

# Prophecy Timeline **BOOKLET**

Booklet Contains:

- Prophetic Church Age Timeline
- Tribulation Period Timeline
- Rapture Timeline Views
- Production Credits

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# Welcome



The goal of Decoding the Future is to provide the most comprehensive study of the Book of Revelation available anywhere in the world without enforcing one strict view over another in regards to how some portions of Revelation are interpreted. Instead, you'll explore groundbreaking discoveries that reveal how the ancient world looked at these last days prophecies to gain a new in-depth perspective of Revelation that you could have never imagined!

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## The Seven Churches of Revelation

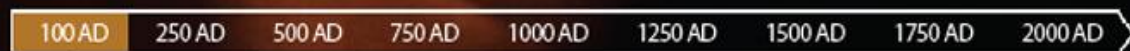
First and foremost, The Seven Churches of Revelation are examples of what Christians were doing right and what they were doing wrong; all of which can be applied to our personal lives and overall societies today. In addition, many theologians that study Revelation have stated that there is an uncanny resemblance between the progression of Christian society over the last 2,000 years of church history with the order of warnings that are issued to each church in Revelation. For this reason, many theologians believe The Seven Churches represent a “prophetic church age timeline” which has roughly gauged where we stand in relation to the opening of the first seal, or the tribulation period.

For this reason, we are starting this booklet with examining the church age timeline with information regarding when many theologians believe each age has occurred throughout history.



### 1. Ephesus

The church at Ephesus is the first of the seven churches mentioned in Book of Revelation and is often referred to as “the loveless church” because their zeal ran out, and worship become just duty.



— Ephesus: roughly 33AD - 100AD. The early church spreads rapidly throughout the world after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Seven Churches of Revelation



### 2. Smyrna

Smyrna is known as “the persecuted church” and provides the message that despite crisis and persecution, God remains with those that trust in Him.

100 AD 250 AD 500 AD 750 AD 1000 AD 1250 AD 1500 AD 1750 AD 2000 AD

Smyrna: roughly 67AD - 312 AD. It was warned that these Christians would be persecuted for 10 days (periods) and history indicates this indeed happened; beginning with Roman Emperor Nero in 67 AD until the end of Diocletian's rule in 312 AD when Emperor Constantine took power and made Christianity Rome's official religion; around 245 years and 10 emperors (periods) later.



### 3. Pergamum

Pergamum was a wealthy, developing city and is referred to as “the compromising church” and may indicate that at the time, it was the place with the greatest acceptance of immorality within the Christian church.

100 AD 250 AD 500 AD 750 AD 1000 AD 1250 AD 1500 AD 1750 AD 2000 AD

Pergamum: roughly 312AD - 606 AD. After 10 periods of persecution, Constantine marries church & state by decreeing Christianity as the state religion. Without any fear of persecution, it's no wonder why now we see Christians slowly compromising with society and incorporating pagan doctrines over 400 years.



## Seven Churches of Revelation



### 4. Thyatira

Thyatira is commonly referred to as “the corrupt church” and Revelation states that those that follow this church’s doctrine is “to know the depths of Satan”.



**Thyatira: roughly 606 AD - 1648 AD.**  
 Christians have now become entirely corrupt!  
 In this age, church and state have become one, and religious leaders are now being selected by the Roman Empire while teaching pagan practices and prayer to idols.



### 5. Sardis

Sardis is referred to as “the dead church”. They became complacent and fell asleep to the dangers that could penetrate the church. This church had the reputation of being alive, but in truth, they were dead.



**Sardis: roughly 1648 AD - 1750 AD.**  
 Christians finally break away from the corrupt religious system set up by the unification of the church and the government; especially in England where the church had unprecedented authority over the people. The Treaty of WestPhalia established the first legal basis for the existence of Protestants as an act of defying the government and church system.



## Seven Churches of Revelation



### 6. Philadelphia

Philadelphia is known as “the faithful church”. This is the second and final church that has no condemnations made against it; meaning they were staying true to Christ’s teaching.

