

# God's Master Plan In Prophecy

## Lesson 11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God

*Key Scriptures: Revelation 15:1–16:21; Daniel 12:6-13; Ezekiel 38:18-23*

### Introduction

**Rev 15:1** Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

The seven seals were a broad view of political events throughout the Era of Grace and culminating in the end times. Likewise, the seven trumpets were a shorter view of events of war and destruction that culminated in the end times. The events of the seven thunders were not recorded for us but there can be absolutely no doubt as to what the seven golden bowls are because this verse clearly tells us that they are seven angels having seven plagues which contain the wrath of God! We have already studied the wrath of God in bits and pieces; in this lesson we will look at the particulars and review what we have already learned.

**Rev 15:2** And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

This “sea of glass” is the floor of heaven upon which the throne of God sat that John had seen earlier.<sup>1</sup> Here we are given some additional information: that the sea of glass is “mingled with fire.” It seems that flames of fire is burning within the glass or red and orange colors are somehow mingled throughout. Whatever is exactly meant by these phrases, it certainly sounds beautiful!

John saw, “Those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name standing on that sea of glass” and this can only refer to members of the bride of Christ, the apostolic church! That they have been transported from earth to before the throne in heaven before the Wrath of God takes place is yet another scriptural proof that the Spirit-filled church of the Almighty God will not have to endure the Wrath of God and that the Wrath of God takes place after the Rapture of the church or the catching away of the saints. It is very interesting that these people whom John saw as standing before God in heaven as the Wrath of God was poured out were described as “those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name” because it seems that they had to endure some of that and yet were victorious. All of this perfectly coincides with the many hints of scripture that we have noted as our studies have progressed in that it is very probably that the church will have to endure the Great Tribulation to some extent, but that they will miss the Wrath of God completely. This also further reinforces the scriptural concept that the Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God are two very different events in scope and in timing.

**Rev 15:3-4** And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! 4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

While the Wrath of God was begun to be poured out on the earth, the redeemed church began to sing, "The song of Moses ... and the song of the Lamb" – while the world will be experiencing God's judgment, they will be thanking Him for saving them! That they would sing the "song of the Lamb" makes sense because certainly they will be thanking Jesus for dying upon the cross so that we could be in heaven, but what does "the song of Moses refer to?"

There is a double fulfillment principle in effect here. In the first few chapters of the book of Exodus, Moses was sent by God to lead His chosen people out of Egypt. When Pharaoh would not let the people of God go, Moses performed ten plagues upon Egypt that finally resulted in Pharaoh releasing the children of Israel.<sup>2</sup> The plagues were, in order:

---

1

See Revelation 4:6.

<sup>2</sup> See the 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> chapters of Exodus.

Written by R. Jeremiah Sibley, all rights reserved.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> revision of what was previously known as the "Dispensation Prophecy Bible Study."

Copies of this study may be freely distributed for not-for-profit use only.

Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE © Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

## **Prophecy #11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God**

1. River of Nile turned to blood.
2. Frogs throughout the land.
3. Lice throughout the land.
4. Flies in the houses of the Egyptians.
5. Many Egyptian cattle and animals die of disease.
6. Egyptians have boils on every man and woman.
7. Great hail falls in Egypt.
8. Locusts destroys the Egyptian's crop.
9. Three days of darkness in Egypt.
10. The firstborn son of the Egyptians die.

This was a type or foreshadowing of the Wrath of God to come at the end of time and we could spend a whole lesson on the similarities between the ten plagues of Egypt and the final Wrath of God. The interesting point is that the first three plagues were "throughout all the land." In other words, the children of Israel had to endure the first three plagues. It was from the fourth plague on that God exempted His chosen people and allowed the judgments to only fall upon the Egyptians<sup>3</sup> so that there were seven plagues that God did not make His chosen people to endure. In our current study, there are seven bowls full of seven plagues which are the wrath of God and yet we find the raptured church standing in heaven, missing the events, and praising God singing the "song of the Lamb" and "the song of Moses!" Why? Because just like Moses performed judgment upon the Egyptians and protected the children of Israel, God has delivered His children and they do not have to endure the seven vials of His wrath!

The other part of the "song of Moses" is that after Pharaoh let them go, he had second thoughts and sent the entire army of Egypt after them. In the Red Sea, God destroyed all of the Egyptian army. As we will see, after the Rapture of the Church and after the seven vials of God's Wrath are poured out, a great army will again come against the nation of Israel and yet the end will be very predictable: God again will utterly destroy them! We refer to this battle that happens at the close of God's Wrath, "the Battle of Armageddon" or "the first battle of Gog and Magog."<sup>4</sup>

### **The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath**

**Rev 15:5-6** After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, 6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes.

