



# **The Doctrine of The Last Things**

(Eschatology)

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# Eschatology

(The Doctrine of the Last Things)

## Understanding Eschatology

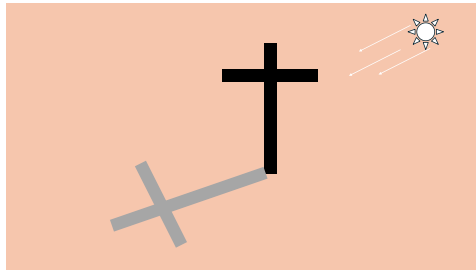
### The meaning and importance of Eschatology

1. *“Eschatology means the theology of last things. That study can cover all things that were future at the time of their writing, or it can include only those things which are still future from our present vantage point.”*  
(Charles Ryrie. Basic Theology. (Victor Books, 1986), PP 439)
2. At least one third of the Bible is undeniable prophetic
  - a. During the Old Testament period Israel anxiously awaited the coming Messiah.
  - b. During the New Testament period the Church anxiously awaited Christ's return
    - > They were devastated at His death, overjoyed at His resurrection and very anxiously awaited His return.
  - c. Today, more and more believers avoid the subject of prophecy.
    - > They ignore one third of God's revelation, the Bible.
3. It is God's intent and desire that we pay attention to the “whole council of God”.

### Interpreting Eschatology

1. **The starting point must always be the Scriptures.**
  - a. We must trust in God's revelation to us.
    - > **2 Peter 1:20-21** <sup>20</sup>*knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
  - b. We must compare Scripture with Scripture.
    - > *A third law of biblical hermeneutics is that Scripture is always the best interpreter of Scripture. For this reason, we always compare Scripture with Scripture when trying to determine the meaning of a passage. Got Questions, What is Hermeneutic?*  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Biblicalhermeneutics.html>
  - c. We must also be aware of the interpretive **Law of Double Reference**.
    - > Many times a prophecy refers to:

- o A short-term historical event
- o Pointing to a long-term and more complete fulfillment.
- ① **Colossians 2:16-17** *<sup>16</sup>Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*



- > This demonstrates God's sovereign control of the events of history.
  - o **Isaiah 46:9-10** *<sup>9</sup>remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup>declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,*
- d. A word of caution when interpreting prophecy
  - > Be careful to not set dates where scripture prohibits it.
  - > Be careful about assuming an order of events when scripture is not clear about it.
  - > Be aware of symbolic language and technical terms.

## 2. **Literal Interpretation**

- a. This method interprets the words of Scriptures in a literal, normal, natural, grammatical and historical way.
  - > Words have the meaning of normal language.
  - > However, the literal interpretation of Scripture does recognize the use of symbols, allegories, figures of speech, etc.
- b. *The most important law of biblical hermeneutics is that the Bible should be interpreted literally. We are to understand the Bible in its normal or plain meaning, unless the passage is obviously intended to be symbolic or if figures of speech are employed. The Bible says what it means and means what it says.* Got Questions, What is Hermeneutics? <https://www.gotquestions.org/Biblicalhermeneutics.html>

- c. **An observation-** Every fulfilled prophecies of scripture, such as the birth of Christ, have been fulfilled literally.
  - > Unfulfilled prophecy must also be interpreted literally.
- 3. **Allegorical interpretation**
  - a. Allegory is a narration or description in which events, actions, characters, settings or objects represent specific abstractions or ideas.
  - b. This method is used by some to interpret prophecy.
    - > It looks for “hidden” or “deeper meaning” to Scripture.
- 4. **Observations about the interpretation of Prophecy**
  - a. Premillennialists interpret the Bible, including prophecy, literally.
  - b. Postmillennialists and Amillennialists, interpret the Scriptures literally but then allegorically when interpreting prophecy.

### Three major views of the Millennium

- 1. **Postmillennialism**
  - a. Postmillennialism is the belief that Christ’s second coming will occur after the Millennium.
    - > Walvoord says, “Adherents of this view believed the Gospel would triumph to such an extent in the world that the whole world would be Christianized, bringing in a golden age which would correspond to the millennial kingdom.” (Walvoord, John F. Every Prophecy of the Bible. Colorado Springs: Victor Publishing, 1999, P. 17)
    - > World missions would be so successful that the whole world would be Christianized.
  - b. This view, though greatly popular for a time, eventually all but died out in the twentieth century after two World Wars.
- 2. **Amillennialism**
  - a. *“The most popular, the Augustinian interpretation relates the Millennium in the present age as a spiritual kingdom ruling in the hearts of Christians or embodied in the progress of the Gospel in the church.”* (Walvoord, John F. Every Prophecy of the Bible. Colorado Springs: Victor Publishing, 1999, P. 16)
  - b. Most Amillennialists believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible and tend to interpret the rest of Scripture literally.
- 3. **Premillennialism**
  - a. The definition of Premillennialism

> Ryrie says, "Premillennialism is the view that holds that the second coming of Christ will occur prior to the Millennium which will see the establishment of Christ's kingdom on this earth for a literal 1,000 years. It also understands that there will be several occasions when resurrections and judgments will take place. Eternity will begin after the 1,000 years are concluded. Within premillennialism, there are those who hold differing views as to the time of the Rapture." Charles Ryrie. *Basic Theology*. (Victor Books, 1986), PP 450

b. Premillennialism and the Scriptures.

- > Premillennialists believe in the divine inspiration and infallibility of the Bible and interpret it literally.
- > Charles U. Wagner says, "In premillennialism prophetic Scripture is read in its literal sense and approached like any other non-prophetic passage." (Ryrie, Charles, ed. *Countdown to Armageddon*, Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 1999, P 31)
- > This view consistently interprets the whole Bible as it was given.

4. **The history of Amillennialism, Covenant Theology and Premillennialism**

a. **Covenant Theology and Amillennialism**

> **Covenant Theology** looks at the Scriptures through the grid of the covenant. Covenant Theology defines two overriding covenants: the covenant of Works (CW) and the covenant of grace (CG). A third covenant is sometimes mentioned; namely, the covenant of redemption (CR).

Got Questions: [tps://www.gotquestions.org/covenanttheology.html](https://www.gotquestions.org/covenanttheology.html)

- o Covenant Theology, interprets prophecy, allegorically.
  - ① And therefore espouses amillennialism.
- > Covenant Theology adheres to **Replacement Theology**
  - o Replacement theology teaches that the church is the replacement for Israel and that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, not in Israel. The prophecies in Scripture concerning the blessing and restoration of Israel to the Promised Land are spiritualized or allegorized into promises of God's blessing for the church. Major problems exist with this view, such as the continuing existence of the Jewish people throughout the centuries and especially with the Revelation of the modern state of Israel. If Israel has been condemned by God and there is no future for the Jewish nation, how do we explain the supernatural survival of the Jewish people over the past 2,000 years despite the



many attempts to destroy them? How do we explain why and how Israel reappeared as a nation in the 20th century after not existing for 1,900 years?

Got Questions [https:// www.gotquestions.org/replacement-theology.html](https://www.gotquestions.org/replacement-theology.html)

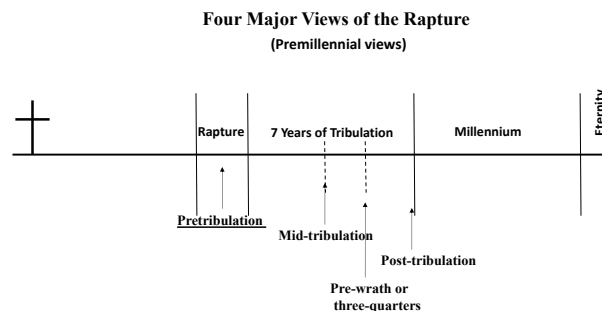
- > Unfortunately Covenant Theology has fostered antisemitism in the Church
  - o Luther, for example, made some very unfortunate statements toward the end of his life.
  - o These were picked up by Hitler to justify the Holocaust.
  - o See the Appendix- [Anti-Semitic Statements](#)
  - o See the Appendix- [The New Anti-Semitism](#)

b. **The development of Covenant Theology and Premillennialism**

- > The early church interpreted Scripture literally and was consequently premillennial.
- > This premillennial view was commonly referred to as “**chiliasm**”.
  - o Church historian Philip Schaff summarizes as follows. *“The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene Age is the prominent chiliasm, or millenarianism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment.* Charles Ryrie. Basic Theology. (Victor Books, 1986), PP 451
    - ① Ante-Nicene fathers are the church fathers before the council of Nicaea (325 AD).
  - o In the third century allegorical interpretation (as espoused by the Alexandrian School of Theology) swept through the church and largely replaced Chiliasm.
- > Augustine (354 -430 AD), a monastic who heavily influenced Roman Catholic doctrine systematized the allegorical method of interpretation of Scripture which formed the basis for what we call today, Covenant Theology.
  - o It must be remembered that the Church was already diverging greatly from Biblical teaching and would continue its diversion which would eventually lead to the Reformation in the 16th century.
- > The Reformers were basically amillennialists, but some of the separatists groups like the Anabaptists and Huguenots, were Premillennialists.

- o While we owe a great debt of gratitude to the Reformers, we must realize that they were Catholic Priests who initially wanted to reform the Catholic Church from within.
- o God allowed them to re-discover some of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible like;
  - ① Sola scriptura: "Scripture alone"
  - ② Sola fide: "faith alone"
  - ③ Sola gratia: "grace alone"
  - ④ Solo Christo: "Christ alone"
  - ⑤ Soli Deo gloria: "to the glory of God alone"
- o However, they did not rediscover the whole of Biblical teaching. Most of them continued such practices as:
  - ① Baby baptism
  - ② Various forms of church organization and practice
  - ③ The idea of state churches
  - ④ Etc.
- > It could be said that the rediscovery of New Testament Christianity was progressive in the same way that God originally gave His Word through progressive Revelation.
  - o It is wrong to say that Millenarianism or dispensationalism is a recently developed doctrine.
    - ① It would be more accurate to say that it is a more recent rediscovery of New Testament doctrine.
  - o In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries there was a Revival of Premillennialism.

## Four major views of the Rapture



1. **Pretribulational view**
  - a. The Pretribulation view holds that the Rapture of the church will occur just prior to the seven-year Tribulation period.
2. **Midtribulational View**
  - a. The Midtribulational view holds that the Rapture of the church will occur at the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation period.
3. **Posttribulational View**
  - a. The Posttribulational view holds that the Rapture of the church will occur at the end of the seven-year Tribulation period.
4. **What we Believe to be the Correct Biblical Position**
  - a. We believe that Premillennial, Pretribulational Dispensationalism is the correct Biblical interpretation of Eschatology.
  - b. This is the position that is outlined in this study

## **Israel, the centerpiece of Biblical prophecy**

1. **Israel is God's covenant people**
  - a. See Appendix- [God's Unconditional Covenant with Israel \(verses\)](#)
  - b. Watch video- The Jew is the Key to Bible Prophecy  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaZHggUBdTY>
2. **The Abrahamic Covenant**
  - > **Genesis 12:1-3** *<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
  - b. God called Abraham to father this special people.
    - > God promised to make Israel a great nation that would be a blessing to all humanity. Genesis 12:1-3
      - o God promised to give Israel a land forever.
    - > God promised to give Israel a land
      - o **Genesis 13:14-15** (14-28) *<sup>14</sup>The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup>for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring **forever**."*

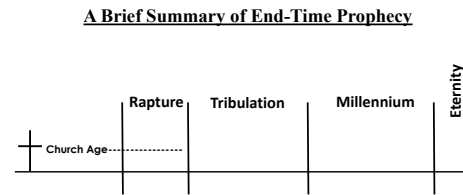
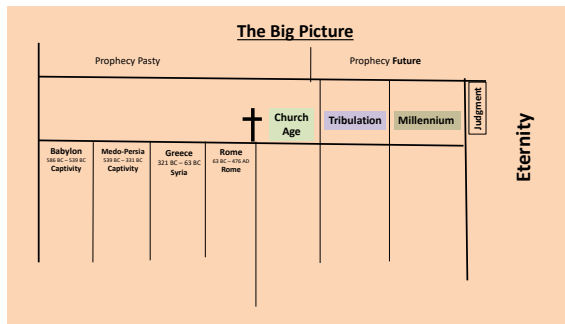
- o *“The conditionality of the Abrahamic Covenant furnishes an important support for premillennialism, since the land promise needs a future time (the Millennium) in which it will be fulfilled.”* see, Charles Ryrie. Basic Theology. (Victor Books, 1986), PP 455
  - o God confirmed His promise with an unconditional covenant and a restatement of His land promise. Genesis 15:7, 17-21 (7-21)
3. **The Davidic Covenant** 2 Samuel 7:12-16
- a. David's son, Solomon, would come to David's throne. 2 Samuel 7:12
  - b. His throne and kingdom would be established **forever**. 2 Samuel 7:13
  - c. This covenant was confirmed throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Jeremiah 23:5-6; 30:8-9; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 1:6-7
  - d. The Davidic Covenant will be fulfilled during the Millennium as well.

### **God will never cancel His promises to Israel.**

1. Jeremiah 31:35-37 <sup>35</sup>*Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD of hosts is his name:*<sup>36</sup>*“If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.”* <sup>37</sup>*Thus says the LORD: “If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD.”* God will never cast off the nation of Israel.
2. **Romans 11:1-2a** <sup>1</sup>*I ask, then, has God rejected his people? **By no means!** For I myself am an Israelite, a descendent of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin whom he foreknew . . .*
  - a. Paul said, “**By no means** (NO, NO, NO- this is the strongest negative in the Greek language)” God will never cast Israel away.
    - > See the appendix; [God will never cancel His promises to Israel](#)
  - b. After God's purifying, Israel will return to Him (at the end of the Great Tribulation). Zachariah 12:10-13:1
  - c. God will restore Israel because He is a God of mercy. Psalm 94:14; Jer 33; Jer 12:14-17, 30:1-4; Micah 7:18

## **God's Prophetic Outline**

### **The big picture**



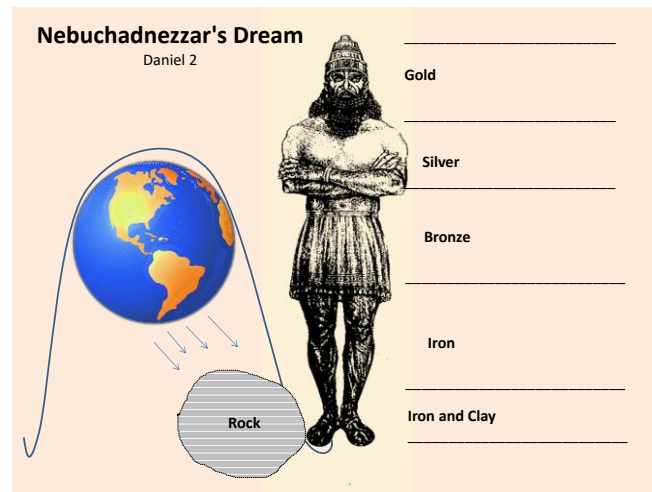
## Israel's 70 Years of Captivity in Babylon

1. Assyria conquered Israel, the ten northern tribes 722 BC
2. Judah was conquered by Babylon in 586 BC. 2 Kings 24-25
  - a. These events had been prophesied by Isaiah and Jeremiah.
    - > **Isaiah 39:6-7** *Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. <sup>7</sup>And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."*
  - b. These prophesied events were fulfilled literally not allegorically.

## Two Visions that described "The Times of the Gentiles"

1. **Nebuchadnezzar's Dream** - an awesome Image Daniel. 2:1-30
  - a. General
    - > He had been wondering about the future. Daniel 2:29
    - > God showed Nebuchadnezzar "what will be in the latter days". Daniel 2:28.
  - b. The vision Nebuchadnezzar saw had two elements: **Daniel 2:31-35**
    - > A fearful image
    - > And a large stone
  - c. The Description of the image Daniel 2:31-33
    - > Head of gold.
    - > Arms and breast of silver.
    - > Belly and two thighs of bronze.
    - > Two legs (knees to ankles) of iron.
    - > Feet and toes of iron and clay mixed.
  - d. The stone Daniel 2:34-35

- > The stone was of divine origin. Daniel 2:34
- > It was hurled against the feet of the image.
- > The feet and the whole image was shattered, broken, and became like chaff.
- > The chaff was blown away.
- > There was no trace left of it.
- > But the stone itself became like a mountain (in the place of the image) and filled the whole earth.



## 2. Daniel's Dream - 4 Beasts Daniel 7:1-8

### a. General

- > In the first year of Belshazzar, Daniel had a dream.
- > He saw four beasts come up out of the sea.

### b. The description of the four beasts Daniel 7:4-8

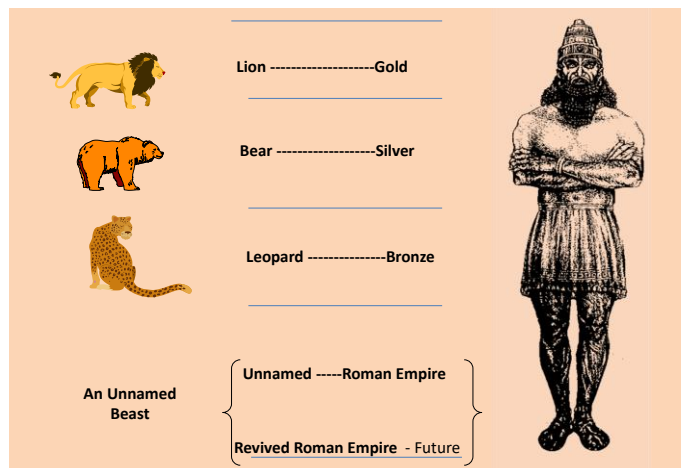
- > The first beast was **a lion**.
  - o It had eagle's wings on its back.
  - o Its wings were plucked off.
  - o It was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man.
  - o The mind of a man was given to it.

### c. The second beast was **a bear**.

- > It was raised up on one side.
- > It had three ribs in its teeth
- > It was told to arise and devour much flesh.

### d. The third beast was **a leopard**.

- > It had four heads and four wings on its back.
- > It was given dominion
- e. The fourth beast was **unnamed**.
  - > It was terrifying, dreadful and exceedingly strong.
  - > It had great iron teeth.
  - > It devoured, broke in pieces, and stomped on what was left.
  - > It was different than all the other beasts.
  - > It had ten horns.
    - o It had a little horn
    - o Before the little horn, three horns were plucked up by the roots.
    - o The little horn had eyes like the eyes of a man.
    - o The little horn had a mouth speaking great things.



3. **The interpretation of both dreams** Daniel 2:36-45; 7:1-8
- a. Both dreams started in the time of Babylon and extended to the Kingdom of Christ at the end of the age.
  - b. There would be five kingdoms. Daniel 2:36-45; 7:15-28; 7:17
    - > This included four Gentile kingdoms.
      - o These compose **“Times of the Gentiles”** which extend from 586 BC to the Second Coming of Christ.
      - o Jesus described this period as the **“days of vengeance”** and the **“times of the Gentiles”**.
- ① **Luke 21:20-24** *“20 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. . . .*

② *24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ”*

o In Daniel's day, God Reveled exactly what political powers He would use to bring His judgment. Daniel 2:31-45; 7:1-28

> The fifth kingdom is Christ's kingdom.

o At the end, there would be one Kingdom, Christ's Kingdom, that would break the Gentile domination and end God's judgment on Israel.

① Deuteronomy 4:25-31 25 *“When you father children and children’s children, and have grown old in the land, if you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, so as to provoke him to anger, 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. 29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice. 31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.*

4. The identity of the four Gentile kingdoms.

a. The **Babylonian Empire** is he First Gentile kingdom represented by the head of gold and the lion. Daniel 2:38; 7:4

> They represented Babylon.

o Babylon's “golden god”, Marduk

> Winged lions guarded the gates of the royal palace of Babylon.



- > Belshazzar saw the handwriting on the wall and was killed by Darius the Mede. Daniel 5:24-31 (Daniel 5)
- b. The **Medo-Persian Empire** is the second Gentile kingdom and was represented by the arms and breast of silver and the bear. Daniel 2:39a; 7:5
  - > The Medes and the Persians formed one great power in 550 BC.
    - o Silver was the basis of their monetary
  - > The bear also represented Medo-Persia.
    - o Raised up on one side
      - ① Persia was the dominant force.
    - o It was told, " Arise, devour much flesh."
      - ① Medo-Persia conquered many nations.
      - ② The Medes and the Persians led by Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 BC.
- c. **Greece**, under Alexander the Great, was the third Gentile kingdom and was represented by the belly and thighs of bronze and a leopard. Daniel. 2:39b; 7:6
  - > These represented the Empire of Greece.
    - o The Greeks developed bronze weaponry.
    - o Alexander the Great unified Greece into one coherent nation as he swept across the whole Western World.
  - > A leopard with four wings.
    - o This represented the lightning speed of Alexander the Great as he swept across Europe, Africa and the Middle East all the way to India, conquering it and establishing the Grecian empire.
      - ① Greece conquered Medo-Persia in 331 BC.
    - o The four wings and four heads
      - ① Represented his four generals that divided the Empire after Alexander the Great's death.
        - ⇒ Lysimachus- Thrace and Bithynia
        - ⇒ Cassander-Macedonia and Greece
        - ⇒ Seleucus- Syria, Babylonia, and lands to the East
        - ⇒ Ptolemy- Egypt, Palestine, Arabia Petrea
  - > The two thighs represented the two generals who became important to Israel during this "Time of the Gentiles".

