

Decoding Revelation Week 3

INTRODUCTION: Two Big Questions

1. Do these seven seals and bowls and trumpets happen all at the same time or do they happen one after the other?
2. Talking about this great time of terror that's going to come on the earth, when does the rapture of God's people, the church, take place in all of this?

Pre-tribulation View

Mid-tribulation View

Post-tribulation View

Four Reasons for a Pre-tribulation View –

1. The unexpected nature of the rapture.
2. The fact that we're told in scripture that we will be protected from God's wrath as believers.
3. As you read through Revelation, it just seems that the Christians that are on the earth during the time of tribulation are all people who have been saved during that time.
4. The fact that many people believe that one of the reasons this time of tribulation is going to happen is because the church is taken out of the world.

Two Reasons against a Pre-tribulation view.

1. Because of the arrogance of some teachers who teach this view.
2. The fearfulness of believers about this issue.

I. THE 7 SEALS

1. The White Horse: Conquest

2. The Red Horse: War

3. The Black Horse: Famine

4. The Pale Horse: Death

5. The martyrs asking, "How long?"

Who are these martyrs?

What altar are they under?

6. Signs in the Sun, earth, moon, stars and sky.

3 TYPES OF SIGNS:

- Signs **pointing to** the end.

“Jesus said to them: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.’” Mark 13:5-8 (NIV)

- Signs **immediately precede** the end time events.

“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,” Matt. 24:10-12 (NIV)

- Signs **accompanying** the end time events

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.” Luke 21:25 (NIV)

“Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” Luke 21:26-27 (NIV)

II. THE VIEW FROM HEAVEN

Three different groups that teach a powerful truth about God...

1. 4 angels: **God in Control**.
2. 144,000 saints on earth: **Salvation**.
3. A multitude of believers in heaven: **God will not fail**.

The 7th seal contains **seven trumpets judgment**.