

# Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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## What the Book of Revelation Teaches About Jesus' Coming

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“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.”

Revelation 1:7

“Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.”

Revelation 3:2-3

“And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. <sup>2</sup> ...And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; <sup>4</sup> and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast... <sup>5</sup> And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him... <sup>7</sup> And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.”

Revelation 13:1-5,7

“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, <sup>10</sup> he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb... <sup>12</sup> Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”

Revelation 14:9-10,12

“And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war... <sup>13</sup> And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood... <sup>14</sup> And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.”

Revelation 19:11-15

“And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain... <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for 1,000 years, ...<sup>4</sup> ...And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast..., and had not received the mark..., and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:1-6

“And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.”

Revelation 20:11-12

**Studying the book of Revelation can be difficult.** Not only is it full of strange and figurative images, it is also filled with dramatic catastrophic events. **It is apocalyptic literature, filled with symbols and types,** some of which are explained, and others which are not. **It definitely refers back to images from the OT, especially the book of Daniel, and adds additional information to what had been revealed before.** In addition to the menagerie of strange, extreme and other-worldly events, if you take the time to keep track of the timeline, it becomes apparent that **it is not strictly chronological.** **It seems to build to a climax, and then either telescopes into more detail, or backtracks to approach things from a different angle,** introducing new aspects of the picture that is coming together. There are 7 seals, and then the 7<sup>th</sup> seal becomes 7 trumpets. Before the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet are 7 peals of thunder (which are “sealed up”, or not shared with us). Then, when the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is sounded, it sounds like things are coming to an end, ...*but*, then there is an interlude that backs up from that timeline. **It goes back to talk about the spiritual war that happened in heaven, and proceeds to introduce the dragon** (12:3 - Satan), **the beast from the sea** (13:1 -- The ‘little horn’ from Daniel 7:8; the ‘man of lawlessness, the son of destruction’ from 2 Thess. 2:3; the ‘antichrist’ from 1 Jn. 2:18?), **the beast from the earth** (the false prophet – Rev. 16:13; 19:20), **and Babylon the harlot-city** (14:8; 16:19; 17:6; 18:1-24). **The “saints” seem to be present through all of this** (13:7,10,12; 16:6; 17:6; 18:20,24). **The “marriage supper of the Lamb” is prepared, the time has come, and the Bride is “ready”** (19:7-9). We are told, “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” (19:9). **It is not presented as having happened, ...it is presented as ready, and that the time has come.**

**Finally, the Lord Jesus Himself comes from the sky, on a white horse, followed by the armies of heaven, also riding on white horses.** An angel calls forth the scavenger birds to feast on those who would perish among those who oppose Him. Then, the beast and the false prophet are thrown alive into the lake of fire, and **all those who had gathered to fight against the Lord will be killed, and the birds will eat their flesh** (19:11-21).

All of this is very consistent with what we have seen all along. **There will be a “beast”, a “little horn” who will have a mouth that boasts, and will set himself against God, and will introduce blasphemous things.** He will take his

stand in the sanctuary of God, proclaiming himself to be God. In Daniel's vision, he saw four successive kingdoms: a lion (Babylon), a bear (Medio-Persia), a leopard (Alexander the Great – Greece), and a fourth "dreadful beast" with large iron teeth that trampled down the other beasts (Rome), followed by a "little horn" that made great boasts (Dan. 7:4-8). In Revelation 13, the beast from the sea (the antichrist) looked like a leopard in its body, had feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion. **This beast seems to be a compilation from multiple kingdoms. The dragon (Satan) gives it his power** (13:1,2). It has seven heads and ten horns, which seem to indicate a coalition of kings or leaders. He definitely is the fulfillment of the "little horn" Daniel had seen, because it is described as speaking arrogant words, and making great boasts, and **it makes war on the saints**, as the "little horn" had done (Rev. 13:5-7; cf. Dan. 7:25). **There is no hint that the saints are going to be taken out of this world before the end.** To the contrary, they are exhorted, "If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints" (13:10).