- o Ptolemy- Egypt, Palestine, Arabia Petrea
- o Seleucus- Syria, Babylonia, and lands to the East



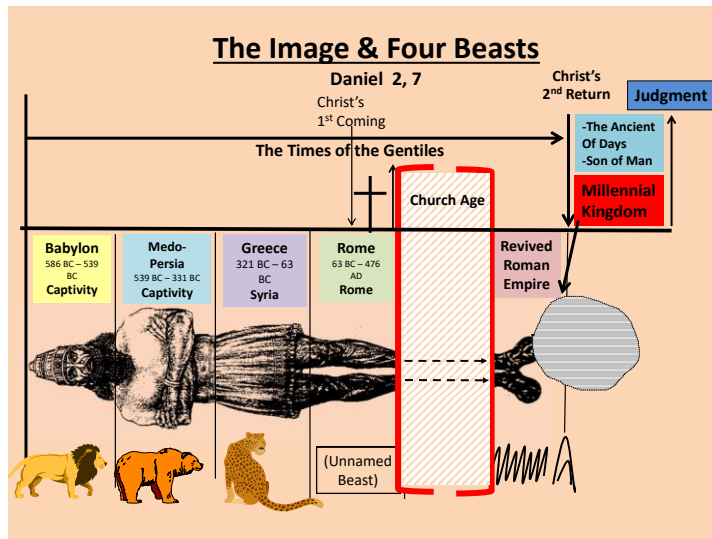
- d. The **Roman Empire** was the fourth Gentile kingdom and was represented by the legs of iron and the unnamed beast. Daniel 2:40; 7:7
- > The two legs of iron represent the divided Roman Empire.
    - o The Western Empire with its capitol in Rome
    - o The Eastern Empire with its capitol in Constantinople (modern Istanbul). 364 AD
  - > Iron was used by Rome for its weapons and was stronger than gold, silver and bronze and was more destructive. Daniel 2:40
    - o Rome crushed and shattered the ancient world.
  - > Rome was a terrifying, dreadful, strong beast with iron teeth.
    - o It devoured, broke in pieces and stomped into dust.
  - > Rome conquered Greece by 146 BC.
    - o The fall of the Roman Empire
      - ① Some say Rome never fell, it was only weakened.
      - ② Rome's influence on the West remains to this day.
- e. The **Revived Roman Empire** is represented by the feet and toes of the image composed of iron and clay. Daniel 2:41-44; Daniel 7:7-8, 19-20, 23-24
- > The feet and 10 toes represent a divided kingdom. (Daniel 2:41; 7:23-24)
  - > The ten horns are 10 kings
  - > They will come out of the fourth Gentile kingdom.

- o See Appendix- [The European Union is the most obvious possibility for this ten kingdom coalition.](#)
  - o See Appendix- [The European Union has the potential to be the Revised Roman Empire](#)
  - o (See Appendix- [Historical Attempts to Restore the Roman Empire](#))
- f. All of these constituted the **“Times of the Gentiles”**
5. The fifth Kingdom is Christ’s Kingdom (just as literal as the four previous Kingdoms).
- a. Christ’s Kingdom will bring an end to the “Times of the Gentiles”
  - b. **Christ’s Kingdom** is represented by the stone. Daniel 2 :44-45; 7:15-28
    - > It will strike the feet of the image toppling and destroying it.
      - o The times of the Gentiles will be destroyed.
      - o The image will become dust and the wind will blow it away.
    - > Then, the stone will become a large mountain and filled the earth.
  - c. This kingdom will not be set up by man but by the “God of Heaven”
    - > It is “cut out of the mountain without hands”. Daniel 2: 34-35, 45
    - > It will never be destroyed.
    - > It will end the “Times of the Gentiles” and destroy their kingdoms.
    - > This last and divine kingdom will endure forever.

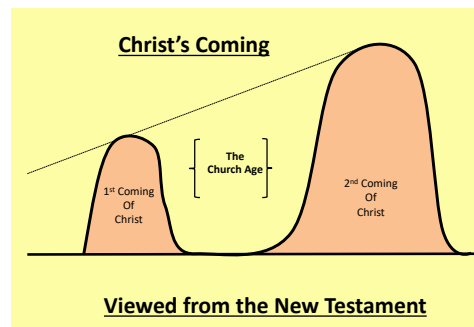
## **The Church Age**

### **The Church age is a parenthesis in God’s prophetic plan.**

1. The Church Age began with the Day of Pentecost and extends to the Rapture.
  - a. The Church Age is actually a parenthesis between the Roman Empire and the Revised Roman Empire.
    - > See Appendix- [An undetermined period of time before the 70<sup>th</sup> week begins](#)



2. Paul described this parenthesis as **“the mystery”**. Ephesians 3:1-12
  - a. **Ephesians 3:4-6, 10** *“When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. . . . <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known . . .*
    - > Mystery does not mean something mysterious or unable to be understood.
    - > The mystery means something that up to this time in history was not Revealed.
3. This mystery (unknown in the Old Testament but now Revealed in the New Testament) is the Church of Jesus Christ, His body made up of both Jews and Gentiles. Ephesians 3:6, 10



## The Rapture of the Church

1. Watch video- Removed Before Wrath  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkblZPi9\\_7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkblZPi9_7Y)
2. Paul taught about the Rapture 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-53
  - a. **1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16-18** <sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.
    - > The word rapture is found in the original Greeks Scripture.
      - o The word for caught up is **harpazo** (ἁρπάζω, 726),
        - ① “to snatch or catch away,” is said of the act of the Spirit of the Lord in regard to Philip in Acts 8:39; of Paul in being “caught” up to paradise, 2 Cor. 12:2, 4; of the rapture of the saints at the return of the Lord, 1 Thess. 4:17 W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
  - b. God wants us to know about the Rapture - not to be uninformed about it. 1 Thessalonians 4:13
    - > The knowledge of the Rapture should encourage us.  
1 Thessalonians 4:18
    - > By knowing about it, we will not grieve as unbelievers do.
  - c. Christ will descend in the air 1 Thessalonians 4:17
    - > He will not come to the earth.
    - > That will happen at the Second Coming.
  - d. It will be accompanied by a command, a shout of an archangel and the trumpet of God. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
    - > Christ will command Christians everywhere to be resurrected from the dead. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
    - > Then, in an instant, the living believers will be transformed and join the resurrected believers in the air.
  - e. When Christians die, their spirit/soul is instantly with God in heaven. 2 Corinthians 5:8
    - > At the Rapture, the body is resurrected, transformed and joined again with their spirit/soul.

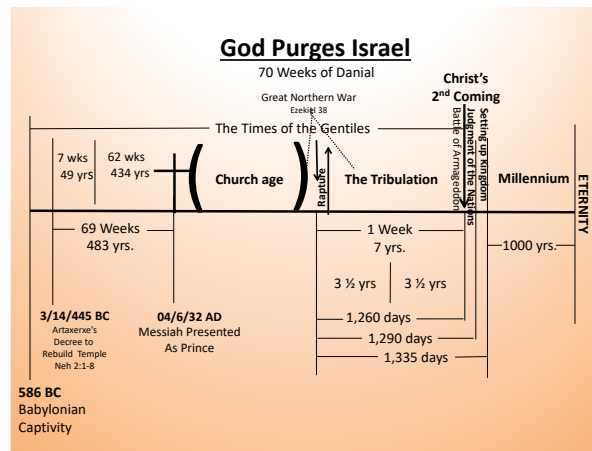
- f. These believers will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:18
3. John referred to the Rapture.
- a. **Revelation 3:10** *Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*
- > *"The primary purpose of the Rapture is to remove the church from the earth to avoid the horrors of the judgments of the Tribulation."*  
(John Walvoord, Countdown to Armageddon, Harvest House Publishers, Oregon. 1999. P70)
- a. **John 14:2-3** *<sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*
- > 14:3-4. **I will come back** refers here, not to the Resurrection or to a believer's death, but to the Rapture of the church when Christ will return for His sheep. (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-18) Edwin A. Blum, "John" in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 322.
4. Differences between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ

**Some Differences between the Rapture and the Second Coming**

The Rapture	The Second Coming of Christ
The Rapture occurs <b>before</b> the Tribulation	It occurs <b>after</b> the Tribulation
Christ comes <b>for</b> His Church	Christ comes <b>with</b> His Church
Christ comes <b>in the clouds</b>	Christ comes <b>to earth</b>
The Rapture is a <b>secret</b> catching away	Christ comes <b>publicly</b> - <i>"every eye will see Him"</i>
The Rapture will be <b>to reward</b> His Church	The 2ed Coming is <b>to judge</b> for sin
	He comes to <b>establish His kingdom</b> on earth
	He comes to rule with His church for 1000 yrs.

5. The Rapture marks the end of the Church Age and beginning of the Tribulation.

## The Great Northern War



1. Dispersed Israel will return to the Land **Ezekiel 37**

a. *Dispersed Israel will return to the Land*

- > These dry bones represented Israel scattered throughout the world .
    - o **Ezekiel 37:11a** <sup>11a</sup>Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel . . . <sup>14</sup>"And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, Yahweh, have spoken and done it," declares Yahweh.'" *Legacy Standard Bible*
    - o Israel was divided, dry disjointed and without life.
  - > From 586 BC until 1948, Israel was dominated by Gentile nations
    - o Every year at the end of the Jewish Cedar (Passover meal) Jews around the world say, "next year in Jerusalem".
  - > In the late 1800s Theodor Herzl (the father of modern Zionism) began a movement that encouraged Jews to return to Israel.
  - > 1948 the United Nations voted to establish the State of Israel.
    - o On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel.
    - o For the first time in 2,000 years Israel had a homeland.
    - o However, Israel's return would be in unbelief
    - o But eventually, God would give them a new heart and all Israel would be saved.
- ① **Ezekiel 36:26** *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*
  - ① **Romans 11:25-26a** <sup>26l</sup>do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon

Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>27</sup>And in this way all Israel will be saved . . .

2. The Great Northern War described. **Ezekiel 38-39**

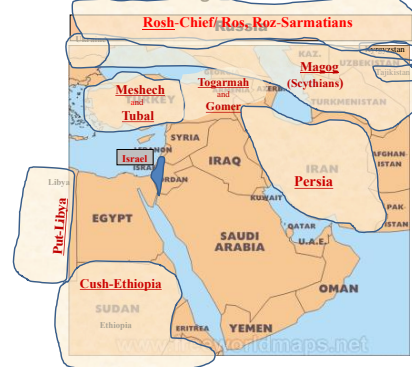
a. Who will be involved in an attack on Israel? 38:1-7

- > A Russia Muslim alliance (see maps that follow)
  - o Magog- Turkey 38:2
  - o Meshech- Asia Minor 38:2
  - o Tubal- Asia Minor 38:2
  - o Persia- Iran 38:5
  - o Cush- Sudan 38:5
  - o Put- Libya 38:5
  - o Gomer- Armenia, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey 38:6
  - o Togarmah- Turkey 38:6
  - o Many Peoples 38:6

**The Coalition against Israel according to Daniel 11:40-44**



**The Coalition Against Israel- Ezekiel 38**



b. **When** will this battle occur?"

- > In the Latter years/days 38:8, 16
- > It is unclear if this war will occur before or after the Rapture.

c. **What conditions** must be present? 38:8-23

- > It will not occur until the Later Days. 38:16
- > > Israel will have been regathered from the nations to their land. 38:8, 12
- > > Israel will be dwelling securely. 38:8, 11, 14
  - o Was this their confidence in a very well equipped, and strong military, strong economy and their alliance with the United States before October 7, 2023?



- o Or is this yet future when Antichrist brokers a peace accord which will mark the beginning of the Tribulation?
  - o In any case we are left to wonder how close the Rapture might be!
- d. **How** will it end? 38:18-23; 39:1-24
- > God, not Israel's military might, will end the attack.
    - o With a massive earthquake 38:14-23; 29:1-9
    - o With the invading forces turning against each other 38:21
    - o With disease (dead corpses, biological warfare?)
    - o With rain, hailstone, fire, burning hailstones
    - o It will take seven years to bury the dead and clean up. 39:1-24
- e. **What lessons** will be taught by this battle?
- > To the nations of the world
    - o It will show God's greatness and Holiness.
    - o **Ezekiel 39:7** . . . *And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.*
    - o **Ezekiel 38:23** *"And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them.*
  - > To the invaders
    - o It will show that God is the Lord.
    - o **Ezekiel 39:6** . . . *I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD.*
  - > To Israel
    - o It will show that God is the Lord their God.
    - o **Ezekiel 39:28** *Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore.*

## The Tribulation

### The Tribulation in General

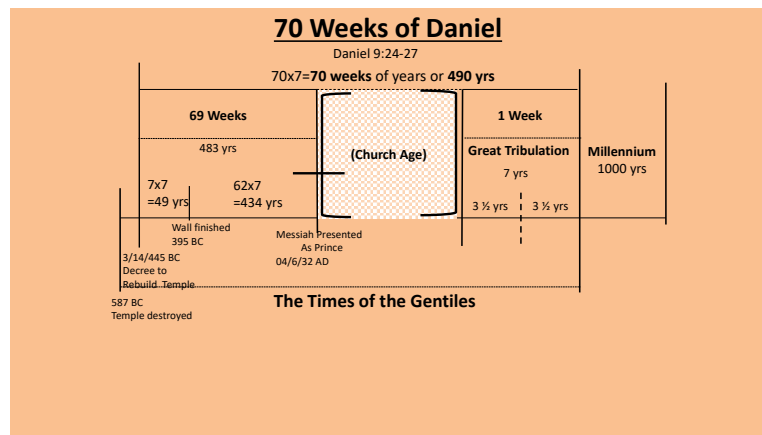
1. Watch Video Israel and the Tribulation  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnO50TTSTws&t=206s>
2. The Tribulation will be the most horrific time of distress that the world has ever known or will ever know.
  - a. **Matthew 24:21** <sup>21</sup> *For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.*
3. Watch video- What Will Happen to Israel in the Tribulation  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NhB1BdKtzE>

### **The Tribulation is described chronologically in Revelation 6-19.**

1. Christians will not go into the Tribulation since they will have been raptured.
  - a. **Revelation 3:10** *Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*
  - a. The church is never once mentioned or alluded to in the detailed description of the Tribulation in Revelation 6-16.
  - b. However, there will be people saved during the Tribulation.
2. The Holy Spirit will not be present in His restraining influence of lawlessness.
  - a. **2 Thessalonians 2:7-8a** <sup>7</sup>*For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.* <sup>8</sup>*And then the lawless one will be Revealed, . . .*
3. The Rapture of the Church by Jesus Christ signals the end of the church age and the soon coming of the Tribulation. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
4. The whole period of the Tribulation will be seven years.
  - a. This is **the 70th week of Daniel** Daniel 9:27
  - b. **Daniel 9:24-27** <sup>24</sup>Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. <sup>25</sup>Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. <sup>26</sup>And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood,

and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. <sup>27</sup>And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

- c. There were 69 weeks from Artaxerxes decree to rebuild the Temple to Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.
- d. There is an unknown period of time for the church.
- e. Then, 1 week is left for the Tribulation
  - > See Appendix- [The origin of Daniel's Prophecy](#)
  - > See Appendix- [The 70 Weeks of Daniel](#)



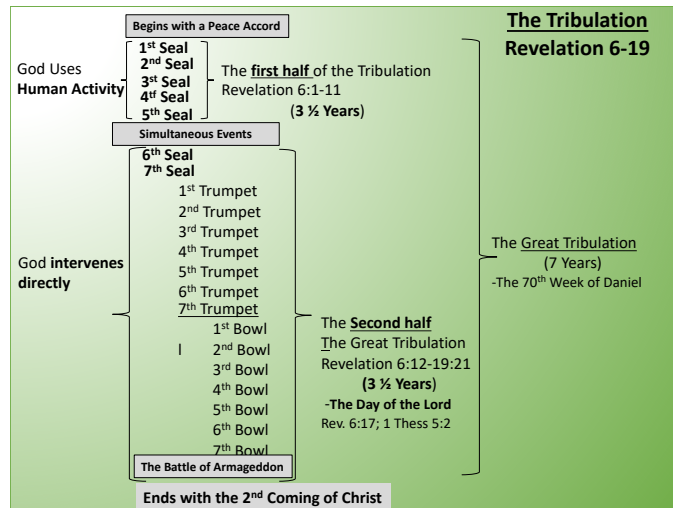
- 5. The Tribulation will be divided into two distinct parts of three and a half years each.
  - a. The first 3 1/2 years will be a time of relative peace.
  - b. The second 3 1/2 years will be the height of the horrific distress (the Great Tribulation and Time of Jacob's Trouble). **Revelation 13:1-8**
    - > The Beast is Antichrist
    - > The Dragon is Satan
- 6. The signing of a covenant or peace treaty between the Antichrist and Israel marks the beginning of the Tribulation.
  - a. **Daniel 9:27** *"And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."*
- 7. The transition to the second half of the Tribulation will be marked by the "abomination that causes desolation".

- a. This is when the Antichrist sets himself up to be worshiped as God in the temple.
    - > **Daniel 9:27** (NLT) *The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."*
    - > **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** ". . . For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is Revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God."
    - > **Daniel 11:31** *Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.*
    - > **Daniel 12:11** *And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.*
  - b. The Day of the Lord "refers to the extended period of time when the Lord deals directly with human sin through various forms of divine judgment." " John Walvoord, Countdown to Armageddon, Harvest House Publishers, Oregon. 1999. P75
    - > The Day of the Lord (God's judgment) will be:
      - o Preceded by the Rapture 2 Thess 2:3-4,
      - o Then the Tribulation (The Day of the Lord) (Joel 2:1-11).
      - o It will be followed by the Kingdom of Christ (Zeph. 3:14-20).
    - > The Day of the Lord will conclude with the **Day of God** (2 Peter 3:12).
8. The Second Coming of Christ ends this terrible Tribulation period.  
Revelation 19:11-16

## **God's judgments are poured out on Israel and the world during the Tribulation.**

1. The Tribulation will have at least two distinct goals. Revelation 6-19
  - a. First, it is **about Israel**.
    - > It will be the culmination of God's punishment of Israel for her unbelief.

- > It is part of God's plan to drive Israel back to Himself in faith and obedience.
- b. Second, it is **about the Gentile nations** of the world.
  - > The times of the Gentiles will be catastrophically terminated.
  - > God allowed the sinful Gentiles to discipline His people, Israel. ("God uses even the wrath of man to praise His name")
  - > Then, He turns to punish the Gentiles for their sin against His people. **Genesis 12:1-3**
- 2. **Antichrist is Revealed**
  - a. Antichrist is a pseudo-Christ or Satan's false Christ
    - > One who sets himself up as Christ.
    - > Or one who proclaims himself to be Christ.
- 3. **Daniel describes Antichrist** Dan 7:8,20
  - a. Antichrist is human Dan 7:8, 20-28
    - > He had eyes like eyes of a man.
    - > He had a mouth that spoke great things. Dan 7:8,20; Rev 13:5-6
      - o These were great promises, deception and arrogant leadership.
      - o These are blasphemies against God. Dan 7:24-25
  - b. He will be powerful, arising out of the revived Roman Empire and be its last ruler.
    - > He is the little horn that grows out of the revived Roman Empire.
    - > He will defeat three of the ten kings (horns) by uprooting them.
  - c. He will eventually be anti-god and anti-Christian. Dan 7:21
  - d. Antichrist will persecute all believers and especially Jewish believers. Matt 24:15-22; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 12:13-17, 13:6-7
    - > Antichrist will be defeated by God as He comes to deliver His saints and bring them into His kingdom (the Millennium). Dan 7:22, 26-27
- 4. **There are three sets of judgments** that follow each other chronologically.
  - a. The **seals** of a scroll Revelation 6
  - b. The **trumpets** Revelation 8-9
  - c. The **bowls** Revelation 19



## The first three and a half years of the tribulation

1. The first three and a half years will begin with political peace between Israel and her enemies.
  - a. The Antichrist will come to power by brokering this peace.
  - b. *"This treaty will guarantee protection to Israel so that her people can safely reestablish the worship of Judaism and build a temple in Jerusalem."* Rylie
    - > See Appendix- [Arrangements for the building of the next temple in Jerusalem](#)
    - > Watch video- [The Next Temple- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoabvOvQZtc](#)
    - > Watch video- [Ready to Rebuild- Jimmy DeYoung https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpJbnvtUnhw](#)
  - c. This period of peace will be broken by Antichrist and his Abomination of desolation.
2. **The Seven Seal judgment** Revelation 6-8:5; Matt 24:6-11
  - a. The First Seal judgment Revelation 6:1-2
    - > A rider on a white horse
    - > A bow and a crown were given to him.
    - > But he did not have arrows.
    - > This is Antichrist, not Christ.
      - o He will have a crown and rule the earth, not by military force but by public acclaim.
      - o He will win peace by agreement and covenant. Daniel 9:24-27

- > Things will look hopeful for Israel.
- b. The Second Seal judgment Revelation 6:3-4
  - > A rider on a **red horse**
    - o A large sword is given to him.
  - > This will be a time of bloodshed on the earth.
    - o *"But as horrible as this judgment is, it will be only the "birth pangs," the beginning pains of God's wrath (Matt. 24:8; Mark 13:7,8; Luke 21:9)."* MacArthur Study Bible, Revelation 6:4
  - > He will cause men to slay each other.
  - > He will have power to take peace from the earth.
- c. The Third Seal judgment Revelation 6:5-6
  - > A rider on a **black horse**
    - o He will be holding a pair of scales in his hand.
  - > This will be a time of food rationing.
    - o The food supply will be reduced by 90%.
    - o The noose of God's judgment will be tightening.
- d. The Fourth Seal judgment Revelation 6:7-8
  - > A rider on a **pale horse**
    - o His name was death and Hades followed close behind.
  - > He will kill one-fourth of the people on the earth.
    - o God grants this authority
    - o He will do this by war, hunger, fatal plagues.
    - o Wild beasts will be unrestrained and roam the earth killing as they go.
- e. The Fifth Seal judgment Revelation 6:9-11
  - > This is a heavenly scene.
    - o Those who had been killed because of the Word of God.
    - o Today we are seeing an increasing killing of Jews and Christians principally by Israel's enemies, the Islamic nations.
      - ① These are only a forerunner to the Tribulation.
    - o They were told that many more would die
    - o And they must wait a little longer until their number would be completed.

