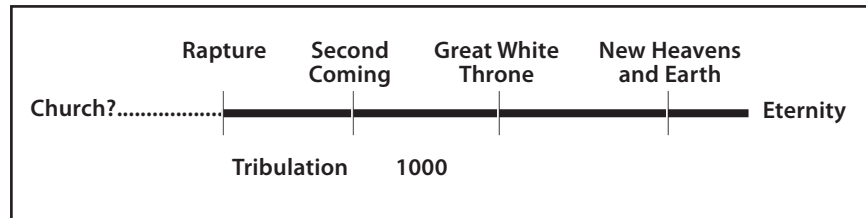


SESSION 3

(Tribulation—Part One—Revelation 6-11)

I. PRAYER

II. PANORAMA MOVEMENT #12: TIMELINE



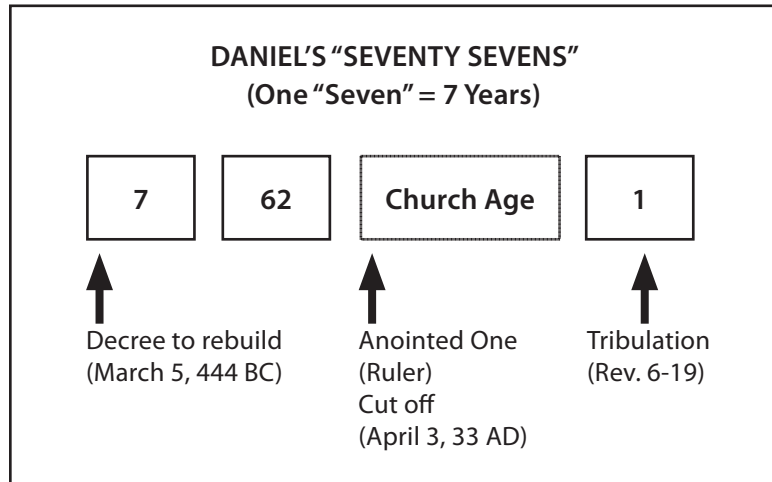
III. THE TRIBULATION

A. Timing (of the Tribulation)

1. The Rapture of the Body of Christ ends the Church Age (see Panorama Timeline above).
2. The Rapture does not necessarily begin the time of the Tribulation. The Bible is not clear as to how long the transition from Rapture to the start of the Tribulation might be (days, weeks, months, years?).
3. The “Covenant of Peace” made by the Antichrist with the nation of Israel inaugurates the time of Tribulation.
 - a. Context: Daniel 9:25-27
*Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. ²⁷He will **confirm a covenant** with many for one ‘seven.’ In*

the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

b. Charted



c. Covenant of Peace

Daniel 9:27

*He will **confirm a covenant** with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.*

B. Purposes (of the Tribulation)

1. To bring repentance for the nation of Israel

Jeremiah 30:4-9

*These are the words the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: ⁵"This is what the LORD says: "Cries of fear are heard—terror, not peace. ⁶Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? ⁷How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a **time of trouble for Jacob**, but he will be saved out of it. ⁸"In that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear*

*off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them.
⁹Instead, they will serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.’”*

2. To try and test earth dwellers

Revelation 3:10

*Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the **hour of trial** that is going to come on the whole world **to test the inhabitants of the earth.***

3. To answer the theological question: “who has the right to rule?”

Revelation 15:1-4

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed. ²And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God ³and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

