

Your End-Times



Handbook

Disclaimer

Before we begin, we will acknowledge upfront that you may not agree with everything in this study. The truth is if you have ten Bible prophecy teachers, you will have ten or more opinions. There are pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, and post-tribulation teachers, followed by different groups and institutional orthodoxies. This book is not for seminary nerds and denominational company men. We are not the ultimate authority; we are still learning and trusting the Holy Spirit to teach us. If you are hungry to learn about the second coming of Christ, this book will give you a good foundation of the basic precepts as we see it. We will highlight some points many people have never considered; you can prove all things for yourself: iron sharpens iron. Each person is responsible for questioning, researching, and examining the scriptures to form their own convictions. Hopefully, this study will be a blessing in your pursuit of understanding what the Bible says about the end times.

Any feedback you may have would be greatly appreciated.
Email: ears@ears2hear.online

2 Timothy 2:15, Acts 17:10-11

Your End Times Handbook

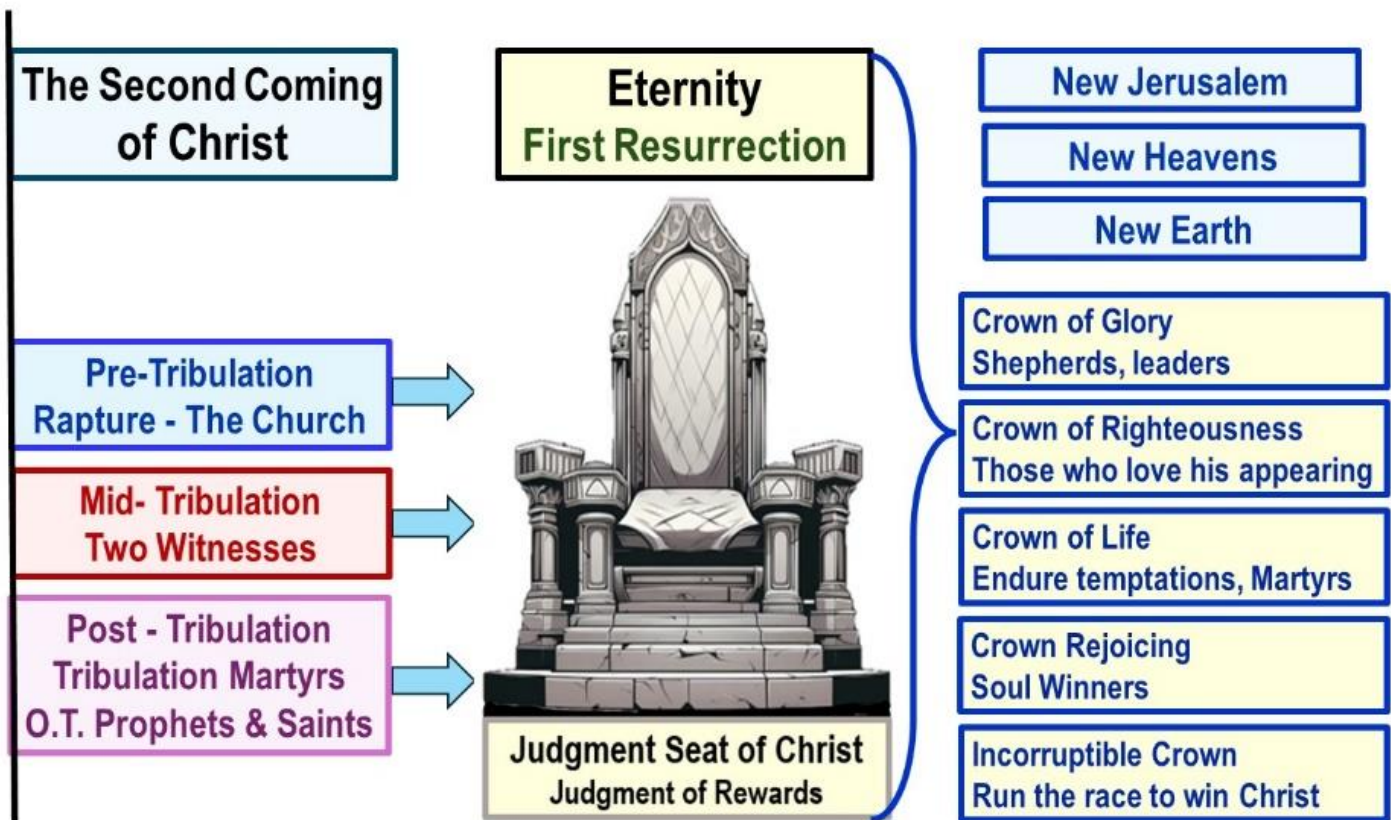
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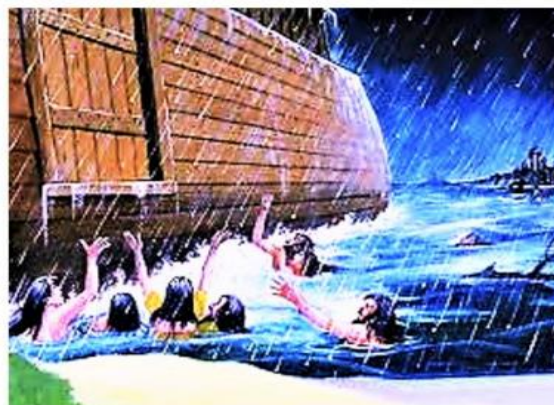
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Your End Times Handbook

Introduction

Our prayer for this book is that it wakes up the sleepers and opens their spiritual eyes to see how close we are to Christ's return and the eternal consequences. The prophetic clock is accelerating, and something more devastating than Noah's flood is coming. We need to have the mindset of Noah, who moved with fear to prepare the ark for the salvation of his family and urge everyone we know to prepare for what is rapidly approaching. The time is short, and the flood is coming.



We plan to be as simple as possible, brief, and to the point in this book. We will let the Bible speak for itself; with the unclear passages, we will cross-reference with other scripture verses, suggest the most likely scenarios, or admit that we don't know. We will follow the traditional line of questioning that goes as follows: who, what, where, when, how, and why. Like the Bereans, we will prove everything with scripture and try to keep it easily understandable but complete. This book is not for seminary students and denominational company men with institutional bias; we will call it as we see it, which may differ from the religious establishment.

For this study, we will look at the end times as if we were spectators at a Broadway play. We will examine the script, the players, the different scenes, and all the scenarios in each act; hopefully, after knowing the plot, we can understand what to expect and recognize where we are in the storyline, which will help us to make sense of the craziness that's happening in the world today. We are privileged to have front-row seats for the most incredible show in the history of the world. There are roughly 800 prophecies regarding Christ's second coming, but only about 100 prophecies foretelling Christ's first coming. We will likely see more prophecies fulfilled than the apostles did. These are exciting times, and we will soon experience more numerous and spectacular events than at any time in history. We are living in Bible times.

Jesus said that signs of the end times would come like birth pains. The signature of end times birth pains is that they come with increasing frequency and intensity and are global in scale. World War I and World War II were tremors before the spiritual earthquake, the birth of Israel as a nation that sent shockwaves throughout the prophetic universe. The birth of Israel is the clearest herald of the end times and was the first verifiable birth pain of the end times that happened on May 14, 1948; after over 2,000 years of being scattered around the world and numerous attempts at their annihilation, Israel became a nation again.

It would be impossible for the end times prophecies to be fulfilled without the Jews becoming a nation again in their ancient homeland and occupying their capital city of Jerusalem. Israel is the cornerstone and centerpiece of all end-times prophecies, and the Jews will retake centerstage as the church age ends.

What are the End Times?

What are the end times, and when will they begin? The Bible tells us of a specific time in the future that brings an end to this current era of humanity as we know it. A series of cataclysmic events are coming that shake every aspect of the world: politically, militarily, socially, financially, and religiously, and even the physical geography of the planet will change. Some details are crystal clear, while others are symbolic, vague, and debatable. For those new to this teaching, we will start with a brief outline of **the big picture timeline** and then go back to fill in the gaps with the details. The following is a list of major events of the end times,

Jesus began his narrative of the end times by warning about **deception, deceivers, and false Christ**. There will be **wars and rumors of war**. Ezekiel prophesied about a battle where **Russia, Turkey, Iran, and others would invade Israel** from the North. Israel has no help from man, but God intervenes and destroys the invaders on the mountains of northern Israel. The timing of this battle is uncertain, but it will take seven months to bury the dead and seven years to clean the battlefield. Another event happens with uncertain timing, with no signs or warnings, which is **the rapture** when Christ snatches his church from the earth up to heaven in the first resurrection. In the meantime, a global government is forming, and nations and ethnicities are rising against each other; revolutions are fomenting chaos and destruction in the streets, illegal immigration invasions are changing cultures, erasing borders, and destroying the sovereignty of nations to give birth **to a global government**. Then, a leader will rise with the answer to the world's problems, but he will become a global dictator, the **Antichrist**. This Antichrist will confirm **a covenant with the nation of Israel for seven years** (the seventieth week of Daniel's vision), which is the official start of the tribulation. Sometime before the middle of the tribulation, the Israelis will rebuild their **Temple in Jerusalem** in the spot where the Dome of the Rock currently stands (a possible perk of the covenant). The religious Jews will re-institute their priesthood and perform animal sacrifices in the Temple.

There will be two Jewish prophets in Jerusalem who are in the Old Testament mold; these **Two Witnesses** will preach, call down fire from heaven, and release plagues on their enemies. But at the end of three and a half years, the Antichrist will kill them. After being dead for three and a half days, the Two Witnesses come to life and ascend to heaven while the whole world is watching. In the middle of the seven-year covenant, the Antichrist enters the Temple, declares himself a god, sets up an image of himself, and demands worship under the penalty of death. Jesus called the Antichrist's desecration of the Temple **the abomination of desolation**. From that time, Antichrist goes on a killing spree for the last three and a half

years of the tribulation. The Antichrist's government will have a hierarchy with ten horns or powers, which may refer to kings, oligarchs, or regions. There will be one government religion that strictly controls and monitors worship of the Antichrist and his image, and anyone who refuses to bow to the **image of the Beast** will get beheaded or killed. Also, everyone must take the Antichrist's number, **the mark of the Beast**, on their right hand or forehead, or they cannot buy or sell. However, all those who bow to the Antichrist and take his mark will go to Hell with no hope of salvation.

Besides the wars, persecutions, plagues, and natural disasters, the gates to the bottomless pit of Hell get opened, releasing swarms of demonic creatures that will ravage the world. Billions of people will die during the tribulation. At the end of the seven years, the Antichrist will gather all the armies of the world to a place called **Armageddon** and march to Jerusalem to annihilate the Jews. In Israel's darkest hour, the Jewish people will cry out to God. **Christ appears** with an army of resurrected saints behind him, and every eye will see him. Christ will save the Jews and destroy all the nation's armies, and he will **cast the Antichrist and False Prophet alive into the Lake of Fire**. During the battle, a nameless angel will bind Satan with a chain and throw him into the bottomless pit where he will be bound for one thousand years.

Then Christ will come down and **stand on the Mount of Olives**, there will be a great earthquake, and the mountain will split in two to form a valley. Christ will send his angels worldwide to gather the survivors from all the nations to the Valley of Jehosaphat, aka the **Valley of Decision**, where he will **judge the nations**. After this, Christ will enter Jerusalem through the **Eastern gate**, then enter the Temple, and the glory of God will fill the Temple. Then Christ will rule the nations for 1,000 years, called the **Millennial kingdom**. Jerusalem will be the head of all nations, and all the world will serve the God of Israel. The earth gets regenerated and restored to be a paradise, the animals will be tame, and people will live hundreds of years in the land of milk and honey like heaven on earth. The world will live in peace, they will make plows from the weapons, and they will not learn war anymore.

But after one thousand years, Satan gets released from prison, and he provokes the nations into one final battle led by **Gog and Magog**. But God will burn up his enemies and destroy the world by fire, melting it with fervent heat. Then the physical universe is no more, time is no more, and only what is eternal will remain. The righteous have eternal rewards and live in the New Earth, the New Heaven, or the New Jerusalem. But all sinners from all ages and all those imprisoned in Hell are brought before God at **the Great White Throne Judgment**, where they get judged and sent to the second death in the eternal Lake of Fire.

That is the big picture condensed into a nutshell. That is the order of events that we will follow. Now, we will go back over it line by line to fill in gaps and provide more details. All these topics overlap; therefore, at times, we may be repetitious, which is unavoidable, but the repetition will help us learn.

What are End Times signs?

We just briefly described the end times with the seven years of tribulation and the return of Christ to judge the world. By knowing what happens in the tribulation, we can recognize how current events are lining up for the fulfillment of prophecy. Signs are like birth pains that increase in frequency and intensity, especially with world events that affect Israel and the formation of a global government. The global shutdowns in 2020 are a prime example of end-time birth pains, as the medical tyranny rolled out simultaneously and precisely the same way in every country worldwide as if it was pre-planned (because it was pre-planned). The events that affect the entire world are moving us closer to what Jesus, Daniel, John, and all the prophets foretold. These events will become more impactful and more frequent. Enoch was the first prophet who spoke about the end times, and he was just seven generations after Adam.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Jude 1:14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, “to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Enoch prophesied before his rapture that the Lord Jesus would come with tens of thousands of His saints to judge the world, and that became the pattern for every prophet that followed after him. God will remove or protect the righteous before his wrath falls on the wicked. Enoch and Noah are patterns, types, or shadows of what happens in the end times. While Enoch was alive, God took him to heaven in a personal rapture. Then Noah was protected and spared from a global catastrophic flood that destroyed the wicked. Afterward, Noah's remnant of survivors came off the Ark to repopulate a world that the flood cleansed from all defilements, and all the plant and animal life regenerated itself.

In the same way, Christ will remove his church in the rapture, and seal and protect his people to survive the tribulation. The survivors will repopulate a cleansed world that will become regenerated to be like the Garden of Eden. Jesus used Enoch and Noah as examples of what his return would be like and what religious leaders should know regarding the signs of the times.

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ,,³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Enoch prophesied about the coming of the Lord before the flood, and he got raptured without the benefit of a Bible, a pastor, or other believers. How much more should we know about the end times regarding everything God has provided for us and warned us about?

Matthew 16:1-3** Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 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.

The disciples asked Jesus about his prophecy regarding the Temple in Jerusalem and when it would get destroyed. They also asked Jesus about the sign of his coming and the end of the age.

***Matthew 24:3** Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what [will be] the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

Jesus answered them with a long message, and since they were on the Mount of Olives, we call it the Olivet discourse. Here was Jesus, standing there speaking with them, face to face, but they asked him, what is the sign of your coming? Their real question was when will you fulfill the Messianic prophecies by judging the world and sitting on the throne of David to rule the nations. In his reply, Jesus answered their questions precisely and told them the conditions, or signs, leading up to his return as Messiah and how, as the Christ, he would judge the world.

Before we go into the Olivet discourse, we will set up a foundation for what Jesus is about to say. We will refer to three primary sources that correspond with each other to put the end times puzzle pieces together, and we will frequently go back and forth between the three; they are the books of Daniel, Revelation, and the Olivet discourse, which we find in Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 17 and 21. The end times that Jesus spoke about, we call the tribulation or the great tribulation.

We will start with Daniel to lay a foundation for understanding the basics of the tribulation from beginning to end. Daniel never understood what he was prophesying about in the same way we do today. An angel told Daniel that his prophecies were sealed until the time of the end, and only then could they be fully understood. We are very privileged to witness the unfolding of the ancient mysteries that the prophets of old could not see.

***Daniel 12:4** "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."*

***Matthew 13:11** He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ... ¹⁶ "But blessed [are]*

*your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 "for assuredly, I say to you that **many prophets and righteous [men] desired to see what you see, and did not see [it], and to hear what you hear, and did not hear [it].***

Daniel provides us with a starting point for the tribulation, which is a seven-year covenant between the nation of Israel and a global dictator, aka the Beast, or the Antichrist. The Antichrist will have a reign of terror that will create the worst suffering in human history, described as the great tribulation or Jacob's trouble [Jeremiah 30:7]. **Daniel had a prophecy regarding 70 weeks of 7 years.** The sixty-ninth week of the prophecy foretells the exact day that Messiah (Jesus) would enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday 483 years into the future. Daniel's prophecy said that the command to rebuild the second Temple to the Messiah would be 69 weeks, each week being seven years, for a total of 483 years.

The command to rebuild the Temple came on March 14, 445 B.C. to find the correct date of the appearance of Messiah, we must convert the Jewish 360-day Lunar calendar to the 365-day Gregorian calendar and account for the leap year differences, according to Jewish practices. So, 483 years x 360 days = 173,880 days, when we convert that to the Gregorian calendar it is 476 years and 24 days.

*Daniel 9:24 "**Seventy weeks** are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. 25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, there shall be **seven weeks and sixty-two weeks**; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 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.*

173,740 days	173,740 days – 476 years
24 days	March 14 counting forward 24 days
+ 116 days	116 days added for leap years
173,880 days	483 years or 69 weeks of 7 years

The prophet Zechariah also prophesied about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey over 550 years before Christ entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. And Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, the "man of sorrows" by whose stripes we are healed in Isaiah 53. In Psalm 22, King David prophesied about Jesus' death on the cross. The prophets gave precise and vivid prophecies about Jesus' suffering and crucifixion, planned before the foundation of the world. We have over a hundred prophecies of Jesus' first coming that were 100% accurate, given centuries before they happened, by numerous people living in different places at other times. That gives us great confidence that every prophecy about the second coming of Christ gets fulfilled precisely the way God, through the prophets, said it would.

Let's move on to the last part of Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks of seven years. **The seventieth week speaks about the seven years of tribulation**, and when the covenant between the Antichrist and Israel is confirmed, that is the official start of the tribulation. In the middle of the tribulation, the Antichrist enters and defiles the Temple, which is called the abomination of desolation. And at the end of the seven years, Christ returns to judge the nations.

Daniel 9:26-27 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. 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."

Another point of interest is that the seventy weeks of sevens was 490 years. When Peter asked Jesus if he should forgive seven times in a day, Jesus answered that he should forgive seventy times seven or 490 times in one day. Ultimately, God forgives Israel at the end of the 490th year of Daniel's prophecy of weeks, and all Israel gets saved.

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

Matthew 24 & 25

Matthew 24 and 25 contain the most familiar verses regarding the end-times prophecies. As we read, we must recognize the context of the entire message: It speaks of Daniel's seventieth week, the time of Jacob's trouble, the great tribulation, and Christ's return to judge the nations, which will be the most devastating and deadly time in human history.

*Jeremiah 30:6-7 Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins **Like a woman in labor**, And all faces turned pale? ⁷ Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.*

Matthew 24:21-22 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.

Here's the scenario: Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, and he told his disciples what would happen more than two thousand years in the future in the very location where they were sitting. Mathew chapters 24 & 25 were originally one message. Bible translators in the 1500s invented chapter and verse distinctions, and they separated the Olivet discourse into two chapters. Also, we should remember that when Jesus spoke to his disciples, they would have seen everything from a purely Jewish perspective.

Jesus was not a Christian; he never went to church on Sunday and never read the New Testament. Jesus was Jewish, and all his disciples were Jewish, and they observed the Law of Moses. Jesus said salvation is of the Jews [John 4:12]; when he sent the twelve out, he specifically told them not to go to Gentiles (non-Jews) or Samaritans [Matthew 10:5]. The disciples of Jesus were Jewish, and the Law of Moses banned them from mingling with unclean pagan people, the Gentiles [Acts 10:28]. Also, they knew nothing about the future of Jews and Gentiles joining together to form the church, the bride of Christ, or the rapture because those mysteries would not be revealed for another ten to twenty years. [Ephesians 5:32].

When some people read Matthew 24 and 25, they fail to see Israel, Daniel's seventieth week, or the seven years of tribulation leading to the return of Christ to judge the Gentile nations. Instead, they read the church into the narrative, excluding Israel. However, the Spirit-filled church will not go through the tribulation. Therefore, the Spirit-filled church is absent from all tribulation narratives in the Bible. The entire Olivet discourse, Matthew 24 and 25, and the other gospels are about Israel going through the seven years of tribulation. Any viewpoint that only sees the church in the Olivet discourse stems from a teaching called **replacement theology**. This false teaching says the church has replaced Israel as God's chosen people. Nothing could be further from the truth. God will never break his covenant with Israel; as long as the sun, moon, and stars are in the sky, Israel will exist as a nation. The Jews will never cease being God's chosen people. The Gentiles got adopted into God's family through the Jewish Messiah, Christ.

Psalms 89:34-36 My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky.

Jeremiah 31:33-37 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. ... This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar the LORD Almighty is his name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me."

During Jesus' earthly ministry, the Jewish religious establishment rejected him. They persecuted and sought to have him killed. After Jesus had his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday, in fulfillment of prophecies by Daniel and Zechariah that we saw earlier, Jesus entered Jerusalem and wept over it. He "wept" because he knew the same generation that rejected him would experience the destruction and desolation of the Temple and get scattered around the world. Upon his rejection as Messiah, Jesus prophesied that the future inhabitants of Jerusalem would not see him again until they would say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD," pointing to his return at the end of the great tribulation.

Mathew 23:36 *"Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. 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!'"*

While Jesus and his disciples passed through Jerusalem, his disciples admired the Temple building and were in awe of it. Then, Jesus prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed, and not even one stone would remain on top of another. Seventy years later, the Romans set the Temple on fire, and the gold that covered the walls melted and ran down the crevices between the stones. The Romans separated the stones to get to the melted gold, then tumbled the giant stones over the wall, not realizing they had fulfilled Jesus’ prophecy that no stone would remain in place.

Matthew 24:1-2 Then Jesus went out and departed from the Temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the Temple. 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."

Later, Jesus and his disciples walked over to the Mount of Olives. When they got the chance, the disciples asked Jesus about the timing of the Temple destruction, the sign of his (second) coming, and the end of the age. Jesus responded with a lengthy prophecy and teaching while they were sitting on the Mount of Olives. The Olivet discourse is also in Mark 13 and Luke 17 and 21.

Matthew 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Matthew	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs	Revelation	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals
24:5,10, 24	Deception, False Christ & Prophets	6:2	Seal 1 - White Horse – Antichrist, Global Government
24:6	Wars, Nation vs Nation, Ethnic chaos	6:3-4	Seal 2 - Red Horse - Takes peace, mega sword
24:7	Famines, Plagues, Earthquakes	6:5-6	Seal 3 - Black Horse – Famine - Hyperinflation
24:21-22	All flesh endangered, but for the Elect	6:7-8	Seal 4 - Pale Horse – Death – 1/4 of world dies
24:9-10	Tribulation, Killed, Hated by nations	6:9-11	Seal 5 - First wave of tribulation Martyrs
24:29	Sun dark, Moon dark, Stars fall	6:12-17	Seal 6 – Sun black, Moon blood, Stars fall
24:30-31	Son of Man (Jesus) appears in Heaven	8:1	Seal 7 – Silence in Heaven for 30 minutes

Here's just a short word of warning before we move forward. The scriptures are the only reliable, consistent, and accurate source of truth, NOT any news sources, social media, pizza dreams, or YouTube visions. The words of Jesus and the prophets are unalterable and permanently fixed; things will happen as foretold in the Bible. Our job in watching the signs of the end times is to see how world events align with the Bible, not twisting the Bible to conform to current events. Anyone who perverts the Bible to create sensationalism, likes, hits, and follows is a deceiver and deceived. Jesus emphasized deception as one of the most dangerous of the end-time signs. Deception is one of the few things we can exercise personal control over.

Jesus mentioned signs within the context of Israel in Daniel's seventieth week, the seven years of tribulation. Jesus first warned about **deception and deceivers**, which is associated with a succession of deceivers and false prophets until the **Antichrist** and the **False Prophet** take power, the equivalent to opening the first seal in Revelation 6. There will be **wars** focused primarily on the nation of Israel and specifically Jerusalem, which coincides with opening the second seal in Revelation 6. Jesus said there would be global **famines and plagues** with the same impact as the opening of the third seal, releasing the rider of the black horse. The black horse brings **global famines, hyperinflation, and later demonic plagues**. Jesus continues his prophetic narrative by mentioning the **abomination of desolation** happening in the middle of the **great tribulation**. Then Christ describes a pivotal time when the **Sun will be dark, the moon blood and the stars fall**, followed by **the Son of Man; Christ appears in the heavens, and then he will judge the nations**.

Matthew 24:3-8 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. NKJV [birth pangs – grow in frequency and intensity]

Matthew 24:8 But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs [of the intolerable anguish and the time of unprecedented trouble]. AMP

Matthew	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs	Revelation	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals
24:5,10, 24	Deception, False Christ & Prophets	6:2	Seal 1 - White Horse – Antichrist, Global Government

We will discuss all those topics in greater detail as we proceed. But we will focus on the signs Jesus mentioned first: deception, false prophets, and false Christ, which Jesus emphasized. Deception may be the most practical sign to study because it may affect us personally.

Jesus warned about false prophets and religious leaders as a direct warning about the extreme spiritual warfare of the end times. During the tribulation, Satan and his army of angels get cast to the earth in an angry rage and ready for war [Revelation 12:9-17]. The spiritual and physical worlds will clash with pain, suffering, and deception. The closer we get to the tribulation, the more demonic warfare will intensify and escalate to new levels of chaos, confusion, persecution, and deception in the church and the world. Powerful deceptions will bring down pastors, leaders, and, if possible, even the elect [Matthew 24:24]. Behind the scenes are multitudes of unseen forces in Satan's army of fallen angels and demons, trying to find their way into the pulpits and pews of the church to create a great apostasy, a massive falling away from Christ and Biblical precepts.

Matthew 24:11-12 Then many False Prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Matthew 24:23-26 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and False Prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 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,

Multitudes of demons

Demonic activities and demon possession are on the rise, just like at Jesus' first coming. Biblical examples of demon possession didn't look supernatural like the movies portray them but probably like extreme cases of epilepsy, mental illness, or other afflictions. We have probably seen demonic activities but didn't have the spiritual discernment to recognize what it was. In Jesus' ministry, he came to the town of the Gadarenes. He met a man who lived in the tombs of a cemetery, acted like a wild lunatic, and was isolated from people because he was violent and would gash himself with rocks. Jesus commanded the demons in the man to give their name, and they answered legion because they were many. A Roman legion of troops at that time was 6,800 men. That is a startling fact that Satan has so many demons he could put over 6,000 on one man who was no threat to his kingdom but sadly was just a lowly outcast and tormented soul. And when Jesus cast the demons out of that man, the self-destructive demons entered the bodies of a herd of 2,000 pigs, driving them over a cliff to their destruction.

Our culture attaches psychological labels to what may be demonically induced mental disorders like schizophrenia, addictions, and fears. And our culture has turned people's mental afflictions into a profitable business with doctors, pills, and healthcare facilities with clients for a lifetime. There is no pill to cast out a demon; it is only the Spirit of God that

releases the spiritual prisoners. The more secular society rejects Christ, the more demonic activity will increase and debase its victims.

Mark 5:1-17, *1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. 2 And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. 7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." 8 For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" 9 Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. 11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. 12 So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." 13 And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.*

After the demons left the dead pigs, they probably went looking for another host body to live in so they could gratify their evil destructive impulses. Demons never die; they go from person to person and from generation to generation.

Matthew 12:43-45 *"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."*

In another example, there was a boy who was deaf and mute, who would throw himself into fire and water and would have convulsing seizures that made him rigid, gnashing his teeth and foaming at the mouth. The source of the afflictions was demonic. So, the father came to Jesus and begged him for help. Jesus rebuked the deaf and dumb spirit, saying come out of him and enter him no more, and the demons came out of the boy.

Mark 9:17-26 *Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." 19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command*

you, come out of him and enter him no more!” 26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him.

The Bible lists many more examples of demon possession, and they were all bad. However, we live on the verge of a demonic tidal wave that will cover the earth far worse than at any time in history. Demonic activities will escalate and crescendo in the great tribulation. It's hard to imagine the depths of cruelty, depravity, and pure evil the world will sink into when the Antichrist reigns and the gates of Hell get opened, releasing demons during the great tribulation. Evil spirits are presently seeking human bodies to enter so they can fulfill their lusts vicariously through occupied human bodies. Whenever people give themselves to their lust and sins, they risk becoming slaves to those sins. Your master is who you obey, and people become enslaved to the demons that tempt, provoke, and encourage their evil behaviors.

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

We used those examples to show that myriads of unseen evil spirits surround us with cruel intentions to wreak havoc and destruction on people. We need to understand how powerful these beings are. Just one angel killed the entire Assyrian army of 185,000 soldiers in one night [2 Kings 19:35]. But God has Satan on a leash and restricts his activities, so he doesn't destroy us all [Job 1:8-12; 2:3-8]. Only by God's mercy and grace are we protected from being destroyed by all the evil spirits surrounding us [Lamentations 3:22].

Nevertheless, we are called to wrestle against these Satanic powers, not by our physical abilities, because the battle is spiritual, and our weapons and armor are the Word of God and the Holy Spirit [2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Ephesians 6:10-18]. Understanding the battlefield and warfare is essential because we are in the battle, whether we like it or not. We must fight in prayer against the powers of darkness and keep the Antichrist from coming into power. The Antichrist will not come forward until after God has removed his intercessors by taking them out of the way at the rapture. Until then, the Holy Spirit in the church acts as salt and light to fight corruption in the culture and restrain the Antichrist and his global government in prayer.

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many Antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many False Prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that

does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 *And now you know what is restraining, that he (the Antichrist) may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one (the Antichrist) will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

After the restrainer gets removed, the Antichrist and False Prophet deceive the entire world, and to make things even worse, God himself will send a strong delusion to those who reject the truth and believe the lies of the Devil. Only the elect of God will withstand the power of these end-time deceptions, and that will only by God's protection, mercy, and grace.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 *9 The coming of the lawless one [Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,*

Revelation 13:13-14 *[Speaking of the False Prophet] He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast,*

Hell is going to visit the earth in ways we cannot even imagine; get ready for unprecedented demonic activity and depths of cruelty and depravity never seen before. During the great tribulation, a fallen angel with a key unlocks and opens the bottomless pit of Hell, and hordes of demons like clouds of locusts come out and attack everyone who does not have the seal of God on their forehead [*144,000 Jews sealed, Revelation 7:1-4; Jews who weep at the abomination of desolation are sealed, Ezekiel 9:3-6*]. These demons will sting like scorpions and torment men for five months, and the afflicted men will try to commit suicide but won't have the strength to kill themselves.

Revelation 9:1-6 *Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. 6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.*

God will protect and preserve his people; nothing can separate us from his love [*Romans 8:38-39*] except our free will choices [*Hebrews 10:26-27*]. Our priority should be maintaining our first love with Jesus. Jesus warned believers to guard against hypocrisy and religious arrogance because that type of self-deception is catastrophic and can take a soul to Hell. The

worst thing that can happen to us is to have good works, know divine mysteries, have all the spiritual gifts, and even sacrifice our bodies to be martyrs, and then wake up in Hell because Jesus doesn't know us.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Though I speak with the **tongues** of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have the **gift of prophecy**, and understand all **mysteries** and all **knowledge**, and though I have all **faith**, so that I could remove mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing**. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to **feed the poor**, and though I **give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing**.*

Satan likes to dress up like a sheep and go to church as an angel of light, and he has his ministers, false apostles, and prophets who play church with him. Satan likes getting people to compromise, making them hypocrites to defile the church, and then slandering and condemning the ones he caused to fall. Then Satan takes his fallen victims and parades them as propaganda to bring shame and destroy the church in the evening news and all the social media platforms. The fall of church leaders, apostles, and prophets causes the most damage to the church.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! ... 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

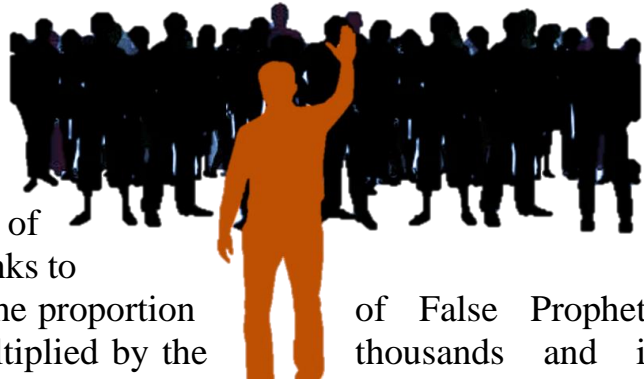
Multitudes of False Prophets

Satan's regime has human cohorts who are working to build a global government and a one-world religion. The global religion will take over all existing religions either by deception or by force to make the world worship the Antichrist. The path to achieving unity with the world's religions is through a series of false prophets until THE False Prophet partners with the Antichrist. There have always been false prophets, but the sheer numbers and levels of deception will be unlike anything ever seen before, especially with the advent of the internet, smartphones, and artificial intelligence. The apostle Peter prophesied that false prophets and teachers would sneak into the church, bringing in destructive heresies. Peter refers to Israel's history to point out how there were false prophets in Israel and there will be false prophets in the church.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also False Prophets among the people [Israel], even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord

who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

One familiar example is when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest, saying the God who answers by fire is God. So, 450 Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah responded to his challenge. That makes the percentage of False Prophets to true prophets of God 850 to 1 in the Old Testament. Today, thanks to YouTube, Facebook, and other social media, the proportion compared to true prophets today is vastly multiplied by the increasing daily.



of False Prophets thousands and is

1 Kings 18:19 "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

The story should be familiar; the False Prophets cried, prayed, and cut themselves all day without results. Elijah stepped forward and said a short prayer, and fire fell from heaven, consuming the sacrifice. He immediately called for the execution of the false prophets, according to the Law of Moses.

1 Kings 18:40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So, they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Deuteronomy 13:5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God."

The 450 prophets of Baal, the pagan male deity, were killed. But somehow, the 400 prophets of Asherah, the pagan female sex goddess, escaped. That may have been because they were employees of Jezebel, who swore to kill Elijah in revenge for the execution of her prophets. Ironically, both Jezebel and Elijah are foretold as active characters in the tribulation. The evil spirit that animated Jezebel is active now and will be active until Christ comes to judge it. The priests of Asherah who served Jezebel were men who castrated themselves, dressed in drag and sold their bodies as Temple prostitutes. They celebrated their perversion proudly and publicly. Sound familiar? Is there any doubt that we see the same demonic power publicly taking over our culture with the homosexual, transgender, and gender confusion movements today? There is nothing new under the sun; the same devils create the same cycles of depravity in every generation.

The same 400 prophets who served Jezebel reappeared after Elijah's challenge and confronted another man of God. His name was Micaiah, and he was a true prophet of God. Ahab, the king of Israel, Jezebel's hen-pecked husband, hated Micaiah because he always prophesied against him. The world hates true prophets [Luke 6:26], but Micaiah stood firm

against the crowd of 400 False Prophets.

1 Kings 22:5-8 Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the LORD today." Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?" So, they said, "Go up, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king." And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?" So, the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

The next scene provides unique insights into how spiritual deception and lies spread through religious communities. Micaiah shares a vision of heaven where **God assigns just one spirit to influence 400 prophets to lie and deceive**. The 400 prophets who prophesied for Ahab sincerely believed that the Spirit of God prophesied through them. But they were sincerely deceived. One lying spirit spoke through each of the 400 prophets, but they were completely oblivious to the source.

1 Kings 22:19-23 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. "And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So, one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' "The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' "Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."



The true prophets of God are hated and suffer persecution; they will live godly and speak the truth regardless of the consequences. Those who compromise the truth for safety, popularity, money, or sin are deceiving themselves and their followers.

Luke 6:26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the False Prophets.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Internet Prophets

The birth of the internet opened Pandora's box for unvetted, unfiltered, and unaccountable free agents of religious banter for both good and bad ministries. Now, the floodgates are wide open for global outreach from the palm of our hands. Unfortunately, we saw a rise in New Age, occult, perversion, and heresy masquerade as Christianity



But the same internet door for faithful, Bible-based, godly ministries is being silenced, de-platformed, and closed by artificial intelligence and algorithms that only allow approved narratives. The cat is out of the bag, and we have experienced an ever-increasing deluge of self-proclaimed prophets and spiritual leaders with new home-spun revelations fabricated from their carnal minds or demonic influence from outside the boundaries of the scriptures. We also see spaghetti prophets who keep throwing predictions against the wall, hoping that something will stick. All this leads naive souls away from the authentic Christ to the imposters and deceivers. These False Prophets ruin the church's credibility, giving unbelievers and skeptics a reason to mock, which turns people away from Christ. However, these are the types of false prophets that Jesus said would come in the end times.

Jesus said My sheep know my voice [John 10:1-5]. The Greek word for voice is phone. Nothing could be more relevant for our times; people are entirely dependent on and addicted to cell phones and digital technology. The big question is, whose voice do we allow to come through our phones? Cell phones and evolving technologies will have a significant role in the end times because of our dependence on them. Our phones and devices have GPS tracking, digital banking, digital identification, and all our personal information, and could become weaponized against us. The algorithms in our devices are tools used to manipulate our thoughts and behaviors. Politicians and elites could use artificial intelligence and algorithms to regulate our lives with ever-increasing restrictions until we live in a digital tyranny. A dystopian, global, digital concentration camp describes a world where no one can buy or sell without the mark of the Beast, aka the Antichrist's mark [Revelation 13:16-18].

Information is the new gold; the wealthiest corporations in the world are internet and technology-related intelligence gatherers like Google, Meta-Facebook, X-Twitter, Microsoft, etc. We are the product these companies sell; they take our personal information and save, file, trade, or sell it. Our information is vital to train their artificial intelligence and give their algorithms information to work with. Currently, in China, cell phones are used by the government to monitor and track movements, finances, and every aspect of life, and they are required to always keep their phones with them; it's like a digital ID, credit card, GPS, medical records, travel permit, text, and post history, and a phone. Surrendering our information may be helping to build our destroyer against us. The False Prophet will tell the world to make the image of the Beast, and they may build that image to access everyone's

digital information.

Revelation 13:14 And he [the Fals Prophet] deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

One unique way end-time prophecy is fulfilled is by using cell phones. Paul said that in the last days, perilous times would come, and men would be "lovers of themselves." **People are lovers of "them selfies."** Selfies are an example of narcissism or self-love. In Greek mythology, Narcissus saw his reflection in the water and became so obsessed and transfixed on himself that he could not move and stared at himself until he died. Self-love is the opposite of God's love, which is a sacrificial love towards others, even enemies.

2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,



Just walk into any public place, and you'll see people in groups, not talking or looking at each other, but each with their faces buried in a screen. Cell phones and social media are addicting and they are intentionally trying to capture our attention for as long as they can. Anyone with a thirst to know God's voice and hear from him may need the self-control and discipline to turn off all the devices to block out time for Jesus to give their full attention to him to listen and obey his voice, and to silence the wrong voices.

1 Corinthians 14:10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

Psalms 95:7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: 8 "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, as in the day of trial in the wilderness,

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Test the spirits

Many voices surround us; we get bombarded with messages that try to influence our morality, buying habits, political affiliations, and beliefs. The purpose of those communications is to repeatedly echo in our minds to manipulate and control our behavior. The source of those voices could be human, demonic, or God, and we need to discern which spirit is behind the voice. Remember how Peter got revelation directly from God the Father, and shortly afterward, Satan spoke through Peter to Jesus [Matthew 16:23]. Peter was sincerely concerned for Jesus' safety, but the spirit behind his voice was from Satan. We must test the spirits, whether they are of God or the Devil, especially regarding true or False Prophets.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many False Prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The Holy Spirit clearly says that in later times, some will abandon the faith because they follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocrites without a conscience, false prophets, and teachers. They will support attacks on traditional marriages and promote every form of sexual immorality and perversion. They will weaponize the food supply, creating famines and banning animal meat and organic vegetables in favor of genetically modified, chemically enhanced, or lab-grown meat and bugs in the name of saving the planet. These are the secular prophets who control the masses using fear tactics, fake science, medical tyranny, social engineering, and the climate change scams.



1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Revelation 2:14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine [teaching] of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Revelation 2:20 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 "Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Matthew	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs	Revelation	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals
24:6	Wars, Nation vs Nation, Ethnic chaos	6:3-4	Seal 2 - Red Horse - Takes peace, mega sword

Wars & rumors of wars

In the Olivet discourse, Jesus said there would be wars and rumors of war. As we saw earlier when speaking of spiritual warfare, end times wars are multidimensional, fighting on many different levels, spiritual, physical, and mental. The first targets are against the morality of Christians and Jews, followed by legal and physical attacks. The land of Israel and Jerusalem is always the bullseye at the epicenter of all the end times wars. God has declared dire consequences against anyone who attempts to divide or take the land of Israel from the Jewish nation. God puts all heads of state, the United Nations, and secular and religious world leaders on notice; whoever touches Israel touches the apple (pupil) of his eye. Poke God in the eye and see what happens; there will be severe consequences. The land of Israel and the Temple mount in Jerusalem will be a cup of trembling or a heavy stone (a burden) for all the nations until Christ returns.

***Zechariah 2:8** For this is what the LORD Almighty says: "After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye*

***Zechariah 12:1-4** "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness [trembling, KJV] 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.*

***Joel 3:1-2** "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.*

The Land of Palestine

The only way to understand end-time battles and wars is to focus on Israel's history, covenants, and prophecies because they are the roadmap that shows how we get from here to the battle of Armageddon. Biblically, the nations are only relevant based on how they relate to Israel. Let's start from the beginning; God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, making them his chosen people. A fundamental aspect of God's covenant with Israel is their promised land, their eternal inheritance. God said as long as the sun, moon, and stars were in the sky, Israel would be a nation before him with the land as their perpetual inheritance. Therefore, Satan always tries to destroy Israel and take their land in his war against God.



Genesis 13:14-17 *And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."*

Deuteronomy 11:8-12 *"Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess, 9 and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.' ... 11 the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, 12 a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.*

1 Kings 9:3 *[Solomon at the dedication of the first Temple] And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house [Temple in Jerusalem] which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.*

Jeremiah 31:35-36 *Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): 36 "If those ordinances depart from 10 before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."*

End times armies - roots

It is incredible how the Bible reveals patterns with unbroken threads that start at the beginning of Genesis and run to the end of the Book of Revelation. Of the many examples for that premise, we will only point out how the regional enemies of Israel that populated the world after Noah's flood will resurface in the end times battles. The references are regarding regions; the geographic areas maintain their Biblical identities, but the people groups may change. The first mention of the region of Gog and Magog is in Genesis, the next mention of Gog Magog is in Ezekiel regarding a battle around the time of the second coming of Christ. Finally, at the end of the book of Revelation, Gog and Magog will be involved in the world's final battle before time becomes no more. Look at the following verse that lists Israel's original enemies; the people who occupy those same regions will be Israel's enemies in the end times. The people may change, but demonic influence over those regions does not, and the spiritual battles never end.

Genesis 10:1-14 *Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood. 2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer [**Libya, Algeria**], Magog [**Turkey**], Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech [**Moscow**], and Tiras. 3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah [**Turkey**]. ... 6 The sons of Ham were Cush [**Sudan**], Mizraim [**Egypt**], Put [**Ethiopia**], and Canaan [**land of Israel**]. 7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan [**Saudi Arabia**] 8 Cush begot Nimrod; ... 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel [**Iraq**], Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria [**Syria**] and built Nineveh, ...*

13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Ananim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines [Palestinians] and Caphtorim).

Often, archeologists discover and identify lands by their Biblical references. Even though cities may become barren and cease to exist for centuries, the archeologist's shovel uncovers them, and they come back to life but perpetually retain their Biblical identities. However, in the spiritual realm, there is a Satanic hierarchy of fallen angels that have differing levels of power and ruling authority over people and cultures in geographic areas. When Daniel prayed, we see that his prayers met with opposition from one of Satan's arch angels, a principal angel or principality, the Prince of Persia (Iran), who still presides over that region today. In the following verses, the angel Gabriel appears to Daniel as he is praying. Gabriel describes a battle in the spiritual realms and mentions another angel, a general over God's angelic army, Michael, who fights for the children of Israel. [Daniel 8:15-16, 9:21].

Daniel 10:10-14 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

Daniel 10:20-21 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. [Michael is one of God's archangels, military general; and a prince over Israel, Daniel 9:25, 10:13, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Revelation 12:7])"

Now that we have recognized the Satanic hierarchy that rules over global regions, let's look at the roots of their human counterparts, enemies of Israel, that will be involved in the end times wars. Some of the enemies that Israel will face in end times battles are distant cousins going back to the times of Abraham. Abraham's wife was barren, and she suggested that Abraham take her Egyptian servant Hagar as a wife and have a child with her so Abraham would have an heir. After Hagar became pregnant, she despised Sarah, so Abraham sent her into the desert. While Hagar was wandering in the desert, an angel appeared to her and gave her a message. The angel said that her son, **Ishmael, would be a wild donkey of a man,** and he would be hostile and fight against everyone. How true! The descendants of Ishmael, the Arab people, have had a history of violence to this day, and they fight with everyone.

Genesis 16:9-12 Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." 11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Thirteen years later, God fulfilled his promise, and Sarah gave birth to a son. Isaac, the child of the promise, was chosen, free, and blessed by God. Ishmael, the child of the slave girl, was born in spiritual bondage and has always persecuted those born of the Spirit by faith. Ishmael was born out of human effort, works of the flesh, and **those born after the flesh persecute those born after the Spirit.**

Galatians 4:22-31 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar, 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia ... 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

Like his father Abraham, Isaac had two sons, and their descendants became two different nations. The elder, Esau, was hated by God because he despised and sold his birth right to gratify his fleshly desires. The other son, Jacob, wrestled with God for the blessing, and God renamed him Israel, which means "prince with God." Jacob is Israel, a patriarch of the Jewish people. What began with the twins wrestling in their mother's womb became two nations, and their descendants have had perpetual struggles, fights, and wars ever since. So, **this is where the Arab and Israeli conflict began** thousands of years ago. Ishmael and Esau are the patriarchs of the modern Arabic nations.

Genesis 25:22-23 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So, she went to inquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

Romans 9:10-13 And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac 11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might 14 stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

Philistine / Palestine / Hamas

Another ancient enemy of Israel was the Philistines, and most famously the 9'6" giant named Goliath, whom David defeated. The Philistines had five lords that ruled over five cities in the southern area of Israel; one of those cities was Gaza, which is in the news today for terrorism against Israel. The word "Philistine" literally means immigrant, foreigner, or invader. The original Philistines crossed the Mediterranean Sea from Caphtor or Crete as invaders and settled in the territories they conquered. The waves of Philistines, illegal immigration is a form of conquest with a profound geopolitical impact today. From the days of King David until now, there has been an ancient hatred by those influenced by the same evil spirits that moved the ancient Philistines against the people of God, both Jews and Christians.



Ezekiel 25:15-17 "Thus says the Lord GOD: Because the Philistines acted revengefully and took vengeance with malice of soul to destroy in never-ending enmity (ancient hostility, old hatred);16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will stretch out my hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the rest of the seacoast. 17 I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I lay my vengeance upon them."

As with all the ancient nations that afflicted the children of Israel, God destroyed the Philistine people, but the people who filled the geographic area came under the same demonic influence that incited violence against the ancient Hebrews. Ironically, **the Hebrew word for violence is Hamas**, which was the name of a terrorist militia based in Gaza. How accurate and relevant is the word of God from the past, present, and future?

Joel 3:19-20 "Egypt shall be a desolation, And Edom a desolate wilderness, because of violence (Hamas) against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land. 20 But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation."

The Romans occupied Israel for many years, and there was a strong resistance force in Israel, and the conflict was very bitter. In the year 132 A.D., the Roman Emperor Hadrian, in frustration and hatred of the Jews, took a scorched-earth attitude and devastated the Jews. In his bitterness, he renamed the land of Israel after their ancient enemies, the Philistines. The Latin word for **Philistine became interpreted in English as Palestine**. There has never been a nation or people of Palestine. Modern Arabs who claim the "land of Palestine" originally came from Egypt, Jordan, and other Muslim countries. And ironically, the Arabic alphabet does not have the letter P. The Arab's claim that Palestine belongs to them is a big lie. Even more ironic, these "Palestinians" are so violent that no Muslim country in the world will take them in as refugees because of their history of assassinations and coups.

Let's be clear about Israel's land disputes. The Romans renamed Israel Palestine out of hatred, and after the Romans dispersed the Jews from their land, and one group after another conquered and ruled over Israel's land (until 1948). Israel owned their land thousands of years before the religion of Islam came into existence in the year 610 AD, so Islam has no claim to any part of Israel's land, not Jerusalem, not the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), and not the Gaza Strip which Israel gave to the Arabs in a peace deal in 2015. The Philistine strategy of illegal immigration to occupy and conquer is alive and well today.

Ring of Fire Psalm 83

The strategy of the Iranian regime has been to build, equip, and fund proxy militias surrounding Israel and have the proxies do their dirty work for them. Iran funded and armed Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria, the Palestine Authority in the West Bank of the Jordan River (Judea & Samaria), the Houthi in Yemen, and others. Some describe this regional encirclement by



their enemies as the inner ring of fire and the international coalition of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38 as the outer ring of fire.

Regionally, it is the radical Islamists that form coalitions to accomplish that goal; there have been countless acts of terrorism, rocket attacks, and global propaganda waged against Israel for their destruction. We are speaking of Psalm 83, which describes Israel as surrounded by hostile neighboring enemies whose only goal is the genocide of the nation of Israel. From the river to the sea is a call to kill every Jew from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea; in other words, wipe the Jews off the map. Whether Psalm 83 is a prayer or describes a prophetic war is disputable. Without question, it represents the day-to-day reality of Israel ever since its birth as a nation.

***Psalm 83:3** They have taken crafty counsel against Your people and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. **4** They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." **5** For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: **6** The tents of Edom [**Palestinians-Southern Jordanians**] and the Ishmaelites [**Saudis**]; Moab [**Palestinians-Central Jordanians**] and the Hagrites [**Egyptians**]; **7** Gebal [**Hezbollah-Northern Lebanese**], Ammon [**Palestinians-Northern Jordanians**], and Amalek [**Arabs in the Sinai**]; Philistia [**Hamas-Gaza Strip**] with the inhabitants of Tyre [**Hezbollah-Southern Lebanese**]; **8** Assyria [**Syrians -Northern Iraqi's**] also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. Selah*

At the time of this writing, we may be experiencing the fulfillment of Psalm 83 prophecy in real-time. Things are moving so fast that we may quickly move past the current conflicts to another prophetic war. The current war started on **October 7, 2023, and it was an end-times birth pain** that altered the political atmosphere worldwide. Hamas terrorists and Arab citizens from Gaza launched a surprise attack against Israel, precisely on the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The cruel torture, rape, and murder perpetrated by Hamas that day against defenseless people was pure evil and demonic. That was the worst slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust. The bodies of Jews were dismembered, beheaded, raped, and burned, and they also took hostages away to tunnels in Gaza. Hamas terrorists beheaded men, women, and children. Initially, much of the world showed support for Israel, but a tidal wave of antisemitism with protests and propaganda has followed and is steadily increasing. There is a revival of Nazism combined with Islamist hatred for Jews. It's a testimony to the accuracy of the word of God that tiny Israel, about the size of New Jersey, with 9 million Jews, surrounded by 1.2 billion Muslims, hated by multitudes, is the center of attention for the whole world. And Jerusalem is the focal point of all the nations.

From the beginning of the October 7 massacre, the Iranian proxy, Hezbollah, attacked Israel from its northern border with Lebanon. After being hit with 9,000 rocket attacks and the evacuation of 60,000 Israeli citizens from their homes for over a year, Israel decided to strike back. In September of 2024, they detonated 4,000 pagers carried by Hezbollah militia leaders, killing, blinding, and crippling more than 3,000 terrorists and then followed by

precision air strikes, eliminating all the top command in the Hezbollah organization. As of this writing, Hezbollah is on the verge of defeat. In response, Iran launched two different waves of hundreds of missiles toward Israel without one Israeli casualty. There have been miracles on Israel's behalf during this war that even the secular pagans have to acknowledge the miraculous, even if they don't recognize the God of Israel. Israel has been fighting on seven fronts, eight if you count propaganda. If you combine the current enemies of Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and the head of the snake, Iran, that would complete the checklist of all the enemies in the Psalm 83 wars.

Destruction of Damascus

At the time of this writing, Israel is fighting for its very existence on seven fronts, war zones, including on their northern border with Syria and Lebanon. Most of Hezbollah's military supplies come from Iran through the Damascus airport and



surrounding roads and then transported to the front lines. Israel may have no other option than to flatten Damascus and the surrounding Military targets, which they have already begun to do. The Bible tells us that Damascus, which many claim is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, will cease being a city overnight and will be turned into a ruinous heap. It looks like that is a work in process.

Isaiah 17:1-3 The burden against Damascus. "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap. 2 The cities of Aroer are forsaken; They will be for flocks Which lie down, and no one will make them afraid. 3 The fortress also will cease from Ephraim, the kingdom from Damascus, And the remnant of Syria; They will be as the glory of the children of Israel," says the LORD of hosts. ... 14 Then behold, at eventide, trouble! And before the morning, he is no more. This is the portion of those who plunder us, And the lot of those who rob us.

Jeremiah 49:23-27 Against Damascus. "Hamath and Arpad are shamed, for they have heard bad news. They are fainthearted; There is trouble on the sea; It cannot be quiet. 24 Damascus has grown feeble; She turns to flee, and fear has seized her. Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labor. 25 Why is the city of praise not deserted, the city of My joy? 26 Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day," says the LORD of hosts. 27 "I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-Hadad."

The previously mentioned conflicts and wars are steppingstones that will lead to a much larger and more deadly battle, as seen in Ezekiel 38. The Gog and Magog battle begins a cascade of end-time battles, wars, and events.

Gog & Magog

Israel's regional enemies want to extinguish them because of an ancient hatred. But a different coalition of enemies will rise against Israel with other motives; they will come from distant lands, the outer ring, and their motivation is to conquer and plunder Israel's wealth. The leading players in this battle are **Russia, Turkey, and Iran**, with the Northern African

Muslim countries and the former Soviet satellite countries under Muslim rule. The Bible gives specific information about this coalition and this battle.

Only recently has the chessboard shifted to put the right players in place for this to happen. Russia has forged a military alliance with Iran, trading weapons and war technology together. Russia has troops, nuclear-capable jets, and anti-aircraft equipment in Syria, which borders Israel's war against Hezbollah in Lebanon, and there are elements of Hezbollah in Syria. The situation is ongoing and dangerous. After the October 7th massacre in Israel, Turkey sided with the Hamas terrorists against Israel. The Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, wants to restore the Ottoman Empire and has openly declared he wants to retake Jerusalem, which the Ottomans held for 400 years. Turkey is currently in NATO but also has ties with Russia and is a Muslim country. We know from prophecy that Turkey will ultimately stand with Russia and Iran against Israel.