There are apparently seven angels who hold the seven plagues and they are sent from God Himself because they come out of His temple. The "girdle sash" as described here was a type of belt worn in Biblical times that carried a man's personal items when he was traveling and working. The reference to "golden sashes" means that the angels are armed, prepared, and ready to perform their task at hand.

**Rev 15:7-8** Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

When Solomon was dedicating his temple to God, the smoke of the glory of God filled the temple and "the priests were unable to minister" because of the cloud.<sup>5</sup> That the scriptures point out here that, "No one was able to enter the temple" until the wrath of God was fulfilled and poured out. This is a heavenly temple which represents access and serving God and so this verse is telling us that no minister will be able to minister during this time and that nobody – Jewish or Gentile – will be able to be saved or come into a closer relationship with God until after the Wrath of God is poured out! We know that God will turn again to the Jews, but their second chance at salvation will not be given until after the Wrath of God is finished – God turns off His mercy so that His wrath may be full!

---

3

See Exodus 8:22-23.

<sup>4</sup> "The Battle of Armageddon," as we will see, being the New Testament term, and "the 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Gog and Magog" being the Old Testament term.

<sup>5</sup> See 1 Kings 8:11.

## ***Prophecy #11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God***

**Rev 16:1** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

As John watched, the seven angels went to the earth and began to pour out the vials of wrath in a particular order. As we read through these plagues, notice the similarity with them and the plagues that God brought upon Egypt in Moses' day. Truly God does nothing by accident!

**Rev 16:2** So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

The first plague was a "malignant sore" or painful boil that fell upon all which had the mark of the beast and worshiped the Antichrist. Apparently receiving the mark involved receiving something in the body to which the body does not respond in a positive manner.

**Rev 16:3** The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

The second bowl of God's Wrath was that of the sea becoming blood like or a deep red color. Whatever caused this change of color, also killed "every living thing" in the sea. The word that is used here in the Greek for "sea" can mean both "oceans" and "the Mediterranean Sea" and so it is not obvious if the entire world ocean system is meant or if just the Mediterranean Sea is intended.<sup>6</sup> Again, notice the similarity between this plague and the Nile river turning to blood in the Egypt of Moses' day.

**Rev 16:4** Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood.

The third bowl was the turning of the drinking waters to blood as well. Springs, rivers, and lakes all become red as blood. Again we are not told enough information to know if the waters of a particular area is meant of if this plague affects the entire earth.

**Rev 16:5-6** And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."

In modern times there is a somewhat perception that God never judges nor brings punishment for sin. While it is true that God is good and loving and merciful, He is also "righteous" and eventually unrepentant sin must be punished. The "angel of the waters" spoke that God was absolutely righteous and justified in performing these acts of wrath, particularly in the area of turning the waters to a blood-like color because it is the shedding of the blood of His faithful saints and prophets that He is avenging!

This, "angel of the waters," which John recorded was also seen by his Old Testament counterpart, the prophet Daniel. Daniel interacted with this angel in the final chapter of his prophecy and those scriptures give us some additional insight into this time of prophesied history:

**Dan 12:6** And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be until the end of these wonders?"

It was this same angel to which Daniel inquired about the timeline of these end time events that he had been shown. In the first five verses of this chapter, God had responded to Daniel's desire to know the outcome of all of these visions that he had been given and told Daniel that he would die before he saw the fulfilling of most of these events. These final verses of the book of Daniel were God summing up the ending to the prophet.

**Dan 12:7** I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

---

<sup>6</sup> The Mediterranean Sea is the largest body of water adjacent to Israel and is often referred to throughout the Bible as "the Sea" by Jewish people.

## **Prophecy #11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God**

The angel said that the end of these things would come after a period of "time, times, and half a time" which is the familiar three and a half year period of the Great Tribulation.<sup>7</sup> The Jewish people say that this angel is the same one asked who Daniel recorded was asked the question of, "how long before these things be?" earlier<sup>8</sup> and in the margins of many of the Hebrew manuscripts there is a note revealing the name of this angel. His name is said to be "Palmoni" which means "The Wonderful Numberer" and the Jewish people believe that he is an angel whose chief job is to make sure all of the numbers of God are fulfilled and match. Perhaps this explains why the use of numbers are consistent in meaning throughout scripture despite being written by different authors and in different time periods.<sup>1</sup>

**Dan 12:8-10 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?" 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. 10 "Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.**

God told Daniel that these prophecies were not for him to understand; that they would be concealed until they were revealed in "the end time." Verse 10 means that redemption must take place and many more people must have the opportunity to choose eternal life or death before these final events would culminate.