*“Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.*

*Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations.*

*⁴Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?*

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come

and worship before you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

4. To bring to completion the “times of the Gentiles”

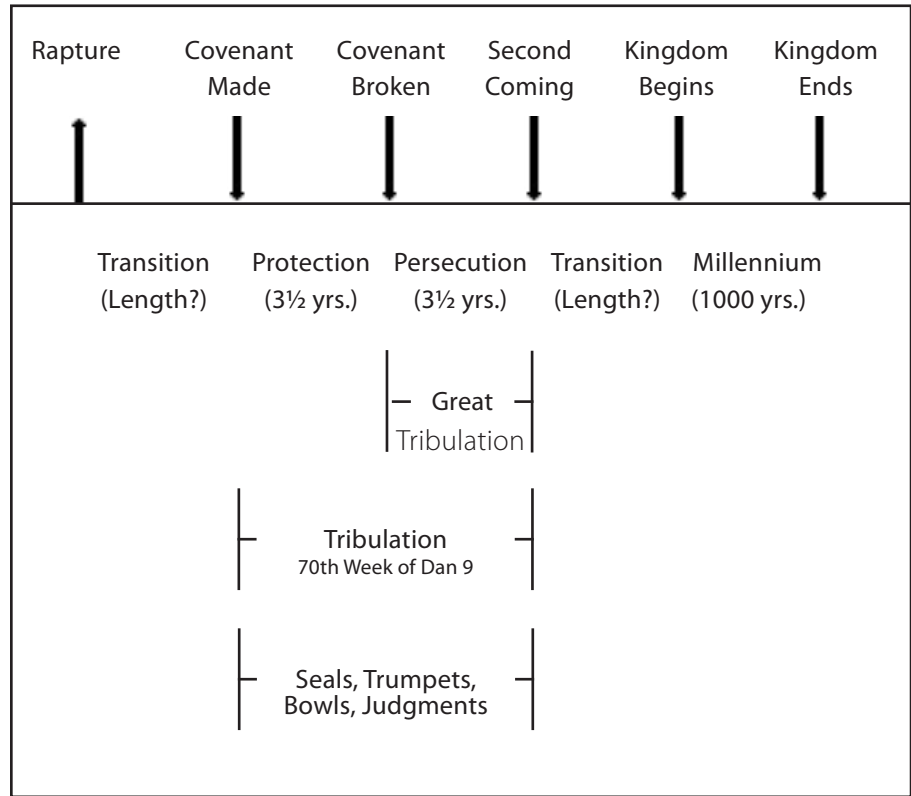
Luke 21:24

They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Romans 11:25

*I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the **full number of the Gentiles** has come in...*

C. Prophetic Context (of the Tribulation)



IV. SEALS, TRUMPETS, BOWLS (JUDGMENTS)

A. Interrelationships: Three Views

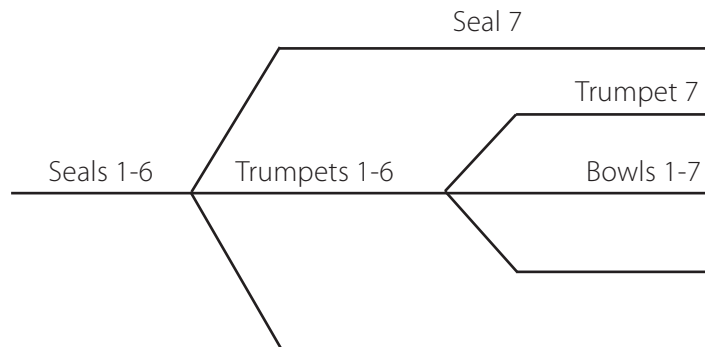
1. View One: Parallel (overlapping)

----- Seals -----
 ----- Trumpets -----
 ----- Bowls -----

2. View Two : Sequential

Seals | Trumpets | Bowls

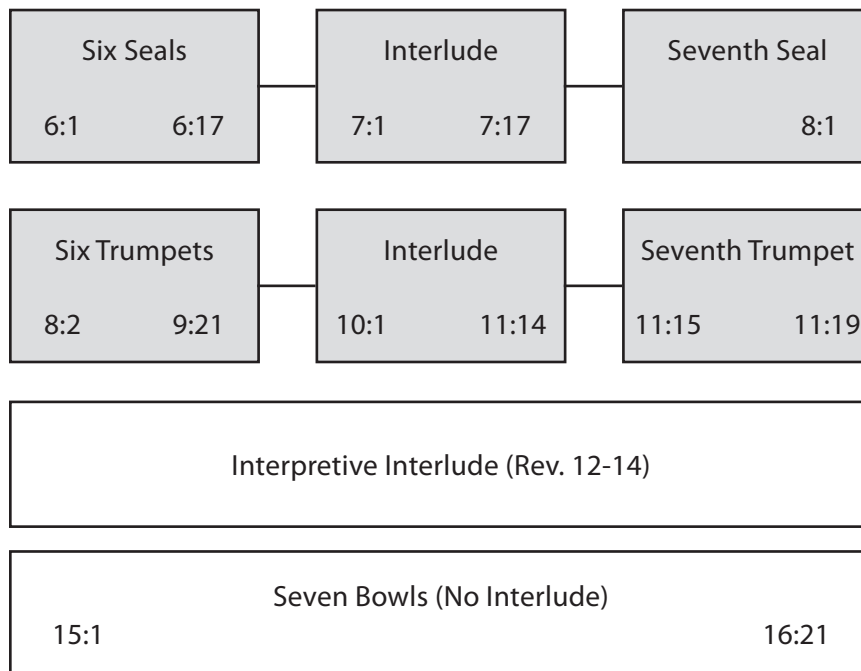
3. View Three: Telescopic



Note: This last view will be the position taken in this study.

V. BIBLICAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Textual Structure: Rev. 6-16



Note: Session 3 of Panorama Plus 12 will cover Revelation 6-11, that is the “Seals” and “Trumpets” judgments. Note the shaded boxes above.

B. “Seals” Judgments (Rev. 6:1-8:1)

1. Seals 1-6 (Rev. 6)

The only one worthy to open the seals (Rev. 5:2-4) is the Lamb. With the opening of the seals, Tribulation judgment begins. The thematic flow of the Book of Revelation now turns from worship (Rev. 4-5) to wrath (Rev. 6 ff).

The student of Revelation should read chapter six closely. To summarize its basic thrust, note the following chart:

Revelation 6				
Seals	Text	Focus	Description	Significance
1	6:1-2	On Earth	Rider on White Horse	Antichrist (peace??)
2	6:3-4	On Earth	Rider on Red Horse	War
3	6:5-6	On Earth	Rider on Black Horse	Famine
4	6:7-8	On Earth	Rider on Pale Horse	Death
5	6:9-11	In Heaven	Martyrs	Vengeance (requested)
6	6:12-17	In Heaven	Destruction	Judgment (enacted)

Notes:

- a. The “rider on a white horse” is often thought to be Jesus as certainly is the white horse rider in Revelation 19:11-19. But there are good reasons to see this Revelation 6 rider as a counterfeit, one who “appears” to bring lasting peace but actually does not.

Hitchcock (*The End*, 279) summarizes the differences between the two white horse riders in the following helpful chart.

RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE (REVELATION 6:2)	RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE (REVELATION 19:11-19)
carries a bow without any arrows	wields a sword
wears a <i>stephanos</i> or victor's crown	wears many crowns— the <i>diadema</i> or kingly crown
initiates war	destroys His enemies and brings end to war
commences the Tribulation	climaxes the Tribulation

- b. The first four seals are commonly referred to as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.
- c. Some scholars see parallel descriptions of the first five seals with a portion of Jesus' prophetic Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24	Revelation 6
• false christs (4-5)	• rider/white horse (1-2)
• wars and rumors of wars (6-7)	• rider/red horse (3-4)
• famine/plagues (7) (cf. Luke 21:11)	• rider/black horse (5-6)
• persecution/martyrs (9-10)	• martyrs (9-11)

The impact of the six seal judgments is described at the close of the chapter.

Revelation 6:15-17

*Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For **the great day of their wrath** has come, and who can withstand it?"*

- 2. Interlude (non-sequential) (Rev. 7)
 - a. Revelation 7 does not follow a sequential, chronological movement. It serves as an interlude to introduce the topic of the 144,000.
 - b. Resumption of the seals (specifically number 7) begins in Revelation 8.

Revelation 8:1

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
 - c. Revelation 7 may be a partial answer to the cry of Revelation 6:17. "For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

d. The sealed Jews (7:1-8)

Revelation 7:1-4

*After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: **144,000** from all the tribes of Israel.*

e. The saved Gentiles (7:9-17)

(1) Identification of the multitude

Revelation 7:9

*After this I looked, and there before me was a **great multitude** that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

(2) Declaration of the multitude

Revelation 7:10

*And they cried out in a loud voice: "**Salvation** belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

Insight: "Palm Branches and Jesus"

John 12:12-15

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

1. Triumphant Entry: "Hosanna...blessed is the King..."
2. Rejection: "we have no king but Caesar"
3. Triumphant Affirmation: Revelation 7:10 (above)

(3) Response to the declaration

Revelation 7:11-12

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,¹² saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

(4) Identification of the multitude

Revelation 7:13-14

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"¹⁴ I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

(5) Privileged status of the multitude

Revelation 7:15-17

1. Before the throne of God: THEIR PURITY
2. Serve Him day/night: THEIR PRIVILEGE
3. God's tent over them: HIS PRESENCE
4. No hunger/thirst: HIS PROVISION
5. No scorching heat: HIS POWER/PROTECTION
6. Lamb shepherds them: HIS PLENTY
7. God wipes away tears: HIS PITY (COMFORT)

3. Seventh seal (Rev. 8:1)

a. Context

Refer to "Textual Structural: Revelation 6-16", p. 35.

b. Revelation 8:1

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

The seventh seal is equivalent to the seven trumpets (Refer to IV. A. Interrelationships, p 34).