The Iranian leaders are Shia Muslims, and they believe they must bring death, destruction, and chaos to the world to hasten the appearance of the 12th Imam who will arise to conquer and subjugate the world under the iron fist of Islam and Sharia law. This teaching is why the Islamists are so violent; it is a core tenant of their faith, and they believe that killing infidels or dying a martyr's death in battle will get them great rewards in heaven. The Shia Muslims have reversed the roles of Jesus Christ and the Antichrist; their twelfth Imam, the Mahdi, is the Biblical Antichrist. So, we can expect Islamic propaganda, terrorism, and conflicts to increase because they want to bring their Mudhi, which is our Antichrist.

Israel has assets of vast offshore natural gas fields, cutting-edge technologies, and productive farmlands. Israel's wealth is the hook that God will place in Russia's (Gog) mouth to pull them and their coalition to the northern mountains of Israel. And so, the Gog and Magog (Russia), Togarmah (Turkey), and Persia (Iran) chess pieces are moving into position on the end-time chessboard. The progression from Ezekiel 37 with the vision of the valley of dry bones, Israel becoming a nation again, was fulfilled on May 14, 1948. That prophecy said it would happen in the latter years, confirming that we are the end-times generation.

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ... 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So, I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ... 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. 11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' 12 "Therefore prophesy and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14 "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD. "'

The next event in that progression is the battle in Ezekiel 38 and 39, which has three conditions before the battle occurs.

1. Israel was a nation in their land.
2. They would have a mighty army.
3. Israel would be dwelling safely in unwalled villages without walls.

The first two conditions have been a reality for some time, but the third, Israel's safety and security without walls, is questionable; only God knows how and when that gets fulfilled.

Ezekiel 38:8 "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'

Now, let's identify all the nations in the outer ring of fire, the coalition that Gog, the leader, brings together to march to the mountains of Israel.

Ezekiel 38:1 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. 4 "I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. 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. 7 "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.

Then a leader, his title is Gog, from the region of Russia [Magog], along with Turkey, Iran, and a great company of others, will form a coalition to destroy and plunder Israel. The alliances between Russia, Iran, Turkey, and others will have been consolidated and armed to attack and plunder Israel's wealth and natural resources. This coalition will cover the land as a formidable army,

Ezekiel 38:9 "You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

Other than hatred of the Jews, the main goal of this war was to plunder Israel's wealth. Israel has vast natural gas fields, leading cutting-edge technologies, financial assets, and abundant agricultural products.

Ezekiel 38:12 "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.

Israel will receive no military assistance from other nations, God will be their only hope, and their allies will only question or complain about Gog's motivation for the invasion. The regional allies voicing their concerns about the invasion may result from the Abraham Peace Accords with Sunni Muslims in neighboring countries, which could include Saudi Arabia and others [Sheba and Dedan] recently engaging in talks to normalize relations with Israel. There is no consensus on the identity of Tarshish; opinions vary from the Greek Isles to Spanish ports. Some claim the young lions mentioned are from Great Britain and the United States, but that theory is a stretch and not credible.

Ezekiel 38:13 "Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?'"

Ezekiel 38-39	
<u>Biblical</u>	<u>Current</u>
Rosh	Russia
Mesheck	Moscow (city)
Tubal	Tobolsk (city)
Persia	Iran
Cush	Sudan,
Put	Ethiopia
Gomer	Libya & Algeria
Magog	Turkey Central Asian "stans" Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, etc.

Gog is a title, the **Prince** who leads the coalition against Israel, and the other names are geographical regions of ancient people. The national boundaries and names have changed, but the geography stays the same; most regions are verified, it may be uncertain where some countries fall within those ancient regions.

From the far north, Russia, with hordes of people, will come to the mountains of Israel's Northern border. God will arrange every aspect of this battle; he puts hooks (creates circumstances) to bring Gog and his coalition against tiny Israel, who will have no help from other nations. God puts together Gog's coalition army in the same way he elevated Pharaoh's army when he destroyed them to demonstrate the exceeding greatness of His mighty power [Romans 9:15-18]. God reveals specific details of this battle through the prophets thousands of years before it happens so that when it happens, God's word is confirmed, Israel turns to God, and the glory goes to God.

Ezekiel 38:14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? 15 "Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. 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?"

God will fight for Israel by performing numerous miracles using nature and turning Gog's armies to fight against each other. A great earthquake will shake the world so powerfully that the mountains will shift, and all men, birds, fish, and everything on the planet will feel it. Earthquakes and cataclysmic natural disasters will occur during most of the critical events of the end times. Earthquakes will grow more powerful, happen more frequently, and change the entire landscape of the planet.

Ezekiel 38:18 "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "that My fury will show in My face. 19 "For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, 20 'so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the Beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.'

Besides the earthquake, God will pour out a flooding rain mingled with great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. And in the middle of the shaking, floods, rain, hail, and fire, the different factions in the coalition will turn against one another and fight and kill each other [Judges 7:22, 2 Chronicles 20:22-23]. Gog and Magog, with all their armies, suffer a devastating defeat and die on the mountains of Northern Israel without Israel lifting a finger; the victory is an undeniable miracle, so God gets all the glory.

Ezekiel 38:21 "I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord GOD. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 "And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 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."

The narrative continues in Ezekiel 39: God will cause Gog's military equipment to malfunction like he caused Pharaoh's chariot wheels to fall off when Israel crossed the Red Sea [Exodus 14:24-25]. After Gog's hoards die on the mountains of Israel, the vultures and Beasts of the field feast on their corpses.

Ezekiel 39: 3 "Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. 4 "You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the Beasts of the field

to be devoured. 5 "You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.

Again, God restates His purposes in fulfilling this prophecy: so His name is not profaned, to make his name known to Israel, and so the nations would know the Lord is God and the Holy One of Israel.

***Ezekiel 39: 6** "And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. 7 "So, I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.*

After the battle, there will be a massive clean-up effort; the law of Moses is clear about disposing of dead bodies properly to be ceremonially clean. The law has a purification process, but the sizeable numbers involved will take time. Israel will burn the weapons for seven years. We can speculate what that means, possibly recycling the materials from the military equipment like melting down the metals, reclaiming the oil and gas stockpiles, and special training and equipment to deal with radioactive materials. If it takes seven years to burn weapons, it must be a vast supply of military equipment; possibly, some of that equipment may be due in part to the U.S. military pull out of Afghanistan in August of 2021, leaving 85 billion dollars in military equipment in the hands of the Muslim terrorist group, Al-Qaida.

***Ezekiel 39:8** "Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord GOD. "This is the day of which I have spoken. 9 "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. 10 "They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them," says the Lord GOD.*

***Isaiah 9:4** For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.*

When it comes to burying the bodies, there is a hitch; it seems that these bodies may have radioactive contamination and will have to be removed by trained specialists. If someone spots a corpse, the instructions are to notify the authorities, who partition the area and marks it with a flag. There will be a team of professionals whose full-time job will be to dispose of the bodies, and they will likely have special training and wear protective hazmat suits. It will take at least seven months to bury the bodies.

Ezekiel 39:11 "It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore, they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. 12 "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. 13 "Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord GOD. 14 "They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months, they will make a search. 15 "The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. 16 "The name of the city will also be Hamonah. Thus, they shall cleanse the land."

Again, God states the purpose of this battle. Israel forsook God and remained unfaithful to him, so he hid his face from them, allowed their defeat before their enemies, and scattered them around the world. But God brought this generation of Jews back to the land of Israel so they would know that the Lord is God. He promised he would not hide his face from them anymore and vowed to pour out his Spirit on the house of Israel.

Ezekiel 39:23 "The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. ... 27 'When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, 28 'then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. 29 'And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

Ezekiel 38-39 Battle of Gog Magog	Revelation 16, 19 Armageddon
Coalition led by Russia, Turkey, Iran attack	All the armies of the world attack
Armies cross Israel's northern border	Armies lay siege to Jerusalem
Comes to take spoil	Comes to destroy the people of God
There is a protest against the invasion	No protest, all the nations attack
Gog is head of the invasion	Antichrist (the beast) heads the invasion
The Lord uses nature to attack Gog's army	Christ treads the winepress alone (Isa 63)
Gog's armies gather on northern mountains	They enter Jerusalem and begin assault
Gog defeated by nature & infighting	Christ's defeats world's armies alone
Afterwards: designated men bury dead & burn weapons 7 mos., cleanse land 7 yrs. (possible radioactive/nuclear/biologic fallout)	Afterwards is the judgment of the sheep and goats, Angels gather for judgment Millennial kingdom for 1,000 years

When does the Ezekiel 38 battle happen? Opinions vary, but this battle will likely occur before the tribulation for the following reasons: First, it will take seven years to cleanse the battlefield, so it will not come at the end of the seven years of tribulation. Also, the Ezekiel 38 battle is different than Armageddon because Ezekiel 38 involves a coalition of Russia, Turkey, Iran, and others who die in the mountains in Northern Israel. But Armageddon involves all the nations of the earth, and they attack Jerusalem and get destroyed by Christ at his second coming. Also, at the beginning of the tribulation, all the world's armies, including Russia, Turkey, and Iran, will be under the Antichrist, so most likely, the Ezekiel 38 war will be before the tribulation. We have no clue if Ezekiel 38 could happen before the rapture. First, we don't know when the rapture will happen; second, there could be an undetermined gap of time between the rapture and the tribulation.

Some distinctions between the Ezekiel 38 army and the Antichrist army will help us see how we are progressing toward the end-times wars. The army taking part in the Ezekiel 38 battle is a coalition of individual nations that maintain their national sovereignty. Russia wants to rebuild the Soviet Empire, Turkey intends to rebuild the Ottoman Empire, and Iran wants a Muslim Empire; none of them want to give up their sovereignty, but after they suffer a defeat to Israel, they will lose their power and sovereignty to the movement for a global government, setting up the new world order of the Antichrist. So, Gog Magog may pave the way for the Beast system.

Magog Ezekiel 38 & 39		Magog Revelation 20	
Ezekiel 38:8	Before millennium (Israel regathered to the land)	Rev 20:1-3	After millennium (Israel in the land 1000 years)
38:2-3; 39:1	Leader of the attack is Gog (a man; political/military ruler)	7, 8	Leader of attack is Satan (released after 1000 years in prison)
38:2-3	Coalition led by Russia, Turkey, Iran invades northern border	8	All nations attack Jerusalem, from 4 corners of earth
38:21	Battle on mountains of Israel	9	Battle is against Jerusalem
39:12-15 39:9-29	7 months to bury the dead 7 months to cleanse the land 7 years to burn the weapons	9-10	Fire from God devours armies, no burials , physical earth, heavens are no more
39:9-29 40-48	Followed by the second coming of Christ & the Millennium Reign	11-15	Followed by the Great White Throne judgment and eternity

There will be a revived Roman Empire consisting of Europe, and the West that will form a global government. Eventually, ALL nations with their armies will come under the Antichrist's dictatorship. That means every country will lose its sovereignty. Right now, the Western countries and the European Union are systematically and incrementally surrendering their national sovereignty to Muslims and globalists. Also, the Ezekiel 38 battle may play a part with the defeat of the radical Islamists, it may create an opportunity for Israel to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple must be built sometime before the middle of the seven-year tribulation period for the Antichrist to commit the abomination of desolation [Daniel 9:26]. The battle of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38 and 39 is different from the battle of Gog and Magog in Revelation 20. The name of the region Magog doesn't change; it stays the same. But they are two battles one thousand years apart, and the leader Gog will arise from the area of Magog. We said wars will be multi-dimensional, the following are other wars leading to global governance and the rise of the Antichrist.

Food wars

Food, or the lack thereof, has always been used as a tactical weapon to disarm and weaken foreign or domestic enemies. The standard operating procedure in a military siege is to cut off water and food. When Israel was under siege from Syria, mothers were boiling and eating their Babies [2 Kings 6:29]. During the seven years of famine in Egypt, Joseph made all the Egyptians to be Pharaoh's slaves in exchange for food. The Egyptians bought food until the money failed, then sold their livestock, their assets and life savings. Then they sold their lands, and finally, they sold their bodies to become slaves [Genesis 47:18-19]. Whether natural or manufactured, food shortages and hyperinflation are used as weapons of revolutions and tyrannies to conquer people.

After World War II, Stalin and the Marxists in the Soviet Union starved ten million of their people, and the Chinese under Mao starved twenty million citizens. Jesus said there would be famines, and the book of Revelation tells us about global starvation beyond anything that has happened in the history of man. Much of the end-times famines may be the result of the elites and tyrants weaponizing food against the multitudes of people. We can see this now with the global restrictions and climate change regulations destroying farm production and bankrupting farmers. We also see genetically modified seeds, animals, and lab-grown and chemically infused foods. Whoever controls the food controls the people.

Legal wars - lawfare

Dictators have always twisted and used laws to subdue and control God's people. Agag, the Amalekite, influenced the king to make a law to commit genocide against the Jewish people. But God used Esther and Mordecai to make another law for the Jews to protect themselves. The Jews destroyed those who intended to kill them, and every year, they celebrate the victory with the feast of Purim. Jezebel framed a man with false accusations of breaking the law of Moses by cursing God to have him executed so Ahab could steal his land. The king of Babylon made a law against prayer, which landed Daniel in the lion's den. The same

Babylonian king made a law that everyone had to bow to his image or burn in a fiery furnace. But Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego refused to bow, but they didn't burn; they were fireproof, and Jesus was with them in the fire. In 2020, governments worldwide used emergency powers to enforce medical mandates to close all the churches, of which many never reopened. Emergency powers will be in force again to legally go around existing laws to oppress the world, whether for climate change, wars, famines, or political elections. The Antichrist will make laws requiring the world to worship him or be put to death [*Dan 7:25; Revelation 13:15*].

Propaganda & censorship wars

After the Philistines killed King Saul, they cut off his head and nailed his body to the Temple of their god. When King David heard about it, he lamented, saying not to publish it in Gath, a Philistine city. The ancient form of propaganda is terrorism, and out of Gaza once occupied by the Philistines, terrorists entered Israeli villages and raped, murdered, beheaded, and burned children, women, and elderly people. The effects of their propaganda quickly circled the globe, lighting fires of antisemitism and encouraging protest and violence. With global communication over the internet, the propaganda wars of false information and censorship are pivotal tactics in political and military battles. Hitler had Joseph Goebbels; we have Facebook, X, Instagram, Telegram, Rumble, and so forth, with billions of active voices. He who controls the narrative wins the battle of the mind.

Digital wars

Besides the online communications, everything functions digitally, national power grids, banking, water and electric utilities, cell phone towers, and all electronics would be fried. With one EMP, electromagnetic pulse bomb, one third of the United States power grid would be destroyed resulting in the death of millions in a short time frame. That's not counting what could happen with military applications of artificial intelligence, quantum computers, algorithms, drones, and robotics, which could be used for complete control over every aspect of human life. Only recently has the technology been invented that could fulfill the prophecy in Revelation 13, that says that nobody in the world will be able to buy and sell unless they take the mark of the Beast on their hand or forehead [*Rev 13:16-17*].

Biological wars

Biological warfare can go in many directions with medical tyrannies or military applications that will devastate the adversaries with biological plagues. As we saw in Ezekiel 38 & 39, after the great battle, there will be a biohazard that will require full-time hazmat teams for seven months to remove the dead bodies. In Revelation, those who take the mark of the Beast will break out in painful sores. Matthew and Revelation mention plagues, and possibly some laboratory-produced toxins will escape or be released to wreak havoc on the earth in the end times.

Drug wars

From 1839 to 1860, the British fought an Opium war with the Chinese; approximately ten percent of the Chinese people were addicted to opium, which was about forty million people. The war ended with British control over Hong Kong, and the Chinese paid reparations. Since 2017, an estimated 560,000 Americans have died from drug overdoses, and the leading cause may be fentanyl. Fentanyl is produced in China, then shipped to Mexican drug cartels, and then sold on the streets of the United States. However bad the weaponization of drugs sounds from opioids and fentanyl, their money and power may be less than the lifelong dependency and medications. Big Pharma starts with childhood vaccines, of which at least 15 are a requirement for School children. Some people claim that those vaccines contribute to the rise of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), peanut allergies, and many other disorders. Big Pharma aims to supply medications for profit from the cradle to the grave. In contrast, previous generations had natural and organic remedies for life.

In 2020, Big Pharma went on a global campaign with an experimental DNA concoction. Nobody knew what was in it, but everybody was mandated to get it. What ensued amounted to a medical tyranny on a global scale, and it was an end-time birth pain. The globalists were testing to see how far they could manipulate and control the global population. The Greek word for sorcery in the Bible is pharmakeia, which translates to our word pharmacy or drugs. Drugs can be a portal into the demonic realm that enslaves and takes the souls of addicts and is a powerful weapon of Satan in the end times.

***Revelation 18:21-24** Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ... 24 For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery (pharmakeia, pharmacy) all the nations were deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."*

***Nahum 3:3** Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, a great number of bodies, countless corpses-They stumble over the corpses 4 Because of the multitude of Harlotries of the seductive Harlot, the mistress of sorceries, who sells nations through her Harlotries, And families through her sorceries.*

Political wars

There will be a final Gentile empire that will rule the entire planet, and all the world's sovereign nations must submit to it. Hence, we are in a clash between the two ideologies: globalists and those who want to keep their national sovereignty, borders, culture, language, and independence. We also see the elites, international corporations, non-government organizations, and the great merchants of the earth who want to monopolize global markets. They are only loyal to growing profits and will partner with the globalists.

The Antichrist will be the ultimate politician starting with a small military power. But once he comes to power, he only has seven years to rule, so his global empire will likely already be functional. That means that we should see the early stages of that world government

forming now. So, incrementally and forcibly, independent countries will surrender their national sovereignty to a United Nations or European Union type of organization until there is a one-world government. Then, a devilishly charismatic politician, Antichrist, will rise from the ranks to plot and scheme his way into world dominance.

Currency wars

Currently, the American dollar is the world standard for currency. However, the agreement with Saudi Arabia to use U.S. dollars to buy and sell oil has expired. There is also the formation of a new currency called BRICS, which is an alliance between Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with 40 other countries expressing an interest in joining at this time. The struggles between the currencies will eventually lead to a global digital currency. The world will be a cashless society where paper money and coins get banned except for bartering on the illegal black market.

This digital currency will be programmable and can be used to control every aspect of life. The currency will be tied to a social scoring system, meaning the government will reward or punish behaviors by allowing or denying access to funds, which translates to access to housing, food, medicine, travel, and life's necessities. This system is already in place in China. The system will be introduced globally through a CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency), or whatever name they attach to it. The propaganda will say it answers many problems like theft, exchange rates, and convenience. In the end, CBDC or any governmental digit currency means that eventually the government holds and controls all the money and weaponizes it against the people.

Illegal immigrant warfare

We can add to the list "warfare by immigrant," remember the Philistines or Palestinian immigrants or invaders. The threat of illegal military-age men invading and occupying Western countries across Europe, Britain, Australia, and the United States is a strategy for revolution by the globalists, elites, and Muslims. The globalist politicians get guaranteed votes, big business gets cheap labor, and the extremist Muslims want to conquer for Allah. This invasion is an end-time birth pain because the same thing is happening in the same way around the world. The chaos intentionally produces a controlled demolition of religion, history, culture, and national identity to bring a revolution into a new world order and the Beast system.

Western countries populate their countries with illegals to gain political advantage. Meanwhile, they commit population suicide by advocating abortion, homosexuality, and the transgender movement. At the same time, hordes of illegal immigrants create a population explosion of people who don't acclimate to the culture of the host country but create an isolated and independent sub-culture. Crooked politicians allow powerful gangs of organized crime to control borders, sex trafficking, not to mention the financial burden, crime, rape, and protests by the illegals that are bankrupting countries, collapsing the infrastructures, and

erasing national sovereignty to pave the way for revolution.

Warsover Jerusalem

Anyone who interferes with Israel's national sovereignty and borders and seeks to take or give away Israel's land will only bring God's wrath and judgment down on themselves. The land of Israel and the Temple mount in Jerusalem will be a cup of trembling or a heavy stone (a burden) for all the nations until Christ returns [Zechariah 12:1-4]. The end-time battles are focused on Israel, especially Jerusalem, as we will see later.

Let's summarize what will happen before and during the tribulation: deception, wars, food shortages, plagues, natural disasters, lawlessness, and a great falling away from the faith.

Matthew 24:4-14 "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 ... And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. ... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ... Then many False Prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold (a great falling away).

Before we proceed with the Olivet discourse in the gospels and the books of Daniel and Revelation, we need to address the elephant in the room: the rapture. We unapologetically hold to a pre-tribulation rapture view; therefore, we will now address the topic of the rapture.

The Rapture

We will strongly emphasize the rapture because it is the most important part of the book and it could have an immediate and eternal impact on our lives. Our mindset controls our lifestyle, whether we walk in the Spirit by the Word of God or live to satisfy the lust of the flesh. Everyone who has the hope of the rapture purifies themselves and avoids all sin [1 John 3:2-3]. That statement is controversial for some people, so we will explain that position as we proceed.

So, what is the rapture? The rapture refers to the resurrection of the believers "in Christ," both the dead and the living. The born-again, Spirit-filled church from the time of Christ's resurrection until now will be caught up and transported to heaven to meet Jesus in the air. Simultaneously, their physical bodies will be transformed into their eternal resurrected bodies, in the same way that Jesus' body got transformed at his resurrection.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

The rapture teaching should give us hope and put the fear of God in our hearts. We should look at things from an eternal perspective, give ourselves entirely to Jesus, and continuously

walk in the Spirit. Anyone who plays the hypocrite with unrepentant intentional sin is at risk, rolling the dice and gambling with their souls.

***Philippians 2:12-16** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

Part of the resurrection process will be the judgment, but in the case of believers, it will be a judgment of rewards. Whatever was not of God will be burned up, and whatever survives the fires of testing and is approved will receive an eternal reward. Here's a brief description of what that will look like.

***2 Timothy 4:1** I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:*

***2 Corinthians 5:1-11** For we know that if our earthly house, this tent (our body), is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*

***1 Corinthians 3:11-15** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

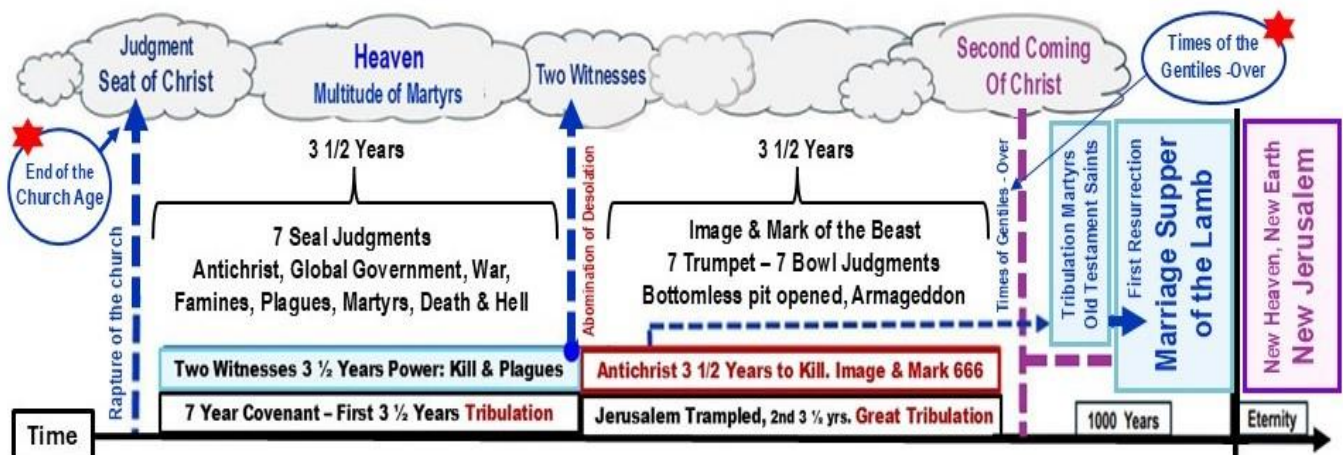
Jesus came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, revealing mysteries, and bringing in a new and better covenant with better promises. But the unfolding of the mysteries of the church and the rapture would only come years after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The disciples didn't have a clue what they were in for. Jesus told his disciples, blessed are your eyes for what you see and your ears for what you hear, for many prophets and righteous men of all previous generations desired to see and know what you are experiencing, but they did not.

Matthew 13:10-17 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ... "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Fifty days after Christ's crucifixion, the church was born on Pentecost, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter stood up and preached, quoting from the prophet Joel and speaking about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He also included the part about blood, fire, the sun darkening, and the moon turning to blood, referencing the great tribulation and the Day of the LORD, showing that the outpouring of the Spirit reached from Pentecost to the tribulation.

Acts 2:14-20 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above. And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

Jesus also referenced the signs in the sun and moon, as well as his second coming, but he added information about the "times of the Gentiles coming to an end." The Spirit-filled church that started at Pentecost has a shelf life; the **church age** ends after the rapture when the church is taken from the earth. The **times of the Gentiles** end when Jesus throws the Antichrist into the Lake of Fire at the end of the tribulation, ending the final Gentile Empire.



Luke 21:20-27 "... And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles** are fulfilled. ... 25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

The church was a mystery to the original apostles and disciples of Jesus, and the congregation in Jerusalem was entirely Jewish for about the first ten years after Pentecost. They held to the law of Moses and viewed fellowship with Gentiles as a sin. But Peter had a vision proclaiming the Gentiles kosher, so he went to the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius. While Peter spoke, everyone in Cornelius's house got filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues, so Peter baptized them in water. The interaction with Cornelius, a Gentile, was a big scandal for kosher Jews. Peter was in hot water with the elders and congregation in Jerusalem, so they convened a special meeting to resolve the issue.

Acts 11:1-18, 1 Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, 3 saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men (Gentiles) and ate with them!" 4 But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. 6 When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild Beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.' 9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.' 10 Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. 11 At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover, these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, 14 who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" 18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

After the revelation that the Church consists of Jews and Gentiles together, they found out that there were other aspects of the new covenant and the Spirit-filled Church that they needed to learn. We see the apostles' time in hindsight and take for granted the challenges they faced. They were blazing a brand new path that nobody had walked before, and it took some time to learn the terrain and adapt to walking and being led by the Spirit with Gentiles in the congregation.

About 20 years after Pentecost, the apostle Paul exploded onto the scene. Paul expounded on multiple mysteries, including the orders of resurrection, the rapture, and the bride of Christ. These mysteries became known by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, through the gifts of the Spirit, to the Spirit-filled Church. The apostle Paul introduced the orders of resurrection, with Christ the first to rise from the dead and, afterward, the Spirit-filled Church would get raptured, causing millions of people to disappear simultaneously around the world in the blink of an eye. That sounds ridiculous to unbelievers, just like believing that

somebody who died 2,000 years ago can save you from your sins today. The rapture is a mystery that many, even those who call themselves "Christians," will never understand or believe.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The letter to the Thessalonian church is where we get our English word "rapture." We read that those who died and those who are alive "in Christ" would be "caught up," which is the Greek word "harpazo," which means to seize, catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force). In the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible, the Greek word harpazo was translated as rapturo; and the Latin word rapturo was translated into English as "rapture." So, when Jesus returns, he will catch away or rapture his bride and take her to heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 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 [harpazo] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall ⁷ always be with the Lord

On the way up to heaven their physical bodies will be changed, transformed to be like Christ.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Spirit filled Bride

One of the most familiar verses is John 3:16, for God so loved the world. However, another verse says Jesus loved the church and gave himself for the church so the church could be his holy, spotless bride. God's love for the world is an open invitation to sinners for salvation, but Christ gave himself for the church so that she might become the bride of Christ, by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:23-32 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church (ekklesia); and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So, husbands ought to

love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The church, the Bride of Christ, is distinct from the Old Testament saints because the two groups are subject to two different covenants, the Old and New Testaments. Jesus said John the Baptist was the greatest of the Old Testament saints, but the person who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. That's not to say that the lowest person in the kingdom is personally a better person than John, but that they partake in a better covenant than John.

***Matthew 11:11** Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

***Hebrews 8:6** But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*

All the Old Testament prophets prophesied about the grace that Christ would bring to us in the New Testament. The good news of Christ and the mysteries of the kingdom were not revealed to the Old Testament prophets, or angels, but has been revealed to us by Spirit-filled preachers of the gospel.

***1 Peter 1:9** Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. **10** Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: **11** Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. **12** Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

Some people include the Old Testament saints and John the Baptist with the bride of Christ. They contend that John the Baptist was Spirit-filled from his mother's womb. What John experienced was not the same as the baptism of the Holy Spirit that got poured out on all flesh on the day of Pentecost.

***Luke 1:13-15** For he (John the Baptist) shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the **13** Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*

The unique filling of the Holy Spirit came upon John as an individual because, in the Old Testament, the Spirit of God would only come upon selected individuals, elders, judges, prophets, priests, and kings, and for specific times and purposes, but the Spirit never came upon the entire congregation of Israel. Notice how the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul

and came upon David; the Spirit only came upon one anointed king at a time.

1 Samuel 16:13-14 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So, Samuel arose and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing [evil] spirit from the LORD troubled him.

John, speaking of Jesus, said that he, Jesus, would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Later, John told Jesus that he needed to be baptized by him, implying that John wanted to be baptized with the Holy Ghost but was not. John never saw anyone receive the baptism of the Spirit because he died well before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Matthew 3:11 (John speaking about Jesus) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ... 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

When they asked John who he was, he said he was the friend of the Bridegroom (Jesus), and John was like the best man at the wedding. John and all the Old Testament saints will be the guests at the wedding feast and not the Bride of Christ, which is the Spirit-filled church.

John 3:27-29 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, I have been sent before Him.' 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore, this joy of mine is fulfilled.

Revelation 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

The baptism of the Holy Spirit happened after Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and glorified. Jesus told his disciples he needed to leave them to send them a helper, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was "WITH" the disciples, but he would later be "IN" them.

John 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, 15 because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells WITH you and will be IN you.

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence,

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

After his resurrection, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem to become clothed with power from on high. One key difference in the new covenant was that **God promised to pour his Spirit on ALL flesh**. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit only came upon a select few people for specific reasons. In the New Testament, the entire body of believers is Spirit-filled, and each member receives different gifts and abilities to contribute to the congregation. On Pentecost, 120 disciples prayed in an upper room until they got baptized with the Holy Spirit with fire and power.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, who just a few weeks before had been a coward before a young girl and had denied Christ three times, was transformed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and boldly stood up and preached with great power. Three thousand people dedicated their lives to Christ and got baptized on the same day. That was a display of the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to give Peter boldness.

Acts 2:16 (Peter preaching) But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon ALL flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to ALL that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The Holy Spirit brings life, freedom, power, boldness, order, guidance, discernment, spiritual gifts and abilities, and much more to the church. Jesus saves us from sin, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to live above sin. Anyone who wants to be part of the bride of Christ and go up in the rapture should make having an intimate relationship with Jesus and being Spirit-filled their primary focus.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

All followers of Jesus in the New Testament have access to the better covenant, better sacrifice, better promises, everything that pertains to life and godliness, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, which was not available to the Old Testament saints. The most significant event after being born again is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

A Separate Experience

To show a distinction between being born again and a subsequent experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, we will follow the path of the original Apostles and their experiences before and after Pentecost. After the resurrection, Jesus showed himself alive to his disciples; they believed in him by faith and had salvation. Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus told his disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high. They would become immersed, or baptized, in the Holy Spirit. Salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are not simultaneous nor synonymous experiences, as some claim, but two distinct experiences, as seen in the first church.

Let's look at the events leading up to Pentecost, particularly in Peter's life. When they took Jesus to crucified him, Peter cut off somebody's ear, denied that he knew Jesus three times, cursed, hid from persecution, and went back to his former job, fishing. Peter was not exactly a picture of spiritual fortitude at that time. Then, three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead, and he appeared to His disciples with these final words before His ascension:

Luke 24:49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would make them witnesses; the word translated as "witness" in that verse comes from the Greek word "martus" and means a martyr. So, Jesus appears to his disciples, who had been hiding in fear, and tells them that they will receive power, enabling them to be his martyrs. Jesus had already personally prophesied about Peter's martyrdom [John 21:18, 10]. If no outward sign happened on Pentecost, how would the disciples know when they had received the Holy Spirit and power? When the 120 disciples in the upper room received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, there was a sound from heaven and a mighty rushing wind. The disciples spoke loudly in foreign (unlearned) languages that

attracted attention from people in all the surrounding areas. It was anything but silent and unnoticeable. Let's read the actual account of the disciples receiving the infilling and power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ... Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Another sign that we see took place on the day of Pentecost was the tremendous increase in the number of disciples added to the church:

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand soul.

Do you need help taking a stand and being bold for Jesus? Take note of Peter's life and be encouraged by what the Holy Spirit can do! He can change a fearful follower into a fiery preacher! Peter called 3,000 people into three different experiences: to repent, be water-baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

This verse is what some people call the gospel in a nutshell. In this one verse, Peter gives four aspects of the gospel [Romans 6:3-7, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4].

- 1. Repent** (turn from sin)
- 2. Be Born Again.** (crucified with Christ)
- 3. Be Baptized in Water.** (buried with Christ)
- 4. Receive the Baptism of the Spirit.** (resurrected with Christ, to walk in newness of life)

Let's look at a few more examples. The disciples scattered to various cities after persecution broke out against the church. In every city where they were scattered, they preached the gospel. A deacon named Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ with tremendous results. Multitudes of Samaritans got healed, delivered from demons, saved, and baptized in water [Acts 8:4-13]. Also, note that Philip would not baptize someone unless that person believed in Jesus with all their heart [Acts 8:36-37].

Although Philip did evangelism with signs and wonders, salvation, and water baptisms, for some reason, no one received the baptism of the Holy Spirit under his ministry. A person does not automatically receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the new birth. Therefore, the church in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to Samaria to pray for them to receive the Holy

Spirit. These believers had been born again and water-baptized only, but they did not receive the Holy Spirit baptism until after Peter and John laid their hands on them. Again, that shows that being born again and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are separate events. It also demonstrates that the Holy Spirit baptism can be imparted by laying hands on people and praying. Taking that into consideration, read the following verses:

Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Here's another example. In Ephesus, an eloquent man named Apollos was mighty in the scriptures. He taught accurately the things of the Lord, but he only knew about John's baptism. Two disciples, Aquila and Priscilla, took Apollos to the side, taught him more accurately the things of God, and then took him to Achaia.

Acts 18:24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.

After Apollos left Ephesus, the apostle Paul came to Ephesus and found some disciples in Ephesus, most likely the disciples of Apollos. Upon discovering that these disciples were already believers in Christ, what was the first question that Paul asked them? Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? That implies that salvation and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit are separate experiences. The Ephesian's answer was no; they did not know about the Holy Spirit, probably because they were disciples of Apollos, and Apollos didn't know about the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-2 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So, they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

Paul acknowledged that they were already born-again believers. So, if receiving the Holy Spirit is automatic at salvation, why would Paul ask if they received the Spirit? Paul held that salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are two separate experiences. When Paul learned they got baptized into John's baptism, he re-baptized them in Jesus' name, laid hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them; they spoke in tongues and prophesied as the disciples did on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 19:3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So, they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people

that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Benefits of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Sanctifies & makes holy	<i>(1 Cor 6:11, 2 Thess. 2:13, 1 Peter 1:2)</i>
Power & gifts of healing	<i>(1 Cor 12:9, Acts 10:38)</i>
Casting out demons	<i>(Matthew 12:28)</i>
Boldness to preach	<i>(Acts 4:31)</i>
Breaks oppression	<i>(Isaiah 10:27, Luke 4:18)</i>
Clothes with power	<i>(Luke 24:49)</i>
Reveals truth	<i>(John 16:13, 1 Pet 1:22, Eph 3:3-5)</i>
Righteousness, peace, joy	<i>(Rom 14:17, 1 Thess. 1:5-6)</i>
Gives faith, hope, love	<i>(Gal 5:5, Rom 5:5, Rom 15:13)</i>
Gives guidance	<i>(John 16:13, Luke 4:1, Rom 8:14)</i>
Helps in prayer	<i>(Rom 8:26, Zech 12:10)</i>
Grace & gifts	<i>(1 Cor 12:4-11, 1 Cor 12:28, Heb 2:4)</i>
Spiritual life	<i>(Jn 6:63, Rom 8:4-12, 2 Cor 3:6, Gal 6:8)</i>
Mortifies fleshly lusts & sins of body	<i>(Romans 8:4-12)</i>
Strengthens us in the inner Man	<i>(Ephesians 3:16)</i>
Strengthens our physical body	<i>(Romans 8:11)</i>
Comfort, Encouragement	<i>(John 14:16-26; 16:7, Acts 9:31)</i>
Assurance of salvation	<i>(2 Cor 1:22, 2 Cor 5:5)</i>
Writes on our hearts	<i>(2 Corinthians 3:2-3)</i>
Makes us his temple	<i>(Eph 2:22, 1 Cor 3:16)</i>
Takes us from glory to glory	<i>(2 Cor 3:18, 1 Peter 4:14)</i>
Brings us into glorious liberty	<i>(2 Corinthians 3:17)</i>

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit controls the distribution and power of the nine spiritual gifts according to His will and not any man's. All the gifts are needed for the spiritual growth and encouragement of the church today. The Holy Spirit prepares the church for the rapture, and obedience to the Spirit is essential for every believer. The Holy Spirit is God and deserves to be feared, revered, and obeyed as God.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Fruits of the Spirit

If someone is walking in the Spirit, they will reflect Christ's character and avoid yielding to the flesh, bringing glory to God by their testimony. Jesus said you will know them by their fruits, good or bad.

Galatians 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit

Matthew 7:17-20 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.

Empowerment

The following is a list of the blessings and benefits of the Holy Spirit bestows on us to strengthen and form our character in our inner man and to use us as an ambassador of Christ to bring reconciliation and blessing to others.

The Engagement, Sealed

Those baptized in the Holy Spirit are sealed for the day of redemption, the resurrection, and the rapture of the bride of Christ, the church. The Holy Spirit's infilling in a believer's life is like a bride's dowry, engagement ring, or wedding gift, sealing the marriage contract to become the bride of Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

In ancient Israel, the parents arranged marriages, and the process began with an engagement, a legal contract that included a dowry, money and gifts, given to the bride's parents to seal the agreement. Once sealed, the engagement was a legally binding contract, and breaking

off the wedding engagement would require a letter of divorce [Matthew 1:18-19]. **The Holy Spirit seals the bride of Christ until the day of redemption, the rapture.** And the Holy Spirit working in our lives prepares us for the rapture. Dependence on the Holy Spirit is critical for the church; every gift of the Spirit, all the fruits of the Spirit, and unity with the Spirit are preparations for the bride's wedding garments for the rapture, the wedding day.

Revelation 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The Wedding

In essence, the rapture is the wedding day for the Spirit-filled followers of Jesus and the blessed hope of every believer since the time of the Apostles. The rapture and the second coming teachings are so crucial that Paul gave them the highest priority. Paul probably stayed less than three months with new converts in Thessalonica, and sometime after leaving, he wrote back to them and said that they knew perfectly well about the end times seasons and the coming of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day 32 of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

Of all the things Paul could have taught new believers, he ensured that they understood the teaching of the rapture and the difference between believers and the ungodly. Paul said sudden destruction would come upon "them," the ungodly. He added, "That Day," the Day of the Lord, a time of judgment and wrath, would not come upon the followers of Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5:3-6. For when THEY say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon THEM, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And THEY shall not escape. But YOU, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake YOU as a thief. YOU are all sons of light and sons of the day. WE are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore, let US not sleep, as OTHERS do, but let US watch and be sober.

Let's read the foundational scriptures for the rapture from Paul's letters to the believers in Philippi, Corinth, and Thessalonica to see the rapture and resurrection of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep [have died] in Jesus. 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. 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. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [harpazo] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one 33 another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Biblical Precedence

The idea of God snatching his people to heaven is not new; it has happened in the past with a few individuals. What is unique and different about the rapture is the number of people taken up from Earth to Heaven at one time. The rapture is not just one person but the removal of all Spirit-filled believers in a moment, the twinkling of the eye. Let's look at the previous raptures that have happened to individuals.

Enoch

The first incident was before Noah's flood; just seven generations from Adam was Enoch, the first person raptured to heaven, and he was also the first to prophesy about the second coming of Christ to judge the world.

Genesis 5:21-24 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So, all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Jude 1:14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Elijah

Another personal rapture example is Elijah. Somehow, all the sons of the prophets knew that God would snatch him away suddenly. So, having a prior warning of a imminent rapture event is not new. Like Elijah's situation with the sons of the prophets, all those who read Bible prophecies know to watch for the rapture while the world is oblivious and unconcerned.

2 Kings 2:3 Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

2 Kings 2:5 Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So, he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

Elijah was walking with his disciple Elisha, who asked to receive a double portion of Elijah's prophetic anointing when he left. As Elijah and Elisha were walking together, suddenly a chariot of fire with horses of fire separated them and snatched Elijah away to heaven.

2 Kings 2:10-11 So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Philip

Next, the evangelist Philip was water baptizing a new convert in a river when the Holy Spirit "harpazo" snatched him away to another place.

Acts 8:38-40 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away [harpazo] Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.



Paul

Another example is the apostle Paul, who recounted an experience in which he was "harpazo" snatched up to the heavenly Paradise, the third heaven, and heard inexpressible words.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows such a one was caught up [harpazo] to the third heaven. And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows how he was caught up [harpazo] into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Christ was the first fruit, meaning the first to rise from the dead. Then, at the rapture, the dead and the living in Christ will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and be transformed with a new resurrected eternal body.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 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 [dead]. 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. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [harpazo] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.

Second Coming of Christ	
Pre-Tribulation Rapture Spirit Filled Church / Bride	End of Tribulation Israel Saved/Nations Judged
Unseen like a thief	Every eye will see Him
Believers disappear	Christ appears
Happens quickly, a moment	Christ wars & judges nations
Church meets Jesus in air	Jesus stands on Mt. Olives
Ushers in the tribulation	Ushers in the Millennium
Imminent – no warnings	Preceded by signs
Christ comes for his Bride	Christ returns with his Bride
Message of comfort	Message of judgment
Program for the church	Program for Israel
Revealed in New Testament	From Genesis to Revelation
Judgement of rewards	Judgment of wrath
Leaves creation unchanged	Mountains, islands move
The nations are unaffected	The nations are judged
Israel's covenants unfulfilled	Israel's covenants fulfilled
No affect on sin in the world	Sin is judged and destroyed
Church taken before wrath	Israel saved / survives wrath
Rapture only for the church	Affects everyone on earth

Rapture & Second Coming

There is a lot of confusion and division over the topic of the Rapture today. Neither Jesus nor his disciples wrote rapture textbooks or taught the Rapture in seminaries. The religious leaders said Peter was ignorant and uneducated but that he had been with Jesus. Paul was a notable scholar but counted his academic achievements as dung, that he might know Christ.

The point is that the revelations of the rapture and end times didn't come through Bible schools or seminaries but by Spirit-filled prophets of God who received divine inspiration and prophesied what the eternal God has predetermined will happen. There are numerous theories and opinions about the events of the second coming of Christ because some information is sealed and only gets revealed by the Spirit. We see darkly now, but the closer we get to the fulfillment, the more clearly we will see. We believe in a pre-tribulation Rapture but will also mention other theories for comparison. The doctrine of the Rapture does not determine salvation but influences a person's mindset and lifestyle and has eternal consequences. Part of the confusion regarding the second coming happens because Christ makes multiple appearances when he returns:

- ❖ Jesus comes in the clouds, church caught up to meet him [*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*]
- ❖ Jesus comes secretly like a thief, only those watching for him will see him [*Heb 9:28, Matt 24:43*].
- ❖ Every eye sees him, and he will have an army of saints behind him [*Revelation 19:11-14*].
- ❖ Christ tramples the world's armies in the winepress of God's wrath [*Revelation 19:15, Isa 63:1-6*],
- ❖ Stands on the mount of Olives, an earthquake creates a valley where he stands [*Zechariah 14:4*],
- ❖ Goes to the Valley of Decision to judge the nations, sits on Throne of Glory [*Joel 3:1-14*].
- ❖ He enters Jerusalem by the Eastern Gate [*Ezekiel 43:1-5, Psalm 24:7-8*]
- ❖ The King of Glory, Glory of the Lord (Christ) enters the Temple [*Ezekiel 43:1-5*]

Any teaching that restricts Christ to one appearance at the second coming creates contradictions and confusion. Christ has an agenda with predestined events, and he will fulfill every word of prophecy precisely as predicted. Each different appearance has a purpose and function that will affect various groups for differing reasons. So, let's tackle the most controversial issue first: the timing of the Rapture.

When will it happen?

We can tell you exactly when Christ is coming. Are you ready for the answer? At an hour that you are not expecting it! Just when you think you can get away with some horrible sin and play the hypocrite, that's when Jesus will come and catch you by surprise. Jesus said no man knows the day or the hour.

Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect,

We don't know the specific day or hour of the rapture; however, we can discern the signs of the times and the seasons and recognize how things are lining up to fulfill prophecy.

Matthew 16:2-3 [Jesus' speaking] He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; "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. 1 Thessalonians 5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

At any moment

The fact that Jesus said nobody knows the day or hour is called the doctrine of imminence. There are no warning signs for the rapture. Jesus will come like a thief in the night, unannounced, by surprise. It will happen so fast that if you blink, you could miss it, like a flash of lightning; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and the bride of Christ is gone.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye ...

Matthew 24:27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

The rapture occurs before the tribulation begins, and there could be a gap in time between the rapture and the tribulation. The tribulation begins with the confirmation of a seven-year covenant between Israel and the Antichrist, which becomes a marker in time. The seven-year tribulation alarm clock starts ticking, counting down to the return of Christ. All other tribulation events get pinned to that confirmation. Also, at the time of the confirmation, the Antichrist is revealed.

Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians to assure them they did not miss the rapture because false teachers tried to sway them away from Paul's teaching of a pre-tribulation rapture. Paul wrote that the rapture precedes a great falling away from the faith, followed by the revelation of the man of sin, the son of perdition (Hell), the Antichrist. When Paul says, "The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him," or "the day of Christ," he speaks of the rapture. But when Paul says, "that Day," he references the Day of the Lord, when Christ returns to judge the world, which all the Old Testament prophets prophesied about.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 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.

When Paul says, "He who restrains," he refers to the Holy Spirit in the lives of Jesus' followers, those who intercede against the powers of darkness and act as salt and light to influence the culture for Christ. These restrainers, the church, must be removed before the Antichrist can come forward and the tribulation begins.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Deliverance from Wrath

The tribulation period, all seven years, is God's wrath. The second half, especially, will be the worst time of suffering in human history, culminating with the return of Christ to tread the winepress of God's wrath. Jesus said it would be like the days of Noah and Lot, which demonstrated a pattern of God protecting and removing the righteous before his judgment destroys the wicked.

Luke 17:26-29 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. "Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

God did not spare the angels who sinned and did not spare the ancient pre-flood world of Noah. But God saved righteous Noah and his family of eight inside the Ark while bringing a flood of judgment on the entire population of the planet, which some estimate to be in the billions.

2 Peter 2:4-5 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

The premise that God acknowledges the righteous and will not destroy them with the wicked was the basis of Abraham's intercession for Lot before the destruction of Sodom. God separates the righteous from the wicked. The principle of separation was established on day one of creation [Genesis 1:4]. God, who divided the light from darkness, calls us out of the darkness into his marvelous light [1 Peter 2:9] God calls his people to come apart from and be separate from the world's pagan culture of sin, but rather to walk in the Spirit and have the mind of Christ [2 Corinthians 6:17]. If we voluntarily separate from sin now, we may save ourselves from being judged along with the wicked later.

Genesis 18:23-25 And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

2 Peter 2:6-9 ... and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

The born-again, Spirit-filled followers of Christ are not appointed to suffer wrath with the wicked when Christ judges the world. However, the church is very likely to suffer persecution and possibly even death for Christ every day and not just during the tribulation. The pretribulation view of the rapture is not fearfully running away from persecution. There is a big difference between persecution from man and the wrath of God. God has not appointed the Spirit-filled church to suffer wrath and punishment but to obtain salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 1:10 ... and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

God has promised all those who will live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution. Since the first disciples, the true church has always had martyrs for the faith, and there is more persecution today than ever, especially under Islamic, Hindu, and Communist regimes. However, American and Western "Christians" have been the exception to the rule of persecution; we have only experienced mild persecution, but that may end soon. Our version of American Christianity will come to an end with a time of testing by fire, and it's not a question of "if" but "when." We know that all the world's inhabitants will worship the Antichrist or get killed, and we are heading in that direction; the Antichrist Beast system is steadily forming and will happen.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes

, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Matthew 24:9-10 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Revelation 13:15 *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed.*

Revelation 20:4 *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,*

Persecution from man is done with cruelty and hatred but only has temporary effects on the earth. God may allow persecution and hardships to bring repentance, for correction, and to form our character, with the purpose of redemption and to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives [2 Chronicles 12:12]. Persecution may include physical death, but God's wrath and punishment do not end at physical death but send the soul to an eternal Hell that never ends.

Matthew 10:28 *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Hebrews 12:4-8 *You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

But when the unrepentant and hard-hearted people reject repeated attempts by God to offer them repentance and salvation, they face being turned over to their sins and being abandoned by God [Romans 1:26-32]. After abandonment, the full wrath of God will smash them with an immeasurable impact both now and in eternity.

Luke 20:17-18 *[Jesus' speaking] Then He looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written: 'The 46 stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone'? "Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."*

Matthew 24:50-51 *... the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

As we said, God has not destined us for wrath. The bride of Christ will not be beaten and bloodied by God's wrath in preparation for the wedding day but will most likely suffer persecution at the hands of cruel men before that day arrives.

Different Views

In this study, we believe that Jesus will remove his church, the bride of Christ before the tribulation begins. We can agree to disagree with those who don't see our point of view; they can believe any view of the rapture they want. As Jesus said, "Be it unto you according to

your faith" [Matthew 9:29]. We will briefly examine various viewpoints while avoiding long, detailed explanations. But we will summarize some of the most popular teachings. For the most part, the big question is timing, although some "Christians" reject the rapture teaching altogether.

Pre - Tribulation

Those looking for the pre-tribulation rapture expect Christ to come like a thief at night without warning, it can happen anytime. In a moment, a complete transformation happens. The dead and the living in Christ will be harpazo, raptured, and their physical bodies will be transformed into their eternal resurrected bodies while ascending through clouds to meet Jesus in the air. The pre-tribulation rapture believers are watching and praying they are accounted worthy to escape what's coming and stand before Jesus [Luke 17:36]. Their preparations are spiritual, to continuously watch, pray, and to daily walk in the Spirit.

Mid - Trib

Some believe Jesus will come in the middle of the seven-year tribulation to catch them away to heaven. They say the wrath of God does not happen in the first half of the tribulation. However, in the first half of the tribulation after the fourth seal, one-quarter of the world's population gets killed, that's upwards of two billion people. Can we agree that billions of people dying may be the wrath of God? All seven years of the tribulation are the wrath of God. Mid-tribbers want to escape before the Antichrist commits the abomination of desolation and has the authority to kill the saints. [Revelation 13:4-7, 15]. So, they believe they will make it through the first 3 ½ years, surviving the first judgments, starvation, plagues, wars, and billions of people dying. Then, they will get raptured before the Antichrist can kill them. Many mid-tribulation believers may be preppers, storing food and possibly going off-grid to hide from the Antichrist and Beast system to survive until the middle of the tribulation, then get raptured.

Pre- wrath

Some teach a pre-wrath rapture, a new variation of the middle-tribulation view; the only difference is that they believe they will get removed before the worst judgments and wrath strike the earth. Again, all seven years of the tribulation are the wrath of God, although the last 3 1/2 years will be the worst. The pre-wrath believers think they will survive the first rounds of wars, famines, plagues, and death and get raptured before the worst of the worst of the wrath of God is released. They may be preppers and believe they will survive the fire until it gets too hot, and then they get raptured; they are pretty much the same as the mid-tribbers; it's a difference in semantics.

Post Trib

Finally, some hold to a post-tribulation rapture; they believe Jesus comes for his people after the seven years of tribulation. They think that God will help them against impossible odds to survive the great tribulation and then get raptured. They may be preppers, possibly way

off the grid. They must survive the murder and death of most of the world's population, who die or get killed by starvation, plagues, wars, earthquakes, and possible radioactive and biological pollution, and should they survive all that without taking the mark of the Beast, they will get raptured, they think.

There are several theological problems with their theory. First, at the end of the tribulation, Jesus returns from heaven with his saints to make war, judge the world, and stand on the Mount of Olives. Jesus does not stay in the clouds or take living saints to heaven because there is no rapture at the end of the tribulation [*Revelation 19:11-14; Jude 14*].

But there's another problem for the post-tribbers: when Christ comes at the end of the great tribulation to judge the nations, he will gather all the tribulation survivors to the Valley of Decision. The survivors are separated into two groups: the sheep and the goats. The sheep enter the millennial kingdom, and the goats are sent to Hell [*Matthew 25:31-46; Joel 3:1-16*]. Again, there is no rapture at that time, survivors stay on the earth.

The no rapture people

We will say upfront that the following belief systems are erroneous and full of deceptions. Some people don't believe there will be a rapture or a millennium, and those people fall into a few different categories. There are the **amillennialism** people who don't believe in the 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth or the rapture. The **preterists** think that when the Romans destroyed the Jewish Temple in 70 A.D., that was supposedly the fulfillment of all the Biblical prophecies. The amillennialists and preterists look at the rapture as a myth and will sleep their way into the tribulation. They will buy and sell, eat, drink, and be merry, live like business as usual until it's too late, and then they will perish like the people in Noah's flood.

Then there is the **New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)**, and they also deny the rapture. They think that they must conquer seven mountains of the culture and society and establish a global Christian empire before Christ comes back to reign on his earthly throne. The NAR seven-mountain mandate sounds the same as Revelation 17:10, which says, "Here is the mind which has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**" So, the woman, the mother of Harlots, sits on seven mountains: maybe the NAR people are unintentionally helping to build Babylon, the Mother of Harlots. The NAR people are out to conquer the world, which makes them preoccupied with earthly pursuits. They have no awareness or concern for the imminent return of Christ because they think they will bring Christ back with their human efforts.

There are too many groups and teachings to cover; we will finish by saying most, if not all, of these erroneous religious teachings are the result of **replacement theology** that says that God has replaced Israel with the church. Let's be clear: Israel will never get replaced in God's irrevocable covenants, his plans, and in his heart, God chose to set his love on Israel. Those

who bless Israel will be blessed; those who curse Israel get cursed. We, non-Jewish people, Gentiles, have been adopted into God's family by his grace, and we partake of the covenants and promises through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ. Anyone who has misplaced notions about God's commitment to Israel cannot correctly understand the scriptures. Israel is the key to understanding the Bible, and especially end-time prophecy. After the church gets taken in the rapture, God's primary focus is Israel.

