

# THE CHURCH AGE

## Revelation 2-3

Revelation 2 and 3 may seem out of place in the book of Revelation as, on the surface, they don't appear to be prophetic. In these chapters, Jesus instructed John to write seven letters, one to each of the seven churches in Asia Minor. These letters indicated the heart condition of each church that existed in John's day.

However, in hindsight we can now see that prophetically, the letters also foretold and corresponded to specific periods of church history that were yet to come.

Collectively, these periods, which commenced in 30AD at the conception of the early church, is known as The Church Age. It will conclude at the Coming of the Lord when the church will be raptured, leaving the Earth with no church as the world enters the time of Tribulation.

The chart below identifies the main theme of each letter and describes the period of church history each letter represents, along with their approximate dates.



# THE COMING OF THE LORD

## The Rapture

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

The Rapture could happen at anytime - Jesus instructs us to always be prepared. But we are given a set of criteria for the commencement of the Tribulation, and because the church will be resurrected prior to that period, as more of these key events come to pass, the Rapture too becomes increasingly imminent.

In Matthew 24, the disciples ask Jesus, "What will be the signs of the end of the age?" Jesus replies,

“ See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, **but that is not yet the end.**

**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.**

”

#### 1 WORLD WAR

The phrase "nation rising against nation..." refers to ALL nations engaged in war. History has seen two world wars so far, and like birth pangs, when we see countries positioning themselves for a third world war, it marks the beginning of a far more painful time than ever before.

#### 2 FAMINE

Famine has always been around, but with the deadly mix of conflict, COVID-19 and the climate crisis from 2020 onwards, world hunger has taken a sharp rise. The number of undernourished grew by 161 million people in 2020 alone.

The Bible speaks of two distinct events which are often confused with each other due to their similar names. The **Coming of the Lord** is more commonly known as The Rapture, whereas the **Day of the Lord** refers to the period of Tribulation that culminates with Christ's return. Although Revelation doesn't specifically mention the Coming of the Lord, it's understandably an event of key interest to us. This moment, when the Church ascends to meet Jesus in the air, is thought to occur between Revelation chapters 3 and 4.

The end of chapter 3 brings a conclusion to the church age on Earth. Then chapter 4 describes a scene where believers are already in the great throne room with Jesus **prior to the Tribulation**. For clearer insight into this transition when the church leaves the Earth, and when it will occur, we look to Matthew and Paul's writings.

#### 3 EARTHQUAKES

There are thousands of earthquakes around the globe each year but their frequency remained fairly stable over the past two decades. A notable rise in intensity or frequency would therefore be an alert for greater things to come.

#### 6 10 KINGS

Daniel 7 describes ten horns representing 10 kings who will rule the entire world. Currently, there are around 200 countries, each with their own government. It will therefore be interesting to see how regions will combine under 10 distinct leaders.

#### 4 APOSTASY IN THE CHURCH

As described in the letter to the Laodicean Church, the final state of the church before the church age ends is that of apostasy - a reliance on self, wealth, false doctrines and idolatry.

#### 7 COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

Daniel 9:27 states the Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel to permit temple sacrifices - a promise he breaks midway through the Tribulation. Currently, the Jews have no temple and have stopped sacrifices.

#### 5 ISRAEL ENTER THEIR LAND

Ezekiel 20:33 says that Israel will be regathered from where they were scattered and re-enter their land. This was achieved in 1948 when the state of Israel was formed.

#### 8 ELIJAH RETURNS

Malachi 4:5 tells us that the prophet Elijah will return to Israel prior to **the great and terrible day of the Lord**, i.e. the start of the Tribulation. Elijah never experienced physical death and will return to continue his ministry and to motivate Israel to pursue the Law.



### WHY WE BELIEVE THE CHURCH WILL BE REMOVED BEFORE THE TRIBULATION

It's first important to understand the purpose of the Tribulation, which is the judgement of Israel for their breaking of the Old Covenant and restoring them back into obedience before they enter the 1000 year Kingdom. More specifically, the Tribulation is **mandated** by the Old Covenant, an agreement made between Israel and God, which the New Testament Church isn't party to. The Church has been redeemed by Christ, whom Israel and the rest of the unbelieving world have rejected and therefore the Church will be removed prior to the Tribulation.

“ For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; **For God has not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus himself says in Luke 17:26-30:

“ And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking... until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking... but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. **It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.**

In both Noah and Sodom's cases, God removed the righteous prior to the outpouring of wrath so that they would not be caught up in the judgment. Noah and his family were instructed to enter the ark 7 days prior to the flood. And Jesus states this would be the same for His return.



