

20230910 Holiness of God and natural disasters

Revelation 8:7-13

⁷ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

⁸ The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something **like** a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood,

⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky 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 turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

¹³ As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

The benefits of studying the book of Revelation

Revelation 1:3

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

The divisions of the book of Revelation

Rev 1:19

¹⁹ Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

1st division: chapter 1 of glorified Jesus Christ

2nd division: chapter 2 and 3 of the messages to the churches

3rd division: chapter 4 to chapter 19 (God’s wrath upon the world)

Romans 11:25

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: **Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.**

Rev 4:1

¹ After this I looked, and there before me was **a door standing open in heaven.** And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “**Come up here, and I will show you what must take place AFTER THIS.**”

A possible interpretation on the time of the rapture (being taken away) of the church

(1) If the main purpose of the Tribulation is calling the nation Israel back to God through the final 7 years that was prophesied in the book of Daniel 9, along with God’s pouring His holy and righteous wrath upon this unbelieving world, then there is no reason for God to let the Church stay and go through that tribulation.

(2) 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10

⁷ And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

⁸ The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

⁹ for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

¹⁰ and **to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.**

John's vision of the throne in heaven: chapter 4 and 5

Rev 4:2-3

² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

The identity of the 24 elders around the throne of God

Rev 4:4

⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

(1) They are 24 people.

(2) They are sitting on their thrones.

(3) They were dressed in white.

(4) They had crowns of gold on their heads.

Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.**

⁷ in order that in the coming ages **he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,

²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Revelation 21:14

¹⁴ The wall of the city (heavenly city created for the church) had twelve foundations. And on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Jesus is worthy to open the seals on the scroll: Jesus has all the authority in heaven and on earth.

Acts 10:38-43

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and **healing all who were under the power of the devil,** because God was with him.

³⁹ "We are witnesses of everything he did **in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.** They killed him by hanging him on a cross,

⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² He commanded us **to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.**

⁴³ **All the prophets testify about him** that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Birth pang of pain in the 7-year period and the Great Tribulation

Rev 6:15-17

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

God’s grace: The 144,000 Jewish missionaries for the people during the Great Tribulation

Rev 7:9

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

The true world-evangelism during the Great Tribulation

Rev 7:13-14

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of **the great tribulation**; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.