

Student Notes

Understanding the book of Revelation



What the book of Revelation really says.

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Student Notes

PART FIVE: TRUMPETS AND BOWLS

1. Introduction:

If the seven seals show us the final wrath of Satan through the Antichrist the seven trumpets and bowls show us the wrath of God poured out at the end of this age.

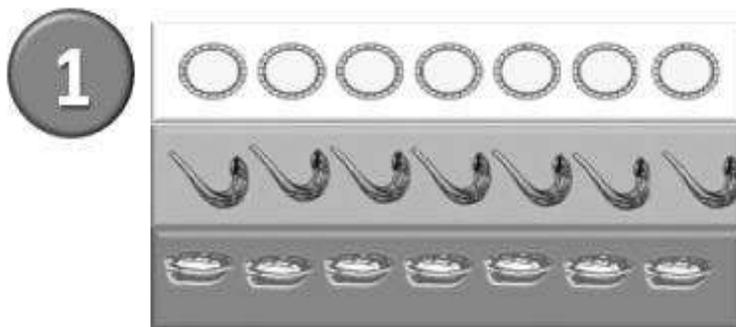
The descriptions of the seven trumpet and bowl judgments sandwich the seven signs that, as we shall see, show what happens in the time leading up to and during the period of the outpouring of God's wrath revealed in the trumpet and bowl plagues.

"Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne..... Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth."
Revelation 8:3,5 (NKJV)

The wrath of God is poured out in response to the _____ of the saints.

2. The Seven Trumpets and Seven Bowls

i. Possible ordering of the seven seals, trumpets, and bowls.



Firstly, is the theory that all three occur _____. However, this does not seem to agree with the text as there does seem to be a chronological flow in Revelation that divides the time of the wrath of the Antichrist (the Great Tribulation) from the time of the Wrath of God, which marks the start of the prophesied end time Day of the Lord.

2



Secondly is theory that all occur _____, that is one after the other. This would account for the apparent chronological ordering of Revelation but has some problems. There are certain events that seem to be the same but described in more than one place in Revelation, such as the great earthquake that occurs with the seventh seal (6:12), trumpet (11:19) and bowl (16:18). In other words, there does seem to be some overlapping of certain events and these must be reconciled.

3



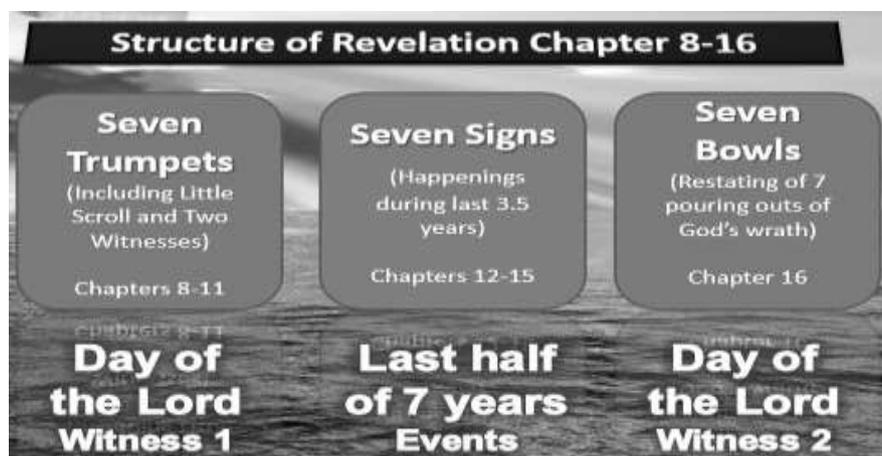
Thirdly is the theory of a _____ of the first two theories. That is, the first six of each series does indeed follow on successively from the previous series but the seventh of each series speaks of the same events. This would certainly compensate for the apparent mention of the same event with the seventh seal, trumpet and bowl but it also seems to chop up the sequence mentioned in Revelation in a rather abrupt and forced way.

4

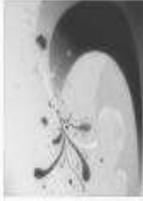


Fourthly is that the trumpet and bowl judgment are the _____ events and follow on successively after the seven seals. This is the theory I hold to as it seems to make the most sense and follow the text more accurately. The four reasons I believe this are:

1. Trumpet judgments end with His _____ coming.
2. Common Jewish practice to have 2 or 3 _____.
3. Great _____ between Trumpet and Bowl judgments.
4. Trumpets _____ and then bowls are _____ out.



