

THE IMPORTANCE OF ROME

A Summary of Revelation 1 – 11

1. Chapter 11 concluded the sounding of the seven trumpets, which were revealed following the opening of the seventh seal in chapter 8.
  - a. This also ended the first section of the book of Revelation.
  - b. In this section, the principles of both the suffering and victory of the church were addressed in general terms.
2. Chapter 1 introduced the book and its symbolism with a vision of Jesus.
3. Chapters 2 – 3 revealed His message to the seven churches of Asia – also giving an overview of the principles that would be explained in later visions.
4. Chapter 4 allowed a glimpse into Heaven, to see the throne room of God and those who surrounded and worshipped Him.
5. Chapter 5 revealed a scroll that was sealed with seven seals and the Lamb who was worthy to open the book and reveal its contents.
6. Chapter 6 began the opening of the seals, with the first six being revealed.
  - a. The white horse symbolized conflict and victory.
  - b. The red horse symbolized bloodshed and warfare.
  - c. The black horse symbolized sorrow brought by famine and suffering.
  - d. The pale horse symbolized death.
  - e. The opening of the fifth seal revealed the souls of faithful martyrs crying out for vengeance and vindication of their suffering and deaths.
    - i. They cried, “How long?”
    - ii. They were told to wait a little longer until others who would suffer their fate were killed.
  - f. The opening of the sixth seal revealed God’s judgment upon the persecutors.
7. Chapter 7 was an interlude between the opening of the sixth and seventh seals.
  - a. The faithful were sealed by God and given the hope of Heaven.
  - b. This served as a comfort to them during their persecution.
8. Chapter 8 saw the opening of the seventh seal, followed by a silence in Heaven and seven angels sounding seven trumpets.
  - a. The sounding of the first four trumpets indicated warnings in the form of natural disasters and the troubles of life.
  - b. Each trumpet was a call to attention and a warning from God.
9. Chapter 9 revealed the sounding of the fifth and sixth trumpets.
  - a. The 5<sup>th</sup> warned of judgment through the consequences of sin and moral corruption.
  - b. The 6<sup>th</sup> warned of judgment from God, possibly from invading forces.
10. Chapter 10 and most of chapter 11 was an interlude between the sounding of the sixth and seventh trumpets.
  - a. A mighty angel presented John with a little book, which he ate.
  - b. The temple was measured, and the two witnesses were persecuted.
  - c. These visions served as a challenge to the church to remain faithful and to continue preaching during severe persecution.
11. The end of chapter 11 revealed the sounding of the seventh trumpet and made known the fact that God was ready to judge and punish the enemies of His church.

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- I. The Vision of a Statue (Daniel 2)
  - A. Babylon is represented by the head of gold.
  - B. Medo-Persia is represented by the chest and arms of silver.
  - C. Greece is represented by the belly and thighs of brass (bronze).
  - D. Rome is represented by the legs of iron and feet of iron and clay.
    - 1. Note that Rome is a mixture of ingredients.
    - 2. This symbolizes a lack of cohesiveness (or, national identity).
    - 3. Yet, it also symbolized great strength and violence (cf. Amos 1:3; John 11:48).
  - E. The emphasis of the prophecy is that in the days of the Roman Empire, God would set up His kingdom.
    - 1. It would end the world domination of Rome.
    - 2. It would spread into the entire world.
- II. The Vision of Four Beasts (Daniel 7)
  - A. Babylon is represented by a lion with the wings of an eagle.
  - B. Medo-Persia is represented by a bear with three ribs in its mouth.
  - C. Greece is represented by a leopard with four wings.
  - D. Rome is represented by a dreadful, terrible, strong diverse beast.
    - 1. Rome was a nation that inspired fear throughout the world.
    - 2. It chewed up all that stood before it and stamped under foot anything that was left standing.
  - E. The destruction of the fourth beast (Rome) is tied to the establishing of the kingdom of the Messiah when He ascends to the Ancient of Days.
    - 1. His kingdom was not founded by bloodshed and war.
    - 2. Instead, it was purchased by His blood on the cross of Calvary.
    - 3. The kingdoms of men are “wild animals,” but the kingdom of Christ is a peaceable kingdom.
- III. The Book of Revelation (Revelation 13, 19)
  - A. Part of the purpose of the book of Revelation is to show how this final world empire would be brought to its end.
  - B. Thus, in the second section of the book the downfall and judgment of Rome will be revealed.