Escape wrath, not persecution

Some people say that the pre-tribulation view of the rapture is a cop-out, that those believers are fearful and want to avoid persecution and suffering. Let us state clearly that no Christians are exempt from suffering and should expect and be willing to suffer persecution and even be martyrs before the rapture happens. There are more martyrs now than at any time in history, and Christian genocide and martyrdom do not get reported in the West. The largest and fastest-growing churches in the world are underground churches in Marxist, Muslim, and Hindu countries with the most severe penalties and consequences for proclaiming their faith in Jesus. We in the Western world are put to shame by our persecuted brothers and sisters. We get blinded by prosperity and entertainment, while in the underground congregations, they are dying for their faith. Persecution purifies the church and brings multitudes to a saving faith in Christ. The tide of persecution is rapidly rising and spreading across the globe against Jews and Christians, especially after the October 7 massacre in Israel. As we said before, persecution is not the same as wrath. And yes, we want to escape wrath; who doesn't want to escape God's wrath?

For all who want to live a godly life, there is a type of cultural persecution that grinds against the soul, a kind of social stigma, isolation, government retribution, and moral rot that creates an abrasive environment for the followers of Jesus in the secular society. While living in Sodom, Lot's righteous soul felt vexed and grieved by the ungodly behavior and aggressive threats of the Sodomites. The Sodomites tried to attack Lot, but two Angels forcibly seized and removed him from the rapists of Sodom. The angels blinded the perverts and removed Lot from Sodom before God sent fire and brimstone to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Similarly, Christ will snatch away the church before his wrath gets released against this ungodly world, but believers in Jesus may suffer first.

Luke 17:28-29 "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

2 Peter 2:6-9 ... and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

As true believers watch for the return of Jesus, we should feel like Lot, grieved and vexed in our spirit as we see the deluge of perversion and wickedness flooding the earth. Also, our godly testimony will result in greater and greater persecution by the secular and religious world until the church is taken out of this wicked world. Until then, the fires of persecution and the fear of God will purify those who hope in Christ.

Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Move with fear

Jesus referred to both Noah and Lot when speaking about his return. **Lot had to get out** of Sodom, and **Noah had to get in** the ark. One speaks of separation from the world's sinful ways, and the other relates to abiding in Christ, the ark of salvation. Noah moved with fear to prepare the ark to save his family from the flood. As far as we know, it took 120 years to build the ark, and Noah preached righteousness at that time. Jesus said the end times would be like the days of Noah; we want to move like Noah, preparing, preaching, and praying.

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

We are facing a worse time than Noah did, and Jesus said it would be the worst time in human history. We know billions of people will die horrible deaths from starvation, plagues, war, and being tormented by demons. We must be watchmen to warn others of what's coming so they can escape [Ezekiel 33:7]. One of the best tools of evangelism is teaching about the end times and the second coming of Christ. Many people see the world going crazy and want to know what's happening. We have the answers in the Bible; we understand what the prophets foretold and how it will happen. Like a modern-day Noah, we should urgently warn

others about what is coming and lead them to the ark of our salvation, Christ, before the flood comes and it's too late.

Will all Christians be raptured?

Some people may ask, do all Christians get raptured? First, we would have to define what a Christian is. Answering those questions could involve a lot of semantics, religious politics, and institutional bias. We don't want to go down those rabbit trails. Simple childlike faith while reading the Bible provides the best answers. The simple answer may be a question of the flesh versus the Spirit. Jesus is coming for a Spirit-filled bride who loves him. Christians who live like the Devil may not be Christian, and they most likely will not go up in the rapture. We should challenge ourselves to be like the Apostle Paul, cast off every weight and sin, press forward, and run faster and harder to know Christ and win the race and prize of being Christ's bride.

Philippians 3:7-12 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

In Paul's analogy of running the race, he speaks of the discipline of an athlete to run a race. The athlete dedicates their entire life to winning their race, strict diet, exercise, routines, and schedules for months and years focused on the big race to win the gold medal. The race could be a sprint for speed or running with endurance for a marathon. All the athletes have the same rules from the start of the race to the finish line. The race may only last for a few seconds or hours, but if the athlete steps out of their lane at any time, they get disqualified. Being disqualified is horrible, but worst of all, they did it to themselves! What a gut-wrenching disappointment! The trauma of years of sacrifice, training, and discipline thrown away in a moment! To be disqualified and miss the rapture would be magnitudes worse than anything we can imagine! That might sound frightening, and it should, because the fear or reverence for God keeps us from sinning, purifies our lives, and keeps us in our lane.



1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that **those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?** Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

One YouTube preacher who promotes the once-saved, always-saved doctrine said that someone could be watching porn and smoking crack when Jesus comes, and they will go up in the rapture. What an outrageous statement! How destructive cheap grace can be, and how many viewers were encouraged by that preacher to live in bondage to their demons. Preachers who cheapen grace, sugarcoat, and watered down the gospel are enemies of the cross of Christ and do so to their peril [*Philippians 3:17-19; Galatians 1:6-8*]. If their messages compromise and allow sin, resulting in their listeners being hypocrites, defiling and searing their consciences, they are accountable to God, and teachers have a stricter judgment [*James 3:1*].

Only God knows the precise standard for those counted worthy to be raptured. Any vagueness about the standard is likely intentional, keeping us on our toes, living right, watching, and praying. The only group we definitely know will get raptured is the Spirit-filled church. It is best to judge who is going up in the rapture individually by self-examination. Only God knows every thought in our hearts and minds, so only we can examine ourselves and know if we are walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed you are disqualified. 6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep (are dead). ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Are you ready for the rapture? Examine yourself and judge the tree by the fruit. Let your conscience be your guide. Do you have the fruit of the Spirit or works of the flesh?

Spirit vs Flesh

Galatians 5:16-18¹⁶ I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the **lust of the flesh**.¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Fruit of the Spirit	Works of the Flesh
Galatians 5:22-25 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.	Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Verse	In the Spirit	In the Flesh
Romans 8 – The carnal mind and the flesh are our selfish, sinful, fallen nature and actions		
8:1	No condemnation	Condemnation, guilt
8:2	Law of Spirit, freedom from sin & death	Sin & death
8:3-4	Righteous requirement of Law fulfilled	Unable to keep Law, weak through the flesh
8:5	Mind the things of the Spirit	Mind the things of the flesh
8:6	Spirit minded is life and peace	Carnal. Fleishy, sinful mind is death
8:7		Carnal mind enemy of God, not subject to law
8:8		Those in the flesh cannot please God
8:9	In the Spirit, Spirit dwells inside	Without Spirit of Christ, don't belong to Christ
8:10	Body dead to sin, Spirit is life, righteousness	
8:11	Resurrection life in our bodies, by the Spirit	
8:13	Put to death deeds of flesh you will live	Live according to flesh you will die
8:14	Those led by Spirit of God are sons of God	
8:15	Spirit of adoption, they cry Abba Father	They have the spirit of bondage again to fear
8:16 8:17	The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children, and joint heirs with Christ, If we suffer with Him, to be glorified together	

We could put all professing Christians in two camps: those who walk in the Spirit with the fruit of the Spirit versus those who walk in the flesh and manifest the works of the flesh. Jesus said, by their fruits, you will know them [Matthew 7:16-20]. Those who intentionally gratify the lusts of their flesh and live in open sin and rebellion against God, walking in

hypocrisy while playing church, take the risk of being left behind and facing the great tribulation. Notice what the works of the flesh are: adultery, fornication, sorcery, murder drunkenness, etc., and those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God, heaven. Will Jesus rapture a spiritual adulteress or harlot to be his bride? Will Jesus marry Jezebel?

***James 4:4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

***1 Corinthians 6:15-17** Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a Harlot? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a Harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*

***1 Corinthians 6:9-11** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

The Bride of Christ will keep themselves from being defiled by the perverse culture and immorality so they can maintain unbroken communion with Christ. The bride is dressed in holy and spotless linen garments and waits, watching, hoping, and looking for the day Christ returns to meet them in the air. If anyone lacks that love for Christ, and they're lukewarm, hypocritical, and backslidden, then maybe they're not the bride of Christ [*Revelation 3:15-16*],

***Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ... 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

***Revelation 19:7** "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

Who is Jesus coming for? Will all Christians go up in the rapture? We can be confident that the Spirit-filled church will get raptured by faith. But each person has to grapple with their conscience before God and maintain their relationship with God to have confidence that they will go up in the rapture. We cannot give blanket guarantees or assurances; it is by faith that each one believes and receives the promises.

***Luke 18:8** ... Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

***1 Timothy 3:9** ... holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.*

Hebrews 6:11-12 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Many teachers use the parable of the Ten Virgins as an example of the rapture. However, if we read the parable in the context given in the Olivet discourse, we see a different message.

The 10 Virgins

Matthew 25 is an extension of Matthew 24, the context being that Jesus just spoke about the great tribulation and his return to judge the nations, which would exclude the rapture and the church from the narrative. Let's ignore that for now and consider what the parable is saying. If this story is about the rapture and the bride of Christ, it could read as follows: Jesus went to retrieve ten virgins who were supposed to marry Him. The first five virgins were the Pentecostals, Baptists, Evangelicals, Charismatics, and Calvary Chapel members, and they were wise. Then, there were five foolish virgins, and they had an ecumenical rainbow coalition with the Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, and so forth. You get the idea; it's not about denominations, attendance to a building, or religious affiliations. Why ten virgins? Why not 72 virgins like the Muslims? The number ten has different spiritual meanings;

- ❖ The ten commandments can represent the **Law** [*Exodus 34:28*],
- ❖ Daniel and Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego were **tested** ten days [*Danie; 1:11-15*],
- ❖ The church in Smyrna would be tested ten days and then **martyred** [*Revelation 2:10*],
- ❖ David left ten **concubines** in Jerusalem when he fled from Absalom [*2 Samuel 20:3*].

When Abraham interceded for Lot, who was in Sodom, he started pleading for 50 righteous, then 45, 40, 30, 20. He ended his negotiation for God to have mercy if there were 10 righteous in Sodom [*Genesis 18:32*]. That's how the number ten became the Jewish standard required to form a synagogue or to witness legal transactions, such as wedding contracts. Going over that list, we see ten as a number for the Law, testing, martyrs, concubines, and legal witnesses. Our final example is when Boaz wanted to marry Ruth; he gathered ten men to be witnesses and took them to the city gate, the equivalent of our city hall. The ten witnesses made Boaz's engagement to Ruth a legal, binding agreement, and they sealed the purchase contract then.

Ruth 4:1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So, Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So, he came aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. ... 10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day." 11 And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel.

The notion that there are ten brides of Christ is questionable on its face. The bride of Christ is one mystical body of born-again believers who worship God in Spirit and truth [John 4:23-24]. Where in history have ten women married one man simultaneously in the same wedding ceremony? Even when Jacob married Rachel and Leah, they held two ceremonies and wedding feasts [Genesis 29:20-30]. The storyline of the ten virgins being one bride does not make sense in symbolism, typology, or common sense. The text never refers to them as **brides** but as **virgins**, and those two groups are not the same.

Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Different Translations

The King James Version (KJV) has been the gold standard of Bibles for centuries, but it does not align with the original text in some verses. It's important to note that some of the earliest manuscripts, written in Latin, Syriac, and Persic (Aramaic), predate the KJV and contradict the KJV in Matthew 25:1. These ancient texts, which end verse one differently than the KJV, include three additional words, "**and the bride,**" thereby altering the meaning and significantly impacting the interpretation of the parable.

Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom [and the bride].

Those three words completely change the interpretation of the parable and make the narrative that Matthew 25 about the rapture completely inaccurate and unacceptable. Those three words eliminate the ten virgins from being the bride and instead make them bridesmaids. So, let's look at the Bible versions that included the phrase "and the bride."

*Latin Vulgate (This is the version that gave us the word rapture) tunc simile erit regnum caelorum decem virginibus quae accipientes lampadas suas exierunt obviam **sponso et sponsae (husband and wife)***

*Wycliffe's Bible (John Wycliffe translated from the Latin Vulgate). Then the kingdom of heavens shall be like to ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went out to meet the **husband and the wife;***

*Douay-Rheims (This was also taken from Latin Vulgate) Then shall the kingdom of heaven be like to ten virgins, who taking their lamps went out to meet the **bridegroom and the bride.***

International Standard Version

*Foot note: 25:1 Other mss. read **the groom and the bride***

Contemporary English Version

*Foot note: 25.1 to meet the groom: Some manuscripts add "**and the bride***

*Bible in Basic English Then the kingdom of heaven will be like **ten virgins, the friends of the bride,** who took their lights, and went out with the purpose of meeting **the husband.***

Let's look at the definition of the word "virgin" in the original Greek to see who these girls were. Strong's 3933 **virgins** = Parthenos, par-then'-os; **a maiden**; by implication, **an unmarried daughter: virgin.**

The original word for virgin is an unmarried daughter. People married at a young age back then and assumed that if a girl was a virgin, she was unmarried. The bridesmaids were young girls who were often relatives or close friends of the bride. Once a girl was engaged to be married in Jewish culture, she was no longer single but was considered married. **That implies that these virgins were not engaged to be married to the bridegroom but were young unmarried bridesmaids, not the bride.**

<p>God's Word Translation "When the end comes, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids. They took their oil lamps and went to meet the groom.</p>	<p>Weymouth New Testament Then will the Kingdom of the Heavens be found to be like ten bridesmaids who took their torches and went out to meet the bridegroom.</p>
<p>Common English Bible "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom.</p>	<p>New Living Translation "Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.</p>
<p>New Century Version "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to wait for the bridegroom.</p>	<p>New International Reader Version "Here is what the kingdom of heaven will be like at that time. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went out to meet the groom.</p>
<p>Good News Translation "At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there were ten young women who took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.</p>	<p>The Scriptures (ISR 1998) "Then the reign of the heavens shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.</p>
<p>Complete Jewish Bible "The Kingdom of Heaven at that time will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom.</p>	<p>New Revised Standard Version "Then the kingdom of heaven will bridesmaids took their lamps and bridegroom.</p>

This premise was a factor in Jesus' birth with Joseph and Mary, who were engaged to be married. Their engagement was a pledge or marriage covenant and a binding legal contract. An engaged couple was considered husband and wife. So, when Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant and he never had sexual relations with her, Joseph contemplated divorcing Mary. But God intervened by sending an angel who admonished Joseph in a dream that what Mary conceived was from the Holy Spirit. So, Joseph refrained from divorcing Mary **BEFORE** they were married.

*Matthew 1:18-24 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother **Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph**, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to **divorce her quietly**. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*

These ten virgins were not engaged or pledged to be married to anyone. Otherwise, they would not call them virgins. These young ladies were going to be guests at a wedding reception or feast; they could have been relatives or friends of the bride, aka bridesmaids. Also, note that **the ten virgins are never in any translation of the Bible called the bride**. Let's read some translations that refer to the virgins as bridesmaids.

One Bride

The parable doesn't make sense for ten virgins to be one bride. For example, have you ever heard of one man marrying ten young women simultaneously? How many women would get married if they had to share their wedding day and the bridegroom with nine other women? What bride carries an oil lamp (or torch) instead of a floral bouquet? The bride of Christ is one, not ten, as shown directly and in typology by the scriptures.

*Ephesians 4:3-4 ... endeavoring to keep the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. There is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

If we look at virgins as symbolisms or types, Solomon had 1,000 women in his harem, and he had **virgins without a number**, but there was only **one bride**. Many people will attend the marriage supper of the lamb, queens, concubines, the patriarchs and virgins, Old Testament saints and martyrs, but there will be only **one bride**.

*Song 6:8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her. Psalm 45:13-15 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, **HER COMPANIONS** who follow her, shall be brought to You. With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; They shall enter the King's palace. [for the marriage feast].*

Sleeping instead of watching

These virgins were not the bride; they were guests waiting for the bridegroom to return from the wedding to lead a procession of guests to the wedding feast, but they fell asleep. Should any believer be found in the darkness in a spiritual slumber when Jesus comes? No! The wedding guests should be vigilant and watch for the bridegroom's return. Also, the wedding guests would have to travel through the darkness to get to the wedding feast and needed lamps to light their way.



Sleeping with no oil and the lights out is precisely the opposite of what we are supposed to do in the end times. The scriptures repeatedly tell us to stay awake, watch, and keep our lamps burning. The main emphasis is to be ready to open the door immediately when Jesus comes. A sleeping watchman is worthless and gets judged for failing to stay alert and warn others of what's coming. [Ezekiel 33:1-9, Isaiah 56:10].

Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 " but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

Luke 12:35 "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 "and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks, they may open to him immediately.

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-7 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

Romans 13:11-14 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Please allow us to embellish and paraphrase this parable for illustration purposes. First, they are virgins, which implies they are morally pure and sexually chaste. They belonged to a congregation of believers; we'll call them the Church of the Virgins, and the whole congregation of ten people lived holy lives. Maybe they said the sinner's prayer, and they

called Jesus Lord. The Church of the Virgins knew about the end times and prepared for Christ the bridegroom's return. They got filled with the Holy Spirit and had the oil of the Spirit and light from the Word of God. But after some time, half the Church of the Virgins became lukewarm, apathetic, and negligent in their spiritual life. They stopped being filled with the Spirit and reading the Word, and the oil in their lights grew dim. In time, the entire congregation of the Church of the Virgins fell into a spiritual slumber. They woke up at midnight, with someone shouting that the bridegroom was coming.

Matthew 25:1-6 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’”

After the virgins woke up and were getting ready to go out to meet the bridegroom, they had a conversation; the foolish came with empty lamps and asked the other girls to borrow some oil for their lamps. Here's a question. Since the rapture happens in a moment, in the twinkle of an eye, when did these girls have time for this discussion? Did these ten young women have a full-blown conversation about a shopping trip in a moment, in the twinkle of an eye, while ascending through the clouds? No, these girls missed the rapture and were flat-footed on the ground and out of oil. They must have slept through the rapture when Jesus snatched his bride to heaven. But these girls were rushing to light their lamps and run through the darkness to catch the procession going to the wedding feast. Here's another question: At the rapture, Jesus comes, and he snatches his bride to heaven. So, why were these girls running to catch the bridegroom and chasing the wedding procession? Anyway, the intelligent girls with oil in their lamps made it to the wedding feast before the door slammed shut.



Matthew 25:7-10 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

But the virgins who had gone dark arrived too late for the feast, and they stood outside the door of the banquet hall of the wedding reception. They expected to knock on the door, have Jesus open it, and welcome them with open arms. After all, they were from the Church of the Virgins. They must have been shocked when Jesus said he never knew them. They cried Lord, Lord, to no avail. They were not the bride or bridesmaids. They were strangers and wedding crashers, and Jesus slammed the door shut with the final words that will echo in their souls throughout eternity: "I don't know you. Yet they claimed that Jesus was their Lord; what happened? At one time, they were Spirit-filled; they were moral, decent church girls who had

been on fire for Jesus, but they let the fire go out and got locked out of the wedding feast.

Matthew 25:11-13 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12 But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Nothing in the parable of the Ten Virgins points to the church's rapture. To understand this and all the end-times parables, we will define the main characters of the parables to give us clarity. Jesus is the bridegroom, the Spirit-filled church is the bride, and the wedding guests are the tribulation martyrs, prophets, and saints. They are all part of the first resurrection, the resurrection of life. Jesus was the first to rise from the dead. He was followed by the resurrection of the dead and living in Christ at the rapture. By the end of the tribulation, the tribulation martyrs and all the saints will be resurrected and join the procession to the marriage supper of the Lamb that will last 1,000 years.

Revelation 19:6-9 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’”

The parable of the Ten Virgins begins at midnight, in the middle of the tribulation, and ends with Christ's return. The five wise virgins have enough oil of the Holy Spirit to die as martyrs and enter the wedding feast. The five foolish did not have enough grace to die as martyrs and get shut out of the feast, the first resurrection. All the parables Jesus taught about a wedding feast symbolize the marriage supper of the Lamb which is the resurrection of life. Jesus did not mention the bride of Christ or the rapture in any of his parables, because they remained a mystery until after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The messages about the tribulation are not for the church, the church won't be there, but for the Jews and tribulation saints and martyrs.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’”

Revelation 20:4-5 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. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The parable of the Ten Virgins begins at midnight, in the middle of the seven years of tribulation. During the Exodus from Egypt, plague number Ten happened at midnight; it was the final plague against Pharaoh and Egypt, resulting in the death of all the firstborns. At

Midnight, God sent the death angel through Egypt to slay all the firstborn, and only those with the blood of the Passover Lamb on their doorpost got saved. In the tribulation, from the middle of the tribulation, the Antichrist has the power for 3 1/2 years to kill. Then, death will visit those who refuse to bow to the Antichrist's image. But in this case death is tied to salvation, the martyrs will be saved and overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, and because they loved not their lives unto their deaths.

***Exodus 12:29-30** And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. 30 So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.*

***Revelation 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

***Mark 13:35-37** Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning 36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"*

In Matthew 22, Jesus told another wedding feast parable: A great king (God the Father) made a marriage for his son (Jesus) and paid for a grand wedding feast. But the guests (the Jews) rejected the invitation, so the king gave a universal invitation to whosoever would come (Jew and Gentile). Also, notice that the invitation does not include a proposal to be the bride; the invitation is limited to being a guest and attending the feast after the wedding ceremony. The invited guests (the Jews) refused their invitation to the feast after the wedding, which was a problem because the banquet hall was furnished with food and drink, but the hall was empty. Therefore, there was an urgency to fill the banquet hall with willing guests.

***Matthew 22:8** "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 "So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. ...*

The invitation went out, and many answered the call, filling the banquet hall. The King provided all the guests with special wedding garments that identified them with the wedding party. But when the King entered the feast, one person stood out of the crowd because he was improperly dressed.

***Matthew 22:10** ... And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 "So, he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?'*

We'll break away from this parable for a moment to explain the importance of the wedding garments; then, we'll resume where we left off. We all need the appropriate spiritual

garments to gain entrance to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Spiritual garments reflect our spiritual condition. For example, if we were talking about spiritual warfare, we would say to put on all the armor of God. That armor is not physical but attitudes, prayers, and actions we take to fight spiritual battles that impact the physical world [Eph 6:14-18].

Regarding the spiritual wedding garments, we'll start with the bride. How long does a bride think about her wedding dress? Is it from the moment she gets engaged to be married? She may shop and look at dozens of dresses before choosing the right one. She may lose weight to fit in her dress or have it altered. The dress and the veil are carefully selected to make the bride as beautiful as possible because the dress is the focal point of the wedding and all the pictures. Can you imagine a wedding chapel full of people, as the bride and her father come to the sanctuary's entrance to go down the aisle, between the crowds of adoring people, when suddenly, the bride realizes that **she forgot her wedding dress!!!**



Jeremiah 2:2 "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: "I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown, 32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire (wedding dress)? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.

Spiritually speaking, the way you live and your relationship with God determine your spiritual garments. As we just read, when we are born again and are in first love with Jesus, it is easy and natural to maintain our wedding garments and keep them fresh, bright, clean, and white without any spots, wrinkles, or stains.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ... 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Revelation 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

It's one thing to start with clean garments, and it's another thing to keep your garments clean. We begin in the Spirit, but if we get in the flesh, we soil our spiritual garments. Jude tells us to hate the garment spotted by the flesh. Satan, the accuser of the brethren, will stand against us and accuse, attack, and condemn us before God when our garments are filthy.

***Jude 1:22** And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

***Zechariah 3:1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. 4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.*

Okay, now let's go back to the wedding feast. Let's say that one of the unrepentant, lukewarm, backslidden members from the Laodicea church shows up to the great wedding feast. So, when the king walks into the feast, one person stands out from the crowd. The king sees a naked Laodicean bum with his fingers in the wedding cake!

***Matthew 22:10** ... And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.*

***Revelation 3:14-18** "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see,*

What will the king do when the king walks into the feast and sees the poor, blind, and naked Laodicean with his fingers in the wedding cake? That wedding crasher will get thrown out of the feast, and cast into outer darkness, with weeping and grinding regret.

***Matthew 22:12** "So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Jesus told the Laodiceans to buy gold (tested faith) and white garments from him. Salvation is free, but it's not cheap. During the tribulation, just standing for the testimony of Jesus is a death sentence, and that is the price tag to buy a wedding garment to go to the marriage supper of the Lamb for the bridesmaids or the wise virgins in the tribulation.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

A great multitude of martyrs will receive their white robes after they have been faithful unto death for the testimony of Jesus. These are the bridesmaids who, for whatever reason, missed the rapture and paid the highest price for it.

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ... 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So, he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Multiple Appearances

The following parable reflects the fact that Jesus makes multiple appearances. You'll notice several things about this parable; the first is that the **master is returning from the wedding**. The union between Christ and the church has happened, the wedding ceremony is over, and the bridegroom returns to bring the guests to the marriage feast. He does not address himself as the bridegroom to the wedding guests, but they recognize him as their master. He also mentions that he could return at two different watches of the night, the **second watch** and the **third watch**. That implies that there was a **first watch**. The first watch was the rapture, which had already passed, which is why he didn't mention it. The second and third watches will include the resurrections of the Two Witnesses, tribulation martyrs, and the prophets and saints. Jesus says he will have them sit down to eat, which implies they will attend the marriage supper of the lamb. as guests. All three watches include everybody in the first resurrection.

Luke 12:35 "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 " that when he comes and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, and knocks, they may open to him immediately. 37 "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. 38 "And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 40 "Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

There's another midnight event, the resurrection of the Two Witnesses, which happens in the middle of the tribulation. That's also when the Antichrist has the authority to kill the saints for the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation [Revelation 13:5-7]. There are three possible outcomes for believers in the tribulation: they can die as martyrs, take the mark of the Beast and go to Hell, or survive the tribulation to stand at the judgment of the sheep and goats.

Revelation 20:4 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. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

The thing to take away from all the parables is that we want to be on fire for God now, be vigilant, sober, watching, and praying with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, to be the Spirit filled bride of Christ and go up with Jesus when he comes.

CH	7 Blessings – Beatitudes of the Book of Revelation
1:3	Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.
14:13	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."
16:15	"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
19:9	Then he said to me, "Write: ' Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."
20:6	Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
22:7	"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
22:14	Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Book of Revelation

Many Pastors and teachers avoid the book of Revelation because they don't understand it. The reverse should be true; the book's name means the revealing or unveiling of Jesus Christ, and there is a special blessing for those who read this book. Yes, the narrative can be complicated, and there is much controversy and contention over the symbolism and meanings of the book. However, the book of Revelation is critical to understanding the end times and how that affects us today.

- ❖ Chapter 1 Is the vision of the resurrected Christ,
- ❖ Chapters 2 and 3 are messages to seven churches
- ❖ Chapter 4 Is a vision of heaven, a line of demarcation for future prophecy.
- ❖ Chapters 6 to 19 are about the seven years of tribulation,
- ❖ Chapter 20 The first resurrection, the millennium, the final battle, and eternity
- ❖ Chapters 21 & 22 The eternal dwelling places specifically, the New Jerusalem.

Let's open the Book of Revelation.

Chapter 1 – Vision of Christ

The book opens with a mission statement: to reveal Christ, show his servants what will happen, and pronounce a blessing on those who read it. Jesus warns that he is coming back quickly, and the apostles expected his return then, but we are really on the verge of his return now.

***Revelation 1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place. ... 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

Jesus begins the vision by quoting the prophet Zechariah with a message for Israel. He points to his second coming to bring deliverance and national salvation to the Jewish people. We'll speak more about this later.

***Revelation 1:7** Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.*

After addressing the Jews, Jesus gave a vision of himself in his glorified resurrected state, and John, who was known as the disciple that Jesus loved, fell at Jesus' feet as a dead man. If John was so terrified he collapsed before Jesus with godly fear, how much more should we work out our salvation with fear and trembling? We will all stand before him one day and look into those eyes of fire, like lamps illuminating every thought and intention in our hearts and souls. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, and omnipresent, and everyone will stand before him and give an answer for their lives,

***Revelation 1:12** Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid*

His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades (Hell) and of Death.

Next, Jesus tells John to write about the past, present, and future. In the past tense, John should write about the vision he saw. The present tense is messages to the seven churches of John's time, which are also issues affecting all churches of all ages. The things that must happen refer to the future, beginning from the start of the seven-year tribulation and into the future.

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Jesus starts the message to the seven churches by revealing the mystery of the stars and lampstands that John saw in his vision. The stars are the angels or messengers to the churches; they are human pastors or leaders responsible for each church. The churches are compared to lamps, like the candlestick in the Jewish Tabernacle; the church and each believer should be lights to the world.

Revelation 1: 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

The Seven Churches

The narrative for the churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 is not without controversy. Some people make assertions that are outside of the written text. Many Bible teachers have created timestamps and chronological standards for each of the seven churches. They created seven dispensations of time and assigned time slots for each church, saying each church represents a space of time in history. From our perspective, the church dispensations theory is a farce based on assumptions and baseless theory; all seven messages are for churches and believers in every generation. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Similarly, dispensationalists and cessationists have created a special dispensation of time for the gifts of the Spirit, which they say started at Pentecost and ended when John the Apostle died. We disagree; we find no scriptural evidence to support those theories. We believe the outpouring and gifts of the Holy Spirit will end when the Church gets raptured. Jesus said man should live by EVERY WORD that proceeds from the mouth of God [Matthew 4:4]. We can't remove the parts of the Bible we don't like, like the gifts of the Spirit, casting out demons, and speaking in tongues, which Jesus made part of the gospel and the great commission. Some say speaking in tongues is from the Devil; they should be careful with their words.

Mark 16:15-18 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Matthew 12:31-32¹ “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.**

We can't add parts to the Bible to justify our theology. Cessationists and dispensationalists remove the gifts of the Spirit from the Church by adding an artificial dispensational shelf life to the gifts and tongues that they say have expired. They deprive themselves and others of the fullness of the Spirit and will answer for it.

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Jesus challenged each of the seven churches with an issue that faced their church, he told them what they needed to do, and offered rewards to those who would overcome their obstacles. As a result, there are two groups in every church: the overcomers and the overcome. Jesus outlined this fact in his parables and emphasized separating the two groups when he spoke about the sheep and the goats, the wheat and tares, and wise and foolish virgins, which are about Christ returning to judge the nations.

The wheat is the born-again believers who produce the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, some 100-fold, some 60-fold, and some 30-fold. The tares are those who attend the church building but are just religious and spiritually dead. Both groups, the wheat and the tares, profess faith in Jesus. In every church and every age, there are always two groups sitting side by side in the pews, singing from the same hymnal or overhead screen. We will look at the parables to see this principle of separation before we look at the seven churches because the rapture and the tribulation are a filtering process to separate the wheat from the tares, and the overcomers and the overcome.



Matthew 13:24-30 *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”*

The wheat represents the sons of the kingdom, the tares are the sons of the wicked one, and they are mixed and planted together in the same field until the harvest at the end of the age, at Christ's return. Jesus will send the angels as reapers to gather all the people to the Valley of Decision, where Christ will judge the nations [Joel 3:1-16]. First, all the tares and all things that offend, sons of the wicked one, will be separated and bundled together and sent to Hell. Then, the good seeds, sons of the kingdom, will be brought into the barn and shine like the sun in the millennial kingdom of their Father. References to the kingdom can represent either the Millennial kingdom of Christ or the eternal kingdom of God. In this passage, we see it as the millennial kingdom because the end of the age refers to the Christ's return, not the end of time. At Christ's return, he judges the world and gathers 'all things' that offend out of the earthly millennial kingdom. They don't collect the offensive things from the eternal kingdom because nothing that defiles can enter there [Revelation 21:8, 27].

Matthew 13:36-43 *Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” 37 He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear,*

The harvest is also symbolic of the resurrections, and there is an order and time for different groups to get resurrected. We see the pattern in the Laws of the Harvest from Leviticus 23. and Paul's order of resurrections in 1 Corinthians 15.

In the wheat and tares and the following parables, we consider the kingdom parables prophecies about Christ's return to judge the world. Moving on to the parable of the dragnet, again, we see judgment at the end of the age, gathering everyone together in one place, separating the wicked from the just, and keeping the good but casting away the bad to a very bad place.

Orders of Resurrections & Laws of the Harvest

[I Corinthians 15:23, Leviticus 23]

The First Resurrection – Resurrection of Life

[Rev 20:4-6, John 5:29]

1). *Jesus* [First ripe sheaf - First of the firstfruits]

Jesus raised - 50 Days Pentecost / Church - 2,000 yrs - Rapture / Christ's return

2). *The Rapture* [Dead & Living in Christ - 2 Wave loaves / Pentecost]

3). *The Two Witnesses* [Four corners – Gleanings]

4). *The Tribulation Martyrs* [Four corners – Gleanings]

5). *All Saints* [General Harvest]

The Second Death – Resurrection of Condemnation

[Rev 20:11-14, John 5:29]

6). *The Antichrist and False Prophet* [Tares] Lake of Fire

1,000 years - Battle of Gog Magog - Time no more - White Throne Judgment

7). *All sinners – All ages* [Tares] Lake of Fire

Now, we will look at the seven churches and remember each message could be directed to a church that we currently attend or to us personally. All seven churches are comparable to churches from all times, especially the end times. A separation happens at the rapture, the overcoming Spirit-filled church; the bride of Christ gets raptured, but the Jezebel churches with Harlotry, hypocrisy, and false teaching get left behind. Then, another separation comes during the tribulation for the martyrs who refuse to bow to the Antichrist and reject his mark. The final separation comes for the last believers of the church age who survive Armageddon and stand before Jesus when he judges the nations and separates the sheep and the goats. Separation is a principle, a process, and a judgment, and the foundation of holiness is to be separate from sin and set apart unto God.

Matthew 13:47-50 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”

This process of separation and judgment also explains where the great multitudes of martyrs come from during the tribulation. The rapture and the tribulation will be a filtering process. Those who miss the rapture may wake up, repent, and rededicate their lives to Christ. Others may be like the thief on the cross and convert at the last minute to be martyrs.

Messages to the Seven Churches

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Ephesus (Loveless) CH 2:1-7	Holds 7 stars, walks in midst of 7 golden candlesticks	Works, patience, discernment, perseverance, you hate Nicolaitans	You left your first love	Remember where you fell from, repent, do first works, or your lamp will be removed	I will give to eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God
Smyrna (Persecuted) CH 2:8-11	First & Last which was dead and is alive	I know your works, tribulation & poverty (blasphemed by false Jews/Satan synagogue)		Don't fear things you will suffer, imprisoned, tried 10 days, be faithful unto death	I will give you a Crown of Life, will not be hurt by second death
Pergamos (Compromise) CH 2:12-17	He who has a sharp two-edged sword	Holds fast to my name, didn't deny the faith	Hold to the doctrine of Balaam (died by the sword) taught idolatry sexual immorality & doctrine of Nicolaitans	Repent, or I'll come quickly and fight against you with the sword of my mouth	I will give to eat of the hidden manna, I will give a white stone with new name written that no one knows but him
Thyatira (Corrupt) CH 2:18-29	Son of God with eyes of fire, feet of brass , He who searches heart & mind	I know your works, love, service, faith, patience	Tolerate the woman Jezebel (trampled by Jehu's horses) allow her teach, fornication, idol	Cast Jezebel & children into great tribulation , Hold fast to what you have	Power over nations, rule with a rod of iron, I will give the morning star
Sardis (Dead) CH 3:1-6	He who has the 7 Spirits of God & 7 stars		You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead	Be watchful, strengthen what remains, remember, hold fast, repent	Few not defiled garments, they will walk with me in white, name in the book of life
Philadelphia (Faithful) CH 3:7-13	He who is holy & true, has key of David, who opens & shuts the doors	Works – open door, little strength, kept my word, have not denied my name, persevered		I will keep from hour of temptation over all world. Hold fast what you have that no one take your crown	Make you a pillar in temple of God, write on him the name & city of God, give you a new name
Laodicea (Lukewarm) CH 3:14-22	The Amen, Faithful & True Witness, the beginning of creation		You say your rich, but you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked	Buy gold in fire, buy white garments, anoint eyes, repent, open the door	I will grant to sit with me in my throne, and am set down with my Father in his throne

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Thyatira (Corrupt) CH 2:18-29	Son of God with eyes of fire, feet of brass, He who searches heart & mind	I know your works, love, service, faith, patience	Tolerate the woman Jezebel (<i>trampled by Jehu's horses</i>) allow her teach, fornication, idol	Cast Jezebel & children into great tribulation, Hold fast to what you have	Power over nations, rule with a rod of iron, I will give the morning star

We have a concrete example where Jesus explicitly threatens His church and His servants, "Christians," with the great tribulation. Maybe the multitude of martyrs are like the church of **Thyatira**, who tolerated a **Jezebel** spirit who gave false teachings and committed sexual immorality in the church. So, Jesus warned them to repent or get cast into the great tribulation. That proves there is a moral standard for the rapture. **Not only will the Jezebel crowd miss the rapture, but Jesus said that he would kill them in the great tribulation.** Jesus could not give a stronger warning about sexual immorality and false doctrine in the church. So clearly, Christians who refuse to repent today and miss the rapture and must repent during the tribulation or face going being cast into Hell.

Revelation 2:20-23 [church in Thyatira] "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. "Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

If the Jezebel spirit of witchcraft, the occult, and sexual perversion infiltrated the churches while the apostle John was alive, how much more is that spirit ruling many churches today? Many naïve Christians are practicing witchcraft in the church, thinking they are following the Spirit, but are, in reality, involved in spiritism, adopting new age and other bazaar forms of demonic spirituality. Jezebel surrounded herself with emasculated men, her eunuchs, and 450 priests of Asherah who were men that castrated themselves, dressed in drag, and were temple prostitutes. This whoremongering, homosexual, transgender, and child molesting spirit is dominating the world and the worldly churches today.

2 Kings 9:22 So he answered, "What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?"

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Colossians 3:5-7 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

1 Corinthians 10:20-22 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

Jezebel	Woman, Harlot, Babylon & Tribulation
Jezebel: whore, pagan gods & sacrifice, witchcraft, sorcery [2 Kings 9:22, 2 Chronicles 21:13]	Babylon the great whore, sorcery, worships Antichrist/image/Satan [Revelation 17:1-6]
Jezebel was both a princess & queen, ruled over multitudes [1 Kings 6:30-32]	Babylon over many waters, peoples, multitudes , nations, tongues [Revelation 17:15]
Jezebel was wealthy, her father & husband both wealthy kings [1 Kings 6:30-32]	Harlot-Babylon, wealthy , global business, shipping, buying & selling [Revelation 17&18]
Jezebel fed 400 false prophets at her table [1 Kings 18:19, 22:6, 2 Chronicles 18:5]	That woman Jezebel, false prophet & teacher, depths of Satan [Revelation 2:20-24]
Jezebel persecuted, killed God's prophets , threatens to kill Elijah [1 Kings 18:4, 19:1-2, 2 Kings 9:7]	Woman drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus [Revelation 17:4-6]
Elijah prophesied Jezebel's death & her children's death (Mother of Harlots) [2 Kings 10:9-11, 1 Kings 21:17-24]	Jesus prophesied Jezebel cast into great tribulation & will kill her children (Mother of Harlots) [Revelation 2:21-22]
Jezebel trampled to death by Jehu's horses , dogs ate her & lapped her blood [2 Kings 9:30-37]	Jesus comes on white horse, feet of brass to trample Jezebel & nations , beast will feast on bodies [Revelation 2:18, 19:11, Isaiah 63]
Elijah called for a draught, lasted 3 1/2 years [1 Kings 17:1, 18:1, James 5:17]	Woman goes 3 1/2 years in the wilderness during tribulation [Revelation 12:14]

Jesus started his message to the Thyatira brothers by saying that he has eyes of fire, He sees all, knows all, and has feet like fine brass. Brass speaks of judgment, and Jesus will tread the winepress of the wrath of God with those feet of brass [Revelation 19:15], and the winepress of blood will be up to a horse's neck for 184 miles [Revelation 14:19-20]. How did Jezebel die? She got trampled to death under the hooves of Jehu's horses. Jezebel must repent, or get trampled to death.

Revelation 2:18 *“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass.*

*2 Kings 9:30-33 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. 31 Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, ... “Who is on my side? Who?” So two or **three eunuchs** looked out at him. ³³ Then he said, “Throw her down.” So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.*

Jesus warned the church in **Sardis** that they were either spiritually dead or dying. Spiritual death is separation from God [Ephesians 2:1-5; Isaiah 59:2]. How could a born-again Christian become spiritually dead and un-born again? It happens. According to Jesus, members of his church in Sardis who were physically alive became twice dead spiritually [Jude 12]. Jesus challenged their reputation and warned them they were in danger of spiritual death and the second death.

Revelation 3:1 *And to the angel of the Church in Sardis write, “These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Sardis (Dead) CH 3:1-6	He who has the 7 Spirits of God & 7 stars		You have a name that you are alive , but you are dead	Be watchful, strengthen what remains, remember, hold fast, repent	Few not defiled garments, they will walk with me in white, name in the book of life

Some would say if they were dead, they were never born again. The apostles' testimony would disagree; they spoke plainly about this. Jude said that those who had been born again and backslid to their old life became spiritually dead again and, therefore, twice dead, pulled up by the roots, wandering stars for whom the blackness of outer darkness will be their eternal dwelling. Peter was even more precise when he described the process of losing salvation. If a person escapes sin and has an experience with Jesus and then turns away from him, it would be far worse for them than if they had never known Christ.

Jude 1:11-13 *Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.¹² These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

2 Peter 2:20-22 *For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”*

The message to Sardis was from Jesus to his people, his church, not sinners. Salvation is an individual experience. We make our own choices and live with the consequences. Some people forsake Christ and return to their former lives; others remain faithful until the end. Jesus said he would reward those who overcome their spiritual coma and dead religion by keeping their names in the Book of Life. Those who reject his warning die twice.

Revelation 3:4-6 *You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.6 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. “*

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Laodicea (Lukewarm) CH 3:14-22	The Amen, Faithful & True Witness, the beginning of creation		You say your rich, but you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked	Buy gold in fire, buy white garments, anoint eyes, repent, open the door	I will grant to sit with me in my throne, and am set down with my Father in his throne

Jesus revealed himself to his congregation in **Laodicea** as the Faithful and True Witness (Martyr), followed by telling them that they had become lukewarm, spiritually poor, blind, and naked. Jesus said that he rebukes and chastens those that he loves. So, in love, Jesus offered his assistance in overcoming their spiritual lethargy, and he told them to buy gold refined in the fire and white garments to cover the shame of their nakedness. There is a price to pay for lukewarmness and backsliding. The price Jesus gives is to submit to divine correction by going through fiery trials to refine faith and obtain clean white robes to cover their shame.

Revelation 3:15-18 *“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*

The principle of separation also applies to fiery trials. The refiner or jeweler puts the gold or silver in a crucible and melts the metal, and as the metal gets hotter, slag and imperfections separate from the metal and float to the surface. The refiner works to remove all the dross until he can see his reflection like a mirror. During the tribulation, the Jews and Gentile believers will go through the refiner’s fires. The gold becomes more pure, precious, and valuable, but the dross is cast away.

Malachi 3:2-3 *“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap.³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.*

Zechariah 13:8 *And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested.*

Silver represents redemption and salvation. Those who reject correction from God prove that they are illegitimate children, like rejected silver, which cannot be purified from the corrupt dross of this world. When the fire gets hot, they don’t repent. True children of God take their spankings, repent, and purge their sins, and their character transforms to be more holy, like Jesus.

Jeremiah 6:27-30 *“I have set you as an assayer and a fortress among My people, That you may know and test their way. 28 They are all stubborn rebels, walking as slanderers. They are bronze and iron, they are all corrupters; 29 The bellows blow fiercely, the lead is consumed by the fire; The smelter refines in vain, For the wicked are not drawn off. 30 People will call them rejected silver, Because the LORD has rejected them.*

Hebrews 12:7-11 *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

For those who choose obedience and endurance through the fiery trials, their tested faith is more precious than gold and results in praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus when he comes.

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Smyrna (Persecuted) CH 2:8-11	First & Last which was dead and is alive	I know your works, tribulation & poverty (blasphemed by false Jews/Satan synagogue)		Don't fear things you will suffer, imprisoned, tried 10 days, be faithful unto death	I will give you a Crown of Life, will not be hurt by second death

Not all fiery trials are for correction; sometimes, they are for promotion. Jesus did not find any faults with the believers in **Smyrna**, which appears to be a persecuted underground church. Jesus asks this group of believers to be faithful unto death, and their reward will be an eternal crown of life. There are more martyrs and persecuted Christians today than at any time in history. Those underground persecuted churches are the fastest-growing churches in the world. This trend of persecution will only increase as the Beast system rises to power.

However, during the tribulation, believers may be forced to choose between bowing to the Antichrist or getting their heads chopped off [Revelation 20:4]. Jesus shows compassion and tells them he knows their works, persecution, and poverty, and reminds them that he also had suffered the pains of death and is alive forevermore. Jesus will wipe away all their tears and receive them into his presence where there is fullness of joy and pleasure forevermore [Psalm 16:11]. This message is relevant to the persecuted church of today and to those who will die as martyrs in the tribulation.

Revelation 2:8-11 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9 “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”“

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Pergamos (Compromise) CH 2:12-17	He who has a sharp two-edged sword	Holds fast to my name, didn't deny the faith	Hold to the doctrine of Balaam (<i>died by the sword</i>) taught idolatry sexual immorality & doctrine of Nicolaitans	Repent, or I'll come quickly and fight against you with the sword of my mouth	I will give to eat of the hidden manna, I will give a white stone with new name written that no one knows but him

The message that Jesus gave to the believers in Pergamos was that he knew that they lived in a place where Satan had a stronghold, there was persecution, and one of their brothers, Antipas, was martyred. Jesus commended them for not denying his name or their faith, but he had a few things against them. The first problem was they had people among them like Balaam, the False Prophet who got hired to curse Israel. Every one of Balaam's prophecies was one hundred percent correct, and we regard them as the word of God in our Bibles [Numbers 22-24].

However, Balaam instructed the Moabites to send their young women to seduce the men of Israel to worship pagan sex gods with acts of sexual immorality, giving worship to demons, which brought a plague against Israel, and 24,000 Israelis died [Numbers 25:1-9].

Balaam preached the true word of God but was greedy for money and encouraged hypocrisy, sexual perversion, and idolatry in the lives of the people.

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Balaam was a False Prophet who lived a double life driven by greed, corruption, and immorality. But of course, that only happened during a particular dispensation of time with a start and end date and couldn't happen today, right? Wrong! There have always been slick, hypocritical, money-grabbing preachers and false prophets, and there will be until Jesus comes to Judge the world. The number of false prophets has exploded with the advent of the church of the worldwide web.

Jesus starts his message to Pergamos by saying he has a sharp, two-edged sword. Guess how Balaam died? Yes, Israel killed him with a sharp, two-edged sword [Joshua 13:22]. Jesus will also use his sword on the Nicolaitans, religious leaders who dominate those under their authority. The name Nicolaitan means to conquer or have victory over the people. The Nicolaitans may have made the ministers as an elite class separated from the congregation, and then usurped lordship over the people.

Revelation 2:12-16 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Joshua 13:22 The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them.

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Ephesus (Loveless) CH 2:1-7	Holds 7 stars, walks in midst of 7 golden candlesticks	Works, patience, discernment, perseverance, you hate Nicolaitans	You left your first love	Remember where you fell from, repent, do first works, or your lamp will be removed	I will give to eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God

In his travels, the apostle Paul encountered a group of twelve men in **Ephesus**. He witnessed to them about Christ, baptized them in water, laid hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Paul stayed in Ephesus for three years, teaching and warning them day and night with tears, and the church grew in numbers and maturity [Acts 19:1-10 & 20:17-36]. It must have been a glorious time under Paul's ministry, hearing so many profound revelations and seeing his godly example. They followed Christ with patience, discernment, and perseverance and labored diligently for Christ.

Jesus revealed himself to the Ephesians as the one who holds the seven stars and walks amid the candlestick, meaning he holds the pastors in his hand and walks among the churches. But Jesus had one thing against the Ephesian believers: They lost their first love. Jesus told them to remember from where they had fallen, repent, and do the first works, or he would quickly come and remove their lampstand, meaning they would lose their church and be in darkness.

After the glory days with Paul, they slowly lost their zeal and fire for Christ. Sometimes, the problem is not a question of falling into sin but falling out of love with Jesus. It's lifelessly performing religious duties detached from the presence of God, doing lip service when our hearts have drifted away from God [Matthew 15:8-9]. The greatest commandment is to love God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength [Matthew 22:37-40]. Maintaining our first love with Jesus over a lifetime is a marathon race, and it doesn't matter how fast we run at the

start of the race; we can't win if we stop short of the finish line.

Revelation 2:1-7 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place unless you repent. 6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

7 Churches	Vision of Christ	Good Points	Faults	Advice	Reward
Philadelphia (Faithful) CH 3:7-13	He who is holy & true, has key of David, who opens & shuts the doors	Works – open door, little strength, kept my word, have not denied my name, persevered		I will keep from hour of temptation over all world. Hold fast what you have that no one take your crown	Make you a pillar in temple of God, write on him the name & city of God, give you a new name

Jesus reveals himself to the brothers in the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia, as the one who has the keys to open and shut doors. There are two ways of looking at the keys Jesus holds. First, he could open doors of evangelism to reach the world with the gospel.

Acts 14:27 Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Secondly, he holds the keys to death and Hell, and all those who believe in him, even though they die, will live again. Jesus gives comfort and encouragement to his martyrs.

Revelation 1:17-18 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Jesus finds no faults with this group of believers, and his only warning is that they let no one take their crown. Both soul winners and martyrs receive eternal crowns, and these Philadelphia brothers had predestined crowns waiting for them if they stayed in the will of God. But they needed to protect their crowns. Soul winners must guard themselves against

outside influences and pressures that could keep them from their calling and mission to make disciples for Jesus and to lay down their lives for others. The prodigal son threw away his inheritance, went far away from God, and returned to the Father's house empty-handed. We can start our Christian life as soul winners laying up treasures, precious souls, in heaven and then throw them away to squander our lives in the pig pen [Luke 15:11-32]. Time away from our calling and mission equals missed opportunities. Wasted time on temporal things may bring eternal regret for wasted time, lost rewards, and stolen crowns. Be careful that nobody or anything takes your crown.

Revelation 3:7-13 *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’”: 8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. 13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’*

1 Thessalonians 2:18-20 *Therefore we wanted to come to you even I, Paul, time and again but Satan hindered us. 19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.*

Jesus promises the Philadelphia brothers that he will keep them from the hour of trial that will come upon the whole world. In other words, he will take them in the rapture to keep them from the great hour of trial that will come upon the entire planet. Jesus confirms that the overcomers will be raptured by writing on them the name of the City of God, the New Jerusalem, which is like a bride adorned for her husband and is the Spirit-filled church.

Revelation 21:1-2 *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

The Remnant & Martyrs

In the seven churches, we saw the overcomers, the Spirit-filled Bride of Christ, separate from a group of unrepentant church members in the same church. That leads us back to the question regarding the tribulation martyrs: who are they, and where do they come from?

Revelation 6:9 *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.*

Revelation 7:9-14 ... and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ... Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So, he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Many Bible teachers believe that the multitudes of tribulation martyrs are brand new converts to Christ who get saved during the tribulation. Those who promote that theory say the most significant revival in the history of the world happens while billions of people are dying of wars, starvation, and plagues under the rule of the Antichrist. Let's review all the verses used by those teachers to verify their theory.

The first example we'll look at is a verse saying an angel preaches the everlasting gospel to the whole world, which they say creates multitudes of converts. Yes, the passage says the angel preaches; however, the verses in question say nothing about the result of his preaching, and there is no indication of the results or any revival afterward. We will quote the preceding and following verses to get the context for each example we look at. Let's look at the gospel preaching angel.

Revelation 14:4-8 *These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

Revelation 14:6 *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*

Revelation 14:8 *And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."*

Previous Verse

Revelation 14:1-5, [speaks of 144,000 in heaven] *verse 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

Text

Revelation 14:6 *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*

There is no accounting of the results regarding the angel's preaching, no mention of a revival or conversions to Christ in the verses that follow the text, the topic changes to Babylon.

Following Verse

Revelation 14:8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'

They say that the 144,000 Jews that get sealed in Revelation chapter 7 will be flaming evangelists; again, the verses tell us there are 12,000 from 12 tribes of Israel, and the 144,000 are sealed and protected by God. However, the scriptures do not say these 144,000 preach or do any ministry or that any revival is associated with them. The only thing we know is that God seals and protects them, anything else is speculation. Their mission is to survive the tribulation, and anything more than that is speculation.

Previous Verse

Revelation 7:3-7 ... saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.

Text

Revelation 7:8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed. (144,000, 12 tribes of Israel sealed),

After the text regarding 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel getting sealed, there is no mention of a revival or conversions to Christ in the next verse that follows the text. And the following verse switches to speaking about the multitude of martyrs.

Following Verse

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

They also say that the Two Witnesses in Revelation chapter 11 will be evangelists. But we read that the Gentiles hate the Two Witnesses, and when the Antichrist kills them, they exchange gifts to celebrate their death. So, the Gentiles will not repent or get converted by the ministries of the Two Witnesses.

Revelation 11:8 [speaking of the 2 witnesses] And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 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.

But the Jews living in Jerusalem who were eyewitnesses of the Two Witnesses' resurrection and ascension, followed by the earthquake, will be afraid and give glory to God. This may or may not suggest that some Jews may get saved after seeing the resurrection of the Two

Witnesses. But it does not appear to be a notable revival with innumerable conversions especially among the Gentiles.

Revelation 11:11 [speaking of the Two Witnesses who were dead] 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. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The problem with the "great tribulation revival" theory is that they base it on assumptions without scriptural evidence. They point to an angel preaching the everlasting gospel, 144,000 Jewish evangelists, and the Two Witnesses to prove their assertions. Yes, each potential evangelist they mention is in the Bible, BUT nowhere does scripture say that even one person gets converted under their ministries. The bottom line is that those who teach the tribulation revival theory use it to justify the doctrine that says once a person is saved they can never lose their salvation and use a circular type of logic. They say ALL Christians get raptured; that leaves zero Christians on earth at the beginning of the tribulation, so there must be a great revival to create a innumerable multitude of martyrs. They jump from one assumption to another to make a square peg fit in a round hole.

1. A Christian can never lose their salvation.
2. Therefore, all Christians will be raptured
2. Therefore, there will be zero Christians on the earth at the beginning of the tribulation
3. Therefore, there will be a great revival with innumerable conversions to Christ.
4. Therefore, all these new converts will die for Christ rather than bowing to the Antichrist.
5. Therefore, a Christian can never lose salvation, therefore, therefore, therefore ...

Their problem is that no scripture says even one Gentile gets saved during the tribulation. We are not saying that there will be no Gentile conversions in the tribulation, but that the Bible does not explicitly say there will be a great Gentile revival or even one Gentile getting saved at that time.

They have two questionable teachings; the first is that all Christians get raptured regardless of a person's lifestyle, whether they live like Jesus or the Devil. Their justification for that position is that it is all by grace, and the suggestion of any standards of personal holiness is legalism, works, and a performance-based attempt to achieve the righteousness of God by human efforts. What we have here is the debate over personal sanctification and holiness. It's hard to believe that some "grace" preachers would attack a message that calls believers to live a godly, holy life with integrity and accountability before God. The right balance between the two sides is that the grace of God that saves us is not limited to salvation. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and gives us everything pertaining to life, godliness, glory, and virtue.