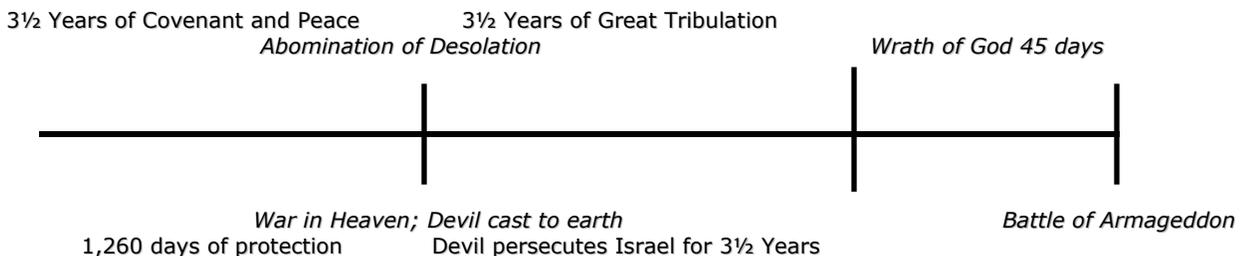
**Dan 12:11 "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.**

Here the angel of number reaffirms what we already know that from the Abomination of Desolation until the end of the age, there will 1,290 days. That number signifies exactly three and a half years<sup>9</sup> and is obviously a reference to the Great Tribulation. But Palmoni the angel – if that is really his name – goes on to give additional information that is very interesting:

**Dan 12:12-13 "How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days! 13 "But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age."**

"Blessed is he keeps waiting" and comes to the 1,335th day after the Abomination of Desolation. That is, the angel told Daniel those who made it until 45 days after the Great Tribulation ends would be blessed. To realize what this means realize that the angel was talking to Daniel who was Jewish and who was writing to the Jewish people. It is immediately *after* the Wrath of God which takes place *after* the 1,290 days of Great Tribulation which takes place *after* the event known as the Abomination of Desolation that the remaining Jewish people will have a second chance at salvation. From this scripture we can discern the length of the wrath of God: it lasts for a total of 45 days! To add this information to our timeline from earlier lessons, we find this:

Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week = 7 years total



Now that we know how long the wrath of God take to be poured out let's get back to John's description of the pouring out of the seven bowls:

**Rev 16:7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."**

<sup>7</sup> A year, years or two years, and a half of year adds up to three and a half years.

<sup>8</sup> See Daniel 8:13.

<sup>9</sup>s Remember the Jewish months of yesteryear all had exactly 30 days.

## ***Prophecy #11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God***

Apparently a voice came from the altar that again confirmed that God was right in releasing His judgments upon the world. It may seem cruel to some that God would punish the world with His wrath but only if you view all of this from a modern, incomplete view of what God has done. Sin hurts God and is contrary to His plan and God has mercifully waited to pour out His judgment until He has given people thousands of years and many messengers and the written Word and Calvary to save them from it. Just as we would never take a derogatory tone or blame a fire fighter who despite doing everything that he could to save someone yet was unable to save them because they refused to listen to his advice or come to him or to use the life-saving devices he provided, so is it folly to view God as unjust in bringing a final judgment upon those who despite His great mercy and salvation have rejected Him at every turn. Truly, everything that we are studying is a right and true judgment!

**Rev 16:8-9 The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. 9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.**

The fourth bowl is that the sun begins to grow hotter and men are scorched "with fierce heat." In response, they "blasphemed the name of God," and it never occurred to them to cry out to Him for help – even now, a lifestyle of sin has the effect of causing people to blame God for their troubles rather than call out to Him in repentance!

**Rev 16:10-11 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.**

The fifth bowl of God's Wrath is darkness upon "the throne of the beast" and "his kingdom became darkened." The likeness and similarity to the plagues of Egypt wrought by Moses are unmistakable and the Antichrist will probably have made the center of his kingdom in Jerusalem where the temple is. Here the scripture tells us that it will only be dark in this particular region of the world. Notice also that all of the previous plagues are still in effect: their tongues are swollen from thirst, and the boils and the burns from the sun are still hurting! Unlike the plagues of Moses' day, these plagues of the wrath of God in the end times seem to have a cumulative effect.

