

Seven Churches of Revelation

Judgements

Pastor Craig Sweeney | August 21, 2022

Series Thread: “The revelation of Jesus” unravels the knots in my mind and heart.

Message Thread: Revelation prepares your mind to be ready.

We have seen a number of passages comforting the church about the coming Great Tribulation.

- “And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.” Romans 5:9 ESV
- I Thessalonians 4:16 – 18, I Thessalonians 1:10, I Thessalonians 5:9 – 11 ESV

Critical to know for the coming visions:

- Revelation’s visions are given in the eastern mindset of time.
 - Western: Linear - Emphasis on the sequence of events to create a timeline from start to finish.
 - Eastern: Holistic - Emphasis on seeing the whole picture. Timeline details are important but less important than what the whole picture is meant to convey.

Events during the Great Tribulation:

- The 7 Seals - Play out over the course of the 7 years
- The 7 Trumpets - Play out over the course of the 7 years
- The 7 Bowls - Play out over the course of the 7 years
- The 7 Thunders - Takes place between the 6th and 7th trumpet
 - when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down...” Revelation 10:4-11 ESV
- The 2 Witnesses - Takes place between the 6th and 7th trumpet
 - Revelation 11:1-14 ESV

The Placement of The Rapture

Post-Tribulation ruled out

- Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God...” Revelation 21:9-10 ESV

- The Church is already raptured (with God) at the time before the 7 Bowls of Judgement are poured out. This is around the midpoint of the Great Tribulation period.

Mid-Tribulation ruled out

- Revelation 12:1-17 ESV

Pre-Tribulation remains

- “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.” Revelation 3:10 ESV
- Insights:
 - Those who follow Jesus are to be comforted by this knowledge.
 - God’s justice and judgement is coming; we are simply awaiting the trial.
 - God offers His Grace even in the time of judgement.
 - What are we, the Church, to do with this knowledge?
 - “...love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.³⁸ this is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-40 NLT
 - “Follow me...” Matthew 4:19 ESV, Shine bright - “This will be your opportunity to bear witness.¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer...” Luke 21:13-14 ESV
 - Be a people who walk with God in their generation.
 - Sardis - Revelation 3:1-5 ESV

Challenge:

- What have the words of Jesus exposed?
- Will you place your FAITH in what has been revealed?
- How does the revelation of Jesus enable you to remain faithful?



**DEVOTIONALS
& MESSAGE
RESOURCES**