





Introduction to the End-Times

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Introduction to the End-Times

1. Overview of the End-times



What is the End-times?

The "End-times" is a period prior to the return of Christ (The Messiah) when God deals with the world in judgment. This period is known by several names including "The day of the Lord"¹, "The Tribulation"², "Time of Jacob's Trouble"³, "Daniel's 70th Week"⁴ and "The Day of Jezreel"⁵.

According to the books of Daniel and Revelation, the End times period of judgment, will last 7 years. Entire chapters and sections of scripture are devoted to the End-times. The most detailed account of this 7-year tribulation period is in the book of Revelation chapters 6 through 19.

Another event occurring near or during the 7-year tribulation is the *Rapture*⁶. The Rapture, is a supernatural event when believing Christians are called up into heaven before they die. They along with other believers who have died in the past receive their resurrected bodies and return with Christ in His *Glorious Return* at the end of the tribulation.

During this seven-year period, according to the book of Revelation, at least ½ of the earth population dies in the first 3.5 years. In addition, by the end of this period, most of the earth's population dies, before Christ returns. This period in the world is unequaled and never repeated again. In the end times, Satan through the control of the *Antichrist* and *False Prophet*, will persecute and kill all who refuse to worship him by receiving a mark described as 666. Jesus talking about this period on the earth says,



21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. **Matthew 24:21-22**

Near the end of this tribulation period, the surviving armies of the earth, gathered by Satan, assemble along Israel, at a place called *Armageddon*. Following Israel's acceptance of Jesus Christ as Messiah, Jesus returns in power and glory with the angels and saints of Heaven to establish the *Millennium* kingdom. The *Antichrist* and *False Prophet*, cast in the *Lake of Fire*, are judged for eternity. Satan is bound for 1000-years and cast in the abyss.

Jesus talking about his return following the tribulation says,

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:29-30

The nations are then gathered by the angels to stand before Christ, to determine who will enter the Millennium (Matthew 25:31-46), the saints (Believers both Old and New Testament) rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium over the nations (Matthew 19:28, Daniel 7:27).

¹ *Day of the Lord* (Isaiah 2:12, 13:6,9, 34:8, Jeremiah 46:10, Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14, Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5, Acts 2:20, I Thes. 5:2)

² *The Tribulation* (Matthew 24:21,29; Mark 13:24, Revelation 7:14)

³ *Time of Jacob's Trouble* (Jeremiah 30:7)

⁴ *Daniel 70th Week* (Daniel 9:27)

⁵ *Day of Jezreel* (Hosea 1:11)

⁶ *The Rapture* (I Thes. 4:13-18, I Corinthians 15:50-54) There are currently 3 pre-millennial positions when the rapture will occur. Pre-tribulation, Mid-Tribulation and Post-Tribulation.

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Bible Prophecy

Simply stated Bible Prophecy is God telling the end at the beginning. By doing so God demonstrates He is God and the Bible is His Word. To understand the relationship between the Bible and the end-times some basic questions first need to be answered.

- Why did God reveal the future in the past?
- How did God reveal the future in the past?
- Why is it important understand Bible Prophecy?
- Why should we trust the Bible?

Why did God reveal the future in the past?

Many people question the purpose of Bible Prophecy, specifically end-times prophecy. The purpose for God revealing the end from the beginning is stated in the book of Isaiah. God declares,

4 Because I knew that you were obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze,
5 Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.' Isaiah 48:4-5

God is unique in his character and nature. He alone knows the end and beginning. To demonstrate the Bible is His word in contrast to the claims of Idols and false books, he declares the future in the past. Bible Prophecy is proof for any skeptic the Bible is the Word of God.

How did God reveal the future in the past?



In the same way you or I might use a pen or pencil to convey our thoughts on paper, God used individuals who were inspired by God's spirit to write God's Word for humanity. Just like many of us might choose to write a letter to our friends using a writing instrument, God choose individuals such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Matthew and Paul to put together a letter to his creation. This letter is the Bible.

The proof God is the author the Bible is the Super-natural objective evidence of Bible Prophecy and specifically End-Times prophecy.

Why is it important to understand Bible Prophecy?

Understanding Bible prophecy allows you to grow in your confidence and understanding of God's plan for your life. Ask yourself the question, How do you know the Bible is God's Word? Do you have trouble producing evidence for this answer? Then, you need to understand Bible Prophecy. For this reason, God declared the end from the Beginning so we can have confidence in His word.



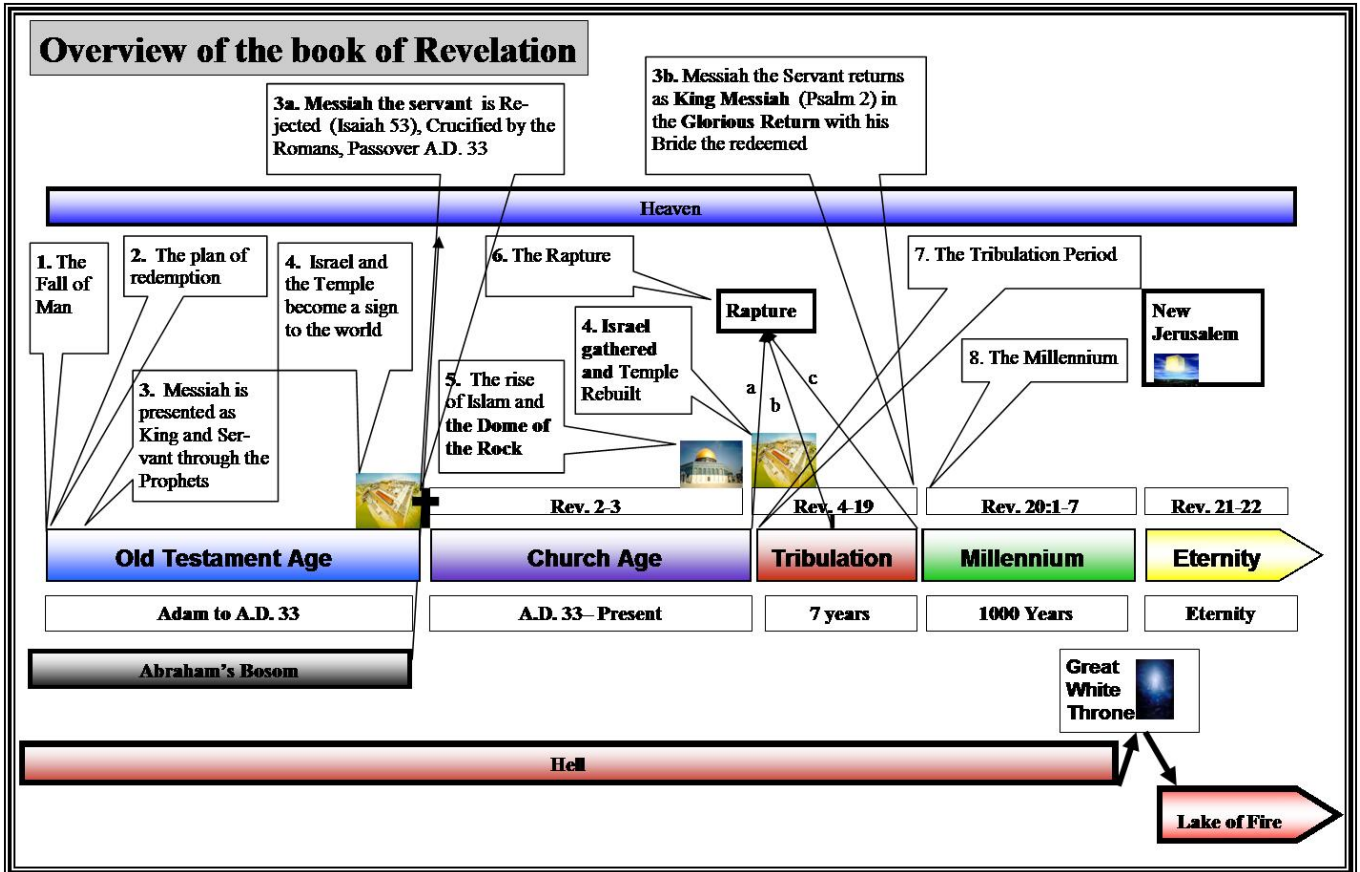
Why should you trust the Bible?

The through Bible Prophecy demonstrates its God's word, by declaring the End from the beginning. Therefore its logical to trust what the Bible says about our eternity. The Bible declares we are made in the image of God with eternal destinations. Jesus talked twice as much about Hell then He did Heaven.

Are you going to Heaven?
Are you going to Hell?
How do you go to Heaven?

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The Bible answers these questions for Humanity, and through prophecy we can "Trust" the answer the Bible gives.