## The Mid-point of the Tribulation

1. **The “Abomination of Desolation”** Daniel. 9:27
  - a. Antichrist will break the peace treaty with Israel.
  - b. He will stop the temple worship.
  - c. He will claim to be God, set up an image of himself in the temple and demand to be worshipped.
  
2. **The two powerful witnesses** Revelation 11:3-12
  - a. They will prophecy for 1,260 days or 3 1/2 years
  - b. They will have power to kill their enemies by fire coming out of their mouths.
  - c. They will do great miracles.
    - > They will turn water into blood.
    - > They will strike the earth with every kind of plague.
    - > God will protect them until their job is finished.
  - d. At the mid-point of the Tribulation, Antichrist will kill them.
    - > Their corpses will lie in the street in Jerusalem for 3 1/2 days.
    - > Then, God will raise them from the dead and take them to heaven in a cloud.
  - e. Jerusalem will suffer an earthquake. Revelation 11:13
    - > One tenth of the city will be destroyed.
    - > 7,000 people will be killed.
    - > People will be terrified and give glory to God.
  
3. **Antichrist will destroy the worldwide counterfeit religious system.**  
Revelation 17:16
  - a. This counterfeit religion will have flourished during the first half of the Tribulation. Revelation 17:16
    - > There are two Babylon seen here.
    - > Religious Babylon Revelation 17
    - > Babylon the city, empire or political system. Revelation 18
  - b. Religious Babylon is destroyed at this time. Revelation 17
    - > This is apostate Christendom in the end time.
      - o All true believers will have been raptured .
      - o The religious system will be totally in the hands of the unsaved
      - o This apostate church will dominate both religiously and politically during the first half of the tribulation.
    - > Religious Babylon has its roots in antiquity.



- o see John Walvoord. Every Prophecy of the Bible. P. 605-606)
  - o The mystery religions of Babylon permeated the ancient world.
  - o These then came into contact with Christianity (Catholicism) causing much confusion.
- c. Apostate Christianity is the woman of Revelation 17.  
(see John Walvoord. Every Prophecy of the Bible. P. 605-606)
- > She rides on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns. Revelation 17:7-18
    - o This beast is the political empire of Revelation 13:1-10.
    - o She is in an alliance with the political empire to achieve common ends - world domination.
  - > The ten horns are ten kings.
    - o These are a ten-nation alliance of the Revised Roman Empire.
    - o They will come to fulfillment in the middle of the Tribulation Revelation 17:16-17
  - > The seven heads are seven kings or leaders that head these governments.
- d. There will be a miraculous comeback from death of the beast, the Antichrist.
- > This will give credence to his being worshipped.
  - > At this point, the Antichrist and the 10-nation coalition will have no need for the world religion and will destroy it.
4. Satan and his angels will be cast out of heaven. Revelation 12:7-8
5. Antichrist will force people to receive his mark. Revelation 13:16-17

## **The Second three and a half years of the Tribulation- The Great Tribulation**

1. The Sixth Seal Judgment Revelation 6:12-17; Matt 24:15-21
  - a. This will begin the second half of the Tribulation
    - > God directly intervenes
    - > God's full fury will be unleashed
  - b. This is an earthly scene
    - > There would be widespread havoc on the earth.
      - o Earthquakes
      - o The sun turned black
      - o The moon turned blood red

- o The stars in the sky fell (great meteor showers)
  - o The sky receded
  - o Mountains and islands removed
  - o People will try to die but will not be able to Revelation 6:15-16
- c. The Great day of God's wrath is come. Revelation 6:17
2. Events that happen parenthetically between the sixth and seventh seal judgments Revelation 7:1-17
- a. 144,000 Jews will be sealed. Revelation 7:17
- > There will be 12,000 Jews from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.
  - > They will be protected from death.
  - > These will constitute the largest missionary force that the world has ever known.
- b. There will be an innumerable number of martyrs in heaven. Revelation 7:9-17
- > These are those saved during the Tribulation.
    - o This could possibly be a result of the witness of the 144,000.
    - o These will be people from every nation, tribe, people and language of the earth. Revelation 7:9
  - > This sight moves the angels to worship. Revelation 7:11-12
  - > These are obviously martyrs for Christ.
    - o They chose death by refusing to worship the world ruler.
  - > God promises to wipe away every tear. Revelation 7:16-17
3. The Seventh Seal Judgement Revelation 8:1-5
- a. The Seventh Seal contains the Seven trumpet Judgments. Revelation 8:1-5
- b. There is 30 minutes of silence in heaven.
- > This is in anticipation of the tremendous judgment to come.
4. **The seven trumpet Judgments**
- a. The First trumpet judgment Revelation 8:7
- > Hail and fire mixed with blood are hurled against the earth.
  - > One third of the earth is burned up.
- b. The Second Trumpet judgment Revelation 8:8-9
- > Something like a huge mountain ablaze is thrown into the sea.
    - o This may be a meteor or other object impacting the earth .
  - > One third of the sea is turned into blood.

- o We cannot explain this.
- o But it parallels the plague in Egypt.
- > One third of the living creatures in the sea die.
- > One third of the ships are destroyed.
  - o Shipping, trade and the food supply are drastically altered.
- c. The Third Trumpet Judgment Revelation 8:10-11
  - > A great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky.
    - o Again a meteor or some other heavenly body.
    - o Its name was Wormwood.
    - o It fell on one third of the rivers and springs of water.
  - > 1/3 of the fresh waters turned bitter.
    - o Possibly a chemical reaction to the meteor's impact.
    - o Many people will die from the water.
- d. The Fourth Trumpet Judgment Revelation 8:12-13
  - > One third of the sun, moon and stars were struck.
  - > One third of the sun, moon and stars were turned dark.
  - > One third of the day and the night was without light.
    - o This will cause a drastic reduction in the temperature.
- e. The Fifth Trumpet Judgment Revelation 9:1-11
  - > This is the **First Woe**
  - > And it is more terrible than anything yet experienced on earth.
  - > A star had fallen from the sky to earth.
    - o This star is an angel.
    - o It was given the key to the shaft of the abyss.
      - ① The abyss is the place where the wicked angels or demons were locked up.
  - > When he opened the abyss, smoke rose from it.
    - o The sky was darkened.
    - o Out of the smoke came locusts down upon the earth.
    - o The locusts were probably the demons being released for destruction on the earth.
    - o They were given power like that of scorpions.
    - o They were not allowed to harm grass, plants or trees.
    - o They were told to harm people who did not have God's seal on their foreheads.

- ① The 144,000 will be delivered
  - ② They could only torture them but could not kill them.
  - ③ This torture endured for five months.
  - ④ Men would seek death but not be able to die.
- o The locusts were given power like scorpions. Revelation 9:7-11
  - ① This is obviously supernatural judgment - maybe demons or angels.
  - ② Their name is Abaddon meaning destroyer.
- f. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment Revelation 9 13-21
  - > This is the **Second Woe**
  - > Four angels who had been kept ready are released.
    - o These are fallen angels (demons) who had been bound.
    - o They had a two hundred-million-man army.
      - ① They had been bound at the River Euphrates.
      - ② This is the eastern border of the Holy Land.
      - ③ This would be an invading army from the east.
      - ④ This could possibly be China, and India who could together mount an army this size.
      - ⑤ Also, this eastern army is seen coming as part of the war at the time of the second coming. Daniel 11:44
      - ⑥ This is confirmed by the drying up of the River Euphrates. Revelation 16:1
  - > They kill 1/3 of the remainder of humanity Revelation 9:17-19
    - o The killing was by three plagues: smoke, fire and sulfur.
    - o The horses had power from their mouth and tail.
      - ① This description could be of tanks or some other form of modern warfare.
  - > The rest of mankind that was not killed still would not repent of:
    - o Their demon worship and idolatry
    - o Their murders, magic arts, sexual immorality and thefts
  - > Here the parenthesis of the two witnesses is introduced.
- g. The Seventh Trumpet Judgement
  - > The Seventh Trumpet Contains the Seven Bowl Judgements Revelation 11:15-19
  - > This is the **Third Woe**.

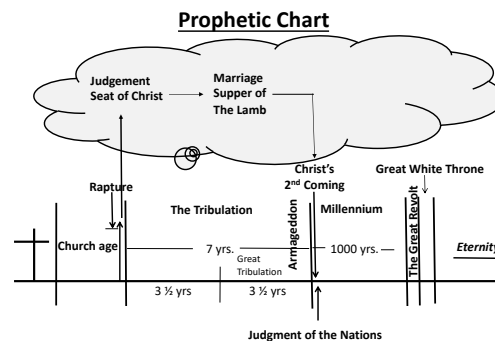
- > This announces the end.
- > The seven Bowl Judgments come in rapid succession right at the end.
- > These now affect the whole earth.

5. **The Seven Bowl Judgments**

- a. The First Bowl Judgment Revelation 16:2
  - > The first angel poured his bowl out on the earth.
  - > Ugly and painful sores will break out on the people who received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image.
- b. The Second Bowl Judgment Revelation 16:3
  - > The second angel poured his bowl out on the sea.
  - > The sea became like the blood of a corpse.
  - > Every living thing in the sea will die.
- c. The Third Bowl Judgment Revelation 16:4-7
  - > The third angel poured his bowl out on the rivers and springs of water.
  - > The fresh water will become blood.
  - > People will drink it without dying.
- d. The Fourth Bowl Judgment Revelation. 16:8-9
  - > The fourth angel poured his bowl out on the sun.
  - > It will scorch people with fire and cause sores.
  - > But, they will curse the name of God - they will not repent.
- e. The Fifth Bowl Judgment Revelation 16:10—11
  - > The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast (Antichrist).
  - > His kingdom was plunged into darkness.
  - > People will gnaw their tongues in agony.
  - > But, they will curse God - and not repent.
- f. The Sixth Bowl Judgment Revelation 16:12-16
  - > The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the Euphrates River.
  - > It will be dried up.
    - o Today, Russia has built a series of dams along the Euphrates River.
    - o It could be dried up even now.

- > This will facilitate the crossing of the armies of the kings of the east as they move toward Armageddon. Daniel 11:44
  - > Some nations will begin to Revolt against the Antichrist.
  - > The kings of the earth will gather at Armageddon.
- g. The Seventh Bowl Judgment Revelation 16:17-21
- > The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air.
  - > A loud voice comes out of the throne saying, "It is done".
  - > There will be great destruction on the earth.
    - o There will be lightning, rumblings, thunder and earthquakes.
    - o An earthquake, such as has never been before, will divide Jerusalem into three parts.
    - o The cities of the nations will fall.
    - o Islands and mountains and islands will disappear.
    - o Great 100-pound hailstones will fall.
  - > Still, those who survive will curse God because of the great destruction.
- h. Babylon will be destroyed by God in a single day at the end of the tribulation Revelation 18:1-24
- > Political Babylon or Babylon as a city and empire will be destroyed by God probably at the Second Coming of Christ. Revelation 18:8

## Two major events in heaven during the Tribulation period



1. **The Judgment Seat of Christ or the Bema Seat** 2 Corinthians 5:10
  - > *Though not specifically stated, this judgment will apparently take place immediately after the Rapture of the church, since the twenty-four elders who likely represent believers have their crowns in the scene in heaven at the beginning of the Tribulation (Rev. 4:4, 10).* Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), 597

- b. Every believer will be judged before the Judgment Seat of Christ.
  - > **2 Corinthians 5:10** *<sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*
- c. The purpose of the Bema or Judgment Seat of Christ
  - > The believer's works will be evaluated.
    - o **1 Corinthians 3:11-15** *<sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup>each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be Revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup>If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*
  - > The believer's motives will be exposed
    - o **Luke 12:2-3** *<sup>2</sup>Nothing is covered up that will not be Revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>3</sup>Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.*
  - > Some rewards will be lost
    - o **2 John 1:8** *Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.*
    - o **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** *<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

## 2. **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb Revelation 19:6-10**

- a. The church is pictured as Christ's "bride" in the New Testament
  - > **2 Corinthians 11:2** *<sup>2</sup>I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*
  - > **Ephesians 5:25-33** (ESV) *<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with*

the word, <sup>27</sup>so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- > **Revelation 19:7-8** <sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup>it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

b. A look at the Oriental marriage custom

> Resources

- o **Watch the film-** Before the Wrath- on Tubi  
<https://tubitv.com/movies/700890/before-the-wrath>
- o See appendix- [Galilean Marriage Custom](#)

> The marriage Supper of the Lamb.

- o **Revelation 19:7-9** <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup>it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

## The Battle of Armageddon Revelation 16:12-16; 19:11-21

1. The background to the Battle of Armageddon

a. Satan has been at war against God, God's plan and God's people.

- > He has used anti-Semitism to accomplish that.
- > If he could stop Israel, he could stop Messiah and His salvation.

b. Satan has tried to stop and destroy God's Messiah.

- > This was seen when Herod tried to kill Him by killing all the babies.
- > This was also seen at the crucifixion of Christ.

c. Satan intensifies his attack Revelation 12:1-17

d. Interpreting the symbols in Revelation 12

- > The woman represents Israel. Revelation 12:1-2
- > The dragon represents Satan.
  - o 12:3 great, fiery red dragon. The woman's mortal enemy is Satan, who appears as a dragon 13 times in this book (cf. v. 9;



20:2). Red speaks of bloodshed (cf. John 8:44). seven heads ... ten horns ... seven diadems. Figurative language depicting Satan's domination of 7 past worldly kingdoms and 10 future kingdoms (cf. Daniel. 7:7, 20, 24. The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed., p. 2008).

- o Past Kingdoms- Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the Revised Roman empire of the Antichrist.
  - o Future Kingdoms- This Revised Roman Empire made up of a ten-nation coalition. Daniel 7:7, 20, 24
  - > The male child represents Jesus, the Messiah.
  - > This event happens at the midpoint of the Tribulation.
    - o When Antichrist turns against Israel.
    - o At the time of the Abomination of Desolation.
      - ① Antichrist enters the temple and desiccates the Holy of Holies.
      - ② Antichrist sets himself up to be worshipped.
  - > **This sets in motion the events leading up to the Battle of Armageddon, Satan's last stand.**
    - o Satan's attacks will intensify until the Battle of Armageddon.
2. Satan's Last Stand- The Battle of Armageddon
- a. The nations that will come to attack Israel during the Battle of Armageddon.
  - b. See Appendix- [World Events and Prophecy](#)
  - c. See Appendix- [An Alignment of the Nations](#)
3. An overview of the battle of Armageddon Revelation 16:12-21
- a. It will be a series of battles. Revelation 12:17
  - b. We do not know the order of these battles.
  - c. These battles should be seen as simultaneous or nearly so.
  - d. It will climax with the Battle at Megiddo. Revelation 12:7
    - > This is the war of the **Great Day of God the Almighty**.
    - > **Revelation 16:4** *For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.*
    - > *"The final military battle will be mainly between West (under Antichrist) and East (under the kings of the East) and will engulf the*

entire Holy Land.” Ryrie, Charles, ed. *Countdown to Armageddon*, Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 1999, P. 200

- e. The campaign of Jerusalem Zechariah 14:1-21; 2-5
- > This battle is of God
    - o God will bring the nations against Jerusalem. Zechariah 14:2
    - o God will give the victory to Israel. Zechariah 14:3; 12:9
  - > The armies who oppose the Lord will attack Jerusalem.
    - o There will be house-to-house fighting.
    - o They will be temporarily successful.
  - > God will enable Israel to fight like King David. Zechariah 12:8
    - o He will send a plague against the invaders. Zechariah 14:12
    - o They will be consumed as they stand.
      - ① Their eyes will be consumed in their sockets.
      - ② Their tongue shall be consumed.
  - > **Jesus will descend and stand on the Mount of Olives.** Zechariah 14:3-5
    - o The Mount of Olives will be split forming a valley.
    - o The people will flee through it.
  - > **Israel will recognize Jesus** as the Messiah they had pierced.
    - o **Zechariah 12:10** *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.*
      - o He will heal their land and reign over the earth.
- f. The Campaign of Megiddo Revelation 16:12-16; 19:17-21
- > This battle will take place on the plains of Megiddo.
    - o Alexander the Great said that this place was the ideal battlefield.
  - > Satan and Antichrist and the false prophet will send three demons to convince the world armies to bring their armies to Megiddo. Revelation 16:13-14; Eze 39:8-16
    - o They will perform miracles.
  - > The Euphrates River will have been dried up to allow the kings of the East to bring their huge armies to battle. Revelation 16:12

- > This will probably be the last and the most destructive battle of the campaign.
- > Here the nations will meet their “Waterloo”.
- b. Christ and His armies will win this conflict very decisively and His second coming. Revelation 19:17-18
  - > Blood will flow up to the horse's bridles. Revelation 14:20
  - > The carnage will be so great that it will take seven months to bury the dead. Eze 39:8-16;
  - > The birds will eat the flesh of the dead. Revelation 19: 17-21, (11-19)
    - o See Appendix- [The No-Battle Battle of Armageddon](#)
    - o See Appendix- [What Daniel and Israel can expect as a final outcome](#)

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

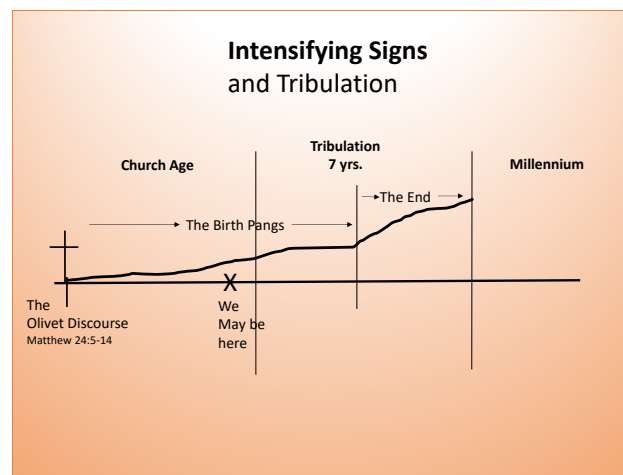
### **Signs of the Second Coming of Christ**

1. There are at least four signs of the return of Christ
  - a. A mass immigration of the Jewish people to Israel from the nations
  - b. See Appendix- [A mass immigration of the Jewish people to Israel from the nations](#)
2. An alignment of the nations against Israel
3. An anticipation of peace in the Middle Eastern nations
  - a. See Appendix- [An anticipation of peace in the Middle Eastern nations](#)
4. Arrangements for the building of the next temple in Jerusalem

### **The Olivet Discourse Matthew 24-25**

1. Jesus answered two questions posed by the disciples. Matthew 24:3
  - a. “**When** will these things be?”
  - b. “**what** will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”
2. When will the end be?
  - a. Birth pangs but the end is not yet Matthew 24:5-8
    - > Many will come falsely claiming to be Christ.
    - > There will be wars and rumors of wars.
    - > There will be famines and earthquakes.

