

Global Endtime Trend - Overview (Rev 6 & Zech 6, 12)



It is human nature to want to know the future, and at the same time, we don't want to know. We all want to hear good news, but not bad news. Often silence falls on a family after a grim diagnosis from a doctor. However, when you know the worst, you can prepare for the future. Only God knows the future absolutely, and He lets us know what we need to know. God is a realist, and He wants us to be ready and overcome even in the most challenging times in the future.

A. REVELATIONS 6 - Three Sets of Judgment Series – 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls

1. In the book of Revelation, there are three sets of judgments. They unfold sequentially 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 in order as 7 seal judgements (Rev 6), 7 trumpet judgements (Rev 8-9) and 7 bowl judgements (Rev 15-16).
 - i. The 7 seals 'alert' (*Jesus' message to the world*), and prepare the nations for God's glory (Rev 6).
 - ii. The 7 trumpets 'warn' of more severe judgements to come, and gather, direct and deliver the saints (*Josh 6; Num 10:1-10; Ezek 33:1-11; Rev 8-9*).
 - iii. The 7 bowls of wrath 'destroy', poured out in fullness upon the Antichrist Empire without delay, targeting his resources and his followers (Rev 15-16).
2. All 21 judgments are **(i) divine** (designed and released by God, Rev 5:1), **(ii) good** (motivated by love, 1 Jn 4:8), **(iii) just** (not lenient nor severe, Rev 15:3), **(iv) literal** (actual real events), **(v) future** (prophecy and fulfilment), **(vi) numbered** (released sequentially), **(vii) progressive** (intensifying in severity as they unfold), **(viii) prophetic** (each contains a message Isa 26:9; Rev 16:4-7), and simultaneously **(ix) punitive** (Isa 13:11) and **(x) redemptive** (Isa 26:9) in that all 21 events are designed to create a global crisis, resulting in the salvation of many (Hag 2:6-9), while destroying the Antichrist and his empire (Hag 2:20-22).
3. Much like the 'birth pangs' (Mt 24:8; Rom 8:22), the time gap between each event decreases while 'severity' increases. Each judgment series has the 'structure'- **FOUR-TWO-ONE**.

The first FOUR judgements belong together, followed by the next TWO, and the final ONE stands alone.

B. Seven Seal Judgments (Revelation 6)

A thunderous voice called John to '**come and see**' or to 'come near to God' to be able to 'see clearly His plans' (Rev. 6:1, 3, 5, 7). Thunder precedes lightning and alerts the wise of the approaching storm. So, we need to hear the two-fold call of God to *draw near to Him* and to *see through His eyes*.

- a. It takes spiritual discernment to really 'see' these events from God's perspective. His ways are not our ways (Isa 55:8-9). We cannot see clearly by studying them with academic eyes. These events are very offensive to the human mind. We need to receive the mind of the Spirit (1 Cor 2:9-16).
 - b. Today God actively restrains much of the evil in the hearts of the people and leaders and governments (Rom 13:1-7; 2 Th. 2:6-7). However, in the first four seal judgments, God finally allows human beings to reach on a *global scale* what they've always 'lusted after' (*comp. Zech 6:1-8*), the 'lawlessness' and 'idols' of their own hearts (Rom 1:18-32). It will be fully embodied by the antichrist (2 Th 2:6-12 C.f. 'Saul', 1 Sam 12:12).
1. **FIRST SEAL (White Horse)** – *Who is breaking the seal? The Lamb*, the only One qualified with perfect humility. God only has to remove His restraining force to let the world descend into utter chaos. It is already in a mess.
 - i. The horse speaks of '*speed*' and '*strength*'. 'White' colour speaks of righteousness. However, this is false righteousness. Why? (1) Structure (4-2-1) x 3 = 21 judgments; (2) Holding 'arrowless bow' & 'victor's crown' riding on earth in conquest (C.f. Rev 19:11-16); (3) Coming of antichrist as the master of 'deception' ('*sinister scheme*' Daniel 8:23-25; '*7-year treaty*' Dan 9:27; C.f. 2 Thess 2:9-10).
 - ii. 'Arrowless bow' – 'bloodless victories' or 'peaceful conquest' by the use of '*deceptive diplomacy*'? The antichrist will gain in rapid succession the global conquest by the 'threat of war'. E.g., Hitler.
 - iii. 'Victor's crown' (stephanos), NOT 'sovereign crown' (diadem) of Christ (Rev 19:12) 'given' to him,