Item	
1. Fall of Humanity	When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command in the Garden of Eden, their sin caused the fall of humanity, their descendents. Satan, a fallen angel, a Cherub by rank (Ezekiel 28:14), tempted Adam and Eve to disobey and question God's command (Genesis 3:1-10). Satan also cause 1/3 of the angels to rebel against God (Revelation 12:4)
2. Plan of Redemption	At the fall of Man God established a plan of Redemption. Through the seed of the women, God would send a redeemer who would crush the head of the serpent, who was occupied by Satan at the fall of man (Genesis 3:15). This redeemer would be the coming Messiah, a descendent of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through the line of Judah and King David. (2 Samuel 7:14)
3. The Messiah (two Pictures)	God revealed through the prophets information about the coming of The Messiah. Where he would be born? Events in His life and what would happen to him. Including the exact Month and year he would be killed 539 years before his birth. There are two pictures which stand out in scripture regarding the Messiah, one is of King Messiah the other is a Servant Messiah who dies.
a. King Messiah	King Messiah will reign on the throne of David, and rule the nations with a rod of Iron. (Psalm 2). King Messiah is the Servant Messiah who returns in glory and power at the 2 nd Coming. (Matthew 24:29-31, Matthew 25:31-31)
b. Servant Messiah	The Servant Messiah comes into the world and is rejected by his people Israel. Daniel and Isaiah foretell his death. (Daniel 9:26, Isaiah 53). At the

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	end of the tribulation, Israel realizes Jesus Christ is their Messiah rejected at His first coming. Jesus Christ returns to a repentant Israel (Zechariah 12:9-10)
4. Israel and the Temple	The nation of Israel is the descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are chosen by God as the method of bringing redemption to the world, by birth of Messiah. Israel rejects the Messiah, at the first coming, later to accept Messiah as King at the 2 nd Coming.
The Temple	David purchased the land for the Temple Mt. Moriah, the same location Abraham took Isaac 1000 years before David. Solomon, David son would build the Temple known as Solomon's Temple. This is the 1 st Temple. This would later be destroyed and rebuilt during the time of Cyrus, this is the 2 nd Temple. This was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70 The 3 rd Temple is the End –Times temple, which requires the destruction of the Dome of the Rock.
5. The Rise of Islam and the Dome of the Rock	Islam came into being in the A.D. 610 when Mohammad proclaimed he was a prophet sent by Allah. He had a night vision where he claimed to travel to Jerusalem and ascend into Heaven from the Temple Mount. After his death, his warriors conquered Jerusalem and built the <i>Dome of the Rock</i> to commemorate the Truth of Islam. This spot is the third most holy spot to 1.2 Billion Muslims. According to Bible Prophecy this building must be destroyed before the 3 rd Temple is built.
6. The Rapture	Derived from the Latin word <i>rapio</i> meaning, "Caught up". The "Rapture" teaches Christ will descend from Heaven, and call those who know Him into Heaven. Those who are alive will be transformed into their resurrected body, at the same time; the dead in Christ will also receive their resurrection bodies in the twinkling of an eye. (I Thess 4:15-17, I Cor. 15:52) This is part of the First Resurrection.
a. Pre-Tribulation Rapture	The view before the seven year tribulation, those who know Christ will be raptured or caught up to be with Christ and return with him at the Second Coming or Glorious Return.
b. Mid-Tribulation Rapture	The view that at the mid-point of the Tribulation, Christ will descend from heaven and call those who know him into heaven.
c. Post-Tribulation Rapture	The view that immediately following the tribulation period, Christ will catch up his church and then return with them in his Second Coming. Matthew 24:29
7. The Tribulation	A period preceding the return of Christ, when suffering on earth will be unequalled in the history of the world, according to Christ. The period is seven-years, divided into three parts, <i>a first half, mid-point</i> and <i>a last half</i> . (Matthew 24:15-22, Daniel 12:1, Jeremiah 30:7, Daniel 9:27)
a. The Antichrist	The final earthly king who will oppose Christ and attempt finally destroy the Jewish people. He is killed at the Second Coming, along with the False prophet who proclaimed his glories. He along with the False Prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire.
b. The False prophet	An end times spiritual leader who along with the Antichrist, the Beast, deceives those who dwell on earth. He performs miracles calling fire down from heaven and instructing the people on the earth to worship the Antichrist. He along with the Antichrist are the first two occupants of the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 13:11-17, 19:20)
c. The Abomination of Desolation	The act of desolating the Jewish Temple. Antiochus IV Epiphanies (167 B.C.) desecrated the Jewish Temple and installed an image of Zeus resembling himself. According to Christ, in the end times a similar event will take place in the Third Temple. The Antichrist will commit the same act of Antiochus IV, declaring his deity, and demand worship.(Yet to be rebuilt) (Daniel 8:12, Daniel 9:24-27, Daniel 11:31, 12:11, Matthew 24:15, Revelation 11)
d. 666	An economic system put in place by the False Prophet ensuring no body can buy or sell unless they worship the image of the Beast, who is the Antichrist incarnated by Satan.
e. Armageddon	Literally in Hebrew "Hills of Megiddo", a location to the north of Jerusalem where the final battle on Earth will take place. The nations gathered by Satan, to battle Christ, assemble in Israel. Christ who descends from

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	Heaven destroys the last earthly powers. (Revelation 16:16, 19:19-21)
8. The Millennium	The Millennium is a literal one-thousand-year period, when Jesus Christ will reign as king on Earth. During this period, the saints, Old and New Testament will reign and rule with Christ over the earth. Creation will be at peace, and the earth will prosper. (See Revelation 20:1-7, Matthew 19:28-29, Isaiah 2:1-4, Isaiah 11:6-9)
Pre-Millennial	The belief we are in a period prior to the Millennium. Those who view the Bible as literal and Revelation as "Futurist" have this view.
A-Millennial	The letter "A" before a word negates the meaning, hence this view denies a literal millennium. This view holds the Millennium referred to in Revelation as symbolic.
Post-Millennial	This view sees the current age as having past the Millennium. We are therefore living in a post-millennium age.
9. Eternity	The final state of humanity, following the Millennium, the redeemed dwell with Christ for eternity and the lost are cast into the Lake of fire.
10. Lake of Fire	The eternal dwelling of the Lost, the first two occupants are the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Following them, after the "Great White Throne" Judgment all the lost are cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:14-15)
11. Hell	Hell was originally prepared for the Devil and his angels, Hell is a holding place for the lost, before the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11, Matthew 25:41).
Eschatology	The study of "Last Times"
Dispensational Theology	The view of distinct administrations of Grace by Israel and the Church, the Church age is the present age, where the church has responsibility of administering the gospel of Grace to the world. In the past and during the tribulation period, Israel will administer the gospel of Grace to the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2, Romans 11:25,
Covenant Theology	The view God has one covenant with man, the Covenant of Grace. This covenant starts at Adam and is fulfilled in Christ who died for the sins of all humanity. In this view, the Church has replaces Israel, and is the "New Israel" which incorporates both believing Jew and Gentile.

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2. Signs of the End-Times



Signs are a part of every day life, they tell us where to go, what to do and how to behave. Signs are designed to inform us so we have time to make choices. In order for a sign to exist, someone had to have the foresight to warn or inform those who follow. For example, if you were driving a car down the highway and the bridge was out ahead. If you ignored the warning about the bridge, you put yourself in danger.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus warned the Pharisees about their failure to recognize signs. And in the process, they crucified the Messiah, and 37 years later Jerusalem and the Temple was destroyed.

2. He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';

3 "and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. Matthew 16:2-3

God in his mercy uses signs to warn people about coming events, so preparations can be made. Before Jesus came into the world, God through the prophets gave very specific information regarding the Messiah and so when His Son came, Israel would be prepared to accept Him. Jesus healed the blind, lame and lepers. He raised the dead, and was Himself resurrected, a sign to Israel, he was their Messiah and Savior. Israel could choose to accept or reject the signs, their choice to reject Christ as Messiah has resulted in two thousand years of misery for the descendents of Israel.

In the End Times, God again deals with Israel. Gabriel informed Daniel over 2500 years ago his people Israel and city of Jerusalem would be the center of world focus (Daniel 9:24). They would serve the role as God's prophetic clock. In the End-Times, God would restore the Jews to the land of Israel.



1. Israel as a sign

One of their clearest signs presented in scripture, of the end-times is the nation of Israel. Before Israel even entered the land, under the leadership Moses, the future of the nation was declared. Moses told Israel if they were obedient as a nation, they would be blessed above all the nations of the world.

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. Deuteronomy 28:1 (1450 B.C.)



Israel Scattered

Moses also warned Israel, if they rebelled against the Lord, they would suffer rebuke. The nation, even before they entered the land learned from Moses, about their future.

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64 "Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known-wood and stone.

65 "And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

66 "Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.

67 "In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see. Deuteronomy 28:64-67

In A.D. 70, 37-years after Israel rejected Christ as Messiah, as foretold in the book of Daniel (Daniel 9:26), over 1,000,000 Jews died at the hands of Romans under the General and future emperor Titus. Sixty years after Titus, Hadrian massacred another 580,000 Jews who had rebelled against Rome. Hadrian was determined to erase the history of the Jewish people from the world. Hadrian renamed Jerusalem and Judea, Jews were no longer allowed in the area. The people of Israel were scattered throughout the Roman Empire fulfilling the words of Moses written 1400 years earlier.



Arch of Titus celebrating
Roman victory over
Jerusalem

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. Daniel 9:26 (539 B.C.)