- > Persecution of believers and even death for Christ's sake. Matthew 24:9
  - > There will be a falling away from the truth and hatred of believers. Matthew 24:10
  - > False prophets will lead many astray. Matthew 24:11
  - > Lawlessness will increase Matthew 24:12
  - > The love of many will grow cold Matthew 24:12
  - > But the true believers will endure to the end. Matthew 24:13
  - > The Gospel will be preached to all nations. Matthew 24:14
- b. Then, the End will come



3. What will be the signs of the end?
  - a. The Abomination of Desolation Matthew 24:15-22; Daniel 9:26-27, 11:31
  - b. Great tribulation (last 3 ½ Years) Matthew 24:21-22; Daniel 9:26-27, 11:31
  - c. There will be increasing false Christs appearing. Matthew 24:23-28
4. Then the end will come. Matthew 24:29-31
  - a. See Appendix- [The Olivet Discourse- The MacArthur Bible Commentary](#)
  - b. See Appendix- [Daniel's answer to Jesus explanation of the time of the end](#)
  - c. See Appendix- [God's Fourth promise, many will be purified](#)

### **Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives. Zechariah 14:4**

1. As His feet touch down on the mount.

2. The Mount of Olives will be split in two.
3. Israel will escape through the valley that is formed.
4. Christ is coming to conquer all sin in heaven and earth. Revelation 19:11-13
5. Jesus rides the “white horse” of a victorious conqueror.
6. Jesus is called “faithful and true”.
7. All of His judgments are right.
8. He judges and wages war
  - a. He judges all evil in heaven and earth.
9. His eyes are a flaming fire.
  - a. He sees all both in compassion and in judgment.
10. He wears many diadems or crowns of a ruler.
  - a. He comes to rule the earth.
  - b. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Revelation 11:15; 19:16
11. He has a name that no one knows except Christ Himself.
12. His robes are dipped in blood.
  - a. The blood of His terrible judgment and slaughter as He finally conquers and brings an end to the Battle of Armageddon. Isa 63:1-6
13. His name is the Word of God. John 1:1, 14
  - a. He is the very Revelation of God.

### **Christ is coming with a great army to conquer. Revelation 19:14**

1. The armies of heaven are defined.
  - a. These are those who are clothed in fine linen, white and clean
    - > The Church (the bride of Christ) Revelation 19:7-8
    - > The Tribulation believers Revelation 7:9
    - > The Old Testament Saints who are resurrected at the end of the Tribulation Daniel 12:1-2
    - > The righteous angels of God Matt 25:31
2. Christ will conquer and defeat the nations with the “sword of His mouth”. Revelation 20:4-6
  - a. Two groups of people will be conquered.
    - > These dead are those of the nations who are gathered at the battle of Armageddon.

- > All of the rest of the world will be judges at the Sheep and Goats Judgment. Matt 25:31-46
- 3. The great devastation left after Christ conquers and puts an end to the Battle of Armageddon. Revelation 19:17-21
  - a. The great carnage that is left after the Battle of Armageddon is pictured as the “supper of God” for all the birds of the air.
  - b. It will take seven months to bury all of the dead bodies. Eze 39:12
- 4. The organizers of the Battle of Armageddon are thrown into the Lake of Fire.
  - a. The beast (Antichrist)
  - b. The False Prophet (Antichrist's “right hand man”)
- 5. The Lake of Fire is the ultimate place of eternal judgment.
  - a. It is the place where Satan and his angels are cast for all eternity. Revelation 20:10
  - b. It is the place where all those whose names were not written in the Lambs Book of Life were cast for all eternity. Revelation 20:15
- 6. Christ’s will return to end the battle of Armageddon and end of the Seven Year Tribulation.

## **The Judgment of the Nations (Gentiles)**

1. There is a Brief gap before the Millennium
  - a. The judgment **Matthew 25:31-46**
    - > This judgment marks the end of “The Times of the Gentiles”
    - > See Appendix- [The Judgment of the Nations](#)
    - > This is a judgment that separates the Sheep from the goats.
    - > This is not the Great White Throne judgment.
  - b. The people
    - > This is not a judgment of Geographical areas but rather a judgement of the people of the world who are alive after the Battle of Armageddon.
  - c. The result
    - > It will guarantee that only believers will go into the Millennium.

## **The Millennium**

### **An Overview of The Millennium**

1. Satan will be chained in the bottomless pit for this “one thousand year” period. Revelation 20:1-3, 7

### **Christ will set up His Kingdom on earth.**

1. Christ's Kingdom must be an earthly kingdom
  - a. “. . . He must be triumphant in the same arena where He was seemingly defeated. His rejection by the rulers of this world was on this earth (1 Corinthians. 2:8). His exaltation must also be on this earth. And so it shall be when He comes again to rule this world in righteousness. He has waited long for His inheritance; soon He shall receive it.” (Ryrie, Charles C. Basic Theology. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1986. P. 511)
2. Christ Kingdom will be physical, spiritual, temporal and eternal.
  - a. His Kingdom will begin in the Millennium and extend into eternity.

### **The People of the Millennium**

1. Both Jews and Gentiles who come out of the Tribulation will be there. Revelation 20:4-5
  - a. They will all be believers. Matt 25:34, 37
    - > These will include the Tribulation saints both living and resurrected.
    - > The Judgment of the Nations will have eliminated all unbelievers.
  - b. These will still have their earthly bodies.
    - > They will give birth during the Millennium.
    - > All will be subject to Christ's reign.
    - > However, all those who are born will have to choose or reject true salvation in Christ.
    - > Many will not accept Christ and partake in a final Revolt against Christ after Satan is released.
2. The Church, Christ's bride and Old Testament saints, will come back to rule and reign with Him. Revelation 5:10; Revelation 20:6; 2 Tim 2:12;
  - c. These will have resurrected bodies.

### **The Characteristics of the Millennium**

1. The original curse will be Revolt during the Millennium.
2. The Millennium will be a time of righteousness and justice. Isa 32:1
  - a. His judgment will be swift
3. The Millennium will be a time of peace. Isa 19:23-25

- a. All of Israel's enemies will be at peace with Israel. Zechariah 8:4-5
  - b. All of the nations will be at peace among themselves. Isa 2:4
  - c. There will be peace both between humans and the animals and among themselves. Isa 11:6-9
4. The Millennium will be a time of great prosperity.
- a. The earth will be greatly productive. Isaiah 35:1-7
  - b. It will be a time of abundant harvests. Amos 9:14
5. The Millennium will be a time of worldwide worship of the Lord that is centered in Jerusalem. Isa 2:2-3
- a. This worldwide worship will be centered in Jerusalem.
  - b. There will be a millennial temple. Eze 40-48
  - c. *"Apparently sacrifices will again be offered in a temple which will be built and in operation during the Millennium (Ezek. 40-48). Premillennialists understand these sacrifices as a means of memorializing the death of Christ."* (Ryrie, Charles C. Basic Theology. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1986. P. 510)
  - d. Religious holidays will be observed. Zechariah 14:16
6. The Millennium will last for "one thousand years". Revelation 20:2-7
- a. "One thousand years" is repeated six times in this passage emphasizing its literalness.

## **The Final Revolt and Judgment of Satan Revelation 20:7-10**

### **Satan will be released at the end of the Millennium and rally the nations against Christ in a final battle.**

1. Satan will rally the nations against Christ in a final battle.
2. Satan will be allowed to deceive the nations.
3. Those who attack will come from all of the nations of the world.
  - a. They are called Gog and Magog, which are names of ancient enemies of God.
    - > These two names are not explained here but certainly do not refer to the northern nation that attacked in Ezekiel 38-39.
    - > This Gog and Magog will gather from the "four corners of the earth".
  - b. They will be in number like the "sand of the sea"



- c. They will surround Jerusalem and attempt to capture it.
  - > Jerusalem will be the capital of the world during the Millennium.
  - > Jesus will rule from Jerusalem as well.

### **The final defeat and Judgment of Satan    Revelation 20:10**

1. Fire will come down from heaven and devour them.
  - a. God will be victorious and sin will be defeated for all eternity.
2. The participants of the battle will be physically consumed and executed by the fire of God.
  - a. Their souls will go to the place of torment until the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 20:15
  - b. Then they will be resurrected along with the other unjust and cast into the Lake of Fire.
3. Satan will be judged and sentenced to the Lake of Fire forever. Revelation 20:10
  - a. The beast (Antichrist) and the false prophet (Antichrist's leaders who deceived the people) had already been thrown into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Battle of Armageddon and before the Millennium. Revelation 19:20
  - b. They will be joined by all unbelievers after the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 20:15
  - c. This Lake of Fire and the torment of all who go there is "forever and ever".
    - > The torment is day and night, literally forever.
    - > Hell is eternal.

### **The Great White Throne Judgment    Revelation 20:11-15**

#### **The Throne, the Judge, and the Judged Revelation 20:11-12a**

1. The judge sits upon the throne.
  - a. This is almighty God in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.
    - > Jesus sits on the throne with the Father. Revelation 3:1
    - > All authority is given to Him to judge. John 5:22-23
2. The entire creation will be destroyed, heaven and earth. 21:1; 2 Peter 3:10-13

- a. This will happen at the beginning of the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 20:11
  - b. Heaven and earth will be destroyed by fire. 2 Pet 3:10-13
  - c. This is the "**Day of God**". 2 Peter 3:12
    - > There will be no more sea. 21:1
      - o The first earth was created from water and dependent on water.
      - o The new earth will be totally dependent on God.
      - o Heaven and earth flee from His presence.
    - > Every remnant of sin in all of the creation of God is done away with.
3. All of the dead "great and small" "stand before the throne" to be judged.
- a. These are all of the unbelievers from all time.
    - > They, most likely, are in their resurrection bodies. Daniel 12:2; Joh 5:29; Act 24:15; Revelation 20:5
  - b. This judgment is called by other names in the Bible.
    - > The "Resurrection of Judgment" John 5:29
    - > The "Resurrection to disgrace and everlasting contempt" Daniel 12:2
    - > This judgment is for unbelievers both living and dead.
4. The Great White Throne Judgment will occur at the end of "time" Revelation 20:11, 13, 15
- a. The books will be opened. Revelation 20:12
    - > "The Books contain the record of every thought, word, and deed of every unsaved person who ever lived." (MacArthur, John. Because the Timer Is Near. Chicago: Moody Press, 2007. P 308)
      - o Christ died to forgive all those who believe. Isa 53:5-6; 2 Cor 5:21
    - > The unsaved will be judged according to their deeds.
      - o They did not trust in Christ for forgiveness.
      - o Therefore, they must be judged according to God's standard. Matt 5:48
  - b. Another book will be opened. Revelation 20:12
    - > This is the Book of Life. Revelation 20:12, 15
      - o It is a record of all the saved of all time.

- o It is referred to a number of times in the New Testament. Phil 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12; 20:15; 21:27
- o These are God's elect whose names were entered in the Book of Life before the world was created. Revelation 13:8
- > All the unsaved will all be judged according to their works.
- > *"The books of works which will also be opened will prove that all who are being judged deserve eternal condemnation (and may be used to determine degrees of punishment). It is not that all their works were evil, but all were dead works, done by spiritually dead people."* Ryrie, Charles C. Basic Theology. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1986. P. 515
- c. Many will contest their judgment.
  - > **Matt 7:22-23** <sup>22</sup>*On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

### **The Unrighteous are Thrown into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:14-15**

1. Both death and Hades were thrown into the eternal Lake of Fire.
  - a. Death represents the grave.
  - b. Hades is the temporary place of judgment.
  - c. This is the second death.
    - > *"The first death is spiritual and physical; the second is eternal in the Lake of Fire, the final, eternal hell (v. 14)."* MacArthur, Jr. Ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. (electronic ed.). Nashville: Word Pub. 1997. Revelation 20:6
    - > All of the unsaved will now be in their resurrected bodies and go into eternal suffering.
    - > They will join the first occupants, the beast (Antichrist), the False Prophet and Satan.
2. The Lake of Fire is a Christless eternity and it is forever.
  - a. It is the eternal place prepared by God for the everlasting punishment of sin for all who have not trusted in the saving work of Jesus Christ for their sin. 21:1

## Eternity

### **The New Jerusalem descends from God 21:2**

1. It will descend from God out of heaven.
  - a. This is the capital city of heaven.
  - b. It is where all believers will live. Joh 14:1-3
2. She is prepared as a bride.
  - a. All of the saints of all time will now become part of the Bride of Christ. Revelation 3:12; Heb 12:22-24; Heb 3:14
    - > Initially, the Church was the Bride of Christ.
    - > Now, all the redeemed are incorporated into His bride.
3. She is adorned as a bride for her husband.
  - a. Her adornment is the white garments of a bride.
  - b. White speaks of her pure righteousness. Revelation 19:7-8
  - c. All saints of all time have been made righteous by the blood of Christ. Eph 5:25-27

### **Life in the New Jerusalem 21:3-5**

1. We will dwell with God forever. 21:3
  - a. We will be His people.
  - b. He will be our God.
2. God will wipe away every tear 21:4
  - a. There will be no more death.
  - b. No more mourning or crying
  - c. No more pain
  - d. All of the former things will have passed away.
3. God will have made all things new.

### **A severe warning 21:6-8**

1. God, the ruler on the throne, the faithful and true, the beginning and the end gives a severe warning to those of this present world. 21:6-8
2. The righteous will inherit eternal life with God.
  - a. To the thirsty (in this present world) He gives the springs of living water. Joh 4:13-14; 7:37-38; Isa 55:1-2

- b. To those who conquer He will be their God and they will be His people. 1 Joh 5:4-5
  - > He will be their God.
  - > They will be His sons.
- 3. But the unrighteous will inherit the Lake of Fire (the second death)
  - a. The cowardly
  - b. The faithless
  - c. The detestable
  - d. The murderers
  - e. The sexually immoral
  - f. The sorcerers
  - g. The idolaters
  - h. The liars

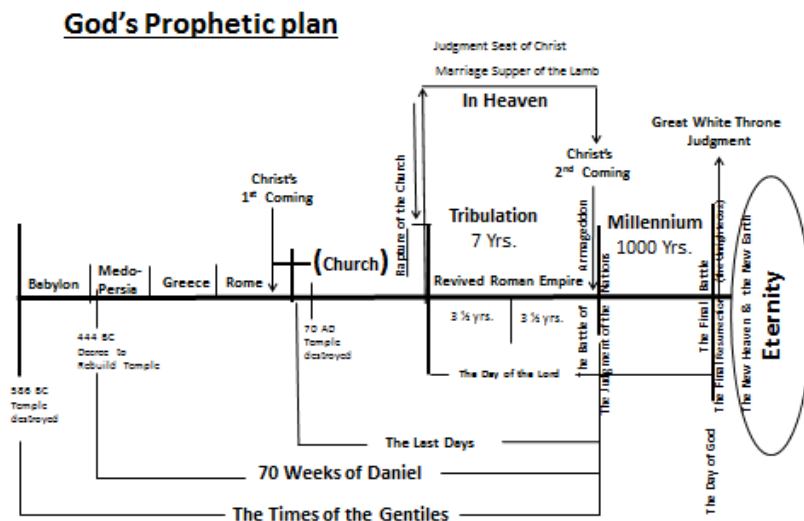
### **A description of the New Jerusalem 21:9-22:5**

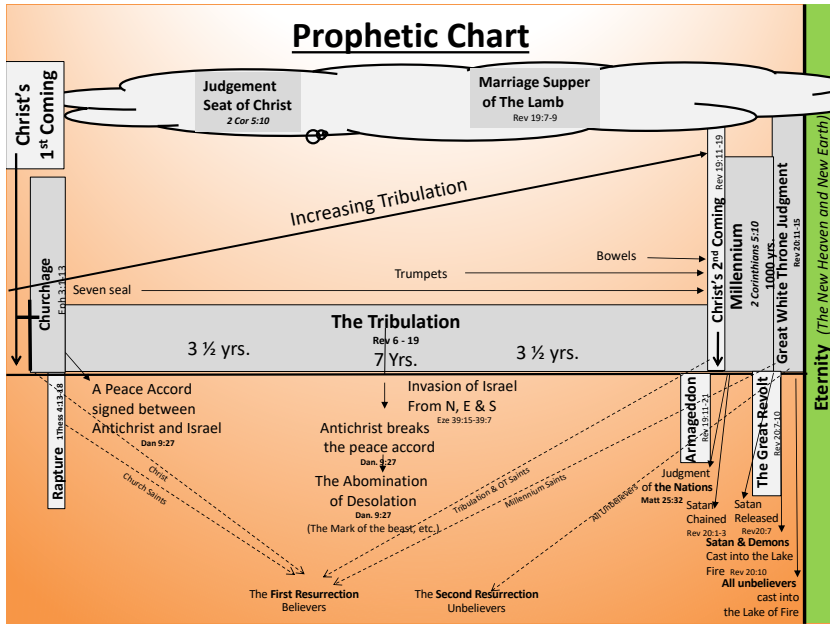
- 1. The angel who had poured out the seven bowls shows the Bride, the wife of the Lamb (the New Jerusalem) 21:9-10
  - a. John was carried off to a high mountain.
  - b. He saw Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God.
- 2. John described what he saw 21:11-22:5
  - a. The glory of God is its radiance 21:11
    - > It is like a rare jewel, jasper, as clear as crystal.
    - > *“jasper transliteration, not a translation, of the Gr. word. Rather than the modern opaque jasper, the term actually refers to a completely clear diamond, a perfect gem with the brilliant light of God’s glory shining out of it and streaming over the new heaven and the new earth (cf. 4:3).”* (The MacArthur Study Bible. 1997 (J. MacArthur, Jr., Ed.) (electronic ed.) (Re 21:11). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.)
  - b. It had a very high wall with twelve gates 21:12-13
    - > The gates were guarded by angels.
    - > The gates were inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
  - c. It had twelve foundations 21:14
    - > They were inscribed with the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

- > Our salvation and entrance into heaven are based upon God's plan and message to Israel (twelve tribes) and to the church (twelve apostles). It is based on the whole word of God.
- d. The city and walls were measured. 21:15-17
  - > The city measured approximately 1,400 miles cubets or over two million square miles.
  - > The walls measured 216 feet (probably the width of the walls)
- e. The city, walls and foundations were all of precious jewels. 21:18-20
  - > These jewels do not always correspond to the jewels that we know in our world today.
    - o Most were translucent or transparent.
    - o It will be one great display of lights color and refracted light.
    - o They all reflected the radiance of the glory of God who Himself is the light.
  - > The walls are of jasper (diamonds).
  - > The city of pure gold (a gold that is as clear as glass).
  - > The twelve foundations of the walls were adorned with every kind of jewel (jasper, sapphire, agate, emerald, onyx, carnelian, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, amethyst).
- f. The twelve gates made of a single pearl. 21:21
- g. The streets were of transparent gold. 21:21
- h. The new heaven has no temple (the Lord is the temple) 21:22
- i. There will be no sun or moon for light (the glory of God is the light and the Lamb is the lamp) 21:23
  - > Redeemed people (nations) of every tribe and nation will walk by the Light. 21:24
  - > Its gates will never shut. 21:25
  - > There will be no night there. 21:25
  - > They will bring into it the glory and honor of the nations. 21:26
  - > Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be there. 21:27
    - o Nothing unclean will enter.
    - o No one who does what is detestable or false will be there.
- j. The river of the water of the river of life, bright as crystal will flow from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 22:1
- k. The tree of life will be there in the middle of the street and on both sides of the river. 22:2

- > It will bear twelve kinds of fruit.
  - > It will yield each month.
  - > Its leaves are for the healing of the nation.
    - o This tree was in the garden of Eden, and Adam and Eve were denied it after they sinned. Gen 2:9, 22-24
    - o In heaven we will freely eat of the tree of life.
- I. Only the throne of God and the Lamb are there. 22:3-4
- > There will be nothing accursed.
  - > His servants will worship Him.
  - > They will see His face.
  - > His name will be on their foreheads.
3. "And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever." (ESV) Revelation 22:5

## Summary- 2 Prophetic Charts







## Appendix

### God's Unconditional Covenants with Israel (verses)

#### 1. The Abrahamic Covenant

##### a. **Genesis 12:1-3**(ESV)

*<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said<sup>□</sup> to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.*

*<sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

*<sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

##### b. A land forever

> **Genesis 13:15-17**(ESV) *<sup>15</sup>for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.*

*<sup>16</sup>I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. <sup>17</sup>Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." (14-28)*

##### c. The promise would come through Abraham's son, Isaac.

> **Genesis 15:1-6** (ESV) *<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue<sup>□</sup> childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup>And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; **your very own son<sup>□</sup> shall be your heir.**" <sup>5</sup>And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

> **Genesis 15:18-19** (ESV) *<sup>18</sup> And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" <sup>19</sup> God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name **Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant** for his offspring after him.*