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His special people, zealous for good works.

2 Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Also, they lead people to believe if you repeat a sinner's prayer, you are saved and automatically go up in the rapture. That "repeat after me" sinner's prayer that most preachers and evangelists use to "get people saved" is not in the Bible but is a modern tradition of men. There are no magical prayer formulas where a sinner repeats another person's words to save their souls and lock in their eternal salvation. No human can grant or guarantee another person's salvation, even less a stranger's voice over the radio, TV, or the internet. Jesus is the author of salvation, and he alone can give personal assurances of salvation or faith to get raptured. True, many people have been introduced to Christ and began their experience with God through heartfelt prayers if they repent and surrender their lives to Christ, but that is the work of the Holy Spirit. All prayers are void of any power to save a soul except those anointed by the Holy Spirit and prayed in faith with repentance.

Jesus never said to go all the world and lead them in a sinner's prayer. Jesus commanded us to preach the gospel and make disciples, which requires personal mentoring, time, and commitment [*Mark 16:15-18; Matthew 28:18-20*]. The sinner's prayer was an invention by American evangelists like Charles Finney in the 1800s and perfected by Billy Graham in the 1950s. The church has westernized and commercialized the gospel to mass produce salvation like a factory assembly line or a fast-food drive-thru service, resulting in an American version of Christianity. In the first church, people got saved, water baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues, and embraced other believers as their new family in Christ in just one day. Today, people can spend their entire lives in church without getting saved. Western churches have replaced discipleship with seeker-friendly, easy belief-ism and entertainment in order to build mega churches. Jesus had conditions of discipleship; he said unless you take up your cross and die daily, you cannot be my disciple [*Matthew 10:38; 16:34*]. A church or a Christian without the blood of Jesus, death on the cross, and the resurrection power of the HOLY Spirit, is not a church or a Christian.

Secondly, they assume there will be a tremendous outpouring of grace during a time of God's wrath, which may be a false hope. We know that martyrdom requires extraordinary faith and patience [*Revelation 13:10*]. And, if it's hard to be a Christian now, how hard will it be when it costs you your life? These martyrs will make life-and-death decisions not just for themselves but for their families and loved ones. The decision is between taking the mark of the Beast

or being able to buy and sell, eating or starvation, comfort or suffering, life and death. The whole world will be in chaos with wars, plagues, food shortages, and hyperinflation, with unbearable pressures on every side. Only the supernatural grace of God will enable believers to be faithful unto death for the testimony of Jesus.

***Jeremiah 12:5** "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?"*

***Matthew 10:28** "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

***Revelation 2:10** "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."*

We can't count on tomorrow's revivals. We must live for Jesus now, today is the day of salvation. Will there be a multitude of martyrs? Yes, but what constitutes an innumerable number of people? Will it be in the billions? Millions? Hundreds of thousands?

***Revelation 7:9** After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

We see the same description of an innumerable multitude used for the crowds that followed Jesus, which, by most estimates, would have been measured in the tens of thousands and not likely to reach the hundreds of thousands.

***Luke 12:1** [multitudes following Jesus] In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."*

We have no clue as to the actual number of martyrs who will populate heaven during the tribulation. We also don't know how many will come to faith and die for Christ during the seven years of tribulation. We also see no evidence of the Gentiles repenting during the tribulation and no great revivals. But to the contrary, we see evidence of the opposite position: that people in the tribulation refuse to repent, and they curse God.

***Revelation 9:20** But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."*

***Revelation 16:9** And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. 10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the Beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they*

gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

So, where do the multitude of tribulation martyrs come from, and who are they? I'm so glad you asked! Christians who are in a spiritual stupor, living in sin, and fornicating with Jezebel should not feel secure of their place in the rapture. It is high time for backslidden, hypocritical, and lukewarm "Christians" to wake out of their slumber lest they find themselves in the tribulation. So, who are the tribulation martyrs?

***Revelation 7:13-14** Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

In Revelation chapter 12, we see a remnant who had the testimony of Jesus but missed the rapture. The vision begins with a woman who is pregnant and gives birth to a man-child who gets caught up [harpazo] and taken to heaven. Later in the vision, there is a group of believers, a remnant with the testimony of Jesus, who had previously separated from the woman. Since they missed the rapture, we have to question if they were backslidden, hypocritical, and lukewarm "Christians." They had the testimony of Jesus, but there is no evidence of them converting to Christ during the tribulation. Satan left chasing the woman, focused his wrath on this remnant, and declared war against them.

From our perspective, this remnant is the most likely group of people who become the innumerable group of martyrs. Were they lukewarm believers, hypocrites, prodigal sons who missed the rapture? Were they last-minute conversions like the Thief on the Cross? Or will it be a combination of Christians who missed the rapture and new converts? We don't know, only God knows.

***Revelation 12:17** And the Dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [remnant of her seed, KJV], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

For nearly 6,000 years, the prophets warned of the coming time of judgment and wrath. Now, we see the dark clouds gathering on the horizon, and we can hear the hoof beats of the four horsemen of the apocalypse racing toward our generation. Jesus and all the apostles spoke of this time, warning us repeatedly to watch and pray that he accounts us worthy to escape.

***Mark 13:35** [Jesus' speaking] "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning 36 "lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"*

Luke 21:34-36 [Jesus' speaking] "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

What is the motivation to live holy if you'll get raptured no matter what you do? Why watch and pray? Don't listen to any preachers or teachers who tolerate the Jezebel spirit with her false teachings, immoral living, and greedy hands that say you can live like the Devil and get caught up in the rapture. Jesus will not take Jezebel in the rapture. On the contrary, Jesus is coming for his holy, spotless bride, whom he purchased with his blood [Ephesians 5:25-32]. The Spirit-filled church, the bride of Christ, has made herself ready and is waiting and watching for him. Yes, we have imputed righteousness that only comes from Christ. However, we are also responsible for living out that righteousness in a holy, blameless life before the world, without holiness no man will see the Lord.

Revelation 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

The natural response of everyone with the hope of being raptured is to purify and cleanse their lives by walking in the fear of God.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

We must heed the warnings that he finds us watching and praying to be ready for the rapture. Let's look at a few examples and note the distinctions between the sleepers and the watchers, the drunks and those who are sober, those who experience sudden destruction, and those who obtain salvation. Paul refers to the Spirit-filled church as US or WE and uses pronouns for the sleepers and drunkards of the church as THEY and THEM. The they and them's will find themselves in the great tribulation.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For YOU yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when THEY say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon THEM,

as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And THEY shall not escape. 4 But YOU, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake YOU as a thief. 5 YOU are all sons of light and sons of the day. WE are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let US not sleep, as others do, but let US watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let US who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint US to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We could list many verses that give warnings and exhortations about watching, praying, and living worthy of the Lord upon his return. But making lists could lead to legalism and that won't help. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit has to stir a person's heart to love Jesus, walk in the Spirit, and receive grace to be the bride of Christ. All the warnings are to wake the sleepers before it's too late. Sinners in the world aren't sleeping; they are oblivious, and they are wondering about what's going on around the world. It is the fake church people who mock, saying where is the promise of his coming? They say they've heard about the rapture for years. They read the book, watched the movie, got the tee shirt, and Jesus didn't come. They say his coming is in the distant future, and there is no reason for concern. They mock as a way of dismissing the rapture so they can live an ungodly lifestyle without accountability and no fear of God.

2 Peter 3:3 ... knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'

Jude 1:17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

We have gone through the first three chapters of the book of Revelation, the vision of Christ, and the condition of the churches. With chapter four, we move into the tribulation, and chapter four, verse one, is a pivotal passage with the key to the rest of the book of Revelation.

DO NOT LET ANYTHING FROM THE PAST CROSS THIS LINE!!!

"Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Revelation 4:1

Revelation 4:1

Revelation Chapter 4 starts with the symbolism of the rapture. The apostle John heard the voice of a trumpet say come up here, and John got transported before God's throne in heaven. The apostle Paul had a similar experience of being caught up to the third heaven [2 Cor 12:2]. Isaiah and Ezekiel also had visions of the throne of God. But, the main point of this verse establishes a line of demarcation that everything from chapter four, verse one, to the end of the Book of Revelation is a future prophecy. It starts with the rapture and goes until the end of time and into eternity. That premise is critical to understanding the symbolism of the book of Revelation.

Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

From this point forward, everything is future prophetic events that have not happened yet. The timing of many of these events is disputable amongst Bible teachers. We are not going in chronological order by chapter and verse, but we will follow the timeline as we see it, so let's go back to Revelation 12.

The Man Child

Revelation chapter 12 introduces some of the key characters and events of the tribulation. The timing of these events will set up the rest of the tribulation's events. The events will unfold naturally as we examine each character, starting with the manchild and the woman.

Revelation 12:1-2, 5 And a great sign [warning of an ominous and frightening [FUTURE EVENT] appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child (the Messiah) and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. ... She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. [Amplified Version]

The Amplified Bible clearly says that Revelation chapter 12 verse 1 warns of an ominous and frightening **FUTURE EVENT**. However, in the study notes of the same Bible, they ignore that it is a future event and teach that these events represent the past. Their study notes and many teachers say these verses speak of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob, his wife Rachael, the nation of Israel giving birth to Jesus, and the ascension of Jesus to heaven after his resurrection. So, they are saying these future prophetic events symbolize things that already happened in the past. What happened to their ominous future event? Is it acceptable to say historical events fulfill future prophecy? Is the book of Revelation prophecy or not?

We are not saying that we cannot use the other books of the Bible to study the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation is like a collection of direct quotes of prophecies from the Old and New Testaments, but it's not a history book. The Apostle John heard a voice like

a trumpet that said everything that follows Revelation chapter 4, verse 1, is a future event. So, who should we believe, John or the Amplified Bible study notes? My vote is for the Apostle John.

The Amplified translators are not alone; traditionally, this is how most Christians read this portion of the scriptures. But the truth does not come by tradition, denominations, seminaries, or majority rule. Remember, all the religious leaders and experts got it completely wrong when Jesus came the first time. However, we will look at some traditional viewpoints and present some objections. The final arbiter of the truth is the word of God and the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit.

Let's return to Revelation 12 and read it as a future event. We first notice that the Dragon is not concerned about the woman, who is "with child," but is obsessed with her unborn child, who will get separated from her at birth. That speaks volumes; this child is a higher priority target to Satan, possibly because this woman is not a threat and may be compromised. Also, no Old Testament prophets said anything about a child being caught up (*harpazo*, *raptured*) to God and his throne. Why is Satan after the baby and not its mother?

Revelation 12:2, 4-5 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered ... and the Dragon stood before the woman, which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up [*harpazo*] unto God, and to his throne.

Some teach that the manchild is Jesus. Besides the fact that Jesus' earthly ministry happened over 2,000 years ago and is not a future prophecy, there are other problems with that interpretation. The Greek word for "caught up" is *harpazo* or *rapture*. *Harpazo* means to seize, catch away, or violently take by force as seen in the following verse.

Matthew 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force (*harpazo*).

Nobody could ever grab, seize, or capture Jesus violently by force; not even death could hold him. Christ is the one who will do all the snatching and grabbing when he takes his bride out of this world of sin and takes her to heaven in the rapture.

Also, in Revelation 12, the man-child ascends immediately to Heaven; Jesus didn't immediately ascend after his birth. Jesus lived 33 years, was crucified, died, was buried, and **descended first** to Hell. Three days later, **he ascended** to Heaven by HIS mighty power. Death, the grave, and Hell had no power over the sinless Lamb of God, Jesus, because of the exceeding greatness of his resurrection power. Jesus voluntarily laid down his life and took it up again to ascend far above all principality, power, might, dominion, and name.

John 10:17 [Jesus' speaking] *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

Ephesians 4:8-10 *Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*

Ephesians 1:19-21 *... and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

Romans 1:4 [Jesus] *... declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

Some say the manchild is the nation of Israel, which was born on one day, May 14, 1948. That's true; Israel was born in a day, but they did not get raptured to heaven on that day, nor did they turn to Christ for salvation. Israel is a secular nation; they will enter the tribulation by confirming a covenant with the Antichrist, and they convert to Christ at the end of the tribulation, so they are not the manchild.

The manchild gets immediately taken to heaven, and there's no evidence they got converted and martyred before going there. Also, the martyrs get killed one by one and not as a group; and will get martyred throughout the tribulation. Therefore, the tribulation martyrs are not the manchild. There is another group from Revelation 12 called the remnant of her seed, the offspring of the woman, who had the testimony of Jesus, but they were left behind when the manchild got caught up in heaven; they are not the manchild.

Revelation 12:17 *And the Dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Another argument they make is that Jesus is the man-child because the text says the man-child will rule all nations with a rod of iron. But previously, in Revelation chapter 2, Jesus promised the church of Thyatira that those who would overcome the Jezebel spirit would be given power over the nations, and they shall rule them with a rod of iron.

Revelation 2:25-27 [Jesus to the Thyatira church] *"But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels" as I also have received from My Father;*

We'll finish our comments about the manchild here. Revelation 12 is the only place the manchild is mentioned. Why? The manchild is raptured before the tribulation and is not seen during the tribulation. Excluding the Two Witnesses, the only group we know for certain that will be raptured [harpazo] is the Spirit-filled church, period. We have eliminated all the other alternatives. So yes, we are saying that the manchild represents the bride of Christ getting caught up to heaven in a pre-tribulation rapture.

Another fact that we mention now is that Satan and his angelic armies would get cast down to earth, and the saints would fill their heavenly vacancy. Yes, Satan getting cast down is a future event. When the church goes up, Satan and his angels get cast down; let's look at that now.

Satan's heads & horns

Currently, Satan is free to go back and forth from heaven to earth, like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour [1 Peter 5:8]. With shocking speed, Satan is setting up a global government that his chosen leader, the Antichrist, will rule during the seven years of tribulation. This government is represented by seven heads or empires and ten horns, symbolizing ten kings who have power over ten regions or powers. This kingdom will get organized before the tribulation starts. The following verse speaks of the Dragon, and later verses (7-12) tell us that this Dragon is the Devil or Satan.

Revelation 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red Dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

Stars vs Satan cast down.

Next, the Dragon will use his tail to cast one-third of the stars to the Earth. Most Christians use this scenario to describe the popular church myth that has become a cliché in Christian circles, that in ages past, Satan led a rebellion where he took one-third of God's angels with him when he fell from Heaven. Yes, Satan led a rebellion, but he has not been cast down or banned from Heaven, yet. That myth takes the text of Revelation 12 out of context; remember the rule from Revelation chapter four: this is a future event; Satan and his angels haven't gotten cast down yet, but when he does, the whole planet will know it, he will unleash Hell on the Earth. Besides, God has innumerable angels [Hebrews 12:22]. So, what is one-third of innumerable? How can you break innumerable into a percentage? That doesn't matter anyway because the stars might not symbolize fallen angels, either. We live in the end times, and some of these stars may have begun to fall already. Who are these stars?

Revelation 12:4 [The Dragon] His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

After one-third of the stars were thrown down from heaven to earth, Satan and his angels went to war against the archangel Michael and God's angelic army. **Then**, Satan and his

angels lost the battle and were cast down from heaven to earth. The stars thrown down by Satan's tail are not the same angels that get kicked out of heaven. They are two distinct groups, two separate events, at two different times.

Revelation 12:7-12 *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the Dragon; and he Dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So, the great Dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God, day and night, has been cast down. ... "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."*

It doesn't make sense that the stars in verse four speak of Satan's angels; why would Satan cast down one-third of his angelic army before going to war with God's angels? Jesus said that if Satan casts out Satan, his kingdom would be divided and would fall [Matthew 12:26]. What future event causes one-third of the stars to fall from heaven? First, we must identify the stars that get cast down. Of course, Revelation provides the best context to identify the stars. The best book to interpret the Book of Revelation is the Book of Revelation. Jesus said that the stars are the angels of the seven churches in chapters 1 to 3. So, that raises another question: who are the seven angels of the seven churches?

Revelation 1:20 *"The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."*

Some people think these angels are winged angelic beings from heaven. Have you ever seen or heard a literal heavenly angel preach in a church? Neither have I. The Greek word *aggelos*, translated as an angel, means a messenger, which can be angelic or human. We have another example from the book of Revelation where John falls at the feet of what he thought was an angel of God and discovers that it was one of his fellow servants, his brethren, and a prophet. That happened twice to John; we should also remember that in heaven, we will be like angels and possibly serve God in the same capacity as the angels, much like this fellow servant and prophet did. Heaven is not just floating around on clouds; God's servants will serve him.

Revelation 22:8-9 *Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*

Revelation 19:10 *And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

Matthew 22:30 *"For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.*

Revelation 22:3 *[heaven] and there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.*

Here are a few more examples of human "aggelos" messengers: John the Baptist, his disciples, and Jesus' disciples.

Matthew 11:9-10 *[John the Baptist] But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*

Luke 7:24 *[John's disciples] And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, what went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?*

Luke 9:51-52 *[Jesus' disciples] And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.*

The followers of Jesus are symbolically seated in heavenly places with Christ, like stars in the heavens. We should keep our minds on heavenly things, not on the things of the earth. When it's time to depart from this world, we shouldn't be like Lot's wife, who looked back and turned to a pillar of salt. We are in the world, not of it. We are just pilgrims and sojourners here; our real home is in heaven.

Ephesians 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

Colossians 3:1-4 *If then you have a new life with Christ, give your attention to the things of heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep your mind on the higher things, not on the things of earth. 3 For your life on earth is done, and you have a secret life with Christ in God. 4 At the coming of Christ who is our life, you will be seen with him in glory.*

Ephesians 2:5-6 *even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

The seven angels in the seven churches were the human Pastors of the churches. In the scene of John's vision, the Dragon's tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Satan wants to cast down all pastors and ministers with a heavenly calling to chase after the pleasures of this world: sex, money, and fame. One-third of all Christian church stars, prophets, mega pastors, and preachers will fall away from the faith in a great end times apostasy, then the Antichrist will be revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 *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 ... 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming,*

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.*

Revelation 2:1 *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ... 4 'Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place unless you repent.*

Part of the apostasy will be a departure from the word of God in the churches. We just read about doctrines of demons, which people will enjoy, but there will be a disdain for the Word of God that reproves, rebukes, and exhorts. People will have itchy ears, just wanting to have their ears tickled, they will not listen to the truth, especially if the truth confronts sin.

Amos 8:11-12 *"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD. 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it.*

2 Timothy 4:1-4 *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

2 Timothy 2:14-17 *Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer.*

In the last days, one-third of the church stars, pastors, and leaders will get thrown from their heavenly vision of serving God, abandoning the faith to follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. The Dragon's tail that he uses to throw the stars to the earth will be all the false prophets speaking lies, culminating with THE False Prophet. Satan the Dragon is the master of deception. When you are transfixed and paralyzed by his large fangs and fiery breath, his tail sweeps around by surprise and knocks you off your feet. The tail is a powerful weapon, and the False Prophets' influence will knock unsuspecting victims off their feet to be dragged away and eaten by Satan's hordes of demons. Satan also uses imitation as a cloak to sneak up and capture naive victims by stealth. Beware of false prophets.

Isaiah 9:14-16 *Therefore the LORD will cut off head and tail from Israel, Palm branch and bulrush in one day. The elder and honorable, he is the head; the prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed.*

Matthew 24:11-12 *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 *For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

The prophet speaking lies is the False Prophet. The Antichrist has a sidekick; his mission is to deceive people and force them to worship the Antichrist. He's called the second Beast, or the False Prophet, and he has equal Satanic powers as the Antichrist in the trinity of evil. He will be the world's religious and financial leader; he has horns like a lamb and speaks like a Dragon. The horns represent the power to do satanic miracles. He's like a lamb; he's a religious fake and imitates Christ. He speaks like a Dragon, using lies, seduction, and deception. The purpose of his miraculous signs is to deceive, intimidate, and threaten the entire world with death if they refuse to worship Satan and the Antichrist. The False Prophet is the one who will set up the image of the Beast (Antichrist) and cause as many that refuse to bow to die. But preceding the False Prophet will be many false prophets and deceivers moving the masses into the Beast system of global government [Matthew 24:23-24]

The Roman Catholic Pope is a prime candidate for the role of False Prophet, or the tail that speaks lies. With over a billion followers, he has a lot of political and religious clout. Can you imagine the response if the Pope started live-streaming miraculous signs on social media? He would have a tremendous global impact, and how many followers would he have? The False Prophet will deceive the whole world, and seducing spirits, doctrines of demons, and the spirit of Antichrist are already at work. They will continue to gain influence until the Antichrist comes to power. One-third of all religious leaders will not only fall from the faith themselves, but after selling their souls, they will sell out their followers like a Harlot to the Antichrist.

All it takes is a little compromise, lukewarmness, backsliding, greed, fleshly indulgence, and compliance with a godless tyranny. That's the trap and deception the Lutheran pastors faced in Hitler's Germany. The Antichrist is the little horn in Daniel's vision. Daniel saw him going after the stars, casting them down, and trampling them. Stars, those seated in heavenly places with Christ, will be his targets, and one-third will fall before the Antichrist and either die as a martyr or take the mark of the Beast. The Antichrist is a man, not a fallen angel, and he will cast down men who had been the stars of the faith to the ground and trample them.

Daniel 8:9-10 *And out of one of them came a little horn [Antichrist] which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. And it grew up to the host of*

heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.

Jude prophesied about the coming of the Lord to execute judgment on wandering stars who are twice dead. The twice-dead people are backsliders who become wandering stars, leaving the light and wandering into the outer darkness. But when they leave the faith, they take others with them. In their fall, the bigger the church stars, famous mega pastors, and celebrities, the more people fall with them into the second death [Revelation 21:8].

***Jude 1:12-15** These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

The rapture will happen, the great falling away will happen, and then the Antichrist will be revealed. If one-third of “Christian church stars” are cast down, this may explain the group that is called the remnant of her seed, the tribulation martyrs. They missed the rapture when the man-child got caught up in heaven, and they were left flat-footed on the earth, but they got one more chance to take a stand for Jesus. If they knew heavenly things but fell into sin because they were lukewarm, hypocrites, or backslidden, maybe some would realize their situation, wake up, repent, and become martyrs. That would be one explanation for where the tribulation martyrs come from.

***Revelation 12:17** And the Dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

***Revelation 7:9-14** After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ... 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The Dragon's heads & horns

Let's discuss Satan, the Dragon, and his seven heads and ten horns in more detail. Satan has a kingdom that Adam handed to him after the fall. Adam had dominion over the Earth, and when Adam rebelled against God and obeyed the voice of the serpent, he gave his dominion to Satan [Romans 6:16]. Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world, and Jesus did not dispute that Satan held possession of the Earthly kingdoms [Luke 4:5-8]. The same serpent who deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden is the Dragon of Revelation, the Devil, and Satan, and he still has power over the Gentile kingdoms of the Earth,

Revelation 12:9 *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

The symbols of Satan's kingdom are seven heads (empires), ten horns (powers), or kings (rulers). The Devil's end-times agenda is to centralize all his kingdoms into one global government that his chosen leader, the Antichrist, will rule over in defiance of God. The ten horns or kings symbolize rulers or oligarchs with power over regions or global resources. This kingdom will be partly strong and weak [Daniel 2:37-45], made with dissimilar materials, people, resources, ethnicities, and cultures that form an authoritarian global government with iron teeth to dominate and devastate the world.

Revelation 12:3 *And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red Dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.*

The seven heads represent seven Gentile empires, the sixth being the old Roman Empire. When Satan transfers his power to the Antichrist, he will rule over a revived Roman Empire, the seventh in the succession of Gentile empires. But after the Antichrist dies of a headwound, he revives to live again as the king of the eighth empire. So, the Antichrist is a king among the first seven empires and becomes the eighth king over the final Gentile empire. These are the seven heads, regional Gentile empires, powers, principalities, and rulers of darkness that Satan rules, which he will give to the Antichrist.

Revelation 17:10 *"There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 "And the Beast [Antichrist] that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.*

The following are examples of Satan's governmental hierarchy, consisting of princes over regions, powers, principalities, and rulers of darkness. These will all work in unison with the Antichrist to control the world. These Satanic powers influence cultures and societies. An example would be the prince of Persia, who has ruled over Iran since the time of Daniel and continues to have considerable power with a global impact today.

Daniel 10:13-14 *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia (Satanic Ruler) withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes (God's angel), came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia (Satanic rulers). 14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."*

Daniel 10:20-21 *Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.*

Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

The ten horns (powers) are ten kings, rulers, or oligarchs in Satan's global human government. One example of a horn or powerful oligarch could be Elon Musk, with entire nations depending on him to provide various services. When the United States government and NASA needed to retrieve astronauts from the international space station, they turned to Elon Musk's company, SpaceX, because they didn't have rocket ships to do it themselves. When Ukraine went to war with Russia and needed internet connections on the battlefield, only one company worldwide could provide that service: Elon Musk's company, Starlink. And that's not all Musk controls; he has multiple influential companies, including advanced technology with artificial intelligence, robotics, transportation, global tracking, communications, brain chips, etc. We are not saying Elon Musk will be a ruler in the Antichrist's global government. But we are not saying that he will not be either. If we learned anything from the 2020 global shutdowns, anything is possible.

At the beginning of the tribulation period, the Antichrist goes out to conquer [Revelation 6:2]; three horns will resist his reign, leading the Antichrist to uproot those rulers [Daniel 7:7-8]. At some point in the Antichrist's battles, he suffers a mortal headwound [Revelation 13:3]. The Antichrist prevails, and in the middle of the tribulation, Satan coronates the Antichrist with all the power and authority of his Satanic kingdom [Revelation 13:2]. Then, all the kings will give their power and authority to the Antichrist.

***Revelation 17:12** "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. 13 "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the Beast [Antichrist]."*

John's vision was like a continuation of Daniel's vision, in which Daniel prophesied about the Antichrist and his empire. Daniel saw how terrible and devastating this Beast, the Antichrist, would be. He also saw the power struggles within the kingdom from when the Antichrist first came up as a little horn and how he would defeat three other horns, world leaders, to become the supreme global dictator.

***Daniel 7:7** After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth Beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the Beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

That will briefly summarize the symbolism of the seven heads and ten horns representing the kingdoms of this world held by the Dragon, Satan, who transfers them to the Antichrist during the tribulation.

The Woman

Now, let's go back to the beginning of John's vision and look at the woman; she is pregnant and experiencing intense birth pains. Jesus said that the signs of his coming and the end of the age would be like the beginning of a pregnant woman's birth pains. The birth pains are global deception, wars, famines, and earthquakes, which increase in frequency and intensity as the return of Christ approaches.

Revelation 12:1-5 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Matthew 24:3-8 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. Tell us they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, 'and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

The rapture, like childbirth, can occur unexpectedly without any forewarning of the precise moment. However, the general time frame due to the daily countdown and the size of the mother's belly should be obvious, like the changing seasons [1 Thessalonians 5:1]. The 'birth pains' symbolize the culmination of all end-time signs and warnings, creating global conditions for the tribulation to begin after the rapture. In the context of Revelation 12, the chapter starts with a woman in childbirth, and her child gets immediately caught up and raptured to God as soon as it is born. After the rapture happens, the tribulation follows. The Greek word for "caught up" is *harpazo*, the same word Paul used in his letter to the Thessalonica believers to describe the church's rapture. This man-child gets raptured up to God as soon as it is born, and then the Devil goes on a rampage.

Revelation 12:1-2 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

Revelation 12:4-5 And the Dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child (man child, KJV) who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up (*harpazo*) to God and His throne.

We'll begin by looking at the popular teachings about the Revelation 12 woman; some say the woman is Israel or Mary. One premise is that Revelation 12 represents Joseph's dream from the book of Genesis, where the sun is Jacob, and the moon is Rachel, and that proves that the woman is Israel. Others say that the woman is a picture of Mary giving birth to Jesus, and the resurrection and ascension of Jesus are symbolic of the manchild getting caught up to God. Let's look at those theories and see how they stand up to scrutiny. **First, both theories are invalid because they are historical events and not end times prophecy**

[*Revelation 4:1*]. But apart from the historical disqualifier, let's look at other problems with Mary or Israel as the woman in Revelation 12.

Many in the Catholic religion see Mary as the Queen of Heaven, similar to the woman in Revelation 12, who John saw in heaven. But the Old Testament refers to the Queen of Heaven as a pagan Babylonian goddess whom the prophet Jeremiah condemned. In Revelation 18:7, Babylon, Mother of Harlots, also calls herself a queen. The Babylon queen that Jeremiah rebuked is the same that John saw in Revelation 17; she is the Mystery Babylon Mother of Harlots, and Roman Catholicism is one of her harlot daughters. The character of the Roman Catholic Church, seen by the paganizing of Christianity, the inquisitions, with their torture and murder of protestants, and heretical teachings, are proof they are daughters of the Babylonian Harlot.

Revelation 17:4-5 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. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

In Revelation chapters two and three, we see the seven churches where the overcomers represent the bride of Christ. But Jesus rebukes the church of Thyatira because they tolerated "**that woman Jezebel**" to teach heresies and commit fornication with the church members. Jezebel was also an evil queen in Israel who was involved in harlotry, idolatry, sorcery, and killing the prophets of God. Her character proves she is a harlot daughter of Babylon, Mother of Harlots. So, we see the woman, the church, and Israel all present in one woman, Jezebel.

The Jezebel spirit of Harlotry infiltrates Israel and the church, like the wheat and the tares growing in the same field. Only for comparison, let's follow the theory behind Joseph's dream, that the woman is Mary or Israel, and let's compare that to the woman in Revelation 12, comparing John's vision with Joseph's dream to show the differences.

Revelation 12:1-2 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

In **John's vision**, he saw the **woman clothed with the sun**, and Ezekiel and Jeremiah saw a vision of the Jews worshipping the sun and the queen of heaven.

Ezekiel 8:15-16 Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these." So, he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house; and there, at the door of the Temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the Temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.

Jeremiah 44:17-19 "But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our

fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. "But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine." The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?"

Acts 7:42-43 "Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: 'Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, Images which you made to worship; And I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'

The pagan priest wore ceremonial vestments to worship the sun, and they adorned their idols and artwork with sunbursts, which the Catholics adopted and Christianized sometime after the year 325 AD. The Israelites had a history of worshipping this pagan goddess, as we see in the book of Jeremiah. Israel worshipped the Queen of Heaven with star cakes and idols. She had stars around her head with sunbursts or halos. Some statues and artwork of Mary show twelve stars around her head. The number twelve represents Israel or the church, 12 tribes, and 12 apostles. The woman's crown in Revelation 12 is a victor's crown, or in the Greek, a stephanos, a garland or wreath made of twisted olive leaves given to the victors at athletic competitions. The woman's crown is temporary and will wilt and fade away [1 Corinthians 9:24-27] and her victories will be short-lived, seven years or less. By contrast, Satan's seven crowns are the Greek word diadema, or kingly crown, a perpetual symbol of authority he took from Adam and Eve when they obeyed his voice [Romans 6:16, Luke 4:5-8].



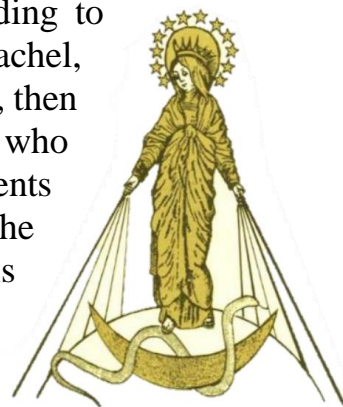
In **Joseph's dream**, the sun and moon were his parents, Jacob and Rachael, and the eleven (not 12) stars were his brothers, and they would all bow before him. This interpretation came from his father, Jacob. Joseph's dream was fulfilled around 15 years later when Joseph ascended to power in Egypt.



Genesis 37:9 [Joseph's dream] Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." So, he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is his dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

In **John's vision**, the woman is wearing the sun, obviously not wearing Jacob, as in Joseph's dream. As we already saw, wearing the sun could refer to wearing pagan worship robes or vestments.

In **John's vision, the moon is under the woman's feet.** According to Joseph's dream and Jacob's interpretation, the moon symbolizes Rachel, Joseph's mother. So, if we applied that interpretation to John's vision, then Rachael, would be under the feet of the Revelation 12 woman. If so, who is this woman to put Rachael under her feet? Under the feet represents conquest and domination, like Joshua and Israel put their feet on the necks of their enemies in Canaan, and like Jesus does to all his enemies [1 Corinthians 15:24-25, Joshua 10:24]. Does the Revelation 12 woman dominate Israel and put them under her feet?



The primary scriptural reference for the moon is that it represents a faithful witness of the Messianic covenant between David and God. David would perpetually have a son to sit on his throne, speaking of Jesus, and the people of Israel would be God's people forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky. The Jewish people live by a 360-day lunar calendar. The new moons would signal the starting point for their festivals, feasts, and cultural events, which are extremely important to the Jewish identity.

***Psalms 89:34-37** My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky."*

***Jeremiah 31:35-36** Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): "If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."*

Mary is a historical person not a religious system unless she represents the Roman Catholic Church, one of the harlot daughters of Babylon. There are some issues with the symbolism of the woman being Israel, so who else could this woman be? Let's answer that question differently: who is not the woman? First is the manchild, those who get raptured, the Spirit-filled church. Then, the remnant of her seed, with the testimony of Jesus, who missed the rapture of the manchild, who were separated from the woman when she went into the wilderness. Who else would "come out" and be separate from the woman, Babylon, Mother of Harlots? Separation identifies our affiliations and whose side you're on or against.

Don't be unequally yoked – Be separate		
Believers	vs.	Unbelievers
Righteousness	vs.	Lawlessness
Light	vs.	Darkness
Christ	vs.	Belial (Satan)
Temple of God	vs.	Idols
Clean	vs.	Unclean

***2 Corinthians 6:14-17** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the Temple of God with idols? For you are the Temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.'*

The seven years of tribulation will be a time of severe testing and separating God's people from the Devil's. This separation is not an option; it is a process that everyone must undergo, especially when it comes to taking a stand for Christ or the Antichrist. And this brings us back to another point: Could the woman be Israel? Yes and no. When Israel confirms a covenant with the Antichrist, that covenant binds the secular Jews to the Antichrist, making Israel partners with the Beast system. But after 3 1/2 years, the Antichrist breaks the covenant, desecrating the temple, trampling Jerusalem, and killing Jews. God will destroy the Harlot Babylon, but before he does he gives a warning and commands his people, Israel, to "**come out of her my people.**"

The Woman of Revelation
Who comes out and separates from her?



Manchild, gets caught up, harpazo, raptured to heaven
Rev.12:1-5

Dragon wars against the **remnant of her seed**, with testimony of Jesus, & keeps God's commands
Rev. 12:17 (Remnant those left behind)

Babylon is fallen, come out of her **my people (Israel)** lest you sin, and receive her plagues
Rev. 18:4

Come out from among them, and be separate, says the Lord, 2 Cor 6:17

Can Israel come out of herself? No! But she can flee Babylon, the Mother of Harlots. What about the Mary worshippers in the Roman Catholic Church? Historically, the Reformers and many Protestant leaders thought the mother of Harlots referred to the Roman Catholic Church because she matched the verses in Revelation 17. In Revelation, from chapters one to three, in the messages given to the seven churches, the only mention of a woman is "**that woman, Jezebel**" [Revelation 2:20]. After looking at the references to "the women" in chapters 2, 12, 17, and 18, we may conclude that they are all the same woman: Babylon, the Harlot, and riding the Beast system. However, God's people flee without taking the mark of the Beast and before God's wrath rains down on her.

***Revelation 18:2-4** And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." 4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.*

The bride of the Antichrist, Mystery Babylon, mother of Harlots and abominations, is like the Satanic version of Eve, the original matriarch of all the false religions and tyrannies of the world. From the days of the Tower of Babel until Jesus returns, the Mother of Harlots

and her daughters have infiltrated, compromised, and corrupted the people of God. Every generation of believers has battled with tares sown in their field. Throughout the history of Israel, their struggles with idolatry attest to the challenges of separating God's people from worshipping at pagan altars and adopting their corrupt morals and false teachings. The same fallen angels and demonic spirits behind the scenes at the Tower of Babel influence every generation. They are currently working to build a global government and a world religion for the Antichrist. That government and religious system is the woman, Mystery Babylon, the mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth.

Revelation 17:5 *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

Let's go back to chapter 12, where the woman is fleeing from Satan into the wilderness. The woman flees for a reason. Satan, the Antichrist, and ten kings, aka the Beast system, hate the woman. After the manchild gets raptured, Satan turns his attention to chasing the woman into the wilderness, where God prepares a place for her for 3 1/2 years, which will preserve the Jews, leading to their salvation after they come out of Babylon the Harlot.

Revelation 12:6 *Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days (3 1/2 years).*

Revelation 12:14 *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent (Satan).*

In Revelation 12, the woman has two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness for 3 1/2 years. In Zechariah, we see a similar picture of an evil woman in a basket with two women with wings of a stork carrying her to a house built for her in Babylon. It's worth noting that Zechariah is the only place in the Bible where angelic beings with wings are women. Also, both eagles and storks are unclean birds according to Levitical law. So we see an evil woman carried on the wings of unclean creatures to Babylon by way of the wilderness. The woman in Revelation 12, 17 & 18 and the Zechariah evil woman speak of the same religious, financial, and political system.

Revelation 12:14 *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time [3 1/2 years], from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the Dragon had spewed out of his mouth*

Zechariah 5:5 *Then the angel who was speaking to me came forward and said to me, "Look up and see what this is that is appearing." 6 I asked, "What is it?" He replied, "It is a measuring basket." And he added, "This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land." 7 Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman! 8 He said, "This is wickedness," and he pushed her*

back into the basket and pushed the lead cover down over its mouth. 9 Then I looked up and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth. 10 "Where are they taking the basket?" I asked the angel who was speaking to me. 11 He replied, "To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When it is ready, the basket will be set there in its place."

In chapter 12, we see the woman flee into the wilderness, and 3 1/2 years later, in chapter 17, she comes out of the wilderness riding on the back of the Beast system, representing her affiliation with the Antichrist's global government. In chapter 12, the red Dragon, Satan, had seven heads and ten horns; in chapter 17, we see the red Beast, the Antichrist, coronated with Satan's seven heads and ten horns, showing that Satan had transferred his power and authority to the Antichrist. The woman in chapter 17 appears to be religious with a golden communion cup full of the blood of the saints. She gets **destroyed by the ten horns**, kings, or ruling elites of the Antichrist government. We see a different aspect of the woman in chapter 18, Babylon, and this woman is the world's center of finance, commerce, and trade. This woman gets **destroyed by God**.



***Revelation 17:3** 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.*

***Revelation 17:16** 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 18:8** Therefore her plagues will come in one day, death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.*

The False Prophet has Satanic power also, and he oversees both the worship of the image of the Beast and the financial power to control if people can buy or sell using the Mark of the Beast [Revelation 13:11-18]. So, in the Beast system, the False Prophet presides over two of the three legs of the Beast system: religious control and financial access, and the Antichrist exercises political and military power.



The woman in chapter 17 has religious overtones, followed by a different description in chapter 18 of the woman describing her trade, merchandise, and the merchants she employs. The two women are two feet in the Beast system, two cities, the religious and financial capitals of the Antichrist's empire. In Daniel's Metallic Man, the final kingdom, the Roman Empire, had been divided into two legs of iron and two feet of iron mixed with clay. The divided Roman Empire had one foot in the West (Rome) and the other in the East (Constantinople, now Istanbul). The Western foot represents a revived Roman Empire. After the fall of Rome, it was ruled by the Vatican, headed by the Pope, and has been the religious capital of the West for over 1500 years. It controlled kings and countries, amassed lands and

great wealth, fought wars, and killed religious opposition. The Vatican, i.e., the Pope, still yields considerable power and influence worldwide [Revelation 17], and the current Pope is actively promoting one world religion and global government.

The Eastern foot represents the future financial capital of the world that will be spiritually called Babylon (not Wall Street). The obvious question is whether they will rebuild Babylon at or near the original site. Or if Babylon could be a symbolic designation of an existing city. In 1983, Saddam Hussein, imagining himself as heir to Nebuchadnezzar, ordered the rebuilding of Babylon. Saddam died in 2006, and they abandoned the project. Others may build a new Babylon, as we saw in Zechariah 5:5-11, with the woman carried there in a basket. Regardless of how it happens, one day, there will be a new global center of finance and commerce for the Antichrist empire in a port city symbolized by Babylon. [Revelation 18]

Rev 17 Religious Harlot - versus - Rev 18 Financial Babylon			
Dan 2:42	Western Foot - Rome West: Judeo/Christian roots, secular, paganism, atheism	Dan 2:42	Eastern Foot Constantinople (Istanbul) East: Muslim rule & oil money, Communism, Marxism
Rev 17:16	Antichrist & Kings hate the Harlot with her coalition of the world's coexist religions	Rev 18:3	Kings & merchants love trading with financial Babylon and are made rich by her global fascism
Rev 17:9	Rome / Vatican City sits on 7 hills, and about 50 miles to the nearest sea port (15 to sea)	Rev 18:17-19	Babylon is by sea, has a shipping trade, sea captains will mourn when she is destroyed
Rev 17:6	Religious Harlot drunk with blood of saints & martyrs of Jesus, she kills for religious reasons	Rev 18:24	Financial Babylon sold sorcery (Greek: pharmakeia) drugs, big pharma & tech, global corporations, she kills the saints & prophets for profit
Rev 17:15 12:5 & 17; Rev 6:9; 7:9-17; Matt 25:31-46	Religious woman sits on many waters meaning multitudes of people: the manchild, a remnant with the testimony of Jesus, martyrs, Jews, sheep & goats	Rev 18:12-14	Financial Babylon has a long list of luxury items and choice foods she ships to the kings and elites: gold, cattle, wine, oil, human trafficking, etc., the elites live with abundance in luxury while the earth is starving.
Rev 17:16	The Kings hate, destroy, and burn the religious Harlot	Rev 18:17-23 18:11,15	God judges, and destroys Babylon in one hour, shocking the world

The Antichrist and the ten-horns hate the woman, especially the religious aspect. When the Antichrist commits the abomination of desolation, the world's religions get forced to convert to Satanic worship by the Antichrist, with brute force, bow, and worship or die. It will likely be anything but a smooth transition. However, the woman can be used to make the global conversion to Satan easier for the Antichrist. The woman is a Harlot prostituting herself; the Antichrist wants the religious leaders to sell their souls and use their influence over the multitudes. When the woman comes out of the wilderness on the Beast's back, they have a mutual working relationship.

***Revelation 17:3** 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.*

***Revelation 17:15** Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

***Revelation 13:4** So they worshiped the dragon (Satan) who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

When the Antichrist commits the abomination of desolation, breaking the covenant with the Jews. Isaiah prophesies how God will annul Israel's covenant with Death and Hell [Sheol], releasing an overflowing scourge of death that will trample the Jews who made the covenant with the Antichrist. The collaborators with evil are always the first ones to get killed.

***Isaiah 28:14** Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, 15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves." ... 17 Also I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place. 18 Your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; When the overflowing scourge passes through, then you will be trampled down by it.*

That's who the Harlot will be in the future tribulation, but let's go back to her roots at the Tower of Babel and see how the Mother of Harlots, Mystery Babylon, gave birth to her daughters and all false religions and evil dictatorships around the world. Mystery Babylon's occult, sorcery, witchcraft, child sacrifice, transexual priesthood, false prophets, and cruel dictators have infiltrated and intermingled with God's people from the time of the Tower of Babel until now to sow the tares of deception, paganism, and the occult into our churches and culture.

Babel, Nimrod & Semiramis

The woman is called Mystery, Babylon, the Great, Mother of Harlots, which reveals that her roots go back to the Tower of Babel, just after Noah's flood. Babel means confusion; at

Babel, God confused the languages and scattered people worldwide. When they left Babylon, they took the culture, religion, and politics with them worldwide, making Babylon the Mother of Harlots. We have seen the daughters of the Babylonian Harlot throughout the ages because she is a Satanic spirit of high rank, and her daughters are the spirits under her authority in Satan's kingdom. These fallen angels and demons went with the people from the Tower of Babel as they were scattered worldwide, taking the Harlot's influence over political dictatorships, religious systems, paganism, witchcraft, and the occult, powerfully impacting all of humanity to this day.

***Revelation 17:3-6** 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. 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. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*

Going back to Genesis, we see Nimrod, whose name means "he rebelled." Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord, or more accurately, "against" the Lord. So, this Nimrod was a leader who rebelled against the Lord and was the world's first dictator; his vast empire included Assyria and Babylon, which centuries later would conquer Israel and Judah. Assyria conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and intermarried them with pagans, destroying their bloodline and identity as Jews. The Babylonians would lay siege to Jerusalem, burn and pillage the Temple of God, and take the Jewish people into bondage to Babylon. Nimrod and his kingdom are a type of the Antichrist and his kingdom.

***Genesis 10:8-12** Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore, it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel [Babylon], Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).*

Next, we see the Tower of Babel building project, and we assume Nimrod's in charge because Babylon is one of his cities. Nimrod expressly wanted to centralize power and the population, saying lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the earth. He controlled the resources from one location, in direct rebellion with the specific command of God to Noah to fill the world with people.

***Genesis 9:1** So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.*

***Genesis 11:1-4** [Tower of Babel] lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."*

Genesis 11:8 *[Tower of Babel] So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.*

Nimrod was a dictator focused on building a monument to himself in defiance of God. Nimrod's look at people like bricks to build their kingdoms. Bricks are symbolic of slavery; the Jews were enslaved people in Egypt, and cruel taskmasters forced them to produce a daily quota of bricks *[Exodus 5:4-21]*. Bricks are nameless, faceless, mindless clones that come off an assembly line without individuality, character, or free will and exist as slaves to the system. More bricks mean more glory to make a name for Nimrod. The Tower displayed man's rebellion, demonic wisdom, and pagan worship as they attempted to reach the heavens to be like gods by the inspiration of Lucifer. By contrast, believers are living stones built into a Temple for the Holy Spirit; each stone is unique and honors God's creative power and grace in each stone with distinctive character and gifts *[Exodus 20:25]*.

Genesis 11:1-4 *Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar [Babylon], and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."*

1 Peter 2:4-5 *Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:6 *Do you not know that you are the Temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

Nimrod built the tower in rebellion against God, and the height was to survive another flood. The top was in the heavens for religious reasons because the Babylonians were into astrology and astronomy and worshipped the Sun, moon, and stars. Building a tower to ascend to heaven was also inspired by Lucifer, the Devil, who rebelled against God by saying "I will" five times regarding how he would sit above the stars of God and be like God. Those were Lucifer's (aka Satan's) famous last words before his fall. By the way, Jesus' last words in prayer were "not my will" *[Matthew 22:41-42]*.

Genesis 11:1-4 *[Tower of Babel] And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves,*

Isaiah 14:12-14 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most-High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.*

When God came down to the tower of Babel, he confused them with different languages, so they could not communicate. Then, he separated them into people groups by language and scattered them over the earth by regions. Those regions became various nations that remained separated because of the language barriers, conflicts, and wars.

Genesis 11:8-9 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

James 3:14-16 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion (Babel) and every evil thing are there.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion (Babel) but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Babylon myth & mystery

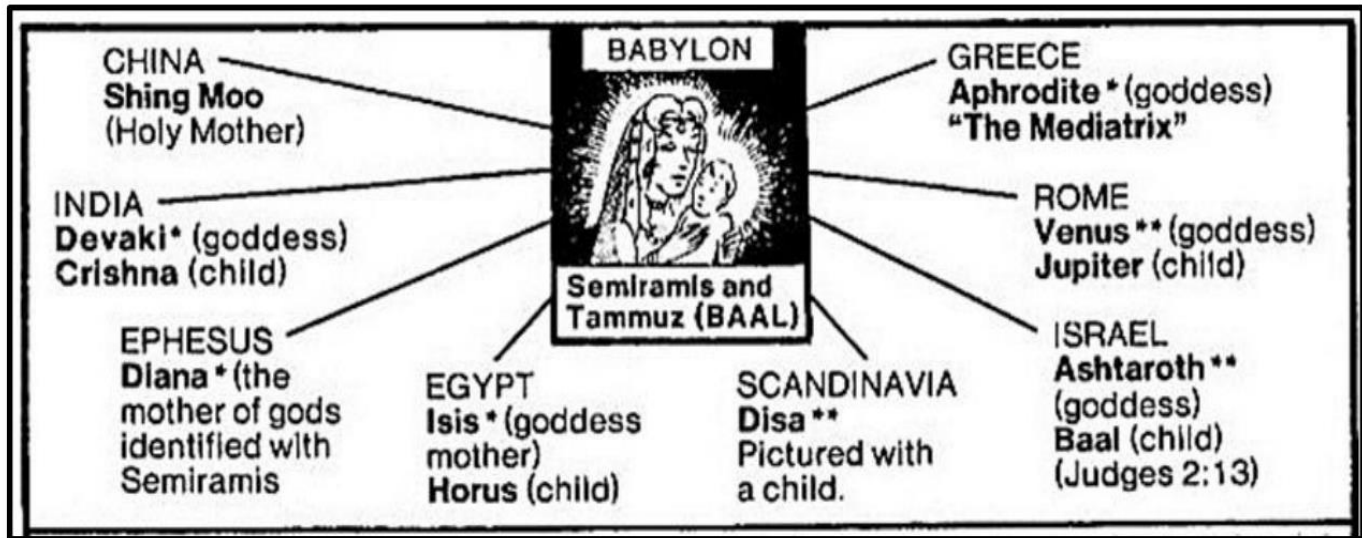
Except for Jesus, the King of kings, whenever all power is in the hands of one human being, it does not turn out well, whether a Nimrod, a king, a dictator, a Pope, a pastor, or the Antichrist. Nimrod was a dictator and became a deity in Babylonian mythology setting the pattern for following dictators and cultures. Without going too far into Babylonian mythology, here is a brief outline of what the legends say.

The story goes that after Nimrod's death, his wife, Semiramis gave birth to an illegitimate son. Her alibi was that Nimrod became the Sun god, the lord of heaven, and then he reincarnated as her son, who she named Tammuz. That's the mythology of the Babylonian false trinity, with Nimrod, the father; Sun, Lord of Heaven, with Semiramis as the Queen of Heaven; and Tammuz, the reincarnated son, usually seen as an infant. The legend of Semiramis and Tammuz evolved into a mother-infant cult. It is possible that Semiramis knew the prophecy to Adam and Eve about the seed of the woman and usurped and corrupted it [*Genesis 3:15*].

When God confused the languages and scattered the people from the tower of Babel, they spread the Babylonian false gospel to every part of the world with all its myths, paganism, astrology, idolatry, witchcraft, and occult practices. Since God had confused their languages, the pronunciation of Babylonian names got translated differently in every country. That is how the story of Noah's flood went around the world with various names for Noah. That's also how the Egyptians, the Incas, and the Mayans in South America and other places had pyramids. Archeologists studied the footprint of the Tower of Babel, which is still visible in Iraq, and believe it was a ziggurat-style pyramid. That's how the Tower of Babel became the mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth, a Satanic principality and power. For the sake of brevity, we'll call her **the Harlot** going forward. The mythologies, religions, and cultures of Babel with Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz morphed into every culture

worldwide with variations of the story and different names.

Genesis 11:8-9 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore, its name is called Babel [confusion], because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.



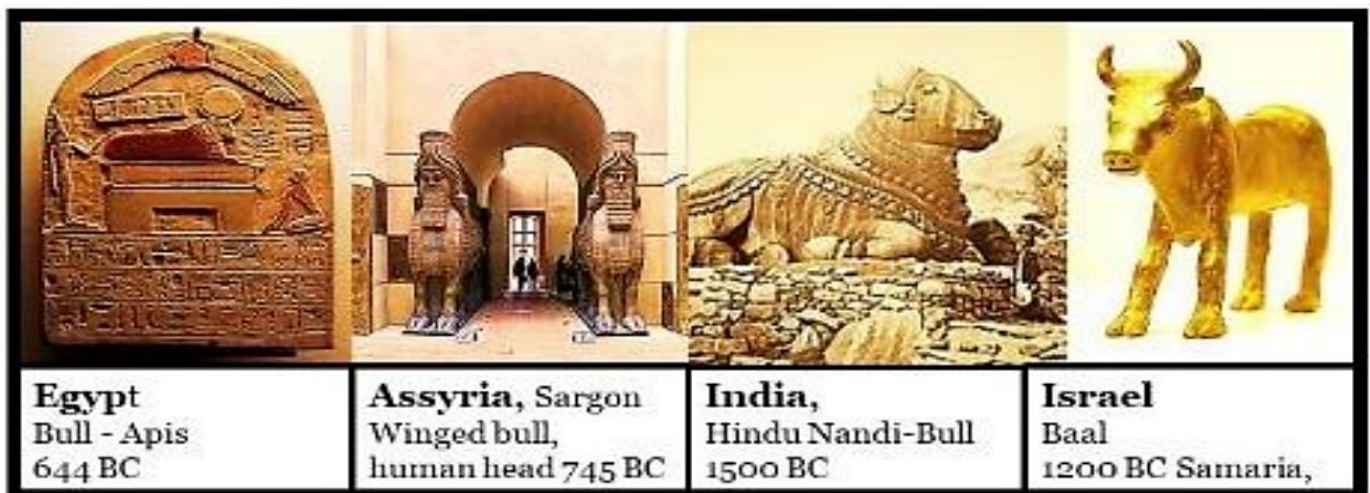
The Harlot is a powerful Satanic ruler whose hierarchy of fallen angels influence the world to murder babies and commit acts of sexual perversion, sorcery, and witchcraft and governs through corrupt, immoral, evil dictators who paganize the culture. This evil spirit is so deceptive that many worship at her altars without knowing it. Let's follow her path of destruction first with Israel, then with the early church, and then into the great tribulation.

Jeremiah 3:6-9 The LORD said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: “Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the Harlot. 7 And I said, after she had done all these things, ‘Return to Me.’ But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the Harlot also. 9 So it came to pass, through her casual Harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 Corinthians 10:19-21 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons,

It seems easy to think of our modern era as free from idolatry because we don't have statues everywhere. We shouldn't despise Israel for worshipping the golden calf; we are no different from them because we carry our idols everywhere we go. We worship our own little golden calves in high definition with our phones and other digital devices. They are the same demons in every generation, but the names and methods of demon possession change. Those little digital idols that lure and addict us now can become our masters. Let's check out how the Harlot infiltrated Israel and caused her to commit spiritual adultery.



Golden calves, Molech, Baal

In Babylon, Semiramis morphed into a fertility (sex) goddess with her male counterpart, whose strength and fertility are symbolized by a bull-calf called Marduk and was commonly called Bel (Lord). The Babylonian Marduk was exported to Egypt and renamed Apis. The children of Israel spent 400 years as enslaved people in Egyptian pagan culture. Then God took Israel out of Egypt, but some of the Israelites still had Egypt in their hearts. So, while

Moses went to the top of Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, the children of Israel were at the bottom of the mountain dancing around a golden calf, the Egyptian bull god Apis, which Egypt got from Babylon. The number of those involved in the Golden Calf incident was huge, and the Harlot spirit enticed them into sin, costing 23,000 people their lives.