2022



COVID-19  
CONFLICTS  
FAMINE INCREASES

EVILS INCREASE  
CONFLICTS  
COVID-19



THE COMING OF THE LORD  
AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE CHURCH

AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE CHURCH  
THE COMING OF THE LORD

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# THE THRONE ROOM

## Revelation 4-5

Chapter 4 begins with the most detailed description of the Lord's throne room found anywhere in the Bible. The three members of the Godhead are present and around the throne are 24 elders. Let's begin by examining who these elders from Rev 4:4 represent.

“ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in **white garments**, and **golden crowns** on their heads. ”

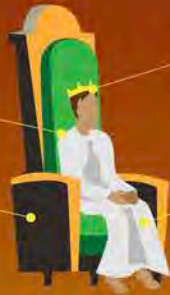
### 24 ELDERS

The word **elder** is always used in conjunction with human beings who lead God's people.

Later in Revelation 20:4 we're told that the **saints** will receive **thrones to judge** in the Kingdom.

The number 12 represents government or leadership over God's people, e.g. 12 tribes govern Israel, 12 apostles governed the church, 12 months govern the year, etc.

Doubling a number means to emphasize or make complete the concept behind that number, so 24 elders represents ALL the leaders of the church being present in the throne room (i.e. raptured) prior to the Tribulation.



The Greek word for **crown**, *stephanos*, specifically describes an award for excellent performance, like an olympic wreath. It represents the eternal rewards available to believers.

**White garments** represent righteous acts of the saints. In the letter to Sardis, (Rev 3:5) John writes, "The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments..."

Revelations 4 and 5 are the transition chapters from the Church Age into the 7 year Tribulation period. It describes the throne room as Jesus is found worthy to open the scroll. As he breaks the seals on the scroll, Tribulation commences and great devastation is poured out on the Earth.

“ And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. ”



In Rev 4:5, John explains that the 7 lamps represent the 7 spirits of God, just like Isaiah describes the Spirit using 7 characteristics in Isa 11:2. We know the number 7 signifies **the total, or complete number for perfection**, and therefore conclude that the 7 spirits of God there means the Holy Spirit **in His entirety** is in the throne room.

If the Holy Spirit is not on Earth at this point, it also means that the entire church has left the earth, as Jesus made it clear that His presence would remain with the Church until the end of the Age. This suggests the church has raptured by this point in Revelation 4.

### THE 7 FEASTS

In Leviticus 23, God instituted a religious calendar of 7 feasts for the Israelites to follow. Through these feasts, the Jewish people celebrated their identity, faith and blessings of God. Prophetically, these feasts are a timeline of Jesus redemptive plan as he dramatically fulfills the hope of each feast. The first 4, known as the Spring Feasts are a picture of Christ's death and resurrection and have been fulfilled, whereas the Fall Feasts relate to His second coming and are yet to pass.

The Feast of Trumpets is set at the end of the final harvest and involves several loud blasts of a ram's horn (*shofar*) to call the people to stop work, and prepare themselves for the atonement 10 days later. This gathering of people by way of a trumpet blast after the harvest is complete is symbolic of the rapture, for in 1 Cor 15:51-52, Paul writes:

“ Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ”

#### PASSOVER

*Pásakh*  
14th day of 1st month  
End March or April

God passed over the Israelite firstborn of the homes with lamb's blood. Jesus, the Lamb of God died during Passover.

of God died during Passover  
lamb's blood Jesus the Lamb  
firstborn of the homes with  
God passed over the Israelite

End March or April

14th day of 1st month  
1st day of 1st month

PASSOVER

#### UNLEAVENED BREAD

*Matsot*  
15th day of 1st month  
Day after Passover

God's deliverance out of Egypt. First grain was offered to God. Jesus burial coincided with this offering. Jesus is our Bread of Life.

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God's deliverance out of Egypt

Day after Passover

15th day of 1st month  
1st day of 1st month

UNLEAVENED BREAD

#### FIRST FRUITS

*Yom Havikurim*  
16th day of 1st month  
2 days after Passover

Celebrates God's gift of harvest. Jesus resurrected on this day. He became the first fruits of those raised from the dead.

those raised from the dead  
He became the first fruits of  
Jesus resurrected on this day  
Celebrates God's gift of harvest

2 days after Passover

16th day of 1st month  
1st day of 1st month

FIRST FRUITS

#### WEEKS

*Shavuot*  
50 days after Passover  
May or June

Anniversary of receiving the Law. Coincides with Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

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Pentecost and the arrival  
the Law coincides with  
Anniversary of receiving

May or June

50 days after Passover  
1st day of 1st month

WEEKS

#### TRUMPETS

*Rosh Hashana*  
1st day of 7th month  
Sep or early Oct

Jewish new year. 2 day feast preparing for God's Judgement at harvest end. Symbolic of the Rapture.

symbolic of the Rapture  
Judgement at harvest end  
feast preparing for God's  
Jewish new year 2 day

Sep or early Oct

1st day of 7th month  
1st day of 7th month

TRUMPETS

#### ATONEMENT

*Yom Kippur*  
10th day of 7th month  
Sep or Oct

A time of repentance and fasting. Jews will acknowledge Jesus is the Messiah leading to His return.

his return  
Jesus will acknowledge  
Jews will acknowledge  
A time of repentance and

Sep or Oct

10th day of 7th month  
1st day of 7th month

ATONEMENT

#### TABERNACLES

*Sukkot*  
15th day of 7th month  
Late Sep or Oct

Remember wilderness living before entering Canaan. Symbolic of entering the 1000 year New Kingdom.