7 Trumpets and bowls of Revelation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Man's Environment Plagued</p>				<p>Man's Person Plagued</p>		
 Rev. 8:7 	 Rev. 8:8-9 	 Rev. 8:10-11 	 Rev. 8:12-13 	 Rev. 9:1-12 	 Rev. 9:13-21 	 Rev. 11:15-19 
Rev 16:2 	Rev 16:3 	Rev 16:4-7 	Rev 16:8-9 	Rev 16:10-11 	Rev 16:12-16 	Rev 16:17-21 
Sores on those having mark of the beast	Sea becomes blood and sea creatures die	Rivers and springs become blood	Sun scorches men with fire and they do not repent	Kingdom of beast covered in darkness causing pain	Euphrates dries up and satan calls huge army together to Armageddon	"It is done!" Earthquake with hail and the fall of Babylon
Flaming Hail falls from the sky, burning a third of the vegetation	An asteroid falls into the sea, turning it to blood. A third sea creatures killed	Another asteroid breaks up and pollutes fresh water. Many die.	Sun, moon, stars struck, diminished light by a third.	Locusts from the pit torment men 5 months. Smoke pour from pit	An Army of 200 million, kill a third of men. Euphrates bursts forth	Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Destruction of the wicked, reward of all the righteous.

Why are accounts of the Little Scroll (Chapter 10) and the Two Witnesses (Chapter 11) inserted before the seventh Trumpet? I believe they are inserted here as they are vitally related to the seven plagues.

The Little Scroll reveals the “_____” of the plagues.

The Two Witnesses show the _____ of those plagues.

ii. The Little Scroll

In Chapter 10 John sees a mighty angel clothed with a cloud, a rainbow over his head, His face shining like the sun and His feet like pillars of fire and the voice of a lion sounding forth seven thunders who could be Jesus Himself (the Angel of the Lord) with a little scroll open in His hand.

This scroll cannot be the same as the scroll with the seven seals as the Greek word “*biblaridion*” is used rather than “*biblion*” as used in 5:1. This scroll seems to be like the one seen in Ezekiel 2:9-3:3 where it contains “*lamentations, mourning and woe*”. This contains the details of the seven plagues, the wrath of God to judge wickedness and save the righteous.

“Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.” Revelation 10:10 (NKJV)

Bitter = _____ (Isa 13:9-10)

Sweet = _____ (Joel 2:31-32)

iii. Measuring the Temple

After eating the little scroll John is given a measuring rod and asked to measure the dimensions of the Temple of God which will be rebuilt on the Temple Mount during the time of the Antichrist. We know it is referring to this Temple as the angel says “*it (that is the outer court of the Temple) has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months*” (11:2).

This cannot correspond to _____ (Ezekiel 40-48) as this is too big to fit on the Temple Mount (875 square feet) and will probably be the Fourth Temple that will be built during the Millennium. This being the case the temple here is probably a Third Temple built during the Tribulation time allowed under the peace treaty the Antichrist will make for seven years and break halfway through by setting up an image of

abomination in the Temple (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). This Temple will be destroyed when Jesus returns.

iv. The Two Witnesses

After the measuring of the Temple John sees the two witnesses who will rise during this final forty-two months (11:3 – 1260 days). They will probably come onto the scene when the Antichrist defiles the Temple and demand worship for himself.

They are called “two olive trees” which hearkens back to _____

They come in the spirit of _____ and _____.

They come in the spirit of _____ as they have power to shut up heaven (11:6) as Elijah did and the fire from their mouths could remind us of the God of Elijah who answers by fire.

They come in the spirit of _____ in that they have the power “over water to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire” (11:6).

