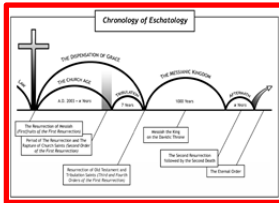


PRAYERS GO UP, JUDGMENTS COME DOWN

Revelation 8:1-13

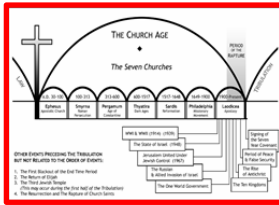
CHRONOLOGY OF ESCHATOLOGY¹

One of the daunting challenges of studying endtime prophecy is keeping all the details in mind and in sequence. Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum and his staff at Ariel Ministries have benefited us by providing numerous charts illustrating the sequence of endtime events. These charts are available online and I highly recommend you download a copy for your personal use.²



The *Chronology of Eschatology* chart gives an overview of the present age and major endtime events. We are living in *The Dispensation of Grace*; specifically *The Church Age*. At any time Jesus could come to fetch His bride, the Church and take her to heaven through the *Rapture* event (Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11). When Antichrist signs a 7 year covenant with Israel, the 7 year *Tribulation* will commence (Dan. 9:27). The *Tribulation* will end when Jesus comes again to the earth to deliver Israel and defeat Antichrist (Rev. 19:11-21).

Jesus' triumph will usher in the 1000 year *Messianic Kingdom* (Rev. 20:1-6). With its conclusion the *Great White Throne Judgment* will take place during the *Aftermath* resulting in the consignment of Satan, demons and unrighteous humanity to the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). Then *The Eternal Order* will commence resulting in the new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem (Rev. 21).



The threefold outline of Revelation is given by Jesus in 1:19.

¹⁹ Write therefore

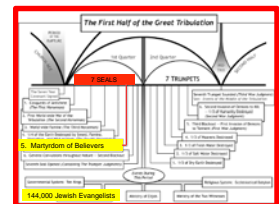
1) the things that you have seen (1:9-20)

2) those that are (2:1-3:22)

3) those that are to take place after this (4:1-22:21)

The Church Age chart focuses on the second section of Revelation (*those that are*) and more clearly shows us where we are in relationship to endtime events. Some scholars believe the seven churches of Rev. 2-3 not only refer to seven churches existent in 95 A.D., but these churches present a prophetic picture of the seven historical periods in which the visible church developed. Accordingly, we are living in the seventh period characterized by the apostasy of the Laodicean church (Rev. 3:14-22). More important for our study are the events that precede the Tribulation some of which have already been fulfilled. The first three of the nine sequential events, what Jesus referred to as "the birth pains", have already occurred in history (Matt. 24:8). It is fascinating, in light of the fourth event (The Russian & Allied Invasion of Israel), to observe the resurgence of Russia under Putin and its recent annexation of Crimea.

Can we not say we are getting close?



The signing of the seven year covenant between Antichrist and Israel on earth corresponds to the reception and unsealing of the Scroll by the Lamb in heaven (Rev. 5:7, 6:1).

The 7 Seal Judgments will occur during the first quarter of the Tribulation (first 21 months). The sealing and mobilization of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists will occur at the beginning of the Tribulation (Rev. 7:1-8). Their worldwide evangelistic campaign will continue throughout the first half of the Tribulation resulting in myriads being saved many of whom will be martyred (Rev. 7:9-17, 6:9-11).

Opening our Bibles to Revelation 8:1-5, we return to the Seal Judgments and the opening of the seventh and final seal.

¹ Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. *The Footsteps of the Messiah : a Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events*. Rev. ed. Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003, page 2.

² <http://www.arielm.org/outlines/o-rev-charts.pdf>

(8:1-5) 7TH SEAL JUDGMENT: SILENCE AND THE SEVEN TRUMPET JUDGMENTS**Revelation 8:1-5 (ESV)**

¹ When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. ³ And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

There is no reason to interpret the half hour of silence figuratively. Why this silence? Perhaps a combination of reasons: 1) the severity of the impending trumpet judgments sobers all to silence and 2) silence is the worshipful response as the incense/prayer is offered.

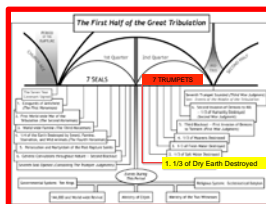
Whatever the reason, silence falls upon all in heaven with the opening of the seventh seal. Seven angels will receive seven trumpets which, when sounded, will commence the second series of judgments upon the earth. The 7 Trumpet Judgments will take place during the 2nd quarter of the Tribulation.

