

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 unequalled 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.



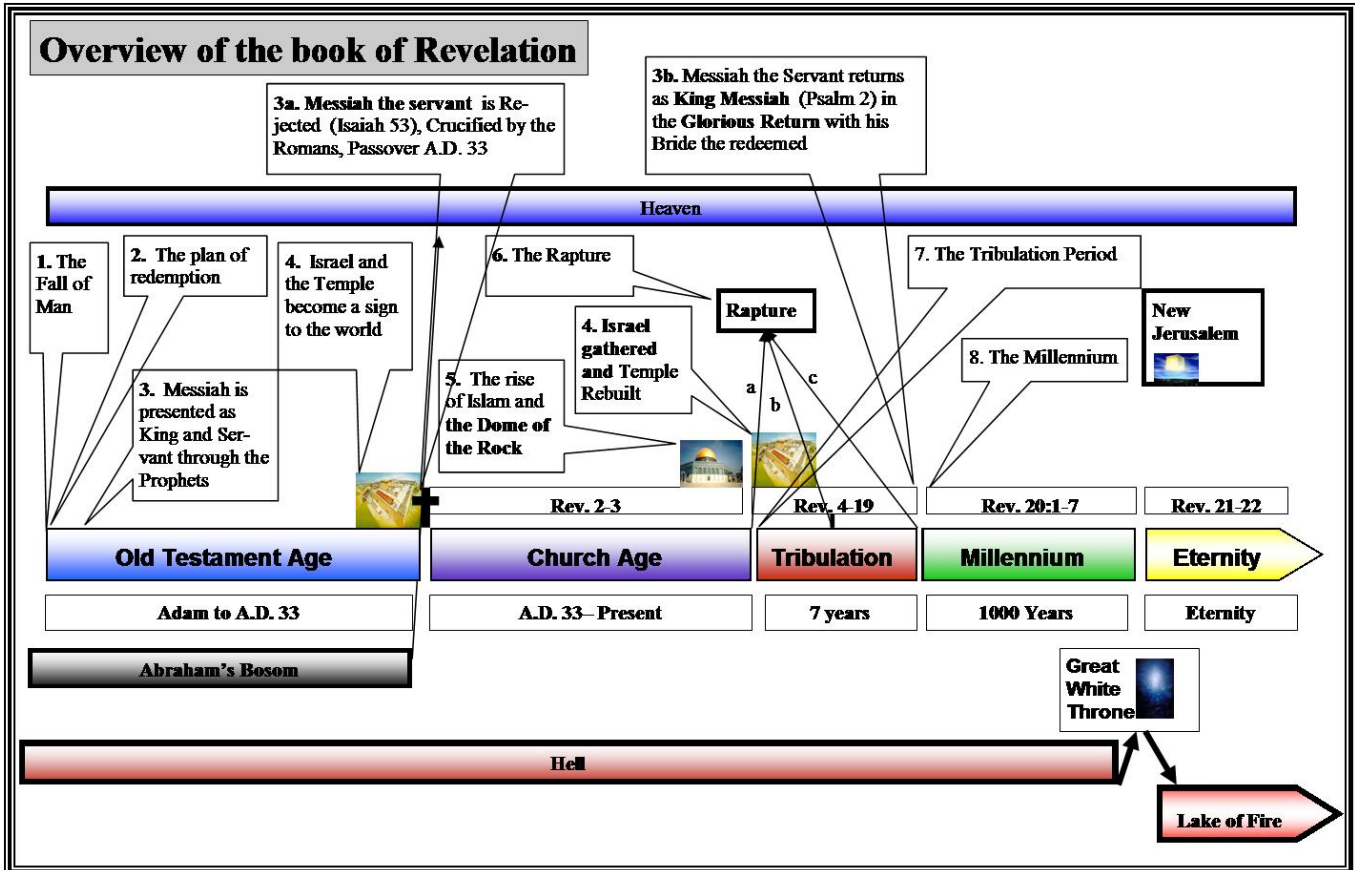
Why should you trust the Bible?

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?

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

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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 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)

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4. Israel and the Temple	The nation of Israel is the descendent 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, a <i>first half</i> , <i>mid-point</i> and a <i>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 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

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	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.