

Judgments of Revelation (Preterist Interpretation)

The Preterist perspective interprets these judgments as depicting God's judgment on Jerusalem and the Roman Empire in response to their opposition to early Christianity and Israel's covenantal unfaithfulness.

Seal Judgments			
Judgment	Description	Preterist Interpretation	Historical Source
1st Seal	White Horse – Conqueror with a bow	Symbolizes Roman military campaigns and victories; often linked to initial steps in Jerusalem's revolt against Rome.	
2nd Seal	Red Horse – War and Bloodshed	Represents the civil unrest and internal strife within Jerusalem and Israel during the war.	“There were besides disorders and civil wars in every city; and all those that were at quiet from the Romans turned their hands one against another. There was also a bitter contest between those that were fond of war, and those that were desirous for peace.... the barbarity and iniquity those of the same nation did no way differ from the Romans; nay, it seemed to be a much lighter thing to be ruined by the Romans than by themselves.” (Josephus Wars 4.3.2)
3rd Seal	Black Horse – Famine	Reflects famine and economic distress, particularly during the siege of Jerusalem where resources became scarce.	
4th Seal	Pale Horse – Death	Symbolizes the widespread death from war, famine, and plague that plagued Jerusalem and Israel.	
5th Seal	Martyrs under the altar	Depicts early Christian martyrs seeking justice, possibly referencing those killed by Jewish authorities.	
6th Seal	Great Earthquake; cosmic disturbances	Symbolizes massive upheaval and change, potentially the downfall of Israel's national life and leadership. Kings hide underground.	“So now the last hope which supported the tyrants [zealot leaders], and that crew of robbers [zealot troops] who were with them, was in the caves and caverns underground...they were not able to lie hid either from God or from the Romans.” (Josephus Wars 6.7.3)
7th Seal	Silence in heaven	Marks a pause before the Trumpet Judgments; sometimes viewed as the anticipation of greater judgments.	

Trumpet Judgments			
Judgment	Description	Preterist Interpretation	Historical Source
1st Trumpet	Hail and fire mixed with blood, burning a third of the land	Destruction of all vegetation, symbolizing damage to Israel's trees, land and agricultural stability during the conflict.	"...nor did the Romans... leave off, either by night or by day, burning the places in the plain, and stealing away the cattle that were in the country, and killing whatsoever appeared capable of fighting perpetually, and leading the weaker people as slaves into captivity; so that Galilee was all over filled with fire and blood; nor was it exempted from any kind of misery or calamity..." (Josephus, Wars 3.4.1)
2nd Trumpet	A burning mountain thrown into the sea, turning it to blood	Jerusalem is being taken over by Gentile leadership (sea). Or, the incident in Joppa where residents could not escape Romans in Boats due to barricades.	"...there fell a violent wind upon them... and there dashed their ships one against another, and dashed some of them against the rocks, and carried many of them by force...the shore was so rocky, and had so many of the enemy upon it, that they were afraid to come to land... the sea was bloody a long way, and the maritime parts were full of dead bodies; for the Romans came upon those that were carried to the shore, and destroyed them; and the number of the bodies that were thus thrown out of the sea was four thousand and two hundred." (Josephus Wars 3.9.3)
3rd Trumpet	A star (Wormwood) falls, turning waters bitter	Corruption of leadership, often interpreted as a symbolic "fallen" leader affecting people negatively.	
4th Trumpet	A third of the sun, moon, and stars darkened	Cosmic Deconstruction language. Symbolizes the diminishing of Israel's spiritual "light" and leadership in the ancient world.	
5th Trumpet	Locusts with scorpion tails torment people	Spiritual oppression or demonic forces impacting Jerusalem, or psychological torment from siege tactics.	
6th Trumpet	Four angels release armies, killing a third of humanity	Seen as the invasion of Jerusalem by Roman armies, which brought widespread destruction.	"Now these [Idumean] rulers were greatly surprised at the contents of the letter, and at what those that came with it further told them; whereupon they ran about the nation like madmen, and made proclamation that the people should come to war...and twenty thousand of them were put into battle-array, and came to Jerusalem, under four commanders..." (Josephus Wars 4.4.2) "The zealots and the multitude of the Idumeans fell upon the people as upon a flock of profane animals, and cut their throats..." (Josephus Wars 4.5.3)
7th Trumpet	Kingdom proclaimed; Christ's victory announced	Declares the ultimate victory of Christ and signals the fall of Jerusalem and judgment on Israel.	

Bowl Judgments			
Judgment	Description	Preterist Interpretation	Historical Source
1st Bowl	Painful sores on people with the mark of the beast	Death around breaks out in plague on living, the affliction on those opposing God, interpreted as suffering on rebellious Israelites.	
2nd Bowl	Sea turns to blood, killing every living thing in it	Incident on Sea of Galilee, with corpses, or represents the collapse of Israel's maritime commerce and the ruin of her influence.	"They [Jews] then extended themselves a very great way along the banks of the [Jordan] river, and sustained the darts that were thrown at them, as well as the attacks of the horsemen, who beat many of them, and pushed them into the current. At which fight, hand to hand, fifteen thousand... were slain, while the number of those that were unwillingly forced to leap into Jordan was prodigious... and Jordan could not be passed over, by reason of the dead bodies that were in it, but because the lake Asphaltiris [Dead Sea] was also full of dead bodies, that were carried down into it by the river. And now Placidus [Roman General]... put his soldiers on board the ships, and slew such as had fled to the lake [Dead Sea]..." (Wars 4.7.5)
3rd Bowl	Rivers and springs turn to blood	Contamination of water supply due to dead bodies.	
4th Bowl	Sun scorches people with fire	Intense suffering and anguish within Israel, possibly fire during the siege of Jerusalem.	
5th Bowl	Darkness over the beast's kingdom	Confusion, chaos, and despair over Jerusalem and Rome as power structures crumble.	
6th Bowl	Euphrates dries up; armies gather for Armageddon	The removal of protection and the approach of Roman forces on Jerusalem, leading to final conflict.	
7th Bowl	"It is done!" – Earthquake, hail, and final judgment	Roman catapults throwing 100 pound stones at walls. Marks the end of the Old Covenant and the completion of judgment on Jerusalem.	"And now there were three treacherous factions in the city, the one parted from the other. Eleazar [ben Simon] and his party, that kept the sacred first-fruits, came against John.... Those that were with John plundered the populace and went out with zeal against Simon." (Wars 5.1.4) "The engines, that all the legions had ready prepared for them, were admirably contrived; but still more extraordinary ones belonged to the tenth legion... Now the stones that were cast were of the weight of a talent, and were carried two furlongs and further. The blow they gave was no way to be sustained, not only by those that stood first in the way, but by those that were beyond them for a great space." (Wars 5.6.3)