<i>Exodus</i>	<i>Revelation</i>
First Plague: Water of the Nile River turns to blood (Exodus 7:20–25)	Second Trumpet: A third of the sea becomes blood (Rev. 8:8–9)
Fifth Plague: Livestock disease (Exodus 9:1–12)	First, Second, and Third Trumpets: A third of the trees and grass burn up; a third of living creatures in the sea die; many people die from the wormwood waters (Rev. 8:7, 8:10–11)
Seventh Plague: Hail and thunderstorm (Exodus 9:22–35)	First Trumpet: Hail and fire (Rev. 8:7)
Eighth Plague: Locusts (Exodus 10:1–20)	Fifth Trumpet: Locusts (Rev 9:1–11)
Ninth Plague: Dense darkness (Exodus 10:21–29)	Fourth Trumpet: A third of all celestial light darkens (Rev. 8:12)

v. **Where will saints be at this time?** Think about Exodus and Flood.

At Exodus God’s people were still in the land when the plagues came and at the flood it was the wicked taken, not the righteous (Matt 24:27-40)

3. Conclusion:

- a. _____ belongs to the Lord.
- b. During His wrath the saints are _____ – hidden in Christ.

PART SIX: ARE YOU RAPTURE READY?

1. Introduction:

“The dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17

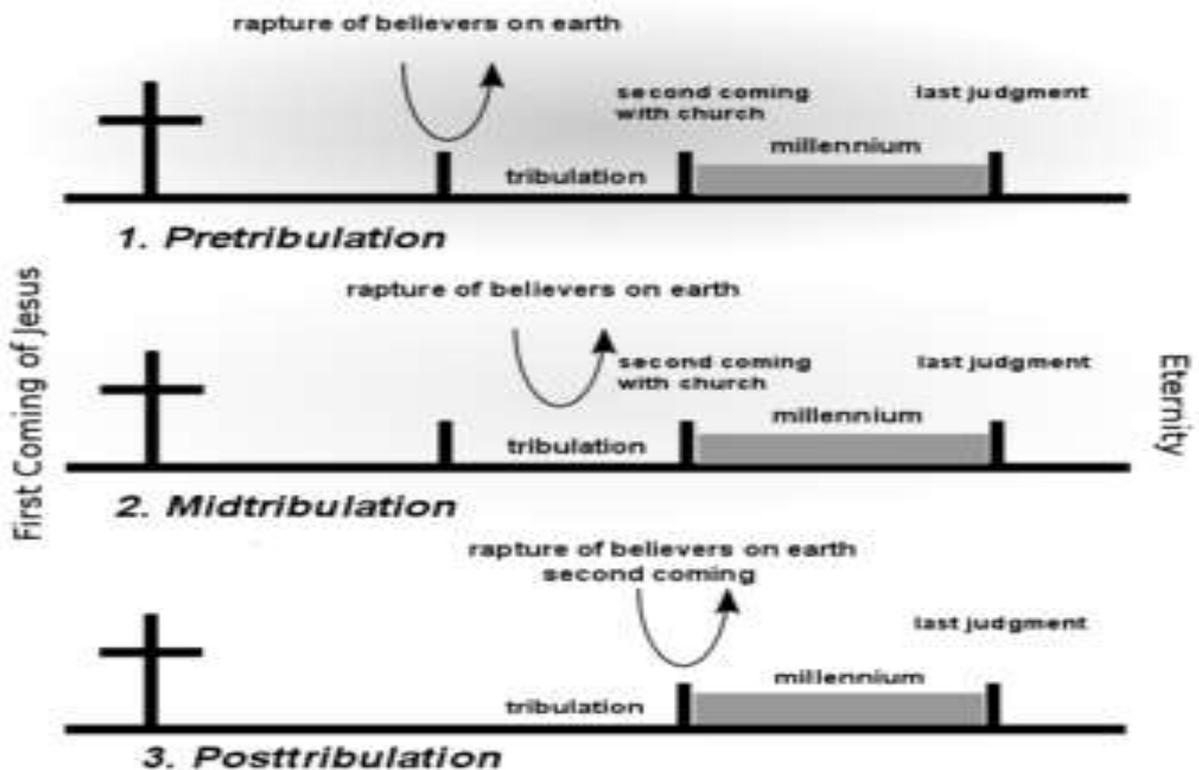
The word “Rapture” is found _____ in Scripture but it is described a few times. The main passage describing the Rapture is 1 Thess 4:17. Indeed it is from the Latin translation of the word “caught up” here that we get the term “Rapture”.