Exodus 32:2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." 6 So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Exodus 32:19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ... 25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." 8 We should not commit sexual immorality (Greek = porneuo, pornography), as some of them did and in one day twenty-three thousands of them died.

When the children of Israel were about to enter the promised land, God warned them not to get involved with pagan worship there. The pagans in the Middle East already had Babylon's bull idol, which went by different names and was part of the Baal and Ashtaroth cults, called Milcom, Chemosh, or Molech. Baal means lord, like Baal-Zebub or Beelzebub, meaning the Lord of Flies, is a name for Satan [Matthew 12:24-27]. The



people thought they served the lord, but it was the wrong lord and his demons. The Baal and Molech versions of sex worship incorporated sacrificing babies. They had a metal statue with the body of a man with a bull's head seated in a chair. The body was hollow with an opening for a fire inside. Baal's arms were open to receive the infant, and he had a flat grill in his lap between its arms. After stoking a fire and making the metal statue red hot, the parents would place their child on the glowing red grill between Baal's arms. When the infant screamed in pain, drummers would pound their drums very loudly to drown out the cries of the screaming baby. That is the root of drums and drumbeats in pagan music. And, after the baby died between Molech's arms, all the participants of the ritual would engage in an orgy.

The worshippers of these pagan demons would kill their babies, seeking a more prosperous life. Multitudes today abort their babies for similar reasons as the Baal worshippers did. Aborting their babies allows them to have more money to spend on themselves and to have a promiscuous lifestyle free of the responsibility of raising children. Currently, the number one cause of death globally is abortion. At the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, they had an abortion bus in front of the convention center, providing walk-in abortions and sterilization for men. Those politicians made it clear that they worship the demons of Baal and Molech, whether they knew it or not.

Deuteronomy 18:9 "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

Leviticus 20:2 "Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives any of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.

Solomon's idolatry

The children of Israel ignored God's command to destroy and remove pagan idolatry. Worst of all, the wisest man, the son of David, king of Israel, Solomon, was the first king to introduce the worship of Molech to Israel as an official act of the throne. Solomon had 1,000 pagan wives who eventually influenced him to engage in pagan worship; he even set up an altar to Molech on the Mount of Olives, which they called the Mount of Corruption at that time [2 Kings 23:13]. If the Harlot's demons could dupe Solomon, the wisest man in the world, if the man with the greatest strength to ever live, Samson, was made weak and got his eyes poked out by the Harlot, how much more do we need to beware of the Harlot's power and walk in the Spirit in the end times? We can't depend on the strength of our fleshly abilities; we must trust and abide in Christ and be separate from the demonic influences.

1 Kings 11:4-9 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. So, the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel.

God was angry with Solomon and pronounced judgment by taking ten of the twelve tribes from his kingdom. However, he postponed the sentence until his son Rehoboam assumed power. When Rehoboam came to power, Jeroboam led a revolt and took away the ten tribes

of Israel that were in the northern territory [1 Kings 11:31]. Rehoboam held on to the tribe of Judah in the south. The Levitical priests and all those who feared God went to the southern kingdom of Judah to worship in Jerusalem according to the Law of Moses.

Jeroboam – golden calves

When Jeroboam took the northern tribes, they forsook the God of Israel, God's Temple in Jerusalem, and the covenant of the Law. Jeroboam feared that all the people from the northern kingdom would return to Jerusalem and the Temple of God to worship, so he devised a plan to hold on to them.

1 Kings 12:26-27 And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: "If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

So, Jeroboam hatched a plan to create a pagan alternative to worshipping God in Jerusalem, and he invented a fake religion that was a mixture of paganism and Judaism. He built temples to Baal, ordained pagan priests, and held feasts to pagan gods. He celebrated feasts on the same days as the feast in Jerusalem, and he made two golden calves for Molech, the Canaanite version of the Harlot's religion. The pagan feasts meant lots of food, music, alcohol, drugs, sex, and killing babies for Molech (maybe some fog machines, big screens, a rock band, and a woke preacher). Jeroboam's plan worked, and the fake church kept the people in the northern kingdom from returning to Judah. (Do whatever it takes to fill the seats, right?) Jeroboam set up two golden calves, but the future False Prophet will set up an image of the Beast.

1 Kings 12:28-33 Therefore the king asked advice, made **two calves of gold**, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. **Here are your gods**, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ... He made **shrines on the high places** [to Ashtaroth], and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, **like the feast that was in Judah**, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So, he did at Bethel, **sacrificing to the calves that he had made**. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made. So, he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart

2 Kings 17:16-17 So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and **two calves**, made **a wooden image** and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served **Baal**. And they **caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire**, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

Jeroboam built his worship centers in Dan at the northern extreme of Israel and Bethel in the south bordering Judah, just twelve miles from Jerusalem. He said it was too far to go twelve miles past Bethel to Jerusalem to worship God. Jeroboam offered an easy, sin-friendly,

counterfeit religion that was an abomination to God. Jeroboam established a dynasty by mixing Baal worship with pagan priests, Jewish religious holidays, and traditions. Satan always imitates God, and it can be very deceiving, and there is no safety in following the crowd [Matthew 7:13-14]. Every one of the kings in the northern kingdom of Israel did evil because they continued Jeroboam's sin of idolatry with the golden calves.

Eventually, Jeroboam's tactics of mixing religions would backfire against Israel when the Assyrians conquered them. The Assyrians laid siege to Samaria, the capital of Israel, deported a large segment of the Jewish population, and replaced them with people from different pagan nations [2 Kings 17:24-41]. The remaining Israelis intermarried with the implanted foreign immigrants and adopted their pagan culture and gods. From that time, the Samaritans lost their identity as Jews, were considered a mixed breed, became hated by the Jews, and were rejected from the genealogy of Israel [Ezra 2:62]. Mixing cultures and religions was an effective way of conquering people, as it is with illegal immigration today.

Jezebel – Baal & Ashtaroth.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel did evil, and they rejected the royal line of David, so they were ruled by tyrants who ascended the throne by sedition and murder. They had bloody takeovers and power struggles amidst continuous moral decay and cultural rot. That led to Ahab, an incredibly evil King, and his wife Jezebel, one of the most wicked and vile persons in the history of Israel. Jezebel was the embodiment of the Harlot spirit. In Revelation chapter two, speaking to the church of Thyatira, Jesus called out "that woman Jezebel" as being in the church and said he would cast her into the great tribulation.

1 Kings 16:30-33 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the Temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

Ahab married Jezebel the high priestess of the cult of Baal, she built temples for worship, and hired 400 priests. The name Jezebel means Baal exalts; Baal is husband to or unchaste. So, the implied meaning of her name is the Harlot wife of Baal. Also, Baal means Lord, but he is a fake lord, a demonic impostor. And Jezebel is a type of the Harlot church, the unchaste priestess wife of the Devil. She was queen over God's chosen people, Israel, by marriage, but she killed the true prophets of God, had 400 false prophets, and ruled Israel with an iron fist.

The narrative of Jezebel and Elijah runs parallel with the accounts in the book of Revelation. Jesus said Elijah would be a forerunner to prepare the way of the Lord, and he will be one of the Two Witnesses during the tribulation. But even the mighty Elijah ran when Jezebel

threatened to kill him, and likewise, the Harlot in the book of Revelation gets drunk with the blood of the saints. Elijah prophesied Jezebel's death, which Jehu fulfilled when he trampled her to death with his horses.

2 Kings 9:30-33 *Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So, two or three eunuchs looked out at him. Then he said, "Throw her down." So, they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.*

Jesus, warned that the same spirit that worked through Jezebel in Israel is active in the church today [Revelation 2:18-23]. After Baal, the Mother of Harlots had more daughters, who spread from the Middle East across the Mediterranean to the Greeks and then to the Roman Empire and became central figures in their mythology, influencing our Western culture.

The Oracle of Delphi

When Paul embarked on his missionary journeys, he confronted the errors of Greek and Roman mythology, and when he came to Lystra and saw a crippled man, Paul prayed for him, and the man got instantly healed. When the people saw the power of God to heal men, they proclaimed that Paul and Barnabas were the gods Zeus and Hermes and wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

Acts 14:11-13 *Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose Temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.*

Paul and Barnabas immediately renounced any idea that they were gods and preached Christ to them. Nonetheless, they had a difficult time stopping them from offering sacrifices to them until some religious Jews showed up from Antioch and Iconium. The religious Jews turned the crowd against Paul, and the crowd stoned him with rocks until they thought he was dead and dragged him out of the city. But the disciples prayed for Paul, and he got up and went back into town to finish his message, and left the next day.

Acts 14:19-20 *Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.*

While passing through Macedonia, Paul came to Philippi, a city named after Alexander the Great's father, Philip. In Philippi, a certain demon-possessed slave girl prophesied for money, providing an income for her masters. She followed Paul and harassed him for days,

proclaiming he was a servant of a God. Paul became annoyed and cast the demon out of her, which ended the income of her owners, resulting in a riot.

Acts 16:16-18 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

The relevant part of this story is that the Greek word translated as divination is Pythia or Python, which comes from Greek mythology. The myth says that a giant serpent named Python guarded "the Oracle of Delphi," who was a priestess and prophetess of a pagan cult. We will not tell the whole story but only glean one crucial point: Pagan mythology, fortune-telling, and the occult are very dangerous portals for demon possession. Whether the evil spirit comes from pagan mythology or doctrines of demons taught in the church, the result is the same. People may think delving into dark mysteries, mythology, fortune telling, and prophesying for money, or from the wrong spirit is harmless or amusing. However, their curiosity could lead to demon possession. Also, the preaching of the uncompromising gospel, healing the sick, and casting out demons, as Paul did, will bring persecution and possible martyrdom from the ungodly pagans or from deceived religious leaders. Paul was not battling flesh and blood but powerful demonic forces that never die.

The stone statues and mythological stories of Paul's time led to demon possession, but they are nothing compared to unlimited access to pornography, demonic music, and movie videos where people can lose touch with reality and humanity. At the tower of Babel, they all spoke the same language and could accomplish anything they could think of [Genesis 11:6]. Today, we have global communications, and there are no limits to what the human imagination and artificial intelligence can produce. What we see on the screens of our devices can create addictions and demonic possessions to brainwash and deceive the multitudes. A small child with a cell phone could see vastly more graphic demonic and pornographic content than anything a Greek storyteller or Roman statue of mythology could portray.

When we see the history of Israel, the Greeks, and Romans, we should realize that we are fighting the same demons today. The ancient Israelis sacrificed babies to Molech, but we use different names and methods to serve the same demons. Jezebel surrounded herself with eunuchs and priests who castrated themselves and dressed in drag. Our woke culture is emasculating our men, makes females masculine, transvestite men dress as drag queens, and our physicians mutilate the sex organs of little children. Our country is under a spell of sorcery, and the Satanic sacrament is the abortion of millions of babies sacrificed to demons.

The oracle of Delphi was close to the Corinthian and Philippian churches. Paul and the other followers of Jesus had to fight against pagan idolatry, witchcraft, and mythology. In Ephesus, the church had a giant book burning, destroying about five million dollars' worth of witchcraft books (Harold Potter). All the demons behind the myths are still active on the earth today, and the only remedy and path to freedom is to cut every tie, burn every bridge to the devil, repent, and turn to Jesus.



Acts 19:19-20 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed,

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Europa – woman rides the Beast

According to Greek mythology, Europa was a beautiful Phoenician maiden (from modern Tyre, Lebanon), and she and her helpers, other maidens, were picking flowers. When Zeus saw her, he was captivated by her beauty, so he changed himself into a tame white bull and mixed with her father's herd. Then he approached Europa. She began to pet him, and Zeus knelt before Europa, so she climbed on his back. Once she got on his back, Zeus took off and ran across the sea and ran to Crete, where he reverted back to his human form and then raped her under an evergreen tree, and kept her as a mistress.



The myth continues that one night, Europa dreamed that two continents in the form of two women were arguing over who could claim rights over Europa. Asia argued she was entitled to Europa because she was born in Asia. The other continent was nameless, and she said the birthplace was unimportant. Zeus settled the argument and named the unnamed continent after Europa, and that's how the continent of Europe got its name. When Europa died, Zeus transformed her into a cluster of stars, and then Zeus merged with her again and took the shape of a white bull and formed the constellation of Taurus. There's no coincidence that the bull god resurfaced in Europe, and the continent got its name from one of his mistresses. Europe is one of the daughters of the Mother of Harlots.

These myths still hold symbolic meaning in our current times. At the opening ceremony of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in England, they performed the myth of the rape of Europa for a global audience. They had a giant mechanized bull and a field of virgins, and the bull knelt so Europa could climb on its back.



Ancient pottery of the rape of Europa by Zeus

2022 Commonwealth Games Birmingham opening ceremony

Then, the woman rode the red Beast out of the stadium. Revelation 17 describes the woman as riding a red Beast, showing the typology of the coming Antichrist.

The Romans adopted Greek mythology but renamed the characters from Zeus to Jupiter, and they named one of Jupiter's moons after Europa; the Phoenicians also associated Europa with the moon. So as a result, Europa could also be considered a type of the pagan Queen of Heaven. Many Bible teachers believe that the Antichrist will arise out of a revived Roman Empire, which may be the European Union, NATO, etc.



Tower of Babel – European Union Parliament Building

The European Union designed its Parliament building after a painting from the year 1563 of the Tower of Babel in direct defiance against God, with the same spirit as Nimrod.

The European Union flag shows heaven with 12 stars, the same number of stars as the woman in Revelation 12, and the 2 Euro coin shows Europa riding Zeus surrounded by 12 stars. The use of symbolism and mythology by the Europeans is intentional and possibly showing that the Antichrist spirit is at work building his kingdom [1 John 2:18].



European Union Flag
12 Stars

2 Euro Coin - 12 Stars
Europa riding a Zeus

In the European Parliament zone in Brussels, they have a statue of the rape of Europa. In New York, the pagan symbol of strength and prosperity, the Wall Street bull, is rushing toward a young girl, showing that the same spirits are working globally, and also, we are being pre-conditioned to receive it when it arrives; it will seem normal.



Catholic Queen of Heaven

The Roman Emperor Constantine rose to power in 306 AD. Legend says that before a major battle in 312, he looked at the sun and saw a cross of lights above it with the Greek words saying, by this conquer. Afterward, Constantine painted crosses on the shields of his soldiers, and they went out and won the battle. Many believe that Constantine's supposed conversion was a cunning political and military strategy to unite the Eastern and Western parts of the Roman Empire. Regardless of motives, Constantine became the leader of a divided empire. As a result, in 313 A.D., he made the Edict of Milan and granted tolerance to Christians, ending their persecution. In 325 A.D., Constantine ordered the Council of Nicaea to establish state-approved teachings to keep unity in the empire. That ultimately reinstated persecution against any Christian who disagreed with the state-approved doctrine and silenced opposition from anyone they deemed heretical, effectively taking Christianity hostage and turning it into the Harlot religion of Rome, another daughter of the Mother of Harlots.

The Roman government began paganizing the church, mixing it with Roman mythology, idolatry, and perverting the scriptures. Constantine incorporated the secular government hierarchy into the church, and the church became corrupted by selling leadership positions for bribes to ungodly men and politicizing church positions. Pagan temples became churches, statues of pagan gods became renamed after Biblical saints, and they first incorporated the Julian and then the Gregorian calendar over the Jewish calendar and holidays. The Romans paganized the church like the Assyrians did to the Samaritans in Israel.

The Roman Catholic church began to venerate and idolize Mary as the mother of God, often showing her holding the infant baby Jesus and effectively perpetuating the pagan mother-infant cult of Semiramis and Tammuz that began in Babylon. Yes, Mary was highly honored by God to give birth to Christ, so she is respected, but she is not a god or God's mother, but a sinner who needed to receive salvation by faith, just like everyone else. The Catholics worship Mary, light candles, and direct prayers to her, asking her to intercede for them, making her equal to God, which is idolatry.



Catholic Heresies	
Mary Worship	Virgin & Child, mother infant cult, Mary not god, not the mother of God, not intercessor
Papal Succession	Roman Emperor Nero had Peter crucified upside down, Peter had no successors
Infallibility of Popes	Claims by any human to be god on earth, sinless, incapable of error are blasphemous and antichrist
Priestly Orders	Separation of priest from laity (church congregation) was for power and control and unbiblical
Celibacy of Priest	All the Apostles were married but Paul, Paul said Bishops, Pastors should be husbands of one wife
Purgatory	Invented in 12 th Century, a place of cleansing of sin, scam, pay church money to get out of Hellish place
The Inquisitions	Protesters against Catholic teaching were labeled heretics, forced to recant or be tortured & killed
Jesuit Priests	The priest who conducted the inquisitions, torturers, killers of the opposition voices
Latin Bibles	Language and literacy were weaponized to keep uneducated ignorant, Bible translators were killed
Transubstantiation	Transubstantiation, belief that blessed communion bread & wine become literal body & blood of Jesus
Confessionals	1700s French – worthless, empowers priests, should confess directly to God and the person offended
Indulgences	Pay to play, prepay for forgiveness before sinning, fundraising fraud built St. Peters Basilica
Penance	Acts of attrition to pay for sin by afflicting yourself, useless, salvation by works, Jesus death alone forgives
Idolatry	No idols, statues or images of saints, Mary or Jesus, one of the 10 commandments, God is Spirit no image
The Rosary	Pagan prayer beads a ritual to count prayers, mindless repetitions, scripted prayers are dead religion
Prayers to dead saints	Jesus is the only mediator we can pray to; it is a sin to talk to the dead
Prayers for the Dead	The dead are either in heaven or hell, there is nothing that can change that
Baptism	Prerequisites repentance & faith, baptism represents burying the old life, by immersion not sprinkling
Infant Baptism	Age requirement, old enough to repent & belief in Christ, worthless tradition, only baptize after salvation
Last Rites	Person who is dying must repent & believe in Christ for forgiveness to be saved, rituals cannot save souls

We should not pray to Mary or dead saints, use pagan prayer rituals like burning candles and incense, or count repetitious prayers with rosary beads. Each person should pray in secret directly to the Father in Jesus' name [Matthew 6:4-6]. Christian church buildings did not exist for the first three hundred years of the church because the original Christians were persecuted and met in homes or wherever they could find refuge.

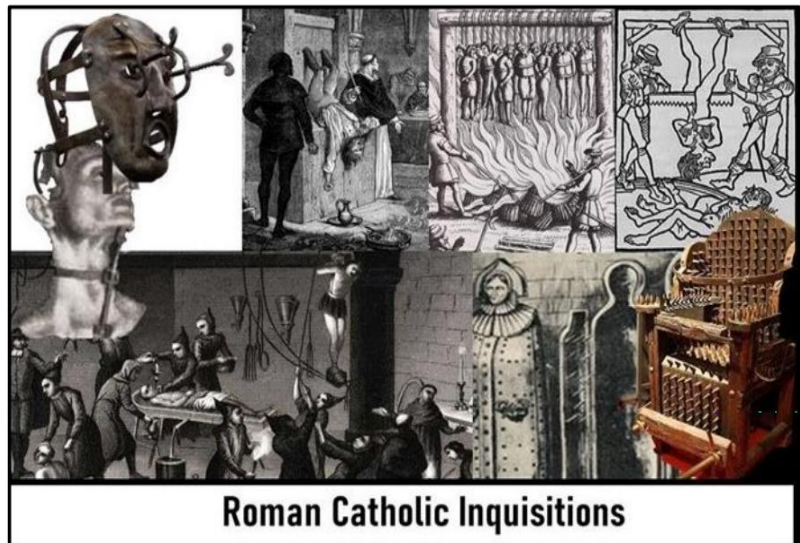
After Constantine, the Romans converted their pagan temples into churches. Catholics built massive cathedrals, which allowed them to restrict every aspect of ministry, teaching, and worship to the confines of a building under the authority of Pope, a religious dictator. The Catholic Church hierarchy is designed to rule over the people and comes from pagan Rome. Jesus and the Apostles taught about servant leadership [Matthew 20:25-26], where every member of the church functions in the body of Christ, has a function, and is equally esteemed [1 Corinthians 12:12-31]. The whole church are kings and priests to God and commanded to preach the gospel and make disciples [Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-18, Revelation 1:6]

The Romans took their pagan statues of Jupiter, Apollo, and Mercury and gave them Biblical names like Peter, John, and Paul and continued to burn candles and incense and pray to them as idols, as they had done for centuries. As time passed, they added to this sin by elevating dead people to sainthood, making them like pagan demigods, and praying to the dead, which is strictly forbidden and an abomination to God. Burning incense or candles before a statue, a cross, or a picture of any image is pagan idolatry and a damnable heresy [1 Corinthians 6:9].



Pagan statue of Jupiter, Renamed Apostle Peter

The Popes and priests did horrendous acts of cruelty in the name of God during the inquisitions of Christians, Jews and Muslims. The Catholic priests, Jesuits in particular, were responsible for millions of people being severely tortured or killed, especially from the 1100s to the 1600s. In those Dark Ages or medieval times, anyone who disagreed with Catholic teachings became labeled a heretic. The charge of heresy evoked an inquiry (torture), no trial, no jury, in a cruel dungeon with torturers as judges. The purpose of the inquisitions was to force a heretic to recant and renounce their beliefs or suffer a slow, painful death. Possibly, the most evil and cruel tortures ever invented happened to believers of



Roman Catholic Inquisitions

Jesus who refused to compromise the truth in those Catholic dungeons. The Spanish Inquisition was most infamous for its cruelty. We recommend reading Foxes Book of Martyrs (free downloads online). However, nothing will compare to the bloodshed that the Harlot church will inflict on the saints of God who get martyred in the tribulation; the Harlot church will be drunk with blood [*Revelation 17:6*].

Many original truths given by Jesus and the apostles got corrupted, tainted, or replaced with traditions taken from pagan religions and canonized over time. Bringing back the buried truth cost the lives of many courageous reformers, but sadly, what remains of the reformers' sacrifice are the ashes of a fire that went out long ago. The movements, churches, and denominations created by the reformers have long since become cold and dead. In many cases, the institutions the reformers left behind have become the same Harlot religion they fought against.

Circe – golden cup of sorcery,

The King James Version, aka the Authorized Anglican Version of the Bible, has been the gold standard for Bibles since 1611. But one word in that translation has had a profound negative impact on the followers of Jesus, the word church. The word church appears nowhere in the original Greek scriptures but was inserted into the English Bible by translators. The original word was ekklesia, which means called out, a congregation or assembly of people. Ekklesia speaks of people and has nothing to do with a building, denominations, or institutions. So, for example, the correct reading of Matthew 16:18 would be, “And I also say to thee, that thou art a rock, and upon this rock, I will build my assembly, and gates of Hades shall not prevail against it (Youngs Literal Translation).

The word "church" is not in the original Greek text of the Bible because its roots are pagan. So, how did a pagan word replace the words congregation or assembly in our Bibles? Let's Follow the History: starting in 1382, John Wycliffe translated the word ekklesia as chirche, which was in the Old English of his time. But Wycliffe did not speak Greek and translated from a Latin Bible into English (translation of a translation). That may explain why he used the word chirche instead of assembly or congregation. However, Wycliffe was not a proponent of religious buildings and institutions and spoke of the invisible church of the elect. The translations that followed Wycliffe rendered the word ekklesia as a congregation: Renderings of Matthew 16:18

In **1526 Tyndale's Bible**, ekklesia is “congregation”

In **1535 Coverdale Bible**, ekklesia is “congregation”

In **1537 Matthew Bible**, ekklesia is “congregation”

In **1539 The Great Bible**, ekklesia is “congregation”

In **1568 Bishops Bible**, ekklesia is “congregation”

In **1560, the Geneva Bible** used the word “church.” However, the Geneva Bible is unique for many reasons. First, John Calvin, John Knox, Myles Coverdale, John Foxe, and other reformers produced it in Switzerland. They had fled there to escape persecution from the Roman Catholic Queen of England, Bloody Mary.

The Geneva Bible was the first to separate the Bible into chapters and verses (chapter separations only began in the 1200s). It was the first study bible with commentary on the side margins. But it had the books of the Apocrypha, a carryover of Catholic influence and errors, which may be why they used the word church. Fifty years after its first printing, the King James Version copied 90% of its exact wording, minus the Apocrypha. Shakespeare quoted the Geneva Bible, and the first Pilgrims to America brought it with them. In 1611, the translators inserted the word church into the King James Version.

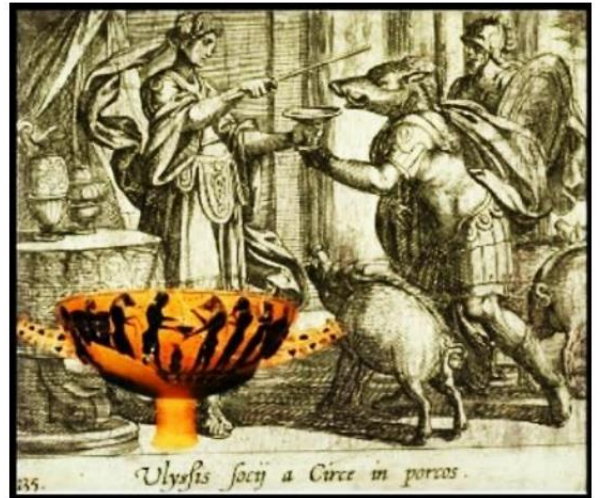
In 1611 King James wanted an authorized Anglican version because he was dealing with a lot of different religious factions that were gaining power, and as head of church and state he wanted to consolidate all power under the throne. King James didn't like the Geneva Bible because its commentary in the side margins criticized Catholicism and institutional control of the church. So King James selected 47 Scholars and gave them 15 edicts controlling how they translated the new version. In the 3rd edict, He made it forbidden to use the word “congregation” as it had been in earlier translations. Also, anything that pertained to church leadership got translated to influence a mindset that supported the king, orthodox clergy, and institutional hierarchy. The King James Bible was the only officially approved version, and James branded all other translations as seditious, like the Geneva Bible.

Before moving on, just a side note about the word “church” and its pagan origins, which existed in all the Celtic dialects long before its Greek counterparts. No doubt the word means a circle. The places of worship among the German and Celtic nations were always circular. The Druids had their Stonehenge, and the Celts and Saxons also met around stone circles to worship their gods. Many of the first English buildings for Christian worship were located on top of those same circle sites or built using stones from those sites.



That may be why William Tyndale used the word “chirche” (circle) in his Bible translation written in 1382. We also get the word circus (like a three-ring circus) from chirche, or in our conversations, we speak to our circle of friends or have a circle of influence. There is also another, darker meaning for this word. In the dialects of the Anglo-Saxon, it was circe, a small church, with circol, a circle. In the Scottish dialect, it was called Kirk; in German, it was Kirche; in England, it is the word Circe.

Circe was also the name of a Goddess in Greek mythology. Circe was the daughter of the Sun god Helios, the fertility goddess, and a sorceress. (sound familiar?) She supposedly lived and was buried on the Island of Aiaiai, which was in a chain of islands within eyesight of the isle of Patmos, where the Apostle John was banished when he wrote the book of Revelation. Circe was famous for taming wild animals for her circus. She was said to have the power to change men into lions, wolves, and pigs. She would seduce men to drink from her Gold Cup, which she had mixed with wine and drugs. After drinking from the cup, they transformed into a hybrid of man and animal. The men would retain their human senses but get trapped in an animal body. We don't know what the King James translators knew about Circe and Greek mythology, but one thing is clear: Circe and her story greatly resemble the Harlot of the book of Revelation.



Revelation 17:3-6 ... *And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet Beast ... 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. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*

Revelation 18:3 *"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication,*

Revelation 18:6 *"Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.*

Revelation 18:23 *For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. "And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."*

The King James Version [KJV] forever altered the English vocabulary by using the word "church" instead of the original Greek word meaning congregation a group of people. The word church is permanently ingrained in the culture now. We must use the word church if we want people to relate to what we are saying. It may be semantics, but it has a profound psychological impact on how we think. All that to say, most Christians are "**institutionalized,**" meaning they are programmed to think of the church as an institution, a building, a denomination, rituals, or traditions. On the contrary, the "ekklesia" is a group of people, a family gathering of believers for fellowship and encouraging each other's faith.

We have followed the woman called Mystery Babylon from the Tower of Babel to our present day. The Harlot church is a wolf in sheep's clothing. The people of God have bowed

before her altars in ancient Israel and Rome and worldwide for so long that she has subtly become the norm in society. Her deceptions have become so acceptable that people don't know the difference between the Harlot church and the Bride of Christ.

Meanwhile, global turmoil looms on the prophetic horizon, and the Harlot church will influence and condition multitudes to conform to the Beast system. When the False Prophet arrives, he will force all the world's religions to worship the Antichrist or get beheaded. The Harlot religion will consist of billions of people, who comprise a large percentage of the world's population. Currently, the world's religions have about 1.9 billion Muslims, 1.2 billion Hindus, 500 million Buddhists, and 2.4 billion Christians, of which about 1.4 are Catholics, about six billion people, not counting the myriads of lesser-known religions. How many people in those groups will refuse to bow to the Antichrist and die as martyrs? And how many will get killed anyway? Billions of souls are in the balance between heaven and hell.

***Revelation 17:15** Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the Harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

***Revelation 13:12** [the False Prophet] 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 [Antichrist], whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed.*

The entire world will worship the Antichrist during the tribulation or die. All the Catholics, religious denominations, independents, Muslims, Hindus, pagans, etc., will be part of the "coexist" world coalition of religions that bow to the Antichrist. They will be deceived by thinking they are doing the right thing by following the crowd and all the religious leaders, denominations, and institutions. Born-again believers in Jesus who remain faithful to Christ will get persecuted by the other religions, the women, and the Harlot church will get drunk with their blood, the blood of the saints.

***Revelation 17:6** And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.*

After Hitler came to power, in less than a year, most of the German churches replaced the Bible and Jesus with Hitler, Nazi propaganda, and antisemitism. It's stunning how fear and self-preservation can change people. Hitler, Moa, and Stalin killed tens of millions of people. The Antichrist will kill billions, and he will be the incarnation of Satan on Earth, and demons will torment men is no comparison of any time in history to the hell that gets released on Earth at that time.

Mother of Harlots

The leaders of the world's religions will prostitute themselves and their religious influence to push their sheep to the Antichrist to save their necks. Think of all the Lutheran Pastors who sold their souls and churches to Hitler out of fear; where are they now? (it rhymes with Hell) The woman drinks from a golden cup, which speaks of communion for Christians. At the Last Supper, Jesus took a cup of wine and said it represented the blood he would shed for the forgiveness of sins [1 Corinthians 11:25-27]. But the Harlot's cup is full of the blood of the saints she killed, and she is drunk with murder. In times of persecution, they will force believers to turn on each other out of fear of torture, imprisonment, or death.

***Matthew 24:9-10** “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.*

***Luke 21:12-19** But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and **persecute** you, delivering you up to the synagogues and **prisons**. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. ¹³ But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ **You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.** ¹⁷ And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head shall be lost. ¹⁹ By your patience possess your souls.*

Combining all the world's religions into one cup is a dangerous concoction. Some of these religious groups are mortal enemies and have slaughtered each other for centuries. When it comes time to bow to the Antichrist, the False Prophet's religious executioners will gladly kill the heretics, Christians, and Jews that they already hate. You can imagine an Islamist terrorist who believes that the Antichrist is the Twelfth Imam, their Mahdi, who sees a Christian who refuses to bow to his Mahdi; he will gladly torture and take his head off with a sword. It will be open season to kill the believers in Jesus, and there will be a great multitude of martyrs, and false religious people will be responsible for their share of bloodshed, as they have throughout history.



***Revelation 17:4** 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. ... 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*

***Revelation 13:11-15** Then I saw another Beast [False Prophet] 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 [Antichrist] in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed*

Revelation 20:4 [Martyrs] *I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the Beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

The Antichrist and the ten kings (horns) will be secular politicians or oligarchs under the influence of Satan, and they hate the religious Harlot. Once the Beast firmly controls the multitudes, he and the ten kings will destroy, humiliate, and burn down all the religious institutions of the woman. Then, the ten kings will completely give their allegiance to the Antichrist and agree to surrender their kingdoms to him.

Revelation 17:16 *"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. 17 "For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the Beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.*

Judgment of Babylon

When Jesus comes to judge the nations, Babylon, the mother of Harlots, the world's financial center, will be one of the first cities slated for judgment, wrath, and destruction. Babylon is also addressed as a woman, as God issues the final warning for his people to get out of her and then unleashes his judgment against Babylon. Babylon gets demolished, and all the trade ports, cargo ships, supply chains, and people go up in smoke in one day. When Babylon falls, the merchants of the earth will weep for the loss of their wealth, and the ruins of Babylon will become a prison and haunt for demons.

Revelation 18:1 *After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.*

Besides the miscellaneous merchandise, Babylon was a center for exporting sorcery, drugs, and deception. They also sold the bodies and souls of men. which raises some questions. How does one person sell another person's soul? Whatever it is, it must be demonic. Selling the bodies could be slavery, prostitution, child trafficking, and organ harvesting. Organ harvesting may be the most insidious. There have been reports that people within organizations like Planned Parenthood selling organs harvested from aborted babies for large sums of money. There have also been reports of adult political prisoners in China, Muslim Uyghurs, getting executed to sell their body parts. People will be property whose organs and souls are for sale. The financial capital of the Devil incarnated, the Beast system will be more wicked than we can imagine, and God will destroy her in one hour.

Revelation 18:8 "Therefore her plagues will come in one day death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ... and bodies and souls of men. ... 17 'For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance ... Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour, she is made desolate.

There are interesting similarities between the next verse and recent events. This verse speaks of the merchants of Babylon as the great men of the earth. The word for merchant relates to a supplier, not a retailer, so they represent big business or a global corporation. The merchants were great men of the earth, so they could be considered global elites or oligarchs. These global elites deceived all the nations by their sorcery. The Greek word for sorcery is pharmakeia, our root word for pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, and drugs.

Revelation 18:23 ... For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

So, when we put all that together, we have global elites who are with big pharma, international pharmaceutical manufacturers who get filthy rich by deceiving the whole world with their DNA-altering injection to protect the world from a pandemic they created that would kill less than 1% of the population. But these global elites would double the wealth of the world's top 10 richest men by shutting down small businesses, deeming them non-essential, and taking their profits. They would also roll out this plan globally, with every country participating and shutting down their countries simultaneously, observing all the same mandates and restrictions, implementing what became a global medical tyranny that gave emergency powers to governments, allowing them to bypass all their national laws and exercise dictatorial powers over their subjects, which powers did not get expunged but lie dormant until the next created pandemic.

Wow! Did we read too much into that verse? That's crazy! Nothing like that could ever happen, right? But if something like that did happen, they would probably use it as a test run to preprogram the people for the next crisis, tweak some things, and repeat until they have a global government with global agencies to protect the public from the problems they make, with the added benefit of making the global elites and governments more wealthy and powerful. Those crazy fictitious merchants! You would think they were trying to create a Marxist global government or something. If they did do something like that, God would probably judge and destroy them and their evil system, and he would probably do it in one day!



Rev	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals	Matt	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs
6:2	Seal 1 - White Horse – Antichrist, <small>Global Government</small>	24:5,10, 24	Deception, False Christ & Prophets
6:3-4	Seal 2 - Red Horse - Takes peace, mega sword	24:6	Wars, Nation vs Nation, Ethnic chaos
6:5-6	Seal 3 - Black Horse – Famine -Hyperinflation	24:7	Famines, Plagues, Earthquakes
6:7-8	Seal 4 - Pale Horse – Death – 1/4 of world dies	24:21-22	All flesh endangered, but for the Elect
6:9-11	Seal 5 - First wave of Tribulation Martyrs	24:9-10	Tribulation, Killed, Hated by nations
6:12-17	Seal 6 – Sun black, Moon blood, Stars fall	24:29	Sun dark, Moon dark, Stars fall
8:1	Seal 7 – Silence in Heaven for 30 minutes	24:30-31	Son of Man (Jesus) appears in Heaven

The 4 Horsemen

The book of Daniel reveals the start of the tribulation happens when the Antichrist and the Jews confirm a seven-year covenant. In the book of Revelation the tribulation begins when Jesus, the Lamb of God, opens the first of seven seals. Since the first four seals are compared to riders on horses, we will keep the riders together as the four horsemen of the apocalypse and fill in the details as we go.

Since Jesus opens the seals from heaven, he is not the rider on the first horse, as some believe. The rider is the Antichrist, and when he confirms the covenant, he will burst out of the chute like a racehorse because he only has seven years to rule. The Beast he rides is the global government he rules, much like the woman riding the red Beast in Revelation 17. Each of the first four seals has a horse and a rider, a human element riding powerful beasts bringing catastrophes that are deliberately driven and steered with evil intent to bring destruction and death upon other men. The first rider is the Antichrist, but the following three riders are named after the consequences of their actions: war, famine, and death.

Many of the plagues will be the same as the ones Moses pronounced against Pharaoh and the Egyptians in the Exodus from Egypt. In Egypt, God used the things the Egyptians worshipped, their gods, as plagues against them [*Exodus 12:12*]. Likewise, the idols that the godless pagans worship will come back on their heads as plagues and judgments in the tribulation. One example would be that the mark of the Beast will cause painful boils and sores on those who take it [*Revelation 16:2*], similar to those who had adverse medical reactions, like myocarditis, from a particular mandatory shot in the year 2020. You reap what you sow; all the seeds planted by the ungodly will reap a harvest of starvation, hyperinflation,

wars, plagues of demons, and death to make everyone on earth go through a living hell. At the same time, the Antichrist and elites will have abundant provisions.

Rev	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals	Matt	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs
6:2	Seal 1 - White Horse – Antichrist,	24:5,10, 24	Deception, False Christ & Prophets

The tribulation period will begin when the Antichrist confirms a seven-year covenant with Israel [Daniel 9:27.28]. Many people try to guess the identity of the Antichrist, and so far, there is a 100 percent failure rate. So, when there is no covenant, and the tribulation has not begun, there is no point in guessing who the Antichrist is because he is only revealed when the tribulation starts [2 Thessalonians 2:3, 6]. Once the first seal gets opened, the Antichrist and his government will be active for all seven years of the tribulation. All four horses and riders stay active for all seven years of the tribulation. The judgments of all the riders, seals, trumpets, and bowls are irreversible, and there is no off switch until Jesus returns. Once released, they have lasting consequences, possibly until the end of the tribulation.



The Antichrist will come onto the scene riding a white horse and has a bow but no arrows, meaning he uses military threats and intimidation. He is a master negotiator, fierce, cunning, deceitful, and plots sinister schemes [Danuel 8:23-25]. He doesn't have total control over the world's militaries at first [Daniel 7:8, 20, 24]. He is a vile person; he comes in peaceably with a small number of people and seizes the kingdom with intrigue [Daniel 11:23-25]. He will corrupt with flattery, then take captive, loot, and kill. The Antichrist will be empowered and controlled by Satan, and he is called the Beast because of his character; he is like a vicious wild animal but can be deceitfully charismatic. We have more to say about Mr. Antichrist later.

Revelation 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb [Christ] opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer,

Daniel 8:23-25 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. 24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. 25 "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.

Daniel 8:23-25 "At the latter period of their reign, When the transgressors have finished, A king will arise Insolent and skilled in intrigue and cunning. 24 "His power will be mighty, but not by his own power; And he will corrupt and destroy in an astonishing manner and [he will] prosper and do exactly as he wills; He shall corrupt and destroy mighty men and the holy people. 25 "And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his hand (influence); He will magnify himself in his mind, He will corrupt and destroy many who enjoy a false sense of security. He will also stand up and oppose the Prince of Princes, But he will be broken, and that by no human hand [but by the hand of God].

The next horse is red, and its rider is coming to take peace from the world and make wars. This rider has a mega sword and will unleash powerful weapons of mass destruction to kill and destroy. We see and hear of wars and rumors of war today with the potential for World War III brewing, and the sides are forming; currently, there is an axis of evil with China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and others, aligned against the United States, the European Union, NATO, Britain, Australia, Israel, and others. Israel is currently at war with Iran and its proxies on seven fronts, Russia is at war with Ukraine, and China has its sights on Taiwan.

Rev	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals	Matt	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs
6:3-4	Seal 2 - Red Horse - Takes peace, mega sword	24:6	Wars, Nation vs Nation, Ethnic chaos

One day, when the second seal opens, all the Biblical wars will become real, going from regional to global and potentially nuclear and biological, with a vast array of artificial intelligence in a myriad of the most advanced weapons of war. Marxists, Globalists, and religious Islamists fanatics are whipping the war horses and driving us toward World War III. When the second seal finally gets opened how will the mega sword get unleashed to get it started? Will it be a nuke? A biological pandemic, again? A global economic collapse? Destroying the power grids? A cyber-attack? Dark times will come with future wars, and there are numerous ways evil men can unleash mass casualties and death at any time.



During the tribulation, the Antichrist will wage war against three kings, the Two Witnesses, and those who refuse to worship him. The Two Witnesses will fight against the enemies of God with fire from heaven, droughts, and plagues and get killed by the Antichrist. The global religion led by the False Prophet, the Harlot church, will be drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, and the ten kings will destroy and burn the Harlot church with fire. The Antichrist's reign during the tribulation will be chaotic and extremely violent, with wars on many fronts. The kingdom of Satan and the Antichrist will be chaos, confusion, anguish, pain, terror, destruction, wars, and death.

Revelation 6:3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great [mega] sword.

Rev	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals	Matt	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs
6:5-6	Seal 3 - Black Horse – Famine -Hyperinflation	24:7	Famines, Plagues, Earthquakes

The third horse is black, and his rider brings hyperinflation and famine. There will be a weaponization of the food supply and financial systems, which the powerful and the elites will use to crush the little people into submission and to destroy, conquer, and control all opposition. It will take a day's wage for enough barley to make a loaf of cheap bread; wheat bread costs more, and millions of people will die a grueling death by starvation. Whereas the elite will enjoy the best of the oil and wine and an abundance of food and luxury items, while the peasants suffer and die of hunger.



Revelation 6:5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So, I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.'

The food system and all goods and services will be weaponized. The elites will thrive, and everyone else will suffer as a means of control, especially once the mark of the Beast is implemented. The global government will centralize all business, trade, food, and natural resources and funnel them through the Beast system to control everything and everyone with the mark of the Beast. The Beast system will utilize demonic and artificial intelligence through digital technologies to track every purchase, every movement, and all personal information so that only those with the Beast's mark can buy or sell.

The elite upper class will hoard all the riches, with lifestyles of extreme luxury and abundance. When God destroys Babylon, the financial capital, all the merchants connected to the Beast system will mourn their loss of revenue and the source of their riches. Let's look at the list of merchandise that the ultra-rich and privileged elites pamper themselves while everyone else endures unbelievable hardships and starvation.

Revelation 18:11-14 [at the fall of Babylon] "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ¹² merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³ and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots [cars, trucks, SUVs]; and bodies and souls of men. 14 The fruit that your

soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

During the seven years of famine in Egypt (tribulation = seven years), the Egyptians came to Joseph for food. When their money ran out, they sold their cattle, then their lands, and then they sold themselves to be Pharaoh's slaves [Genesis 47:13-26]. Weaponizing the food supply is as old as time; besieging cities and cutting the food supply was the standard operating procedure for all ancient armies. When Samaria, the capital of Israel, was besieged by the Syrians, the famine was so severe that mothers boiled and ate their babies [2 Kings 6:24-29]. The Russian dictator Joseph Stalin displaced farmers from Ukraine, called Holodomor, sending them to farm in Siberia, where 4 million died of starvation and freezing to death. Chairman Mao Zedong created food shortages to conquer and control China in his great leap forward, and some estimate that 40 million died of starvation.

Our scientists are genetically modifying all our foods, creating lab-grown meat, replacing meat with bugs, making processed foods more chemical than food, and the “preservatives” poison our bodies. They are denying farmers water and fertilizer and creating climate regulations to bankrupt the farmers and take their lands. They have slaughtered millions of birds, pork, and cattle in the name of bird flu and climate change. Speaking of bird flu, what other biological cocktails and animal experiments are they genetically modifying and playing god with in their laboratories? We could go down a long list of how corrupt science is making big profits for big agricultural corporations, big Pharmaceutical corporations, and biological weapons to destroy the people, the food chain, and the planet. Famines and plagues will play a big role in the tribulation, but God will judge those who pollute and destroy the earth with their madness.

Revelation 11:18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Rev	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals	Matt	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs
6:7-8	Seal 4 - Pale Horse – Death – 1/4 of world dies	24:21-22	All flesh endangered, but for the Elect

The fourth horse is pale, and his rider's name is "Death," and Hell follows after him. The word pale is interesting; it is the Greek word chloros, which means pale or green. The same word describes green grass in other verses. The color green may imply that the riders are Muslim because green is the most frequently used color to symbolize Islam; green is the color on their flags, banners, headbands, etc. One of the teachings of Islam is that they need to bring death and mayhem to the earth for the arrival of their 12th Imam or Mahdi, who is the Christian Antichrist.



With a population of around 1.5 billion people, the Islamists could bring religious wars with waves of terrorism, death, and destruction, and many of them will literally use swords to kill people. Whoever the riders are that bring death and Hell, they will kill over one-fourth of the world's population at one time, and the death tolls will continue to rise throughout the tribulation from all the judgments.

Revelation 6:7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse and the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades [Hell] followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the Beasts of the earth.

The opening of the first seal released the Antichrist onto the world stage, and much of the tribulation revolves around him and his empire. The final episode of the great tribulation shows Jesus casting the Antichrist and the False Prophet alive into the Lake of Fire. Let's look at the man of sin, the Antichrist.

The Antichrist

The Antichrist will be the final dictator ruling the last Gentile (non-Jewish) empire in world history. Most of the information we have about the Antichrist is in the Book of Daniel, which he writes in symbolism and visions, like the Book of Revelation. One significant dream came through a pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, who dreamed of a statue made of various metals. The prophet Daniel interpreted this as a vision of the world's Gentile empires. The statue was constructed with different metals, starting at the head with gold, then silver, brass, iron, and clay, ranging from more valuable to cheaper and stronger. The metals and anatomy reflected the character of each empire.

Daniel 2:31-45 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32 "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

At the end of the dream, a stone cut without hands struck the image, pulverized it, and the stone became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. The stone represents Christ at the second coming, judging and destroying the final Gentile empire. The stone becomes a mountain that fills the entire world, representing Christ, establishing the millennial kingdom, and ruling from Jerusalem.

Daniel 2:34 "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.



When Daniel gives the interpretation, he identifies the head of gold as Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire.

Daniel 2:31-45 "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37 "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the Beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all-you are this head of gold.

Daniel continues to describe the second and third kingdoms, which were prophetic when Daniel spoke but are history to us. The chest and two arms of silver represent the Medo-Persian Empire. The belly and thighs represent the Empire of Greece with Alexander the Great. Daniel did not elaborate on these two kingdoms when interpreting them before Nebuchadnezzar, however, he gave more information about them later, as we will see.

Daniel 2:31-45 39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

Daniel gives the most details about the fourth kingdom, representing the Roman Empire, which was made of iron, fierce and strong, crushing and breaking in pieces. This kingdom had two legs, representing the two capitals of the divided Empire, Rome and Constantinople (now Istanbul). There is another separation of materials of the statue; the feet and toes are iron mixed with clay, partly strong and partly weak. The feet and toes represent a revived Roman Empire and the future Antichrist kingdom. The ten toes represent a global power distribution in ten regions with ten kings. Later, in other visions, the ten are referred to as horns, meaning powers, rulers, or kings. The mixture of iron and clay could reveal disunity in the coalition and different military, political, ethnic, and financial power levels amongst the kings. We will see that the Antichrist will not ascend to dominate the Empire immediately or without resistance, manipulation, and dethroning three of the ten kings.



Daniel 2:40-45 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. 41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay,

Again, part of the interpretation reveals the establishment of the millennial kingdom and the eternal kingdom of heaven that will follow that. After the destruction of the Gentile kingdoms, the statement that the kingdom will not be left to other people is a promise to the nation of Israel that they will rule over the world's final Empire until the end of time.

Daniel 2:40-45 44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.

Vision of 4 Beasts

Daniel had a vision of four Beasts representing the same four Gentile Empires. He saw these Beasts coming out of the sea. The sea represents the sea of humanity, multitudes, the nations of peoples [Revelation 17:15].

Daniel 7:2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 "And four great Beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

The first Beast was a winged lion, symbolizing the speed and ferocity of the Babylonian Empire. The Babylonians worshipped a winged lion, which they associated with Ishtar, the goddess of fertility, love, and war. The winged lions adorn the Ishtar Gate of Babylon, which archeologists unearthed, moved, and reconstructed inside a museum in Berlin, Germany.



Daniel 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.



The second Beast was an alliance between the Medes and Persians (modern Iran), represented by a bear with three ribs in its mouth. The three ribs represent three kingdoms they conquered: Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt. These subjugated kingdoms felt the grinding teeth of the cruel bear lording over them.



Daniel 7:5 "And suddenly another Beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

The third Beast was a leopard with four wings and four heads. The leopard is smaller than the lion, but the four wings made it twice as fast. The leopard represents Alexander the Great. and the kingdom of Greece. Alexander came from a small kingdom and took a small force, and within twelve years, he conquered



Europe much of Asia, and the Middle East down to Egypt. Alexander died young, and his four generals divided the conquered lands between them, which explains the symbolism of the leopard having four heads.

Daniel 7:26 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The Beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

The fourth Beast is "dreadful and terrible," but this kingdom has two aspects, as we saw with the dream of the metallic man. The two legs of iron represent the historical Roman Empire. However, the feet and ten toes mixed with iron and clay represent the future Antichrist Empire rising from the regions where the old Roman Empire existed. That empire will have ten kings called horns. **The ten horns on the Beast in Daniel 7, the ten toes on the metallic man in Daniel 2, and the ten horns in Revelation 12, 13, and 17 are the same.** This power will be political and military, controlling people, regions, and resources.

Daniel 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth Beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the Beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.



Next, Daniel gives many details about the Antichrist, calling him the fourth Beast or the little horn, but he will be the last Gentile dictator to dominate the world. Obtaining that power by defeating three other kings and by shrewd dealings and tactics.





Daniel 7:8 "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words

The Beast System

All four Empires, represented by the Beasts and metals, rose to power and fell as prophesied and are documented in history, except the part of the prophecy about the feet made of iron and clay with ten toes. Satan will set up that empire and turn it over to the Antichrist, who will reign for seven years. We call that time the tribulation, and the last 3 1/2 years of the seven is called the great tribulation or the time of Jacob's trouble. That will be the worst time of suffering and judgment in human history. In the end, the Rock of ages, Christ, returns and crushes the Antichrist's Empire and establishes the millennial kingdom. We have a direct connection between Daniel and the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red Dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ... 9 So the great Dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the

earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Daniel 2		Daniel 7	
Gold		Babylon 605-539 BC	
Silver		Medo-Persia 539-331 BC	
Brass		Greece 331-168 BC	
Iron		Rome 168 BC - 476 AD	
Iron & Clay			

Satan will perfect every evil strategy and tactic used in the previous empires, Greece the leopard, Medo Persia the bear, and Babylon the lion, and supercharges them to exercise absolute control and enslave the entire world's population. But this empire will be different than all others; it will employ modern technology. This empire will use quantum computers, artificial intelligence, and the internet to monitor and micromanage every detail of every person's life in real time in a digitally surveilled concentration camp. It will be history's most controlling, powerful, and cruel dictatorship. Notice that when the Antichrist, aka the Beast, rises out of the sea of humanity, he takes possession of the Dragon's seven heads and ten horns, with Satan's power, throne, and great authority.

***Revelation 13:1** And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and I saw out of the sea a Beast coming up, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon its horns ten diadems, and upon its heads a name of evil speaking, 2 and the Beast that I saw was like to a leopard, and its feet as of a bear, and its mouth as the mouth of a lion, and the Dragon did give to it his power, and his throne, and great authority.*

The Beast system is like a three-legged stool; one leg is the government ruled by the Antichrist as commander and chief over the military, and he has ten kings over ten regions or resources under him. The second leg is religious, with the False Prophet forcing a coalition of the world's religions, mandating global worship of the Antichrist and his image, and killing the dissenters. The third leg is financial Babylon; with a digital banking system tied to the Mark of the Beast, under the Antichrist, False Prophet, the global corporations and elite oligarchs will hold power in that leg. There will be a programmable digital currency, and only those who take the mark of the Beast can acquire food, housing, transportation, medical treatment, and all other services. And those who refuse to accept the mark will be killed. Let's examine the three legs.

1st Leg - One World Religion

The Antichrist is called the first Beast, and the False Prophet is called the second or another Beast. Both the **Antichrist** and **False Prophet** get their power from **Satan** in an evil imitation of the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The False Prophet has different functions from the Antichrist but has the same Satanic authority. The symbolism says he's like a lamb with two horns, but lambs don't have horns.

***Revelation 13:11-13** 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. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.*

The False Prophet is a religious deceiver, a fake religious leader imitating Christ but speaking lies like the Devil, and he does false signs by the power of Satan. His two horns show that he has power in two areas: first, he's religious, like an evangelist of Satan who forces the multitudes to worship the Dragon, Satan, and the Beast and his image.

***Revelation 13:4** So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" and enforcing the mandate to take the mark of the Beast (financial).*

***Revelation 13:8** All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

***Revelation 13:15** He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

Take note that Lucifer, or Satan, worshipped God before his fall. He was a musician with timbrels (tambourines) and harps, and he had multiple places of worship or sanctuaries. But now, he demands that people worship him, and he even tried to get Jesus to worship him [Luke 4:5-8]. Satan craves to be worshipped or divert worship away from God, like the golden calf, all the idols, and the secular and religious celebrities who glorify themselves.

Ezekiel 28:12-18 ... “You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. ... 18 “You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore, I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth.

The last verse mentioned the iniquity of Satan’s trading, which points to the second horn of the False Prophets power, the financial, banking, and commerce departments of the Beast system. The False Prophet will be over forcing people to take the mark of the Beast so they will have access to the financial system to buy and sell.

Revelation 13:16-18 [False Prophet] He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Apparently, Lucifer turned his sanctuaries, which were intended for worship, into a marketplace for trading, which turned violent. No wonder Jesus was so visibly upset to see His Father’s house in Jerusalem, a house of prayer, filled with money changers and barn animals, and he called it a den of thieves. Mixing church with money is a dangerous business.

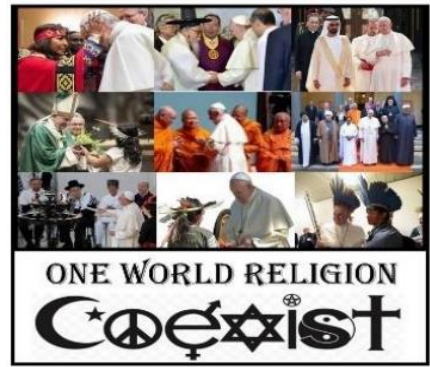
Ezekiel 28:16 [Satan] “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore, I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. In the sight of all who saw you. ... 18 “You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; Therefore, I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth

Matthew 21:12-13 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Many believe the most likely candidate to fill the office of the False Prophet will be the Roman Catholic Pope. The Pope brings 1.3 billion followers to the table. He has the power to negotiate with all the world’s religious leaders to forge a global coalition of religions.

