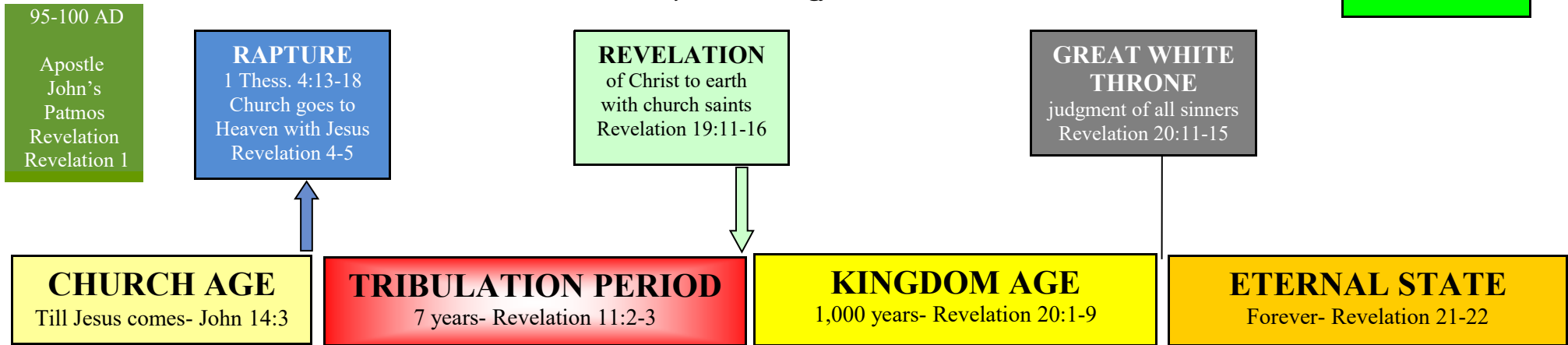


# The Chronology of the Book of Revelation

by Mike Wingfield

**Bible Study  
Chart #301**



**Revelation 2-3**

**Revelation 6-19**

**Revelation 20:1-9**

**Revelation 21-22**

**FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH AGE**

The church age supernaturally began suddenly in one day with Pentecost in 30 AD (Acts 2). The church will supernaturally and suddenly end on one day with the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

At the rapture, all believers who are a part of the true church will be suddenly given a heavenly body and mind. At that moment, they will also be judged, and then immediately transported to heaven to be with Jesus and other church saints for seven years (1 Corinthians 15:51-53 and Revelation 4-5).

**FACTS ABOUT THE TRIBULATION PERIOD**

The Tribulation will begin when the Antichrist confirms a false peace covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27). This horrific time will end with the awesome, physical return of Jesus Christ to earth at the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-19).

This is a period designed by God to spiritually prepare the Jewish people for His kingdom (Daniel 9:24 and Zechariah 13:8-9).

This time is also a time of God's vengeance upon the wicked inhabitants of earth (Isaiah 26:20-21; 34:8). In His holy wrath, God will judge the nations. Destruction and death will be the greatest ever recorded in human history (Matthew 24:21-22).

**FACTS ABOUT THE KINGDOM AGE**

The earthly kingdom of our Lord will begin after 75 days of cleansing and preparation after the Tribulation period (Daniel 12:11-12). All the wicked will be removed and only the saints of all the ages will inhabit the kingdom. The living saints who have survived the Tribulation Period will be separated from the wicked (Matthew 25:31-46). The Old Testament and dead Tribulation saints will be resurrected (Daniel 12:2-3). The church saints will also serve in this kingdom (Revelation 5:10).

This will be a physical kingdom upon the earth in which Jesus Christ will rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem over all the nations of the world (Isaiah 2:1-5 & Zechariah 14:16-19). It will be a time of spiritual and physical blessings for Israel (Isaiah 61:4-11 and Ezekiel 36:25-38).

**FACTS ABOUT THE ETERNAL STATE**

This concluding period of God's creation will begin with the final judgment of all sin and sinners of all the ages (Revelation 20:11-15). At this judgment, the first heaven and earth will be totally renovated (2 Peter 3:10-13). A new heaven and a new earth will be created (Revelation 21:1). In this new arrangement, our Lord has created a permanent dwelling place for all the saints of all the ages- the New Jerusalem (John 14:2; Revelation 21:2, 10-22:5). This will be an eternal dwelling place that will never experience sin or the consequences of sin (Revelation 21:27; 22:3). The saints of God will worship and serve their Lord as they rejoice in the blessings of His glorious presence (Revelation 22:1-5). Our spiritual night will have passed, and our eternal day will begin (Revelation 21:23, 24).

