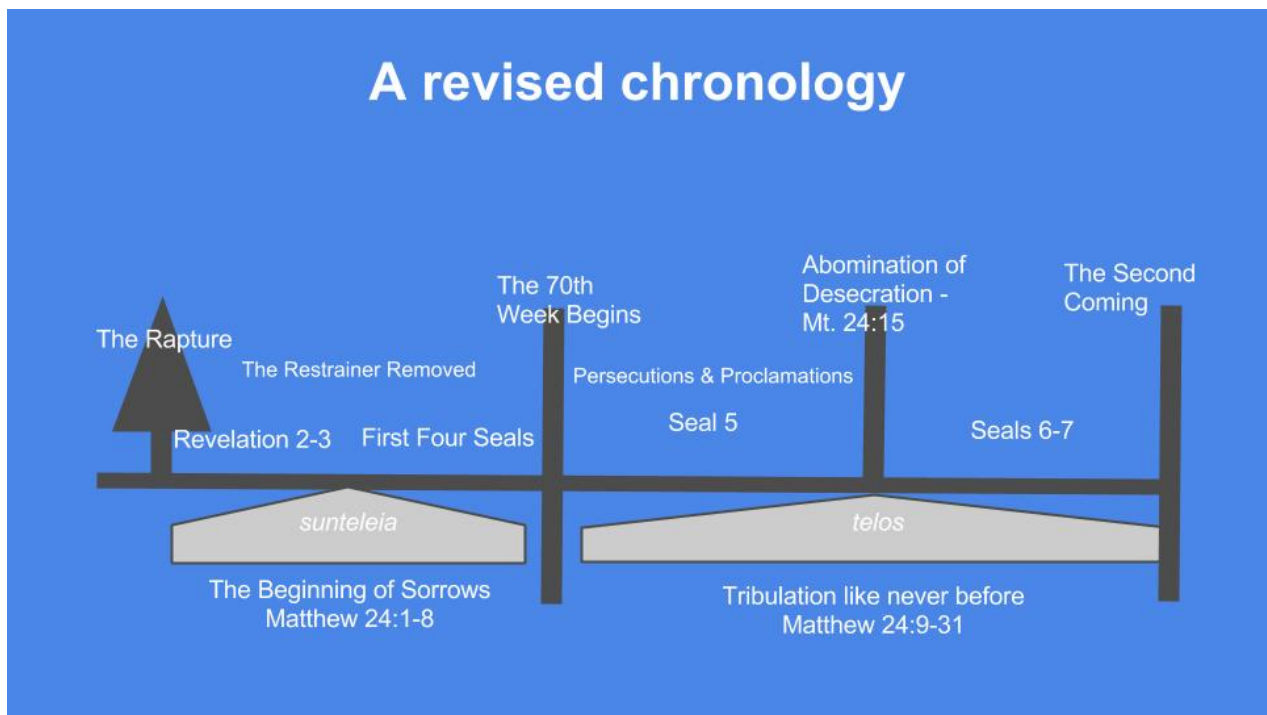


Session 15 | Revelation 6:5-11 | Seals 3-5

A REVISED CHRONOLOGY



THE FOUR HORSES OF THE APOCALYPSE

THE WHITE HORSE | VV. 1-2

- See Session 14

THE FIERY RED HORSE | VV. 3-4

- See Session 14

THE BLACK HORSE | VV. 5-6

- The rider of the black horse has *scales* in his hands. In other passages, this word is translated *yoke*, and would also be a fitting translation here.
- The voice - Only the Critical Text makes this "as a voice" rather than "a voice."
- Where is the voice coming from? "In the midst" not "in the center," which sounds as if the voice was coming from the living creatures, which is possible but not verifiable.
- The price of wheat and barley has skyrocketed to exorbitant levels, indicating severe famine.
- There is a clear *prohibition* from harming the oil and wine.
 - Perhaps because oil and wine are used in worship, or perhaps because oil and wine are of the rich, who may be protected at this point.
 - There is no interpretive grid in scripture, so no definitive answer can be given.

THE PALE HORSE | VV. 7-8

- Come - Only the first four seals have the voice of the Living Creatures and the instruction, "Come!" This is a *very slight* indication that the first four seals are the *allowance* or *permission* for activity on earth, while what follows is the *direct work and will of God*.
- *Ashen* or *pale* is the Greek *chloros*, from which we get *chlorine*, *Clorox*, and *chloroform*.
- After this seal is broken, one-fourth of the earth is dead.

THE FIFTH SEAL | VV 9-11

- The fifth seal is a period of proclamation and persecution.
 - It possibly covers the entire first 42 months of the Tribulation.
 - It almost certainly is in the first half of the Tribulation, ending with the Abomination of Desolation.
- The Altar (v. 9) - Recall that the Tabernacle was a shadow of the throne room of heaven, thus both have an altar. Since an altar is specifically for things *sacrificed*, we see here an altar of the *sacrifice of devotion*, not of atonement for sin.
- Verse 9 clearly tells the *reason* for the loss of life. However, it does not tell us the *timing* of the loss. Several possibilities arise, which should be investigated:
 - All martyrs of all time (this would imply no rapture had occurred)
 - All martyrs of the Christian era and of the era of the first four seals (this would also imply no rapture had occurred).
 - All martyrs of the post-rapture era (since the "dead in Christ" had already been raised).
- Verse 10 has echoes of Psalm 79:5-6, and several other "imprecatory" prayers.
 - It is not a characteristic cry of martyrs of the Age of Grace, who are to *refrain from prayers of vengeance* and, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him..." (Romans 12:19).
 - Note parallels with Luke 18:1-8.
- Verse 11 If "a little season" (KJV) is said of the martyrs of all time or of the church age (see note on v. 9), then it seems inaccurate. The term *chronon micron* is a *micron of chronology*, which would only be true for those who die a martyr's death in the days after the rapture. The phrase can be interpreted using John 7:33, 12:35, and Revelation 20:3.