*
2. Poisoned _____
Revelation 16:3 – *The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.*
3. Poisoned _____
Revelation 16:4 – *The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.*
4. Humanity _____
Revelation 16:8 – *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.*
5. Widespread lack of _____
Revelation 16:10-11 – *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish (11) and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.*
6. Huge military invasion by demonic _____
Revelation 16:12-14 – *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. (13) And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. (14) For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.*
7. _____ earthquake ever, and destructive hail
Revelation 16:17-21 – *The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" (18) And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. (19) The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. (20) And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. (21) And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.*