The False Prophet will be like an evangelist for the Antichrist, using Satanic signs and wonders to deceive the world into worshipping Satan and the Antichrist as gods. The False Prophet will build an image of the Antichrist and make worship of the image mandatory, with a death penalty for those who refuse to bow. The False Prophet will have no problems with worshipping the Antichrist and no hesitation to murder millions of people, despite his appearance of dressing and looking like a religious leader.



The woman, the Harlot church, will be drunk with the blood of the saints. In the first half of the tribulation the Antichrist and False Prophet will use the Catholics, Muslims, Hindu's and all the other religions to do their dirty work. These religions have a long history of shedding blood, torture, and murder. The Catholic priests who conducted the inquisitions were some of the most bloody and cruel torturers in history. Islam began 600 years after Christ, and from day one until now, Islam has conquered lands with bloodshed and forced conversions by the edge of the sword with acts of terrorism, rape, and wars. When the Harlot Church, made up of all the world's religions, accepts the Antichrist, they will turn on the religious dissenters and eradicate them. That follows the description of the woman of Revelation 17, the Great Harlot, who has a golden cup full of the saints' blood and is drunk with their blood.

***Revelation 17:6** I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.*

For much of history, the Popes controlled countries and kingdoms from the Vatican, and religious tyranny will return with a vengeance. The Harlot church will enforce the agendas of the Antichrist, paganism, and global fascism, and the religion of the new world order will force worship of the Antichrist and Satan. Think of oppressive tyrannies like Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, Communist China, or the Muslim countries under Sharia law, where people must convert, submit, and obey, or else public humiliation, rape, slavery, torture, prison, and death for everyone in the family.

***Revelation 13:13** He [the False Prophet] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed.*

***Revelation 20:4** 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.*

One clue as to the identity of the Harlot is that she is a city sitting on seven hills, and Rome sits on seven hills. All the protestant reformers who endured the Catholic inquisitions and many modern prophecy teachers believe the religious center for the global Beast system will be the Vatican in Rome. The reformers believed the Pope would be the Antichrist, but the Pope would be a political and military leader. The False Prophet will be a religious leader, and it could be the Pope, whose headquarters is the Vatican.

Revelation 17:9 *"Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*

Revelation 17:18 *"And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth,"*

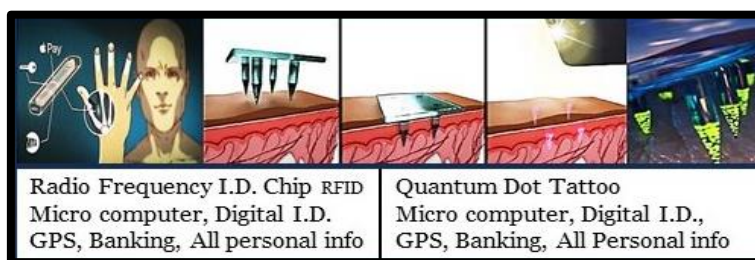
Ultimately, all who worship at the altar of the Antichrist in the Harlot church go to hell. Anyone who takes the mark of the Beast is automatically beyond redemption; they have sold their souls to the Devil and are guaranteed to go to hell after death.

Revelation 14:9 *Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the Beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. 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 16:1 *Then I heard a loud voice from the Temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth." 2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the Beast and those who worshiped his image.*

2nd Leg - Global Finance

The Beast system will control all resources and the ability to buy or sell anything; there will be a cashless digital banking system. The Antichrist will control the planet and every resource on land, sea, and air, granting online access to the web, all communications, and financial systems to function online and in society. There will be no paper money, and it will be a cashless society monitored by artificial intelligence. The mark of the Beast will be an intentional decision of submission to the Antichrist by taking his mark, which will be some kind of implant, digital tattoo, or other technology on or under the skin of the right hand or forehead. Without that mark, there is no access to credit, bank accounts, or any possible way to buy or sell in the banking system.



Revelation 13:16 *He causes ALL, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is six hundred and sixty-six [666].*

In the great tribulation, people will literally sell their souls for food. Paper money, gold, and silver will be useless in the Beast system; if people can't eat it, then they will throw it in the streets. No amount of silver and gold can save anyone in the Day of the Lord. After World War 1 in Germany, in the Weimar Republic, in 1922, a loaf of bread cost 160 marks. But, due to hyperinflation in 1923, a loaf of bread cost a wheelbarrow of paper money totaling 200,000,000,000 or 200 billion marks. Paper money is worthless in times of hyperinflation and famine. We can see why they would throw their money in the street.

Ezekiel 7:19 *'They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD; They will not satisfy their souls, nor fill their stomachs, because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.*

The Beast financial system will be global fascism, which currently pitches names like public-private partnerships or stakeholder's interest instead of Socialism, Communism, or Marxism. They frequently change the names of their schemes, strategies, and goals, but the systems remain the same. Big business, the merchants of the earth, will be in bed with the government. There will be no small businesses or middle class and no options, and every item will be inventoried and funneled through the centralized Beast system to monitor all sales and purchases. There will only be two classes of people: the few in the elite ruling class and the remainder in the lower working class, who are slaves to the system. The useless eaters, those unable to work, disabled, old, mentally challenged, or politically incorrect, will be eliminated, like in Nazi Germany. The ruling class, big business oligarchs, will become uber-wealthy like Bill Gates, George Soros, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, etc.

Revelation 18:3 *'For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.'*

The elites and merchants help Babylon the Harlot and the Antichrist to deceive the world through their sorcery. The word merchant does not refer to a small retail business but a wholesale provider or a big international corporation. The Greek word for sorcery is pharmakeia, the root word for pharmacy or drugs. Drug addiction, whether for medical or recreational purposes, will be used for financial, physical, and psychological control of the people. Using or abusing drugs is like sorcery and can open a demonic portal into the culture and a person's life. How many lives have been destroyed by addiction to alcohol and drugs? So, this verse implies that "big pharma" will help big government globalists and international corporations to deceive the world through drugs and sorcery (vaccines, etc.). We have no clue what kind of sorcery Big Pharma, Big Tech, and the Beast system will unleash on

humanity. Look at what the 2020 medical shutdowns did to the churches, businesses, school kids, and lost jobs and lives. How many areas of our lives were affected, and how much damage happened without any resistance from the public? Anyone who spoke against it was deplatformed, disgraced, and fired. That was just a test run; there is more on the way. Who knows what kind of sorcery and demonic schemes evil men are plotting to empower global government and create monopolies for the big corporations and the merchants of the Earth?

Revelation 18:9-11 *“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ 11 “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore.*

Revelation 18:23 *“The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery [pharmakeia, pharmacy, drugs] all the nations were deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.*

The Antichrist			
			1 John 4:3; 2:1,
Isaiah 10:5-12	The Assyrian	Daniel 11:36	The willful King
Ezek 21:25-27	Profane & wicked prince of Israel	Zech. 11:16, 17	The idol shrp herd
Daniel 7:8	The Little Horn	John 5:23	One coming in his own name
Daniel 8:23	The King of fierce contenance	2 Thess 2:3	The son of perdition
Daniel 9:27	The one who makes desolate	2 Thess 2:8	The lawless one
Daniel 11:21	The vile person	Rev. 11:7; 13:	The first Beast, the Beast

3rd Leg - Rise of Antichrist

Only the Apostle John uses the title of Antichrist, but this vile man of sin has many names in the Bible. This political leader will come looking like he is the one who can save the world. Part of the Antichrist's deception is coming in peaceably with a small number and intrigue to make a covenant with the Jews. When the first seal gets opened, Antichrist goes forth to conquer; his kingdom is fragile, with feet of iron and clay. He must bring the world's religions, cultures, politicians, militaries, and elite oligarchs under submission to his reign. Antichrist's kingdom will be chaos, confusion, and violent. In the conquest phase, he has a dissension in the ranks. He must pluck out three rulers who resist his dictatorship in order to

secure his position as the undisputed King of the world.

Daniel 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth Beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the Beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns [rulers]. 8 "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one [Antichrist], coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns [kings] were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

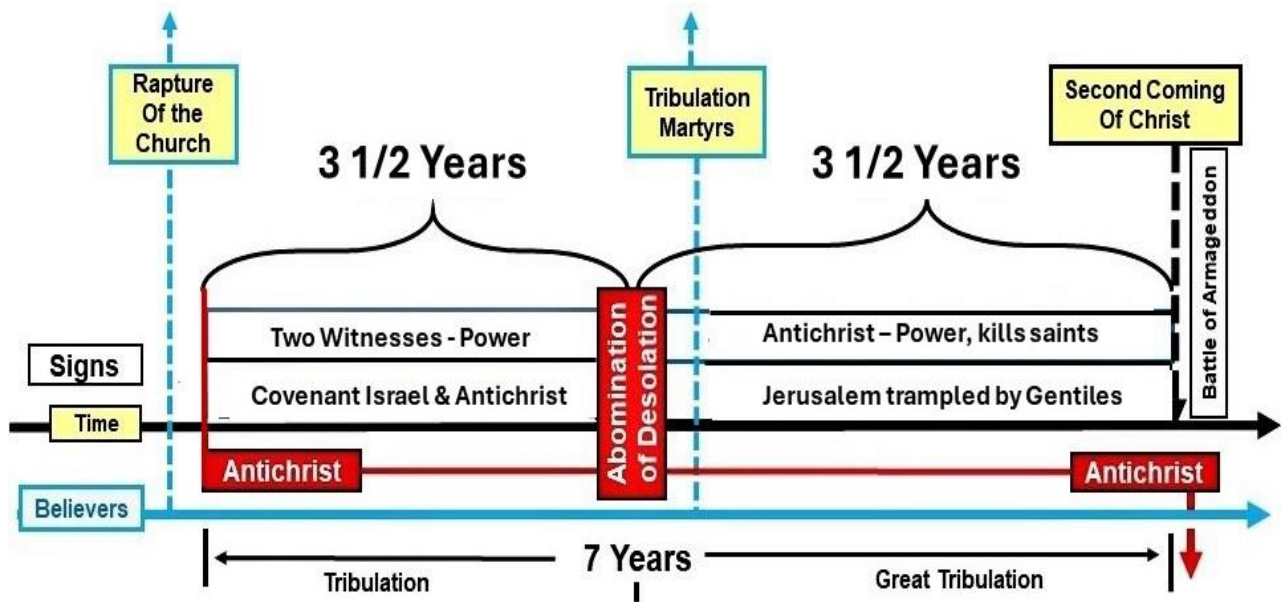
Daniel 7:19 "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth Beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; 20 "and the ten horns [rulers] that were on its head, and the other horn [Antichrist] which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.

Another challenge for the Antichrist will be the Two Witnesses. But before looking at their confrontation, we need to resolve a timing issue. The Antichrist is given power and authority for 3 1/2 years, and the Two Witnesses also have power for 3 1/2 years, and it is likely that they don't hold power at the same time because both have the power to kill. Also, the time frame of 3 1/2 years is repeated several times for other events.

Time Markers in Daniel & Revelation	
3 1/2 Years = 1260 Days = 42 Months = Time and times and half a time	
He (Antichrist) confirms covenant for one week or 7 years . In the middle of the week , He brings an end to sacrifice and commits the abomination of desolation. (Daniel 9:27; Matt 24:15)	
3 1/2 Years	3 1/2 Years
Woman flees into wilderness for 1,260 days (Rev 12:6-14)	Antichrist given authority for 42 months to continue & kill saints (Rev 13:1-7)
Power given to two witnesses for 1,260 days (Rev 11:3-6)	Antichrist persecutes and kills saints for a time and times and a half time (Dan 7:25)
	Gentiles trample temple court & Jerusalem for forty-two months (Rev 11:1-3, Lk 21:24)

Time markers of 3 1/2 years

We just saw how the Antichrist will battle and defeat three horns, meaning military or political foes. However, the Antichrist will also have powerful opposition from two Jewish prophets in Jerusalem.



Two Witnesses & Antichrist

The Two Witnesses would have power from God for 3 1/2 years to kill and bring famines and plagues [Revelation 11:3]. But the Antichrist will also have the power to kill the saints for 3 1/2 years [Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7]. They are not likely to have power simultaneously because both sides have a designated time with power to kill. Since the Antichrist kills the Two Witnesses at the end of their 3 1/2 years of power, the most likely scenario is that the Two Witnesses have their power for the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation. In the middle of the tribulation, the Antichrist kills the Two Witnesses, and then his assigned time of 3 1/2 years to kill begins. Also, the Two Witnesses may be a resistance force against the Antichrist until he kills them and has his 3 1/2 years to make war against the saints.

The Woman

There is another 3 1/2 years allotment when the woman of Revelation 12 flees to the wilderness, where she has protection for 3 1/2 years [Revelation 12:6]. The woman is fleeing from the Dragon, who turns from chasing her to go after the remnant of her seed, those with the testimony of Jesus. When the woman comes out of the wilderness after 3 1/2 years, she's riding on the back of the Beast. She's got a golden cup full of blood and is drunk with the blood of the saints [Revelation 17:1-6].

Abomination & Trampling the Temple

While we are looking at these 3 1/2-year time segments, we will look at other similar time allotments and place them where they fall on the timeline. Several end-times events are set in stone and serve as markers in time. One irrefutable event is the abomination of desolation, which occurs in the middle of the seven-year tribulation [Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15]. Another event that has a 3 1/2 year time attached to it is the trampling of Jerusalem and the Temple courts by the Gentiles [Revelation 11:1-2]. The abomination of desolation is the start time for the Gentiles to trample the Temple for 3 1/2 years.

The Big Picture

Ok, let's put these time allotments together. We start with the rapture of the manchild, then the woman flees into the wilderness, rides the Beast, and fills her cup with the blood of the saints, while the Dragon, Satan, makes war with the saints. Meanwhile, the Two Witnesses call down fire to kill their enemies. Then, in the middle of the tribulation, the Antichrist kills the Two Witnesses, enters the Temple, declares himself a god, sets up an image of himself, and demands to be worshiped. For the next 3 1/2 years, the Gentiles trample Jerusalem, the Antichrist, and the ten kings destroy the woman and burn her to the ground, make war against the remaining saints, and kill them for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

Two Witnesses

From Pentecost to the rapture is called the dispensation of grace, or the church age, which God has used to provoke Israel into jealousy [Romans 11:11]. After the church gets removed at the rapture, then God's primary plan and purpose is to bring the nation of Israel to salvation and judge the Gentile nations. The deliverance of Israel from the great tribulation will be greater than Israel coming out of Egypt. Many plagues and judgments that God put on the Egyptians in Israel's Exodus from Egypt will happen again during the great tribulation.



God will send two Jewish prophets out of the Old Testament mold, observing the Laws of Moses. They will be bulletproof for 3 1/2 years until they finish their mission. They wear sackcloth, which shows they are calling the nation of Israel to repent while they pronounce God's wrath and judgments against the nations. God will confirm their message with fire from heaven, droughts, and plagues. They will be messengers who prepare the path before Christ's return to turn the hearts of Israel back to their fathers and the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Malachi 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Revelation 11:4-6 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Who are they?

The question most asked and debated regarding the Two Witnesses is, who are they? Many speculate on their identities, and the most popular candidates are Moses, Elijah, Enoch, and

the apostle John. The main verse people use to determine who these Two Witnesses might be says that **it is appointed for men to die once** and get judged afterward. So, teachers compile lists of people who did not die according to the scriptures. The theory is the two Witnesses will be Biblical saints who never died a natural death, but are still physically alive in heaven. They will return to earth to minister during the tribulation and get killed by the Antichrist to experience physical death.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Enoch

First, let's identify Biblical characters who did not die and are candidates to be one of Two Witnesses. The first example we will look at is Enoch, who lived before Noah's flood. Enoch walked with God, and while still alive, he was raptured, caught up to heaven, and never saw death. Another interesting point is that he prophesied about the second coming of Christ.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken, he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Jude 1:14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Apostle John

Another person mentioned as a potential witness is John the Apostle. This rumor began after Jesus deflected Peter's question about John. Jesus responded to Peter's question by saying if John abides until my return, what is that to you? In essence, Jesus told Peter to mind his business. However, some teachers take his response as a prophetic statement that John would physically live until the second coming of Christ.

John 21:20-22 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved [John] following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

They combine the previous verse with a verse from Revelation where an angel tells John that he must prophesy again. Some people take that to mean John will prophesy during the tribulation as one of the witnesses.

Revelation 10:10-11 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Moses

When Moses was about to die, he wandered off to an unknown location and died, and no other human being knew where his body got laid to rest. But Satan knew where the body was and fought Michael, the archangel, for it. We can only imagine what nefarious scheme Satan had for Moses' body. When Moses died, he was at full strength; his eyesight was good, and he was still vigorous. Moses is like the Two Witnesses in his ministry, and the plagues against Egypt in the Exodus of Israel are similar to the trumpet and bowl judgments in the book of Revelation. Those similarities point to Moses as being one of the witnesses.

Deuteronomy 34:5-7 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He [Michael the archangel?] buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

We have much more to say about Moses, and we will bring him back into the conversation after we look at the next potential witness.

Elijah

Elijah is mentioned numerous times as a forerunner before the coming of the Lord. Elijah was taken alive by a chariot and horses of fire to heaven without seeing physical death. Even after his departure, Malachi and Jesus prophesied that the Lord would send Elijah before the Day of the Lord, which confirms that he is one of the Two Witnesses.

2 Kings 2:11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Malachi 4:4-6 "Remember the Law of Moses, my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.** And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Matthew 17:10-11 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things."

Two Witnesses & Jesus

Once John the Baptist and Jesus appeared to Israel, the Jewish leaders asked them who they were. The Jewish leaders were looking for the Day of the Lord and the coming of their conquering Messiah, the son of David, who would rule the nations. They were spiritually blind to Christ as the Lamb of God who takes the sin of the world. The Jewish leaders believed that Elijah and a prophet like Moses would precede the coming Messiah and the day of the Lord, which is what we would call the second coming of Christ.

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me [Moses] from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.

*John 1:24-25 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not **the Christ**, nor **Elijah**, nor **the Prophet**?"*

Malachi prophesied Elijah's return before the dreadful day of the Lord, a reference to the second coming of Christ. Also, note that Malachi puts Moses and Elijah together as the witnesses.

*Malachi 4:4-5 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.***

The Jews were looking for Jesus' second coming to judge and reign over the nations, but they didn't recognize his mission to conquer sin and death. And it seems that the consensus among everyone in Israel at the time of Jesus was that Two Witnesses would precede the arrival of the Messiah, Christ, and the day of the Lord. The Jews came to John the Baptist and asked if he was Elijah or the Prophet, and John said no.

*John 1:19-25 Now **this is the testimony of John**, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "**I am not the Christ.**" And they asked him, "What then? **Are you Elijah?**" He said, "**I am not.**" "**Are you the Prophet?**" And he answered, "**No.**" ... And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the **Christ**, nor **Elijah**, nor the **Prophet**?"*

Later, Philip went to Nathanael and brought him to Jesus, saying this is the one prophesied about in the Law and the Prophets, associating Moses with the Law and Elijah with the prophets.

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Jesus spoke with authority and said, "You heard it said of them of old." Then he mentioned a law or tradition and followed with, "But I say unto you," setting a higher standard than the Law and the Prophets. That higher law or higher standard Jesus declared is the Law of the Spirit [Matthew 5:17, 21-44]. The Law of the Spirit supersedes Moses' Law. But, the Two

Witnesses will be representatives of the Law of Moses and the Prophets of Israel.

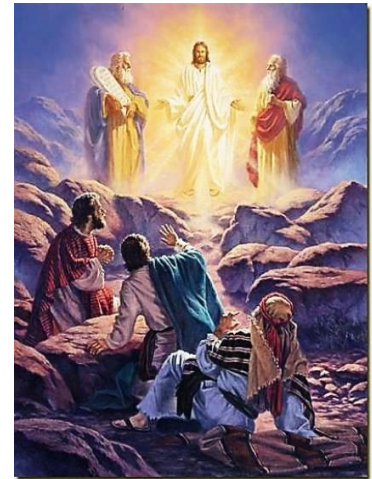
Matthew 5:17-19 *17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

Matthew 5:21-22 *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. ’²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.*

Matthew 5:27-28 *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not commit adultery. ’²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. . . . ³¹ “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce. ’³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

Matthew 5:33-35 *“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord. ’³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.*

One monumental event tied Moses and Elijah together as the Two Witnesses while simultaneously verifying Christ's authority over the Law and the Prophets. Jesus told his disciples they would see the Son of Man, referring to himself, coming into his kingdom, and six days later, Jesus led Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain. Then Jesus was transfigured before them, his face shining like the sun. Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus, speaking with him. Then God the Father spoke from heaven, saying this is my beloved Son; speaking of Jesus, "Hear Him," a direct reference to Moses' prophecy about "the Prophet." God the Father proclaimed Jesus is the Christ, and his words override and bear more weight and authority over all the Law and the prophets represented by Moses and Elijah.



Matthew 17:1-5 *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and **He was transfigured before them.** His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. **And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them,** talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*

Twice after the resurrection of Christ, he mentioned how he fulfilled all the Law and Prophets, which again reinforced Moses as the representation of the Law and Elijah the prophets. First, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road, then later to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem, and he said the following.

***Luke 24:25-27** Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that **the prophets** have spoken! "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And **beginning at Moses and all the Prophets**, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

***Luke 24:44-45** Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in **the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**" And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

Passing the Mantle

Besides their appearance with Jesus, another important aspect of Moses and Elijah that distinguishes them from the other candidates as witnesses is that God took the "Spirit" that was upon Moses and Elijah and transferred that Spirit to others to do the ministry. God took the Spirit from Moses and put it on seventy elders.

Numbers 11:16-17** So the LORD said to Moses: "**Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel**, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. "**Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

Numbers 11:24-25** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and **he gathered the seventy men** of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, **and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.

Elijah transferred a double portion of his spirit to his disciple Elisha.

***2 Kings 2:9-10** And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" **Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.** So, he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, **if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.**"*

When Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha took Elijah's mantle, and the spirit of Elijah came upon him.

***2 Kings 2:14-15** Then **he took the mantle of Elijah** that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over. **Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha."** And they came to*

meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

God could keep Enoch, John, Moses, and Elijah physically alive until Christ returns because nothing is impossible for God. And Moses and Elijah were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration; what form their bodies took was not mentioned. But God can also anoint two people with the same Spirit that rested on Moses and Elijah. Before John the Baptist was born, an angel prophesied to John's mother that he would be great and filled with the Holy Spirit and that he would go before him (Jesus) in the spirit and power of Elijah.

***Luke 1:15-17** For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

Jesus confirmed that God put the same Spirit on John the Baptist that operated through Elijah. Jesus said that John the Baptist was "Elijah the Prophet" who must come. John the Baptist was not an incarnation of Elijah but walked in the same power, Spirit, and function as Elijah.

***Matthew 11:11-14** "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. "And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.*

Jesus said that Elijah would come first and restore all things, but also that Elijah had arrived in the person of John the Baptist.

Matthew 17:10-13** And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that **Elijah must come first?**" Jesus answered and said to them, "**Indeed, Elijah is coming first** and will restore all things. "But **I say to you that Elijah has come already**, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise, the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that **He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Again, God can bring Old Testament saints back from eternity to be witnesses; God can do anything. But most likely, he will anoint two prophets in the power and spirit of Moses and Elijah. There are examples of others who imbibed the spirit, actions, and character of others and became identified by the person they mirrored. Jesus addressed the spirit of Jezebel, which manifested in "that woman" who was in the church of Thyatira. The woman Jesus addressed as Jezebel wasn't the actual physical Jezebel brought back from eternity to time, but was a church woman, or the church, walking in the same sins and demonic influence as Jezebel did.

Revelation 2:20-23 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols." And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. "Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

We also see how the King of Tyre embodied the spirit of Lucifer, so much so that the description of one is synonymous with the other. Some things spoken of the king of Tyre could not be the King of Tyre and could only represent Satan. Satan, or Lucifer, was the anointed cherub, the seal of perfection, and was created, not born, and was in Eden, the garden of God, which describes Satan before his fall. But the king of Tyre fell to the same sins and had the same spirit as Satan, so he became identified with him.

Ezekiel 28:12-15 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

Isaiah 14:12-15 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Olive Trees & Lampstands

Jesus said he would give power to "my Two Witnesses. " The Greek word for witness is *martus*, the root word for martyr. Their destiny is sealed and cannot be changed; they will have power for 3 1/2 years, finish their assignment, become martyrs, and get resurrected on live TV in the eyes of the whole world. They are called olive trees and lampstands, referring to the prophecies of Zechariah.

Revelation 11:3-4 "And I will give power to my Two Witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 1/2 years], clothed in sackcloth." **These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.**

Everything in the Old Testament Levitical ministry got anointed, rubbed, or smeared with olive oil, dedicating them to God's service. The Tabernacle and its furnishings, the Priests, prophets, and kings got anointed with oil. The anointing represents the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit. The two prophets will not operate by their physical might or power but by

the power of the Holy Spirit. Since they are called olive trees, they will have an abundant supply of the oil and anointing of the Holy Spirit to carry out their tasks.

Zechariah 4:2-6 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So, I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. "Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." So, I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." So, he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:11-14 Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees-at the right of the lampstand and at its left?" And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?" Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." So, he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

The olive tree is a national symbol for Israel; the witnesses are Jewish prophets. The church age ends at the rapture, the dispensation of grace and the times of the Gentiles will end, and Israel moves to the forefront of God's agenda. The Gentiles (non-Jews) were wild branches grafted onto the Jewish Olive tree for salvation. For the Gentiles, salvation comes through the Jewish covenants, prophets, and promises. But God will remove Israel's blindness to Jesus Christ in the tribulation, and the nation will experience saving faith in their Messiah, Christ, and have their sins forgiven at the second coming of Christ.

Romans 11:24-27 For if you (Gentiles) were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.

Jesus began his ministry after being baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit with power. After 40 days of fasting, he left in the wilderness in the power of the Spirit, entered the synagogue, and proclaimed that he was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy about the anointed one, aka the Messiah or Christ.

Luke 4:18-19"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit will equip the two Jewish witnesses to fulfill their miraculous ministry.

Ministry

There are similarities between Moses and Elijah's ministries and the activities of the Two Witnesses in the Book of Revelation. In symbolism, **Moses** and Aaron, the Two Witnesses, confronted Pharaoh, like the Two Witnesses will confront the Antichrist. The plagues that God brought on Pharaoh and the Egyptians are similar to the plagues that will happen in the tribulation.

Elijah will be one of the witnesses, and Elijah's ministry in ancient Israel was similar to that during the tribulation. Elijah calls for 3 1/2 years of drought, and the witnesses' ministry in the tribulation will last 3 1/2 years. Elijah confronted Ahab and Jezebel, and we know that Jezebel's spirit will be in the tribulation. Elijah called down fire from heaven on his enemies, and the witnesses in the tribulation will call down fire on their enemies.

Revelation 11:3-5 "And I will give power to my Two Witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 ½ years], clothed in sackcloth." ... And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

When the king of Israel sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, aka the Lord of Flies, or the Devil, to ask if he would get healed of an injury, on their way, Elijah stopped them. He sent them back with the message that the king would die for inquiring from Baal-Zebub. In anger, the king of Israel sent fifty soldiers to apprehend Elijah and bring him back to face the king. Two groups of fifty soldiers went to take Elijah with the same results. Elijah called for fire from heaven, and the fire consumed the soldiers.

2 Kings 1:9-12 Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So, he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!'" So, Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, Come down quickly!" So, Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

Two disciples of Jesus, James and John, nicknamed the sons of thunder [Mark 3:1], wanted to call fire down on some Samaritans just as Elijah did. But Jesus disapproved of their motives and declined their request.

Luke 9:54-55 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."

King Jehoram led Israel into harlotry with pagan idols, so Elijah wrote him a letter pronouncing God's judgment against him. Elijah declared that Jehoram would become diseased in his intestines. After two years of excruciating pain, his intestines fell out, and he died. The witnesses, like Elijah, will have extraordinary powers over all their enemies.

2 Chronicles 21:11-15 Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit harlotry, and led Judah astray. 12 And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus says the LORD God of your father David: Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13 but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot like the harlotry of the house of Ahab, and also have killed your brothers, those of your father's household, who were better than yourself, 14 behold, the LORD will strike your people with a serious affliction your children, your wives, and all your possessions; 15 and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines, until your intestines come out by reason of the sickness, day by day.

2 Chronicles 21:18-19 After all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease. 19 Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning for his fathers.

Next, the Two Witnesses can stop the rain and create droughts. Elijah began his ministry by preventing the rain for 3 1/2 years, the same time frame as the Two Witnesses' ministry.

Revelation 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy ...

1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, **there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.**"

Luke 4:25-26 [Jesus speaking] But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

James 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land **for three years and six months.**

The Two Witnesses will turn water into blood and strike the earth with plagues, as Moses and Aaron did to Pharaoh and the Egyptians in the Exodus from Egypt.

Revelation 11:6 ... and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Exodus 7:19 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.'"

Pharaoh was a type of the Antichrist. Moses and Aaron pronounced the plagues of frogs, boils, and hail mingled with fire, locusts, darkness, thunder, and giant hailstones. These are all plagues that will come upon the Antichrist kingdom during the tribulation.

Moses	Elijah	2 Witnesses	Trumpets & Bowls
Moses vs Magicians Snakes (Ex 7:8-13)	Prophecy Jezebel (1 Ki 21:17-24)	Call for Plagues (Rev 11:6, 16:19)	That Old Serpent is Satan (Rev 12:9)
Water to blood (Ex 7:14-22)	Drought 3.5 yrs. (1 Ki 17:1-4, Jas 5:17)	Water to blood (Rev 11:6)	Fish die water, blood (Rev 8:8-9, 16:3)
Plague of flies (Ex 8:20-30)	Rebukes Ahaziah for Lord of flies (2 Ki 1:3)		
	Calls down fire on men (1 Ki 18:38, 2 Ki 1:9-12)	Calls down fire on men (Rev 11:5)	Sun scorches men (Rev 16:8)
Plague of Frogs (Ex 8:1-14)			3 Evil frog spirits (Rev 16:13)
Plague of boils (Ex 9:8-10)			Foul sores on mark of the Beast (Rev 16:1)
Plague of hail (Ex 9:13-33)			100 Pound hailstones (Rev 8:7; 11:19; 16:20)
Plague of locusts (Ex 10:1-20)			Demonic locusts from Hell (Rev 9:1-12; 16:10)
Plague of darkness (Ex 10:21-29)			Darkness on Beast's kingdom (Rev 8:12)
No plagues on Jews (Ex 8:22; 9:4-6; 11:6-13)			1/3 Sun darkened (Rev 16:10)
Plague of hail & fire (Ex 9:23-24)			Hail & fire & blood (Rev 8:7; 11:19; 16:21)
Moses crosses Red Sea dry ground (Ex 14:16,22)	Elijah's crosses river on dry ground (2 Ki 2:8)		Euphrates armies cross dry ground (Rev 16:12)
Moses body, unknown? (Jude 9)	Elijah taken to heaven in chariot (2 Ki 2:11)	Witnesses resurrected to heaven (Rev 11:12)	Antichrist & Prophet to Lake of fire (Rev 19:20)

The witnesses will proclaim several messages from the scriptures. Jesus said that he came to bring a sword to set family members against each other. In some cases, when a Jewish person, or even a Muslim, Hindu, or people from different religions come to faith in Christ, their families will disown them. With radical religionists, their family members may harm them, even to the point of death. The Two Witnesses will restore family members to each other, both the immediate family and the family of God, to bring unity through faith in Christ, the Messiah.

Matthew 10:34-39 [Jesus] Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Malachi 4:5-6 5 [Elijah] Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse,

The Two Witnesses will preach about the coming Messiah, who will judge the world. Like Elijah, John the Baptist proclaimed that Christ was coming to judge the world and sift the wheat from the chaff, sorting believers from unbelievers and hypocrites.

Matthew 3:10-12 [John speaking] And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ... 12 His [Jesus] winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire,

Two Witnesses vs Antichrist

The witnesses have 3 ½ years to fulfill their ministries. When they have completed their mission, the Antichrist rises from the bottomless pit to make war with them and kill them. That begs the question, what was the extent of that battle? The Two Witnesses had the power to kill their enemies; was it a back-and-forth battle? We know that at some point, the Antichrist gets injured by a mortal headwound, dies, and goes to the pit. Does that happen in this battle with the Two Witnesses? We don't know. What we do know is that the witnesses were assigned 3 1/2 years for their mission, and at the end of that time, the Antichrist killed them.

Their dead bodies will be in the streets in Jerusalem for 3 1/2 days, and the media will live-stream the entire event in the sight of the whole world. But after 3 1/2 days, a voice calls them from heaven, and they will be resurrected and caught up to heaven as the world watches. For centuries, skeptics used this verse to disprove the Bible. They couldn't see how that prophecy could happen even 100 years ago, but technology has caught up to the Bible. Today, without any questions or doubts, we know how the world will see the Two Witnesses

rise from the dead in real time around the world. Although the social media lords may try to block, de-platform, or socially shame anybody who posts or re-posts it.

Revelation 11:3 *"And I will give power to my Two Witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 ½ years], clothed in sackcloth." ... 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. 7 When they finish their testimony, the Beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.*

The Antichrist and the world hated the Two Witnesses because of the plagues and torment the witnesses inflicted on them. After the Antichrist kills the Witnesses, the people are so callous and hard-hearted that they leave the dead bodies of the witnesses in the street, and the people rejoice and send gifts to celebrate. This type of celebration is seen in the Middle East today among radical Islamists; if one of their enemies gets killed, they flood the streets to celebrate and offer free sweets to the crowd.

Revelation 11:7-10 *When they finish their testimony, the Beast [Antichrist] that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and -a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 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.*

The people hate the witnesses because their hearts harden, and they refuse to repent, just like Pharaoh in Moses' time after each plague [Exodus 7 to 11]. With all the pain and suffering, plague after plague, the Gentiles only become more hard-hearted, bitter, and blasphemous against God and refuse to repent.

Revelation 9:20-21 *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

Revelation 16:9 *And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.*

Revelation 16:11 *They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*

After 3 ½ days, God raises the Two Witnesses from the dead, and they ascend to heaven while the world is watching. The Two Witnesses will receive an eternal martyr's crown and their rewards in heaven. But back in Jerusalem, an earthquake will destroy one-tenth of the city, and seven thousand people will die.

Revelation 11:12-13 *And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, **Come up hither. And they [the Two Witnesses] ascended up to heaven in a cloud;** and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was **there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted and gave glory to the God of heaven.***

A remnant living in Jerusalem will see the witnesses' resurrection, experience the earthquake, be frightened, and give glory to God. Since they are in Jerusalem, this remnant may be Jewish, and they possibly heard the Two Witnesses preaching for 3 1/2 years. The remnant was frightened and gave God glory, which aligns with the everlasting gospel that an angel preaches in the tribulation. The remnant's reaction may be the only isolated incidence of repentance during the tribulation in the book of Revelation. So, this frightened remnant may be the fruit of the Two Witnesses ministry.

Revelation 14:6-7 *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*

We passed by an essential bit of information: the Beast, aka Antichrist, ascends out of the bottomless pit to make war against the Two Witnesses. So, how did the Antichrist die, and when did he rise from the bottomless pit? Was he injured in the conflict with the three horns? He made war with the Two Witnesses, did they kill him, and he came back from the pit of Hell? He appears to have suffered a mortal head wound, and his right eye gets blinded, and his arm goes limp.



The all-seeing eye is a pagan symbol going back to ancient Egypt, is used as a logo by Free Masons, and is on the US dollar bill. A single eye can also represent the Antichrist, and many modern celebrities and artists embrace that spirit when they cover one eye in their photos.

Revelation 17:8 *The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

Revelation 11:7 *When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.*

Revelation 13: 3 *And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the Beast.*

Zechariah 11:17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded."

A fake (?) rising from the dead is the ultimate impersonation of Jesus Christ, which he exploits to intimidate, deceive, and control the world. The fake resurrection scenario brings to mind the angel Gabriel's battle with the Devil over Moses' body [Jude 1:9]. Did Satan have plans back then to pull off a fake resurrection using Moses' body? The Antichrist's apparent resurrection will be a mighty tool of Satan to deceive the world. Immediately after receiving Satan's power, the Antichrist begins to blaspheme against God and everything and everyone in heaven. So, no more Mister Nice Guy. The true nature of the Beast comes out, and he is given power for 3 ½ years to make war with the saints and to kill them.

So, one possible scenario is that the Two Witnesses battle the Antichrist and send him to Hell, but he comes back full of the Devil and kills them. And at that time Satan coronates the Antichrist with his 7 heads and 10 horns and gives him his power and authority, and the Antichrist becomes Satan incarnate, the son of perdition. After the Antichrist rises from the bottomless pit, the people of the world will be stricken with fear, asking who can make war with him. He defeated three kings and two mighty prophets of God; he was killed and came back from the dead. He will appear to be the Messiah to Jews, Jesus to Christians, the Mahdi to Islamists, and all the other religions will have to worship him or be killed by him.

Revelation 13:4 So they worshiped the Dragon who gave authority to the Beast; and they worshiped the Beast, saying, "Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?" Revelation 13:5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 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.

The abomination of desolation

After the Antichrist defeats the Two Witnesses, he enters the Temple of God, sets up an image of himself, declares he is god, and demands everyone to worship him. He then destroys the priesthood and animal sacrifices, breaking his covenant with the Jews. That is what Daniel and Jesus called the abomination of desolation.

Let's briefly back up and explain the Temple and the covenant in more detail. We don't know how or when Israel will build the third Temple in Jerusalem. The temple construction must happen sometime before the middle of the tribulation, and the Levitical priesthood, including animal sacrifices, will resume after 2,000 years. The big mystery is how the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim building that stands in the location of the Temple site, will be removed.



Some believe that the Dome of the Rock could get destroyed in war or that the covenant between the Antichrist and Israel would allow the construction of the Temple and the activation of the Priesthood. The Temple that gets constructed will end up being the Antichrist's Temple, and God will not sanction it because of Israel's covenant with the Devil, the Antichrist. Therefore, their sacrifices are not acceptable to God.

***Isaiah 66:1** Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? ... 3 "He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog's neck; He who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine's blood; He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. Just as they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations, 4 So will I choose their delusions, and bring their fears on them; Because, when I called, no one answered, When I spoke they did not hear; But they did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight."*

At that moment, the Antichrist has broken his covenant with the Jews, and for the next 3 1/2 years, he will make war with the saints and kill them; that time is called the great tribulation, or Jacob's trouble [*Jeremiah 30:7*]; it will be the worst time of suffering of all times.

***Daniel 9:26** ... the prince who is to come [Antichrist] ... 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 12:11** "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

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

When Israel confirmed the covenant with the Antichrist, they thought they would have peace and safety and would escape death from the Antichrist. However, when their covenant gets annulled, they will be the first ones to get swept away in an overflowing scourge and get trampled to death.

***Isaiah 28:14** Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, 15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol (Hell) we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves." ... 17 Also I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place. 18 Your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; When the overflowing scourge passes through, then you will be trampled down by it.*

The following 3 1/2 years will be hell on earth in which Jerusalem, the Temple, and the Jewish people will get trampled down by the Gentiles nations.

Revelation 11:2 *"But leave out the court which is outside the Temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.*

Jesus gave one word of warning to the Jews who would be in Jerusalem at that time: Run!!! Drop everything and go! Don't go inside the house to grab anything; run for your life, run to the mountains as quickly as possible. Run! And remember what happened to Lot's wife when she turned around to look back for one last glimpse of Sodom. She became a pillar of salt. Don't look back, just run!

Luke 21:21 *"Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

Matthew 24:16 *"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 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.*

Luke 17:31 *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise, the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife!*

Image & Mark of the Beast

After the abomination of desolation, the world will worship Satan and the Antichrist. The Antichrist will have a Prophet that works with him, like a fake John the Baptist going before a fake Jesus; together with Satan, they are the evil trinity, with a (fake?) resurrection, lying signs, and wonders. He is called the second Beast or the False Prophet; he looks like a lamb in religious garb but speaks like Satan,

Revelation 13:4 *So they worshiped the Dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the Beast; and they worshiped the Beast [Antichrist], saying, "Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?" ... 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Revelation 13:11 *Then I saw another Beast [False Prophet] coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a Dragon [Satan]. 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 [Antichrist], whose deadly wound was healed*

The Roman Catholic Pope is a prime candidate to be the False Prophet. The current Pope is a Jesuit, although there could be a different Pope when the Antichrist comes. Also, the Catholic church blended Roman mythology and pagan idolatry with Christianity for over 1500 years, they have esteemed the Pope as God on earth, they will have no problems with bowing to the image of the Beast, and torturing and killing heretics. The False Prophet will bring every religion in the world together to worship the Antichrist. The "coexist" movement of the world's religions will become a one-world religion to worship the Antichrist, whether by deception, intimidation, or death. Catholic, Protestant, Islamic, Hindu, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Christian Science, pagans, witches, spiritists, and every religion worldwide will convert their churches, mosques, temples, and meeting places into sanctuaries of worship to the Beast; they will be the Harlot bride of the Antichrist.



Can you imagine the response if the Pope started live-streaming miraculous signs on all media, like calling down fire from heaven? He would have a tremendous global impact, and how many followers would he have? The False Prophet will deceive the whole world. The False Prophet will convince the world to make an image of the Antichrist; then, he gives breath to the image. We can only speculate about what this image is, but it will appear to come to life and speak, and the people must worship this image or get killed by the False Prophet. Beheading seems to be his preferred method of execution, possibly pointing to him using Islamic clerics in his administration who would gladly behead the infidels, or maybe he beheads people because he's a sick, twisted, demon-possessed psychopath.

Revelation 13:13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed.

The False Prophet will also force the world to take the Mark of the Beast, or they will be unable to buy or sell anything. Let's speculate on how this plays out because we are the first generation with the technology to fulfill this prophecy, so we have insight that other generations did not have. The mark will be a stamp on the surface or in the skin of the right hand or forehead that gives a visible and electronic stamp of allegiance and submission to the person of the Antichrist. The mark will work as a digital passport and credit card on the body, so it can't be stolen or hacked. A person's physical body will be linked 24/7 to the cloud, transmitting vital data about heart rate, blood pressure, alcohol consumption, drug use, GPS coordinates, etc. Payments happen by scanning the hand or the forehead, or they

get transmitted to scanners as a person walks by. The Beast technology will use algorithms, artificial intelligence, surveillance cameras, cell phone data, GPS tracking, social media, Google searches, and government and medical records. It will track food, fuel, electric, and water consumption, and all available data gets linked to the Beast government system, which grants or denies access to the financial system.

Once online in the system, its algorithms will analyze that person's history, carbon footprint, social media posts, political activities, etc., to assign them a score to determine "IF" or what they can buy. The system will control 100% of the world's money using a programmable digital currency that links to a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The algorithm will determine what and how much groceries, medical care, clothes, transportation, etc., a person can buy. It will also control how much electricity and water each home can use.

The Beast system will micro-manage every aspect of human life and make the world a dystopian digital prison under a 24-hour a-day, 365 days-a-year, high-tech surveillance tyranny (see China). At least, that's the way we assume it will happen, given the current information. The False Prophet will be the enforcer to ensure everyone takes the Beast's mark or number. One possible explanation for the number of the Beast is as follows: using the two main languages of the Bible, Hebrew, and Greek; their alphabet is also their numeric system. So, it looks like A=1, B=2, C=3, etc. So, if you take the Antichrist's name alphabetically and total the numeric value it will equal 666



Revelation 13:16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is six hundred and sixty-six (666)

Someone might think the surveillance society doesn't sound bad; it is being promoted today as a convenient and easy life. If you get chipped with an RFID chip (Radio Frequency Identification Chip), You can open doors without keys and pay by swiping your hand; it can act as a digital ID, medical passport, travel passport, etc. But it stops being fun when they block access to your money, food, travel, and medicine. If anyone refuses to take the mark of the Beast and bow before the Antichrist, they face the death. People will be between a rock and a very, very hard place. If they take the mark, they can buy and sell, BUT in 3 1/2 years, when they die, they go straight to Hell



Revelation 14:9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the Beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. 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."

It's a fearful thing: refuse the mark of the Beast and get beheaded but go to heaven. Or take the mark of the Beast and live a few years longer but die and go to hell. Jesus gave the proper mindset in these situations.

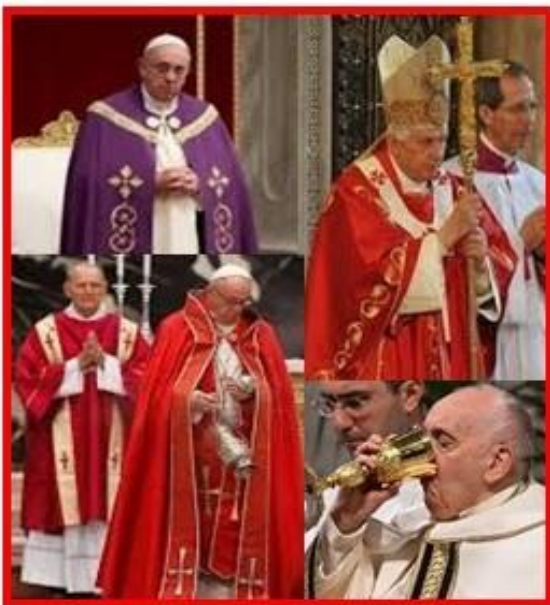
Luke 12:4 "And I say to you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 "But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"

The decision should be easy: will it be heaven or hell? A great reward will be waiting for those who stand for Christ and refuse to bow before the Beast; they will receive an eternal martyr's crown and will rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium.

Revelation 20:4 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.

Destruction of the Harlot

The woman, the Harlot church, stays in the wilderness for the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation and emerges from the wilderness on the Beast's back. The Harlot wears red and purple religious garb and has a golden communion cup in her hand, full of the blood of the saints, fornication, and abominations. The Harlot is drunk with the martyr's blood.



Revelation 17:1-5 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. ... 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.

The woman is the great city, most likely the Vatican in Rome, which sits enthroned over multitudes of people from all nations and languages. In 2024, there were 1.3 billion Roman Catholics and 5.8 billion people with religious affiliations. The False Prophet brings the world's religions together, causing billions of people to worship the Antichrist.

Revelation 17:15-18 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

An example of a religion converting to the Harlot church is Germany before World War II. Germany was the home of the Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther, and the Lutheran church dominated the country. But In less than one year under Hitler's rule, they joined the Nazi party, exalted Hitler over Christ, and killed six million Jews. It's incredible how quickly people get converted with a gun to their heads. The Harlot church, the so-called "coexist unity religion" of the world will kill those who profess faith in Christ, and **the first wave of martyrs** for Jesus will be at the hands of the woman who rides the Beast.

Revelation 6:9-11 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

In the middle of the tribulation, after the Antichrist defeats the Two Witnesses and receives Satan's power and authority, the Ten Kings also decide to give their power and authority to the Antichrist. The world fears the Antichrist and questions who can fight against him.

Revelation 17:12-14 "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. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast'

Revelation 13:4-8 4 So they worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast [Antichrist], saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 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. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world'

The Antichrist has been given power for the last 3 1/2 years to war against the saints and kill them. Then, the Ten Kings who hate the Harlot are released to go after and destroy her and burn her with fire. The Ten Kings will devour the wealth of the Vatican and Rome (?), burn it to the ground, and then go after the multitude with the testimony of Jesus who reject the mark of the Beast and refuse to bow to the Antichrist.

Revelation 17:16-18 *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. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”*

In the last 3 ½ years of great tribulation, the war rages against those who refuse to bow to the Antichrist’s image and the war with Jews in Jerusalem. There will be multitudes slain, and the Antichrist and False Prophet will produce the **last wave of martyrs**.

Revelation 13:15 *He was granted power to give breath to **the image of the beast**, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause **as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed**.*

Revelation 7:9-13 *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ... 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” 14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The people in the Harlot church who jump on board the Antichrist bandwagon, bowing to his image and taking his mark on their bodies, are automatically sentenced to Hell when they die, with no hope of salvation. On the other hand, there is a blessing, an eternal martyr's crown given to those who are killed for Jesus and die in the Lord.

Trumpet & Bowl Judgments

Following the opening of the seven seals will be the seven trumpets and seven bowls; these are judgments of God, either by man's weapons of mass destruction, natural disasters, or supernatural Satanic powers and demons. The combination of earthquakes, global starvation, volcanic eruptions, toxic clouds blocking the sun, demons released from Hell, and the most powerful and devastating weapons developed by mankind will unleash waves of misery and death.

With his first-century understanding of things, the apostle John wrote about what would happen in modern times. There is no way that John could understand or convey what he was seeing except by revelation from God, and the only way he could describe what he was seeing was by painting word pictures using symbolisms. So, John may have seen the modern technology, equipment, and warfare of our times, which we might recognize and be familiar with if we were to see it. We may be in a time when things that were mysteries to the ancient prophets are now clearly seen with our own eyes and active in our times [Daniel 12:9].

We'll use one example to see how things could play out, and afterward, we'll look at all the trumpet and bowl judgments from the book of Revelation. In our example, Jesus describes

the stars falling from the heavens. The Greek word for "star" is "aster," where we get the word "asteroid." In essence, he was describing an asteroid storm or meteor shower. There is a similar prophecy of danger coming from the sky where there will be a hailstorm with one-hundred-pound hailstones.

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Revelation 16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent (100 pounds). Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

On February 3, 2021, the company Starlink, owned by Elon Musk, had 40 satellites fall to the Earth due to a geomagnetic storm. The Starlink corporation wants to cover every square inch of planet Earth with internet access, and they are just one company of many. Every major country needs satellites for the military, government, and the essentials of modern life, such as the internet, banking, communications, and things that affect every area of life.



As a result, we have multitudes of satellites and space junk floating in the skies above our heads. There are estimates that by 2030, we will have 20,000 satellites in orbit, many of which are nuclear powered, and some weigh more than 15,000 pounds. According to one source, the average weight is 100 pounds, like the hailstones in our example. What if Christ, when he comes, destroys the Antichrist system, casts down all these satellites, and smashes them all against the Earth at one time? That would look like a meteor shower or hailstorm as they burn up on reentry, followed by radioactive explosions when they hit.

There is also the possibility of a massive barrage of thousands of missiles exchanged between nations. The satellite and missiles scenario may be thought-provoking speculation, so what if God supernaturally sends literal 100-pound hail made of ice mingled with fiery lightning bolts and fire? [Ezekiel 38: 19-22] Then again, God may use all those things and bring everything down all at once with the 100-pound hailstorm, fire, blood, missiles, and satellites, flaming down on top of everything, crashing with great explosions, leaving large swathes of radioactive destruction. We don't know how it will happen, but we know it will happen. That would be just one of the many catastrophic events that will be happening throughout the seven years of tribulation.

Trumpets 1-4 & Bowls 1-4

The trumpet and bowl judgments have similarities, so we will look at them in groups according to what they do. The consequences of the first four trumpets and bowls sound like John is describing a nuclear war where an entire region of the world suffers what could be a

nuclear attack that devastates 1/3 of the earth's surface, 1/3 of the trees, grass, and vegetation, 1/3 of all the saltwater fish and sea creatures, 1/3 of the military naval vessels, cargo, and fishing ships, 1/3 of the freshwater sources, rivers, lakes, drinking water, and 1/3 of the skies become darkened by atmospheric toxins, smoke, and ash that block the sunlight making the daytime as dark as night. The clouds blocking the sun could be nuclear fallout, volcanic ash, or both. Let's read about trumpets one to four.

***Revelation 8:7** The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. 8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. 10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. 12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.*

Bowls 1-4

We saw how the trumpet judgments occurred in proportions of 33 percent. But when the bowl judgments struck what was left, every creature in the sea died, and all the drinking water became toxic, and the devastation was more widespread.

***Revelation 16:2-9** So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. 3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." 7 And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." 8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.*

Another possible reaction to the toxic clouds of volcanic ash and/or nuclear fallout damages the earth's protective ozone layer in the atmosphere, allowing the sun's ultraviolet rays to blister and burn the skin seven times worse than normal sunshine.

***Isaiah 30:26** Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.*

Another possible reaction to the plagues or radioactive fallout is that people's flesh will dissolve off their bodies, and their faces will feel like flames of fire.

Zechariah 14:12 *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.*

Isaiah 13:6 *Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, 8 And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames.*

The fourth trumpet and the fourth bowl are similar in that the sun gets darkened, and the moon turns to blood. The Old Testament prophets, Jesus and the Apostles, repeat the same sun and moon prophecy. Besides theories about volcano eruptions or nuclear fallout, we could also question how many times this event occurs because it seems to be a central theme tied to the Day of the Lord, just before Christ comes to judge the world,

Acts 2:19-20 *I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*

Isaiah 13:9-13 *Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine 11 "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. 12 I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.*

Ezekiel 32:6-8 *"I will also water the land with the flow of your blood, Even to the mountains; And the riverbeds will be full of you 7 When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light. 8 All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land," Says the Lord GOD.*

Joel 2:10 *The earthquakes before them, the heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.*

When Jesus mentions the sun being dark and the moon turning to blood before the Son of Man comes in the clouds, there is a question of how much time elapses between that occurrence and his return. In Matthew 24, his coming sounds immediate; in Luke 21, he says it is drawing near. Also, the exact description of the sun and moon is mentioned in multiple places in scripture; the question is, are there numerous events or just one? Does it mean multiple volcanoes will erupt at various times, one big event, or both? Or is it describing a nuclear winter where clouds of toxins block the sun?

Matthew 24:29-30 *"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.

***Luke 21:25-28** 25 “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”*

Trumpets 5-6

Besides Antichrist's human army, demonic armies will get released from the bottomless pit during the tribulation. The demons ascend from the pit like vast swarms of locusts. Most teachers look at these verses in one of two ways. First, the descriptions are of literal demons that will do physical harm to people, whether they are seen or unseen. Secondly, the descriptions symbolize a human army's character and equipment. But by the descriptions, they are most likely to be literal demons.

The Antichrist's armies will likely be under demonic control to carry out their evil deeds. Such was the case with the Nazis and, more recently, with the Hamas terrorists who attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. The Hamas terrorists had to be demon-possessed to carry out such heinous crimes against humanity. No sane, rational human being with a conscience can rape, torture, murder, and burn innocent babies, children, women, and senior citizens, as they did without being possessed by demons. These demons charge into battle like war horses without turning aside. They bite like lions and make loud, frightening noises like the thunder of chariots. Could this describe actual demons? Or modern tanks and weapons of war? Or both? Everything about them is wildly aggressive, ferocious, tormenting, producing terror, and making life a living hell on earth.

Here is where we separate the humans from the demons; they have a king over them, the king of the bottomless pit; his name is Abaddon, Apollyon, or Destruction. Some think this king is Satan or one of his chief lieutenants; whoever it is, they unleash swarms like locusts from the Pit of Hell. If they come from Hell, they are demons. They are not human; they may attack humans directly or through human hosts, seen or unseen, but their effects will be frightening and devastating.

