

Prayer:

The world is ever trying to figure out the beginning, the origin of all things. The world is ever speculating on the end of all things. And they are clueless on both ends. Only God knows about the beginning, as He was the only one there. Only God knows how it will all end because only He knows the future.

In the Bible, God has told us about the beginning, and in the book of Revelation, He tells us the end of the matter. The book of Revelation comes with an inspired outline as seen in 1:19.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** –Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
 - - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

As seen in the book of Revelation, the history of the world revolves around the reality of spiritual warfare. This emphasis is brought to the fore in Revelation 12 and 13.

Slide # 2

Spiritual Warfare

God versus the Devil

God’s people versus the world

Christ versus Antichrist

Truth versus Deception

True Worship versus Blasphemy

The great issue in the history of the world is this: **Who will be God?** God is God and God alone, and as such, He alone is worthy of worship. God and worship go together. Jesus said that God is seeking for true worshipers. That is what life is all about! Who will be God to us, and who/what will we worship! That is the great issue.

Satan originally was known as Lucifer (shining one), and he had the highest position in heaven (cf. Ezek. 28:11-19). He got to thinking so highly of himself that he challenged God for the position of God. Satan wanted to be in the position of God! Immediately, he lost his position in heaven, and on earth, he deceived Eve, resulting in the fall of mankind. As a usurper, Satan now heads up the world's system, which is in rebellion against God.

All people are born sinners, but there are some who repent and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is called conversion. In conversion, a person changes sides as they now become followers/worshipers of God.

Down through the ages, there have been true worshipers who follow God, and there have been rebels who follow Satan as manifested in various forms of false religion.

This reality will come to a worldwide climax in the last days under Antichrist. The truth of the God of the Bible as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ will be powerfully presented by the two special witnesses of Revelation 11, by the 144,000 special Jewish witnesses of Revelation 7, and by a whole host of supernatural judgment phenomena. The world will realize that this is the God of heaven, the God of the Bible, the God of Israel, Who is bringing this upon them.

At the opening of the 6th seal in Revelation 6, note what the world says and does.

Slide # 3

Revelation 6:12–17 (NKJV)

12 I looked when He opened the **sixth seal**, and behold, there was a **great earthquake**; and the **sun** became black as sackcloth of hair, and the **moon** became like blood.

13 And the **stars** of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

14 Then the **sky** receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Slide # 4

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, **hid themselves** in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,
16 and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and **hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!**
17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

The point is that the whole world will realize the reality of what is happening. The two special witnesses will make it abundantly clear. There will be no excuse. The world will know! And yet most in the world will not “receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” – they will “not believe the truth” as it states in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.

Because of this, God will send them “***strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.***” (2 Thess. 2:11). This strong delusion is brought out in Revelation 13 where the beast is allowed to be brought back to life, and the great lie (**the lie**) is that the beast/Antichrist is God Almighty.

The world will marvel and follow the Antichrist in the worship of him as seen in Revelation 13:3-4. They will consider him to be all-powerful and unconquerable and therefore worthy of worship.

And that brings us to where we are in our study at Revelation 13:5.

Revelation 13:5–10 (NKJV)

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

This beast (who is the Antichrist) is given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. Note, it is given to him, meaning that ultimately God allows this. As seen in Job 1-2, the devil and his minions can only go as far as God allows.

The Antichrist will undoubtedly be the greatest orator the world has ever known. He has a mouth, and with it he makes great claims and spouts great blasphemies involving irreverent speech. To blaspheme is to insult, to defame, to demean, and to put down. He will undoubtedly do so in the most vulgar and profane terms.

He will be given authority to continue in this vein for 42 months, which is a period of 3 and ½ years (cf. Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:6, 14). This corresponds exactly to Daniel’s prophecy written about 600 years before the book of Revelation.

