

REVELATION REVISITED

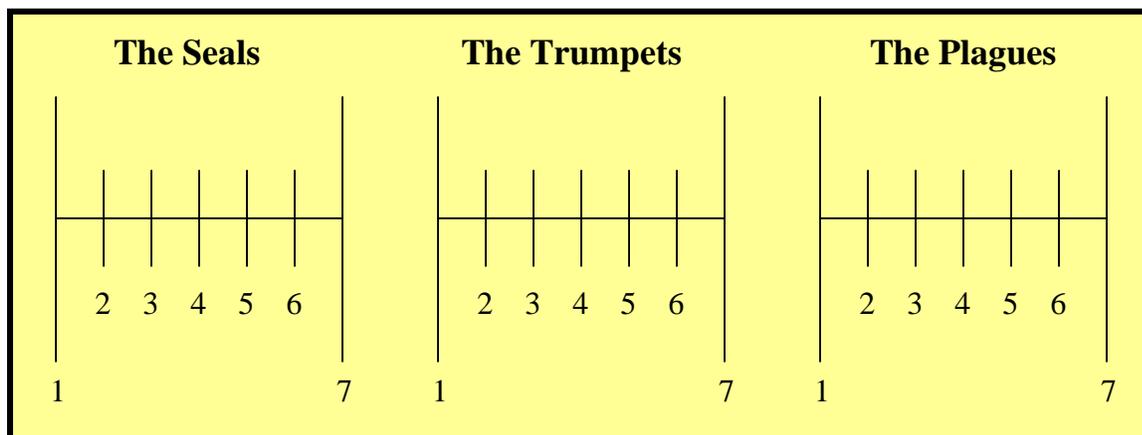
The “Eschatological” View

Eschatology is a big word that simply means “the study of end-times”. This study is eschatological in its perspective. That is to say, the intent of this study is to ask if there is a distinctly “end-time” perspective to the major prophecies of Revelation. By necessity, this may mean rethinking previous positions. But how can this be done without falling into error? We certainly don't want to turn to the "Futurist" view espoused by modern Evangelicals, complete with its teaching of the Rapture, and the exalting of the Jewish nation. This view fails to meet a number of significant Biblical tests.

Fortunately, there is a safe guide. In fact, we have the best of all possible guides as we look to future prophecies. Jesus. While here on earth, Jesus served not only as our example, but also as the greatest of all prophets. His prophecies - without a doubt - reach clear down to the end of time. So whatever understanding we develop about the meaning of Revelation needs to line up with the statements of Jesus.

I also believe that Ellen White, in vision, was given many views of end-time events without being given a complete understanding of the way in which those pictures fit within the prophetic outline of Revelation. However, there are several fascinating hints in her writings that suggest other views of Revelation than the one held in her time. For example in 8T, p 302, she wrote: “The solemn messages that have been given *in their order* in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God’s people. Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention.” And in Testimonies to Ministers, p.113 we find this jewel: “When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival. *We do not understand fully* the lessons that it teaches.” (Emphasis mine.)

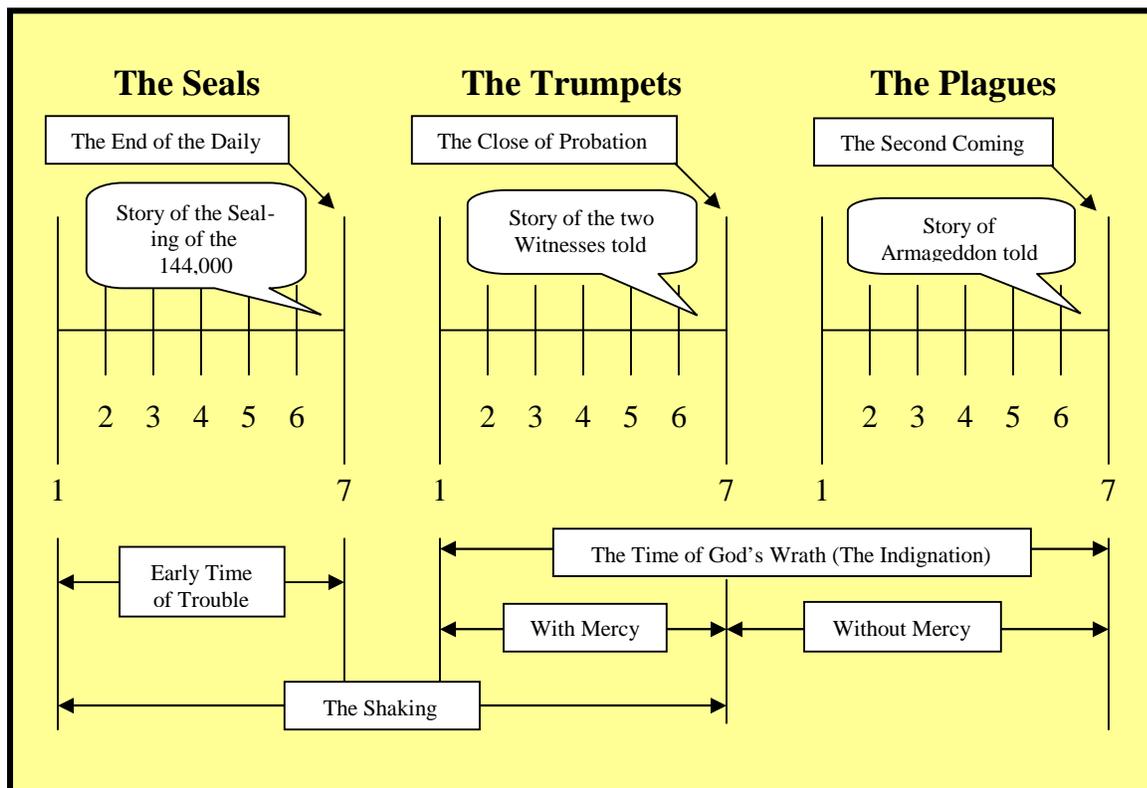
The prophetic portion of Revelation contains three major series of events. These are the Seals, the Trumpets, and the Plagues. If we were to outline the narrative of Revelation, we would note that these series of events are told in the following order:



What we will examine is this: Is it possible that this is not just the outline of Revelation, **but in fact is its story line?** Is it possible that the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 are expanded in the prophecies of Revelation - the Seals, the Trumpets, and the Plagues - and that they relate events that are associated with His second coming? Can such a view of Revelation be consistent with the words of Jesus, with the prophetic visions of Ellen White, and with established Seventh-day Adventist eschatology?

I believe that the answer to all of these questions is “Yes.” In fact, some of the events that we believe will transpire - such as the Early Time of Trouble - cannot be definitively supported from scripture *apart from this view*. In short, **I believe that a future-oriented view of Revelation can be completely consistent with the end-time teachings of the Adventist church**, while placing the Seals, Trumpets, and Plagues ahead of us as a series of consecutive events.

In the following chart I have added some labels to help clarify my overall view:



It is this view that we will investigate in the weeks ahead.