The history of the Jewish people for the last 2000 years continues to fulfill what Moses said would happen to Israel. The Jewish people have maintained their identity, but were at the mercy of the nations, they suffered at the hands of the Byzantines, Crusades, Muslims, Europeans, Russians and most recently the Nazi's. Moses warned Israel in verse Deuteronomy 28:66, "*Your life shall hand in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life*".

Israel gathered

Moses also promised Israel they would one day be gathered after they scattered and they would be restored to the land of their fathers, the land of Israel. They would be blessed even more then forefathers.

1 "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you,

2 "and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,

3 "that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you.

4 "If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. Deuteronomy 30:1-4 (1450 B.C.)

The gathering of the Jews in Israel today was foretold 3400 years ago, even before Israel ever possessed the land of Israel. One of the most prophesied events in scripture is the end times gathering of Israel. (See Jeremiah 30:3, Isaiah 11:10-16, Isaiah 14:2, Ezekiel 36-37, Joel 3:1-2) Ezekiel writes,



Jews gathered from Ethiopia fulfilling
Isaiah 11:11

8 "After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.

11 "You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'

12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. Ezekiel 38:8 (592 B.C.)

According to Ezekiel, after a long period, in the "latter days" (Last days) Israel would return to a land

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“Long” desolate. The people of the “New” nation would be collected from many *nations* and *many people*. The people are living in safety in un walled villages, in a formally desolate lands. This description can only match the present day state of Israel. The Jewish nation is gathered from many people and nations, after an almost 2000-year period of desolation.

In May 1948, after the death of 6,000,000 Jews in Nazi Germany, the world out of sympathy for the Jewish descendents of voted small Jewish nation into existence in the land of Palestine. Palestine was the name given the land by Hadrian almost 1900 years earlier when he tried to erase memory of the Jewish people and their land. The Jewish descendents choose the name Israel for their new nation.



2. Jerusalem the focus of world attention

Jesus Christ was with His disciples in the Temple, and said the following, days before he was betrayed and killed on the cross, regarding the city of Jerusalem.

37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 "See! Your house is left to you desolate;
39 "for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' " Matthew 23:37-39

Jerusalem, as the seat of Jewish authority and power rejected Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus specifically talks about a relationship he had with Jerusalem, who has constantly rebelled against His authority killing the prophets. Jesus says Jerusalem would undergo a period of desolation after their rejection of Him. However Jesus promises to return to Jerusalem in the future, when the people of Jerusalem acknowledge, He is Messiah.

In the book of Zechariah 520 years before the birth of Jesus, Zechariah foretold the worldwide central focus of Jerusalem, when it was a barren forgotten city. Destroyed by Babylon in 586 B.C., the Jews of Persia preferred the safety of Persia, rather than return to a defenseless city without walls. Zechariah however wrote, the world would one day be gathered against the city and its Jewish inhabitants in the latter days.

2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

9 "It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:2-3,9-10 (520 B.C.)

Even before Jesus was born, Zechariah through the Holy Spirit saw the Christ's 2nd coming when Israel would acknowledge Jesus is Messiah. Israel rejected Jesus the Messiah at his first coming, as both Isaiah (Isaiah 53) and Daniel (Daniel 9:26) foretold. Israel in the end-days would understand their mistake, and repent and call out to Jesus the Messiah, who would return in power as foretold, when Israel recognized Him in the last days. Zechariah wrote, Israel would look on "Me, whom they pierced".

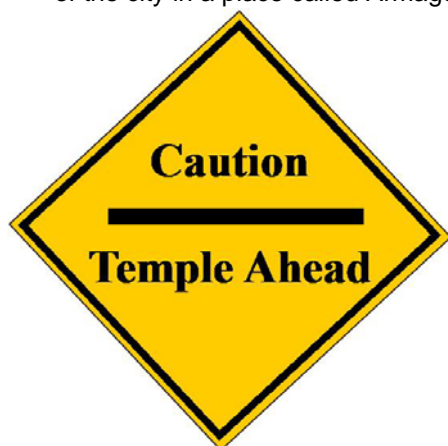
Why is Jerusalem so important?

- 2100 B.C., over 4000 years ago, Abraham was sent to the city of Jerusalem. God told Abraham this land is given to his descendents forever. God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob regarding the city of Jerusalem.

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- 1000 B.C.. Abraham descendent, David would conquer the city from its Jebusite occupants and make it the capital of his nation. Later, God would instruct David, on Mt. Moriah (The Temple Mount) a Temple is to be built by his son Solomon.
- In 586 B.C. the Babylonians destroy the city and temple, 70 years later the Temple is rebuilt and the Jews are allowed to return.
- 63 B.C. the Romans conquer the city of Jerusalem, making it of the Roman Empire.
- A.D. 33, Jesus Christ is crucified by the Romans after He is rejected as Israel's Messiah.
- In A.D. 70, the Romans under Titus conquer the city. They destroy the city and Temple, 1,000,000 Jews are killed.
- A.D. 132, The Jews under the leadership of Bar Kochba rebel against the Romans, and attempt to establish a kingdom. The Romans, led by Hadrian crush the rebellion and 580,000 Jews are massacred.
- The Romans rebuild the city, renaming it Capitolina Aelia, and they rename Judea, Palestine after the Philistines.
- A.D. 325 Rome becomes Christian when the Emperor Constantine proclaims himself Christian and his kingdom Christian. Jerusalem and the Holy sites under Helen, Constantine's mother are uncovered.
- A.D. 638 The Muslims conquer the city of Jerusalem from the Byzantines (Romans) and proclaim it a Muslim city.
- A.D. 687 Muslim's build the Dome of the Rock over the site of the Temple Mount, proclaiming Islam is the final and true religion.
- A.D. 1099, Christian Europe conquers Jerusalem from the Muslims and the Muslims retake the city 89 years later under Saladin.
- A.D. 1865 Jews start migrating to Jerusalem from Europe in preparation of the Messiah.
- A.D. 1918 Western allies, under Allenbie conquer Jerusalem from the Ottoman Turks, successors of the Muslims.
- A.D. May 1948, Jewish state is established, with Jerusalem declared an International city, by the United Nations, after six million Jews die in the Holocaust. The same day five Arab armies attack the new state of Israel and loose the war, Jews declare Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish people. East Jerusalem with the Temple mount remains under Arab control.
- A.D. 1967, Jews take possession of East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount after the Muslim nations attack Israel. Israel for the first time in over 2000 years, as an independent nation, has control of the Temple Mount site.
- Today, Jerusalem is an important city to over ½ of the world's populations; 1.3 Billion Muslims, 1 Billion Catholics, 1 Billion Protestants and 20 million Jews. The world views the problems in Jerusalem between Muslims and Jews as key to world peace.
- Growing pressure in Jerusalem by orthodox groups to tear down the Muslim, Dome of the Rock and rebuild the Temple, make Jerusalem the focus of world attention and battle as Muslim vow to defend their "Sacred Sites".

Zechariah warned of a day when all the nations would be gathered against Jerusalem. Revelation tells us at the end of this age, the armies of the earth will march toward Jerusalem and gather north of the city in a place called Armageddon, the hills of Megiddo. (Revelation 16:13) Here the rejected Messiah will save his people, when they call out to Him. (Zechariah 12:10)



3. The Coming Third Temple

Jesus was leaving the Temple with His disciples heading toward the Mt. of Olives, when he told them about the coming events concerning Jerusalem and the Temple.

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

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2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Matthew 24:1-2

Here Jesus warned them about the coming destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 when Romans destroyed both the city and Temple and 1 million Jews lost their lives.

Jesus also talked about a Third Temple, one which can only be rebuilt on the Dome of the Rock the Third Most Holy site to Islam. Jesus talking about the end said,

14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), Matthew 24:14-15

In verse 14, Jesus speaking about the end makes reference to the *Abomination of Desolation, Daniel and the Holy Place*. The Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel is the



coming end-times desecration of the Jewish Temple (Daniel 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11). The Holy Place is referring to the rocky hill, Mt. Moriah. There Abraham was sent (Genesis 12:7), David purchased, and Solomon built the Temple. In order to have an Abomination of Desolation, which Daniel referred to, you first need a Temple. Before you can have a Temple the Dome of the Rock must be torn down. The Muslim world might object to this.

Jesus also warned what would follow the Abomination of Desolation, a period of unequalled horror in the history of humanity.

