

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 22

INTRODUCTION TO THE THREE-NUMBERED JUDGMENT SERIES

(PART 1)



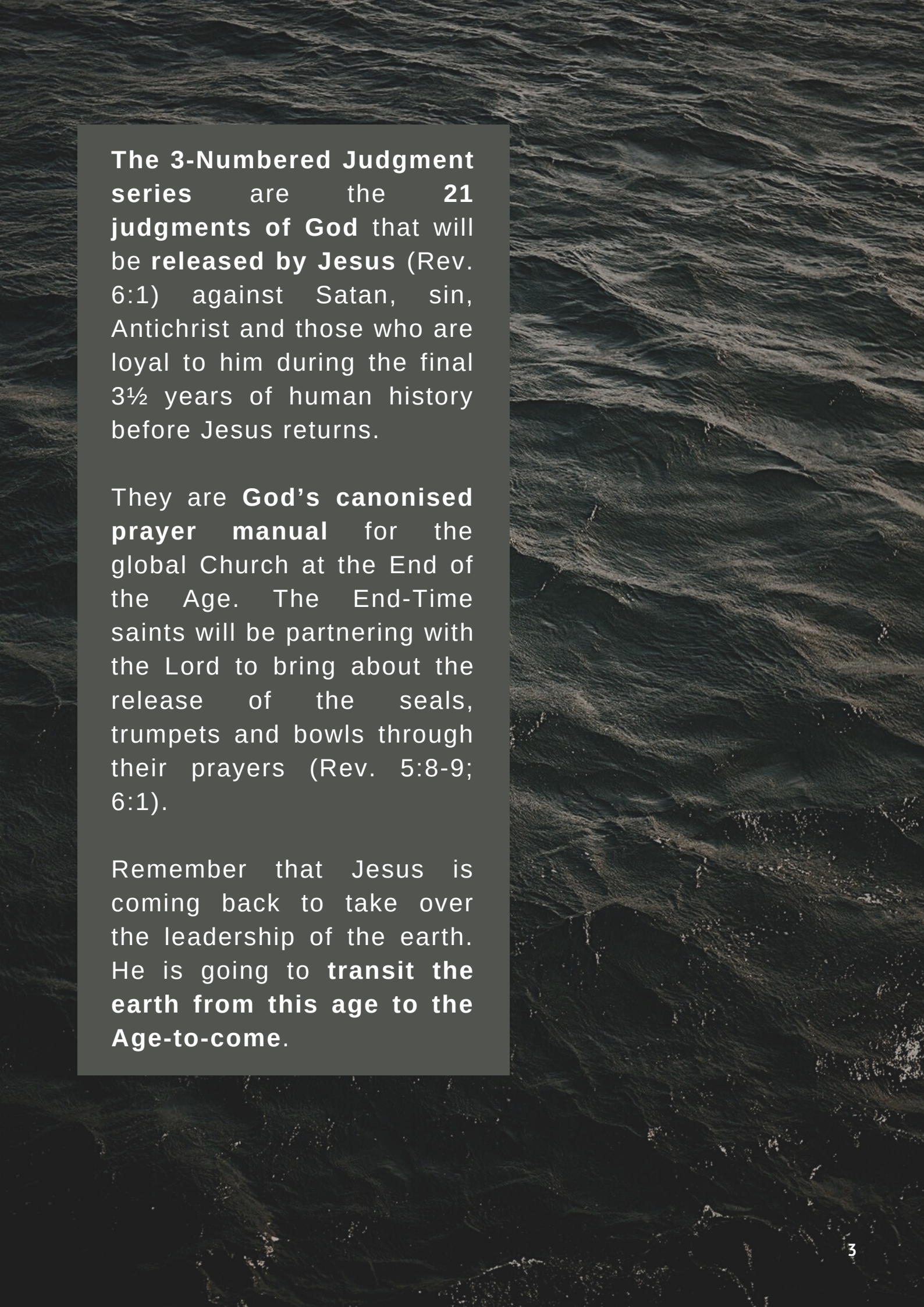
IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES



Have you ever wondered why the seals, trumpets and bowls in the Book of Revelation are all numbered?

It is because God wants us to know exactly what is going to happen, and when they will happen, so that the Church knows exactly when and what to pray!

The seven seals, trumpets and bowls, which are recorded in Revelation 6, 8, 9 and 16, are collectively known as the 3-Numbered Judgment series.



The 3-Numbered Judgment series are the **21 judgments of God** that will be **released by Jesus** (Rev. 6:1) against Satan, sin, Antichrist and those who are loyal to him during the final 3½ years of human history before Jesus returns.

They are **God's canonised prayer manual** for the global Church at the End of the Age. The End-Time saints will be partnering with the Lord to bring about the release of the seals, trumpets and bowls through their prayers (Rev. 5:8-9; 6:1).

Remember that Jesus is coming back to take over the leadership of the earth. He is going to **transit the earth from this age to the Age-to-come**.



How does Jesus bring about this transition?