## Determining the Chronology of the Book of Revelation

Many people misinterpret the final book of the Bible because they ignore the divine chronology of the book. God has a divine order and purpose in all His work. The Bible declares, *“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: ... He hath made every thing beautiful in his time ... God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work”* ([Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11, 17](#)).

One of the major purposes of the book of Revelation is to set forth a framework to understand the sequence of prophetic events mentioned in the other 65 books of the Bible. Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum writes, “The book of the Revelation ... has 550 references to the Old Testament. The majority of the things found in the first twenty chapters of Revelation are found elsewhere in the Old Testament. ... The value of the book of Revelation is not that it provides new information, but rather that it takes the scattered Old Testament prophecies and puts them in chronological order so that the sequence of events can be determined” ([Arnold Fruchtenbaum, The Footsteps of the Messiah](#), p. 9).

### There are at least four major considerations that help us develop an exact chronology of the book of Revelation.

#### 1. The Apostle John’s eye-witness account of the future.

The message contained in the book of Revelation is the eye-witness account of the Apostle John. According to John’s testimony, while living as a prisoner of Rome on the Island of Patmos near the end of the first century, he was supernaturally transported into the future. John was given a guided tour by angels of future events on earth and in heaven. Several times he testified that he was carried away by the Holy Spirit ([Revelation 17:3; 21:10](#)). John was then told, *“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter”* ([Revelation 1:19](#)). Throughout the book he said, “I saw,” and “I heard.” His writing followed the chronological events as they were shown unto him.

#### 2. The grammatical glue that holds the pieces together.

The Hebrew writers of Scripture used the word “and” to connect chronological events in their proper sequence. A great percentage of the verses in Old Testament and New Testament historical chronological accounts begin with “and.” For example, in the Genesis 1 creation account, 90 percent of the verses begin with “and.” In the book of the Revelation, 70 percent of the verses begin with “and.” In the chapters that develop a sequence of events, the rate increases to 86 percent. This grammatically glues the book into a sequence of events. Furthermore, at certain points in his report, John highlights the fact that he is reporting things in a sequence. See these expressions in [1:19; 4:1; 7:1, 9; 11:11; 15:5; 18:1; and 19:1](#). This grammar demands that the book must be viewed as a tightly bound series of progressive events.

#### 3. Three series of seven judgments and three woes form the chronological backbone of the book.

The backbone of the chronological presentation of events in the book of Revelation flow out of a 7-sealed scroll in [chapter 5](#). Christ’s opening of these seals leads to three series of divine judgments in [chapters 6-16](#). Each series of judgments have seven events. The successive numbering of these judgments demands they be viewed as a tightly bound series of sequential events. Furthermore, the reader of the book is introduced to three woes that show the order of additional horrific judgments of God ([8:13; 9:12; 11:14; 12:12](#)).

#### 4. There are overriding time designations repeatedly imbedded in the text of the book.

The central focus of John’s prophecy in the book of the Revelation is upon the 7-year Tribulation Period ([chapters 6-19](#)). Time designations in the book are linked to the ancient Jewish lunar calendar. As with the book of [Daniel \(9:27\)](#), the 7-year Tribulation is viewed in two three- and one-half-year segments. The first half is designated as 1,260 days ([11:3](#)). The last half is 42 months ([11:2](#)); or 1,260 days ([12:6](#)) or *“a time, and times, and half a time”* ([12:14](#)) [which is taken from [Daniel 7:25](#), meaning 3 and ½ years]. Furthermore, in [Revelation 20:2-7](#), the reader is told six times that earthly kingdom of God is to last 1,000 years. These time references in the book of the Revelation are directly anchored to the context of the unique developments of the end-times. These time designations help put the chronological events in a God-appointed time-related sequence.

### So what?

Understanding the chronology of the future events in the book of Revelation helps us to discover the exact time of five major events. (1) It helps us know when the Rapture will take place. (2) It tells us when the church will be judged. (3) It solves the debate about the time of The Marriage Feast of the Lamb. (4) Revelation’s chronology determines when all the sinners of all the ages will be judged by God. (5) It explains when the world as we know it will come to an end.