- symbolizing political/military prominence. Antichrist's '*limited authority*' was 'granted' by God (x13).
- iv. The Growth of the Harlot religion (Rev 17:3-5) and its sudden destruction (Rev 17:16; 14:7) at the beginning and end of great tribulation (Rev 18:21-24; 16:19) respectively. '*The great falling away*'? (2 Thess 2:3-10; 1 Tim 4:1)
2. **SECOND SEAL (Fiery Red Horse)** – speaks of extreme bloodshed. (~fiery red dragon, Rev 12:3)
- i. The Antichrist who began his conquest by the 'threat of war', now advances using a 'great sword' causing national and international warfare, civil violence and ethnic conflict. The Lamb lifts His restraints again and the global mood quickly shifts from '*peace*' to '*bloodshed and conflict*'. (~**WW3**)
- ii. Once the Antichrist infiltrates the nations by gaining political power in the first seal, he immediately strikes every nation that does not yield to his demands (Dan 7:15-27).
- '*Peace and Safety!*' Then sudden destruction comes upon them. (2 Thess 5:3)
 - '*I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth...at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end.* (Jer 25:29-33)
3. **THIRD Seal (Black Horse)** – speaks of sorrow, suffering and mourning due to the famine, i.e., global economic crisis.
- i. WW3 leads to the greatest global economic crisis in human history and the starvation of multitudes.
- ii. A denarius = one day's wage for a man. One quart of wheat = what one man needs to eat per day to stay alive. Barley is inferior to wheat so three times cheaper. i.e., speaks of the drastic reduction in purchasing power. However, luxury items such as 'oil and wine' for the elite ruling class will not be affected. '*Rich will keep on getting richer and the poor will keep on getting poorer.*'
- iii. Timing of the 'mark of the beast'? '*...that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*' (Rev 13:16).
- Fear not! There will be great supernatural provision from God. Elijah was fed by the ravens during the *3½ years of famine* (1 Kgs 17:2-7). The widow was fed through Elijah (Lk 4:25; c.f. Rev 12:14). Jesus fed 5,000 (Matt 14:13-21) and 4,000 (Matt 15:32-39).
4. **FOURTH SEAL (Pale Green, Ashen Horse)** – speaks of death, a decaying corpse, flesh without the blood circulating)
- i. 'Death' claims the physical body. 'Hades' claims the soul of the 'dead'. Both will be cast out in the lake of fire after giving up the bodies and souls of the 'dead' who died without Christ (Rev 20:14). Neither have power over God's saints as Christ rose up victorious over these! (Rev 1:18)
- ii. '*Beasts*' (Tit 1:12) sometimes refers to the '*brutal and bestial nature of men*' (the 'antichrist' and the 'false prophet'). Eugenics? Chimera? '*Death*' can also be translated as '*pestilence*'.
- If so, the *antichrist's political conquest* sparks off → *WW3* → *the collapse of the global economy* leading to → *widespread pestilence* and unprecedented scale of *death*. **Time for us to live in Ps 91.**
- Four severe judgments of God were pronounced against Jerusalem: 'sword', 'famine', 'wild beasts', 'pestilence' (Ezek 14:21).
- iii. With the release of 'death' and 'hades', the death toll will increase drastically over the earth. 1/4th of the earth's population is around 2 billion people. By 2025, we will have 8 billion people alive on earth. (In WW2 ~ 50 million perished. In WW1 ~15 million perished). It will be an unthinkable trauma on the earth! At the sixth *Trumpet*, another 1/3rd of the earth's population will perish! (Rev 9:15). At least half of the earth's population perish within 3½ years. Jesus will 'shorten' that day *for the sake of the elect!* (Matt 24:22)
- iv. Seal 1-4 repeats the pattern of human history - ambition to rule the world triggering off a world war, causing great economic depression, and the widespread diseases and unprecedented level of death.
- v. Speculative question: Which among the 4 creatures broke the seals? (C.f. Ezek 1:10 order?)

5. FIRTH SEAL – the Voice of Martyrs

Major Turning Point: from the natural events fuelled by demonic activities on earth, to supernatural events fuelled by what heavenly activity? *'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church'* (Tertullian).

- i. God is NOT 'angry' and 'punishing' His saints here. But He is beginning to shake the 'heavens' and the 'earth' with new intensity and zeal for His justice (God's just cause) to prevail on earth!
- ii. 'How long' prayers are very common in Psalms: (Ps. 6:3; 13:2; 74:10; 79:5; 80:4; 89:46; 90:13; 94:3) This is not a 'vindictive' prayer, but prayer for the 'vindication' of God's servants and the 'salvation' of mankind.