4. Six Trumpets (Rev. 8:2-9:21)

Revelation 8:1-2

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

Again, the student should carefully read Revelation 8:2-9:21 for full description of the trumpet judgments. The following chart summarizes the thematic content.

Seven Trumpet Judgments		
Number	Passage	Description
1	8:7	Hail and fire (blood): 1/3 vegetation
2	8:8-9	Fiery mountain falls: 1/3 oceans
3	8:10-11	Fiery, falling star: 1/3 fresh water
4	8:12	Darkness: 1/3 celestial bodies
5	9:1-2	Demonic onslaught: oppression
6	9:13-21	Invasion of 200 million (human or demonic armies?)
7	11:15-19	Kingdom announcement

5. Interlude (Rev. 10:1-11:14)

This interlude separates the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments. From the outpouring or judgments comes a brief interlude of consolation, a reminder that God is still sovereignly in control of world-shattering events.

a. The mighty angel (10:1-11)

(1) Appearance (1-4)

The angel is described as “another mighty angel” (1). Some speculate that this is the angel of the Lord (pre-incarnate Christ) but most likely is not.

The angel carries “a little scroll” (perhaps the scroll of 5:1, though not for certain). This certainly represents new revelation from God; yet John the Apostle is not allowed to reveal the prophetic message (10:3-4).

(2) Announcement (5-7)

Revelation 10:5-7

Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay! ⁷But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

(3) Appropriation (8-11)

John requested to have the scroll and the angel replied, “Take it and eat it.” This metaphorical expression speaks of receiving and contemplating knowledge given. Note the similar usage in the following references.

Ezekiel 3:1-2

And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.” ²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

Jeremiah 15:16

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.

Psalms 119:103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

The resultant tasting of the scroll by John would be described as both bitter (content of the harsh judgments) and sweet (God's ultimate purposes will be accomplished).

Revelation 10:11

Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

b. The two witnesses (11:1-14)

Also in this interlude John introduces the ministry of the two witnesses. Chronologically this occurs during the latter three and one-half years, i.e., the Great Tribulation.

(1) They measure the temple (1-2)

This must be a rebuilt temple, a prophetic necessity (cf. Dan. 9:27; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4).

(2) They minister with power (3-6)

Revelation 11:3-6

"And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

⁴They are "the two olive trees" and the two lampstands, and "they stand before the Lord of the earth."⁵ If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

(a) 1260 days equals three and one-half years.

(b) "Sackcloth" expresses penitence, mourning, and humility.

(c) "Two witnesses" are unidentified. Some believe them to be Enoch and Elijah (as neither tasted death but were "raptured" or taken up to heaven). Others believe Moses

and Elijah (the great law-giver and the great prophet). Still others believe them to be special, unnamed witnesses of that time.

- (d) "Olive trees" and "lampstands" may refer to spiritual light or knowledge, thus spiritual revival.
- (e) As with other gifted and empowered men of the Scriptures, they are endued with the power to perform miracles.

(3) They will be martyred (9-10)

The two witnesses are divinely protected until their ministry is completed. Then the Beast (i.e. the Antichrist) will kill them, display their bodies in the streets for three and one-half days.

(4) They will be resurrected (11-14)

Revelation 11:11-13

But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. ¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. ¹³At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

6. The Seventh Trumpet (Rev. 11:15-19)

The final trumpet judgment also includes the seven bowl judgments (see earlier IV. A. 3. "Telescopic View," p. 35).

a. Sounding (15)

Revelation 11:15

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

b. Responding (16-18)

The twenty-four elders respond in worship.

Revelation 11:17-18

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.

c. Revealing (19)

Revelation 11:19

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

VI. RECAP

A. Tribulation

Revelation 6-19 details a predicted, future time of tribulation unlike anything ever seen upon the earth. The Tribulation is seven years of judgment upon the earth.

Luke 21:22-23

*For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. ²³How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be **great distress** in the land and **wrath** against this people.*

B. Revival

Even in the midst of the seven years of the Tribulation, there will be a movement of God. The 144,000 plus the “great multitude” (Rev. 7) are evidence of this. God always has a faithful remnant.

C. Sovereignty

As predicted events unfold, God's sovereignty over human affairs is confirmed. If we can trust Him to oversee and rule over human history, can we trust Him to rule day by day over us?