

# WHEN DOES THE WRATH OF THE LAMB START?

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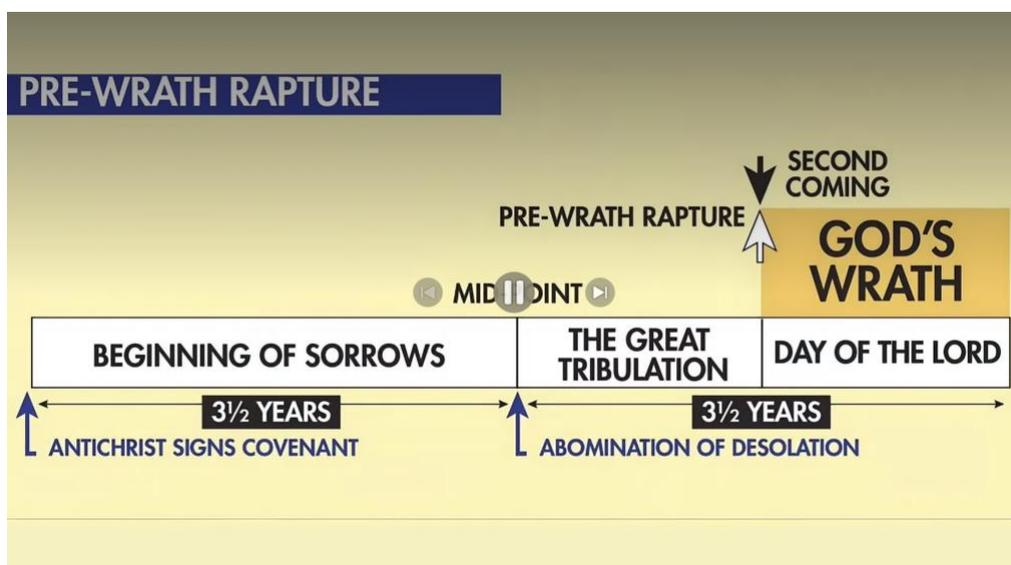
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We've been reviewing the Rapture. Many people talk of a 7 year Tribulation period and believe that the Rapture will take place just before. Known as the "Pre-Trib" view.

Some believe the Rapture will take place right at the very end of 7 years of Tribulation.

However there is no scripture anywhere which explicitly identifies any 7 year Tribulation .

As we saw last week ... **Jesus said that the Tribulation — however long — will be cut short!** The Elect will be raptured/rescued "early" — just before God's Wrath begins. This is the Pre-Wrath Rapture. Once the saints are rescued ... the wrath can begin!



But not all churchgoers believe in a Rapture. For instance ... Catholics (>1.2 billion) don't believe in the Rapture. And other groups too.

One argument is that Jesus is coming a second-time. But ONLY ONCE. If He comes earlier for His saints ... then again later ... His second-coming is actually multiple comings?

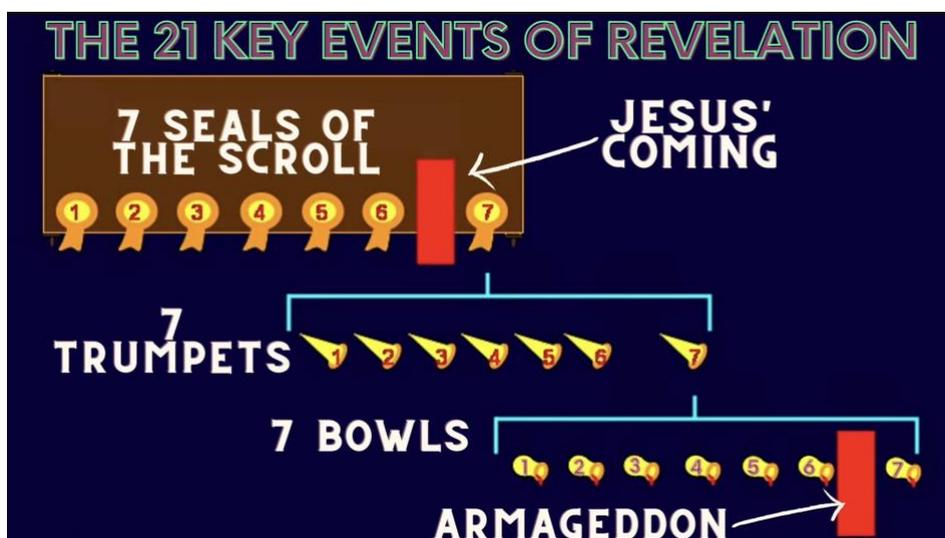
Their view: Jesus will leave Heaven on His White Horse (Revelation Chapter 19) ... come to rescue the saints and ... fight The Great Battle at Armageddon and ... become King over all of the earth. All at the same time ... just one “multi-part” event?

(That’s more or less what I believed for decades). However — it’s not correct. And any attempt to understand the Book of Revelation — or prophecy generally — will end in confusion.

Let’s review!