21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Matthew 24:21-22

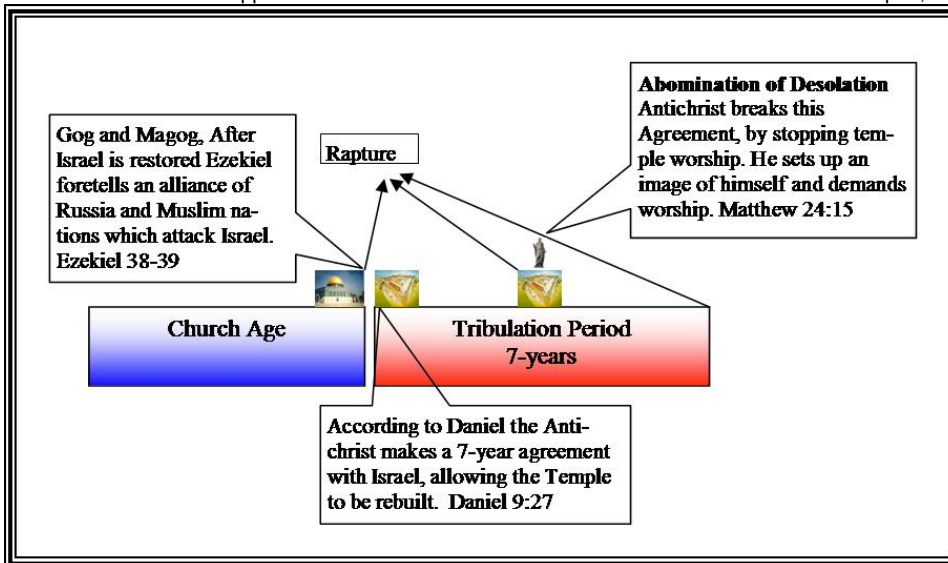
Paul in writing about the Antichrist and the end-times makes it clear there needs to be a Temple. Paul writing before the destruction of the 2nd Temple, talked about the end of the age.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed,

the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God

in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2 Thes 2:3-4



The "Day" Paul refers to the Day of the Lord, the End-times. The "man of sin" is the Antichrist, referred to in Revelation and Daniel. What this individual does in the last days is enter the Temple on Mt. Moriah, The Third Temple, and proclaim himself to be god. Jesus refers to this

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act as the "Abomination of Desolation". Paul is speaking about the very thing Jesus talks about in Matthew 24:15. The problem is this, in order for this to be fulfilled, the Jewish Temple needs to be built. For the Jewish Temple to be built the Dome of the Rock needs to be removed.

Today, there is an active movement to rebuild the Jewish Temple. Many in Israel, see the Dome of the Rock, as Islam's only claim to Jerusalem, therefore many see its destruction as a way to free Jerusalem from Islam's claim. Many religious Jews want to build a Third Temple as their right and obligation to God. Many in this camp, blame Israel's problems on their lack of obedience by building a Temple.

The building of a Third Temple is by no means an easy task. In order for this to occur, Islam as a major power must have its ability to threaten Israel removed. The Third Temple could only be built, following a conflict with Islam.

For this reason, Daniel in the 70 Weeks prophecy, Daniel 9:27 informs us this Temple agreement will be made with many and confirmed with military might. The agreement allowing Israel to rebuild the Temple is the beginning of the 70th Week, or the Tribulation period.

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9:27

4. The Coming invasion of Gog and Magog



The Muslim nations understand the risk to the Dome of the Rock, and have threatened Israel with world war if the Dome was destroyed to make room for a Temple. This Islamic invasion into Israel into Israel was in fact the subject of Ezekiel's vision over 2500 years ago.

Ezekiel wrote in period of Israel upheaval, when Israel was under the Babylonian threat. Ezekiel was a priest taken captive by the Babylonians to the land of Babylon in 597 B.C. God Used Ezekiel to write a message to Israel and the world about their future.

In this message, God told Israel they would again be gathered as nation in the "Latter time" after a long period of desolation. They would be gathered from many nations and people. Ezekiel explains the gathering of Israel from the nations in chapters 36 and 37.

In chapter 38 and 39, after Israel is gathered, Ezekiel refers to a coming invasion into Israel in the "Latter days" after Israel is gathered from the

nations.

8 "After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.
Ezekiel 38:8

Only two times in Israel's history was the nation gathered back into the land, the first time following King Cyrus of Persia's defeat of Babylon in 539 B.C. and the second, the ingathering of the current nation of Israel.

Ezekiel mentions specific nations, which today are enemies of Israel and have threatened to annihilate the Jewish state. Ezekiel specifically mentions Persia and its allies of Gog and Magog to the North. Persia, is known as Iran today, and nation far North or Israel which is an ally of Iran is Russia.

1 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 "and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

5 "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;

6 "Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops-many people are with you. Ezekiel 38:1-6

Introduction to the End-Times

Iran and Russia, are involved a scenario that many see, including Jews and Christians as the next major Bible prophecy about to be fulfilled. Iran one of the wealthiest oil countries with no lack of natural resources, claims it wants a nuclear reactor for peaceful energy purposes. Iran has also developed missiles capable of reaching Israel and Europe. Russia has built the reactor, which is has not yet been activated with nuclear fuel. However, Russia has agreed to supply the reactor with fuel once the UN agrees. (IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency)

Iran is also the sworn enemy of Israel, threatening to annihilate the Jewish State in the future. Israel along with the United States has threatened to attack Iran with the military option if they insist on their nuclear ambitions.

Iran has also threatened to attack Israel if Israel moves on the Dome of the Rock. Time is ticking on a conflict between Israel and Iran. The problem for Israel is this; do they wait for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons before they respond? On the other hand, do they attack Iran and upset the world?

Over 2500 years ago, Ezekiel wrote about this coming conflict between Israel and its enemies in the "Latter days". Ezekiel also wrote about people in the day this prophecy is fulfilled looking back to the words spoken by the prophets.

16 "You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

17 'Thus says the Lord God: "Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?" Ezekiel 38:16-17

The day when these events take place, people will open the Bible, the book of Ezekiel and see the God of Israel is in control. The world will see The God of Israel is the "True" God as this Russian/Islamic invasion into Israel is defeated.

23 "Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord." ' Ezekiel 38:23

Following the defeat of Gog and Magog in the land of Israel, Ezekiel gives the instruction of building the Millennium Temple, when the "Glory of the Lord" will come to his Temple. (Ezekiel 40-43) The war of Gog of Magog could very easily be the result of Israel destroying the Dome of the Rock with world and Islamic outrage. The planned invasion could very well be to restore Muslim control of the Dome of the Rock. In their desire to destroy Israel, the Muslim nations are defeated.

After this war and Israel's victory over Islam, Israel would then begin construction of the Third Temple with a worldwide agreement. This would begin the tribulation period.



Introduction to the End-Times

3. The Rapture and Tribulation



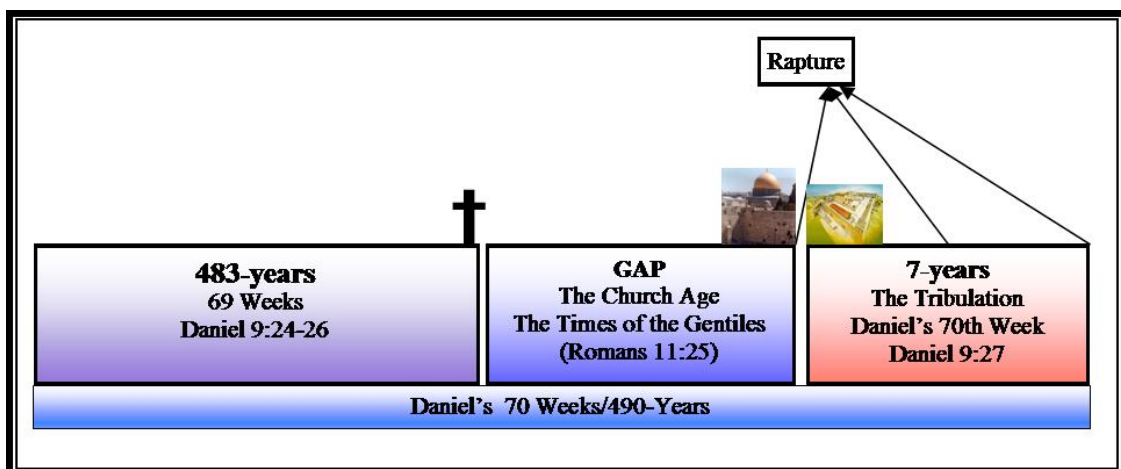
The signs leading to the return of Christ are clearly defined in scripture. Before Jesus' crucifixion, He told Israel they would not see Him again until they recognized Him as their Messiah (Matthew 23:39). Scripture, in the Old and New Testaments links Christ return with the events surrounding Jerusalem, Israel and the Temple Mount. These three places play a prominent focal point in the period known as the "Tribulation".

Over 500-years before the birth of Jesus, Daniel wrote about the exact day of Messiah's death. This prophecy (Daniel's 70 Weeks), in Daniel chapter 9, was revealed to Daniel by the Angel Gabriel, in answer to Daniel prayer for the restoration of his people, the Jews back to the land of Israel after being captives in Babylon for close to 70 years. Gabriel, in answering Daniel, told Daniel a 490-year period was determined on his people (The Jewish people) and his holy city (Jerusalem). Most of this period, 483-years, except for the last 7 would be complete, when the Messiah was killed. According to calculations, this corresponds exactly to Christ death in Jerusalem on Passover A.D. 33.

At the death of Messiah, the 490-year period determined on the Jewish people and Jerusalem stopped. In the tribulation, the seven-years remaining on the prophetic clock, restarts and ends with the return of the Messiah, who was killed at His first coming (Daniel

9:26). In the tribulation, God deals with the world in judgment. At the end of this period, a repentant Israel finally understands, Jesus Christ, who the Romans crucified, at the urging of the High Priests, was the Messiah. They call out to Him, "the one pierced" (Zechariah 12:10) who returns with power and great glory at Armageddon (Har-Megiddo), the hills of Megiddo.

