

The Second Vision – Christ and the Earth Judgments

The Seven-Sealed Scroll *(see handout)*

4-7

In the book of Revelation, there are seven events called signs. The Greek word for sign is *say-mion* which means sign, wonder, or miracle. Signs or miracles in Revelation are symbols of something that God is about to reveal and usually contain an element of prophetic warning. These events, signs, occurrences, or happenings are seen in Heaven but occur on Earth.

(4:1-6) (1) We now come to things which must take place after the church is gone *(see handout)*. **(3:22)** The word church does not occur again until **(22:16)**. **(4)** The twenty-four elders are the celestial representatives of all the redeemed, glorified, and enthroned, who worship continually. Their white robes symbolize purity, and their crowns suggest victory and joy, not political authority. They are angelic representatives of the whole body of the faithful. The number 24 recalls the twelve patriarchs and the twelve apostles **(Rev 21:12-14)** and therefore suggest the redeemed of both the Old and the New Testament times. **(5)** A further indicator that the church has been raptured at this point is the fact that the seven lamps of fire, which were the seven churches on earth are now before the throne in heaven. **(6)** The four living creatures are angels who represent the four portraits of Christ that we find in the four Gospels. The lion (Christ as King – Matthew), ox (Servant – Mark), man (The Perfect Man – Luke), and eagle (Son of God – John).

(5:1-4) The sealed scroll is the title deed to the earth itself. The mighty judgments of the Tribulation period that unleashed by the opening of the document all are part of God's reclaiming for himself the control of the earth, which was forfeited to Satan **(Jhn 12:31; 2 Cor 4:4)**, by the fall of Adam and Eve. No one except Jesus Christ can open the seal. **(6-7)** Seven Seals/Judgments are symbolic of great times of trouble and persecution. These symbols are not new and are first presented in **(Zec 1:8; 6:1-8)**. The horses and their colors are symbols of God's involvement in world governments. **(7:9-17)** The innumerable multitude is the church finally glorified in heaven.

The Seven Trumpets *(see handout)*

8-11

(8:1) A silence in heaven and the opening of the seventh seal starts the seven trumpet judgments. The trumpets represent calamities that will be endured by the unrepentant inhabitants of earth during the coming seven-year tribulation. Trumpet judgments are God's judgment on the world. These may be supernatural judgments direct from the hand of God or merely the disastrous effects of man's improper stewardship of the earth and his abuse of technology (e.g., nuclear weapons). **(8:13)** This suggests that the calamities which occur throughout history will become more intense as the end approaches. **(Rom 8:22)** *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

Symbols and Figures of Speech *(see handouts)*

12-14

The Seven Bowls *(see handout)*

15-16

The blowing of the 7th trumpet leads into the 7 bowl or vial judgments. The 7 seals resulted in the 7 trumpets which result in the 7 bowls. The seven bowls of divine wrath or judgment precedes the second coming of Christ. These bowl or vial judgments are classified as the last plagues. The first four plagues are based on the plagues of Egypt in the book of Exodus **(Exo 7:17; 9:10)**.