**The story-flow of Revelation gives us 21 key separate events in a time sequence.**

- 7 Seals ... then
- 7 Trumpets ... then
- 7 Bowls of wrath



**Jesus comes for His saints at Event Number 6 ... then returns to the Mount of Olives at Event Number 20.** They are approximately 1 year apart.

**This is a major key to understanding the timing of end-time prophecy** — so I want to reinforce it!

I also want to clarify at least one of the passages that contributes to the confusion.

### **Revelation 6:12-17**

12 **I looked when He 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**. (*Earthquake — Greek: SEISMOS — could be earthquake or great shaking of anything*)

13 And **the stars of heaven fell to the earth**, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. (*Like a meteor storm*)

14 **Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place**. (*Massive destruction — massive Heavenly Signs*)

15 And **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**,

16 and 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!**

17 For **the great day of His wrath has come**, and who is able to stand?” (*Who can survive?*)

## **EVENT NUMBER 6 — THE HEAVENLY SIGNS — THE DAY OF GOD’S WRATH**

### **Matthew 24:29-31**

29 “Immediately after the (*shortened*) tribulation of those days **the sun will be darkened**, and **the moon will not give its light**; **the stars will fall from heaven**, and **the powers of the heavens will be shaken**.

30 **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven**, 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 His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**EVENT NUMBER 6 — THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SEAL — HEAVENLY SIGNS — THE SAINTS CAUGHT UP BY THE ANGELS** (and off to Heaven through THE OPEN DOOR of Revelation 3:8)

The saints therefore **MISS THE WRATH — THE TRIAL THAT COMES UPON THE WHOLE WORLD.**

### **TWO KEY EVENTS:**

- The **CATCHING UP OF THE SAINTS AND**
- **THE START OF THE WRATH ON THE WORLD — HAPPEN ON THE SELF—SAME DAY.**

### **Luke 17:22-30**

22 Then He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.

23 And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after them or follow them.

24 For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. (*Be very visible*)

25 But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

26 And **as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:**

27 **They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.**

28 **Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;**

29 **but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.**

30 **Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**

To understand the time-line ... it's important to be clear that:

**God's Wrath — the TRUMPET PLAGUES —START THE SAME DAY THE SAINTS ARE DELIVERED.**

Let's review the 2 illustrations Luke used.

**Genesis 7:1-14**

1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female;

3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.

4 For **after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.**"

5 And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.

8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, **(even pre-flood — there were clean and unclean animals)**

9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.

11 **In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.**

12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 **On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—**

14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort.

These verses confirm that **Noah entered the ark “THE VERY SAME DAY”** that the Flood — God’s Wrath — started.

**Jesus said that’s a type ... or illustration ... of HIS INITIAL COMING.**

### **Genesis 19:12-13**

12 Then the men (*the angels*) said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place!

13 For **we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.**”

### **Genesis 19:15-17**

15 When the morning dawned, **the angels urged Lot to hurry**, saying, “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, **lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.**”

16 And **while he lingered**, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, **“Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain.** Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.” (*Lot is being offered salvation. He’s not the most impressive of characters — he is endlessly whinging and lingering — too far to the mountains etc*)

### **Genesis 19:23-26**

23 **The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.**

24 **Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.** (*Similar to Trumpet No 1*)

25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

### **Genesis 19:29**

29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

Lot was delivered on **THE VERY DAY** that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.

Jesus used both of these as illustrations — not merely that **the saints can be delivered from destruction — but also their escape — AT HIS COMING — is on the SELF-SAME DAY** as the destruction of the 7 TRUMPETS starts.

### **Revelation 16:12-14, 16**

12 **Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.** (*This is the 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl — Event Number 20*)

13 **And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, (Satan) out of the mouth of the beast, (the Antichrist) and out of the mouth of the false prophet.**

14 **For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, (globally) to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

16 **And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.** (*Mount of Assembly — Mount Zion — Jerusalem. The key-centre of everything*)

### **THE BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY.**

Jesus fights at Jerusalem — having returned on His White Horse.

Now He is King of the earth! The Beast and the False Prophet are captured and thrown into the Lake of Fire.

**The time between Jesus' initial Coming for the saints (Event Number 6) ... and His final battle in Revelation 16 (which is Bowl 6... Event 20) — appears to be about one year.**

- **THE WRATH OF GOD STARTS WITH TRUMPET 1 — FLAMING FIRE APPEARS ALL OVER THE EARTH.**
- **THEN 6 MORE TRUMPETS —OF WHICH TRUMPET 5 — THE DEMONIC LOCUSTS —ALONE — LASTS 5 MONTHS.**
- **THEN 7 BOWLS — WITH JESUS’ “FINAL RETURN” TO FIGHT THE BATTLE AT ARMAGEDDON**

There are two or three scriptures which also hint at a year for God’s Wrath:

**Isaiah 34:1-4, 8**

**1 Come near, you nations, to hear;**

**And heed, you people!**

**Let the earth hear, and all that is in it,**

The world and all things that come forth from it. (*Listen up peoples of the world*)

**2 For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations,**

**And His fury against all their armies;** (*Wrath*)

He has utterly destroyed them,

He has given them over to the slaughter.