**One thing that is new is the appearance of the beast from the earth, the false prophet**, who looks like a lamb but speaks like the dragon (Rev. 13:11-18). **He will do satanic signs and wonders, and will promote loyalty and worship of the antichrist-beast.** As part of this campaign, **he will require that everyone get a mark on their right hand or forehead.** It is either an image of the beast or the number of his name. Without this mark, people will not be able to buy or sell, but God makes clear that those who obtain the mark will be thrown into the lake of fire. **Again, the saints are told that this is a call for faith and perseverance** (Rev. 14:9-12). **Saints are still here!**

**Although there is no direct mention of the "great tribulation" by name in Revelation**, ... a tribulation such as had never been seen before, and would have destroyed all flesh, if God had not cut it short (Matt. 24:21,22)..., **the catastrophic events described in the seven seals, seven trumpets, and the seven bowls of wrath would certainly fit the bill.** We have never seen anything like the disasters described here! Note that **in Matthew 24, it is immediately after the tribulation of those days that Christ returns. The same sequence of events occurs here in Revelation.** *After* the destruction of the seals, trumpets and last plagues of the seven bowls, **a great earthquake occurs, cities fall, islands disappear.** This is consistent with the great earthquake in Ezekiel 38:19, when God judges the nations that are gathered against Israel, ...the earthquake in Isaiah 24:19, when God judges the kings of the earth, and sets up His rule, ...and the earthquake mentioned in Zechariah 14, when Yahweh comes down upon the Mount of Olives, dividing it in two, right before He judges the nations gathered against Jerusalem. **When Jesus comes, the antichrist-beast and the false prophet will be thrown alive into the lake of fire** (Rev. 19:20).

If I were to ask, **"When does the book of Revelation say that Jesus will return? When is it actually described as taking place?"** There is no other description of Jesus' return, except in Revelation 19:11-21. **What is it like? He will come visibly. He will come in power and glory. He will come with His angels. He will come to destroy those gathered against Him.** This agrees with Matthew 24:26-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 1:14,15, and even Revelation 1:7, "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him." **There is no other coming of Jesus known, described or referred to in the Bible!**

**There is some new information given to us in Revelation 20.** We are told that **Satan will be bound in a pit for 1,000 years. Some people**, ...those who are martyrs, those who had not worshiped the beast, or had given in to take the mark..., **came to life and reigned with Christ for 1,000 years.** This is called "the First Resurrection". The second death has no power over those who participate in the first resurrection. **Are we to think that there was another resurrection before the "first resurrection"?** **No. This is the first resurrection!** From Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, we are told that, when Jesus returns, those who died in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive (still here) when He comes will be caught up to meet Him in the air. **We who are in Christ are part of the "first resurrection!"** These passages have to be talking about the same resurrection at the return of Christ described in Revelation 19,20, otherwise not only do we have a supposed, undescribed, "hidden return" *before* the *actual* return of Christ, ...but also a supposed "first resurrection" *before* the *actual* first resurrection described in Revelation. Can you see how ridiculous this is? Can't we just accept what the Book says? **Those who are part of this first resurrection will reign with Christ during the millennial reign over the remnants of the nations** that did not perish at Jesus' coming. At the end of this 1,000 years, Satan will be released, he will deceive many from the nations to gather against Christ. The rebels will be destroyed by fire from heaven, and **Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire.**

**After the millennial reign of Christ, the heavens and earth will be destroyed, and there will be another resurrection followed by a judgment**, the "great white throne judgment". **All the remaining dead will be raised, and they will be judged by whether their name is in the book of life, or not, ...and on the basis of the deeds they have done.** There will be some raised to life, and others raised to death and shame. This is the resurrection spoken of in Daniel 12:2 and John 5:27-29. **God will make a new heavens and new earth**, in which there is no more death, sorrow, mourning or pain. **The dwelling of God will be with people. The water of life and the tree of life will be available to all.**