

The Book of the REVELATION NT – Parallel Prophecies

A. The Presence of *a Key Prophetic Time-Marker*.

- Joel 2:30-31; “The **sun shall be turned to darkness**, and the **moon to blood**, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.”
- Matthew 24:29; “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the **sun will be darkened**, and the **moon will not give its light**, . . . and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn . . .” (Isa. 13:10f (*Joel 2:31*); Zech. 12:10)
- Revelation 6:12; “When he opened the sixth seal . . . the **sun became black** as slackcloth, the full **moon became like blood**, . . . hide us from the . . . the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

NOTE: Joel's prophetic chronology in 2:30-31 provides the time-marker that connects its chronology with both Matthew 24 and Revelation 6. This is BIG!

- On the earth, “blood and fire and columns of smoke” (Joel 2:30) – *i.e., much loss of human life, catastrophic and visible destruction.*
- In the heavens, “the **sun darkened, and the moon to blood**” (2:31a) – *the sign given by the heavenly bodies that ...*
- That precede the **great and awesome day of the Lord!** (2:31b)

B. Three *Parallel End-Time Chronologies* (cf. also Daniel 7 and 9):

1. Matthew 24:1-31 (parallel accounts of Jesus' Olivet Discourse are in Mark 13; Luke 21):
 - a. “[The] **gospel** . . . will be proclaimed throughout the **whole world**” (24:14) -
 - b. Then, when “the **abomination of desolation**” spoken of by Daniel stands in the holy place ... (24:15; also cf. Dan, 9:27; 11:31) -
 - c. “There will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been . . .” (24:21) -
 - d. “Immediately after the **tribulation** of those days . . . (24:29) -

- e. “The **sun will be darkened**, and the **moon will not give its light**, . . . and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn . . .” (24:29,30; also cf. Isa. 13:10f; Joel 2:31)

Followed by the Great Day of the Lord!

- f. Finally, climaxed with the Son of Man **coming “with Power and Great glory”** (24:30; 25:31) -

NOTE: Jesus' chronology here:

- The **Gospel** message is proclaimed **worldwide** (v. 14; cf. Mark 13:10, “the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations”) -
- The **abomination of desolation** (Antichrist) has ascended to power (v. 15; cf. Mark 13:14)
- Following this is a period of **great tribulation** unlike any other (vs. 21-24; cf. Mark 13:19) -
- “Immediately *after* the **tribulation**” of these days ... (v.29)
- “The **sun will be darkened**, and the **moon will not give its light**” and God’s Great Day of Wrath will follow (vs. 29-30a; and “all the tribes of the earth will mourn”; cf. Mark 13:24) -
- The Lord’s Day climaxes with the **coming the Son of Man** with power and great glory (v. 30f) -

2. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- a. “Now concerning the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**” (v: 2:1) -
- b. “... the **day of the Lord** ... will not come, unless the” (vv. 2-3) -
- c. “... the **man of lawlessness**” is first revealed (v. 2:3) -
- d. “... he takes his seat in the **temple of God**, proclaiming himself to be **God**” (v. 2:4) -
- e. “the Lord Jesus **will kill** with the breath of His mouth . . . [at] the appearance of **His coming**” (2:8) -

NOTE: Paul's chronology here:

- The **man of lawlessness** is revealed (i.e. the Antichrist, is on the world scene and exercising Satanic authority and power (2:3)
- The Antichrist or abomination of desolation has set-up himself in the rebuilt **temple in Jerusalem**, declaring himself **God** (2:4b); all by satanic power (2:9)
- THEN Paul says, after these events, the **day of the Lord** will come! (2:2-3,8)
- At **His coming**, the Antichrist is **killed** by the Lord (v. 2:8)

(Note: Although Paul does not mention here the heavenly signs given by the prophet Joel, chronologically the darkening of the sun and moon will signal that God's judgment on the "man of lawlessness" is about to fall (i.e., on Antichrist).

3. Revelation 6-19

NOTE: The General Chronology of Revelation:

- The **Gospel** advances in peaceful conquest **throughout the world** - 1st Seal; (v. 6:2)
- The **Beast arises** and ascends in power; (vv.11:7; 13:1-18; 17:1-17)
- The Beast, in his rise to power and during his rule, is the time of **Great Tribulation** – 4,5,6th Seals (vv. 7:9-14; cf. Dan. 7:21-25)
- He makes war on the saints; and he **kills the saints** - 5th Seal (vv. 6:9-11; 7:9-14; **13:6-7**; 15:2-4; 17:3-6; there is great emphasis on the blood of the saints in Rev.)
- "The earth and its inhabitants **worship** the first **Beast**, ... and it was allowed to exercise authority for 42 months" (v. 13:5,12)
- Then the "sun became black ... and the full moon became as blood" for the Great Day of *their Wrath* (God the Father and the Lamb) has come." (vs. 6:12,17) -
- So commences the **Great and Awesome Day of the Lord** – the end of the 6th Seal (vv. 6:12-17; that "Day" includes the trumpet and bowl judgments)

- Finally, the **Lord Himself COMES**, who descends from heaven with His saints in Power and **Great Glory**. The Beast and False prophet **are slain** by the Lord when they are both “thrown alive into the lake of fire” (vv. 19:11-20)

TO SUMMARIZE, these three prophetic passages follow this general chronology:

1. The **Beast** Rises to Power and Absolute Rule.
2. The **Great Tribulation** Results: He Rages Against Christ and the Saints.
3. He Sets Himself Up in the **Holy City** and as the One **True God**.
4. The Darkening of the **Sun and Moon** and other Signs in Heaven Signal the Coming of God’s Final Judgment.
5. The Great **Day of God’s Wrath** is Poured Out: The Trumpet and Bowl Judgments.
6. The **Lord Jesus Returns** in Power and Great Glory with His Saints and Angels **to Judge** the World and Set Up His Millennial **Kingdom**.

Each of these 3 end-time NT prophecies share and follow the same general chronology. Indeed, two of the three prophetic chronologies include a very significant time-marker from a major OT eschatological prophecy: Joel 2:30-31; in which the heavenly sign is revealed that will announce the onset of “the great and awesome day of the Lord.” These parallel NT prophecies then, along with their connection to the prophecy in Joel, help greatly in the interpretation of the book of Revelation. Taken together, they reveal the underlying spine that gives structure to the prophetic visions in Revelation. This underlying spine is seen both in the general chronology of Revelation noted above, as well as, in the chart of the book that has previously been made available.

** Note: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 corresponds with the chronology of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 as well. In 1 Thess. 4:13-17, Paul’s emphasis is solely on Christ’s return (the same event as in Rev. 19:11f). However in 5:1-11, Paul details certain conditions on earth that will be true just before the coming of the Day of the Lord’s Wrath and the return of Christ (Note: 1 Thess. 5:1-11 corresponds with the end of the 6th Seal in Revelation ch. 6)*