'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.' (Rev 19:11)

- iii. This is not a 'general reference' to all martyrs throughout church history, but for a 'specific number' in the last generation. Their cry to 'avenge their blood' is not a prayer for revenge, but for justice to be on earth. The Lord's surprising answer was, 'Wait for the full number of martyrs to come in.' God knows that number already.

'I was watching and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them. Until the Ancient of Days came and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom' (Dan 7:21-22)

- iv. The hour of the 'burnt offering' on the altar triggers the Day of the Lord' - 'blood', 'fire' and 'smoke', and signs in the sun & moon) → 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved!' (Joel 2:30-32)

6. SIXTH SEAL – Cosmic Disturbances. Martyrs cry, 'Avenge us!' under the altar. Sinners cry, 'Hide us!' in the cave.

- i. Following the blood of the martyrs and their prayers, the sixth seal initiates a new level of supernatural shaking from *heaven and earth*. 'Sun (black) & Moon (blood) & stars (~figs)' in heaven, and 'Great earthquake' on earth! (Hag 2:6; Heb 12:26-28; C.f. Is 13:9-13). There are five earthquake events (Rev 6:12; 8:5; 11:13; 11:15; 16:18). Of them, three are 'great earthquakes'. Note the direct link between prayer and earthquakes. At this point, every mountain and island are 'moved' (kineo), but not 'removed as in the final seventh bowl judgement (Rev 16:20).

- ii. 'Stars of heaven fell' = 'asteroids' (aster). For E.g. One mile-wide asteroid described as the most dangerous one we've found so far – 'Asteroid 1997 XF11' - is on course for near-miss or collision with earth in 2028. A direct hit will release ~2 million Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs. (Jack G. Hills)

We do not need to fear: '*He counts the number of the stars. He calls them **all** by name.*' (Ps 147:4)

- iii. The sky receded (split, divide) like a scroll, opening a 'window' into heaven and the leaders worldwide witness God's supernatural work (Is 24). We are not told how unbelievers conclude that this is the wrath of the Lamb, but Jesus alludes to a 'sign of the Son of Man' in heaven, just before His return (Matt 24:30). The image of the Lamb and Jesus was seen by many during the Welsh Revival (Evan Roberts) and the American Indian revival (Ps Cornelio Perez).

- iv. Seven categories of earth's inhabitants: (1) kings (presidents); (2) great men (world leaders); (3) rich men (financial leaders); (4) commanders (military leaders); (5) mighty men (civil leaders); (6) every slave (economic slave); (7) every free man (common class majority). *Everybody alive on earth will be affected by this!*

- v. The sixth seal takes place in the context of the great outpouring of the Spirit and the harvest of nations (Joel 2:28-32).

7. SEVENTH SEAL – Incense and Fire from Altar. This is the *final seal* before the scroll is unrolled!

- i. The half-hour of silence in heaven. Customarily priests took a half-hour to offer incense in the temple (Lk 1:9; Lev 16:12-13). It is *terrifying silence* after the thunderous noises of the first six seals. 'Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations.' (Ps. 46:10 c.f. Zech 1:7)

- ii. 'Much incense' offered by an angel comprises the intercession of Jesus (Heb 7:25), the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26-27), along with *all the saints* in heaven and on earth (1 Pet 2:5; Zech 12:10). In Rev 5:8 the golden bowl is *full of incense*. In Rev 8:4-5 the sum of all *incense is rising to the throne*, followed by the fire from the altar cast to the earth to purge it of all corruption (**c.f. Is 6:6-7**).
- iii. The atmosphere of heaven is invading earth:
 - @Throne of God [lightning, thundering, voices]
 - @7th Seal [lightning, thundering, voices] + earthquake
 - @7th Trumpet [lightning, thundering, voices] + earthquake + great hail
 - @7th Bowl [lightning, thundering, voices] + great earthquake + great hail + great plague
- iv. The 7th Seal has 9 components: (1) silence (2) 7 angels are given 7 trumpets (3) heavenly incense (4) prayers of all the saints (5) fire from the altar cast to the earth (6) cosmic disturbances on earth (7) earthquake (8) blowing of 7 trumpets (9) pouring out of 7 bowls.