Slide # 5

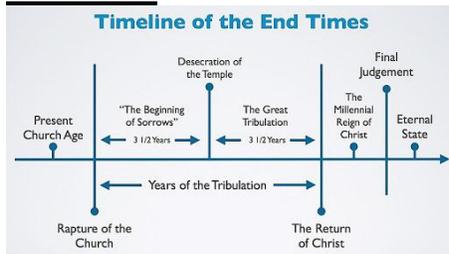
Daniel 7:25 (NKJV)

25 He shall speak **pompous words against the Most High**, Shall **persecute the saints** of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand **For a time and times and half a time.**

Note that he is limited in this expansive authority to 42 months. In 12:12 we are told that Satan at this point will know that his time is short.

God permits some things, He prevents some things, and He promotes some things, but all things are under His sovereign control. God allows evil – but only to a certain point – that is for a period of 3 and ½ years. This corresponds to the last half of the Tribulation Period, called by Christ the “great tribulation” (Mt. 24:21).

Slide # 6



6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

This man, the Antichrist, will come equipped with a MOUTH. In verse 5 he is “given a mouth” and in verse 6 he “opened his mouth”. His mouth will be a major instrument in all of his diabolical accomplishments. In Daniel 7 four times it emphasizes that he will speak “pompous” (literally GREAT) words (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25).

He will be a BIG talker, a great orator, able to sway the masses with his grandiose speech, much like Hitler did as he mesmerized people with what he said.

His mouth is full of blasphemy in his full-frontal verbal attack on God and all things pertaining to God. He will put himself up and put God down, claiming to be greater than God. In 2 Thess. 2:4 it says that he “**opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped.**” He claims to be GOD over all, thus blaspheming the One true God.

That is arrogance like no other. Even the devil did not go that far. In Isaiah 14:14, Satan said, “I will be like the Most High”, but the Antichrist goes further, claiming to be ABOVE all that is called God (2 Thess. 2:4). That is the height of blasphemy!

He will blaspheme the name of God, which is to say the very PERSON of God, involving Who He is, His nature, His attributes, and His character. The spirit of Antichrist is very alive today, as seen in the fact that there is so little reverence for God’s name (cf. 1 Jn. 2:18).

Slide # 7

Exodus 20:7 (NKJV)

7 “You shall not take the **name** of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

God is a holy God and is to be revered! To use the name of God in a way that is flippant or empty, that is not in keeping with reverence, is to use His name in vain, and to do so purposely fits the category of blasphemy.

It is common, even for professing Christians to God’s name in vain. They use it as a **filler word** or in a **flippant empty** way such, as “**O my God**”.

When people curse, why do they always ask God to damn it or use the name of Jesus Christ as a swear word? Why don’t we hear people use the name of Buddha or Muhammad, or Hitler in vain? The reason is that the devil doesn’t care about these people. He inspires taking the true God’s name in vain. This testifies to the spiritual reality that truly God and His Son are to be revered, and the world knows this but has total disregard.

The Jews had such high regard for the name of God that they would not even use His most sacred name, Yahweh, for fear they might use it in an irreverent way. Instead, they substituted what they considered the lesser name of *Adonai*, so much so that eventually it was lost as to how to even properly pronounce Yahweh. This thinking was out of balance, but it does convey how seriously they took not using God’s holy name in vain.

And he will blaspheme His tabernacle. Tabernacle literally means “tent” and refers to a person’s dwelling place. This is equivalent to blaspheming the Holy of Holies, God’s most intimate dwelling place, but in this case, it has the tabernacle of God in heaven in view (cf. Rev. 15:5).

And then he blasphemes those who dwell in heaven, which is an acknowledgement that he knows some are in heaven. He would have seen the two witnesses resurrected and ascend into heaven (Rev. 11:11-12). The rapture will have left an impact on the whole world. He knows the reality of those dwelling in heaven and holds them in total contempt and scorn.

He evidently will blaspheme all in heaven aligned with God, including the holy angels and all the saints.

By the way, note that even the Antichrist does not deny the reality of the God of heaven; he just blasphemes Him. The supernatural judgments and activity all around in the day of the Lord will be impossible to deny. Even the hardened unbelievers will not deny God’s existence; they, too, just blaspheme Him as seen in Revelation 16 (v. 9, 11, 21).

7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Note yet again that it is granted to him to make war with the saints, and authority is given him. The Antichrist is not a self-made man. It is the dragon (Satan) who empowers him (13:4); but beyond that is the sovereign control of God that allows him to do this.