The other question many people ask regarding this period is what happens to the church? Does the church go through the tribulation with Israel? Does God pour out his wrath on the church? The questions regarding the Church, Israel and the Tribulation are answered in an event commonly known as the "Rapture". The Rapture is the resurrection of those who "died in Christ" and those who are alive when Christ returns. The timing of the Rapture is a controversial issue for many churches today. The Rapture itself is not an issue for those who hold to a literal understanding of scripture. The question for many is when does the rapture occur in relation to the Tribulation and the return of Christ?



Introduction to the End-Times

The Rapture

What is the rapture?

In simple terms, the Rapture is the resurrection of the dead in Christ, known as the first resurrection. Derived from the Latin word *rapio* meaning, "Caught up". The "Rapture" teaches Christ will descend from Heaven, and call those who know Him into Heaven. Those alive are transformed into their resurrected body, at the same time; the dead in Christ will also receive their resurrection bodies in the twinkling of an eye. (I Thess 4:15-17, I Cor. 15:52) This is part of the First Resurrection.

When is the Rapture?

When Christ comes, how will the Church be involved in his coming? For those who hold to a literal *pre-millennial*⁷ understanding of scripture, there are three prevalent views of when the rapture occurs in relation to the tribulation. These views are known as, *pre-tribulation*⁸, *mid-tribulation*⁹ and *post-tribulation*¹⁰. All three views focus around the tribulation in relation to when the rapture will occur. According to Jesus' own words, He will come in glory and power after the tribulation of those days.

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory
Matthew 24:29-30

The question, where is the Church when Jesus returns with Glory and Power after the tribulation? Does the Church suffer in the tribulation? Paul writes about the Church being "Caught up" to meet the Lord in the "Air". Paul in I Corinthians refers to this as the resurrection, which occurs in "twinkling of an eye", for the dead (sleeping) and the living at the same time. The change Paul refers to the transformation of our bodies from an earthly mortal body to an eternal heavenly body.

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
I Corinthians 15:51-52

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Paul, was writing to the Church at Thessalonica because some had felt they had missed the Lord's return. Paul wrote the letter to explain the series of events which occurs when the Lord comes for His church. From these two portions of scripture, we can understand this regarding the Lord's coming for the Church.

- His coming involves the "Dead in Christ" and the "Living in Christ"

⁷ The belief we are in a period prior to the Millennium. Those who view the Bible as literal and Revelation as "Futurist" have this view.

⁸ The view before the seven year tribulation, those who know Christ will be raptured or caught up to be with Christ and return with him at the Second Coming or Glorious Return.

⁹ The view that at the mid-point of the Tribulation, Christ will descend from heaven and call those who know him into heaven.

¹⁰ The view that immediately following the tribulation period, Christ will catch up his church and then return with them in his Second Coming. Matthew 24:29

Introduction to the End-Times

- The speed of the event is like the “Twinkling of an eye”
- God will bring with Jesus, the “Dead in Christ” to the clouds
- Jesus will descend from Heaven with a shout
- The “Dead in Christ” rise first (Their bodies)
- The living in Christ follow being changed from mortal to eternal bodies
- The living and the dead “In Christ” meet Christ in the clouds
- They shall always be with the Lord

The question is when does this event occur in relation to the tribulation? There are three different views to the timing of the rapture. Each view uses scripture to justify their position.

Pre-tribulation Rapture

Pre-tribulation believes that before the tribulation, *Daniel's 70th week*, the church will be raptured into the presence of the Lord. Those who are left will suffer through a period of seven years of tribulation. During this period Israel, will come to know Jesus as Messiah at which time the Lord will return to judge the earth in his “Glorious appearing”.

The argument for this position is based on several points:

- Jesus warns no man knows the “Day or hour” of His return (Imminence) . (Matthew 24:36,50, 25:13) With the other positions we would know the day of his return.
- The distinction between the Church and Israel, The church fulfills the “Fullness of the gentiles” (Romans 11;25) Israel is restored to her position before the fall
- God would pour his wrath on his own church, which is not God’s method in the past, For example, Noah and his family, Lott and Sodom, Rahab and Jericho, Babylonian captives and Jerusalem

Mid-tribulation Rapture

Mid-tribulation believes the church will endure the first 3 1/2 years of the *70th week of Daniel*. Before the great-tribulation when God pours out his wrath, He will catch-up his church at the middle of this seven year period. The church will return with Christ in his “Glorious appearing” following the “Great tribulation”

- The Promise of Tribulation: Since the church was promised tribulation, we can expect to experience the first half of the tribulation. (Matthew 24:1-9)
- Paul taught that there would first be a time of apostasy (2 Thes.2:3) and that perilous times shall come” (2 Tim. 3:10).
- Nature of Seals and Trumpets:, The seal and trumpet judgments of Revelation in the first 3.5 years are not manifestations of divine wrath. God is merely withdrawing his restraints and man is reaping what he is sowing.
- Argument from Revelation 11: Revelation 11 occurs during the time of the rapture. The two witnesses, “Caught up”, raptured, into heaven are accompanied by the rest of the church. The great voice is the shout of I Thessalonians 4:16.

Post-tribulation Rapture

Post-Tribulation believes that before the “Glorious appearing” the church is raptured to be with the Lord and returns with him in the Glorious appearing. Post-tribulation holds the church will go thru the great tribulation period, preceding the Second Advent.

- Historical argument: The historical doctrine has been the rapture is an event that would precede the glorious return of Christ immediately followed by the judgment seat of Christ. In which the all men would go before the throne of Christ.
- C. Promise of tribulation: Another argument is the promise of tribulation given to the church. Passages such as Luke 23:27-31, Matthew 24:9-11, Mark 13:9-13 are promises of tribulation to the church and not Israel.

Introduction to the End-Times

- Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-45): An interpretation of the Wheat and Tares places the "Saints" the Wheat and the "Unsaved" the tares side by side till the harvest. Jesus saying, "Let both grow together until the harvest". The harvest is the rapture of the believers at the end, not prior to a tribulation period.

The Tribulation

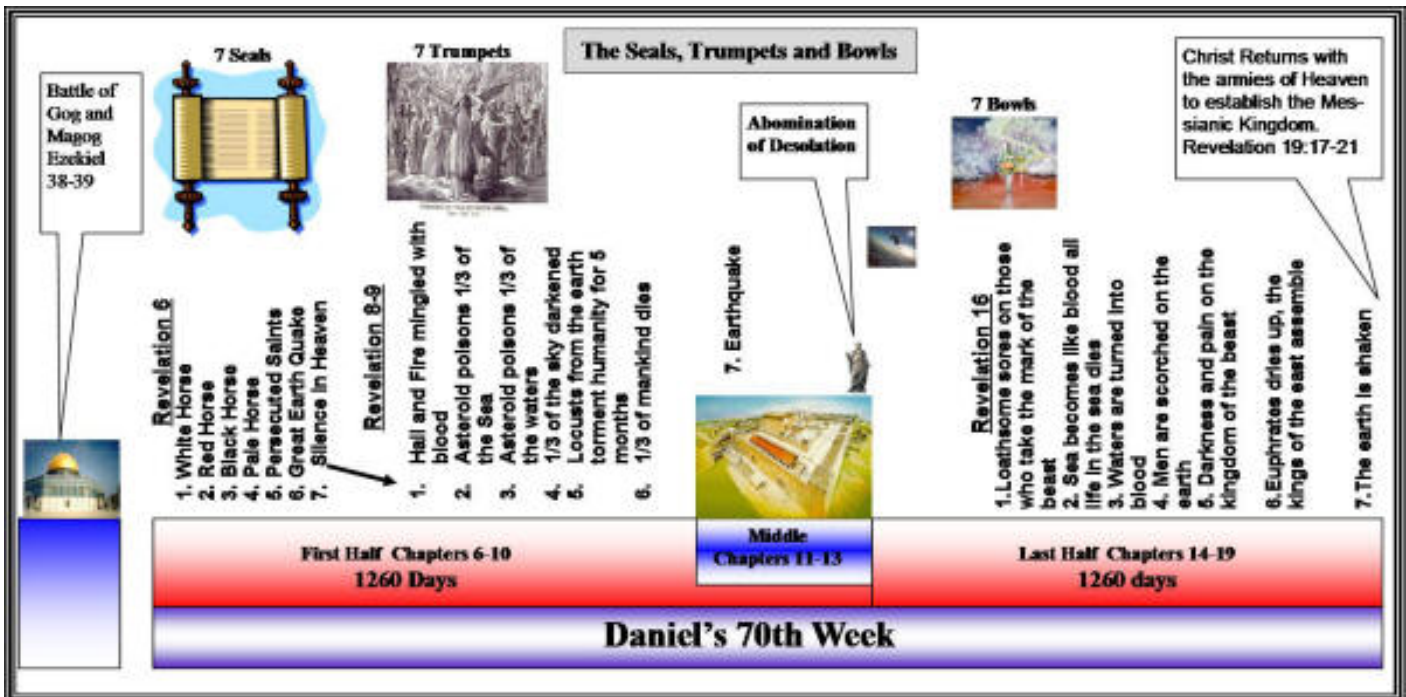
The Tribulation period is a seven-year period, when God deals with judgment on nations. During this period, Israel becomes the central focus of attention. This time is unlike any other since the world began and never to be repeated again. According to Jesus, unless the days were shortened "no flesh would be saved". (Matthew 24:21-22)

According to the Seventy weeks of Daniel and other scripture, this period begins with a covenant or agreement (Peace agreement) between Israel and many. The Antichrist allows the Jewish Temple to be rebuilt, confirming the agreement through military might with the world. Thus begins the tribulation period.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9:27

The Tribulation period is broken into three distinct parts in scripture:

- The first-half of the seven-year agreement (3 ½ years) (Revelation 6-10)
- The middle of the seven-year agreement (30 days) (Revelation 11-13)
- The last-half of the seven-year agreement (3 ½ years) (Revelation 14-19)



The First-half of the Tribulation

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9:27

Introduction to the End-Times

The beginning of the Daniel's seventy week, or the tribulation starts with a seven-year agreement allowing Temple sacrifice and worship in the Third Temple. This will worldwide conflict between Islam and Israel, where Israel defeats her enemies. This event is described in Ezekiel 38 and 39, is known as the battle of Gog and Magog. This worldwide war cause the necessity, for a world wide peace agreement between Israel and the world, allowing the Jewish Temple to exist in the 3rd most holy site to Muslims.