#### 2. The Davidic Covenant

- a. **2 Samuel 7:12-16** (ESV) 12 *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*”
- b. **Jeremiah 23:5-6** (ESV) 5 *“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’*”
- c. **Jeremiah 30:8-9** (ESV) 8 **“And it shall come to pass in that day,** declares the LORD of hosts, *that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.*
- d. **Luke 1:31-33** (ESV) 31 *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*
- e. **Acts 1:6-7** (ESV) 6 *So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*

### **God will never cancel His promises to Israel**

1. **Romans 11:1-2** (ESV) ***1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means!*** *For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. **2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.** Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?*

2. **1 Samuel 12:22** (ESV) <sup>22</sup>For **the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake**, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.
3. **Psalms 89:31-37**(ESV) (19-37) <sup>31</sup> if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, <sup>32</sup> then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, <sup>33</sup> but **I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness.** <sup>34</sup> **I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.** <sup>35</sup> Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. <sup>36</sup> **His offspring shall endure forever**, his throne as long as the sun before me. <sup>37</sup> Like the moon it shall be established **forever**, a faithful witness in the skies." Selah
4. **Psalms 94:14** (ESV) <sup>14</sup> For **the Lord will not forsake his people**; he will not abandon his heritage;
5. **Jeremiah 33:1-26** (ESV) <sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard: <sup>2</sup>"Thus says the Lord who made the earth,□ the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name: <sup>3</sup>Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. <sup>4</sup>For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds and against the sword: <sup>5</sup>They are coming in to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them□ with the dead bodies of men whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath, for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil. <sup>6</sup>Behold, **I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.** <sup>7</sup>**I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel**, and rebuild them as they were at first. <sup>8</sup>I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. <sup>9</sup>And this city□ shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it. <sup>10</sup>"Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, 'It is a waste without man or beast,' in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again <sup>11</sup>the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord: "'Give

thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!' For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord. <sup>12</sup>"Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place that is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its cities, there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks. <sup>13</sup>In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Neg-eb, in the land of Benjamin, the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the Lord. <sup>14</sup>"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, **when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'** <sup>17</sup>"For thus says the Lord: **David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,** <sup>18</sup>and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever." <sup>19</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: <sup>20</sup>"Thus says the Lord: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, <sup>21</sup>then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers. <sup>22</sup>As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me." <sup>23</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: <sup>24</sup>"Have you not observed that these people are saying, 'The Lord has rejected the two clans that he chose'? Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. <sup>25</sup>Thus says the Lord: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, <sup>26</sup>then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For **I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.**"

6. **Jeremiah 12:15**(ESV) <sup>15</sup>And after I have plucked them up, **I will again have compassion on them,** and I will bring them again each to his heritage and each to his land.
7. **Micah 7:18** (ESV) <sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, **pardoning iniquity** and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not

*retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. 5. Israel will pour out blessing on a repentant Israel.*

8. **Zach 12:10** (ESV) 10 *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.*

### **The European Union is the most obvious possibility for this ten-kingdom coalition.**

1. It appears that the European Union (EU) could be this revived Roman Empire
  - a. Presently there are 27 member nations.
    - > This kingdom will come to maturity at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.
    - > At that time, there will be a confederation of 10 nations or regions.
  - b. The leaders of the European Union have been working toward an economic and military federation with ethnic & cultural distinctions being maintained
    - > All but England have gone to the Euro-dollar.
      - o The European Monetary Institute was created in January 1994.
      - o It was scheduled to become a central bank issuing a single currency by 1999.
    - > Their military might was shown in both the Gulf War and the war in Yugoslavia.
      - o To what degree NATO may be part of that, we cannot tell.
      - o The United States has played a big part in the military aspect and even committed it's troops under their command, on occasion.

### **The European Union has the potential to be the Revived Roman Empire**

(Renald Showers. Countdown to Armageddon. P 58-60)

1. In the late 1980's, the EU has been pursuing its goals of economic unity.
  - a. Some have said: The EU “is potentially the richest market the world has ever known”.
  - b. Europe “will finally be restored to the first rank of economic powers”.
2. A Canadian television documentary in 1990

- a. *“Europe is moving to become the economic, political center of the world. It will also develop great military strength. One Europe, under one flag, will perhaps be the superpower that will challenge the world of the twenty-first century.”*
- b. *“That ancient dream of one Europe diverse, yet strong and whole, seems to speak to this new age” and “visions of a new golden age.”*
3. On December 15, 1990
  - a. Leaders of the member nations of the EU met in Rome and “reached an unprecedented agreement that will bring their elusive goal of a ‘United States of Europe’ closer than ever to reality.”
  - b. Its aim was to “develop a single European nation with its own form of money as fast as possible and sooner than anyone thought likely.”
4. In December 1991
  - a. Leaders of the EU crafted the treaty of Maastricht.
  - b. It called for “a common central bank and single currency” by 1999.
5. On May 1, 1998
  - a. Eleven of the fifteen leaders of the EU member nations committed themselves to the establishment of “an unprecedented new common currency”. . . The “Euro”.
  - b. It was determined that the new currency system would involve the supervision of one European Central Bank.
6. Helmut Kohl
  - a. The chancellor of Germany said when committing to the new currency, “Without economic and monetary union, there will be no political union.”

### **Historical Attempts to Restore the Roman Empire**

(see Renald Showers, in Countdown to Armageddon. P 53-58)

1. The western half of the Roman Empire fell in 476 AD
2. Ever since Western European leaders have been trying to restore the Roman Empire
  - a. Charlemagne, King of the Franks
    - > United more of Western Europe than had been since Rome fell.
    - > On Christmas Day 800 AD, the Pope crowned him “Emperor of the Romans”.
    - > After his death, his realm fell apart.

- b. Otto I the Great, was the first of the Germans and was the first to be called the emperor of Italy.
  - > On February 2, 962 AD he was crowned emperor of what became the "Holy Roman Empire".
  - > Napoleon ended the Holy Roman Empire in 1806 AD.
- c. Napoleon
  - > He wanted to restore the forms of Roman imperialism.
  - > He considered himself a Roman and wanted to be Emperor.
  - > He thought that Europe should be ruled by one emperor with kings under him.
  - > He made plans to unite Europe in an indissoluble federation.
  - > He called this federation, "A United States of Europe"
  - > On December 2, 1804, Napoleon crowned himself "Emperor" with a Roman crown of gold leaves.
  - > He later said, "I am a Roman emperor, in the best line of the Caesars."
  - > Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo in 1815
- d. Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor of Germany
  - > He revived the idea of the Roman Empire after conquering France in 1870.
  - > In 1871, he called their new empire "The Second Reich" (Kingdom or empire). (the first Reich being the Holy Roman Empire).
  - > They regarded it to be a continuation of Otto's "Holy Roman Empire" 962-1806.
  - > The emperor of the Second Reich, Wilhelm I, was given the title, "Kaiser" (the German form of Caesar).
  - > The Second Reich ended in 1918 after their defeat in World War I.
- e. Winston Churchill
  - > Published an article on February 15, 1930 entitled "The United States of Europe" in the Saturday Evening Post.
  - > He encouraged a federation of European nations.
- f. Mussolini
  - > He said when his black shirt troops occupied Rome in 1921, "It is destiny that Rome again takes her place as the city that will be the director of the civilization of all Western Europe."
- g. Hitler

- > He declared that the Roman Empire had been resurrected through the efforts of Mussolini.
  - > He was killed at the end of World War II.
- h. In July 1944
- > National resistance movements of Europe issued a joint declaration stating that "Federal union alone could ensure the preservation of liberty and civilization on the continent of Europe."
  - > Several German generals plotted to overthrow Hitler and Nazism.
  - > If successful, they planned to ask western allies for a constructive peace within the framework of the United States of Europe.
- i. On September 19, 1946
- > Winston Churchill at the University of Zurich on Europe's ills, said, "What is the sovereign remedy? It is to recreate the European family, or as much of it as we can and to provide it with a structure under which it can dwell in peace, safety, and freedom. We must build a kind of United States of Europe."
- j. On March 25, 1957
- > Statesmen from six western European nations met on the Capitoline Hill in Rome (one of the 7 Hills of Rome) and established the European Economic Community (The Common Market, The European Union)
  - > They expressed the hope that this would become the nucleus of a future United.
- k. Konrad Adenauer
- > He was chancellor of postwar West Germany.
  - > He said, "I want to stay alive longer for one reason only . . . to see a United States of Europe in my time." "The integration of Europe must be achieved. I am convinced that it is the sole salvation for the Christian West." The necessity of union for economic, political, and military reasons is incontestable."

### An undetermined period of time before the 70<sup>th</sup> week begins Daniel

#### 9:26

1. Messiah would be cut off in 32 AD.
2. But then there will come a prince (Titus the Roman general).
3. This event begins devastation that would continue until the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.



- a. One of his first acts was the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.
  - b. The Romans (the people of the prince) would destroy Jerusalem.
  - c. This happened in 70 AD .
  - d. Jesus predicted this destruction. Luke 19:41-44, Matthew 24:1-2
4. There is an undetermined period of time before the end, the desolation of the Tribulation.
- a. This undetermined period is the church age.

### The origin of Daniel's Prophecy    **Dan 9:1-2, 20-23**

1. During the first year of Darius (the Mead) Daniel was very concerned. He understood from Jeremiah's prophecy that Israel would be removed from the land for 70 years but then they would return. Jer 25:11-12; 29:10-14;
  - a. Seventy years were almost completed and Daniel was concerned how this was going to happen.
2. This threw Daniel into a long prayer of confession Dan 9:3-19
3. The answer came in the form of a vision.
4. The angel Gabriel appeared to help him understand the vision. Dan 9:20-23

### The 70 Weeks of Daniel

1. The total time is **70 weeks** to accomplish Israel's disobedience and rejection. Daniel 9:24
    - a. This period of 70 weeks begins with the decree to rebuild the temple.
      - > It will extend to the end of the tribulation.
    - b. "Seventy weeks" is literally "seventy sevens".
      - > Each week represents 7 years (week years).
        - o This concept is not foreign to the Bible.
          - ① The Year of Jubilee
            - ⇒ **Lev 25:8-10** *"You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years.*
          - ② Judgment for rejecting the Promised Land
            - ⇒ **Num 14:34** *According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.'*
- > Therefore 70 X 7 = 490 years.

2. The first period of 69 weeks is divided into two parts 9:25-26
- a. The first part is seven weeks or  $7 \times 7 = 49$  years.
    - > This period starts with the Decree of Artaxerxes (the Persian) to Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem. Nehemiah 2:5
    - > This historically took place on March 14, 445 BC.
    - > The city was secured by 395 BC or  $7 \times 7 = 49$  years.
  - b. The second part of the first period is  $62 \times 7 = 434$  years.
    - > This part starts with the finishing of the wall in 395 BC.
    - > It ends with the time of Christ's Presentation 32 AD.
      - o Then shortly after Christ was "cut off"
      - o It is historically verifiable that there were 483 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the presentation of Christ.
        - ① This happened on March 5, 444 b.c. The Bible Knowledge Commentary
        - ② These calculations are based on the Hebrew Lunar calendar.
        - ③ After conversion to our Gregorian calendar we can verify the dates with absolute accuracy.

<b>Weeks</b>		<b>years</b>
7	X 7=	49
62	X 7=	434
69		483
<b>(The Church Age)</b>		
69		483
1	X 7=	7
<b>70</b>		<b>973</b>

- > Most of this period was future when it was revealed to Daniel.
3. There is an undetermined period of time before the 70th week begins. Dan 9:26
- a. Messiah is cut off in 32 AD.
  - b. But then there will come a prince (Titus the Roman general).
  - c. This event begins devastation until the 70th week begins.
  - d. One of his first acts is the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

- e. The Romans (the people of the prince) would destroy/did destroy Jerusalem.
  - f. This was predicted by Jesus. Lu 19:41-44, Matt 24:1-2
  - g. This happened in 70 AD .
  - h. This undetermined period of time is the church age.
  - i. It began 50 days after Christ's death in Acts 2
  - j. It continues until the Rapture of the Church.
    - > It is undetermined - no one knows the day or the hour
4. The 70<sup>th</sup> week is the 7 years of Tribulation Daniel 9:27
- a.  $1 \times 7 = 7$  years
  - b. The Tribulation begins when Antichrist confirms a covenant with Israel
  - c. In the middle of the 7 years he breaks the covenant and desecrates the temple
    - > Antichrist demands worship of himself
  - d. The beginning of the Battle of Armageddon concludes the Tribulation
5. Antichrist will be defeated by God as He comes to deliver His saints and bring them into His kingdom (the Millennium). Dan 7:22, 26-27

### Arrangements for the building of the next temple in Jerusalem

1. The Jews speak of three Temples
  - a. The **First Temple** - Solomon's Temple
    - > David bought the "Temple Mount" from Araunah 2 Sam. 24:18-25
      - o This is also Mount Moriah, where Abraham had been willing to sacrifice Isaac 2 Chron. 3:1; Gen. 22:1-14
    - > Solomon built the Temple. 1 Kings 6:2-3; 16-17
      - o It was dedicated at the Feast of Tabernacles. 1 Kings 8:1-9:9
      - o This temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.
        - ① It was first plundered in 597 B.C., 2 Kings 25:8-9
        - ② Then, it was burned in 587/586 B.C. 2 Kings 25:8-10
  - b. The **Second Temple** - Zerubbabel's Temple Ezra 5:2, 6:3-7
    - > The Temple was begun in 538 BC.
    - > This temple was totally refurbished by King Herod.
      - o He made the temple bigger and better than it had ever been.
      - o He enlarged the base of the Western Wall.
        - ① The Wailing Wall of today is part of the retaining wall.
      - o Sacrifices had never stopped during this time.
      - o This was the Temple of Jesus' day.

- > This Temple was destroyed in 70 AD by the Roman General Titus. Matt 24:1-2 (Matt 24:1-51)
  - o All sacrifices stopped to this day.
  - o Sacrifice could only be made in the Temple.

c. The **Third Temple** - The Future Temple

- > The Temple of Tribulation - However, Daniel mentions that sacrifices will be stopped in the middle of the Tribulation. Therefore, a temple has to exist at that time. Dan 9:27
  - > The Millennial Temple - The detailed construction of the Temple that will stand on the Temple Mount during the Millennium age given by Ezekiel. Ez 40-46
  - > The Jews refer to three temples:
    - o Israel today is making plans to build the Third Temple
    - o Three times a day, prayers are offered up for the building of the temple. *"May our temple be rebuilt in this day here in the holy city."*
  - > Gershon Salomon a former member of the Jerusalem city council started a movement to rebuild the Temple, "The Temple Mount Faithful".
    - o After the 1967 after the Six Day War when Israel which reunited Jerusalem, a concession was made to the Arabs and control of the Temple Mount was given to the Jordanians to administer.
    - o Today, there is a big struggle between the Palestinians and the Jordanians as to who actually has the right to care for the Temple Mount.
    - o The Arabs are declaring that it is Israel's intention to start a war over the City of Jerusalem and build the Holy Temple
  - > Rabbi Israel Ariel today heads up a group of scholars called "The Temple Institute"
    - o They have all the plans in place.
    - o All the implements for the Temple and sacrifices are ready.
    - o They have identified and are training priests.
    - o A red heifers whose ashes are necessary for the purifying of the priesthood was bred in Texas and is now in Israel awaiting the building of the Temple and restarting of sacrifices.
- ① (View Video- "Ready to Rebuild" by Jimmy DeYoung)

⇒ Prophecy w PP\25a Prophetic Chart.pptx

⇒ The Tribulation Revelation 6-19

## Anti-Semitic Statements

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDgg4ppJy\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDgg4ppJy_0)

**Justin Martyr** (100 A.D. – 165 A.D.)

*For the true spiritual Israel (a term never found in the Bible) and descendants of Judah, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham . . . are we who have been led to God through this crucified Christ . . . Christ in Israel and Jacob, even so, we . . . are the true Israelite Race.*

**Irenaeus** (A.D. 130 – A.D. 200)

*. . . they who boast themselves as being the house of Jacob and the people of Israel, are disinherited from the grace of God.*

**Origen** (A.D. 184 – A.D. 254)

*And we say with confidence that they will never be restored to their former condition . . . and the invitation of happiness offered them by God to pass to others – the Christians!*

**Augustine** (A.D. 354 – A.D. 430)

*And therefore we ought to take this saying . . . ‘And ye shall dwell in the Land I gave to your fathers’ (Ezekiel 36:28) not literally, as if they referred to Israel after the flesh, but spiritually, as referring to the spiritual Israel (a term not found in the Bible).*

**Martin Luther** (1483 – 1546)

*Set fire to their synagogues or schools and bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians.*

**Adolf Hitler** Berlin 1924

*I believe that today I am acting in accordance with the will of almighty God as I announce the most important work that Christians could undertake, and that is to be against the Jews and get rid of them once and for all. We are doing the work of the Lord and let’s get on with it . . . Martin Luther has been the greatest encouragement of my life. Luther was a great man. He was a giant. Within one blow he heralded the coming of the new dawn and the New Age. He saw clearly that the Jews needed to be destroyed and we’re only beginning to see that we need to carry this work on.*

**John Calvin** (1509 – 1564)

*Augustine is so wholly within me, that if I wished to write a confession of my faith, I could do so with all fulness and satisfaction to myself out of his writings.*

**John Stott** (1921 – 2011)

*The paradox of our position in this: True Jews today are Christians. May I say it again? The true Jews today are Christians. Or if you don’t like that expression, try this one: the followers of the messiah are more truly the people of Israel than those people of Israel who reject Him.*

**R.C. Sproul, Jr** (1965 –

*We believe that the church is essentially Israel. We believe that the answer to, ‘what about the Jews?’ is ‘here we are’.*

**John Piper** (1946 –

*The promisers made to Abraham, including the promise of the land, will be inherited as an everlasting gift only by true, spiritual Israel, not disobedient, unbelieving Israel.*

*By faith in Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah, Gentiles become heirs of the promise of Abraham, including the promise of the Land.*

*Therefore, the secular state of Israel today may not claim a present divine right to the land, but they and we should seek a peaceful settlement not based on present divine rights, but on international principles of justice, mercy and practical feasibility.*

### **1 SAMUEL 12:22**

*For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.*

### **EZEKIEL 33:10-11**

<sup>10</sup>*Why Will You Die, Israel?*

*“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’*

*“Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?”*

### **Romans 11 :26**

And in this way **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;

### **Zechariah 2:8**

For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:

### **Romans 9:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>God’s Sovereign Choice

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—

<sup>2</sup>that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

<sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

<sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

<sup>5</sup>To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

### **Romans 11:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

<sup>12</sup>Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

### **Zechariah 12:10**

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

### **Jeremiah 31:31-37**

<sup>31</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

<sup>32</sup>not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup>For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>34</sup>And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

<sup>35</sup>Thus says the LORD,

who gives the sun for light by day  
and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,  
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—  
the LORD of hosts is his name:

<sup>36</sup>“If this fixed order departs  
from before me, declares the LORD,  
then shall the offspring of Israel cease  
from being a nation before me forever.”

<sup>37</sup>Thus says the LORD:

“If the heavens above can be measured,  
and the foundations of the earth below can be explored,  
then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel  
for all that they have done,  
declares the LORD.”

### **Joel 3:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>*“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,*

<sup>2</sup>*I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land,*

<sup>3</sup>*and have cast lots for my people, and have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it.*

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

<sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

<sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

<sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

<sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

<sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

<sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’

<sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?’

<sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

<sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

<sup>41</sup>“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

<sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

<sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

<sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, 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?’

<sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

<sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

### **Ezekiel 36:22-24**

<sup>22</sup>“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

<sup>23</sup>And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

<sup>24</sup>**I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.**

### **Romans 11:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>**God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.** Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?

“Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.”

<sup>4</sup>But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”

<sup>5</sup>So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.



<sup>6</sup>But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

**Matthew 23:38-39**

<sup>38</sup>See, your house is left to you desolate.

<sup>39</sup>For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**Romans 11:28-29**

<sup>28</sup>As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

<sup>29</sup>**For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

**Psalms 89:30-37**

<sup>30</sup>If his children forsake my law  
and do not walk according to my rules,  
<sup>31</sup>if they violate my statutes  
and do not keep my commandments,  
<sup>32</sup>then I will punish their transgression with the rod  
and their iniquity with stripes,  
<sup>33</sup>but I will not remove from him my steadfast love  
or be false to my faithfulness.  
<sup>34</sup>I will not violate my covenant  
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.  
<sup>35</sup>Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;  
I will not lie to David.  
<sup>36</sup>His offspring shall endure forever,  
his throne as long as the sun before me.  
<sup>37</sup>Like the moon it shall be established forever,  
a faithful witness in the skies." *Selah*

**[The New Anti-Semitism, Israel My Glory, James Showers](#)**

by James A. Showers

# The New Anti-Semitism



(Stained glass window, Sylvia Cook / iStockphoto. Digital compositing and manipulation, Thomas E. Williams.)