Slide # 8

- v. 5 given a mouth
- v. 5 given authority
- v. 7 granted to him to make war
- v. 7 authority was given

Antichrist will be allowed to make war with the saints and pretty much have his way with them (cf. Rev. 11:7). Many will be killed. The saints (literally “set apart ones) are believers who belong to God. They are set apart to God.

And beyond that, he will be given universal authority over the whole earth, over every tribe, tongue, and nation. As much as a man can have, under the control of Satan, he will have absolute sway and control over the whole world.

Once again, we see that this embellishes what Daniel prophesied 600 years earlier.

Slide # 9

Daniel 7:21 (NKJV)

21 “I was watching; and the same horn was **making war against the saints, and prevailing** against them,

Daniel 7:23 (NKJV)

23 “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall **devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.**

This will be the consummation of a one-world order under Satan’s man, the Antichrist. This is ultimately where the whole push for a one-world order is leading and where it will end.

“Have you ever asked yourself about Adolph Hitler? How could one man destroy the whole of Europe? How could one man win the whole loyalty of a highly educated, brilliant, intelligent civilization like Germany?

Answer: He couldn’t – unless there were hundreds of thousands of Hitlers all around him who shared his Satanic purposes. Friend, he was only the tip of the iceberg... Underneath the surface there had to be a vast foundation upon which that tip could float above the surface of the water and be seen all over the world. And you know what happened? When we finally got into Germany and conquered Germany, and the war ended, we were astounded to discover that there were not just thousands but tens of thousands of Hitlers all over Germany who believed with all their hearts everything that he believed, who hated God and God’s people, Israel, just like he did. You know he couldn’t have done that all by himself. Impossible! Impossible!

He was the most spectacular, visible manifestation of something we never could have believed possible in the hearts and minds of hundreds of thousands of German people. That’s how the antichrist can personally appear and do all the things this book says he will do.” – ***Dr. John C. Whitcomb***

Slide # 10**1 John 2:18 (NKJV)**

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, **even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.**

The many antichrists on the scene are preparing the way for THE ANTICHRIST. It is a major indicator of where we are – getting closer and closer and yet we are not setting any dates. We are called to live ready!

8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Note that the word “**all**” is a qualified “**all**” in that we were just told in verse 7 that he will make war with the saints. They obviously are the great exception to “**all**”.

But realize where we are. This is the midpoint of the Tribulation Period as noted in verse 5. At that point, the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel will take place (cf. Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15), which is when the Antichrist goes into the rebuilt Jewish temple and declares himself to be God (2 Thess. 2:4).

It is at this point that the Antichrist comes back to life from the dead, as noted in our study last week (Rev. 13:3-4). It is at this point that he kills the two special witnesses for God, as seen in Revelation 11. And it is at this point that Antichrist will issue the mark of the beast, which (Lord willing) we will get to next week (Rev. 13:11-18). At this point he will declare war on the saints and be granted control over the whole world.

So there is a lot happening here. Given authority over the whole earth (v. 7), he will demand worshipful allegiance from all who are on the earth. And the earth will comply, all whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb (cf. Dan. 12:1).

At this point, all those not written in the Book of Life will worship the Antichrist.

It is called the “**Book of Life of the Lamb**” (cf. 13:8; 21:27) because it is only through the Lamb that we can have eternal life (cf. Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19). Jesus is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29).

And at the end of the day whoever is not found written in this Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.

Slide # 11

Revelation 20:15 (NKJV)

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The phrase “**from the foundation of the world**” refers to the beginning of the creation. In other words, this was in place from the very beginning related to eternity past (cf. Matt. 13:35; 25:34; Lk. 11:50; Eph. 1:4; Heb. 9:26; 1 Pet. 1:20; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:9).

However, there is a textual issue here. Grammatically, it is not clear whether “**from the foundation of the world**” should be connected to the word “**written**” or to the word “**slain**”.

Connected to “**written**”, it would mean that the names of those who worship the beast were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world. Connected to “**slain**,” it would mean that from the very beginning, it was God’s plan for the Lamb to be slain.

