

**“How Long, O Lord,
How Long?”**

Revelation 6: 9-17

August 30, 2020

Verse 9 - 11

**The Fifth Seal,
The Cry of the Martyrs**

Why were these people killed?

“ . . . slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held.”

Under the threat of death, these brave souls continued to witness, but how?

It takes the Holy Spirit's power to do this (Acts 1: 8)

We are called to be witnesses, to testify about Jesus and His love - John 1: 6-7

We are called to be a witness to the *Light* -

- A witness is a pointer; to point people to Jesus
- witness = “*martureo*” = to declare or confirm facts or events
- **Root word “*martus*”** - we get our word “*martyr*” (to the death if need be)

Who gets a white robe?

Overcomers!

Revelation 3: 5

Who are overcomers?

“Nikao” = Victors!!

True believers!!

Verse 12 - 14

**The Sixth Seal -
Cosmic Disturbances**

These cosmic disturbances are future -

God is getting the attention of the earth dwellers:

- 1) A great earthquake - every mountain and island were moved out of its place**
- 2) The sun becoming black - the second of five blackouts**

God is getting the earth dweller's attention:

- 3) The moon becoming as blood**
- 4) Stars of heaven fall to earth**

Focus on the stars -

Stars = "*asteres*" = from which we get our word asteroid

Revelation 8: 10

Why does God do something so devastating?

To get the attention of the earth dwellers

In hopes that they will repent and turn to him



Verse 15 - 16

The Earth Dwellers run
from God - not to God!!

People generally respond one of two ways when presented with a disaster:

- 1) Shake their fist at God and run from Him**
- 2) Turn to God and run to Him for comfort**

We may never know the why's of
any situation -

One day all will be made clear -

1 Corinthians 13: 12

In the meantime, like the prophets
of old, ***TRUST HIM!!***

Genesis 18: 25

Deuteronomy 29: 29

There are many things that God has chosen not to reveal -

- God does not owe us an explanation
- God is infinite and *we are not!*
- We do not have the capacity to know everything He knows

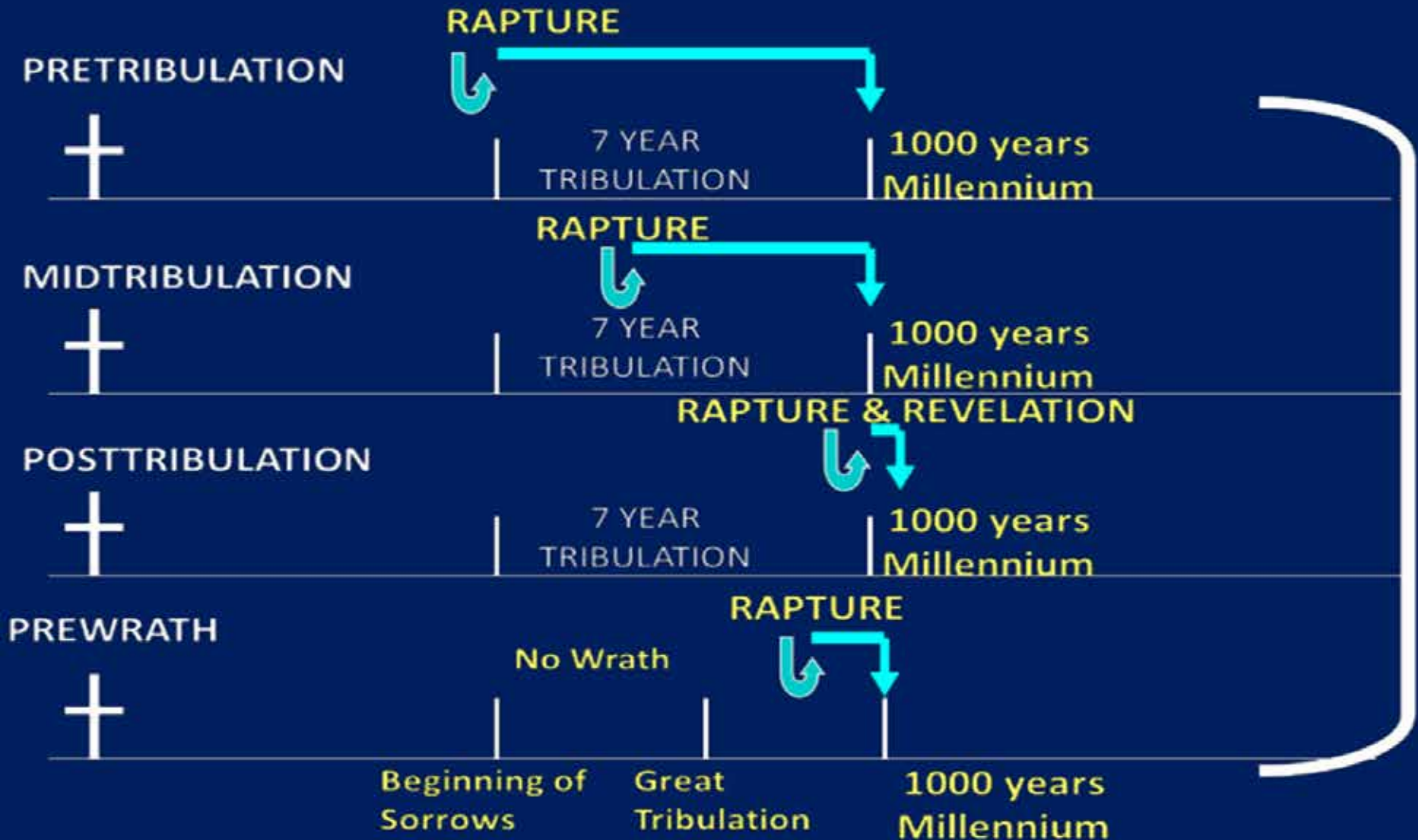
So, while I am here, ***I must trust Him and His Word!*** - no matter how things turn out!!