By cleansing and removing all sin and evil from the earth. This is achieved through the release of the 3-Numbered Judgment series. They are directed at the Antichrist and his empire.

There are **five characteristics** of the 3-Numbered Judgment Series:

I. THEY ARE ALL LITERAL EVENTS

These are **all real events** that will happen right before our eyes. They are neither symbolic nor historical events that have already happened.

II. THEY ARE FUTURE EVENTS

All 21 events have yet to happen. There are **certain conditions that need to be fulfilled** before the judgments can be released. One of them is that **the prayer movement around the world has to become fully mature.**

III. THEY ARE ALL NUMBERED

The 3-Numbered Judgment Series are numbered so that the saints around the world **know exactly when and what to pray.** This will bring forth **agreement and unity in the prayers of the saints globally** which will, in turn, **bring about the release of the plans and judgment of God upon Antichrist and his army.** Hence it is crucial for us to know and remember these events with clarity!



IV. THEY ARE REDEPTIVE

Whenever we talk about the 3-Numbered Judgment Series, we tend to focus on the negative side of them. Actually, the positive aspects outweigh the negative. There are four redemptive characteristics:

a. They will cause many to cry out for salvation.

Joel 2:31-32 describes the cosmic events that will happen at opening of the sixth seal (Rev. 6:12-17) accompanied by many crying out to the Lord for salvation.

This is because when people experience shakings and judgments, there will be opening of hearts to the gospel.

b. They will vindicate the saints who are being persecuted, and strengthen them to endure till the end!

God will allow a certain degree and measure of martyrdom.

To the martyred saints in heaven who cried out, *“How long, O Lord... until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*, Jesus told them to rest a little while longer, **until the complete preordained number of martyrs has been fulfilled.**

- c. God will remove the evil governments, replacing them with His righteous ones.
- d. They will bring about the transition of the world from this age into the Age-to-come

Have you wondered why God uses pregnancy and the birthing process to describe the Great Tribulation?

Because **God is birthing something good.**

During pregnancy and labour, we will focus on the life that is going to be born, and not the labour pains. Similarly, instead of focusing on the tribulation, we should focus on the glory of the coming King and His kingdom!



V. THEY ARE PROGRESSIVE

The intensity of the judgments will increase as we progress from the seals to the trumpets to the bowls. The seven bowls will be the ultimate in terms of intensity; they contain the fullness of God's wrath (Rev. 15:1; 16:1).

Like labour pains which increase in intensity and frequency until the baby is born, **the time period between the judgments will become shorter and shorter** as we progress.

Likely, the seven seals will be released over a period of years. The trumpets will be released over a period of months (Rev. 9:10), and the bowls over a period of days!

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE 3-NUMBERED JUDGMENT SERIES?



01 THE SEAL JUDGMENTS ALERT US THAT SOMETHING IMPORTANT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

When the seals are released, we know that we have stepped into the final 3½ years of human history. The Ekklesia who have understanding will increase and intensify our prayers, and proclaim the Word of God with urgency.

02 THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS WARN US OF SOMETHING MORE SEVERE TO FOLLOW.

When the trumpets are being sounded and released, they warn us that something more severe, the impending ultimate judgment of God through the bowls of wrath is coming.

The trumpet judgments are the last call for people to respond and turn to the Lord.

03 THE BOWLS POUR OUT THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S WRATH UPON HIS ENEMIES, NAMELY THE ANTICHRIST AND HIS ARMY.

There is a **consistent structure** for the seals, trumpets and bowls where **each of the judgment series can be subdivided into three groups**. Understanding the structure will give us greater insight and understanding to interpret the judgments with clarity.



01 THE FIRST FOUR SEALS, TRUMPETS AND BOWLS ARE GROUPED TOGETHER AND ARE SIMILAR

For example, the first four seals are four different horses. The first four trumpets are God's supernatural acts of judgment through nature.


02 THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SEALS, TRUMPETS AND BOWLS FORM THE SECOND GROUP

The first four seals are to do with **earthly activities**. The fifth and sixth seals are to do with **heavenly activities**.

The first four trumpets are God's supernatural acts of judgment on Antichrist and his empire through nature. The fifth and sixth trumpets are God's judgment of Antichrist and his empire through demonic means.

03 THE SEVENTH SEAL/TRUMPET/BOWL STANDS ALONE

The seventh seal releases the seven trumpets, while the seventh trumpet ushers in the Second Coming of Jesus and releases the seven bowls.

A silhouette of a man in a suit, seen from the back and slightly to the side. He is pointing his right hand towards the text on the right. The background is a gradient from dark blue at the top to light blue at the bottom.

Now that we know the 3-Numbered Judgment Series are redemptive, may the Lord bring us to the place where we can fully agree with His judgments.

May He refine our character, give us the right heart and the right spirit so that we can eventually arrive at the place of maturity as His Bride, and we can pray in full agreement with His heart to release His plans, and usher in His Kingdom here on earth!



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES

www.onethingministries.net