Since the birth of modern Israel in 1948, a new form of anti-Semitism has emerged. Rather than attacking the Jewish people directly, it claims to oppose only Zionism and the sovereignty of the Jewish state. Most Christians

who manifest it hold to Replacement Theology and have no use for Christian Zionists who believe Israel has a divine, biblical right to the Promised Land.

Consequently, a schism of sorts has developed within Christianity, with

Replacement theologians on one side and dispensationalists on the other. And the schism is widening rapidly.

Unfortunately, Replacement Theology and anti-Semitism often go hand in hand. Over the past two millennia,

2.

many who believe God has rejected the Jewish people and replaced Israel with the church despise the Jewish people's very existence.

Of course, not everyone who holds to Replacement Theology is anti-Semitic. And some who attend Replacement churches love Israel and believe God has a future for it.

Historically, however, most of the churches involved in anti-Semitism believe the church has become the "new Israel," and all the glorious things God has promised Israel now belong to them. Christian Zionists see Israel and the church as separate entities, with separate divine programs and destinies.

## The Attack on Christian Zionism

Proponents of this new anti-Semitism claim Christian Zionism unduly influences the U.S. government to support Israel and empowers Israel to resist peace and maintain its so-called occupation and oppression of Palestinian Arabs.

They champion the plight of Palestinian Arabs in Israel, who hope their anti-Israel, anti-Christian-Zionist rhetoric will force Israel to withdraw from the West Bank as it withdrew from Gaza in 2005, thereby creating what they feel will be a lasting peace through the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian nation.

Though the idea of land for peace contradicts reality, its proponents aggressively pursue their cause, lobbying for boycotts of Israeli products, divestment from companies doing business with Israel, and economic sanctions against Israel. They also attack Dispensationalism and Christian Zionism, calling them racist obstacles to peace.

These people would have us believe they are not anti-Semitic. However, to threaten a nation's sovereignty is to threaten its people. The new anti-Semitism deceitfully repackages the age-old venom against the Jews—and it is effective.

A March 2012 survey by the Anti-Defamation League reported anti-Semitic attitudes are at alarming levels in 10 European countries. Compared to 2009, "levels of anti-Semitism have increased most dramatically in Hungary, the United Kingdom and Spain,"<sup>1</sup> resulting in Holocaust denial and increased attacks on Jewish people and synagogues.

Perhaps most troubling is the extent to which this new anti-Semitism is being embraced by church leaders in Europe, America, and Israel. Unfolding before our eyes is a church-led campaign against Israel and Christian Zionism that not only threatens Israel's existence but is also driving a wedge between Christians who hold to Replacement Theology and those of us who believe God has a future for ethnic Israel.

Denominations and parachurch organizations participating in this retreaded anti-Semitism include the United Church of Christ; Presbyterian Church (USA); the Church of England; the United Methodist Church; the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; the Church of Scotland; the Reformed Church of America; the Methodist Church of England; the Roman Catholic Church; Bethlehem Bible College, Bethlehem, Israel; World Vision; and the World Council of Churches.

The movement's most prominent leaders over the past dozen years are:

■ Stephen Sizer, Anglican vicar of Christ Church, Virginia Water, England.

■ Gary Burge, ordained Presbyterian minister and professor of New Testament, Wheaton College.

■ Donald E. Wagner, ordained Presbyterian minister and director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, North Park University, Chicago, Illinois.

■ John Stott, the late theologian and rector emeritus of All Souls Church in London.

■ Hank Hanegraaff, president of the Christian Research Institute and host of the "Bible Answer Man" radio program.

■ Tony Campolo, Baptist minister, author, and professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University in Pennsylvania.

■ Naim Ateek, founder of Sabeel, the Palestinian Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem.

■ Mitri Raheb, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, whose website lists its address as "Bethlehem, Palestine."

Sizer is the recognized champion of Christian Palestinianism,<sup>2</sup> a term coined by Dr. Paul Wilkinson of Lancashire, UK, to describe this new anti-Israel crusade. Sizer has written numerous books on the subject, led and spoken at conferences on it, cofounded an anti-Christian-Zionist organization, and joined Palestinian Muslims and terrorists in opposition to Israel.

Christian Palestinianism claims modern Israel has no biblical connection with, or justification for, owning the Promised Land; therefore, it concludes, Israel has become an apartheid state, occupying territory belonging to the Palestinian Arabs.

Christian Palestinianism sees Christian Zionism as hindering Israel's removal from the West Bank. Replacement adherents have long differed with dispensationalists (who are Zionist) about Israel and the land. However, Christian Palestinianism has launched an all-out assault on Dispensationalism and Christian Zionism.

Sizer's two most influential books are *Christian Zionism: Road-map to Armageddon?* (2004) and *Zion's Christian Soldiers? The Bible, Israel and the Church* (2007). He presents Christian Zionism as an incredibly powerful political force whose dangerous heresy fuels the Arab-Israeli conflict and encourages the destruction of millions of people.<sup>3</sup>

The late John Stott, a well-known British evangelical scholar and author, denounced Christian Zionism as "biblically anathema to the Christian faith."<sup>4</sup> Stott added, "I myself believe that Zionism, both political and Christian, is incompatible with biblical faith."<sup>5</sup>

Endorsing Sizer's books, Hank Hanegraaff wrote, "Christian Zionist beliefs and behaviors are the antithesis of biblical Christianity."<sup>6</sup>

"According to the New Testament, God's people is [sic] to be identified on the basis of grace, not of race," said Gilbert

Bilezikian, a founding leader of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois, and professor emeritus at Wheaton College.<sup>7</sup>

Tony Campolo said Christian Zionists "have embraced a theological perspective that has encouraged justice for Jews but has also led to the oppression of Palestinian people and extreme hostility between Christians and Muslims worldwide."<sup>8</sup> In an article in 2010, Campolo wrote, "The most serious threats to the well-being of the Palestinians in general, and to the Christian Palestinians in particular, come not from the Jews, but from *Christian Zionists* here in the United States."<sup>9</sup>

Popular British theological scholar N. T. Wright wrote in 2001, "The American obsession with the second coming of Jesus—especially with distorted interpretations of it—continues unabated. Seen from my side of the Atlantic, the phenomenal success of the *Left Behind* books appears puzzling, even bizarre."<sup>10</sup>

Barbara Rossing, an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, opened her 2004 book, *The Rapture Exposed*, by saying, "The Rapture is a racket. . . . We are not Raptured off the earth, nor is God. . . . God will never leave the world behind."<sup>11</sup>

Opponents often accuse Christian Zionists of being selfishly motivated. The truth, however, is that we are Zionists because that is what the Bible teaches, not because we believe we can force God's hand.

Dispensational Theology threatens the Palestinian people's myth that Jesus was a Palestinian sent to free them from oppression, as Palestinian Liberation Theology teaches. Determined to counter Zionism, Jack Sara, president of Bethlehem Bible College, has said Ezekiel 37 refers to the West Bank; and the dry bones God resurrects are those of the Palestinian people. (It actually speaks of God resurrecting ethnic Israel.)

These people even charge Christian Zionists and Israelis with using guilt for the Holocaust to shield Israel from criticism. Today Palestinian Arabs are portrayed as the latest "Holocaust" victims.

Regina Sharif, a secular historian, maintains, "On the theoretical as well as on the practical level, the Nazis and the Zionists saw eye to eye. . . . Zionism, racism, and anti-Semitism are all part of one phenomenon."<sup>12</sup>

British journalist Alan Hart went so far as to state on his website,

*It's time to give Israel's hardcore Zionists their real name. They are the New Nazis. . . . If Europeans and Americans don't stop the New Nazis, it's likely their endgame will be the extermination of millions of Palestinians.*<sup>13</sup>

## Pushing Their Propaganda

The Christian Palestinian movement gets its message out. Conferences bring together like-minded theologians and church leaders to develop their arguments. Conferences provide a stage from which to wage a propaganda war against Israel and Christian Zionism.

Sabeel's many international conferences have been sponsored by the World Council of Churches, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Church of England.<sup>14</sup> The last two years have seen Christ at the Checkpoint conferences organized and sponsored by Bethlehem Bible College, and printing presses are busy cranking out books that hype Christian Palestinianism.

One of the greatest propaganda tools is the Kairos Palestine Document, adopted in 2009. Modeled after the 1985 Kairos documents in South Africa, it calls the Israeli "occupation" of the West Bank an "evil" and a "sin," for which there should be repentance.<sup>15</sup>

It blames the Israeli government for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, argues that Israel is an apartheid state, condones all forms of resistance, calls for an end to the "Israeli occupation of Palestinian land," and seeks "an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds [Jerusalem] as its capital."<sup>16</sup> The document further calls on governments around the world to apply political and economic pressure

on Israel—the key tools being boycotts, divestments, and sanctions.<sup>17</sup>

Many of the denominations and organizations aligned with the Christian-Palestinian cause have adopted resolutions condemning both Israel's presence in the land and Christian Zionism; and some have called for boycotts of Israeli goods, divestment from corporations operating in Israel, and economic sanctions. They charge Christian Zionists and dispensationalists with misrepresenting biblical truth and standing in the way of peace. In 2009, the World Council of Churches called for an end to what it considers the illegal occupation of "Palestine" and endorsed establishing a Palestinian state.

## Strange Bedfellows

It is interesting to see the bedfellows a cause will draw together. In their zeal to accomplish their goals, the Christian-Palestinian movement has aligned with Muslim scholars, clerics, and even terrorists. Stephen Sizer, Gary Burge, and Donald Wagner participated in the Evangelical Christian-Muslim Dialogue meetings and the extended conversation with Islamic scholars sponsored by the World Islamic Call Society.

Muslim scholars and clerics have received Sizer warmly in his travels, including in Iran and Lebanon. Christian-Palestinian leaders have shared the platform with people committed to Israel's destruction, including Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and have gone so far as to express support for and solidarity with these terrorist groups.

*With God On Our Side*, a film released in 2010, is a biased documentary critiquing Christian Zionism; but its ultimate aim is to denounce it. The film contains interviews of many key players in the Christian-Palestinian movement, including Sizer and Burge, and has been shown in churches and universities in both the United Kingdom and America. Sadly, it is contributing to anti-Semitism in Replacement Theology churches.

Christian Palestinianism is fomenting anti-Israel, anti-Christian-Zionist rhetoric that is not supported by Scripture or by reason. The movement's penchant for over-simplifying the issues and refusing to acknowledge radical Muslim terrorism as the biggest obstacle to peace shows its true face. As Golda Meir, late prime minister of Israel, once said, "If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons, there would be no more Israel."

As Christian Zionists, we must be vigilant against the efforts of the Christian-Palestinian movement. There is much we can do for Israel. We can purchase Israeli goods and support companies that do business with Israel. We can share our support of Israel from the Bible. We can stand up

for Israel whenever it is under attack. And taking a trip to Israel is a tangible way of helping Israel and receiving a blessing at the same time.

God has promised the Jewish people will never cease to exist (Jer. 31:35–36). No matter what the anti-Zionists do, God will not permit His beloved Israel to be wiped off the map.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> First International Resources, LCC, "Attitudes Toward Jews In Ten European Countries," Anti-Defamation League, March 2012 <tinyurl.com/8mf9lqs>, 17.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Wilkinson, *Prophets Who Prophecy Lies in My Name* (Cheshire, UK: Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church, 2011), 8.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 10.

<sup>4</sup> Cited in Donald E. Wagner, *Anxious for Armageddon* (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1995), 80.

<sup>5</sup> "Sixty Academics Endorse Christian Zionism Book," May 23, 2011 <stephensizer.blogspot.com/2008/10/sixty-academics-endorse-christian.html>.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Tony Campolo, "Christian Zionism: Theology that Legitimizes Oppression," *Sojourners*, May 19, 2010 <sojo.net/blogs/2010/05/19/christian-zionism-theology-legitimizes-oppression>.

<sup>10</sup> N. T. Wright, "Farewell to the Rapture," August 2001 <ntwrightpage.com/Wright\_BR\_Farewell\_Rapture.htm>.

<sup>11</sup> Barbara Rossing, *The Rapture Exposed* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2004), 1–2.

<sup>12</sup> Regina S. Sharif, *Non-Jewish Zionism* (London: Zed Press, 1983), 5, 76.

<sup>13</sup> Alan Hart, "The New Nazis," January 13, 2009 <alanhart.net/the-New-Nazis>.

<sup>14</sup> Wilkinson, 6.

<sup>15</sup> "A moment of truth," *Kairos Palestine*, 2009 <kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf>.

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## World Events and Prophecy

Renald E. Showers

(ISRAEL MY GLORY, May/June 2012, , Pages 22-23)

Is it possible that current world events are setting the stage for what will happen before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Earth? Only God knows the answer. But the Bible foretells significant things concerning nations that are in the news today.

### A Significant World Leader

Daniel 7:7–27 reveals that, before Christ's Second Coming, a revived Roman Empire will be established as a 10-division federation ruled cooperatively by 10 kings. Eventually, an 11th king will rise from within it, over-throw three original kings, become the dominant ruler, and blaspheme God.

Daniel 11:36–39 reveals this blasphemous, strong-willed ruler will oppose all established forms of worship, will want to be exclusively worshiped as God, and will be a man of war (2 Th. 2:3–4). He is called the "Antichrist" in 1 John 2:18; 4:3.

### Future Wars Against Israel

Daniel 11:40 states, "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships." What is meant by "the time of the end"? The Bible divides history into two ages: the age before the Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah to Earth to rule the world (Mt. 13:39–43) and the age when the Messiah is on Earth ruling the world. The first could be called "this present age." Hebrews 6:5 calls the second "the age to come."

It appears that, when Daniel 11:40 speaks of "the time of the end," it refers to the end segment of this present age before Christ returns. More specifically, it refers to the last seven years of this present age. Today those years are frequently called the Tribulation.

Who are the kings of the South and North in verse 40? Verses 1–35 of Daniel 11 were fulfilled before Christ's birth. They indicated the king of the South was the ruler of Egypt (south of Israel), and the king of the North was the ruler of Syria (north of Israel). Verse 40 has not yet been fulfilled. Since Daniel was not told the kings of the South and North in verse 40 differ from those in verses 1–35, we can conclude verse 40 refers to the rulers of Egypt and Syria during the last seven years of this present age.

Who is the “him” of verse 40 whom Egypt and Syria will attack during the last seven years before Christ’s Second Coming to Earth? Since the Antichrist is described immediately before verse 40, it is obvious he is the one whom Egypt and Syria attack.

How will they attack him? They are located in the Middle East, but the end of verse 40 indicates the Antichrist is not there then. Daniel 9:24–27 records a program God has designed exclusively for the people of Israel and Jerusalem. The original language of verses 26–27 reveals that, at the beginning of the last seven years of this unique program, the Antichrist will establish a strong, binding, seven-year covenant with Israel. In fact, it will so strongly bind Israel to him and his revived Roman Empire that he will regard Israel as an extension of himself and his empire in the Middle East. Therefore, any attack against Israel will be an attack against him and his empire.

How will the Antichrist react when Israel has been jointly attacked by Egypt and Syria? Daniel 11:40 says, “He shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.” He apparently will attack Syria, north of Israel, first. Then he will move his forces south through Israel, “the Glorious Land,” but won’t take time to cross the Jordan River to conquer Edom, Moab, and Ammon (modern Jordan, v. 41) because he will want to get to Egypt.

The Antichrist will conquer all of Egypt to its western border with Libya and its southern border with Sudan. (The “Ethiopia” of Daniel’s day was not the same nation as modern Ethiopia, vv. 42–43.) It appears he will get complete control of that part of the Middle East.

But while the Antichrist plunders Egypt’s wealth, he will receive disturbing news from the east and north (v. 44) of another attack against his ally Israel: the multinational attack foretold in Ezekiel 38. The Jewish prophets Ezekiel and Daniel lived at the same time. The names of those nations in Ezekiel’s time were “Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya,” and the tribes of Gomer and Togarmah (vv. 5–6). Today they are Iran, Sudan, Libya, and Turkey. Gomer and Togarmah were two tribes located in what today is Turkey. These nations will be led by “Gog, of the land of Magog” (v. 2). Gog will come from his “place out of the far north” (v. 15), meaning Russia.

This attack will take place “in the latter days” (v. 16) and “latter years” of this present age before the Messiah comes to rule the world and after the Jewish people have been “gathered from many people” and been “brought out of the nations” (v. 8) and back to their homeland. This gathering has been taking place, particularly since 1948. The attack will take place after the Jewish people have made wasteland productive and feel so safe they have let down their own defenses (v. 11).

Clearly, this is not Israel’s attitude today. But Israel will feel safe during the first half of the last seven years before Christ’s return as a result of the Antichrist’s seven-year covenant to protect it. However, in the middle of that seven-year period, he will turn against Israel and desolate it until Christ’s return (Dan. 9:27).

The disturbing news the Antichrist will hear in Egypt will come from the east and north. Iran will come against Israel from the east. Russia and Turkey will come from the north. Sudan and Libya would normally come against Israel from the south and southwest. But it appears they will be unwilling to go through Egypt while the Antichrist and his armies are there. So they will take ships north through the Mediterranean Sea to join forces with Turkey and Russia coming from the north. Once the Antichrist receives the news of this attack, “he shall go out with great fury” with the goal “to destroy and annihilate many” (11:44). But before he arrives, God will have destroyed the invading forces (Ezek. 38:18–23). Now the Antichrist will have a free hand in the Middle East. Perhaps he will claim credit for the supernatural destruction of these forces.

He will come to Jerusalem in the middle of the seven-year period, take his seat in Israel’s new Temple, claim to be God, and desolate Israel for three and one-half years (Dan. 9:27; 11:45; Mt. 24:15–21; 2 Th. 2:3–4) until Messiah Jesus returns to rescue Israel and destroy him.

## [An alignment of the nations against Israel](#)

1. Jesus warned that when we see Jerusalem surrounded, her destruction is near. Luke 21:20
2. Many nations are today designing how to come against Israel
  - a. In 1991 during the Gulf War there were a number of nations who wanted to join Iraq to destroy Israel - they were prevented by the American-led coalition.
  - b. This has been true throughout history.
3. The Bible makes it clear that in the end times a major coalition of nations would arise and try to crush Israel. Eze 38:1-12 and Dan 11:40-45
  - a. This passage characterizes the years just before the Second Coming of Christ.
    - > These events must be forming just before and during the Great Tribulation.
    - > A political leader will have arisen to lead the ten-nation confederacy of the revived Roman Empire as it was in New Testament times.
      - o Dan 9:26 “the ruler who will come”
      - o This is the first of three phases that will occur before the Second Coming of Christ
        - ① The first stage - This ruler and confederation will set the stage
        - ② The second stage - The first three and a half years of the Tribulation Eze 38-39
        - ③ This is the passage we are studying.
        - ④ This will set the stage for the second three and a half years leading to the Second Coming of Christ
        - ⑤ This defeat may rearrange the political powers to make possible the world dictatorship of the leader of the ten-nation coalition.
        - ⑥ The third stage - This will be the world empire stage and will end with another World War, the Battle of Armageddon, and the Second Coming. Dan 7:23, Rev 16:7-8; Dan 11:40-45, Rev 16:12-16
        - ⑦ This battle of Eze 38-39 is a group of select nations that will be totally destroyed and is different from the Battle of Armageddon.
        - ⑧ The Battle of Armageddon is a World war.

4. This Eze 38-39 attack will come from the north - though all the nations of the coalition will not all be located in the north.
  - a. This will be an attack on Israel by Russia (most Bible scholars believe) and five other nations. This is a people from the "far north". Eze 38:15, 39:2 Prophecy w PP\12 Ezekiel 38 The coalition against Israel- Map.pptx
    - > This occurs after the Rapture.
    - > Probably at the end of the first three and a half years of the Tribulation
      - o Notice that it will be a time of peace Eze 38:8b, 10b cf 1 Thess 5:1-3
      - o This is after the restraint of the Holy Spirit is removed after the Rapture.
    - > A probable identification of the coalition
      - o Magog -The leader of the coalition
        - ① Gog is the leader of Magog (the people)
        - ② Gog is the chief leader of Meshech and Tubal. Eze 38:2,39:6; Rev 20:8 (a different situation)
        - ③ These were two peoples in Asia Minor in the area of Magog.
        - ④ This corresponds to modern day Turkey.
        - ⑤ These were an ancient people located to the north of Israel.
      - o The coalition will be of nations from the north, east and south of Israel.
        - ① Persia = modern day Iran
        - ② Cush or Ethiopia (NKJV)
        - ③ Put or Libya (NKJV)
        - ④ Gomer = Today the Area of Armenia
        - ⑤ Beth Togarmah = The area of Eastern Turkey
      - o Therefore, these areas are seen to include at least the modern countries of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Ethiopia, Libya, Russia, Turkey, and Iran. Prophecy w PP\12 Israel's Enemies Today.pptx
    - > This attack will be a surprise attack
      - o It will be a time of peace. Eze 38:8, 11, 14
      - o When Israel is not expecting it Eze 38:11



- o They will come with evil intentions, but God will destroy them.  
Eze 38:14-23
  - ① A great earthquake
  - ② Plague, bloodshed, torrents of rain, hailstone and burning sulfur
  - ③ God will show His holiness.