**Rev 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.**

The sixth plague is that the Euphrates river is dried up. We have discussed this river at length already and here we are given the reason that it is dried up – so that the "kings of the east" will have a clear passage way to attack Jerusalem! This hints at the coming great battle of the world against Israel which will take place at the close of the Wrath of God:

**Rev 16:13-14 And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.**

At this time, John saw three unclean spirit went forth out of the "mouth" of Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet, and these three begin to speak to the kings of the earth and cause them to join in a great battle against Israel. What they do not realize is that, in the end, Jesus is going to come down and fight for Israel and although it will seem at first that they are winning, in the end they will be utterly defeated!"

**Rev 16:15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")**

This seems to be a warning to the Jewish people to watch expectantly for Jesus' return and not to believe the Antichrist's doctrine. To "walk about naked" in Biblical times was a figure of speech meaning great humiliation and defeat and so God is warning Israel to not give up hope no matter how bad it gets, and, as we will see, it will get pretty bad for them before Jesus comes to their rescue!

**Rev 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.**

## ***Prophecy #11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God***

The King James Version – which was the English translation for centuries – translated “Har-Magedon” as “Armageddon.” It literally means “the hill of Megiddo” and refers to the plain of Esdraelon which is in southern Galilee right below Nain and Nazareth. It was here that Gideon won his great victory over the Midianites, and Deborah and Barak were victorious over the Canaanites during the time of the Judges.<sup>10</sup> It was also here that the kings Saul and Josiah were killed. This valley, then represents judgment and slaughter and because of this verse we refer to this battle at the end of the wrath of God as “the battle of Armageddon.” It will be the armies of the world against Israel, until the very end when Jesus Christ comes back to fight for Israel and then it becomes God versus the world’s armies! We will take an entire lesson to study this battle in great detail and when we get there, we will find that this battle does not take place just in one valley but in many valleys as the armies of Israel retreat back toward Jerusalem. So, even though we call this conflict “the battle of Armageddon,” the valley of Esdraelon is but one of the many plains where war will be waged.

**Rev 16:17-18 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." 18 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.**

It is here at the seventh bowl where it seems that God stops pouring out His wrath upon the children of Israel and begins to fight for them against the armies of the world. That there are “flashes of lightening and sounds and peals of thunder and a great earthquake” matches Jesus’ description of the wrath of God in the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> seal events,<sup>11</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet events perfectly!<sup>12</sup> The Bible also reveals to us here the sobering news that the earthquake that happens at this time will be greater than any earthquake that the earth has ever experienced.

**Rev 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.**

The earthquake is so great that the city of Jerusalem divides into three parts and most of the capital cities of the nations fall apart into ruins! God also at this time judges “great Babylon.” which we will discuss in detail in the next lesson.

**Rev 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**

This is a very important scripture which often gets overlooked: this coming earthquake will be so severe that every island will be moved from its present location; every mountain was flattened out and changed! This earthquake will cause a great change in the physical makeup of the earth and its current geography.

**Rev 16:21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.**

Also at this time great hail begins to fall – hailstones weighing 100 pounds apiece began to fall upon the earth! And again the men do not even think of repenting to God but curse and blaspheme Him. What a terrible ordeal to have to endure: thank God that the Rapture of the Church takes us out of the world before this judgment!

### **Ezekiel’s View of the Wrath of God**

Before we close let’s take a quick glance at the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezekiel which parallels this part of Revelation:

**Ezek 38:18 "It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord God, "that My fury will mount up in My anger.**

“Gog” was the general term for the land north of Israel in Biblical times and this is a reference to the armies of the world coming against Israel from the north.

**Ezek 38:19-20 "In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20 "The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My**

<sup>10</sup> See the 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of Judges for the stories.

<sup>11</sup> See Revelation 6:12-17.

<sup>12</sup> See Revelation 11:15-19.

# ***Prophecy #11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God***

presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground.

Here through the prophet Ezekiel, we are given an even more vivid picture of the results of the great earthquake!

**Ezek 38:21 "I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother.**

God will confuse the armies of Gog and cause them to fight against one another when He comes to save Israel. God has often done this when delivering His people.<sup>13</sup>

**Ezek 38:22-23 "With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. 23 "I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the Lord."**

Here we find that this army will not just be a country from the north attacking Israel but will have "many peoples" with them. This description is a perfect match to the wrath of God: sickness, water turning to blood, and great hailstones and apparently God will use the events of His Wrath to turn and fight against the armies of the world when they come against Israel in the Battle of Armageddon.<sup>iii</sup>

