

# REVELATION SURVEY – Chapters 4-7

## INTRODUCTION

**Illustration** – I remember when I was a kid in Portland OR. There was a steak house I remember that had a “72-ounce Steak Challenge” and in the magical mystery world of Google, I was able to look it up, find the restaurant, and even the rules for the challenge:

Saylor’s Old Country Kitchen – “72oz. Steak Challenge”

### Rules Governing Eating of 72 oz. Steak

*Contestant cannot leave table after steak is served, until finished or time limit is up. Steak shall not be cooked over medium rare.*

*You must eat: two celery sticks, two carrot sticks, two olives, two dill pickles, one regular salad, ten french fries or one baked potato, one slice of bread, and all lean meat (or edible parts of the steak). All this must be done within 60 minutes after steak is served. You may have steak reheated, but on own time.*

*To any individual who can accomplish this: We will make no charge 😊*

With that in mind, let us embark on a 60-minute survey of Revelation chapters 4-8 😊 Put on your bibs and let’s go 😊

**1:19** – Recall the outline God has given us in this verse:

1<sup>st</sup> → the Past, ...

**I.** “**the things which you have seen**” Chapter 1

2<sup>nd</sup> → the Present, ...

**II.** “**and the things which are**” Chapters 2-3

3<sup>rd</sup> → the Future, ...

**III. “and the things which shall take place after these things”**  
**Chapters 4-22**

**READ Rev 4**

**Proposition:** An outline of these four chapters:

**4** – The **Sovereign** (Throne) – God the Creator

**5** – The **Scroll** – God the Redeemer

**6** – The **Seals** – God the Vindicator

**7** – The **Sealed** – God the Savior

**So That:** Extraordinary Vision – of Glory  
followed by Extraordinary Vengeance – Justice and Wrath

**4:1 – “After these things ... after these things”**

Point – Believers escape the wrath of God: Enoch, Noah, Lot, Rahab

Proof – **2 Kings 10:23** – “Jehu went into the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab; and he said to the worshipers of Baal, ‘Search and see that there may be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but only the worshipers of Baal.’”

God’s Mark of Protection

**Ezek 9:4** – “Go through the midst of the city, *even* through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.”

**1 Thess 1:10** – “Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

**1 Thess 5:1-9** “<sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

**Rev 3:10; 19:7-8**

The purpose of the tribulation is primarily for Israel

**Jer 30:7** – “Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s distress, but he will be saved from it.”

Position of Christ: 2-3 among the churches; 4-19 in Heaven

**19:11-16** – He comes down from Heaven

**4:1** – “a door *standing open in heaven*” – entryway into heaven

**4:1** – “like *the sound of a trumpet*” – **1 Thess 4:16(f)**

**4:2** – “**One sitting on the throne**” – the Father – **6:16; 7:10**

**Dan 7:9** – “I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took *His* seat; His vesture *was* like white snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne *was* ablaze with flames, its wheels *were* a burning fire.”

→ The sovereign reigning God

Divine Orbit – The throne has a gravitational pull which supports them all. It is preserving and governing them.

“**throne**” – the Greek word translated as “throne” in English here is seen 62 times in the New Testament: 15 times in Matthew-Jude, 47 times in Revelation, and 14 times in chapter 4

**Application**– You stand in relation to the future the way you stand in relation to its Sovereign.

**4:4** – “**twenty-four thrones**” – **1 Chron 24:7-18**

**4:4** – “**thrones**” – **3:21**

**4:4** – “**twenty-four elders**” – **Acts 15:2; 1 Tim 5; Tit 1**

Who are these elders? These are either men or angels.

On the man side, one thought is they represent the Church.

I lean towards – all the redeemed for all time, Old Testament believers and New Testament believers, from Adam and Eve up to the raptured Church, saved Jews and saved Gentiles. 12 Tribes of Israel + 12 Apostles

**4:4** – “**white garments**” – **3:18**

**4:4** – “**golden crowns**” – **2:10; Ezek 16:12** – *stephanos* (victors),

**4:5** – “**flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder.**” –

**Exod 19:16** – “it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.”

**8:5; 10:3; 11:19; 16:18**

Points to the tremendous and awe-inspiring power of God.

**4:5** – “seven lamps of fire burning before the throne” –

**Zech 4:2** – “he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it;’”

**4:6** – “before the throne there was, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal”

- absolute holiness of God
- even in Heaven, there is separation of the Creator from the creatures → Staggering!

**4:6** – “four living creatures” –

Cherubim – **Ezek 1:4-25; 10:15** – living creatures full of eyes looking around

Seraphim – **Isa 6:2, 6** – literally means “the burning ones”

- they hover around the throne of God in continual praise
- 6 wings – 4 for worship – 2 of which cover the eyes because of the intensity of God’s glory and 2 cover the feet because of God’s purity – 2 for flying for service

→ The priority of praise

I believe Seraphim are a classification of angels even above Cherubim because of the emphasis on hovering around God and day and night singing “holy, holy, holy.”