C. ZECHARIAH 6:1-8 - Four Chariots

1. The Structure of the 8 Visions

[V1] - 4 horsemen (Present: International)

[V2] - 4 horns & 4 craftsmen (Israel + International)

[V3] - Man with measuring line (Jerusalem)

[V4] - Joshua & Satan 'Priestly' (Temple/House of Prayer)

The Branch – The Coming Messiah

[V5] - Zechariah & Lampstand 'Kingly' (Temple/House of Prayer)

[V6] - Flying Scroll (Purging Israel)

[V7] - Woman in the basket (Preparing Israel + International)

[V8] - 4 chariots (Future: International)

- All 8 visions are an 'integrated system of message'!
- Vision 1 and Vision 8 as the bookends. Both are dealing with (i) heavenly 'military horses' (+ chariots for warfare in v8); (ii) on international (global) stage, of the present and future; (iii) with the theme 'rest' [1st vision: the calm before the storm; 8th vision: the calm after the storm].
- v1-3, the content of the revelation; 6:4-5, angelic explanation (interpretation); 6:6-8, further insight (mission of the chariots)

Eschatological
promise of Jerusalem

How to get there:
(1) Temple
(2) People
(3) World

2. Verse 1

- 'Then I turned and raised my eyes...' – transition from the 7th vision into the 8th and last vision for the night. Prophetic raising of the eyes from national to international, eschatological events that will affect the earth and conclude 8 visions.
- 'Two mountains...of bronze' (i) symbolically represent the mountains of adversity and obstruction (c.f. Zech 4:7); (ii) 'the mountains' = Mt Zion and Mt Olive (Zech 14:4; Joel 3:2 – the valley of 'Jehoshaphat' = 'YHWH judges'). If so, the background is the 'Kidron valley'. (iii) Bronze speaks of the judgment. E.g., Bronze altar at the entrance of tabernacle (Ex 27:1-2; c.f. 'bronze serpent,' Num 21:9). [Note: Dan 2:35, 45 of the mountain compared to the kingdom of God].

3. Verse 2-8

- i. Four sets of horses pulling four chariots:
 - Ancient 'chariots' were for military use (~military tank of WW1). It was an escalated form of warfare. E.g., Elijah and Elisha's chariot of fire (2 Kings 1:11; 6:17)

- The four chariots (& the four sets of horses) refer to the all-encompassing extent of their influence as in vision 1 (1:7-11), vision 2 (1:20), Rev 6:1-8, and Rev 7:1. Eschatological ‘four winds of the earth’ C.f. Dan 7:2; 8:8; Jer 49:36.
 - The four sets of horses are the four ‘winds/spirits’ (Ruach) of heaven. The changes in the earthly atmosphere start in the heavenly atmosphere (winds)!
 - These go out ‘from their station before the Lord’ – lit. ‘standing before the Lord’, and going out at the ‘set time’. (Zech 3:7 c.f. Prophets = 1 Kgs 17:1; 19:11; 2 Kgs 3:14. Angels = Dan 7:10; Lk 1:19; Rev 5:11ff)
- ii. Zechariah asking the last of his seven questions. Important additional information is obtained on the direction, mission (extent: the whole earth), and the outcome of the chariots (& horses).

Compare three visions of horses below.

	Vision 1 (Zech 1:7-11)	Revelation 6 (Seal Judgements)	Vision 8 (Zech 6:1-8)
1.	Red – The angel of the Lord	White (false religion)	Red (stayed?)
2.	Red	Red (bloodshed/war)	Black (1 st north: Europe/Asia)
3.	Sorrel	Black (famine/economic collapse)	White (2 nd north: Egypt/Africa)
4.	White	Pale – ‘chloro’ (death)	Dappled or ‘spotted’ (south)
Mission	<i>Local (myrtle) → International</i>	<i>Global</i>	<i>Local (2 Mts) → International</i>
Outcome	<i>‘Rest’ – calm before storm</i>	<i>‘Unrest’ – turmoil before Return</i>	<i>‘Rest’ – calm after the storm</i>

- iii. Could the next war in Israel (‘red chariot’ - Zech 12, Ps 83 & Is 17) trigger the ‘black’/‘white’ horse (economic collapse followed by false religion/antichrist) in Europe/Asia, and the ‘dappled’ horse in Africa (death) resulting in the global events of Revelation 6 (breaking the seal)?

<https://www.charismamag.com/blogs/prophetic-insight/33414-prophetic-vision-i-will-begin-to-manifest-myself-alive-at-the-wailing-wall>

- iv. The events of vision 8, which begins in Israel, signals the global event of the ‘breaking of the seals’. It eventually triggers the return of Christ to the earth (Luke 21:28). Immediately after the overthrow of the gentile evil powers, the Messiah, the Priestly King will be crowned (Zech 6:9-15 Cf. Ps. 2:5-6; Ps. 110:1-7). So, following the 8 visions, comes the ‘prophetic act’ of crowning Joshua.