1000 year New Kingdom  
Symbolic of entering the  
before entering Canaan  
Remember wilderness living

Late Sep or Oct

15th day of 7th month  
1st day of 7th month

TABERNACLES

# THE 7 SEALS

## Revelation 6-7

Chapter 6 begins with Jesus breaking the first seal of the scroll. This releases the Antichrist, to rise to power. The events that unfold devastate the planet, and seem natural initially, but by the 6th seal, the world realises its supernatural origins and cry out to God.

Meanwhile, amidst the chaos, God raises up a group of 144,000 Jewish evangelists as part of His redemptive plan during the Tribulation as described in Chapter 7. It's therefore important to note that the events in Chapter 6 and 7 run concurrently, not consecutively and may overlap as suggested in the timeline below.

The period of Tribulation is fast approaching and Daniel told us that this seven-year period will begin when a man makes a covenant with Israel to permit them to sacrifice in a temple. This implies that Israel will have some form of a holy temple available where sacrifices can be made. A group of Jews have already begun preparations for the rebuilding of the temple on the Temple Mount, but political obstructions are currently preventing them from proceeding.

### REV 6 BREAKING OF THE SEALS

As Jesus breaks the first 4 seals, John sees a horse and rider released with each seal. The 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse are often depicted as powerful mythical characters unleashing destruction on the Earth, however they actually represent one man, the Antichrist, at four stages of his rise to the world stage and his impact on the world.

#### 1 WHITE HORSE

The crown and bow with no arrows suggests a military leader will rise who threatens attack but doesn't have the power yet.



#### 2 RED HORSE

The sword and red horse indicates this leader now begins conquering causing widespread bloodshed in a world war.



#### 3 BLACK HORSE

The scales represent economic collapse, the natural result of war, as food and supplies become scarce.



#### 4 ASHEN HORSE

Death with Hades following. Widespread death will occur with around 2 billion lives lost. Bodies lay unburied.



#### 6 SUPERNATURAL DISASTERS

Unimaginable upheaval of nature: earthquakes, mountains and islands moving, sun becoming dark, moon turning red, meteorites. People flee to hide in caves and acknowledge this is God's judgement.



#### 7 TRUMPETS

There are 3 waves of judgments in the Tribulation period - the seals, trumpets and the bowls. The breaking of the 7th seal doesn't unleash a singular event like the previous seals did. It is the trigger for the commencement of the 7 trumpet judgments which are covered in Chapter 8.

#### 5 MARTYRDOM

The 5th seal describes the killing of believers during the entire Tribulation period, and therefore occurs as the first 4 seals were opened. Their souls cry out for justice, but they were told to wait until the full number of martyrs has been completed. These believers are identified in Rev 7 below.



### REV 7

#### WIND STOPPED

While the seals are being broken, four angels stop all wind on the Earth. Without wind to disperse warm air and to distribute rain, many regions near the equator and towards the poles would become uninhabitable, leading to mass migration and famine.



#### THE 144,000

As the Antichrist rises to power, God raises up 144,000 Jewish men to spread the Gospel and to explain the signs leading to a multitude of people turning to Christ. Most of these Tribulation Christians will then die for their faith in that time; their souls crying out from under the altar as the 5th seal was broken. Later in Chapter 11 we'll learn that the Two Witnesses performing supernatural signs will also operate in this first half of the Tribulation.

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# THE 7 TRUMPETS

## Revelation 8-9

The 7 trumpet judgments are nested **within** the 7th seal, so the breaking of that seal marks the commencement of a new wave of calamities on the Earth. So terrible will the judgments be from here on, that heaven stays silent for a period in readiness of the unimaginable affliction. The first 4 trumpets bring devastation to what remains of the planet, and the last 3 trumpets, also known as **the woe judgments**, bring severe torment to the human body. Note that the 7th trumpet is blown in Rev 11, triggering the 7 nested bowl judgments in Rev 16.

### REV 8:7

The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

### REV 8:8-9

The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.



### WOE, WOE, WOE



### REV 8:10-11

The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

### REV 8:12

The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

The completion of the first 6 trumpets will bring us to the 3.5 year mark, the mid-point of the 7 year Tribulation period.

