

“Seven Years That Will Change The World!”

Part 1: “The Antichrist, the Opening of the Seals, and the Great Tribulation!”



Matthew 24:1-29 Revelation 6:1-17

Introduction: “When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3).

I Thessalonians 5:1-6: “But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you!” (vs. 4).

The mistake of many is to imagine the end will just “happen,” or we will be “raptured” BEFORE the great tribulation Jesus speaks about takes place.

I Thessalonians 5:9:

The events leading up to and surrounding the return of Jesus Christ will happen precisely as God reveals in His Word!

I. The Antichrist and the beginning of the seven years ...

Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15:

The “*holy place*” will be the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, and Daniel tells us the “*abomination of desolation*” will be set up in the middle of the seven years.

The “*beast*” is a one-world government eventually led by the Antichrist, who is empowered by Satan.

Revelation 13:2-3:

Revelation 13:5-10: “Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints” (vs. 10).

II Thessalonians 2:1-4:

II Thessalonians 2:8-12: “... whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of His coming” (vs. 8).

To understand these things you must recognize that **Matthew 24 and Revelations 6** are parallel passages!!

II. The Opening of the Six Seals ...

There are actually SEVEN seals, and each one must be removed before the scroll of God’s judgment can be opened.

Revelation 5:1-10:

It is Jesus Christ who is in control and it is HE who opens the seals as the final countdown to His return and the establishment of His kingdom on the earth begins.

There is nothing in Scripture to indicate that the entire seven years is God’s “*Day of the LORD* wrath.”

Revelation 6:1-2; Matthew 24:4-5: The first seal ...

Revelation 6:3-4; Matthew 24:6: The second seal ...

Revelation 6:5-8; Matthew 24:7: The third and fourth seals ...

Jesus gives an overview of the first FIVE seals in **Matthew 24:3-14**, and then gives more details of the last 3 ½ years beginning with **verse 15**.

III. The Great Tribulation ...

Matthew 24:9-12, 21-22; II Thessalonians 2:3 and Revelation 6:9-11 all describe the opening of the fifth seal!

The Great Tribulation takes place at the middle of the last seven years and this time will be cut short for the sake of the elect.

The Bible refers to a specific time of wrath, “*The Day of the LORD*,” that will happen AFTER all seven seals are removed from the scroll.

I Thessalonians 5:9-10:

Believers will endure the wrath of the Antichrist ... the Church will go through the Great Tribulation, and all the “counterfeit Christians” will fall away!