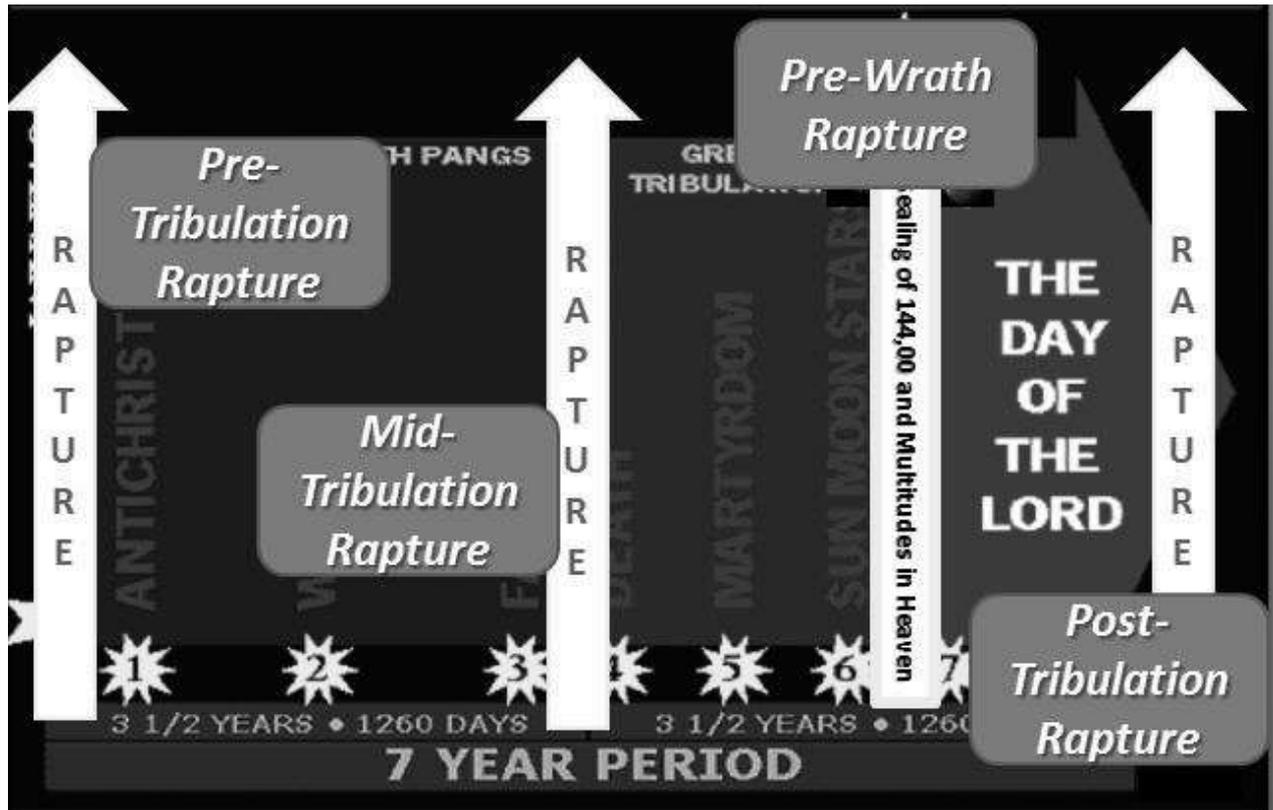
The Rapture is a future _____ up of the Church, dead and then living, to be given resurrection bodies and meet the Lord in the air.

The big question then is not, “*is the Rapture Biblical?*” but “_____ is the Rapture due to happen?”. We will now explore this question.

2. When is the Rapture?

Comparison of Christian tribulation views





i. **Four Theories of when the Rapture is.**

Pretribulation Rapture:

Midtribulation Rapture:

PreWrath Rapture:

Posttribulation Rapture:

ii. Arguments for Pretribulationism

- John's catching up in Revelation 4:1 speaks of Church's rapture before all the terrible events.

BUT:

- There is no mention of the word "Church" during the Tribulation time (after Rev 3:22)

BUT:

- Such passages as 1 Thessalonians 5:9 ("not appointed for wrath") and Revelation 3:10 ("keep you from hour of trial") show we will not go through the Tribulation period.

