

Understanding the Book of Revelation in the 21st Century

Session #2: The Chronology of the Book of Revelation

by Mike Wingfield

Introduction:

2 Timothy 2:15

Matthew 5:18

Genesis 1:1

Revelation 21:1

The Chronology of the Bible

Old Testament Church Age Tribulation Period Kingdom Age The Eternal State

Why is the chronology of the book of Revelation so important?

It will help us to know when the Rapture will happen.

It will help us to know when the church will be judged.

It will help us to know when the marriage feast of the Lamb will take place.

It will help us to know when all of the sinners will be judged.

It will tell us when this world will end!

Six evidences of a chronological sequence of events in the book of Revelation:

1. The method of John's Revelation

Revelation 1:10

Revelation 1:19

2. The use of the conjunction "and."

The Jewish use of "and"

Examples: Genesis 1-3- 78.7%

Proverbs 1-3- 1.1 %

Mark 1-3- 73.1%

Romans 1-3- 10.8%

Revelation- 69%

1-3- 25%

4-22- 78%

3. The normal language of chronology

"after this"- 4:1- 2 times

"And after these things"- 7:1

"After this..."- 7:9

"after three days"- 11:11

"and their followed"- 14:8

"And after that"- 15:5

"And after these things"- 18:1

“And after these things”- 19:1

“and after that”- 20:3

“when the thousand years are expired”- 20:7

4. The logical flow of events.

The events in chapter 4 proved that the Rapture and judgment of the church have taken place before the Tribulation begins.

5. The series of judgment and woes.

The chronology of the Tribulation Period centers around 3 series of judgments that must follow in the order they are seen by John:

7 seal judgments- chapters 6, 8:1

-8:13 announcements of 3 woes

7 trumpet judgments- chapters 8-9, 11:15-19

-9:12- 1st woe

-11:13-14- 2nd woe

-12:12- 3rd woe

7 vial judgments- chapter 16

6. The time frames mentioned.

11:2- 42 months- last half of the Tribulation

11:3- 1,260 days- first half of the Tribulation

12:6- 1,260 days- last half of the Tribulation

12:14- “time, times and half of time” (see 12:6)

20:2-7- six times 1,000 years of the kingdom is mentioned

Conclusions:

All of this proves that the Rapture must happen before the Tribulation begins!

Matthew 24:36

The chronology of the Tribulation is so detailed in the book of Revelation that it eliminates the possibility that the Rapture could happen any time during the 7 years!

Revelation 3:10