***Revelation 9:1** Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star [angel] fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. 6 In those days men will seek*

death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. 7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. 8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. 10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

The mercy of God has kept evil angels imprisoned, holding them back until the great tribulation; otherwise, all of humanity would get destroyed. But at an appointed time, God will send one of his angels to release four evil angels, who will kill one-third of the earth's population.

***Jude 1:6** And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*

***Revelation 9:13** Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.*

The four fallen angels will have an army of 200 million demons behind them, and together, they will slaughter one-third of Earth's population. Some teach that the 200 million is the Chinese military. The logistics to provide an army of 200 million soldiers with everything they need on the battlefield, like food, cover, transportation, communications, radar, medical, ammunition, and other support systems, would not be possible. According to the American War Library, the number of support personnel to combat troops ratio in Vietnam was 17 to 1; in other words, it took 17 support personnel to back up each foot soldier or fighter pilot. So, taking a 200-million-man army at a 17 to 1 ratio would require 3.4 billion people to support the effort. That would be about half of the world's population at that time. That does not account for where they will get all the resources, including food, gas, guns, ammo, vehicles, etc., to distribute to the army. Given the death, destruction, and chaos of war, it would be virtually impossible and impractical to muster the needed logistics and support for a human army of that size. And that doesn't take into account the efficiency of modern warfare with artificial intelligence, nuclear bombs, drones, biological weapons, cyber-attacks, etc., which could be much more efficient and destructive than millions of foot soldiers.

It is most likely that 200 million demons get released on Earth, and they will cause catastrophic losses. If they are demons, the ironic thing is that the people they attack refuse to repent of worshipping demons. The people will worship demons and will be tormented and destroyed by the same demons in a type of self-inflicted judgment.

Revelation 9:16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was **two hundred million**; I heard the number of them. 17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. 18 **By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed** by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. 20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

When we see the death of one-third of the population, we should understand that unchecked, the satanic army could quickly kill everyone in the world right now. But God, in his great mercy, restricts Satan's power and sets fixed boundaries to spare mankind and to leave open the opportunity for repentance and salvation. People, in general, are ignorant of how powerful angelic beings are. In one night, one angel killed an army of 185,000 Assyrian soldiers.

2 Kings 19:35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses-all dead.

Bowls 5-6

The fifth bowl creates boils and sores on everyone who takes the mark of the Beast. The distinction between those with the Beast's mark and those without it is reminiscent of Israel's Exodus from Egypt when the plagues came on the Egyptians but not the Israelis [Ex 8:22-23; 9:4-6; 26; 10:23; 11:7; 12:13]. When the sixth bowl gets poured out, the Euphrates dries up to make way for the Kings of the East to cross. Many teachers connect the river drying to the 200 million army, and they say the armies of the East would be China. It could include China, but from a Biblical perspective, it would be east of Israel on the Persian Gulf and Middle Eastern countries. However, the purpose of the river drying was for the Antichrist's armies to gather in the Valley of Megiddo, aka Armageddon, to attack Jerusalem.

Revelation 16:10-11 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Revelation 16:12-16 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 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. 15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Approaching the big battle against God, the Satanic trio, Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet will use demonic influence to gather and inspire the world's armies. The image of frogs is used symbolically for demonic spirits. When Moses challenged Pharaoh, one of the plagues he released was an infestation of frogs that filled their kitchens, pots, pans, bedrooms, and beds; they were everywhere. The Egyptian sorcerers could also do the miracle of frogs. In the same way, the evil trinity will cast spells out of their mouths, like a plague of frogs, demonic spirits, to fill every aspect of society and social media, controlling the narrative, brainwashing, saturating families, workplaces, TV's, phones, iPads, hearts, and minds of men to pressure, coerce, and drive them to gather for the great battle against God.

***Exodus 8:1** And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 "But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. 3 "So, the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. 4 "And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.'"" 5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'" 6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. 7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt. 2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.*

***Revelation 16:12** Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 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*

The evil trinity will perform signs to muster the troops of all the nations to go to war with God, and God's people, with Jerusalem as the bullseye. The Euphrates will be dried up for the armies to cross over from areas east of Jerusalem to gather at Armageddon. Armageddon has taken on a new meaning in recent years and has become synonymous with cataclysmic disasters and movie themes. Armageddon is not the actual battle; Armageddon means the mountain of Megiddo, and it will be a gathering place or military staging area before the big battle. The world's armies will gather at Armageddon in northern Israel, in the Valley of Jezreel at the base of the mountain of Megiddo, before they advance to lay siege against Jerusalem.

***Revelation 19:16** And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, **Armageddon**.*

***Revelation 19:19** And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus] who sat on the horse and against His army.*

The army that the antichrist assembles will be the most formidable in history, with literal Satanic powers and demons with all the men and resources from every nation, with every modern weapon, artificial intelligence, nuclear, biological, cyber, and possibly weapons not yet invented. We have the prophet Joel's description of the unfolding events; he first identifies the location as Zion in the heart of Jerusalem and proclaims the Day of the Lord. Joel then describes a relentless, unstoppable force that marches toward Jerusalem with a demonic rage.

***Joel 2:1** Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For **the day of the LORD** is coming, for it is at hand: 2 a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations. 3 A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; surely nothing shall escape them.*

Trumpet & Bowl 7

The final trumpet and bowl signal the return of Christ, with the proclamations saying, “It is done” and “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.” The appearance of Christ creates a chain reaction of earthquakes, mountains, and islands moving out of their places, cities collapsing, and hailstorms with 100-pound hailstones, followed by Christ’s return, war, and judgment.

***Revelation 16:17-21** Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **“It is done!”** 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And **great Babylon** was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.*

***Revelation 11:15-19** Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”** 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And **the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.**” 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.*

Siege of Jerusalem

After the antichrist and the armies of the nations gather at the mountain of Megiddo, they will march south, lay siege, and take Jerusalem. They will plunder the city, rape the women, take half of the city hostage, and the Gentiles will trample the city of Jerusalem.

***Zechariah 14:1** 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 [raped]. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

***Luke 21:20** "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

Jesus said that time would be the worst time of suffering in human history; all the wars, plagues, and famines would have reduced the world's population down to just a remnant of survivors. And Israel will suffer more significant losses percentagewise than the losses they experienced during the holocaust under Hitler; two-thirds of all Jews will die.

***Matthew 24:21** "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. Zechariah 13:8 And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through the fire.*

Christ's return

Jesus warned everyone to watch because he would come back unexpectedly at any time. Watching and praying is not just for the rapture. If someone misses the rapture, they must look for their next opportunity to see Jesus through martyrdom or surviving until Christ returns. Those who are oblivious or ignorant of the consequences of the times in which they live will pay for it forever; faith in God and faithfulness to him is the only way to avoid the destruction that will come on the wicked, and only a small remnant will survive.

***Revelation 16: 15** "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*

***1 Thessalonians 5:1-3** But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

Luke 12:37-40 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat [at the marriage supper of the Lamb] and will come and serve them. 38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 40 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

ALL Israel Saved

Everything that has happened in the Bible seems to focus on the moment Jesus returns to judge the world. For around six thousand years, the prophets have warned of that day, the Day of the Lord, when Christ judges the world, sits on the throne of David, and ushers in Israel's dominance over the nations. When Jesus came the first time, the Jewish religious establishment rejected him, so he prophesied to them, "You will not see me again until you say, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Jesus delivered a mandate to the Jews to repent, acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah, and bless his return. Then Jesus, their Messiah, will come to save them from the armies of the Antichrist assembled against Jerusalem and elsewhere.

Luke 13:34 "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 brood under her wings, but you were not willing! 35 "See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"

Just as Jesus prophesied, the Romans destroyed the Temple, the Jewish people fled Jerusalem and got dispersed around the world with no homeland, no Temple or priesthood, and became the objects of hate, constantly facing annihilation. However, the most significant end-time sign and miracle of modern times happened in 1948 when the nation of Israel was reborn in one day [Isaiah 66:8] after over 2,000 years. Israel returned to the land of their inheritance, regained Jerusalem, restored the Hebrew language, and turned the desert into plush farmlands. But they are still a secular nation, separated from God because they have rejected Jesus as their Messiah.

Paul speaks of a mystery that the Jews have been blinded to the gospel of Christ until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, and then ALL Israel will be saved. When Israel repents at the time of Christ's return, the times of the Gentiles, the church age, will be over, and all God's plans, purposes, and covenants will refocus on Israel. God will never forsake Israel because His gifts and callings are irrevocable. The church got grafted into the Jewish olive tree through Christ to make the Jews jealous so they would return to the Lord. But the roots and the tree are still Israel.

Romans 11:11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

Romans 11:24 *For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature [Gentiles], and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree [Israel], how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion [Jerusalem], and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob [Israel]; ... 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

Peter preached from Joel's prophecy on the day of Pentecost, saying that they were experiencing the fulfillment of prophecy that day. That day, the day of Pentecost, God poured out his Spirit on all flesh, including Gentiles, so that was the beginning of the "times of the Gentiles." But Peter's sermon also mentioned the Day of the Lord, which will end the "times of the Gentiles" and the church age.

Acts 2:16 *"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh [includes Gentiles]; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'*

From the beginning of the tribulation, God will deal with the Jews, and they will turn to him. He will send Two Witnesses, like Old Testament prophets, who will preach and do signs in sackcloth calling Israel to repentance [Revelation 11:3-13]. Then God will send angels to preach the everlasting gospel [Revelation 14:6]. God will seal 144,000 Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel and seal others; God will protect them throughout the tribulation.

Revelation 7:2 *Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed*

When the Antichrist defiles the Temple, God will take note of those who grieve and mourn because of their sins and the desecration of the temple and Jerusalem's destruction. So, God seals those people by placing a mark on their foreheads, signifying God's ownership and making them off limits to the plagues and death that will go through Jerusalem. Those sealed could be the 144,000 or a different group of Jews who mourn over the temple.

Ezekiel 9:4 *and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." 5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. 6 "Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My*

sanctuary." So, they began with the elders who were before the Temple.

After all the famines, plagues, persecution, sun darkening, the moon turning to blood, wars, and legions of demons, death, and destruction, there will be a remnant of one-third of the Jews remaining alive. With the world's armies attacking Jerusalem in desperation, the Jews will cry out to God and call on the name of the LORD.

Zechariah 13:8 *And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one -third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"*

Zechariah 12:9 *"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. 11 "In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo [Armageddon].*

Then Christ will appear, every eye will see him, and he will destroy the Antichrist and the armies surrounding Jerusalem. Every eye seeing Christ is a testimony of his deity and the radiance of his glory; the armies of the Antichrist will be consumed, and the earth will convulse with earthquakes, mountains will move, and supernatural wonders will happen at the sight of him.

Revelation 1:7 *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

Luke 21:27 *"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

Matthew 24:30 *"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. 31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Zechariah 12:8 *"In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD.*

Zechariah 14:3 *Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle,*

With the fall of the last Gentile empire, the times of the Gentiles will be over. And ALL Israel will "be saved," so the only Jews who survive the tribulation will be those who believe in Jesus as their Messiah.

Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so ALL Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

The Day of the Lord

In the Old Testament, there are around eight times more prophecies about Jesus coming as the conquering Messiah to judge the world than the first time Jesus came for the forgiveness of sin. That is one reason the Jews failed to recognize Jesus as their Messiah. All that to say, the Day of the Lord is a central theme of the Bible for all times, from the prophet Enoch in Genesis to the apostle John in the book of Revelation. We've already covered much of the Day of the Lord mainly from the New Testament perspective; now, we'll look at a few Old Testament verses to show the importance of the Day of the Lord and the urgency and fear of God the prophets felt delivering the message.

Isaiah 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. 7 Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt. 8 Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame. 9 See, the day of the LORD is coming a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

Jeremiah 25:30-33 'The LORD will roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth. 31 A noise will come to the ends of the earth— For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD." 32 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation and a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth. 33 And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.

Joel 1:15 Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Obadiah 1:15 "The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head.

Amos 5:18 Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. 20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light pitch- dark, without a ray of brightness?

Zephaniah 1:14 The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. 15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. 17 "I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men,

because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse,”

Lightning-fast vengeance

Jesus said his appearance would be like a flash of lightning, which reminds us of the brightness, power, and quickness of lightning strikes. The rapture could be the definition of quickness; Christ will snatch millions of people from off the earth, transform them mid-air, and transport them to heaven in a moment, the twinkling of an eye [1 Corinthians 15:51]. Now that's quick!



Matthew 24:27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

The flash of lightning can also refer to the flashing of the sword of God's judgment, which will speedily bring wrath and destruction to all the armies of the Antichrist.

Ezekiel 21:9 "Son of man, prophesy and say, 'Thus says the LORD!' Say: 'A sword, a sword is sharpened and also polished! 10 Sharpened to make a dreadful slaughter, polished to flash like lightning! Should we then make mirth? [rejoice] It despises the scepter of My Son, as it does all wood. 11 And He has given it to be polished, that it may be handled; This sword is sharpened, and it is polished to be given into the hand of the slayer.'

The martyrs in heaven are crying out how long, oh Lord, how long until you avenge our blood on earth? [Revelation 6:10] There are six times in the book of Revelation that Jesus says he will come quickly [Revelation 2:5, 16; 3:11; 22:7, 12,20]; in Zephaniah, God says he will make a speedy riddance of the ungodly.

Zephaniah 1 18 Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land.

On the day of God's wrath, the Day of the Lord, judgment will snap shut like an animal trap on the whole world at one time. When a bear or wolf steps into a trap, they have no time to think or react, before they even realize it, the trap's jaws have clamped deep in their flesh, and there is no escape. Not one ungodly person in the world will escape God's swift judgment on the Day of the Lord, it will snap shut like a trap.

Luke 21:34 "Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man."

Just the brightness of Christ's appearance is enough to destroy the world's armies like a flash of lightning, and it's over.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Zechariah 14:12 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.

Isaiah 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, 8 And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames.

War against Babylon

When God judges the nations, the world's financial center, Babylon, will be one of the first cities slated for judgment. God will issue the final warning to his people to get out and then unleash his fury and wrath against Babylon. Babylon gets demolished, and all the trade ports, cargo ships, cyber-infrastructure, and people go up in smoke in one day. When Babylon falls, the merchants of the earth will weep for the loss of their livelihoods, and the ruins of Babylon will become a prison and haunt for demons.

Revelation 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." 4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Besides the miscellaneous merchandise, Babylon was a center for exporting sorcery, drugs, and deception. They also sold the bodies and souls of men. The financial capital of the Devil incarnated, the Beast system will be more wicked than we can imagine, and God will destroy her in one hour.

Revelation 18:8 "Therefore her plagues will come in one day death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ... and bodies and souls of men. ... 17 'For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance ... Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour, she is made desolate.'



Winepress of wrath

The world's armies gathered to Armageddon and then marched south through Israel to Jerusalem and the surrounding regions to fight. There will be a concentration of soldiers around Bozrah, the capital of ancient Edom, southwest Jordan, between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. Christ will judge and destroy those armies, releasing the wrath of God against them; and it will be a bloodbath!

Isaiah 34:1 Come near you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world and all things that come forth from it. 2 For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations, and His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter. 3 Also their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, And the mountains shall be melted with their blood. 4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host [armies] shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree. 5 "For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed, it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment. 6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is made overflowing with fatness, With the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, And a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7 The wild oxen shall come down with them, And the young bulls with the mighty bulls; Their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust saturated with fatness." 8 For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

Unknowingly, the world's armies will march straight into the winepress of God's wrath, and Jesus will trample them until the blood is to the horse's reins, up to five and a half feet deep, for a distance of 184 miles. The symbolism of a winepress is a large vat where people trample grapes with their bare feet until the grape juice flows into a drain that funnels the juice into large vats. The picture that Isaiah and John paint is that Jesus will trample the nations like in a winepress and come to Jerusalem with blood stains on his garments.

Isaiah 63:1 Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger and trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; therefore, my own arm brought salvation for Me; And my own fury, it sustained

Me. 6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth."

Revelation 14:14 *Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the Temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ... 18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." 19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs [184 miles].*

Revelation 19:11 *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. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Christ will bring all the resurrected saints behind him when he returns to judge the nations. He will cast the Antichrist and the False Prophet directly into the Lake of Fire, Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. The nation's armies get destroyed, and then he judges the survivors of the nations

Revelation 19:19-21 *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

Revelation 20:1-3 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*



Mountains & Islands move

At the second coming, all of creation will react to the presence of Christ; the mountains will shake and melt, islands will move, and earthquakes, tidal waves, and volcanic eruptions will make the waters boil and gush thick ash smoke that blocks the sun, harms the lungs, and turns the moon blood red.

Isaiah 64:1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence 2 As fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil to make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence! 3 When You did awesome things for which we did not look, you came down, the mountains shook at Your presence.

Isaiah 29:5-7 “Moreover the multitude of your foes shall be like fine dust, And the multitude of the terrible ones like chaff that passes away; Yes, it shall be in an instant, suddenly 6 You will be punished by the LORD of hosts With thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest And the flame of devouring fire.7 The multitude of all the nations who fight against Ariel, Even all who fight against her and her fortress, And distress her, Shall be as a dream of a night vision.

Revelation 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Revelation 16:18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations’ fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent [100 lbs.]. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

King David might have had a vision of the second coming of Christ. At first glance, it would appear that His Psalms were a product of a vivid imagination and very descriptive and theatrical prayers. But in reality, they match what the other prophets saw in their visions of the day of the Lord. When David says that God came in the clouds, the mountains shook and melted under his feet, and God destroyed his enemies who were too strong for him. David saw how the Messiah, Christ, would deliver the Jews in Jerusalem and destroy the armies of the Antichrist. He also saw how the mountains and islands would move and the face of the planet would shift and get regenerated by Christ before the Millennium.

Psalms 97: 1 The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad! 2 Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. 3 A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. 4 His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles. 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. 6 The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.

Psalm 144:5 Bow down Your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. 6 Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them. Psalm 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His Temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 12 From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire. 13 The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. 14 He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. 15 Then the channels of the sea were seen, the foundations of the world were uncovered At Your rebuke, O LORD, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. 16 He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. 17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.

From the time of the abomination of desolation there shall be 1,290 days, blessed is he who comes to 1,335 days (Dan 12:11-12) 1,335 days minus 1,290 days = 75 days. There is a blessing on the people who survive 75 days past the end of the tribulation. After the return of Jesus that 75-day time period may be to judge the nations, cleanse and restore the planet, and to establish the government for Christ's reign on earth for 1,000 years, aka the millennial kingdom.

75-day transition period

After Christ destroys the armies of the Antichrist and judges the nations, there will be a time of transition to clean up and bring restoration to the planet. The Antichrist had desecrated the Temple, and Jerusalem got trampled; one-third of the ocean life, trees, vegetation, and fresh waters became contaminated. The global landscape shifted, earthquakes devastated cities, and there will be multitudes of bodies to bury. God, who spoke the world into existence in six days, could completely restore the same world in a moment, but from what Daniel has written, there is a 75-day gap or transition between the second coming and the beginning of the Millennium. Christ will bring order to the chaos, the government will be on his shoulders, and he will begin by removing everything that defiles from the kingdom, then he will restore all things in 75 days.

Daniel 12:9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. ... 11 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

Another aspect of timing between the judgment of the nations and the millennium is that it follows the pattern of God's creation of the world. God created the world in six days and then rested on the seventh day, the sabbath day of rest. The longevity of the earth will be 6,000 years from Adam to the second coming of Christ, followed by 1,000 years of rest. The

millennium will be like a sabbath rest with no Devil creating problems, no wars, tame animals, productive, fruitful land, and above all, Christ the Prince of Peace will rule from Jerusalem on King David's throne.

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Nations Judged / Sheep & Goats

When Jesus returns at his second coming, he will capture and cast the Antichrist and the False Prophet alive into the lake of fire. The Antichrist's armies get destroyed by the brightness of Christ's appearance and the word of God that Jesus speaks.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Daniel 7: 11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

Revelation 19:20 Then the Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the Beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Zechariah 14:12 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.

When the LORD Jesus comes with all the saints, Christ will descend onto the Mount of Olives, and when his feet touch the mountain, the mountain will split into a large valley, and then the remnant will flee through the mountain valley.

Zechariah 14:4 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. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. thus, the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You.

Then Christ sends his angels to gather all the nations to the valley of Jehosaphat, and he will sit on the throne of his glory and judge. There will be multitudes in the Valley of Decision, who will get separated into two groups.

Mark 13:26 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 "And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Joel 3:11 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.

*Jeremiah 25:29-33 For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth," says the LORD of hosts. '30 "Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth.31 A noise will come to the ends of the earth. For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD."32 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth **From nation to nation**, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth.33 And at that day **the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth**. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.*

There will be those who try to hide under the rocks in the earth from the wrath of the Lord. We hear of wealthy people around the world who build underground bunkers, thinking that they can survive nuclear fallout or some other cataclysmic event. They should know that they can run, but they can't hide from God. The elites and the impoverished alike, from every tongue, tribe, and nation, including all flesh, have an inescapable day of judgment [Hebrews 9:27]/

*Luke 23:28-31 But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' 30 **Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"**" 31 For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"*

Isaiah 2:10-11 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty. 11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

*Isaiah 2:19-21 They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.20 In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver And his idols of gold, Which they made, each for himself to worship, To the moles and bats, 21 **To go into the clefts of the rocks, And into the crags of the rugged rocks, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.***

Revelation 6:12 *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

Jesus will be short in this initial judgment; there just two questions: does Christ know you, and how did you treat his brethren? Jesus knows his sheep, the ones who stood for him and didn't deny his name, so he will confess that he knows them before the Father and all the angels, and they get herded to the right. The goats who denied him get herded to the left.

Matthew 25:31 *"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.*

Luke 12:8 *"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 "But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*

Matthew 10:32 *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven,*

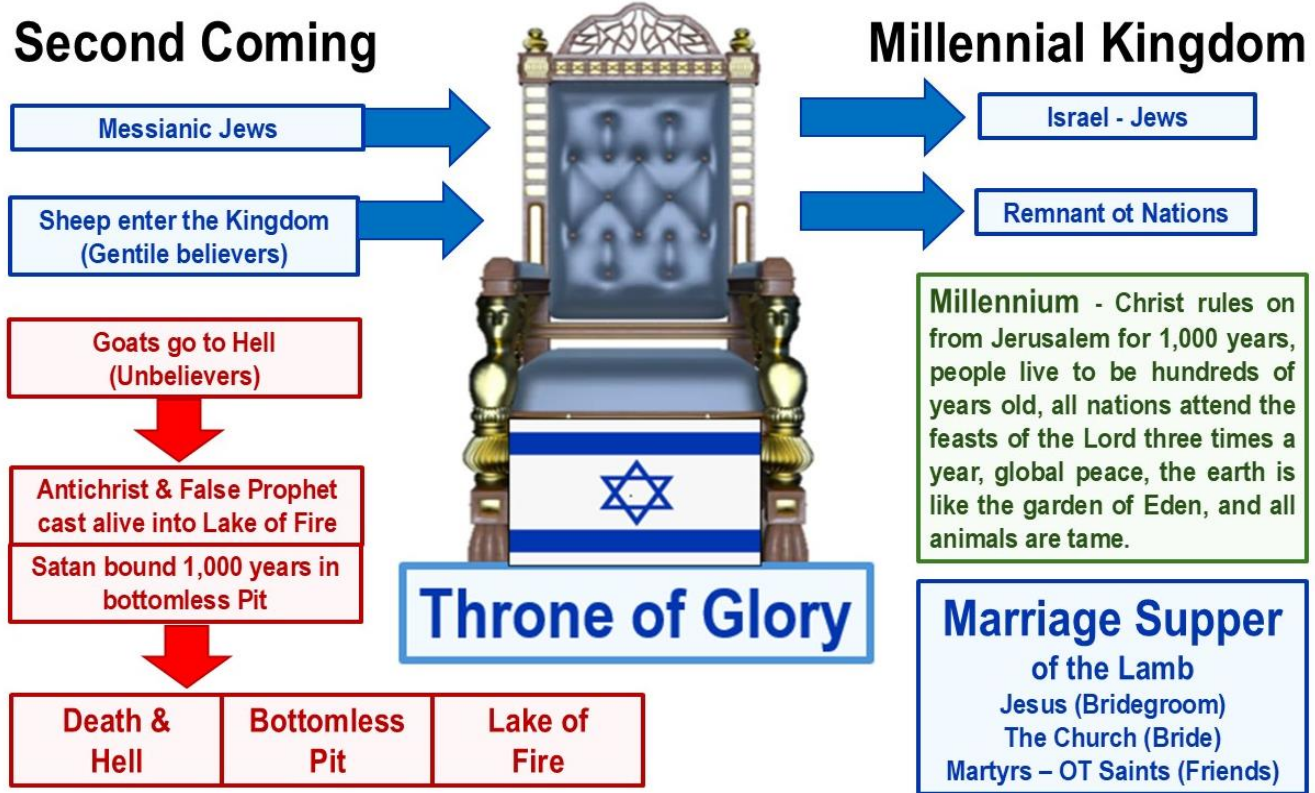
When Jesus sits on the Throne of Glory to judge, all those who stand before him are the Gentile nations who have just come through the great tribulation, and this is to determine one thing: how did they treat the brethren of Jesus [John 4:22], the Jews and followers of Jesus [Mark 3:32-35], during the great tribulation? For this Judgment, Christ is sitting on the Throne of David as Messiah to judge the nations. If they helped the Jews, they would be sheep, and they would be released to live among the Jews in the Millennial kingdom of Christ. But if they did not help the Jews in the great tribulation, they would be goats and sent to Hell.

Matthew 25:33 *"And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they also will*

answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Isaiah 4:3-4 3 And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. 4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning.

After the sheep and goats are judged, the unbelievers (goats) are gone. There will only be sheep, the righteous Gentiles, and saved Jews whose names are in the Book of Life. They will enter the millennial kingdom of Christ on the earth. The post-tribulation world will start with a clean slate, and Satan is bound for 1,000 years, and everything that defiles is gone. The small remnant that survives will repopulate the earth, much like Noah and his family did after the flood.



Earth's millennium transformation

Adam's fall and the curse of death have wreaked havoc on men, beasts, birds, fish, and plants, and all of creation has been groaning to get released from the curse ever since. During the tribulation period, significant damage will happen across the planet and all its creatures, with destruction, pollution, and possible biological and radiation fallout; all creation longs for release from the curses unleashed by evil men. When Christ comes, he will do an extensive remodeling job on the planet, relocating islands and mountains, creating new rivers, making the animals tame again, making the plants grow back green and lush, and

transforming the world into a beautiful, pristine paradise, like it was before Eve talked to the serpent.

***Romans 8:19** The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

Jesus will come down to stand on the Mount of Olives, and when his feet touch the earth, the mountain will split in two and form a big valley. After that, a new river develops and flows from under the Temple's threshold, going east toward the sea (Dead Sea) and west to the western sea (Mediterranean Sea).

***Joel 3:18** And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; **A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD** And water the Valley of Acacias.*

***Zechariah 14:3** 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. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus, the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. ... 8 And in that day, it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. 9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be-"The LORD is one," And His name one.*

Ezekiel is more descriptive about this river flowing into the Dead Sea, speaking of how the water will be deep and healed from its saltiness, and it will team with so many fish that there will be commercial fishing businesses. Fruit trees will line the river's banks, the fruit from the trees will provide food, and their leaves will be medicinal and used for healing [Revelation 22:1-2].

***Ezekiel 47:1** The man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the Temple toward the east (for the Temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the Temple, south of the altar. 2 He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was flowing from the south side. 3 As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. 4 He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. 5 He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in a river that no one could cross. 6 He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led*

me back to the bank of the river. 7 When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. 8 He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. 9 Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so, where the river flows everything will live. 10 Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds like the fish of the Great Sea. 11 But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. 12 Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

After Jesus stands on the earth again, he will make a short trip that he had made many times before from the Mount of Olives across the way to enter the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. For centuries, the Orthodox Jews have buried their dead outside the gate so their loved ones will be in the place where Messiah comes, making the area around the gate one big cemetery. The Muslims heard about the prophecy, so they built a stone barrier blocking the gate in hateful spite of the Jews to thwart the prophecy. But Christ will not be hindered by anything when he enters the Eastern Gate and the Temple.

***Ezekiel 43:1** Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. 2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. 3 It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. 4 And the glory of the LORD came into the Temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. 5 The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the Temple. 6 Then I heard Him speaking to me from the Temple, while a man stood beside me. 7 And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever he Temple, while a man stood beside me. 7 And He said to me, No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their Harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places.*

***Psalms 24:7** Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts [armies], He is the King of glory. Selah.*

Besides forming a new river, Jerusalem will become higher than the surrounding mountains, and all the nations will stream to it.

***Isaiah 2:2** In the last days the mountain of the LORD's Temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.*

Marriage Supper (resurrected saints)

Previously, we looked at the parable of the Ten Virgins and the wedding feast from the angle of how it relates to the rapture; now, we will look at it from the perspective of how it relates to the millennium and the first resurrection. The marriage supper of the Lamb is for the resurrected saints, while the millennium kingdom is for those alive on earth during Christ's earthly reign for 1,000 years. However, both events happen simultaneously, and there is some interaction between the two groups.



The rapture is the wedding ceremony, and seven years later, Christ returns to judge the earth. During the seven-year interval between the rapture and Christ's return, the tribulation martyrs die and receive their wedding garments. Then, when Christ returns, the tribulation martyrs, the Jewish patriarchs, prophets, and saints from all ages will be resurrected and judged. The bride and all the guests will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and their deeds will get tested by fire, and everything that survives the fire remains and gets rewarded. Each person will receive rewards and responsibilities according to their faithfulness and deeds.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:**

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for **the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.** ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Five eternal crowns will be rewards to those who are faithful and obedient in their service to Christ. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him, and any earthly sacrifice we suffer pales compared to the glory we will experience in eternity.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

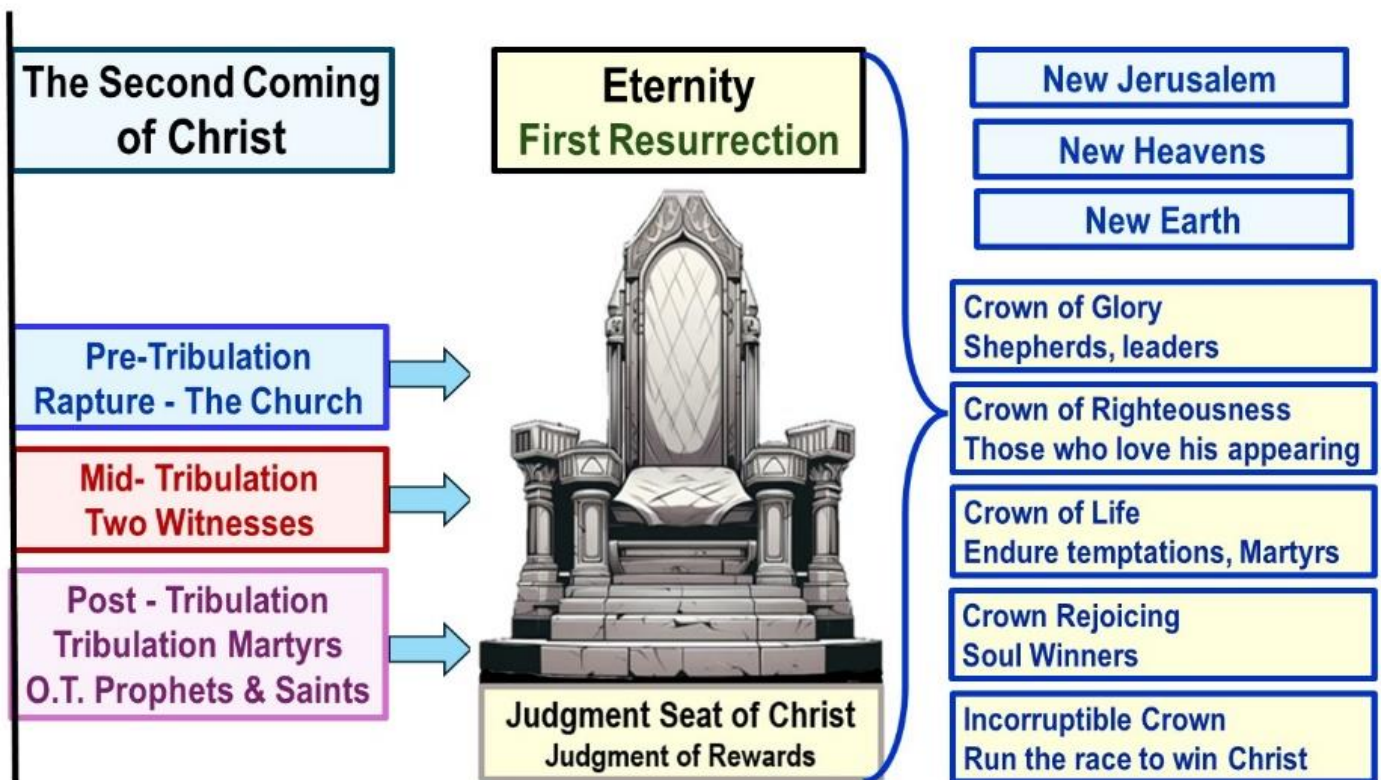
1 Peter 5:2-4 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Revelation 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy. **1 Corinthians 9:24-25** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.



The eternal rewards in heaven relate to proximity to the throne, levels of glory, and authority. The closer our relationship with Christ in this life, the closer we will be to the presence of his glory in eternity, and the more we will reflect his glory and authority. The bride of Christ will be co-heir and reign with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

2 Corinthians 4:17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

Before we proceed with eternal dwelling places, we will confirm the difference between the bride and the guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb. In the parable of the Ten Virgins, the KJV says that the wise virgins who were ready went to the marriage. But, other translations say they went to the wedding banquet or marriage feast, and there is a big difference between the two. Going as a guest to a wedding feast is quite different from going to get married as the bride.

New International Version,	wedding banquet	English Standard Version,	marriage feast
Christian Standard Bible,	wedding banquet	New American Standard 2020,	wedding feast
New American Standard 1995,	wedding feast	Legacy Standard Bible,	wedding feast
New English Translation,	wedding banquet	Revised Standard Version,	marriage feast
American Standard Version,	marriage feast	Youngs Literal Translation,	marriage feasts
Darby Translation,	wedding feast	New Living Translation,	marriage feast

The difference between the bride and the guests is enormous; the eternal habitations can be measured by proximity, authority, and glory in relationship to God's throne. The bride's habitation will be the New Jerusalem, where there is no need for the sun or the moon, but the Lamb, Jesus, will be the light, and he will shine down onto the New Heaven and Earth from there. The wedding guests live on the New Heaven and New Earth, and the kings of the Earth will visit the New Jerusalem to bring glory and honor to it.

Revelation 21:1-2 *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Revelation 21:9-11 *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God.*

Revelation 21:22-27 *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its*

light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).* ²⁶ *And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.* ²

Paul, speaking of the resurrection, uses symbolism to show the vast kaleidoscope of colors, power, glory, and bodies. If you plant a corn seed in the dirt, what grows out of the earth is a seven-foot-tall green plant. Our body is planted in the ground when we die, but when it comes out of the grave in the resurrection, it will be different. There are myriads of different types of animals, such as tigers, bears, zebras, etc. There are various types of birds, parrots, eagles, roosters, etc., and different types of fish, such as sharks, whales, goldfish, etc. The creator of the universe, who made such a wide array of earthly creatures, will give each person a unique resurrection body.



There is one glory of the sun, another of the moon, and one star differs from another star in glory, so is the resurrection of the dead. Everyone will have a different reward, glory, and place specifically assigned to them. The moon is the brightest in light in the night sky, but it only reflects the light of the sun, and the only glory we will have is by how much we have reflected the character of Christ in our lives. If Moses' face was radiant from the glory of God so that he had to cover his face with a veil on earth, how much more glorious would his resurrection body be?

1 Corinthians 15:35-42 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” ³⁶ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. ⁴⁰ There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead.

Exodus 34:29-30 Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that **Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone** while he talked with Him. ³⁰ So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, **the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ...** **35** And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that **the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him (God).**

(2 Cor. 12:2) **Three Heavens**
 (John 14:2) **“In My Father’s house are many mansions”**

Glories (1 Corinthians 15: 39-44)

Men, Beast, Fish, Birds
Earthly Bodies, Heavenly Bodies
Sun, Moon, Stars
Star differs from Star in glory

Proximity to Jesus

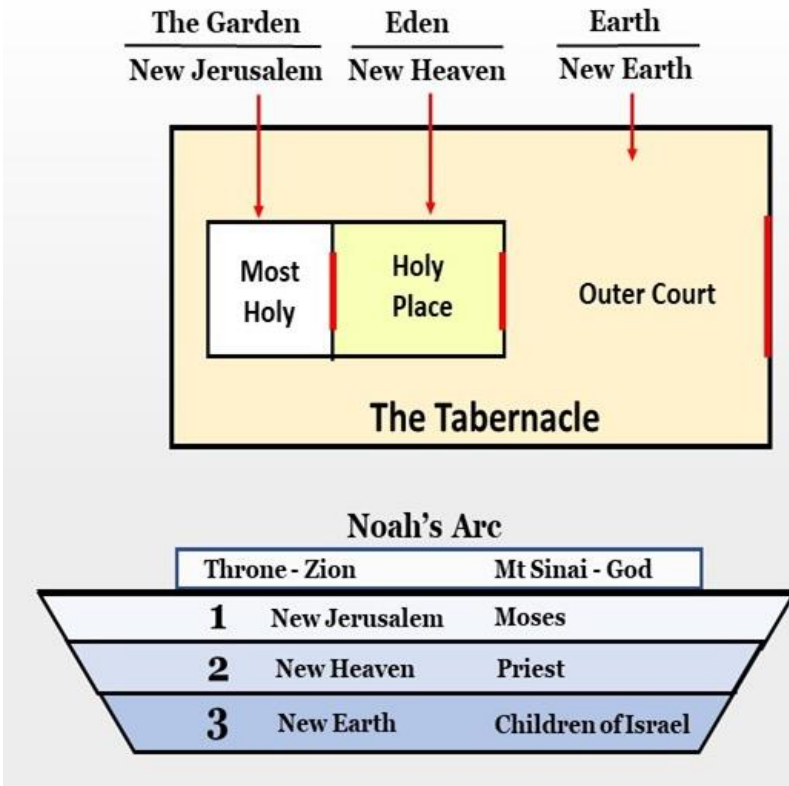
John the Beloved
Inner 3 – Peter, James, John
The 12 Apostles
The 70 Disciples who were sent out
The 120 Disciples in the upper room
500 Witnesses to the resurrection
The Multitudes

Proximity to the Beloved

My Dove (Song of Solomon 6:6-8)
60 Queens
80 Concubines
Virgins without number

Proximity to the Throne

On the Throne
Round about the Throne
24 Little Thrones
Sea of Glass / Sea of Glass with Fire



Those called to the marriage supper of the Lamb are blessed, and those who partake in the first resurrection are blessed and holy because the two are the same; the wedding feast is the first resurrection. All saints from all ages will be in the first resurrection and attend the wedding feast. At the feast, there will be different rewards, levels of authority, and proximity to Christ.

Revelation 19:6-9 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!” ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.** ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: **‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’**” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

Revelation 20:4-6 *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.** ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.** ⁶ **Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.***

When Christ takes over the kingdoms of this world after Satan and the powers and principalities of darkness get cast down, the saints will occupy their places in the heavens and rule and reign with Christ over the earth.

Revelation 11:15-18 *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”** ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: **“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.** ¹⁸ **The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”***

Daniel 7:13-14 *“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, **One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven!** He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ **Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,** That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*

Daniel 7:26-27 *‘But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. ²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion, **And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.** His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*

After the saint's resurrection and judgment, they will be behind Christ when he returns to judge the nations. They will be observers from behind because only Jesus is worthy and righteous to judge, execute wrath, and take vengeance on his enemies. Christ will tread the winepress of God's wrath alone, and his enemies will be destroyed just by the radiance of his appearance. The saints have the best seat to see the most extraordinary display of judgment, wrath, and glory in Earth's history.

Revelation 19:11-15 *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.** ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ **And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.** ¹⁵ **Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and***

wrath of Almighty God.

Jude 1:14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, **“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”**

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,⁷ and to give you who are troubled rest with us **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.**

Jesus told the apostles that in the regeneration, when he sits on the throne of his glory, the throne from which he judges the nations, the apostles will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. The "regeneration" after the demolition of the world during the great tribulation is the restoration of the earth back to the paradise it was in the Garden of Eden. The twelve apostles and the Bride of Christ will rule during the millennial kingdom.

Matthew 19:27-30 Then Peter answered and said to Him, **“See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?”** **28** 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. 29** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. **30** But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,¹³ so that **He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**

Ruling with Christ

At Christ's first coming, the religious leaders missed it because they looked for the Jewish Messiah, a king from David's lineage, who would judge the nations and rule with a rod of iron. Everything they hoped and looked for will be fulfilled by Christ at his second coming. The government will be on Jesus' shoulders, as the King of kings and Lord of lords. He will set up all the powers and principalities of his kingdom on earth and in the heavens.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Psalm 110:1 The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries.

Revelation 19:14-16 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Satan tried to tempt Jesus with all the kingdoms of this world, and Jesus rebuked him. At the second coming, Jesus will forcibly take down the kingdoms of this world and set up his kingdom. Jesus also promised his disciples that they would rule over the 12 tribes of Israel, as he prophesied about their role in his kingdom during the Millennium.

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Matthew 19:27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration [Millennium], when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory [sheep & goats], you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, AND inherit eternal life. 30 "But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

Revelation 20:4 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.

The way we live now will determine how we live in the resurrection. If God can entrust us with a little now, and we are faithful, then he can entrust us with true riches in eternity. This present life is God's filter to reveal our heart and character. Do we love God or the pleasures of this life? How we live our lives today has eternal importance. The unfaithful chase unrighteous mammon, money, and things, making friends that lead to eternal habitations in Hell, while the faithful will rule over cities in the kingdom of God.

Luke 16:9-13 “And I say to you (unfaithful stewards), make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon (dirty money), that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home (Hell). 10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own? 13 “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

In the following parable, Jesus describes his return and the judgment of rewards, which determines rulership in the millennial kingdom. Whenever any saint dies, they go before the judgment seat of Christ for rewards, and he will establish his kingdom by assigning different levels of authority with positions of rulership over nations, tribes, and cities.

Revelation 2:26 [Thyatira church] “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations’ 27 ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’ as I also have received from My Father.

Luke 19:15 “And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 “Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’ 18 “And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’ 19 “Likewise he said to him, ‘You also be over five cities.’

We have seen how Christ will delegate authority to his disciples to rule over nations, tribes, and cities. Paul prayed for the church to understand the mystery of the hope of the calling, God’s inheritance in the saints in Christ, and how Christ is the head above all things. Christ is the King of kings, Lord of lords; God has put everything under his feet and calls us to rule and reign with him.

Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ... 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

2 Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Revelation 5:9 *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

Revelation 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years/*

Some teach that the resurrected saints will coexist with the millennial saints, the resurrected ruling side by side with living people. We disagree with that theory because salvation is by faith, and faith is the evidence of things not seen. Jesus told Thomas to touch the nail scars on his resurrected body, and only then did Philip believe. Then Jesus said they are more blessed who don't see yet believe. Every generation has their faith tested; what we can physically see requires no faith. Faith believes in the unseen, and salvation is by faith through grace only and always.

John 20:27-29 *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

Hebrews 11:1-3 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible,*

Children born five hundred years after the second coming who hear stories from the old timers about Christ's death and resurrection, the rapture, tribulation, and his second coming will either believe it by faith or be unbelievers. If resurrected saints were walking around, they would not need faith to believe because they would see the physical evidence. If Jesus had not ascended to heaven after his resurrection and had walked the earth for the last 2,000 years, we would not need faith to believe the gospel of his resurrection. The same is true for the people in the millennium. Salvation has and will always be by faith in the invisible God.

Ephesians 2:8-10 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

God created us for good works in Christ Jesus, and our works don't end with death. Heaven is not a forever vacation where we are the boss of our lives and can go all over the universe and do whatever we want. It is called the Kingdom of God for a reason: God is the great king, and we are his servants. Granted, he is also our Father, and in his presence is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore [Psalm 16:11]. But Jesus said we would be like the angels in heaven. So, whatever we see the angels doing in the Bible will likely be the same things we will do while serving God in eternity.

Matthew 22:29-30 Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels of God in heaven.

Revelation 22:3-4 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

The apostle John was guided through his Revelation of Jesus by what he thought was an angel, but it turned out to be one of his brethren, the prophets. There is no retirement in heaven; it is a kingdom, and we will serve God and do his bidding like the angels. If we are faithful over little now, he will make us rulers with responsibilities over much, first during the millennium and then into eternity.

Revelation 19:9-10 Then he said to me, “Write: **‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’**” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “**See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**”

Revelation 22:8-9 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, **I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things**⁹ Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. **For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.**”

Revelation 21:17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

Even Jesus, the bridegroom, returns from the wedding with the church, and he will gird himself and serve the wedding guests of the first resurrection at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Luke 12:35-37³⁵ “Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning;³⁶ and you yourselves be like **men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.**³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you **that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.**

The wedding feast and the millennium will be like Jacob's ladder, with angels or messengers of God going back and forth from heaven to earth [Genesis 28:11-12; John 1:51]. The government will be on Christ's shoulders; he will rule the nations, and the saints will rule with him. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will sit on the throne of David, there will be peace, and the nations will serve the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob [Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 2:26-27; 20:4].

Millennium, Earthly Kingdom

The Millennium will be like heaven on earth, and Jerusalem will be the joy of the whole earth; there will be great rejoicing, and there will be no cause for weeping and crying, and there will be no more war.

Isaiah 65:18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.

Isaiah 2:4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Micah 4:3 He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. 4 But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.

One result of the regeneration of the earth will be that mankind will enjoy long lives. The oldest person recorded in the Bible was Methuselah, who was 969 years old [Genesis 5:27]. So, some people could live throughout the 1,000 years of the Millennial kingdom. Also, God's presence will be more accessible to those who call out to him, and he will answer prayers before people speak.

Isaiah 65:20 "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who hasnot fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them. 24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

The character of all the animals will change, reverting to how they were in the Garden of Eden before the curse. The meat eaters, animals of prey, will eat plants. The lion will lie down with the lamb and eat straw like an ox. The most fierce and dangerous animal will become as tame as a house pet. Parents could let their children play in a cobra nest without worries.



Isaiah 11:6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

Nations in the Millennium

Jerusalem will be the capital of the world, and all the nations shall flow to it to seek the Lord. All the nations will be required to come to Jerusalem for the Jewish feasts, the nations that fail to go to Jerusalem will experience droughts and plagues.

Micah 4:1-5 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it. ² Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem

Zechariah 8:3-5 "Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.' ⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age. ⁵ The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.'

Zechariah 8:20-23 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities; ²¹ The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, And seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also." ²² Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the LORD.' ²³ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

The only survivors of the great tribulation will be the believers from all the nations and the remnant of Israel. All the world's countries will serve God according to the Jewish laws, observe the Jewish feasts, and make sacrifices to God. All the nations will have the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their God. God will save the Ethiopians, Egyptians, and Syrians, and there will be a highway from Syria through Israel to Egypt. Those countries and all the world will serve the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They will all speak the language of Canaan or of Israel, Hebrew, which was dead for around 2,000 years but was miraculously brought back to life in the early 1900s.

Zephaniah 3:9-13 "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord. ¹⁰ From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, The daughter of My dispersed ones, Shall bring My offering. ¹¹ In that day you shall not be

shamed for any of your deeds In which you transgress against Me; For then I will take away from your midst Those who rejoice in your pride, And you shall no longer be haughty in My holy mountain. ¹² I will leave in your midst A meek and humble people, And they shall trust in the name of the LORD. ¹³ The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness And speak no lies, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, And no one shall make them afraid.

Isaiah 19:18 *In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction. 19 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. 20 And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. 21 Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. 22 And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria a blessing in the midst of the land, 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."*

All the nations will come to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to the Lord, and God will even take some of them to be priests and Levites. From one new moon to the next, from Sabbath to Sabbath, all the world will bow down to worship the Lord.

Isaiah 66:19 *"I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. 20 And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. "They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the Temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. 21 And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites," says the LORD. 22 "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure. 23 From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD.*

Zechariah 14:16-21 *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 20 In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. 21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.*

***Psalms 72:1** Give the king Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the king's Son. He will judge Your people with righteousness, And Your poor with justice. 3 The mountains will bring peace to the people, And the little hills, by righteousness. 4 He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor. 5 They shall fear You As long as the sun and moon endure, Throughout all generations. 6 He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, Like showers that water the earth. 7 In His days the righteous shall flourish, And abundance of peace, Until the moon is no more. 8 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth. 9 Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, And His enemies will lick the dust. 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts. 11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him. 12 For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and him who has no helper. 13 He will spare the poor and needy, And will save the souls of the needy. 14 He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; And precious shall be their blood in His sight. 15 And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; Prayer also will be made for Him continually, And daily He shall be praised. 16 There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, On the top of the mountains; Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. 17 His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed. 18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! 19 And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. 20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.*

Gog & Magog #2

The reason there can be a millennium is that Satan was bound and imprisoned in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. Without the accuser of the brethren, the tempter, and the adversary of God, there will be peace, prosperity, and long lives for all humanity. But when Satan gets released, he brings trouble.

***Revelation 20:1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the Dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

Although Satan was bound, those born after the beginning of the Millennial kingdom will be sinners in need of salvation. With people living for centuries, there will be a population explosion, and the earth will have a large population of believers and sinners like today and every generation. Children born hundreds of years after the second coming will hear the stories about Christ's return the second time, and the stories will seem like ancient myths, and they may be mockers like people today. In the same way, we believe by faith that Jesus' death and resurrection over 2,000 years ago saved us from our sins; they must believe that Jesus' death on the cross 3,000 years in the past saves them from their sins. Unfortunately, multitudes will not believe the Bible and the ancient accounts of the second coming. And when Satan gets released from the bottomless pit, he will immediately deceive the nations. As always, Satan targets God's people, the Jews, and gathers an army to attack Jerusalem.

That will be Earth's final battle and the final test of who is for God and who is for the Devil. Satan will gather a vast army to surround Jerusalem, but there will be no battle. There is no contest between God and Satan; God is the Almighty creator of all things, and Satan is just one of his creations. The fire of God will annihilate Satan and all his hoards, and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and reunited with the Antichrist and False Prophet; the evil trinity will burn forever.

***Revelation 20:7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the Beast and the False Prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

When fire comes down out of heaven from God, it not only consumes Satan, but it consumes everything, all the elements in the heavens, earth, and the universe, and time will be no more. God creates a New Heaven, Earth, and a New Jerusalem, in which righteousness dwells.

***2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.*

***Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

There is no more time; humanity has entered into eternity, and there will be two groups: the saints in the **first resurrection** and the sinners in the **second death**. Only the righteous partake of the first resurrection; they are blessed and holy, and the second death will not hurt them. All the righteous go before the judgment seat of Christ; their works will get judged to determine their eternal rewards.

***Revelation 20:5** But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

***Revelation 21:8** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

Sinners are not holy or blessed; they will not take part in the first resurrection. Instead, they will stand before God at the Great White Throne to be judged, sentenced, and sent to the second death. At the Great White Throne, they face the resurrection of condemnation, which will punish them according to their thoughts, words, and actions.

Eternity / White Throne

Death and Hell are like holding cells or prisons for all sinners of all ages. When time ceases to exist, God will judge all the dead. The Great White Throne is the resurrection of condemnation for judgment and punishment of sin and ends with the second death in the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

John 5:26-29 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

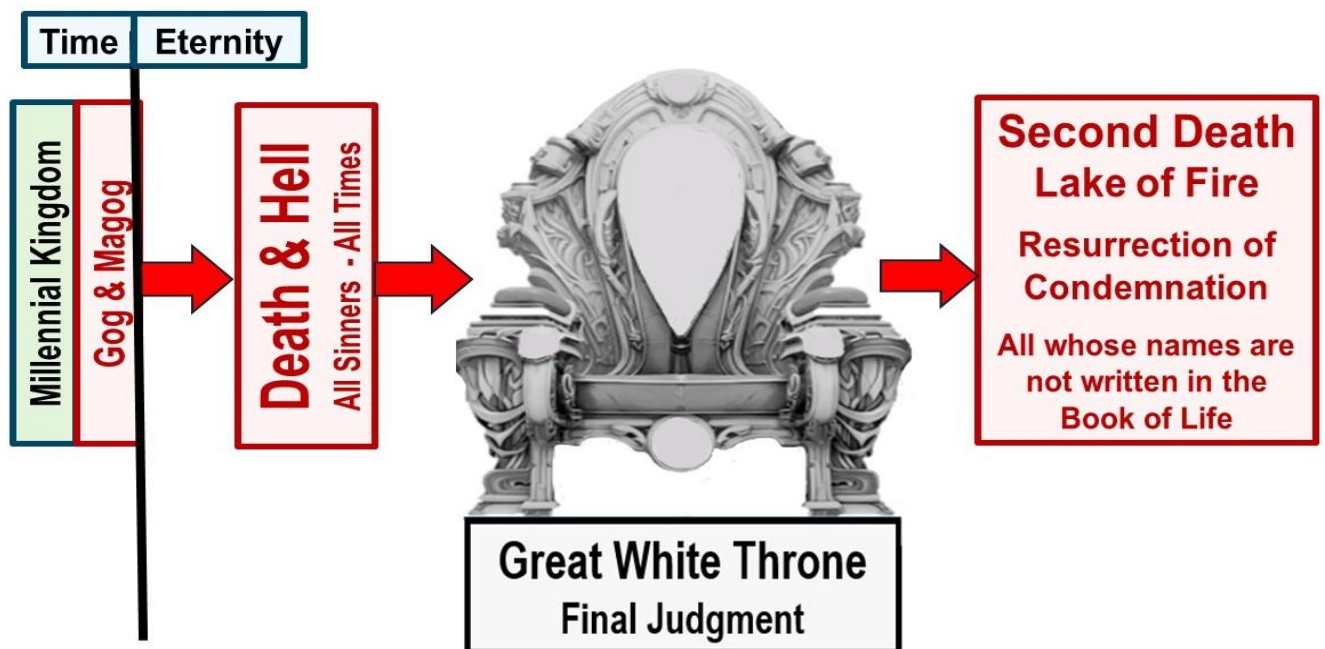
The description of the Great White Throne draws a stark contrast from other scenes of the glorious heavenly throne with vibrant colors encircled by rainbows, pavement of gold, layers of brightly colored jewels, the river of life, and choirs of angels and saints praising God. There are just two words to describe the Great White Throne and its greatness is unsurpassed, with authority, consequence, and severity. The contrast is black and white, with no hues of gray, no excuses, no lies, and no arguments because the judge knows every thought and intent of the heart behind each action, and everything is naked before him [Hebrews 4:11-13]. There are no distractions, no courtroom theatrics, just the black-and-white stark reality of eternal judgment before the almighty whose eyes of fire see into the darkest depths of man's soul. It is where every sinner will answer for everything they ever did in their life

First Resurrection	Second Death
Blessed and Holy	Unbelieving, murderers, immoral, etc.
Names in Book of Life	Names not in Book of Life
Kept in Paradise until resurrection	Kept in Death and Hell until resurrection
Stand before the judgment seat of Christ	Judged at the Great White Throne
Judgment for rewards	Judgment for punishment

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Daniel 7:9-10 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

We will close with the Bible's final words of Jesus, the Spirit, and the Bride. The entire message of the rapture and the end times is not for entertainment or intrigue, it is both a warning and an invitation.