BUT:

- He will come quietly like a thief (Luke 12:39) and day and hour cannot be known (Matthew 24:36).

BUT:

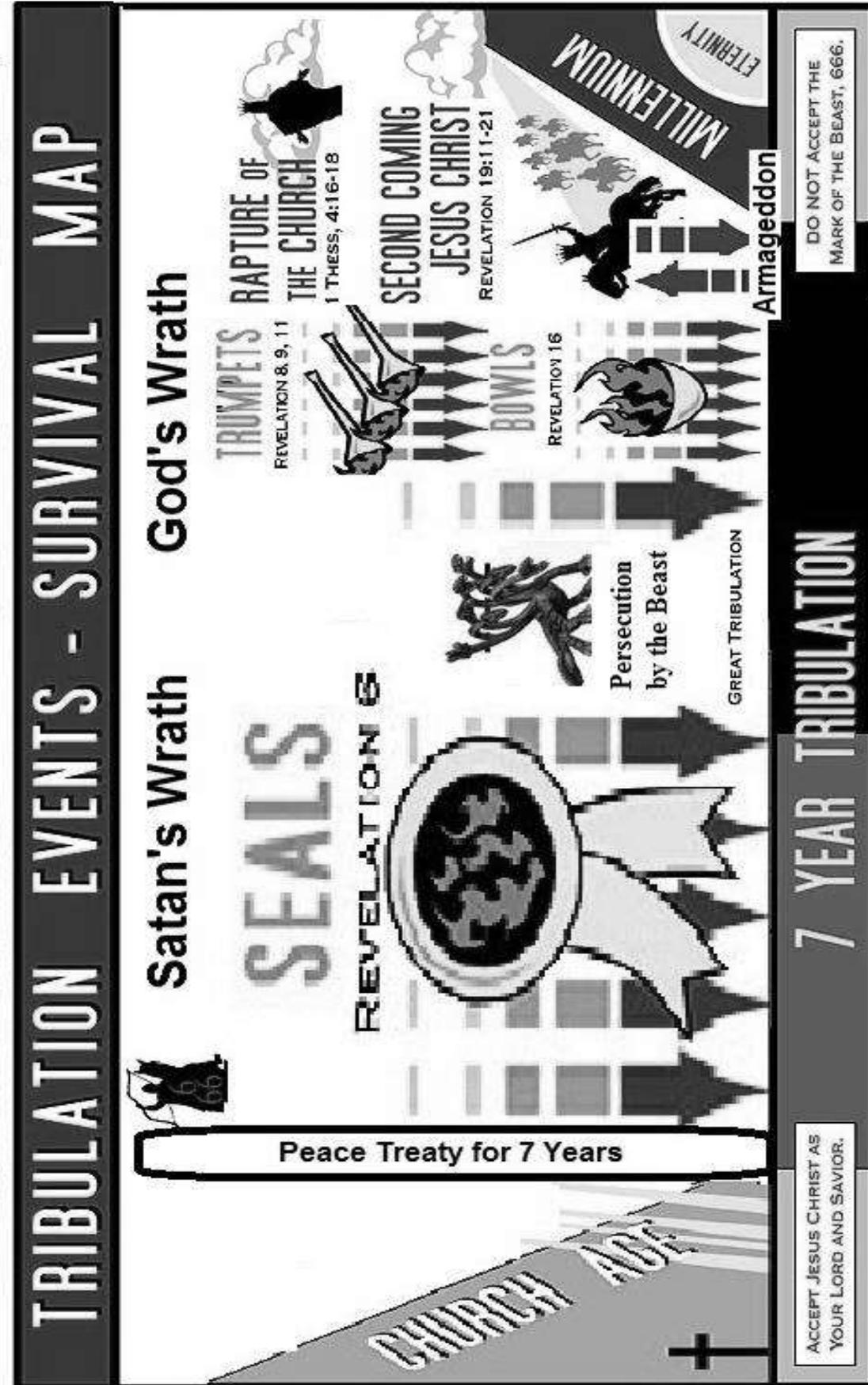
- The Holy Spirit will be taken away after the Rapture so the Church cannot be there (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8).