The offering of incense with the prayers of all the saints indicates that the Trumpet Judgments will be God's answer to the prayer of the martyrs voiced in the 5th Seal Judgment.

Revelation 6:9-10 (ESV)

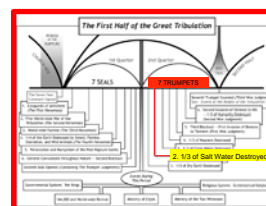
⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

The first four trumpet judgments will wreak havoc on the earth.

**(8:6-7) 1ST TRUMPET: 1/3 OF DRY EARTH DESTROYED****Revelation 8:6-7 (ESV)**

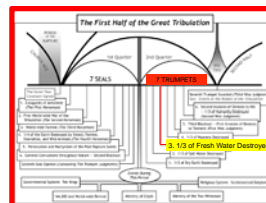
⁶ Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. ⁷ The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was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

When the first trumpet is sounded, 1/3 of the earth's land surface will be destroyed.

**(8:8-9) 2ND TRUMPET: 1/3 OF SALT WATER DESTROYED****Revelation 8:8-9 (ESV)**

⁸ 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.

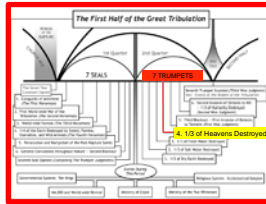
When the second trumpet sounds 1/3 of the salt waters are destroyed including sea life and shipping. The *great mountain* may refer to a meteor or a volcano. The turning of the sea into blood indicates God's supernatural involvement and reminds us of the plagues God brought to bear on Egypt at the Exodus.

**(8:10-11) 3RD TRUMPET: 1/3 OF FRESH WATER DESTROYED****Revelation 8:10-11 (ESV)**

¹⁰ 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.

When the third trumpet sounds 1/3 of the earth's fresh water will be destroyed; it will be made bitter and poisonous and lead to the deaths of many. If *star* is being used figuratively it would indicate that

Wormwood is a fallen angel who will be allowed to poison the waters. If it is not figurative, star most likely refers to an asteroid that hits the earth and destroys, among other things, 1/3 of the fresh water lakes and rivers.



(8:12) 4TH TRUMPET: 1/3 OF HEAVENS DESTROYED

Revelation 8:12 (ESV)

¹² *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.*

When the fourth trumpet is sounded, 1/3 of the earth's light sources will be destroyed. This does not mean that 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars are destroyed, but that 1/3 of their light is prevented from reaching the earth. As a result total daylight time will be reduced by 33% and total nightlight time will be reduced by 33%.

As terrible as the first four trumpet judgments will be, the remaining three judgments are far worse. To underscore this, God will warn mankind of the impending disaster through an usual messenger.

(8:13) EAGLE MESSENGER CRIES WOE

Revelation 8:13 (ESV)

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

The remaining trumpet judgments will be far worse than the first four. The eagle messenger serves to warn the inhabitants of earth that great suffering is coming.

REFLECTION

Revelation 8:4 indicates that the Trumpet Judgments are related to the prayers of the saints. In Revelation 6:10 the martyred tribulation saints cry out to God to judge their persecutors and avenge their murders. The Trumpet Judgments are God's answer to saints' plea.

This is an encouraging thought: we can trust that God will judge and punish evil. Ultimately justice will be served. This is a comfort for all Christians who suffer persecution for the name of Christ. It is also the key to forgiveness.

Because God is just and will make sure justice is served, we can release to Him our desire to punish those who wrong us. God has sworn to make things right. Forgiveness is claiming God's promise, releasing to Him our desire to punish and being freed to love those who hurt us by doing good to them. This is what we are taught in Romans 12:9-21.

Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)

⁹ *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* ¹⁰ *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* ¹¹ *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.* ¹² *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* ¹³ *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

¹⁴ *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.* ¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.* ¹⁶ *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.* ¹⁷ *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.* ¹⁸ *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* ¹⁹ *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."* ²⁰ *To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."* ²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

It is this confidence that God will make sure justice is served that enables us to forgive and to love our enemies. It is this confidence that God will make things right that will keep our hearts free from bitterness and free to love.