John, in the book of Revelation, is caught up into heaven to witness the events taking place. In Heaven, John sees the Throne of God (Revelation 4-5), On the throne God has a seven-sealed scroll, which no man can open except the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ who died for the sins of the world. Christ takes the scroll from the hand of His Father, and all Heaven celebrates. When Christ begins to open the seals on the scroll God's judgments begin to take place.

The Seal Judgments (Revelation 6)

When Christ opens the first four seals, four colored horses are seen by John, each horse represents a different aspect of events taking place in the first half of the tribulation.



1. White Horse: Pictures the false peace made by the Antichrist at the start of the tribulation.

2. Red Horse: Peace is taken from the earth, the result of war

3. Black Horse: Massive inflation resulting from the war as people look for food.

4. Pale Horse: As the result of war, famine, disease and wild animals, ¼ of the earth population dies.

John in Revelation chapters 6:2-8, describes what seems to be the result of a nuclear war. With the spread of nuclear weapons, and the potential outbreak of war between large population centers, its not hard to imagine ¼ of the earth population dying. Exactly as described by John, what would follow in such a war would be lack of food, because of contamination, followed by death and disease as weakened immune systems quickly fall to disease.

5. Persecution of believers: When the fifth seal is opened John sees, the souls of believers in heaven who died for their testimony and the word of God. They are told, to wait and be patient until the rest of martyrs arrived.

During the first half of the tribulation, many will come to Christ as events in the Bible begin to unfold. During this period, 2 witnesses in Jerusalem, Elijah and some feel Enoch of Moses (Revelation 11:1-12) will witnesses to the whole world. They will be proclaiming God's judgments on the earth. Many will come to Christ only to face death at the hands of the False Prophet and his religious system. Christ through John is telling those in the tribulation, not to fear death. Death because of Christ is only an entrance into Heaven.

6. Great Earthquake: The sixth seal unleashes a great earthquake on the earth, the sky becomes black and meteorites strike the earth.

The sixth seal puts fear into the people on the earth; causing many recognize their own mortality. This puts in motion the next series of judgments, which cause even great destruction to the earth. God in His mercy is giving humanity a chance to repent and turn. Death should not be feared by believers but welcomed.

Revelation Chapter 7

John between the sixth seal and the opening of the seventh sees **144,000 Jews** from the 12,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel. They are sealed servants of God, who proclaim the Gospel during the great tribulation period. Following this, John sees a **great multitude** of believers in Heaven gathered out of the nations who were killed during the tribulation for their faith.

7. Silence in heaven for ½ hour: The opening of the seventh seal brings forth the seven trumpet judgments.



The Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8-9)

When the seventh seal is opened, the seven angels before God's throne were given seven trumpets. The first four trumpet judgments result in calamities striking the earth. When fifth and sixth trumpets sound, these result in demonic attacks upon humanity causing another 1/3 of humanity to die in war.

Introduction to the End-Times

1. Hail, Fire & Blood: When the first angel sounds vegetation on the earth is burnt. During the first 3.5 years the earth suffers from the lack of rainfall, so the earth becomes dry and parched. John describes 1/3 of the trees and all grass on the earth burning. He describes the result of either volcanic activity or meteorites striking the earth, igniting the vegetation. (Revelation 8:7)



2. Great Mountain burning: The second angel sounds, and what appears to John as a burning mountain strikes the sea. This causes destruction of 1/3 of the ships, and 1/3 of sea life. (Revelation 8:8-9) This mountain is probably the first of two asteroids to strike the earth.

3. Great Asteroid: The third angel sounds, and John describes a great star (Gr. Aster) which strikes the earth poisoning 1/3 of the rivers and springs of water. (Revelation 8:10-11) This is probably the second part of the first asteroid, which poisons the drinking water as it strikes the earth, breaking upon entry distributing its contents over the earth. (Revelation 8:10-11) There are special scientific bodies funded

throughout the world to examine NEO's or Near Earth Objects and track them. They are rated as to what potential harm they could render the earth.

4. Third of sky darkened: When the fourth angel sounds, 1/3 of the sky was struck and darkened. This might be the result of volcanic activity, the burning fires of the earth vegetation, and from the asteroids striking the earth. (Revelation 8:12-13)

5. Demonic Locusts; The fifth angel sounds, and John sees an angel descend into a pit in the abyss (Hell) and loose what appears to be locusts. These locust have the power to sting those without the "Seal of God" (The lost) for 5 months. Those who are stung want to die, but cannot because of the pain. Here God's mercy is again demonstrated, moving the lost to a point of decision about their eternity. (Revelation 9:1-12)

6. Demonic Horsemen: Following the 5 months, the sixth angel sounds, and four fallen angels bound at the Euphrates river are unleashed. These four angels lead 200 million other demons, who John describes as horsemen, who bring the armies of east. This war with the East and North, against the armies of Antichrist results in the death of another 1/3 of humanity. (Revelation 9:13-2, Daniel 11:44-45)

At this point, at least ½ the earth population if not more has perished by the end of the first half of the tribulation. With the defeat of the armies of the East and North, the Antichrist now focuses on his problem in Jerusalem.

The Middle of the Tribulation

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate. Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9:27

The Two Witnesses



peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, Rev. 11:9

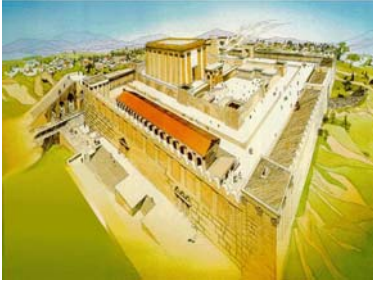
In Jerusalem, are two witnesses who are calling down God's judgments on the earth. (Revelation 11:1-12) They become the focal point of the calamities striking the planet in the first half of the tribulation. According to scripture, one of these men is Elijah, who the Jews, set a cup and a seat for at Passover. (Malachi 4:5) The world hates them and blames them for their problems. The armies of the Antichrist now invade Jerusalem, there the Two Witnesses are killed. And their dead bodies lay in the street of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days. The world by satellite and internet are able to view their dead bodies, the earth celebrates their death by exchanging gifts.

10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Revelation 11:10-11

After 3 ½ days, God calls his two witnesses up into heaven, in the view of all men, and earth then strikes Jerusalem killing 7,000 people and destroying a tenth of the city.

Introduction to the End-Times



Abomination of Desolation

During this middle part of the Tribulation, Satan loses his position in heaven to accuse the believers and is cast to earth (Revelation 12:7-12). He then incarnates the world leader, the Antichrist, who has invaded Jerusalem and stopped worship in the Jewish Temple. The Antichrist, now proclaims himself god, enters the Jewish Temple and demands the world and Israel worship him. Jesus warned those in Jerusalem, when they see him enter the Temple to flee into the mountains, for what follows is the Great tribulation. (2 Thessalonians 2;1-4)

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. Matthew 24:15-21

Israel escapes into the wilderness

Those in Jerusalem, who listen to the words of Jesus Christ, will flee into the mountains of Judah. When they see the Antichrist enter the Jewish Temple, and proclaim himself god, the event known as the Abomination of desolation has occurred, spoken of by both Daniel and Jesus. According to Zechariah, God will open a route of escape for those in Jerusalem, the Mt. of Olives will split into making a way for those in Jerusalem to escape. (Revelation 12:13-17)

1 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Zechariah 14:1-5

There in the wilderness mountains of Judah, God supernaturally preserves a portion of Israel, one third (Zechariah 13;9), from the horrors about to occur on the earth. In hiding Israel wrestles with their Messiah, as Jacob wrestled with the angel. For the next 3.5 years, wrestles with the person of Jesus Christ, was he their Messiah? Is He their only hope? At the end of this period, Israel finally understand Jesus Christ, is their Messiah.

