

Some believe the Church will be “raptured” out at the end of Revelation 3, and that the rest of Revelation is about a future Great Tribulation to take place while the Church is at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Since the word “church” (ekklesia) does not appear after Rev 3:14, the futurists assume that the church will be “raptured” out in Rev 4:1.

They also believe that the rest of Revelation will be fulfilled in a “Great Seven-Year Tribulation” to take place at the end of the Christian Era and a 1000 year Reign of Christ at the end of it.

Well, in a way they are right. The Church will indeed be taken to be with the Lord at Rev 4:1, but they miss the fact that the Church will also be taken up in Rev 11:12 and Rev 14:16. I quote:

Rev 4:1 . . . and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither.

Rev 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither.

Rev 14:16 And he (Jesus) that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped (the saints).

Now these are not three different events, as some suppose. Revelation is actually a series of repetitive prophecies all of which are fulfilled during the Christian Era.

If God used Revelation to only foretell events that would take place after the Christian Era was over, then one of the greatest books in the Bible is not relevant to the Church . . . and the “blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” is meaningless to us.

God is not into writing meaningless books and it is ridiculous to believe that the culminating book in the Bible would not be to, for, and about the Church.

As we have seen from prior studies, the beasts in Revelation are empires that existed during the Christian Era. Those beasts are here now. They are not in our future. Much of Revelation has already been fulfilled..

Leopard-Bear-Lion = the Moslem control of the Holy Land from 688AD to 1967AD

Beast with Two Horns = Western invasions into the Middle East

Scarlet Beast = The Satanic dominion over Middle Eastern empires from 1400BC to the present.

These are repetitive prophecies that center around the Holy Land, “the footstool of God’s feet, forever.” Proving that Revelation has repetitive prophecies is a easy enough.

To show a time-line, let’s begin with the Seven Seals:

Rev 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

“In the Spirit” is one of the signposts showing that the prophet is having a vision and all visions are figurative in nature.

Rev 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon LIKE a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight LIKE UNTO an emerald.

(“Like” and “like unto” . . . are figurative signposts)

From other passages in Scripture, it is obvious that the above verse is a figurative picture of God the Father upon His throne.

Rev 4:4 And I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

(From Revelation 21:12-14, it appears that 24 elders are the twelve Apostles and the elders of the twelve tribes of Israel. Their white raiment being the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.)

Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Ancient scrolls were generally written on one side only, so this was most unusual.

Rev 5:2-3 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

Though Jesus is God the Son He is also a man, so at this time Jesus couldn't open or read the book.

Rev 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

So who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah? Jesus of course.

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain.

And when was the Lamb of God slain? At the Cross.

Rev 5:7 And he (the Lamb) came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

No one but Jesus has been granted the authority to approach God the Father's heavenly throne. Jesus does and takes the little book out of God the Father's hand. When?

Contextually right after the Cross.

Ergo: This prophecy can be positioned at the beginning of the Christian Era. And what happens shortly after Jesus is given the book?

Rev 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

So Jesus starts to open the seals and read them at the beginning of the Christian Era.

These are not horrendous end-time trials that will happen in someone's imaginary "seven-year great tribulation," but the spiritual conditions on Earth during the Christian Era (from God the Father's perspective).

Now we can discuss these seals individually in a later study. Right now we are only showing when they fit in time.

After the Seven Seals comes the Seven Trumpets. These trumpets also begin to blow at the beginning of the Christian Era:

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

Rev 8:3 And another angel (Jesus) came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne

Angel (aggelos in Greek) can be an angel, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, a human minister of some kind, or a demon.

Context shows this angel to be Jesus. Incense here is figurative for the prayers Jesus is offering for the saints. Heb 7:25 "seeing he (Jesus) ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Rev 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Fire from the altar "cast to the earth" is the phrase that positions the Seven trumpets in time. Look at a parallel verse in Luke . . .

Luke 12:49 "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!

Speaking of his going to the Cross.

From Leviticus and Hebrews we learn that the brazen altar and fire are figures of the Cross and Jesus death upon it. And what do we see from Luke 12:48 and Revelation 8:5?

Luke 12:49 "I have come to cast fire upon the earth . . ."

Rev 8:5 ". . . fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth."

From those two almost identical phrases we can position the seven trumpets at the beginning of the Christian Era and see that they began to blow right after the Cross.

These seven trumpets are not some monstrous end-time trials that will happen in someone's imaginary "seven year great tribulation" either.

They are a repeat prophecy about the spiritual conditions on Earth during the Christian Era (from God the Father's perspective).

Do you guys want to look at the the Two Witnesses or any of the beast snext? They are also about the church and show the repetative nature of Revelation.