**3 Also their slain shall be thrown out;**

**Their stench shall rise from their corpses,**

**And the mountains shall be melted with their blood.** (*Mountains melted — or dissolved — with their blood*)

**4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved,**

**And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll;**

**All their host shall fall down**

As the leaf falls from the vine,

And as fruit falling from a fig tree.

**8 For it is the day of the LORD’s vengeance,** (*“vengeance” — some translations say “retribution”*)

**The year of recompense for the cause of Zion.**

**Year of recompense. The Year of Retribution. The Year of Payback!**

**Isaiah 63:1-4**

**1 Who is this who comes from Edom,**

With dyed garments from Bozrah,

**This One** who is glorious in His apparel, (*"This One" — Jesus*)

Traveling in the greatness of His strength?—

**"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."**

2 Why is Your apparel red,

And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

3 **"I have trodden the winepress alone,** (*Revelation 14:19*)

*... the great winepress of the wrath of God —Jesus killing people*)

And from the peoples no one was with Me.

For **I have trodden them in My anger,**

And **trampled them in My fury;**

**Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,**

**And I have stained all My robes.** (*Because He has trodden the winepress of the nations*)

4 **For the day of vengeance is in My heart,**

**And the year of My redeemed has come.**

## The year of My redeemed.

Many people blur the scriptures relating to Jesus' Second Coming. It tends to get confused into just one single-day "return".

One of the passages that confuses people — relates to the supposed events of the 7<sup>TH</sup> Trumpet (which carries "unnecessary baggage").

### **1 Corinthians 15:50-53**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—**

52 **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So ... **the Resurrection of the saints** and the change to immortality **is at the last Trumpet.**

Many people carelessly jump to conclusions. “Oh — there are 7 Trumpets ... so the last one must be the 7<sup>th</sup>”!! **BUT — IT IS NOT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> TRUMPET!!**

They then try to fit in the **Catching Away of the saints to the 7<sup>TH</sup> Trumpet** — which ... as we’ve seen — comes about one year after the “real” Catching Away. It all gets very confusing.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 56 AD. There was no evidence that he — or they — had ever heard of the 7 Trumpets.

**The Revelation of the 7 Seals and the 7 Trumpets was to the Apostle John around 90 AD. THE APOSTLE JOHN GOT SPECIAL REVELATION!!**

In Matthew 24 Jesus’ Coming for the saints is said to coincide with a “**GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET**”. **There DEFINITELY IS A TRUMPET — JUST NOT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> TRUMPET!!** 😊

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**

13 **But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep**, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming (PAROUSIA) of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.**

16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**

17 Then we who are alive and remain **shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (“*Caught up*” — *Greek: HARPAZO* — *Latin* — “*Rapture*”)

This parallels 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 and Matthew Chapter 24.

**BUT NOTE: THIS IS GOD’S TRUMPET. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT GOD BLOWS THIS TRUMPET?**

**Zechariah 9:9-10, 14**

9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

**Behold, your King is coming to you;**

He is just and having salvation,  
Lowly and riding on a donkey,  
A colt, the foal of a donkey.

10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
And the horse from Jerusalem;  
The battle bow shall be cut off.  
He shall speak peace to the nations;  
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
And from the River to the ends of the earth.’

14 Then the LORD will be seen over them,  
And His arrow will go forth like lightning.

**The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet,**

And go with whirlwinds from the south.

**GOD HIMSELF BLOWS THE GREAT TRUMPET.**

Yet — if you think about it — the 7 Trumpets of Revelation are all blown by angels. An angel blows the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet (Event Number 14). **THIS IS NOT THE TRUMPET OF GOD!**

**The last Trumpet of Paul — that announces the Resurrection of the saints — is GOD’S TRUMPET. It occurs BEFORE ANY OF THE 7 TRUMPETS OF REVELATION.**

**The 7<sup>TH</sup> Trumpet is blown by an angel about a year after the Trumpet of GOD announces the Catching Away of the saints in Matthew 24 (AT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SEAL — THE COSMIC SIGNS).**

In Paul’s writings ... he doesn’t refer anywhere to a series — or sequence — of Trumpets. Most scholars think he’s referring to the Final Gathering together of God’s people (Trumpets often used in ancient Israel to call people to gather together in assembly).

Jesus comes at Event Number 6 — which coincides with the Heavenly Signs (6<sup>th</sup> Seal). The saints are gathered and meet Jesus in the clouds. **A GREAT TRUMPET sounds.**

God's Wrath comprising 7 Trumpets begins **THE SELF-SAME DAY.**

About one year later (perhaps a little less) we come to Trumpet 7.

Then 7 Bowls.

Jesus and His armies return at the Great Battle of Armageddon. Event Number 20: about one year after the Gathering of the Saints.

**It seems that a Pre-Wrath Rapture is an accurate description?**