There are good arguments for both views. However, it is noteworthy that without dispute this is stated in reference to those not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world in Revelation 17:8. For many that ends the argument showing the preferred view is to also take it that way here in 13:8 as well.

Slide # 12

Revelation 17:8 (NKJV)

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are **not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world**, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

“Consistency of usage by the same author is the stronger consideration, so the sense “the book of life written from the foundation of the world” is the best solution.” – **Robert Thomas**

I am not dogmatic but that is a very strong argument. However, we should note that both are true theologically. In 1 Peter 1:19-20 Peter speaks of the precious blood of Christ that “**was foreordained before the foundation of the world**” and then as noted in Revelation 17:8 there are those “**not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world.**” So both are true!

But as we delve deeper, this phrase “not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world” is a challenging reality. And the reason is that the Scriptures seem to indicate that initially, all are written in God’s book of Life.

Slide # 13

Exodus 32:32–33 (NKJV)

32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”

33 And the Lord said to Moses, “**Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.**”

Psalm 69:28 (NKJV)

28 Let them be **blotted out of the book of the living**, And not be written with the righteous.

Even in the book of Revelation, it seems that initially all are written in the book, but then the lost will be blotted out of God’s Book of Life (cf. Rev. 2:7; 22:2, 14).

Slide # 14

Revelation 3:5 (NKJV)

5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will **not blot out his name from the Book of Life;** but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Revelation 22:19 (NKJV)

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God shall take away his part from the Book of Life,** from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

So how can this be? How can one be written in the book of life at one point prior to being blotted out, and then at the same time not be written in the book from the foundation of the world before they were ever born?

I want to acknowledge that it is a conundrum or an antinomy. Because of this, I don't want to be dogmatic, and I freely admit there are things past finding out. But when I look at all the Scriptures, I come to this conclusion.

Slide # 15

Unsaved: Born written in the book, but those who harden beyond the point of return (cf. Heb. 6, 10; Rev. 13:8) or die in unbelief are blotted out.

Saved: Born written in the book and upon conversion are promised they will not be blotted out.

I believe the nuance of not being written in the book of life from the foundation of the world has the sense of never having been written in the book in an indelible, permanent fashion. At this point, not being written in the Book of Life takes on a PERMANENT and sealed forever form. This is seen in the fact that "**not written**" is in the perfect tense, indicating a permanent state of affairs.

I take it this way because of the "**blotting out**" reality. The lost will ultimately be blotted out, while the saved will not be. **The issue is permanence in the Book of Life**. Only the saved have the element of permanence in it, while the beast worshipers at this point have the permanence of being blotted out. Only those who worship the Lamb properly belong in the Lamb's book of life.

But provision has been made for all. Jesus is the Lamb who died for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2 says Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, "**and not ours only but also for the whole world.**" Christ's payment for sin is sufficient for all, but efficient only for those who come to Christ in saving faith. 2 Thessalonians tells us why these beast worshipers in the Tribulation Period will perish. It specifically says, "**because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved**" (2:10). And again, they will be condemned because they "**did not believe the truth**" (2:12).

The point is, they could have been saved had they received the love of the truth, had they believed the truth, but alas, they did not! It is for this reason that they are permanently removed from the Book of Life. The onus is on them!

Revelation 13 is the middle of the Tribulation Period, and in essence, this is the final call to the world.

Will they worship the beast and forever be blotted out, or will they worship the Lamb of God (Jesus)? That is the decision before them. If they worship the beast, it shows they were never permanently written/listed in the Lamb's Book of Life.

To show you all the more, this is the issue; verse 8 is immediately followed by the exhortation of verse 9, "***If anyone has an ear, let him hear.***" That is a strong exhortation to respond to the message just shared while they still have the opportunity.

In Jesus' teachings in the gospel, He consistently issues this call to respond after giving the message. For example, in the parable of the sower and the soils illustrating a saving faith response in contrast to those that are bogus, after sharing the parable, Jesus immediately says, "***He who has ears to hear, let him hear!***" (Matt. 13:9). The point is, you'd better respond appropriately!