BUT:

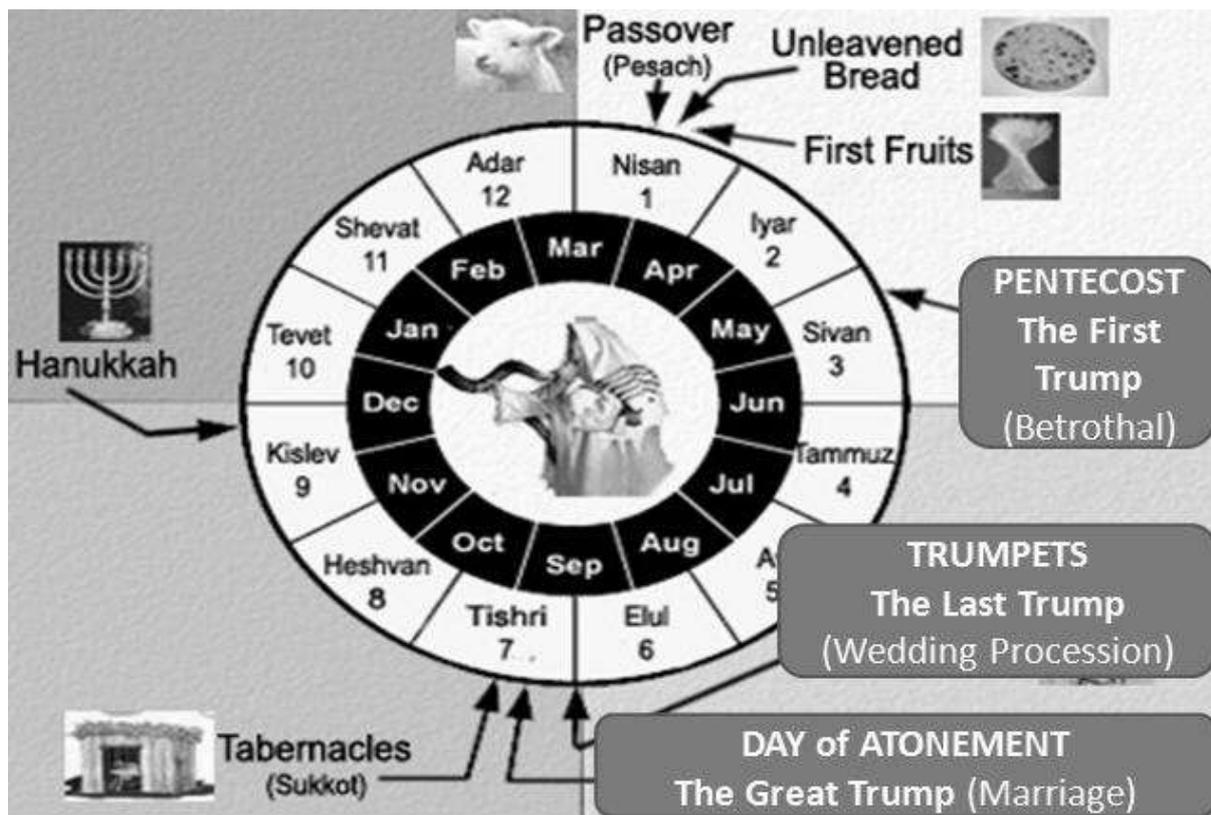
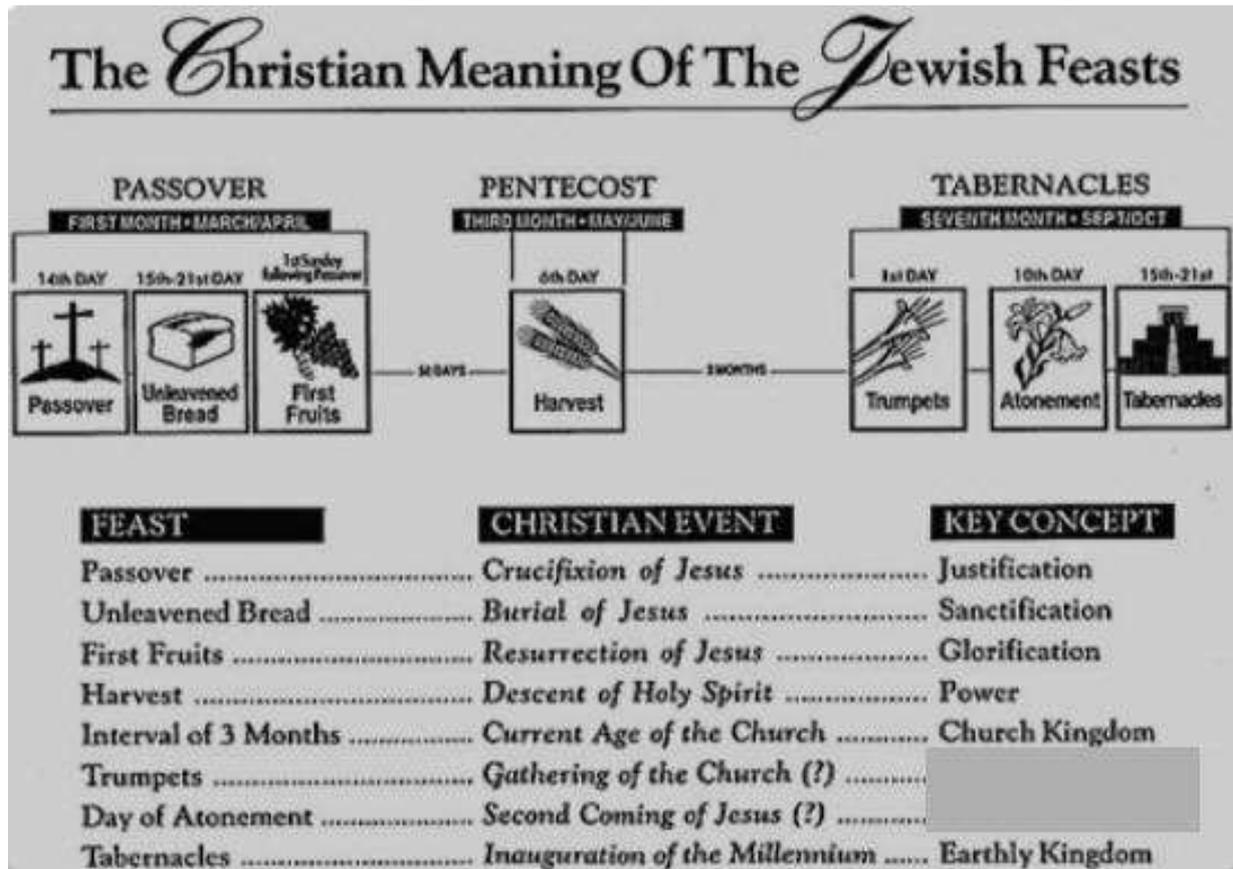
Worst case scenario.