**4:6-9** – Seraphim or Cherubim?

Or whole other order of angels that have some characteristics of both seraphim and cherubim??

When I did my 3-part series on angels during the ‘What We Teach’ series in the summer of 2013, I believe they are seraphim - for two reasons:

1) Cherubim are full of eyes (**Ezekial 1:18; Rev 4:6**) and both **Ezekiel** and **Revelation 4** call them “four living creatures” (**Ezek 1:5; Rev 4:6**), but the Cherubim in **Ezekiel** have 4 wings. These have 6 wings like the Seraphim in **Isaiah**.

2) Also, in both **Isaiah 6** and **Revelation 4**, we have them saying the *trihagion* – “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Now I’m not so sure. I would say either seraphim or even another class of angels ... I will let you know when I preach through Revelation ☺

**4:7** – “like a lion ... like a calf ... had a face like that of a man ... like a flying eagle” – strength, service, sagacity, swiftness

**4:8** – “day and night they do not cease to say” – if time has the same meaning in heaven → they would be saying this for 850 years since Isaiah up until the writing of John

**4:8** – “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.” – Holy, *YHWH*, Elohim, Shaddai, Eternal

**4:10** – “cast their crowns before the throne” –

**Application** – A sight of God’s sovereignty keep us when we are in the storm. Knowledge of the Master of ocean and earth and sky supports us in our struggle.

**5:1** – “a book (or scroll) written inside and on the back” – this is unusual, normally only written on one side and then rolled up with the written part on the inside → what’s up? Completeness? No room for anything else to be written? → John is emphasizing that this book (scroll) is an utterly comprehensive plan

There is no place for any other writing. There are no blank places. God's purpose embraces every creature and every action. Every single thing is in the book.

There are no points at which God is uncertain; no blanks for man or angel to fill in.

**Ezek 2:9-10** – “Then I looked, behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll *was* in it. <sup>10</sup>When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back;”

**5:1** – “**sealed up with seven seals**” – At the time of the writing of John, Roman wills were sealed 7 times - ownership, title deed – God's plan for the world

From the fall of a sparrow to World War II – everything is here on this scroll. Every tiny virus and every mighty galaxy are all here in this scroll. Nothing is missing.

**5:3** – “**And no one in heaven** (angel or saint), **or on the earth** (man), **or under the earth** (devil or demon), **was able to open the book, or to look into it.**” –

**5:5** – “**the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:9)**”

- figure of immense power, majesty, and strength,

**King Tirian**, *The Last Battle* – “He's not a tame lion.”

He is a <u>lamb-like lion</u> . And He is a <u>lion-like lamb</u> . His <b>irresistible might</b> and His <b>atoning mercy</b> .
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**5:5** – “**the Root of David**” – **Isa 11:1, 10**

- Jesus comes from David.
- David comes from Jesus.

**5:6** – “**a Lamb**” – **Exod 12; Isa 53:7; John 1:29**

**5:6** – “**standing**” – He is alive!

**5:6** – “as if slain” – scars are still visible

**5:6** – “having seven horns” – complete power/authority

This is a strange Lamb with **7 horns**.

Yes ... this is a strange book – in the most wonderful way!

Remember, in Revelation, the number 7 represents completeness; perfection

“**horn**” – This is not a musical horn, a trumpet. It is an animal horn → Power! Strength!

**Luke 1:69** – “and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant”

**Psa 18:2** – “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

**5:6** – “and seven eyes” – complete wisdom – **2:18**

**Zech 4:10** – “*these are the eyes* of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth.”

**5:6** – “which are the seven Spirits of God” – Holy Spirit

**5:7** – this is the culminating act in human history → Title Deed

**5:8** – “**harp** (music, praise, prophecy – exaltation) ... **golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of the saints** (intercession of the saints)”

**5:9** – “they sang a new song, saying”

**Isai 42:10** – “Sing to the LORD a new song, *Sing* His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it. You islands and those who dwell on them.”

**5:9** – “Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood ~~men~~ from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”

**Gen 10:31** – “These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations.”

“tribe”	Genealogical	“families”
“tongue”	Lingual	“languages”
“people”	Geographical	“lands”
“nation”	Political	“nations”

**5:10** – “kingdom” – 1:6; 2:26; 3:21; 20:4-6

**5:12** – “saying” – some say angels haven’t sung since creation (Job38:7) → 7-fold praise

**5:13** – ties back to 5:3; Psa 150

**Application** – As the text develops, as the seals are broken, and the scroll is unrolled, we must remember **His Substitution**, ponder that Jesus Christ took the eternal wrath of God upon His shoulders for you.