Antichrist & False prophet

The Antichrist now goes to war, against those failed to escape, the remnant. He pursues those who will not worship him. He sets up an image of himself in the Jewish Temple, demanding the world worship him. John describes a second person, another beast, with two horns like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon. This is the **false prophet**, who performs Satanic wonders (2 thes.2:9) for the world, who urges humanity to worship the Beast, the antichrist, by making an image of him. (Revelation 13:11-15)



Mark of the Beast

To make sure all are serious in their worship, the false prophet set up a system, an economic system, which will not allow anyone to buy or sell unless they receive the mark, **666**, on their forehead or right hand, pledging allegiance and worship to the Beast. Those who refuse are killed by beheading. (Revelation 13:16-18)

Introduction to the End-Times

4. Armageddon and Christ's Return

The Last Half of the Tribulation



John describes the kingdom of the Antichrist as a seven-headed, ten-horned Beast (Revelation 13:1-3)

The last half of the Tribulation begins when the Antichrist and the False prophet after failing to destroy Israel, then begin to persecute the offspring of Israel, both Jews and believers in Christ (Revelation 12:17). After Temple worship is stopped (Daniel 9:27), the Two Witnesses killed (Revelation 11:8), The Antichrist installs an image of himself in the Jewish Temple, the Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24:15), the whole earth is forced to choose between life and death, Satan or Christ. The Antichrist proclaims himself god and demands worship from the earth.

Satan uses lying signs to deceive the world, the False Prophet calls down fire from the sky as evidence of the power of the Antichrist (Revelation 13:13), who is incarnated by Satan at the start of the *last half of the tribulation*. He forces the world to worship him, both his person and image. True believers in Christ refuse; as a result, they are taken captive, and killed for their faith (Revelation 13:9-10). The false prophet then sets up an economic system to sort out true followers of the Beast (Antichrist) from others. He sets up a system causing all

who are true followers to receive a mark, 666.



1. The Antichrist and his kingdom (Revelation 13)

The identity of the Antichrist and his kingdom has always been a point of speculation by bible students. Scripture does give us clues to his identity and his kingdom. In the books of Daniel and Revelation, we get the most clues about his identity and kingdom. Daniel clearly links his person and identity with the Roman Empire, by linking him with the Romans armies which destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70, calling him "The prince who is to come" (Daniel 9:26-27). Daniel informs us he will be a descendent of these armies.

From scripture, we know his kingdom will be at the start of the tribulation, a friend of Israel. He will in Israel's benefit, allow the Temple rebuilt at the expense of the Islamic world on the Temple Mount, the 3rd most spot for Islam. Another aspect of his kingdom will be military might, he will be able to enforce his agreement with world for Israel's benefit. His kingdom will be a united kingdom of ten nations, who turn over their power for just such a time. (Revelation 17:12, Daniel 7:24)

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. Revelation 17:12

Using these qualifiers, we can establish several important points about this coming world leader and his kingdom.

- He will be a descendent of the Roman Armies who destroyed Jerusalem
- He will be pro-Israel at the start of the tribulation
- He will lead a powerful military kingdom
- His kingdom will be united from 10 nations
- His kingdom will be anti-Islamic, allowing the Jews to rebuild the Temple

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One can only speculate with this information and current circumstances in the world. The world today is frozen by the possibility of nuclear war and terrorism. Many Islamic fundamentalist groups relish the thought of one day causing the western and non-Islamic nations to fall. Nuclear terror in the US or Europe, killing thousands or even millions would change the world. Such an event could easily turn the world against Islam, allowing the Temple to be rebuilt as a form of punishment.

If the Rapture occurred before the tribulation, removing "True" Christians, those "Left Behind" might look for political and economic security through military power and strength. Such an attitude could cause the most powerful nation the world has ever known, the United States and European nations to unite for the purpose of world preservation and security. With a combined military and economy, the United States and Europe united, would easily be able to dominate an insecure world.

They would just need someone who would be accepted by both parties, who could lead the world forward. This person would be the Antichrist, called the Beast in Revelation 13 or the "Little Horn" in Daniel 7.

2. The False Religious system (Revelation 17)

First half



Following the rapture (Pre-tribulation) before the tribulation period starts, the Antichrist attempt to establish peace on the earth with the using the religious systems in the world. John sees this false religious system as harlot riding on the back of the Beast (Revelation 17)

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
2 "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication

Revelation 17:1-4

. Following the conflicts between Islam and Israel and the building of the Jewish Temple (Daniel 9:27), the rapture of Christians (I Thes. 4:13-16), the world is in a spiritual chaos. The False Prophet attempts to solve this problem of religious diversity and conflict by uniting the world under one system, uniting both Christianity and Islam under one religious system, eliminating fundamentalist in both camps. Today many compare radical fundamentalist Muslims with "Born again" Christians, claiming they are identical. Many see a combined religious system as a solution to much of the earth's dilemmas. Under the banner of security, those who refuse to become part of the state religion will be eliminated from the population (Revelation 6:9-11).

Second half

In the second half of the tribulation events change, the False Prophet now causes all to turn from the unified state religious system. He has surviving humanity worship the Beast and his image (The Antichrist), incarnated by Satan. An image of the Beast is set up in the Temple, and the earth is commanded to worship his person and image. Revelation pictures the False prophet with two horns like a lamb. Horns represent points of authority and the lamb is a picture of Christ mentioned throughout revelation. These two horns, like a lamb could represent Islam and apostate Christianity. This unified religious system exists in the first half.

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Revelation 13:11-12

The Beast and Prophet destroy the religious system in the 2nd half, who replace it with worship of Satan, in the person of Antichrist. All those refusing to submit to this change are destroyed. The united kings who unite their kingdom to the Antichrist hate the religious system and seek its destruction.

16 "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. Revelation 17:16

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3. God warns humanity (Revelation 14)

The situation for humanity at this point seems doomed. Those who have survived to this point, now being forced to worship Satan, must submit, if they want to live. Most Christians, have died, or will be killed if they reject the Beast, what choice does somebody have? At this point God super-naturally intervenes on surviving humanity.



He sends three angels to warn humanity to make the right choices.

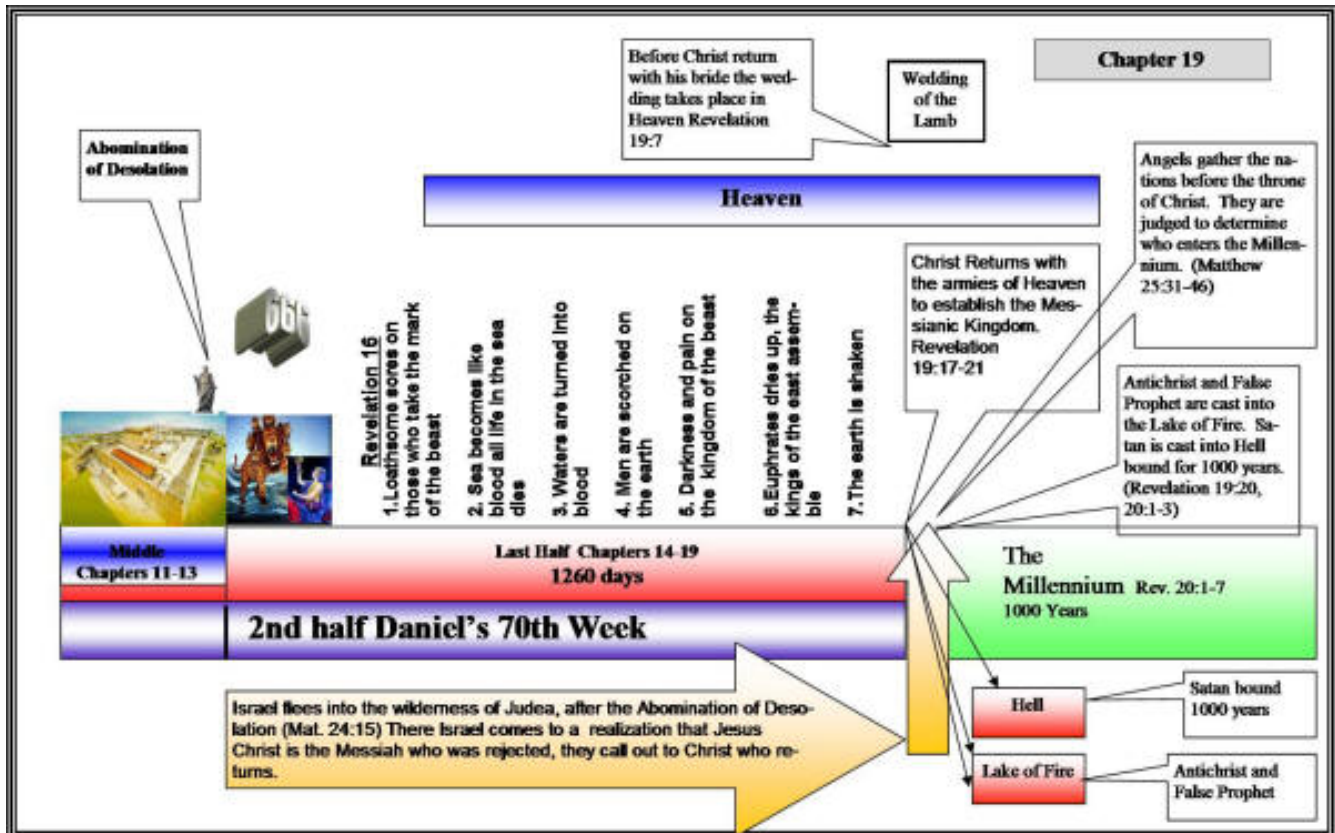
1. The first angel proclaims the "Everlasting Gospel" to "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people". (Revelation 14:6-7)
2. The second angel warns about the coming destruction of "Babylon" who has corrupted the earth. (Revelation 14:8)
3. The third angel finally warns humanity to reject the mark and not worship the Beast or his image.