Hence it is entirely possible to draw up a scenario from Scripture where the Rapture happens at the end of the Great Tribulation time, even at the end of the pouring out of God's wrath (Trumpet and Bowl judgments). The next chart shows the worst case scenario where the Second Coming of Jesus is all one event, the Rapture being at the same time as His coming in power and glory to execute final judgment at Armageddon with His saints.

This would mean the Church has to go through Satan's wrath (especially the Great Tribulation) and may even have to endure the time of the outpouring of God's wrath with the Trumpet/Bowl judgments.



Prophetic Seasons



Hence, it seems possible that Scripture is pointing towards the Return of Christ as being at the Great Trumpet (Day of Atonement), immediately preceded by the Rapture of the Saints (a bodily resurrection and catching up into the air) sometime during the ten days Feast of Trumpets (the Last Trump). All of this will be at the end of the seven year Tribulation, after the Great Blackout and at the end of the Trumpet and Bowl judgments.

The _____ Trump:

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:52

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and **with the trump of God**: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The _____ Trump

*“Immediately after the 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. 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. 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.”* Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)

Rapture of the _____ happens just as the 7th Trumpet (Great Trump?) is about to be blown (Rev 11:11-15) – Is this same time as Rapture of all? (both 144,000 Jews and rest of saints)

3. Conclusion: Are You Rapture Ready?

How to prepare for the Rapture?

1. Be _____ Again and _____-Filled.
2. Be prepared for the worst case scenario (“are you prepared to _____ for your faith?”).
3. _____ as though Christ is coming back today but _____ as though He will not come back for many years.
4. Learn to live by _____.