Revelation 22:11 [Jesus speaking]"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." 12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work. 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." 14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. 16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."The Spirit gives us an invitation to be the bride of Christ, and God gives us a free will to choose. The decision is yours.**Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!"And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Call to action

We live in the end times and can see the signs of Christ's return. Starting with Israel becoming a nation in 1948, the end times birth-pains have increased in frequency and intensity, then 9/11/2001 rocked the world, in 2020 the world shut down, then on October 7, 2023, the world was horrified by the attack against Israel, and what's next? World War III looms on the horizon, and persecution of Jews and Christians is coming. We need to be like Noah and prepare an Ark to save souls. Regardless of whether another event like 2020 happens and the churches get closed or if they are open, we should become the church everywhere, witness to people, make disciples, and create networks of believers with whom to have fellowship until Christ returns for us in the rapture or at death.

While we have time and freedom, we should work for the Lord, the fields are white for harvest but the laborers are few. For free resources, free books covering foundational & end-times teachings, free Bibles & charts, etc. Visit our website at: [Ears2Hear.online](https://www.ears2hear.online).



Ears2Hear.online
Free Audio & E-books, charts,
Bibles & resources, links, etc.
Books on Kindle & Amazon:
<https://www.amazon.com/author/markengland>
Email: Ears@Ears2Hear.online

Charts

Matt Signs vs Rev Seals

Matthew	Matthew 24 - Birth Pangs	Revelation	Revelation 6 - Seven Seals
24:5,10, 24	Deception, False Christ & Prophets	6:2	Seal 1 - White Horse – Antichrist, Global Government
24:6	Wars, Nation vs Nation, Ethnic chaos	6:3-4	Seal 2 - Red Horse - Takes peace, mega sword
24:7	Famines, Plagues, Earthquakes	6:5-6	Seal 3 - Black Horse – Famine - Hyperinflation
24:21-22	All flesh endangered, but for the Elect	6:7-8	Seal 4 - Pale Horse – Death – 1/4 of world dies
24:9-10	Tribulation, Killed, Hated by nations	6:9-11	Seal 5 - First wave of tribulation Martyrs
24:29	Sun dark, Moon dark, Stars fall	6:12-17	Seal 6 – Sun black, Moon blood, Stars fall
24:30-31	Son of Man (Jesus) appears in Heaven	8:1	Seal 7 – Silence in Heaven for 30 minutes

7 Blessings of Revelation

CH	7 Blessings – Beatitudes of the Book of Revelation
1:3	Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.
14:13	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."
16:15	"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
19:9	Then he said to me, "Write: ' Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."
20:6	Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
22:7	"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
22:14	Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

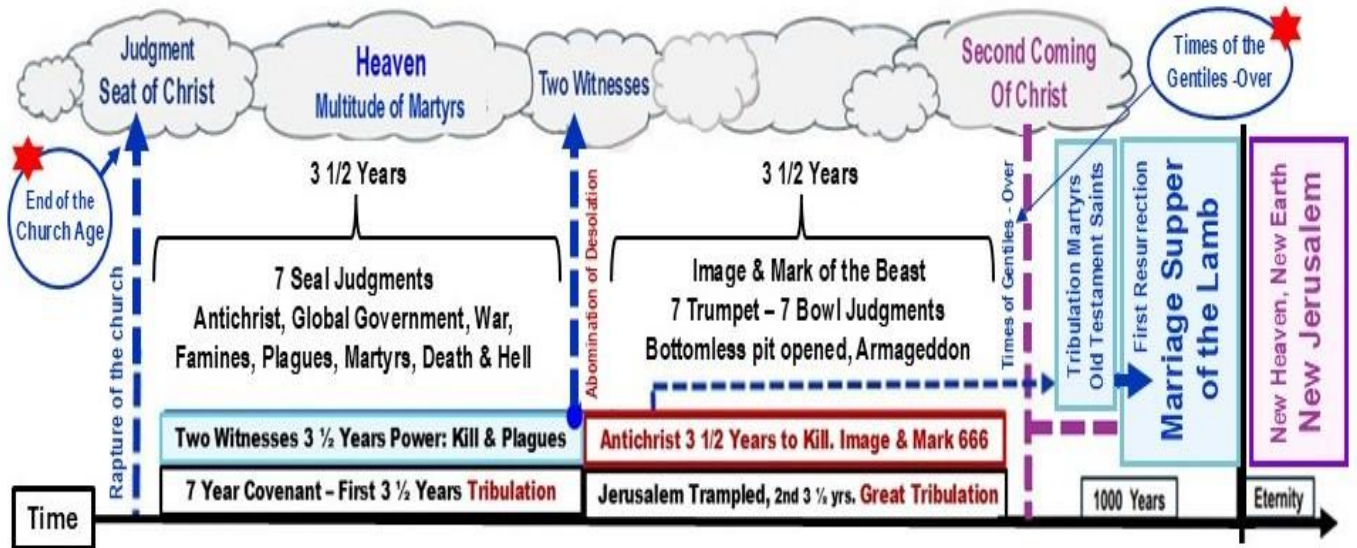
Magog vs Armageddon

Ezekiel 38-39 Battle of Gog Magog	Revelation 16, 19 Armageddon
Coalition led by Russia, Turkey, Iran attack	All the armies of the world attack
Armies cross Israel's northern border	Armies lay siege to Jerusalem
Comes to take spoil	Comes to destroy the people of God
There is a protest against the invasion	No protest, all the nations attack
Gog is head of the invasion	Antichrist (the beast) heads the invasion
The Lord uses nature to attack Gog's army	Christ treads the winepress alone (Isa 63)
Gog's armies gather on northern mountains	They enter Jerusalem and begin assault
Gog defeated by nature & infighting	Christ's defeats world's armies alone
Afterwards: designated men bury dead & burn weapons 7 mos., cleanse land 7 yrs. (possible radioactive/nuclear/biologic fallout)	Afterwards is the judgment of the sheep and goats, Angels gather for judgment Millennial kingdom for 1,000 years

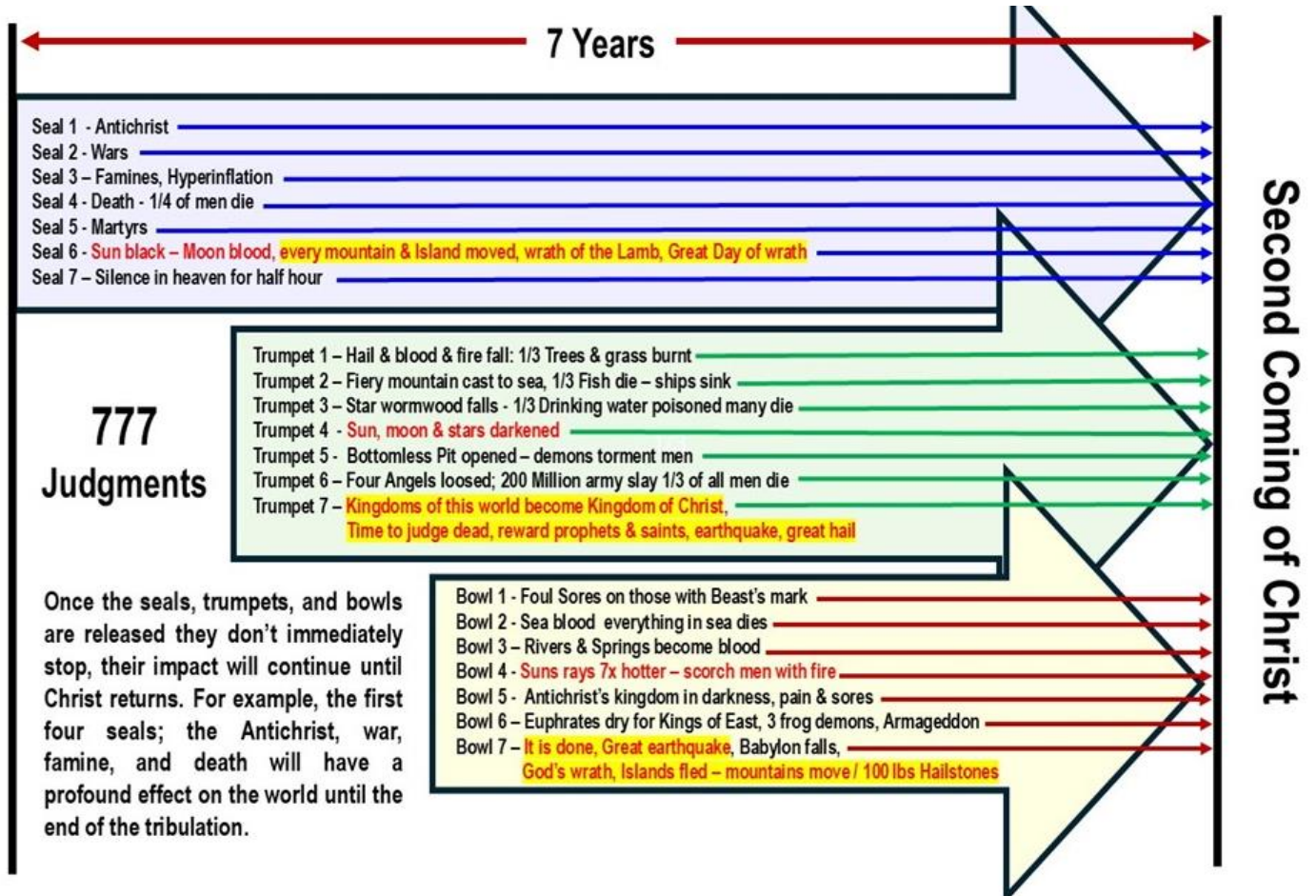
Magog Ezek vs Magog Rev

Magog Ezekiel 38 & 39		Magog Revelation 20	
Ezekiel 38:8	Before millennium (Israel regathered to the land)	Rev 20:1-3	After millennium (Israel in the land 1000 years)
38:2-3; 39:1	Leader of the attack is Gog (a man; political/military ruler)	7, 8	Leader of attack is Satan (released after 1000 years in prison)
38:2-3	Coalition led by Russia, Turkey, Iran invades northern border	8	All nations attack Jerusalem, from 4 corners of earth
38:21	Battle on mountains of Israel	9	Battle is against Jerusalem
39:12-15 39:9-29	7 months to bury the dead 7 months to cleanse the land 7 years to burn the weapons	9-10	Fire from God devours armies, no burials , physical earth, heavens are no more
39:9-29 40-48	Followed by the second coming of Christ & the Millennium Reign	11-15	Followed by the Great White Throne judgment and eternity

Church Age/Times of Gentiles



Overlapping Judgments



Benefits of the Holy Spirit

Benefits of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

<u>Sanctifies & makes holy</u>	<u>(1 Cor 6:11, 2 Thess. 2:13, 1 Peter 1:2)</u>
<u>Power & gifts of healing</u>	<u>(1 Cor 12:9, Acts 10:38)</u>
<u>Casting out demons</u>	<u>(Matthew 12:28)</u>
<u>Boldness to preach</u>	<u>(Acts 4:31)</u>
<u>Breaks oppression</u>	<u>(Isaiah 10:27, Luke 4:18)</u>
<u>Clothes with power</u>	<u>(Luke 24:49)</u>
<u>Reveals truth</u>	<u>(John 16:13, 1 Pet 1:22, Eph 3:3-5)</u>
<u>Righteousness, peace, joy</u>	<u>(Rom 14:17, 1 Thess. 1:5-6)</u>
<u>Gives faith, hope, love</u>	<u>(Gal 5:5, Rom 5:5, Rom 15:13)</u>
<u>Gives guidance</u>	<u>(John 16:13, Luke 4:1, Rom 8:14)</u>
<u>Helps in prayer</u>	<u>(Rom 8:26, Zech 12:10)</u>
<u>Grace & gifts</u>	<u>(1 Cor 12:4-11, 1 Cor 12:28, Heb 2:4)</u>
<u>Spiritual life</u>	<u>(Jn 6:63, Rom 8:4-12, 2 Cor 3:6, Gal 6:8)</u>
<u>Mortifies fleshly lusts & sins of body</u>	<u>(Romans 8:4-12)</u>
<u>Strengthens us in the inner Man</u>	<u>(Ephesians 3:16)</u>
<u>Strengthens our physical body</u>	<u>(Romans 8:11)</u>
<u>Comfort, Encouragement</u>	<u>(John 14:16-26; 16:7, Acts 9:31)</u>
<u>Assurance of salvation</u>	<u>(2 Cor 1:22, 2 Cor 5:5)</u>
<u>Writes on our hearts</u>	<u>(2 Corinthians 3:2-3)</u>
<u>Makes us his temple</u>	<u>(Eph 2:22, 1 Cor 3:16)</u>
<u>Takes us from glory to glory</u>	<u>(2 Cor 3:18, 1 Peter 4:14)</u>
<u>Brings us into glorious liberty</u>	<u>(2 Corinthians 3:17)</u>

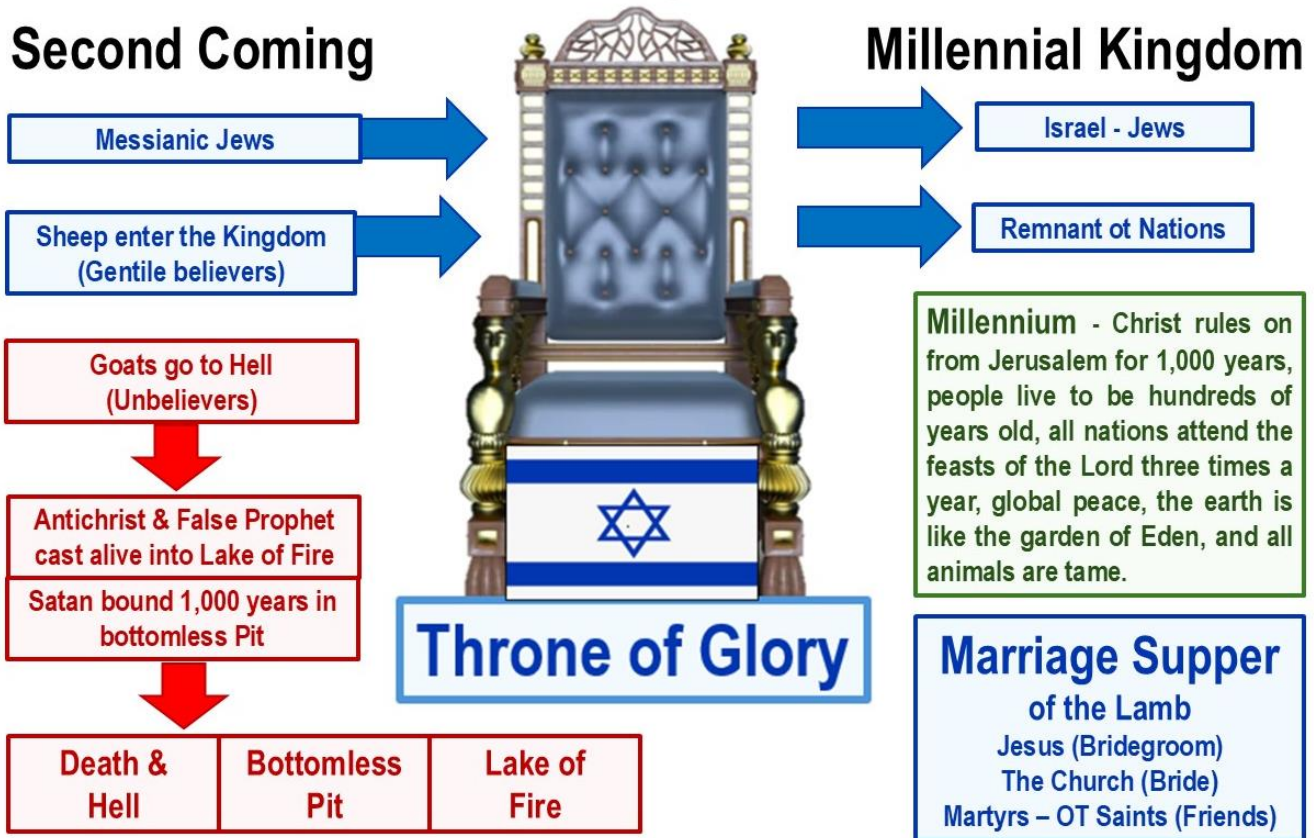
Spirit vs Flesh

Spirit vs Flesh	
Galatians 5:16-18 ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit , and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh . ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.	
Fruit of the Spirit	Works of the Flesh
Galatians 5:22-25 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.	Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery (drugs), hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

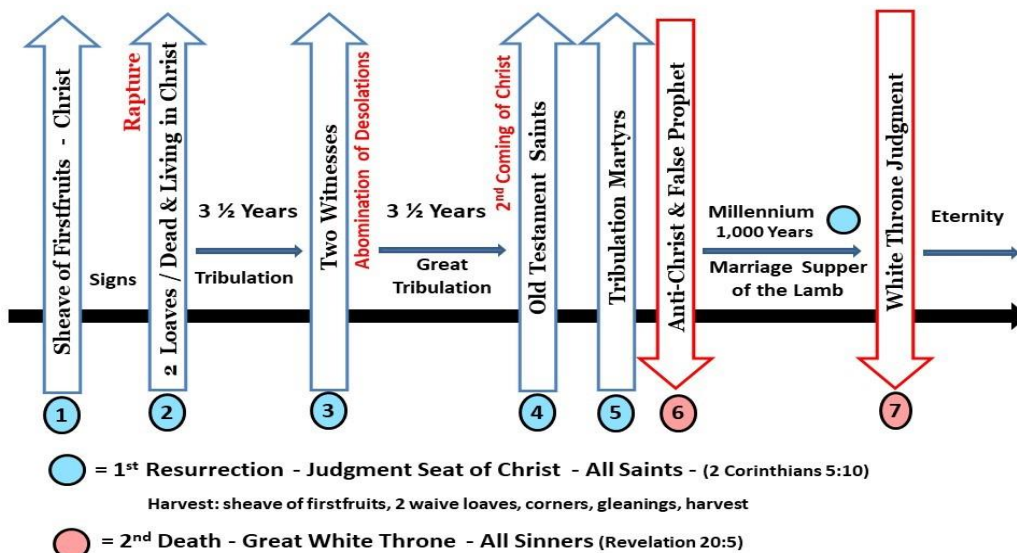
Verse	In the Spirit	In the Flesh
Romans 8 – The carnal mind and the flesh are our selfish, sinful, fallen nature and actions		
8:1	No condemnation	Condemnation, guilt
8:2	Law of Spirit, freedom from sin & death	Sin & death
8:3,4	Righteous requirement of Law fulfilled	Unable to keep Law, weak through the flesh
8:5	Mind the things of the Spirit	Mind the things of the flesh
8:6	Spirit minded is life and peace	Carnal. Fleshy, sinful mind is death
8:7		Carnal mind enemy of God not subject to law
8:8		Those in the flesh cannot please God
8:9	In the Spirit, Spirit dwells inside	Without Spirit of Christ, don't belong to Christ
8:10	Body dead to sin, Spirit is life, because of righteousness	
8:11	Resurrection life in our body, by the Spirit	
8:13	Put to death deeds of flesh you will live	Live according to flesh you will die
8:14	Those led by Spirit of God are sons of God	
8:15	Spirit of adoption, they cry Abba Father	They have spirit of bondage again to fear
8:16 8:17	The Spirit bears witness with our spirit, we are children & joint heirs with Christ, If we suffer with Him, glorified with him	

The Seven Churches Orders of Resurrections

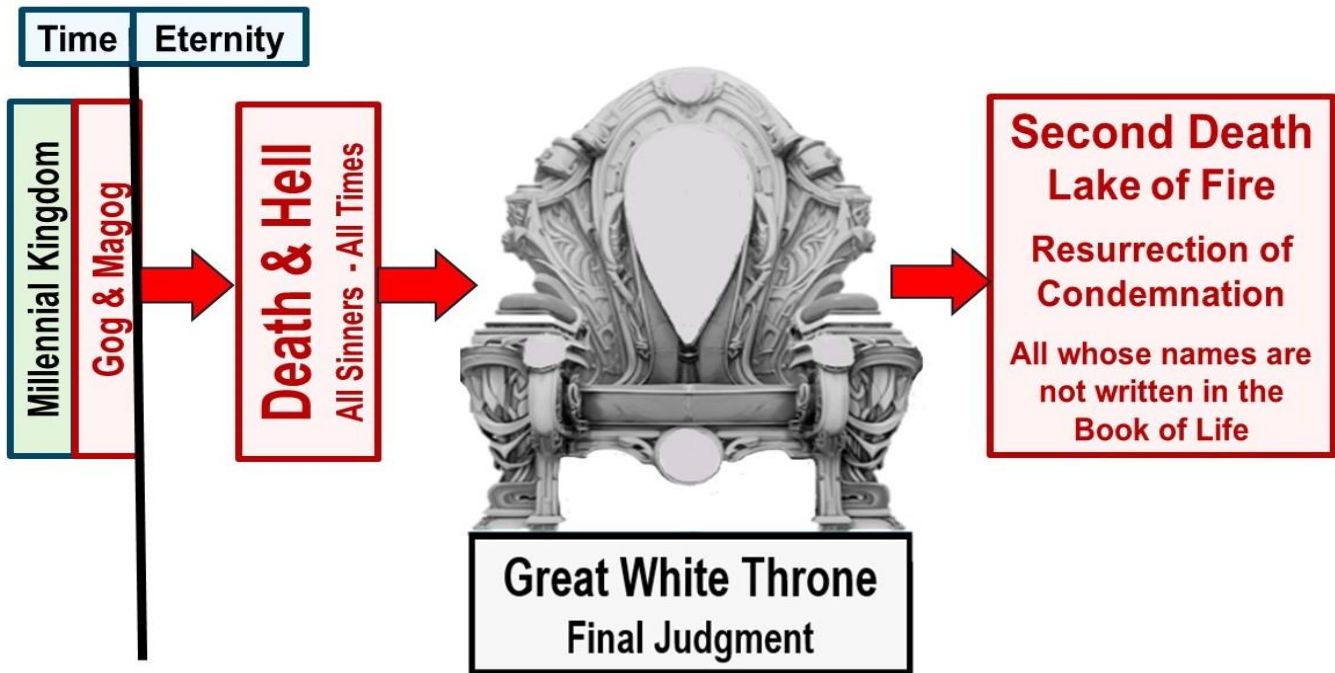
Throne of Glory



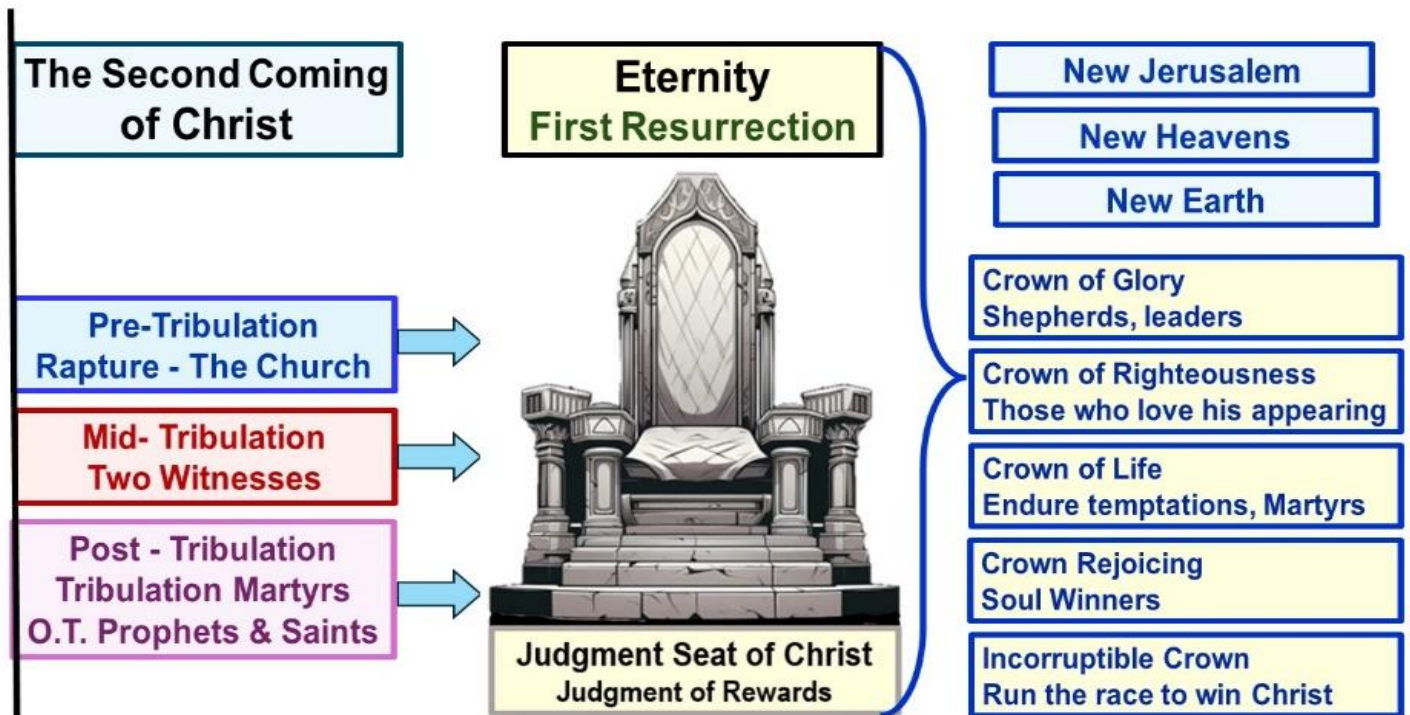
Order of Resurrections – Laws of the Harvest (1 Corinthians 15:23) (Leviticus 23)



Judgment Seat of Christ White Throne Judgment



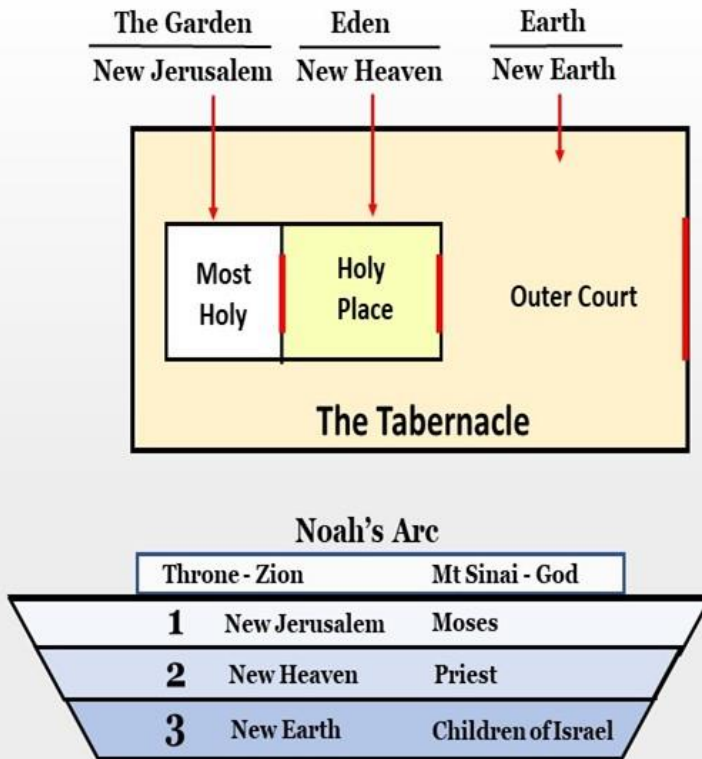
Resurrections & Harvests



Laws of the Harvest (Leviticus 23)	
Early Harvest	1st Resurrection
First Ripe Sheaf Firstfruit	Christ first to rise from the dead
2 Waive Loaves Firstfruits	Judgment Seat of Christ
	Rapture - Dead & Living "In Christ"
Corners & Gleanings (left for Poor)	Two Witnesses Tribulation Martyrs Old Testament Saints
Reap Harvest Wheat into barns Tares to burn	Throne of Glory
	Wheat / Sheep - Millennial kingdom Tares / Goats - Hell
Millennium (1,000 Years)	
Latter Harvest Hell - All Sinners - All Ages <i>Jeremiah 8:20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.</i>	White Throne Judgment 2nd Death - Lake of Fire
	Antichrist/false prophet/Satan Sinners / Fallen Angels / Demons

Three Heavens

(2 Cor. 12:2) **Three Heavens**
 “In My Father’s house
 are many mansions”
 (John 14:2)



Glories (1 Corinthians 15: 39-44)

Men, Beast, Fish, Birds
 Earthly Bodies, Heavenly Bodies
 Sun, Moon, Stars
 Star differs from Star in glory

Proximity to Jesus

John the Beloved
 Inner 3 – Peter, James, John
 The 12 Apostles
 The 70 Disciples who were sent out
 The 120 Disciples in the upper room
 500 Witnesses to the resurrection
 The Multitudes

Proximity to the Beloved

My Dove (Song of Solomon 6:6-8)
 60 Queens
 80 Concubines
 Virgins without number

Proximity to the Throne

On the Throne
 Round about the Throne
 24 Little Thrones
 Sea of Glass / Sea of Glass with Fire

End Time – Time Markers

Time Markers in Daniel & Revelation	
3 1/2 Years = 1260 Days = 42 Months = Time and times and half a time	
He (Antichrist) confirms covenant for one week or 7 years . In the middle of the week , He brings an end to sacrifice and commits the abomination of desolation. (Daniel 9:27; Matt 24:15)	
3 1/2 Years	3 1/2 Years
Woman flees into wilderness for 1,260 days (Rev 12:6-14)	Antichrist given authority for 42 months to continue & kill saints (Rev 13:1-7)
Power given to two witnesses for 1,260 days (Rev 11:3-6)	Antichrist persecutes and kills saints for a time and times and a half time (Dan 7:25)
	Gentiles trample temple court & Jerusalem for forty-two months (Rev 11:1-3, Lk 21:24)
From the time of the abomination of desolation there shall be 1,290 days, blessed is he who comes to 1,335 days (Dan 12:11-12) 1,335 days minus 1,290 days = 75 days. There is a blessing on the people who survive 75 days past the end of the tribulation. After the return of Jesus that 75-day time period may be to judge the nations, cleanse and restore the planet, and to establish the government for Christ's reign on earth for 1,000 years, aka the millennial kingdom.	

The Second Coming

Second Coming of Christ	
Pre-Tribulation Rapture Spirit Filled Church / Bride	End of Tribulation Israel Saved/Nations Judged
Unseen like a thief	Every eye will see Him
Believers disappear	Christ appears
Happens quickly, a moment	Christ wars & judges nations
Church meets Jesus in air	Jesus stands on Mt. Olives
Ushers in the tribulation	Ushers in the Millennium
Imminent – no warnings	Preceded by signs
Christ comes for his Bride	Christ returns with his Bride
Message of comfort	Message of judgment
Program for the church	Program for Israel
Revealed in New Testament	From Genesis to Revelation
Judgement of rewards	Judgment of wrath
Leaves creation unchanged	Mountains, islands move
The nations are unaffected	The nations are judged
Israel's covenants unfulfilled	Israel's covenants fulfilled
No affect on sin in the world	Sin is judged and destroyed
Church taken before wrath	Israel saved / survives wrath
Rapture only for the church	Affects everyone on earth

Christ vs Antichrist

Jesus Christ	Antichrist
Holy Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit	Evil Trinity Satan, antichrist, false prophet
God incarnate	Satan incarnate
Makes a new covenant with all who believe and gives eternal salvation	Confirms a covenant with Israel and breaks it in 3 1/2 years
Entered Most Holy in Heaven to atone for the sin of the world	Enters Most Holy in Jewish temple commits an abomination
Miracles by the Spirit of God	Miracles by Satanic power
Resurrected from the Dead	Resurrects from head wound
King of kings and Lord of lords	Global dictator, over 10 kings
Preached in hell before ascending to highest heaven, rules over all	Ascends from pit to rule earth, Satan gives him power 3 1/2 years
Bridegroom to the Church, Bride of Christ a chaste virgin to Christ	Fornicates with whore of Babylon, Religious Harlot, idolatry, sorcery
Preceded by John the Baptist	Promoted by the false prophet
Jesus earthly ministry 3 1/2 years His blood forgives, saves, heals	Kills saints 3 1/2 years, he is drunk with blood of saints, power
Represented as coming on a white horse with sword/army behind him	Represented as coming on a white horse, with a bow, no arrows
Who can make war with the Lamb? Christ destroys world's armies, judges the world, cast antichrist into lake of fire, imprisons Satan	Who can make war with the beast? He kills saints, lays siege to Jerusalem, Christ appears and cast antichrist into Lake of Fire

Jezebel vs Rev Woman

Jezebel	Woman, Harlot, Babylon & Tribulation
Jezebel: whore, pagan gods & sacrifice, witchcraft, sorcery [2 Kings 9:22, 2 Chronicles 21:13]	Babylon the great whore, sorcery , worships Antichrist/image/Satan [Revelation 17:1-6]
Jezebel was both a princess & queen, ruled over multitudes [1 Kings 6:30-32]	Babylon over many waters, peoples, multitudes , nations, tongues [Revelation 17:15]
Jezebel was wealthy, her father & husband both wealthy kings [1 Kings 6:30-32]	Harlot-Babylon, wealthy , global business, shipping, buying & selling [Revelation 17&18]
Jezebel fed 400 false prophets at her table [1 Kings 18:19, 22:6, 2 Chronicles 18:5]	That woman Jezebel, false prophet & teacher, depths of Satan [Revelation 2:20-24]
Jezebel persecuted, killed God's prophets , threatens to kill Elijah [1 Kings 18:4, 19:1-2, 2 Kings 9:7]	Woman drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus [Revelation 17:4-6]
Elijah prophesied Jezebel's death & her children's death (Mother of Harlots) [2 Kings 10:9-11, 1 Kings 21:17-24]	Jesus prophesied Jezebel cast into great tribulation & will kill her children (Mother of Harlots) [Revelation 2:21-22]
Jezebel trampled to death by Jehu's horses , dogs ate her & lapped her blood [2 Kings 9:30-37]	Jesus comes on white horse, feet of brass to trample Jezebel & nations , beast will feast on bodies [Revelation 2:18, 19:11, Isaiah 63]
Elijah called for a draught, lasted 3 1/2 years [1 Kings 17:1, 18:1, James 5:17]	Woman goes 3 1/2 years in the wilderness during tribulation [Revelation 12:14]

Rev 17 vs Rev 18

Rev 17 Religious Harlot - versus - Rev 18 Financial Babylon			
Dan 2:42	Western Foot - Rome West: Judeo/Christian roots, secular, paganism, atheism	Dan 2:42	Eastern Foot Constantinople (Istanbul) East: Muslim rule & oil money, Communism, Marxism
Rev 17:16	Antichrist & Kings hate the Harlot with her coalition of the world's coexist religions	Rev 18:3	Kings & merchants love trading with financial Babylon and are made rich by her global fascism
Rev 17:9	Rome / Vatican City sits on 7 hills, and about 50 miles to the nearest sea port (15 to sea)	Rev 18:17-19	Babylon is by sea, has a shipping trade, sea captains will mourn when she is destroyed
Rev 17:6	Religious Harlot drunk with blood of saints & martyrs of Jesus, she kills for religious reasons	Rev 18:24	Financial Babylon sold sorcery (Greek: pharmakeia) drugs, big pharma & tech, global corporations, she kills the saints & prophets for profit
Rev 17:15 12:5 & 17; Rev 6:9; 7:9-17; Matt 25:31-46	Religious woman sits on many waters meaning multitudes of people: the manchild, a remnant with the testimony of Jesus, martyrs, Jews, sheep & goats	Rev 18:12-14	Financial Babylon has a long list of luxury items and choice foods she ships to the kings and elites: gold, cattle, wine, oil, human trafficking, etc., the elites live with abundance in luxury while the earth is starving.
Rev 17:16	The Kings hate, destroy, and burn the religious Harlot	Rev 18:17-23 18:11,15	God judges, and destroys Babylon in one hour, shocking the world

Dan 2, 3 Symbolism

Daniel 2

Daniel 7

Gold

Babylon
605-539 BC



Silver

Medo-Persia
539-331 BC



Brass

Greece
331-168 BC



Iron

Rome
168 BC - 476 AD



**Iron &
Clay**



Moses & Elijah & 2 Witnesses

Moses	Elijah	2 Witnesses	Trumpets & Bowls
Moses vs Magicians Snakes (Ex 7:8-13)	Prophecy Jezebel (1 Ki 21:17-24)	Call for Plagues (Rev 11:6, 16:19)	That Old Serpent is Satan (Rev 12:9)
Water to blood (Ex 7:14-22)	Drought 3.5 yrs. (1 Ki 17:1-4, Jas 5:17)	Water to blood (Rev 11:6)	Fish die water, blood (Rev 8:8-9, 16:3)
Plague of flies (Ex 8:20-30)	Rebukes Ahaziah for Lord of flies (2 Ki 1:3)		
	Calls down fire on men (1 Ki 18:38, 2 Ki 1:9-12)	Calls down fire on men (Rev 11:5)	Sun scorches men (Rev 16:8)
Plague of Frogs (Ex 8:1-14)			3 Evil frog spirits (Rev 16:13)
Plague of boils (Ex 9:8-10)			Foul sores on mark of the Beast (Rev 16:1)
Plague of hail (Ex 9:13-33)			100 Pound hailstones (Rev 8:7; 11:19; 16:20)
Plague of locusts (Ex 10:1-20)			Demonic locusts from Hell (Rev 9:1-12; 16:10)
Plague of darkness (Ex 10:21-29)			Darkness on Beast's kingdom (Rev 8:12)
No plagues on Jews (Ex 8:22; 9:4-6; 11:6-13)			1/3 Sun darkened (Rev 16:10)
Plague of hail & fire (Ex 9:23-24)			Hail & fire & blood (Rev 8:7; 11:19; 16:21)
Moses crosses Red Sea dry ground (Ex 14:16,22)	Elijah's crosses river on dry ground (2 Ki 2:8)		Euphrates armies cross dry ground (Rev 16:12)
Moses body, unknown? (Jude 9)	Elijah taken to heaven in chariot (2 Ki 2:11)	Witnesses resurrected to heaven (Rev 11:12)	Antichrist & Prophet to Lake of fire (Rev 19:20)

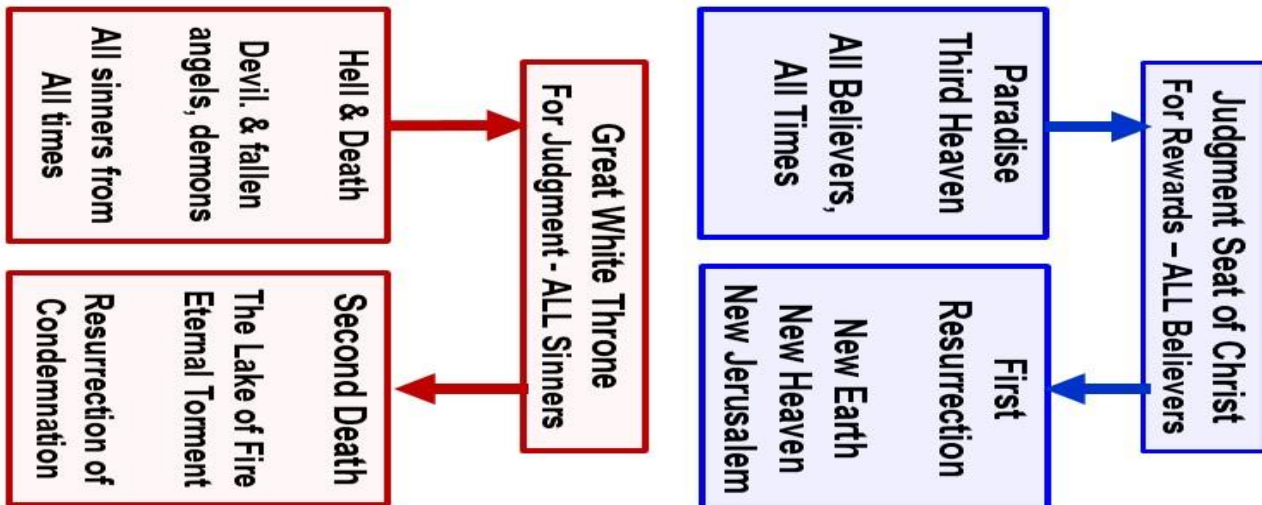
Appearances of Christ

Multiple Appearances in the Second Coming of Christ	
Three Watches?	
<p>Luke 12:35-39 be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, ³⁸ And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so</p>	
The Rapture / Church caught up to the clouds / Like a thief - unseen	
<p>1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with dead & living in Christ caught up (harpazo/rapture) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:43-44 ... what hour the thief would come, he would have watched his house not to be broken into. ⁴⁴ be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.</p>	
Every eye sees him / In clouds / Israel looks on him who they pieced, and is saved	
<p>Revelation 1:7 ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.</p>	
<p>Zechariah 12:9-10 I will destroy the nations that come against Jerusalem ... then they will look on Me whom they pierced. they will mourn for Him as for his only son, as for a firstborn</p>	
Comes with saints / Wages war on earth from Edom to Jerusalem	
<p>Jude 1:14-15 Jude 1:14-15 ¹⁴ Now Enoch, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all</p>	
<p>Revelation 19:14-15 ¹⁴ armies in heaven, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.</p>	
<p>Revelation 19:15-16 He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.</p>	
<p>Isaiah 63:1-4 Who is this who comes from Edom, Why is Your apparel red? "I have trodden the winepress alone, I trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart,</p>	
Stands on Mount of Olives / earthquake / mountain splits in two	
<p>Zechariah 14:3-4 ³ Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,</p>	
Judges the nations / Valley of Jehoshaphat / Angels gather the Elect & Nations	
<p>Matthew 24:30-31 ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, they will gather together His elect from the four winds, Matt 13:37-43 Angels gather all that offend</p>	
<p>Matthew 25:31-33 ... Son of Man comes in glory & all the holy angels ... He sits on the throne of His glory. All the nations gathered before him; He will separate the sheep from the goats.</p>	
<p>Joel 3:2 ² I will also gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel,</p>	
Passes through the Eastern Gate / Enters the temple / glory fills temple	
<p>Ezekiel 43:1-5 ⁴ And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east ... into the inner court; the glory of the LORD filled the temple. Ps 24:7-8</p>	

End of the End Times

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power

Judgment Seat of Christ	Rapture of the Church – unseen like a thief	
	7-Year Covenant between Antichrist & Jews 3 1/2 Year Ministry of 2 Witnesses, their resurrection Abomination of Desolation, Jerusalem trampled Antichrist 3 ½ years to kill saints, image & mark	7 Seals 7 Trumpets 7 Bowls
Second Coming	Christ Returns - Day of the Lord – Wrath & Judgment	
	75 Day Transition, Daniel 12:11-12 Judge Sin, Cleanse Defilements, Regenerate Planet Establish the Kingdom	Comes in clouds, every eye sees him, Israel looks to Jesus who they pieced, ALL Israel is saved
		Comes with saints / Wages war on earth from Jerusalem to Edom & back
		Stands on Mount of Olives / earthquake mountain splits in two, creates valley & a river
		Angels gather Elect & Nations, Throne of Glory Judges the nations in Valley of Jehoshaphat
		Passes through the Eastern Gate Enters the temple and glory fills temple
Millennial Kingdom – Christ Reigns 1,000 Years on Earth Israel will be the head of the nations; Jerusalem will be the world capital. The priesthood, sacrifices, and feast will be resumed. People will live for hundreds of years, all animals will be tame, the earth will be productive and fruitful, there will be no wars. The world will worship the God of Israel. Three times a year all the nations will come to Jerusalem for the feasts.		
Battle of Gog & Magog		
Physical Earth destroyed; Time is no more		
Eternity – Everybody at Death		

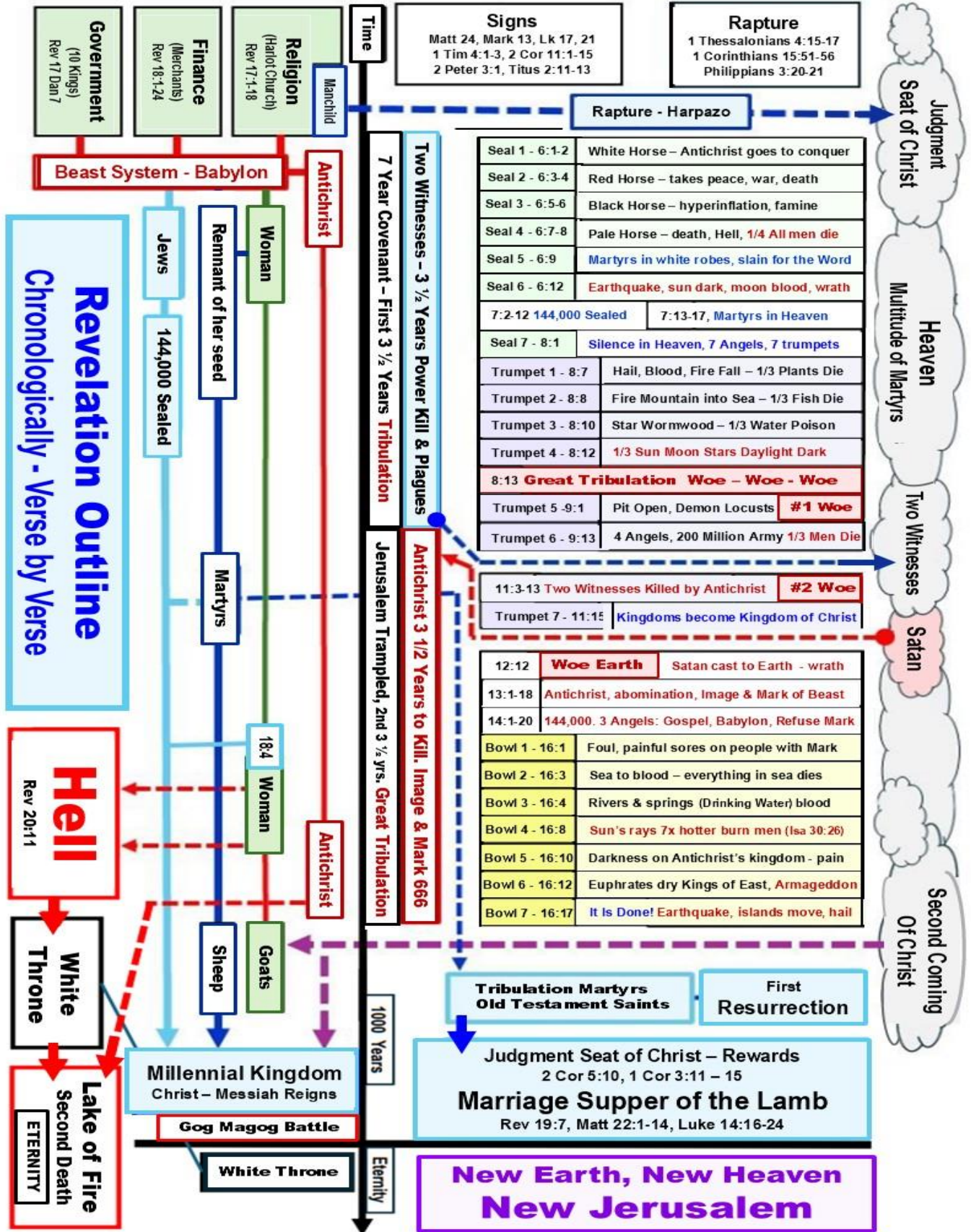


7777 Years Sels Trumpets Bowls

Revelation Chapter : Verse	7 YEARS, 7 SEALS, 7 TRUMPETS, 7 BOWLS		
Seal 1 – 6:1-2	White Horse – Global Government Rider - Antichrist		
Seal 2 – 6:3-4	Red Horse – War, Death		
Seal 3 – 6:5-6	Black Horse – Hyperinflation, Fame		
Seal 4 – 6:7-8	Pale Horse – Rider Death, Hell follows – 1/4 Men Die		
Seal 5 – 6:9-11	Martyrs in White Robes		
Seal 6 – 6:12	Great Earthquake, Sun Black, Moon Blood, Stars fall, Wrath of Lamb		
7:2-12	144,000 Jews Sealed from 12 Tribes	7:13-17	Heaven – Martyrs - White Robes
Seal 7– 8:1	SILENCE in Heaven		
Trumpet 1 – 8:7	Hail – Blood – Fire Cast to Earth – 1/3 of Plants Die		
Trumpet 2 – 8:8-9	Burning Mountain thrown to Sea – 1/3 Fish Die & Ships Destroyed		
Trumpet 3 – 8:10-11	Great Star (Wormwood) Falls to Earth – 1/3 Waters Poisoned		
Trumpet 4 – 8:12	1/3 Sun, Moon, Stars Darkened, 1/3 Daylight Darkened		
8:13	GREAT TRIBULATION – WOE – WOE - WOE		
Trumpet 5 – 9:1-12	Angel Opens Pit – Demonic Locusts	1st WOE is PAST	
Trumpet 6 – 9:13-21	4 Fallen Angels Released, Army of 200 Million – 1/3 Men Killed		
11:3-13	Two Witnesses Killed by Antichrist	11:14	2nd WOE is PAST
Trumpet 7– 11:15	Mystery of God is FINISHED!		
12:12	WOE to EARTH & SEA	Satan Cast to Earth with Great Wrath	
13:1-18	Antichrist, False Prophet, Abomination, Image & Mark of Beast		
14:1-20	144,000 in Heaven, 3 Angels: Gospel, Babylon Fallen, Don't take Mark	15:1-8	Heaven – Martyrs, Bowls
Bowl 1 – 16:1-2	Foul & Painful Sores on those with the Mark of the Beast		
Bowl 2 – 16:3	Sea turns to Blood – Everything in the Sea Dies		
Bowl 3 – 16:4-7	Rivers & Springs (Drinking Water) Turns to Blood (Toxic)		
Bowl 4 – 16:8-9	Sun's Rays 7x Hotter - Burn Men (Isaiah 30:26)		
Bowl 5 – 16:10	Darkness on Antichrist's Kingdom – Pain & Sores		
Bowl 6 – 16:12	Euphrates Dry – Kings of East	16:13-16	3-Frog spirits, Armageddon
Bowl 7– 16:17	IT IS DONE!	16:18-21	Earthquake, Islands Move, 100 Pound Hail

Second Coming of Christ

Revelation Outline



End Time Earthquakes

Earthquakes in the End Times

Jesus Prophecy Matthew 24:7	"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.
Battle of Gog And Magog Ezekiel 38:19-20	"For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, 'so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.
Resurrection of 2 Witnesses Revelation 11:13	At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven
After 6th Seal Revelation 6:12-14	I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.
After 7th Bowl Revelation 16:18-20	Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.
At the Second Coming Of Christ Zechariah 14:4-8	On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.

End Times Types & Shadows

End Times Types & Shadows			
Types & Shadows	Church / Rapture	7 Year Tribulation	Christ Judges Nations Millennium
Noah – flood (Matt. 24:38-39)	Enoch caught up alive to God (Gen 5:24, Jude 1:14)	Noah is protected and survives global judgment, death, and a flood of destruction	Noah re-populates & fills the earth, Type of tribulation survivors who enter the millennium & repopulate earth
Lot – Sodom (Luke 17:26-29)	Abraham enters a covenant with God, then intercedes for Lot's salvation. Sarah a type of New Jerusalem above	Lot enters Sodom with a large multitude, leaves a remnant of 3 souls, protected by angels, and barely escapes judgment of fire, brimstone, and destruction	Lot a type the remnant that survives the tribulation, The Jews enter the tribulation with a covenant with Antichrist, but get saved in the end
The Exodus (Gen. 41:27-45)	Joseph – marries Gentile bride (Rapture) then 7 years of famine in Egypt & World (7 years tribulation)	Two Witnesses – Moses & Aaron, 10 plagues against Pharaoh & gods of Egypt, Israel Passed over by death angel (Exodus 12:1-13)	All Israel saved, comes out of Egypt, enters the promised land, a land of milk & honey (Type of Millennial kingdom)
Elijah / Elisha (2 Kings 2:9-37) (Malachi 4:4-5) (Matt 17:11)	Elijah was raptured alive, his anointing, spirit, came upon Elisha who anoints Jehu (1 Kings 19:16) who kills Jezebel (Rev 2:20-23)	Two Witnesses come in the spirit of Elijah & Moses power 3 1/2 years, killed by Antichrist, after 3 days resurrect & ascend to heaven (Rev. 11:3-13)	John the Baptist in the spirit of Elijah, he was the friend (Best Man) of the bridegroom, Jesus, at the wedding (supper of the Lamb) Jn 3:29
Daniel & friends (Dan 3:1-30) (Rev 13:14-15)	Daniel went into the lion's den, passed the test, overcame his enemies, ascended to right hand of the throne	Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego refused to bow to the image of the king, (image of the beast) in a fiery furnace 7x hotter, meet Jesus (all Israel saved in trib.)	Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego, came out of fiery furnace to be rulers in the kingdom.
Esther & Mordecai (Esther 3:1-5-15) (Esther 5-10)	Vashti (the Law) could no longer be queen. Esther (grace/the church) becomes queen (Esther 1:11-19; Rom. 7:1-4; Gal. 4:25-26)	Mordecai refuses to bow to Haman, Haman plots a global genocide of the Jewish people. (type of Antichrist & tribulation) (Esther 3:1-15)	Haman, 10 sons, all enemies of Jews killed globally. Mordecai rules in the kingdom (Esther 9:1-5) (type of Christ judging the nations 10 horns, and ruling in the millennium, Rev 17:12; 19:11-21)

Orders of Resurrections

Orders of Resurrections & Laws of the Harvest

[I Corinthians 15:23, Leviticus 23]

The First Resurrection – Resurrection of Life

[Rev 20:4-6, John 5:29]

1). *Jesus* *[First ripe sheaf - First of the firstfruits]*

Jesus raised - 50 Days Pentecost / Church - 2,000 yrs - Rapture / Christ's return

2). *The Rapture* *[Dead & Living in Christ - 2 Wave loaves / Pentecost]*

3). *The Two Witnesses* *[Four corners – Gleanings]*

4). *The Tribulation Martyrs* *[Four corners – Gleanings]*

5). *All Saints* *[General Harvest]*

The Second Death – Resurrection of Condemnation

[Rev 20:11-14, John 5:29]

6). *The Antichrist and False Prophet* *[Tares] Lake of Fire*

1,000 years - Battle of Gog Magog - Time no more - White Throne Judgment

7). *All sinners – All ages* *[Tares] Lake of Fire*