He then warns what those who worship the Beast can expect for the rest of eternity (Revelation 14:9-11).

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." Revelation 14:10b-11

Humanity warned super-naturally by these three angels, everyone whose name is in Heaven (the saved) reject the Beast when forced to receive the Mark, 666, and worship the Beast and his image. Listening to the angels, they choose death and Heaven. People at this point choose death or attempt to hide. Through death, God is separating his people from Satan's people.

Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." Revelation 14:13



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4. Martyrs in Heaven (Revelation 15)

John in the book of Revelation, following the warning to the earth by the three angels, sees the results of their work. He sees a people in heaven who rejected the image and mark of the Beast. Killed on earth, they stand in Heaven before the throne of God. (Daniel 7:25)

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.

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

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.

Revelation 13:7,9-10

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. **Revelation 15:2**

With many of God's people killed on earth, but living in Heaven, God is free to pour out His wrath on those who persecuted and killed His people. John now sees seven angels emerge from the Temple in Heaven with seven bowls, filled with the wrath of God.



5. God pours out his wrath (Revelation 16)

The Antichrist and False Prophet and their minions search out survivors on the earth, forcing humanity to make a choice between Satan and the God of Heaven. People who want to live, choose Satan by receiving the mark, those who choose Christ, choose death if caught. Seven angels, who emerge from the Temple in Heaven, now have the seven-bowls of God's final wrath. When the angels pour out their bowls, the earth experiences the wrath of God.

The Bowl Judgments

1. "foul and loathsome sore" Those on earth who choose Satan, now are the first to experience the wrath of God. The Mark, which seemed to offer life now offers pain and suffering, and foretaste of eternal suffering. When the first angel poured his bowl those who choose the mark experience pain and agony as the mark becomes puss oozing sore (Revelation 16:2).

2. "sea, and it became blood as of a dead man" During the trumpet judgments 1/3 of the sea turned to blood and 1/3 of the creatures died. Now all of the oceans turn to blood and all the creatures in the sea die. With the death of life in the sea, a major source of food and supplies eliminates a major source of food for those on earth. Those who worship nature and called the earth "Mother" must acknowledge the Earth is subject to God. (Revelation 16:3) This happens when the second angel pours his bowl.

3 "rivers and springs of water, and they became blood" When the third angel pours his bowl, the drinking waters become poisoned and become blood (Revelation 16:5-7). This was God's retribution for the blood of martyrs killed by the Beast and his system. God is cutting off access to survival forcing those on the earth to battle.

4. "men were scorched with great heat" The fourth angel pours out his bowl on the Sun, heat from the sun now scorches those on earth. The lost on the earth, react by blaspheming the God of Heaven, rather than crying out for mercy (Revelation 16:8-9). Here the true character of the lost is demonstrated as man chooses to raise a fist at God rather than cry out for mercy. Man repeats his blasphemies following the 5th and 7th bowl judgments demonstrating their lost and unredeemable state.

5. "his kingdom became full of darkness" When the 5th angel pours out his bowl the throne or capital city, "New Babylon" is cast into darkness. Those who sought refuge from the judgments in the capital of the Antichrist's kingdom face a gloomy darkness. The darkness is a taste of their eternity. In pain, humanity again blasphemes the God of Heaven. (Revelation 16:10-11)

6. "Euphrates, and its water was dried up" The 6th angel pours his bowl and the Euphrates river is dried up in preparation of the "Kings of the East", to gather the nations and the world, to Armageddon, north of Jerusalem. In Israel the remnant of Israel who escaped when the Antichrist entered the Temple,

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The Abomination of Desolation are still in hiding. The nations now being gathered, place their last hope, to prevent their judgment by destroying Israel.

Satan's demonic forces gather the warriors of the nations, the weak and strong, hoping to prevent God's judgment by Israel's destruction.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Revelation 16:13-14

7. "earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth" As humanity gathers toward Israel, an earthquake unequalled in the history of humanity levels the cities of the earth. This quake causes any of the reluctant in the cities to join the massive movement of surviving humanity, to gather them toward Armageddon.

The sea of humanity gathering is then pelted with hail stones weighing a talent, about 120 pounds, again humanity curses the God of Heaven in their anger. (Revelation 16:17-21) They will soon mourn the coming of Christ, as He comes to judge them in glory and power.

6. Marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:1-9)

While those on the earth gather for battle with Jesus Christ, He is in heaven with the saints both Old and New Testament, those who were raptured before the tribulation (Pre-tribulation) and those killed during tribulation. The redeemed saints are presented as the bride of Christ¹¹, dressed in the clothes of redemption, prepared to enter Earth with Christ at the end of the Tribulation period.

7. Armies of the Earth gather to Israel

While the saints are in Heaven preparing to return with Christ, the armies of the earth gather toward Jerusalem, inspired and led by Satan, the Antichrist and False prophet who have deceived the nations. Joel writes about this day as the nations gather.



9 Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. 10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' " 11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord. 12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow-For their wickedness is great." 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. 16 The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people. And the strength of the children of Israel. Joel 3:9-16

¹¹ The Bride of Christ has various interpretations on who is included in this event. Some include only the church from Pentecost to the Rapture as part of the Bride, with Old Testament and Tribulation saints as invited guest who witness the wedding of the Lamb to the Church. Others would include the Redeemed of the Old Testament and Tribulation as part of the Bride of Christ at this point.

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8. Israel calls out to Messiah

As the armies of the Earth gather, Israel finally realizes the rejected Messiah of Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9:26, Jesus Christ, is their only hope as the nations gather. Israel now calls out to Jesus Christ with a heart of supplication and repentance, acknowledging their errors in their rejection. Jesus warned Israel in Matthew 23:39, they would not see Him again until they acknowledged Him as their Messiah.

Over 500 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, Zechariah wrote about his second coming, this future event when Israel would turn to the Messiah "they pierced" and rejected at His first coming.

9 "It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:9-10

Joel pictures Israel heart of preparation for the Messiah over 600 years before the birth of Christ.

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;
16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.
27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.
Joel 2:15-16,27



9. Jesus the rejected messiah returns with saints and angels



With the wedding and the supper of the Lamb complete, the Lamb prepares to return with his bride to the earth. John sees Christ seated on a white horse along with the rest of the redeemed on white horses wearing the clothing of the Redeemed.

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.
Revelation 19:11,14

As the armies of the earth gather along the land of Israel, to the hills of Megiddo, they prepare for battle against God Almighty, deceived by Satan, Antichrist (The Beast) and the False Prophet. Surviving Israel calls out for redemption and salvation to Christ. Its at this point of national conversion, Christ comes to the rescue of a repentant Israel.

Zechariah describes the battle 500 years before the birth of Christ, as armies of the nations literally melt at Christ return. And blood pours throughout Israel as high as a horses bridle (Revelation 14:20)

12 And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths. Zechariah 14:12

Christ takes the Antichrist and False Prophet and throws them into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20). They become its first occupants, and the rest of the lost will join them following the Great White Throne Judgment, which takes place at the close of the Millennium (Revelation 20:10-15). Satan is bound for 1000-years during the Millennium, unable to tempt the nations (Revelation 20:3). Birds are called to feast on the rotting corpses of humanity killed at Christ return (Revelation 19:17-18)

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10. Saints rule and reign with Christ in the Millennium

Christ establishes His throne on Earth with His saints. The angels now gather the survivors on the earth before Christ throne. Those who survive the tribulation must stand before the throne of Christ. Angels gather the nations, both the saved and un-saved. The angels gather believers Jesus Christ who are in hiding, as well as the lost to stand before Christ's throne. Jesus describes the event in terms of a Shepard dividing the sheep and the goats. The goats are the lost, who survived the tribulation, the sheep are the saved believers who also survived. (Zechariah 12:9-10)

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:31-33

Those on the left, those who rejected Christ in the tribulation will enter Hell prepared for the Devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Those on the right of Christ, including Israel who escaped into the wilderness following the Abomination of Desolation, will enter the Millennium. They are the ones who will repopulate the earth after its devastation from God's wrath.

The resurrected saints including Old and New Testament, and those who died in the Tribulation, will rule and reign with Christ 1000-years as the population of the earth multiplies in the Millennium.

Tribulation saints: In Revelation a promise is made to those who die rejecting the Beast and his kingdom. They will rule and reign with Christ for 1000-years in their resurrected body.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Revelation 20:4

Church Saints: Jesus makes a specific promise to the disciples about their role in the Millennium. They will be responsible to judge the tribes of Israel in the resurrection or regeneration.

So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 19:28

Old Testament Saints: Like the tribulation and New Testament saints, the saints of the Old Testament such as David, Daniel and Jeremiah are each promised positions of authority in the age to come. David will rule over Israel, as their resurrected Prince.

But they shall serve the Lord their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them. Jeremiah 30:9