In the messages to the Churches, in each case after the message is given, the concluding exhortation given is, "***He who has an ear, let him hear...***" (Rev. 2-3). I believe we have the same pattern here in Revelation 13:9, but it is applicable to those in the Tribulation Period who are in effect receiving their final warning!

Those who become beast worshipers will be those who were NEVER listed permanently in the Book of Life. They will all be blotted out. To show you all the more, this is the sense of the warning. Note the flow of thought into the next chapter, which provides a special severe warning not to be a beast worshiper, which is also the context here in chapter 13.

Slide # 16

Revelation 14:9–11 (NKJV)

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If **anyone worships the beast** and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

10 he himself shall also **drink of the wine of the wrath of God**, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be **tormented with fire and brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 And the smoke of **their torment ascends forever and ever**; and they have **no rest day or night, who worship the beast** and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Slide # 17

The Book of Life

All are written in Provisionally

Saved: Permanently Positioned (Not blotted out)

Unsaved: Blotted Out (Never had a permanent placement)

But having said all this, there is some mystery here. And it is right at this very point that Jesus interjects the issue of election.

Slide # 18

Matthew 24:22 (NKJV)

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for **the elect's sake** those days will be shortened.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, **if possible, even the elect.**

Election is the God side of things. It is an undeniable reality being found 30 times in the NT, but how exactly it harmonizes with human responsibility is a mystery.

Slide # 19

The God Side of Things

Election = Choice

1. Election is of God
2. Election is BEFORE salvation

2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV)

10 Therefore I endure all things for the **sake of the elect**, that they **also may obtain the salvation** which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Slide # 20

The God Side of Things

Election = Choice

1. Election is of God.
2. Election is BEFORE salvation.
3. All the Elect will be saved.

The Human Side of Things

1. People are Accountable.
2. Human response and responsibility are involved in salvation.

Slide # 21

God chose certain individuals to salvation, but they freely choose Christ. Both are equally present in the salvation dynamic. To diminish God's sovereign choice is to go against the teaching of Scripture; likewise, to diminish human responsibility is to deny the teaching of Scripture. The relationship between the two is likened to a railroad track. The two parts of the track are perfectly parallel. You need both parts to make a track; one without the other makes travel on the track impossible. When a person stands on the track and looks into the future, they seem to come together. But as long as a person walks the tracks, they remain parallel.

Slide # 22

So it is with the interplay between divine sovereignty of choice in salvation and the matter of human responsibility in salvation. Both are equally taught in Scripture. As long as we remain in this world, in our finiteness we cannot reconcile this seeming antinomy. In fact, all attempts to reconcile the two have been unsuccessful. Both the reality of divine sovereignty in God's choice of those who will be saved and the truth of human responsibility must be held in theological tension. **-Dr. James P. Eckman**

Footnote: Before we leave verse 8, note that "earth dwellers" in the book of Revelation is used at least ten times as a technical term for unbelievers (cf. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 17:2, 8).

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

This is the language of appeal – to take to heart the message being shared because it is of utmost importance.

The first step in getting saved is being willing to LISTEN. “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom. 10:17) To hear doesn’t simply mean to be aware, but to respond positively to the message being shared.

Slide # 23

John 10:27–28 (NKJV)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

There is some question as to whether verse 9 is to be applied to what has preceded it or to what follows in verse 10. A third option is that it is a **general statement** that takes into account the whole surrounding context.

It is noted that consistently in the gospels, a statement of this nature comes at the end of Christ’s teaching, and therefore it makes sense that the emphasis here is to apply to what has already been shared in the preceding verses. I agree with that, but is it limited only to what has preceded?

Another view is that the immediate context here concerns the persecution and martyrdom of the saints, and the proverbial wording that follows in verse 10 makes it clear that the application of verse 9 is connected to what follows, emphasizing what their attitude and response should be.

I would tend to take this in a **general sense**.

Anyone is pretty general. All those who find themselves in this context had better listen up and take seriously what is in view. Worship of antichrist comes with an eternal price tag forever having one’s name removed from the Book of Life. That is sobering. Eternity is in the balance.