**1<sup>st</sup> Seal – 1-2**

**White Horse** → False Peace

A bloodless conquering by deception

- this rider on the white horse has a bow but no arrows (at first – before the midpoint of the Tribulation)
- Jesus’ weapon in Revelation is not a bow but a sword – **19:15, 21** so this is not Christ but the anti-Christ

Dan 7:8; 8:23; 9:26-27; 11:36; 2 Thess 2:3, 8; 1 John 2:22; Rev 11:7

- The crown that the rider of the white horse is wearing is a *stephanos* (victor’s like **4:4** – Jesus never wears a victor’s crown), not a *diadem* (which is the crown of a

King – only Jesus – **19:12** – “His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and upon His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *upon Him* which no one knows except Himself.”)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Seal – 3-4

**Red Horse** → War

**Mark 13:7-8** – “when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; *those things* must take place; but *that is* not yet the end. <sup>8</sup>For nation will arise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will *also* be famines. These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.”

They demonstrate the rotten moral condition of the world.

“These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs” – frequent figure of speech depicting time of Israel’s tribulation, which is the initial phase of “the day of the Lord” in Scripture (Isa 13:8; 26:17-19; 66:7-9; **Jer 30:7-8; Mic 4:9-10**).

### “birth pangs”

- signal the end of pregnancy
- increase rapidly just before the child is born
- the pain will escalate to massive and tragic proportions just prior to Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> coming during the tribulation

**1 Thess 5:3** – “While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”

**Mark 13:7** – “do not be frightened” – grammatically this is the present imperative → Stop being scared – do not be disturbed, do not be terrified

**Application** – Our hearts should not be troubled! We must be even-keeled! Patience! Why not be frightened? → God has a purpose. God has a plan.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Seal – 5-6**                      **Black Horse** → Famine

- worldwide (Mark 13:8)

**6:5** – “**scales**” – in the ancient world they symbolize measurement in commerce

**6:6** – “**A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius**” – **Crisis!** → eating food by weight

**6:6** – “**do not harm the oil and the wine.**” – The food of the rich is not touched.

**4<sup>th</sup> Seal – 7-8**                      **Ashen (Pale) Horse** → Death/Pestilence

- sword, famine, pestilence – **Jer 38:2**

**6:8** – ¼ of mankind will die at that point in time – “**authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.**”

**5<sup>th</sup> Seal – 9-11**                      **Martyrs**

**6:9** – “**the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained**” – incense, sacrifice

**6:10** – “**judging and avenging our blood**” – this makes us think of **Gen 4:10** – “The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.”

**Deut 32:43** – “Rejoice, O nations, *with* His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance on His adversaries, and will atone for His land *and* His people.”

**6:11** – “**white robe**” – the symbol of purity; the clothing of God – **4:4**

- the righteousness of God is imputed to us

## **6<sup>th</sup> Seal – 10-17**

Terror

Universal catastrophe – “great shaking”

**6:12** – “**a great earthquake**” – Luke 21:25; Hag 2:6, 7, 11; Isa 3:13; 13:10

**Joel 2:10** – “Before them the earth quakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and the moon grow dark, and the stars lose their brightness.”

**Joel 2:31** – “The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.”

**6:12** – “the whole moon became like blood” – a significantly red moon due to atmospheric phenomena (volcanic ash, etc)

**8:8** – “a third of the sea became blood” – actually becomes blood

**6:13** – “**the stars of the sky fell to the earth**” – most likely meteors

**6:14** – rapid continental movement, Isa 13, 24, 34

**Isa 34:4** – “all the host of heaven will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; all their hosts will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, or as *one* withers from the fig tree”

**16:20** – “every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”

**6:15** – **Luke 21:25** – “there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

**6:16** – “**the wrath of the Lamb**” – brings out the lion-like aspect of our Lamb

**7:1** – similar to **Dan 7:2** – “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.”

**7:2-3** – we move from the seals of judgment in chapter 6 to the seal of protection in chapter 7

Mark of Protection – **Ezek 9:4** – “Go through the midst of the city, *even* through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.”

**7:4f** – literal language

**Realization of Zech 12:10!! ☺**

**7:9** – “**After these things**” – another vision

“**palm branches**” – 7 Feasts (Lev 23) – Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Weeks, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacle → **Lev 23:40** – “Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.”

**7:12** – 7-fold chorus of praise again

**7:14** – “**the ones who come out of the great tribulation**”

- tribulation saints
- there will be tremendous harvest during this tremendous judgment

**7:15** – continuous praise

“**He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them**” – **total security, total satisfaction**

**Isa 49:10** – “They will not hunger or thirst, neither will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide them to springs of water.”

**Isa 25:8** – “He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.” – **Rev 21:4**

We have the seals of judgment, the seal of protection placed upon those who are sealed, we are His Saints, and He is our Shepherd.

**CONCLUSION**