100 AD   250 AD   500 AD   750 AD   1000 AD   1250 AD   1500 AD   1750 AD   2000 AD

**Philadelphia: roughly 1750 AD - 1945 AD.**

This church age seems to correlate with the birth of the United States and encompasses World War One and World War Two. It was during this time that evangelism spread throughout the world at an unprecedented rate. It is also believed that this period represents a revival of the general Christian world studying the scriptures for themselves; without influence from a religious authority.



### 7. Laodicea

Nothing good can be said about Laodicea. So called “Christians” in this period are materialistic, stagnant and self-absorbed. This period is the final period before the opening of the first seal in Revelation.

100 AD   250 AD   500 AD   750 AD   1000 AD   1250 AD   1500 AD   1750 AD   2000 AD

**Laodicea: possibly from 1945 AD - Current.**

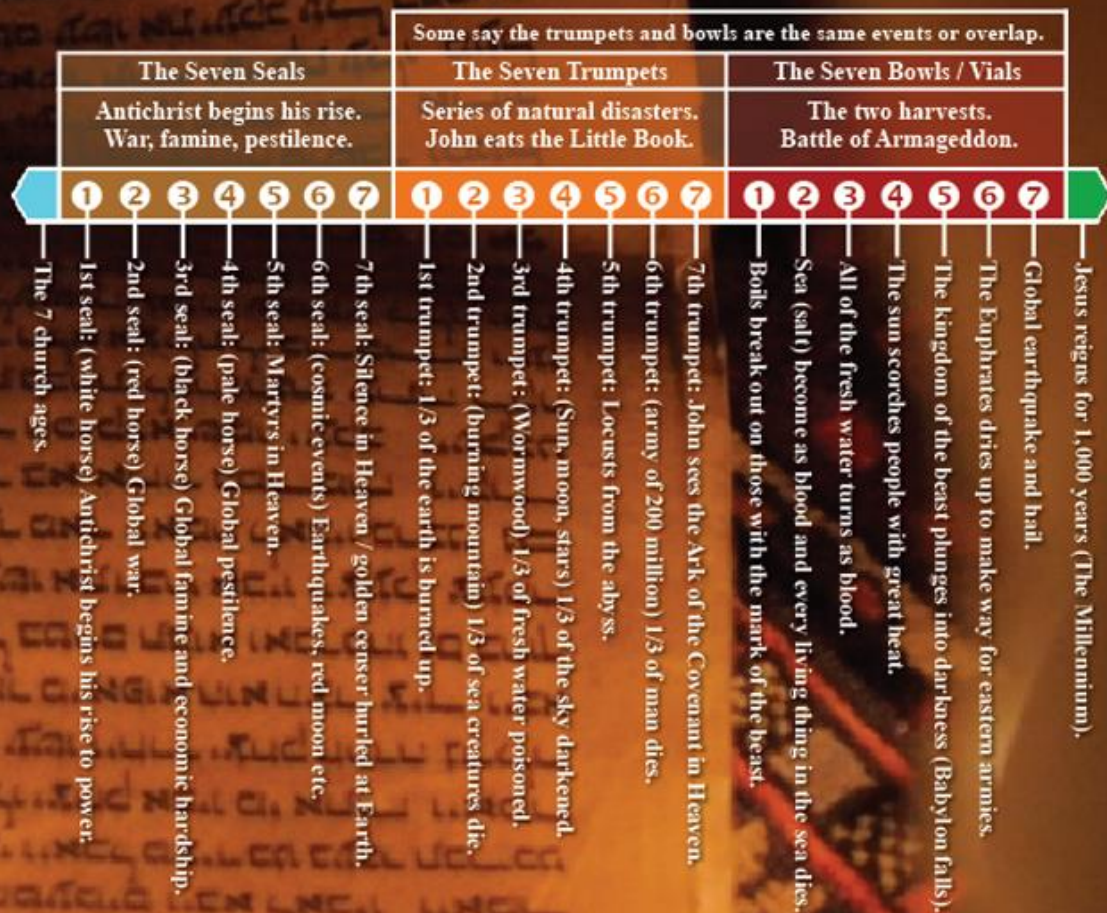
People in this final church age are focused on self-desire, and many theologians believe that we are transitioning into this age right now. Others believe we are already well into the final prophetic church age of Laodicea.