## **Review**

### **The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God**

<b><u>Bowl #</u></b>	<b><u>Key Aspects</u></b>	<b><u>Region or People affected</u></b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Bowl	painful sore or boils	those who have taken the mark of the beast and worshipped him
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bowl	sea becomes as blood; all sea creatures die	probably all of the earth, but could also refer only to the Mediterranean Sea
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bowl	rivers and streams become as blood	probably all of the earth, but could refer to the region around Israel
4 <sup>th</sup> Bowl	sun scorches men	all of the earth
5 <sup>th</sup> Bowl	darkness during the day	the "throne of the beast" probably Jerusalem and the surrounding area
6 <sup>th</sup> Bowl	Euphrates River dried up	Modern day Turkey and Iraq
7 <sup>th</sup> Bowl	great sounds; a tremendous earthquake; 100 pound hailstones fall	all of the earth and then the armies against Israel north of Jerusalem

<sup>13</sup> See, for example, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of Judges and the story of Gideon.

## ***Prophecy #11 – The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God***

### **A Comparison of Wrath of God Passages in the Bible**

	<b>6th Seal</b> Rev 6:12-17	<b>7th Trump</b> Rev 11:15-19	<b>7th Vial</b> Rev 16:16-21	<b>Jesus</b> Matt 24:29	<b>Ezekiel</b> Ezek 38:18-22
<b>Earthquake</b>	Great Earthquake	An earthquake	Great Earthquake		An earthquake
<b>Sun Black</b>	Sun became black			Sun is darkened	
<b>Moon Blood</b>	Moon became as blood			Moon shall not give her light	
<b>Stars Fall</b>	Stars of heaven fell unto earth			Stars shall fall from heaven	
<b>Mountains &amp; Islands</b>	Mountains and islands were moved		Islands fled away, mountains not found		Mountains thrown down, walls fall
<b>God's Wrath</b>	The great day of His wrath is come	Thy wrath is come	God's wrath		God's wrath
<b>Great voices</b>		Great voices in heaven	Great voice from temple in heaven		
<b>Lightning, Voices, Thunders</b>		Lightning, voices, thunderings	Voices, thunders, lightning	Powers of heavens shall be shaken	
<b>Great Hail</b>		Great hail	Great hail		Great Hailstones
<b>The Context of the Timing</b>	After martyrs of Tribulation	After sounding of last trump	Battle of Armageddon	Immediately AFTER Tribulation	First Battle of Gog and Magog

## **Endnotes**

We do not have time to do the subject justice, but, just for fun, here is a brief list of numbers used in scriptures and their usual signification:

- 1 - The absolute number of God, beginnings
- 2 - difference or division
- 3 - resurrection, new life, perfection of God's promises
- 4 - creation, earth
- 5 - grace, tabernacle
- 6 - man, labor, sin
- 7 - perfect fulfillment and expression of God's plan
- 8 - a new start, beyond perfection
- 9 - finality, the end, judgment
- 10 - completeness of order
- 11 - disorder, disorganization, imperfection, and disintegration
- 12 - governmental perfection
- 13 - rebellion, corruption
- 14 - multiple of seven so takes on it's characteristics (as do 21, 28, etc...)
- 15 - grace (5) and new life (3) combined ( $5 \times 3 = 15$ )
- 17 - perfection of spiritual order
- 20 - expectancy
- 22 - failure to obey and heed the Word of God
- 40 - trial
- 50 - deliverance, jubilee
- 153 - souls

Everything else is combination of the above numbers. For example, the number of man given under the mark of the beast is "666" which is 6 – the number of man, labor, and sin – three times. According to 1 Kings 10:14, the weight of gold that was given to Solomon annually amounted to 666 talents. As we know, the riches of Solomon led to his sin and downfall and so everything matches. When you come across a number in scripture remember that nothing was by accident!

<sup>ii</sup> It is a powerful and notable fact that the battle here is referred to as "that great day of God Almighty." As we will see when we study the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, it is clearly Jesus that leads the fight on this day and yet here He is referred to as God Almighty! Clearly Jesus is the one, true, living and Almighty God (see Isaiah 9:6)!

<sup>iii</sup> The old story of Jacob wrestling with God or an angel of God prefigures and is a beautiful type of what will transpire in these last days (Genesis 32:22-32). Jacob's name was changed to "Israel" in that encounter and thus typifies or represents the entire nation that would eventually spring from his sons and lineage. At first, God was wrestling against Jacob but in the end, turned and blessed Jacob in a way that saved him from his past and that caused him to walk differently than he ever had before. So will the Wrath of God at first be God fighting against Israel and yet before the ordeal is over, God will have turned and will be blessing Israel by fighting for them. After that battle, the survivors in Israel will receive God's salvation!