## The No-Battle Battle of Armageddon

January/February 2010 Charles McCracken

A mere seven years after his meteoric rise to power, the Antichrist will have ruined the planet. Those taking his mark of allegiance will be covered in “foul and loathsome” sores (Rev. 16:2). The globe’s water supply will have turned to blood (vv. 3–4). Intensified solar activity will fry the earth’s surface (vv. 8–9). Inexplicable darkness will cover the planet (v. 10). And a series of earthquakes, along with 100-pound hailstones, will level Earth’s landscape, leaving a rubble-strewn panorama of devastation (vv. 20–21).

Although god-like status will be accorded the Antichrist (the Beast), he will have no control over the cataclysmic events systematically pounding his kingdom; and he will be defeated easily and instantly by the Lord Jesus Christ at what is called the “battle” of Armageddon.

Under the pretense of dealing with “the Jewish problem” once and for all, the Antichrist’s armies will converge on the nation of Israel (Zech. 14:2–3). This force, however, will go well beyond the strength needed to eliminate the Jewish faithful holed up in Jerusalem. It will, in fact, be a “worldwide fighting force allied with the beast for a great battle.”<sup>1</sup> In a literal fulfillment of Psalm 2, the Antichrist and armies of the world will audaciously gather “against the LORD and against His Anointed” (Ps. 2:2). Believing they can pull off the most phenomenal victory the planet has ever seen, they will assemble to prevent the Messiah’s return to rule the world.

To God, however, all the military might on Earth is inconsequential. When challenged by rebellious humanity, He laughs and holds them “in derision” (v. 4).

While the armies terrorize Jerusalem and gather on the staging ground of the Jezreel Valley, the heavens will break open to reveal the Messiah on a white horse followed by the “armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean” (Rev. 19:14). Wrote Bible scholar John F. Walvoord: “Christ’s return will be a spectacular and majestic procession...that will take many hours. During this period, the movement of the procession and the earth’s continued rotation will permit the entire world to witness the event.”<sup>2</sup>

As the procession nears the planet, an angel will appear, silhouetted against the sun, inviting the birds to the “supper of the great God” (v. 17). The apostle John described Christ’s return: “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations” (v. 15). This sword is symbolic of His Word, which is “not a life-less sound, but an active agent.”<sup>3</sup> The Word of Jesus Christ brought all things into existence and will bring the military power arrayed against Him to nothing (Col. 1:17; Rev. 19:21).

Like the flashing precision of a laser, the Word of the returning Messiah will instantaneously destroy the rebel Gentile nations gathered against Him. One moment Antichrist’s multinational army will stand poised and arrogant behind its sophisticated weaponry; and an instant later, multiplied millions of lifeless corpses will litter the battlefield of Armageddon. The staggering victory the Antichrist envisioned will turn into a grotesque feast for the birds.

Rather than being hailed as the planet’s liberator, he and his False Prophet will be summarily plucked up and tossed “alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Rev. 19:20). And so will end

humanity's ultimate expression of rebellion against God prior to the establishment of the 1,000-year Messianic Kingdom.

#### ENDNOTES

1. Robert L. Thomas, *Rev 8—22: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1995), 265.
2. John F. Walvoord and Mark Hitchcock, *Armageddon, Oil and Terror* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2007), 182.
3. Thomas, 387.

### What Daniel and Israel can expect as a Final Outcome. **Daniel 12**

1. Read Daniel 12
2. God's first promise, Israel will be delivered . Daniel 12:1
  - a. This will be all those whose names are written in God's book. Malachi 3:16-4:3; Revelation 20:12, 15
    - > During the Tribulation, two thirds of Israel will be killed.
    - > One third who will be saved during the Tribulation.
      - o These are the remnant that go into the Millennium.
      - o These are the, "All Israel" that will be delivered.
3. God's second promise, the resurrection of the dead. (Dan 12:2)
  - a. There will be two resurrections
    - > In the first resurrection, some will be raised to everlasting life. John 5:29
    - > The second resurrection others will be raised to shame and everlasting contempt (hell). Revelation 20:11-15
      - o This is the "Great White Throne Judgment".
4. The third promise for all who are wise; they shall "shine forever" (Dan 12:3)
  - a. This is a picture of eternity. Revelation 20:1-8
  - b. All of those who have trusted Christ (Messiah) will glorify Him for all eternity.
5. Daniel's command concerning this prophecy (Dan 12:4)
  - a. Shut up the words and seal the book
    - > Doesn't mean to hide this prophecy.
    - > It means to close the book and store it safely.
  - b. The book was to be kept until the time of the end
    - > This is a reference to the Tribulation.

- o Only as history progressed, could people really know the full meaning of this prophecy
  - > That is how we, in our time, know exactly how the prophecies of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome were fulfilled.
  - > We have the book of Revelation which explains more than Daniel wrote.
  - > However, we will not know all things until the time of the Tribulation.
    - o At the time of the Tribulation, their knowledge will increase.
    - o At that time, people will search the book of Daniel (and Revelation) and know exactly how it is happening.
6. The question is asked, "how long will it be until the end"? Dan 12:5-7
- a. One of the two angels stood on both banks of the stream.
  - b. The angel on the near bank verbalized the question to the pre-incarnate Jesus, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" Daniel 10:5; Revelation 1:12-20
    - > The answer came.
    - > These wonders are the terrible events of Daniel 12:1.
    - > It would go on for a "time, times and a half a time".  
This would be three and a half years.
7. During this time there would be a shattering of the power of the holy people.
- a. The purifying of Israel will climax at the end of the second half of the Tribulation.
  - b. When this shattering comes to an end, all these things would be finished.

### **A mass immigration of the Jewish people to Israel from the nations**

1. God had promised the curse of worldwide dispersion if Israel would not obey His commands and decrees.
  - a. **Deuteronomy 28:64-68**(ESV)
    - <sup>64</sup>"And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.
    - <sup>65</sup>And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul. . .

- b. In 70 AD the Roman General Titus completely devastated Jerusalem.
    - > They overturned every stone and carried away every treasure.
    - > Thousands were killed and the rest were eventually dispersed among the nations.
    - > Some had tried to hide at Masada- but eventually were overtaken and committed suicide in defeat.
  - c. Israel was dispersed literally to the whole world and has never had possession of their land until 1948.
2. God, however, promised to bring them back, change their hearts and make a new covenant with them. Jer. 31:31–34; 32:37–42; Eze. 36:24–28
- a. The mass migrations from all over the world will occur during the Tribulation period in preparation for Christ's Millennial Kingdom.
    - > However, these immigrations begin to occur before the Tribulation and become signs that Christ's return is near.
  - b. Ever since the end of the 1800s, an increasing number of Jews have been coming back to the land of Israel
  - c. World War II drove great migrations of Jews from Europe.
    - > Many were rejected by the nations of the world.
    - > Those who tried to enter Palestine were turned back and finally imprisoned on Cyprus.
  - d. Finally, in 1948 the UN voted to establish the state of Israel.
  - e. From that time on, the flood of the masses poured into Israel.
    - > After Communism fell, Russia allowed Jews to immigrate to Israel.
    - > Since January of 1989, over 800,000 Jews immigrated to Israel.
    - > These Russian Jews have been more responsive to the Gospel.
  - f. Over the last hundred years multitudes have immigrated from Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, the United States and Europe.
    - > May 24, 1991 a number of Boeing 747s took off from Ben Gurion Airport headed for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
    - > Ethiopian Jews were boarded quickly - one plane had no seats and 1,087 people squeezed in to that plane alone.
    - > Seven babies were born in flight.
    - > "These Ethiopians had returned "home" after almost two thousand years". Zeph 3:10

### [An anticipation of peace in the Middle Eastern nations](#)

1. The antichrist, the one world ruler will “confirm” a peace accord with Israel. Dan 9:27
  - a. The Hebrew word “gabar” (confirm) means to “strengthen” or “make stronger”.
  - b. A peace accord will already be in place when Antichrist comes on the scene.
  - c. He will make an already existing peace accord stick.
2. In 1979, the Camp David Accord was signed between Egypt and Israel
  - a. President Jimmy Carter, President Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin met and signed the accord in Maryland.
  - b. This was the first peace treaty between Israel and an Arab nation.
  - c. There are today strong Muslim fundamentalist and terrorist organizations in Egypt.
  - d. Anwar Sadat was eventually assassinated because of this accord by one of these organizations.
  - e. This peace agreement did not bring peace.
3. In 1993 the Oslo Accord was agreed to by Israel and the Palestinians.
  - a. This accord was only an outline and the details were supposed to be worked at a later time.
  - b. This only put the two parties at further odds with each other.
  - c. This peace agreement did not bring peace.
4. In October 1994, Jordan and Israel signed a peace agreement between their two countries.
  - a. This was highly publicized around the world.
  - b. This agreement was supposed to be one of many that would be signed by Israel's other neighbors.
  - c. This never happened and this peace agreement did not bring peace.
5. This conflict between Israel and the Palestinians together with aspirations of peace are of worldwide concern.
  - a. None of the accords have brought peace.
  - b. They are still on the table and waiting for “someone” (Antichrist) to “confirm” them.
    - > One thing we know is that there will be a short time (three and half years) of peace as a result of this confirmation. Dan 9:27, Eze 38:8, 11, 14

- > But it will not last and Israel will be attacked.
- 6. In 2020 Donald Trump brokered a peace agreement between several Arab nations and Israel.
- 7. The unfulfilled peace agreements are in place, which makes this a sign of the Rapture and the beginning of the Great Tribulation with the arrival of Antichrist.

## Galilean Marriage Custom

1. There were three parts to the oriental marriage custom:
  - a. The betrothal
    - > The father chose the bride.
    - > The groom paid a dowry price for the bride.
    - > He then gave a token of his promise to his bride.
    - > The bridegroom then went to his father's house to prepare a place for his bride.
  - b. The presentation of the bride
    - > The husband comes for his bride at an unknown time.
    - > He comes with a shout and takes his bride to the wedding feast and ceremony.
  - c. The marriage feast
    - > The feast sometimes lasted 7 to 14 days.
    - > The groom gathered together all his friends and introduced his bride.
      - o The bride was given a white robe.
2. Christ is betrothed to His bride the Church.
  - a. The Father chose Christ's bride, the Church.
    - > **John 17:1-2** *<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.*
    - > **Ephesians 1:3-4** *<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
  - b. Christ paid the dowry price with His blood

- > **Acts 20:28** <sup>28</sup>*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*
- c. Christ then went to His father's house to prepare a place.
  - > **John 14:1-2** *In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*
- 3. The presentation of the Bride
  - a. Christ is coming again from heaven for His bride, the Church (the Rapture).
    - > We do not know exactly when He is coming.
    - > He is coming with a great shout.
      - o **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** *16For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*
  - b. Christ then takes His bride to heaven to the wedding feast (The Marriage Supper of the Lamb).

## [The Olivet Discourse- The MacArthur Bible Commentary](#)

### **Discourse 5: The Olivet Discourse (24:1-25:46)**

This discourse is the last of the five Matthew features (see Introduction: Historical and Theological Themes). It is known as the Olivet Discourse, and it contains some of the most important prophetic material in all of Scripture.

#### **The Destruction of the Temple (24:1, 2)**

**24:1** *the buildings of the temple.* Herod the Great began this temple in 20 B.C. (see note on 2:1), and it was still under construction when the Romans destroyed it in A.D. 70 (see note on v. 2). At the time of Jesus' ministry, the temple was one of the most impressive structures in the world, made of massive blocks of stone bedecked with gold ornamentation. Some of the stones in the temple complex measured 40 by 12 by 12 feet and were expertly quarried to fit perfectly against one another. The temple buildings were made of gleaming white marble, and the whole eastern wall of the large main structure was covered with gold plates that reflected the morning sun, making a spectacle that was visible for miles. The entire temple mount had been enlarged by Herod's engineers, using large retaining walls and vaulted chambers on the south side and southeast corner. This doubled the large courtyard area atop the temple mount. The whole temple complex was magnificent by any standard. The disciples' conversation here may have been prompted by Jesus' words in 23:38. They are undoubtedly wondering how a site so spectacular could be left "desolate."

**24:2** *not one stone shall be left here.* These words are fulfilled literally in A.D. 70. Titus, the Roman general, built large wooden scaffolds around the walls of the temple buildings, piled them high with wood and other flammable items, and set them ablaze. The heat from the fires was so intense that the stones crumbled. The rubble was then sifted to retrieve the melted gold, and the remaining ruins were “thrown down” into the Kidron Valley. *See notes on [22:7](#); [Luke 19:43](#).*

### **The Signs of the Times (24:3-31)**

**24:3** *Mount of Olives* is the hill directly opposite the temple, across the Kidron Valley to the east (*see note on [Luke 19:29](#)*). This spot affords the best panoramic view of Jerusalem. At the base of this mountain is Gethsemane (*see note on [26:36](#)*). ***what will be the sign of Your coming.*** [Luke 19:11](#) records that the disciples still “thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.” The destruction of the temple (v. 2) did not fit the eschatological scheme they envisioned, so they asked for clarification. Jesus addresses their questions in reverse order, describing the prophetic sign of His coming (actually a series of signs) in [verses 4-35](#) and then addressing their question about the timing of these events, beginning in [verse 36](#). When they ask about His coming (Gr. *parousia*; lit. “presence”), they do not envision a Second Coming in the far-off future. They are speaking of His coming in triumph as Messiah, an event which they, no doubt, anticipated would occur presently. Even if they were conscious of His approaching death, which he had plainly prophesied to them on repeated occasions (*see note on [20:19](#)*), they could not have anticipated His Ascension to heaven and the long intervening church age. However, when Jesus uses the term *parousia* in His discourse, He uses it in the technical sense as a reference to His Second Coming.

**24:6** *but the end is not yet.* False prophets, as well as wars and rumors of wars, characterize the whole of the present age, but will escalate toward the end (cf. [2 Tim. 3:13](#)).

**24:8** *sorrows.* The word means “birth pangs.” Famines, earthquakes, and conflicts have always characterized life in a fallen world; but by calling these things “the beginning” of labor pains, Jesus indicated that things will get notably and remarkably worse at the end of the era as these unique tribulations signal the coming of Messiah to judge sinful humanity and set up His millennial kingdom. Cf. [1 Thessalonians 5:3](#); [Revelation 6:1-17](#); [8:1-9:21](#); [16:1-21](#); *see note on [verse 14](#)*.

**24:9** *deliver you up.* *See note on [10:17](#).*

**24:10** *many will be offended,* lit. “caused to stumble,” suggesting professing believers who fall away and even turn against “one another” in shocking acts of spiritual treachery. Those who fall away in such a manner give evidence that they never were true believers (*see note on [v. 13](#)*).

**24:13** *endures to the end... be saved.* Cf. [10:22](#). The people who persevere are the same ones who are saved, not the ones whose love grows cold (v. 12). This fact does not suggest that a person’s perseverance secures salvation. Scripture everywhere teaches precisely the opposite: God, as part of His saving work, secures a believer’s perseverance. True believers “are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation” ([1 Pet. 1:5](#)). The guarantee of one’s perseverance is built into the New Covenant promise. God says: “I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me” ([Jer. 32:40](#)). Those who do fall away from Christ give conclusive proof that they were never truly believers to begin with ([1 John 2:19](#)). To say that God secures perseverance is not to say that Christians are passive in the process, however. He keeps believers “through faith” ([1 Pet. 1:5](#))—their faith. Scripture sometimes calls Christians to hold fast to their faith ([Heb. 10:23](#); [Rev. 3:11](#)) or warns against falling away ([Heb. 10:26-29](#)). Such admonitions do not negate the many promises that true believers will persevere ([John 10:28, 29](#); [Rom. 8:38, 39](#); [1 Corinthians. 1:8, 9](#); [Phil. 1:6](#)). Rather, the warnings and pleas are among the means God uses to secure this perseverance in the faith. Notice that the warnings and the promises often appear side by side. For example, when Jude urges believers, “keep yourselves in the love of God” ([Jude 21](#)), he immediately points them to God, “who is able to keep you from stumbling” ([Jude 24](#)).



**24:14 preached in all the world.** Despite all the tribulations that would come—deception of false teachers, wars, persecutions, natural disasters, defections from Christ, and all the obstacles to the spread of the gospel—the message ultimately penetrates every part of the globe. God is never without a witness, and He will proclaim the gospel from heaven itself, if necessary (cf. Rev. 14:6). **then the end will come.** “The end” refers to the final, excruciating birth pangs (see note on v. 8). This is how Christ characterizes the time of great Tribulation described in the verses that follow.

**24:15 abomination of desolation.** See notes on Daniel 9:27; 11:31. This phrase originally referred to the desecration of the temple in the second century B.C. by Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria. Antiochus invaded Jerusalem in 168 B.C., made the altar into a shrine to Zeus, and even sacrificed pigs on it. However, Jesus clearly was looking toward a yet-future “abomination of desolation.” Some suggest that this prophecy was fulfilled in A.D. 70 when Titus invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the temple (see note on v. 2). However, the apostle Paul saw a still-future fulfillment (2 Thess. 2:3, 4), as did John (Rev. 13:14, 15), when the Antichrist sets up an image in the temple during the future Tribulation. Christ’s words here, therefore, look beyond the events of A.D. 70 to a time of even greater global cataclysm that will immediately precede His coming (cf. vv. 29-31).

**24:16 the mountains.** Probably a reference to the region southeast of Jerusalem, particularly the Dead Sea area, where there are many caves and places of refuge. David hid from Saul in this area (1 Sam. 23:29). This area would also include the hills of Moab and Edom.

**24:21 great tribulation.** The words “has not been” and “nor ever shall be”—along with the description that follows—identify this as the yet-future time in which God’s wrath shall be poured out on the earth (see note on Rev. 7:14). Jesus’ descriptions of the cataclysms that follow closely resemble the outpouring of divine wrath described in the bowl judgments of Revelation 16 and His subsequent appearing in Revelation 19 (see note on v. 30).

**24:22 those days will be shortened.** If the afflictions of this time were to continue, “no flesh would be saved,” i.e., no one would survive. But “for the elect’s sake” (so that redeemed people do not suffer more than they can bear) the time is “shortened,” i.e., held short of total destruction. Both Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 12:14 (see notes there) suggest that the actual length of time the beast will be permitted to terrorize the world is fixed at three and one-half years.

**24:24 to deceive, if possible, even the elect.** This warning clearly implies that such deception is not possible (John 10:4, 5).

**24:26 do not believe it.** No one should consider the claims of self-styled messiahs, because all of them are false. When Christ returns, no one will miss it (vv. 27, 28).

**24:28 the eagles will be gathered together.** The location of a carcass is visible from great distances because of the carrion birds circling overhead (cf. Job 39:27-30). Similarly, Christ’s return will be clearly evident to all, near and far. Lightning makes the same point in verse 27. The eagle-carcass imagery here also speaks of the judgment that will accompany His return (Rev. 19:21).

**24:29 the sun will be darkened.** Such phenomena are a common feature of Day of the Lord prophecy (see Isa. 13:9, 10; Ezek. 32:7, 8; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Amos 8:9). The ultimate fulfillment of these prophecies occurs during the time of the beast’s reign (Rev. 6:12, 13; 8:12).

**24:30 the sign of the Son of Man, i.e., the Son of Man Himself is the sign.** The events described here precisely parallel the description in Daniel 7:13 and Revelation 19:11-21. **all the tribes of the earth will mourn, i.e., over their own rebellion.** Israel in particular will mourn over their rejection of the Messiah (cf. Zech. 12:10-12).

**24:31 from one end of heaven to the other.** All the “elect” from heaven and earth are gathered and assembled before Christ. This culmination of world history ushers in the millennial reign of Christ (cf. Rev. 20:4).

### The Parable of the Fig Tree (24:32-35)

**24:32** *parable from the fig tree.* When the fig branch “puts forth leaves,” only a short time remains until summer. Likewise, when the final labor pains begin (*see note on v. 14*), Christ’s return “is near; it is at the doors!” (v. 33).

**24:34** *this generation* cannot refer to the generation living at that time of Christ, since “all these things”—the abomination of desolation (v. 15), the persecutions and judgments (vv. 17-22), the false prophets (vv. 23-26), the signs in the heavens (vv. 27-29), Christ’s final return (v. 30), and the gathering of the elect (v. 31)—did not “take place” in their lifetime. It seems best to interpret Christ’s words as referring to the generation alive at the time when those final, hard, labor pains begin (*see note on v. 14*). This view would fit with the lesson of the fig tree, which emphasizes the short span of time in which these things will occur (*see note on v. 32*).