Verse 17

The Day of Wrath has come

Many believe this is when the Rapture occurs - mid trib and pre-wrath view:

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-R-H

Tommy Ice, a pre-tribulation rapture proponent, has noted the following:

“*Has come*” is written in the “*aorist indicative*” - what does this mean?

“*aorist tense*” simply means “*it occurred*”; something has taken place

“*Indicative mood*” means an action that has occurred or will occur

Putting this all altogether:



Rev. 6:16-17

Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 1–7: An Exegetical Commentary*,
ed. Kenneth Barker (Chicago: Moody, 1992), 457-58.

"Mankind in his rebellion correctly analyzes the cosmic and terrestrial disturbances as a part of the great end-time day of wrath from the one sitting on the throne and from the Lamb. The verb *ēlethen* ('has come') is aorist indicative, referring to a previous arrival of wrath, not something that is about to take place. Men see the arrival of this day at least as early as the cosmic upheavals that characterize the sixth seal (6:12-14), but upon reflection they probably recognize that it was already in effect with the death of one-fourth of the population (6:7-8), the worldwide famine (6:5-6), and the global warfare (6:3-4). The rapid sequence of all of these events could not escape notice, but the light of their true explanation does not dawn upon human consciousness until the severe phenomena of the sixth seal arrive."

What does all this mean to me?

The wrath described encompasses all the Seals, the Four Horsemen, as well as the Cosmic events

- This is a strong argument for a pre-tribulation rapture
- There are learned scholars that *disagree* with this position

In the end, it really won't matter, we
will make it home safely,

JESUS SAID SO!! - John 14: 3

A good fact to know:

We will have no recollection of our
past time on earth - Isaiah 65: 17

Who is right or wrong on these
things ***will not matter in eternity!!***

CLOSING: How Long, O Lord, How Long?

This is our *time*; this is the best of *times*; we are in this epoch of time for such a *time* as this!!

Do not waste the *time* that God has given you!

Do not waste *time* on worry!



Recall Jesus' words - Matthew 6: 34

By the way, His command!

The cure for worry and the daily
worry intruders of life:

TRUST GOD!!

I will trust in the Lord until I die!

Time is an earth thing - God is outside of ***time*** -

When you start to think that God is slow or doesn't care, remember:

- God is not in our ***time*** domain
- God sees the beginning from the end
- God does care; He proved it by entering our ***time*** domain to become one of us - **Galatians 4: 4**

**One day we will not be asking,
*How Long, O Lord, How Long!?!***

**For we, too, will inhabit eternity
with our God and *live with Him
forever!!***

Our days are determined by God -

Psalm 139: 16

Job 14: 5

Take advantage of the *time* that you have, instead of asking,

“How long God?”

May we ask, *“What do you want me to do with the time that you have given me?”*

How long, O Lord, how long?

I can almost hear the Father saying:

*“Not much longer,
You are almost here!!
Keep going! - Don't give up!!
Press on!!!”*





JESUS IS COMING!

THIS DO
IN REMEMBRANCE
OF ME