## Future Prophetic Timeline

Below is a general chronological overview of events in Revelation from the opening of the first seal to the millennium reign. We'll then review and discuss additional debated topics including an event commonly referred to as "The Rapture" and the various places on the prophetic timeline that people believe it could occur.

Keep in mind that multiple layers of events (political, economic, natural disasters, events in Heaven, etc...) often overlap or occur simultaneously in Revelation. As you progress through the Decoding the Future course, you'll gain a better understanding of how all of the events on the following chart are related and unfold. More details and alternate views can be discussed in the online member's area.





## The Rapture

The word rapture is actually never mentioned in the Bible but is rather described as a “catching away” or being “caught up” with Jesus Christ in the air. Most look at the following as a supportive verse for this event.

*"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*  
1 Thessalonians 4:17 (KJV)

Based on various scriptures and theological teachings, people hold different views on when this “rapture” will take place. Here, we’ll review several views with supporting and opposing statements for each.

**NOTE:** A lot more information regarding each view with evidence is available online in the member’s area at [www.DecodingTheFuture.com](http://www.DecodingTheFuture.com).



### 1. Pre-Tribulation Rapture (Pre-trib).

These people believe that the rapture could occur at any moment before the opening of the 1st seal in Revelation.

#### What Many Pre-Tribbers Will Say:

God will keep Christians from His wrath in the last days which begins with the first seal. Tribulation, The Great Tribulation and God’s wrath are all referring to the same 7-year period.

#### Common Apposing Argument:

The opening of the seals may be God’s will but it not specifically His wrath. There is a distinct different between tribulation, The Great Tribulation and God’s wrath. Christians have always lived under periods of horrible persecution, tribulation and death so why would this be any different?



# The Rapture



## 2. Pre-Wrath Rapture.

This group believes the rapture will occur just after the opening of the 6th Seal, but this occurs after the midpoint of the 7-year period. They also see tribulation, The Great Tribulation, and God's wrath as all being different.

### Supportive Statement:

Christians have always undergone martyrdom and tribulation. Though the opening of the first six seals is God's will, it is not His wrath. Revelation states that wrath begins in Rev. 6:17 *"for the great day of His wrath is come."*

### Opposing Statement:

The Christians dressed in white robes that come out of The Great Tribulation are people who came to the Lord after the rapture and since Jesus is opening the seals, then it is all considered "God's Wrath".



## 3. Mid-Trib Rapture.

Many mid-tribbers believe that the rapture will occur at the midpoint of the 7-year sequence when the Antichrist declares himself as God. They believe The Great Tribulation and God's wrath are the same thing and takes place after the opening of the seven seals before the first trumpet sounds.

### Supportive Statement:

True, God says He will spare us from His wrath, but the opening of the 7 seals are signs of the end (not wrath) and the 7 trumpets and bowls are God's wrath.

### Opposing Statement:

Christians who believe the entire 7-year period in Revelation is all God's wrath will refute this for the same reasons they refute the pre-wrath position.



## The Rapture



### 4. Post-Tribulation Rapture.

This group believe the rapture will occur at the end of the 7-year tribulation period at the same time that Jesus physically returns to the Earth.

#### Supportive Statement:

Thessalonians 4:16-17 says it all... *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

#### Opposing Statement:

This interpretation would indicate that Christians would have to endure God's wrath of which it is clearly stated that we will not be made to endure.

## Does It Matter When The Rapture Happens?

After reviewing the four popular views of when people believe the rapture may occur; you might already be siding with one view over another, or you may now be more confused than ever. Remember, many of these views are based on interpretations of what and when is "The Tribulation", "The Great Tribulation", "God's Wrath", "The Day of The Lord" and "The Hour of Trial". As you dive deeper into this topic and many others, remember, if you truly love and follow the Lord as your savior, then regardless of your view of the rapture, you will be with Him for all of eternity. Remember to never become complacent. Christians are already enduring suffering, persecution and martyrdom all over the world today, and for them, the debate of whether or not we may or may not go through the tribulation is irrelevant.

*"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."*  
- Matthew 25:13



## **Credits**

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