**24:35** *Heaven and earth will pass away.* Cf. Isaiah 24:18-20. *See notes on 2 Peter 3:10-13*.

### **The Lesson of Noah (24:36-44)**

**24:36** *day and hour.* *See note on Mark 13:32*. The disciples want to fix the precise time, but this was not for them to know (Acts 1:7). Instead, Christ emphasizes faithfulness, watchfulness, stewardship, expectancy, and preparedness. He teaches these virtues in the parables that follow.

**24:37** *as the days of Noah were.* Jesus emphasizes not the extreme wickedness of Noah’s day (Gen. 6:5) but the people’s preoccupation with mundane matters of everyday life (“eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage,” v. 38), when judgment fell suddenly. They had received warnings, in the form of Noah’s preaching (2 Pet. 2:5) and the ark itself, which testified to the judgment that was to come. But they were unconcerned about such matters and were therefore swept away unexpectedly in the midst of their daily activities.

**24:40, 41** *one will be taken*, i.e., taken in judgment (cf. v. 39), just as in Noah’s day (“took them”; v. 39). This clause does not refer to the catching away of believers described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

**24:43** *the thief.* Since no one knows what hour the thief will come, no one knows the hour of the Lord’s return or the Day of the Lord that accompanies His Coming (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10). But the believer is to be ready at all times.

**24:44** *at an hour you do not expect.* The following parables teach Christ’s followers to be ready in case He comes sooner than anticipated (vv. 43-51) and also to be prepared in case He delays longer than expected (25:1-13).

### **The Parable of the Two Servants (24:45-51)**

**24:45-51** The evil servant represents an unbeliever who refuses to take seriously the promise of Christ’s return (cf. 2 Pet. 3:4). Though he is an unbeliever (as demonstrated by his punishment—*see note on 22:13*), he is nonetheless accountable to Christ for the stewardship of his time. Jesus is teaching that every person in the world holds his life, natural abilities, wealth, and possessions in trust from God and must give account of how these things are used.

**24:51** *weeping and gnashing of teeth.* *See note on 22:13*.

### **The Parable of the Ten Virgins (25:1-13)**

**25:1-13** The parable of the ten virgins underscores the importance of being ready for Christ’s return in any event, even if He delays longer than expected. When He does return, there will be no second chances for the unprepared (vv. 11, 12).

**25:1** *ten virgins*, i.e., bridesmaids. The wedding would begin at the bride’s house when the bridegroom arrived to observe the wedding ritual. Then a procession would follow as the bridegroom takes the bride to his house for the completion of festivities. For a night wedding, “lamps,” which were actually torches, lighted the procession.

**25:12** *I do not know you.* *See note on Luke 13:25*; cf. Matthew 7:23.

### **The Parable of the Talents (25:14-30)**

**25:14-30** The parable of the talents illustrates the tragedy of wasted opportunity. The man who goes on the journey represents Christ, and the servants represent professing believers given different levels of responsibility. Faithfulness is what he demands of them (*see note on v. 23*), and the parable suggests that all who are faithful will be fruitful to some degree. The fruitless person is unmasked as a hypocrite and destroyed (*v. 30*).

**25:15 talents.** A talent was a measure of weight, not a specific coin, so that a talent of gold was more valuable than a talent of silver. A talent of silver (the word translated “money” in *verse 18* is literally silver) was a considerable sum of money. The modern meaning of the word *talent*, denoting a natural ability, stems from the erroneous application of this parable to the stewardship of one’s natural gifts.

**25:23 the joy of your lord.** The man with five talents and the man with two received exactly the same reward, indicating that the reward is based on faithfulness, not results.

**25:24 a hard man.** This characterization of the master maligns him as a cruel and ruthless opportunist, “reaping and gathering” what he had no right to claim as his own. This slothful servant does not represent a genuine believer, because it is obvious that this man does not know the master well.

**25:26 you knew that I reap where I have not sown.** In repeating the servant’s charge against him, the master does not acknowledge that it is true. He allows the man’s own words to condemn him. If the servant really believes the master to be the kind of man he portrays, that was all the more reason for him not to be slothful. His accusation against the master—even if it had been true—does not justify his own laziness.

**25:29 to everyone who has, more will be given.** See *13:12*. The recipients of divine grace inherit immeasurable blessings in addition to eternal life and the favor of God (*cf. Rom. 8:32*). But those who despise the riches of God’s goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering (*Rom. 2:4*), burying them in the ground and clinging instead to the paltry and transient goods of this world, will ultimately lose everything they have (*cf. 6:19; John 12:25*).

**25:30 outer darkness... weeping and gnashing of teeth.** *See note on 22:13.*

### **The Judgment of the Nations (25:31-46)**

**25:31 He will sit on the throne of His glory.** This verse speaks of the earthly reign of Christ described in *Revelation 20:4-6*. The judgment described here in *verses 32-46* is different from the Great White Throne judgment of *Revelation 20:11-15*. This judgment precedes Christ’s millennial reign, and the subjects seem to be only those who are alive at His coming. This judgment is sometimes referred to as the judgment of the nations, but Jesus’ verdicts address individuals in the nations, not the nations as a whole (*cf. v. 46*).

**25:32, 33 sheep,** i.e., believers (*10:16; Ps. 79:13; Ezek. 34*). They receive the place at “His right hand,” the place of favor. **goats.** These represent unbelievers, consigned to the place of dishonor and rejection.

**25:34 prepared for you.** This phrase shows that their salvation is a gracious gift of God, not something merited by the deeds described in *verses 35* and *36*. Before “the foundation of the world,” God chose them and ordained them to be holy (*Eph. 1:4*), predestined to be conformed to Christ’s image (*Rom. 8:29*). So the good deeds commended in *verses 35* and *36* are the fruit, not the root, of their salvation. The deeds do not gain their entry into the kingdom but merely manifest God’s grace in their lives. They are objective criteria for judgment, because they are the evidence of saving faith (*cf. James 2:14-26*).

**25:40 the least of these My brethren.** This phrase refers in particular to other disciples. Some would apply this to national Israel, others to needy people in general. But here Christ is specifically commending “those on His right” (*v. 34*) for the way they received His emissaries. *See note on 18:5.*

**25:46 everlasting punishment... eternal life.** The same Greek word is used in both instances. The punishment of the wicked is as never-ending as the bliss of the righteous. The wicked are not given a

second chance, nor are they annihilated. The punishment of the wicked dead is described throughout Scripture as “everlasting fire” (v. 41); “unquenchable fire” (3:12); “shame and everlasting contempt” (Dan. 12:2); a place where “their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:44-49); a place of “torments” and “flame” (Luke 16:23, 24); “everlasting destruction” (2 Thess. 1:9); a place of torment with “fire and brimstone” where “the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever” (Rev. 14:10, 11); and a “lake of fire and brimstone” where the wicked are “tormented day and night forever and ever” (Rev. 20:10). Here Jesus indicates that the punishment itself is everlasting—not merely the smoke and flames. The wicked are forever subject to the fury and the wrath of God. They consciously suffer shame and contempt and the assaults of an accusing conscience—along with the fiery wrath of an offended deity—for all of eternity. Even hell will acknowledge the perfect justice of God (Ps. 76:10); those who are there will know that their punishment is just and that they alone are to blame (cf. Deut. 32:3-5). The MacArthur Bible Commentary.

### **Daniel's answer to Jesus explanation of the time of the end**

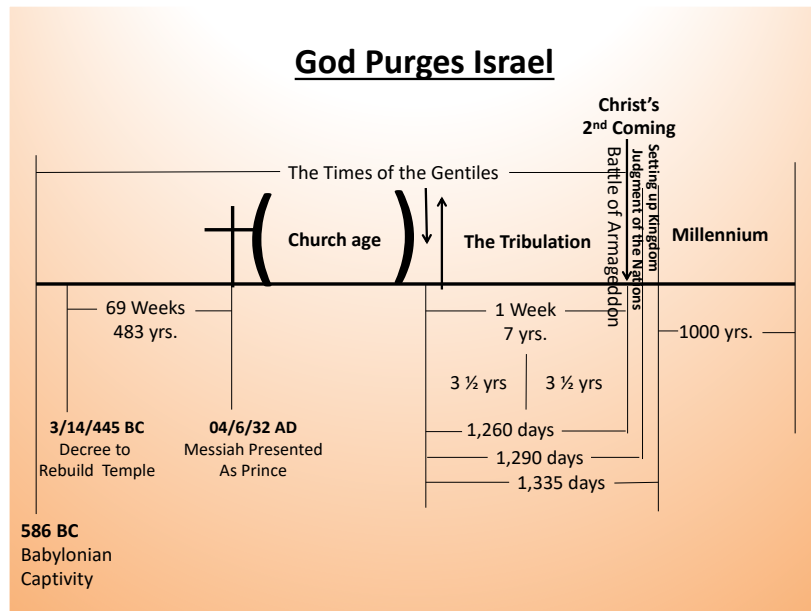
( Daniel 12:8-9)

1. Daniel still didn't understand "the outcome of these things".
  - a. God never intended that we understand everything.
  - b. We can only understand what God has revealed to us, and then we can't understand all of that.
  - c. We must believe God and trust Him. Romans 1:17
2. The answer was to go; it is closed and sealed to the end.
  - a. All that God intended to tell was told.
  - b. Now, just trust Him.

### **God's Fourth promise, many will be purified. (Dan 12:10-12)**

1. Many will be purified.
  - a. These will be the saved remnant of Israel.
  - b. This is what Paul called, "all Israel". Romans 11:26
2. From the time that the burnt offering is taken away.
  - a. This happens at the middle of the Tribulation.
    - > There will be a restored temple and temple worship during the first half of the Tribulation.
      - o Antichrist will be accepted as Israel's Savior.
      - o He will allow the temple and temple worship.
    - > Right now the Temple Institute has everything ready for the new temple.
  - b. Antichrist will desecrate the temple by entering the Holy Place and demand worship of himself as God, and this will suspend the sacrifices.
    - > Great persecution such as has never been known will follow.

- c. This period will last for 1,290 days or three and a half years.
  - > Calculated on a 30 day month Jewish calendar)
    - o 1,260 days = 3 1/2 yrs.-( 2nd half of the Tribulation- Purging) •  
1,290 days —1,260 = 30 days for judgment. Matthew 24:29-31, 25:31-46
  - > Then it will be all over, the end.
- 3. Blessed are those who are purged and now go into the Kingdom of Christ after 1,335 days. Dan 12:12
  - a. This is 45 more days as Christ sets up His Kingdom. Daniel 7:13-14, 27
  - b. From the middle of the Tribulation until all enter the Kingdom of Christ is a total of 1,335 days.
- 4. The Millennium will last 1000 years.



## [The Judgment of the Nations](#)

Article contributed by [www.walvoord.com](http://www.walvoord.com)  
(<https://bible.org/seriespage/14-judgment-nations>)

In the broad program of divine dealings with the Gentiles, the sovereignty of God over creation is revealed in an unusual way. Although God in His sovereign grace has allowed Gentiles to assume great power and in the words of Christ, “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24), the consummation of this program inevitably brings the Gentiles before God for much-deserved divine judgment.

The history of the world has demonstrated that mankind is not judged once but many times. God has already exercised His judgment upon angels, Adam and Eve, and many particular judgments have fallen upon individuals, cities, and nations. In

the flood of Noah the entire world was subject to disciplinary judgment. Towering above all judgments in history is the fact that Christ on the cross was judged as the sin bearer for mankind and that there Satan also was judged and defeated (John 16:11). Christians in this present age of grace also experience the disciplinary judgment of God (I Corinthians 11:32). Throughout the whole period of the tribulation and especially in the great tribulation judgment after judgment is poured out upon the world.

In this sequence the judgment of the nations assumes great significance and is one of the important milestones in divine dealing with a wicked world. That it is not the final judgment is evident, for other judgments will follow at the end of the millennium and the final judgment of all will be at the Great White Throne. The judgment of the nations, however, is important as bringing to a close one of the major phases of divine dealings, namely, the times of the Gentiles, and in a preliminary way anticipates the judgment of all unsaved men which will occur a thousand years later. The confusion which has arisen in the attempt to make this the judgment of all men, including both the resurrected and translated saints as well as the wicked, is corrected by careful attention to the exact text of Matthew 25:31-46 where the details of the judgment are given.

### **3. The Time Of The Judgment**

The passage is introduced by a time clause indicating when the judgment will take place in the tremendous sequence of events related to the second coming: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory" (Matthew 25:31). The context indicates that this is the coming of Christ to the earth in connection with the establishment of His earthly kingdom. The judgment, therefore, is distinguished in time from judgments that relate to the judgment seat of Christ occurring in connection with the rapture of the church, and from all historic judgments that precede as well as the many judgments that are poured upon the earth during the great tribulation. It follows the second coming of Christ to the earth, and precedes and is a preparation for His reign on earth for a thousand years. Therefore it is also distinguished from any judgments on rebellion during His kingdom reign and from the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the end of the millennium.

### **4. The Place Of The Judgment**

From the context it is also clear that the place of the judgment is earth, not heaven. The phrase, "the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him," is a picture of Christ and the angels coming from heaven to the earth. This is substantiated by another time clause, "Then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matthew 25:31). This is not the throne of God in heaven, but rather the earthly throne predicted by the prophets. It is the beginning of the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth" (Jeremiah 23:5). The place of this judgment, therefore, is the millennial earth not heaven.

## 5. The Subjects Of The Judgment

In Matthew 25:32 the subjects of this divine judgment are clearly declared to be “all nations.” The passage could be translated “all Gentiles” as the Greek word is *ethne*. This is a common word found frequently in the Bible and generally used of non-Jewish races. Although occasionally used of the Jews themselves (cp. Luke 7:5; 23:2; John 11:48, 50, 51, 52; 18:35; Acts 10:22; etc.), the more common meaning is to refer to Gentiles as distinguished from Jews, for instance in the references in Romans 11:13; 15:27; 16:4; Galatians 2:12. In some passages the Gentile character of the word is the main thought as in Romans 3:29; 9:24.

The context here indicates that the nations or the Gentiles should be viewed as the non-Jewish population of the world. In the narrative they are contrasted to “my brethren” (Matthew 25:40) who in the passage are distinguished from both the sheep and the goats, which comprise the entire mass of the Gentiles. In order to maintain the distinctions, it is best to understand it as referring to the non-Jewish peoples of the world. However, a similar judgment awaits the Jewish people (Ezekiel 20:34-38) and the issue is not whether both Jews and Gentiles are judged, but rather whether this passage concerns itself primarily with the Gentiles. In view of the fact that this is the climax of the times of the Gentiles, it seems appropriate that a special judgment should be applied to these who have oppressed Israel throughout their history.

From the English word *nations* some have inferred that what is dealt with here are political entities or countries as such. This is not at all indicated by the word *ethne*, a racial rather than an organizational term, and the details of the prophecy are such that they can be applied only to individuals and not to groups. The expression “all nations” therefore is best understood as referring to all Gentiles and more specifically all Gentiles who are living on earth at this time. It should be understood that many Gentiles at the time of the second coming of Christ were also already judged in the very act of divine wrath being poured on the armies gathered in the Middle East according to Revelation 19:17-21. As this is an earlier event in connection with the second advent, it must be assumed that we have here living Gentiles who were non-combatants or not involved in this great struggle.

## 6. The Basis Of The Judgment

This passage in Matthew 25 is a remarkable one in that works are prominent. According to the Scriptures, as all Gentiles are gathered before Christ to be judged they are divided into two classes, one described as “sheep” and the other designated “goats.” According to Matthew 25:33, “he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.” Having made this arbitrary division, He then justifies what He is doing by addressing Himself first to the sheep. In graphic language Christ in His role as “the King” declares to the sheep on his right hand: “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me” (Matthew 25:34-36).

The declaration by Christ is remarkable because attention is called to certain rather ordinary works such as feeding the hungry, giving the thirsty drink, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison. Furthermore, Christ declares that they who have done these things have done them to Him personally.

The righteous accordingly answer Him with the question, "Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?" (Matthew 25:37-39).

In reply Christ as "the King" states, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

In contrast to this, Christ then turns to those on the left hand described as goats and declares, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not" (Matthew 25:41-43). In like manner the goats replied asking when they had neglected these works of mercy. The judgment then is pronounced upon the goats by Christ, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:45, 46).

This passage has troubled expositors for it seems to indicate that the sheep go into life eternal because of their righteous works whereas the wicked are condemned because of their failure to do these prescribed deeds of kindness. The question is naturally raised whether a person can be saved by works. If any passage in the Bible seems to imply it, this would be the passage.

When other Scriptures are brought to bear upon the question of whether people can be saved by works, it soon becomes evident that salvation by works is an impossibility under any circumstances. Although grace may be revealed in different degrees in different dispensations, it is evident from the very doctrine that all men are sinners, that all men are spiritually dead, and that no amount of good works can reverse the sentence of death or change the sinful nature of man. Works can never be the ground of man's salvation. There can be no cure for depravity, Adamic sin, and obvious human failure found in every life, other than the grace of God. Hence, while there may be different dispensations with varying rules of life there can be only one way of salvation, namely, through Christ and His provided redemption. The question remains then how this passage in its plain emphasis on works can be justified.

The answer is first of all found in the fact that in every dispensation works are not the ground of salvation, but rather they are the evidence of salvation. It is always true that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). This does not mean that a man is saved by works, but it does mean that one who really trusts God and is the recipient



of divine grace will manifest this fact in a changed life. Humanly speaking, it is proper to challenge faith that does not manifest itself in some way. The passage then should be added to all others that emphasize the importance of works, not as the basis for salvation, but as the evidence of it.

A question still remains, however, concerning the precise character of these works. Is it always true that those who are kind to others and feed them and clothe them are necessarily Christians? The obvious philanthropy of many non-Christians in our modern world would seem to indicate that this cannot be taken normally as an indisputable evidence of eternal life.

The answer to the problem is found in the peculiar circumstances which form the background of the judgment. The people who are here being judged as Gentiles are those who have survived the horrors of the great tribulation. In this period which Jeremiah refers to as "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7), anti-semitism will reach an all-time high. It is evident from the warning of Christ in Matthew 24:15-22 that the Jewish people will be hounded to the death especially in the Holy Land, and possibly throughout the world. Satanic hatred will be manifested to a degree never before achieved and will be part of the world-wide satanic deception which will cause men to believe a lie. In the words of II Thessalonians 2:11, "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

Under these peculiar circumstances, under the strain and stress of satanic hatred of God and compulsion to worship the world ruler, anyone who would befriend a Jew would be a marked man. It is almost inconceivable that one who would be a true worshiper of the beast would ignore the world-wide command to exterminate the Jew. For a Gentile under these circumstances to befriend one who is designated as "my brethren" would be phenomenal and could be motivated only by a realization that the Jewish people are indeed the people of God and that their Messiah is indeed the Saviour of all who believe in Him. A simple work of kindness such as is here described therefore becomes highly significant, and in the context of this judgment one who would perform deeds of kindness would inevitably be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, while the works are not the ground of their salvation, which inevitably must be the grace of God and the sacrifice of Christ, works are nevertheless the evidence of salvation and to this our Lord points.

It is still true that salvation is "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:9) but rather by faith and by grace.

The importance of works in the final judgments of mankind here has another divine revelation. The sheep who have manifested their faith in Christ under trying circumstances by befriending a Jew are now rewarded by being ushered into the millennial kingdom with its blessings of Christ's righteous rule and beneficent care over all who trust in Him. By contrast, the goats who followed the course of this world and undoubtedly participated in the persecution of the Jewish people as well as neglecting their acts of kindness now come under the divine judgment which they justly deserve, and are cast into everlasting fire.

## 7. The Judgment

The purpose of the judgment of the Gentiles is obviously one of separation of the righteous from the unrighteous in preparation for the millennial kingdom (cp. Matthew 24:40, 41). It is a fulfillment of that which was anticipated in the parables of Matthew 13 where it was predicted that in the end the wheat and the tares would be separated, the good and the bad fish would be dealt with, and the bad fish destroyed. The millennial kingdom will begin with the entire adult population of the world limited to those who have put their trust in Christ. It will be a new beginning comparable to that following the flood when Noah and his immediate family formed the entire population of the earth.

From this context it is also evident that this is not a final judgment of the individuals concerned. Those ushered into the millennial kingdom in this judgment still are in their natural bodies, still have a natural life to live, and ultimately will either die or be translated and have their life reviewed in finality. Although there is no specific revelation of this fact, the general truth of Hebrews 9:27, "as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment," it may be concluded that the sheep will be subject to ultimate reward for their works even though at this time they are assured of eternal salvation in that they possess eternal life. In a similar way the casting of the wicked into everlasting fire should not be confused as a final judgment in which they are cast into the lake of fire which does not occur for another thousand years. It is rather that they move into a state of divine judgment described by the word "everlasting fire" such as is true both in Hades, the temporary abode of the wicked dead, and the lake of fire, the final state of the wicked. Their judgment in a word is that they are put to death physically, but subject to future judgment and final resurrection at the Great White Throne judgment. This judgment accordingly ends the times of the Gentiles and begins the millennial rule of Christ.

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