On the other hand, Christ said to count the cost in following Him, and for these in the Tribulation Period that admonition will be very real (cf. Lk. 14:26-33). To commit to Christ will be costly, as verse 10 goes on to show, involving extreme persecution or martyrdom. Those committing to Christ need to recognize what this commitment involves and accept it.

Therefore, I would take the appeal to “anyone” in verse 9 as a general statement that has application for “anyone,” considering the issues related to whether to worship or not to worship the antichrist. It has profound implications in every direction.

It is noteworthy that the appeal here in verse 9, which comes right in the middle of the Tribulation Period while similar to what was said to the churches is also very different.

Slide # 24

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (cf. 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22) - found 7 times in Revelation 2-3.

Contrasted with...

“If anyone has an ear, let him hear.” (13:9)

This is a significant argument from silence that the church is not represented here and has not been represented on earth since chapter 3. Also note that verse 7 speaks of the “saints” on earth, but nothing about the church. I submit to you that the church is not addressed at all in relation to the judgments on earth in Revelation 6-18 because the church is not here. She was previously raptured to heaven in fulfillment of our blessed hope (Titus 2:13).

10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The translation of the NKJV here is rough. I think the flow of thought that most naturally fits the context, as seen at the end of the verse, is seen in the ESV.

Slide # 25

Revelation 13:10 (ESV)

10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Robert Thomas says the best rendering for the verse is this: “If anyone is for captivity, into captivity he departs; if anyone is to be killed by the sword, [it is necessary for] hi m to be killed by the sword”.

Remember that it is granted to the Antichrist to overcome the saints. At this point all they can do is accept this as the sovereign appointment of God. If they are going to be imprisoned that is the way it will be, if they are to be killed, so it will be (cf. Jer. 15:2; 43:11).

Slide # 26

Revelation 6:11 (NKJV)

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, **who would be killed as they were, was completed.**

This is their calling in life at this point. Peter says that there are those who suffer according to the will of God and tells them to commit their souls to God as to a faithful Creator (1 Pet. 4:19). Jesus said, not to fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, but rather to fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Mt. 10:28).

In taking their stand for Christ, no matter what the consequences, they prove their faith. This is the patience (endurance) and faith of the saints. This is what defines the true believers. Perseverance of the saints is a major emphasis in the book of Revelation (cf. 1:9; 2:2, 3, 19; 3:10; 12:17; 14:12; 16:15; 17:14; 21:7-8; 22:7, 10, 12, 14, etc.)

We saw in 12:11 that overcomers (true believers) are those who do “***not love their lives to the death***” meaning they are willing to die for their faith if necessary. In the end those willing to suffer and die for Christ emerge the true winners for all eternity.

Romans 8:36–37 (NKJV)

36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

In Revelation 3:10 Christ described the coming Tribulation Period as a time of testing that will come upon the whole world. It will serve to press the whole world regarding their FINAL DECISION! Will they throw in with the Lamb of God, the true Christ, or will they throw in with the Antichrist? Either way it will be costly!

If they throw in with Antichrist, it will cost them for all eternity, as they will be permanently blotted out of the Book of Life with no hope ever of life beyond this life. If they throw in with the Lord Jesus Christ, it will cost them momentarily as they suffer persecution and death at the hands of the Antichrist, but this is the patience and faith of the saints who will have their name written down forever in the book of LIFE for all eternity.

Allow me some poetic license to illustrate. Realize this is just an illustration to make a point.

Those who worship the beast will find their names blotted out of the Book of Life; they were never indelibly placed there. This only happens when a person places their faith in the Lamb, as this is the Lamb's Book of Life.

In poetic terms, it's like when you believe in Jesus, you pass from death unto life (Jn. 5:24). And when you do, it's as if your name is written down with His blood in His book of Life. That reality is permanent reality and can never be changed! Based on the BLOOD of Jesus, you are written down forever in the Lamb's book of life.

Let me ask you: Is your name written down in the Lamb's book of life for all eternity? Another way to say this: Are you are believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? True believers have their name written down in the Lamb's Book of Life for all eternity.

Slide # 27



He who has an ear, let him hear!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!