When the fifth angel sounded its trumpet, smoke from the abyss darkened the sun even further, and out of the smoke came a plague of demonic locusts that spread over the earth. With human heads and long hair, they were instructed not to kill, but to torment the bodies of unbelievers. Their scorpion-like tails would inflict pain lasting 5 months and people will seek to kill themselves, but be unable to do so.

However, death arrives for many when the sixth angel sounds its trumpet, releasing four demons who amass an army of 200 million horsemen. These horses have heads like lions, breathe out fire, smoke and brimstone, and have tails with serpent heads. They kill a third of all the remaining people on Earth. In Joel 2:3, the prophet says:

“ A fire consumes before them and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them but a desolate wilderness behind them, and nothing at all escapes them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; and like war horses, so they run. ”



MIDPOINT OF TRIBULATION

#### 1 THIRD OF THE EARTH BURNED

One third of the already battered Earth is burned and becomes uninhabitable.

#### 2 THIRD OF THE SEAS TURNED TO BLOOD

Blood affects ships' buoyancy causing them to capsize. Marine life dies as blood spreads across the waters.

#### 3 THIRD OF THE RIVERS MADE BITTER

Wormwood is probably a demon sent to poison a third of the fresh water sources on Earth.

#### 4 THIRD OF THE SUN, MOON AND STARS DARKENED

Daylight is reduced and nights become darker. Temperatures would drop and any remaining crops would fail.

#### 5 DEMONIC LOCUSTS

The world is plagued by locust-like creatures that torture the body for 5 months.

#### 6 ARMY FROM THE EAST

A demonic army of horsemen destroys a third of the remaining people.

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#### 6 ARMY FROM THE EAST

# THE SCROLL

## Revelation 10

We've now reached the midpoint of the Tribulation. So significant is this moment, that 6 chapters of Revelation are devoted to describing the events at, and around, this 3.5 year mark. Chapter 10 introduces the mid-Tribulation events, with the arrival of a large, magnificent angel holding a little scroll. This scene closely connects with what Daniel saw in Dan 12, where he was instructed by an angel to write on a scroll, the events that would occur in the latter half of Tribulation. But back then, Daniel was not to reveal the contents of the scroll as the words "are concealed and sealed up until the end time." - Dan 12:9

But now in the middle of Tribulation, the time to reveal those words has arrived, so the same angel appears, this time to John, holding the same scroll. The angel asks John to eat the scroll, symbolically representing the taking in of the prophecy. John is then ready to prophesy over the nations, making the words of the scroll known, revealing the events of the second half of Tribulation.

“ Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land." And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little scroll.

And he said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

Rev 10:8-11 ”



MIDPOINT OF TRIBULATION  
Rev 10 - John prepares to reveal the events in the second half of Tribulation. Rev 11 tells us what the two witnesses have been doing up to this point.



# THE 2 WITNESSES

## Revelation 11

Revelation 11 describes the Lord's two witnesses. These two men have been operating since the start of the Tribulation and have the power to stop rain, strike the Earth with plagues and turn water to blood. Essentially, they can bring upon the Earth similar calamities to the Seal and Trumpet judgments and are therefore seen as being responsible for all the destruction. Naturally, the world hates these men and wants them dead, but they are able to destroy their enemies with fire from their mouths. God preserves them for 1260 days (3.5 years) to continue their work, ending at the midpoint of Tribulation.

Being called witnesses, we presume they are declaring the end of the world is near, and the current judgments are a preview of things to come. They testify to God's purpose, explain the origins of the devastation so that nobody misses the point of Tribulation and doesn't blame it on global warming or alien invasion.

When their time of ministry is complete after 3.5 years, they are killed by the beast that rises from the abyss. The world celebrates their death, as people believe the affliction will now end. But 3.5 days later, their joy turns to fear as God raises the two witnesses from the dead. However, they cause no further harm, as God calls them to heaven and they ascend, witnessed by their enemies. In that hour, an earthquake kills 7000 people and the remaining people are terrified and give glory to God.

7 Chapter 11 ends with the 7th angel blowing its trumpet. This triggers the outpouring of the 7 bowl judgments and the second half of Tribulation - the beginning of the end.

### SWEET VS BITTER

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### SWEET VS BITTER

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# THE DRAGON & THE WOMAN

## Revelation 12

The 12th chapter opens with two signs, and these signs work together to tell a single story concerning mid-Tribulation. The red dragon is symbolic of Satan's heightened activity on Earth at this point, and the woman with child represents Israel, from whom the Messiah came from.

The midpoint of Tribulation is the appointed time where God casts Satan out of Heaven, forever denying him access to God's throne room. Being expelled to the Earth, Satan knows his remaining time is short and immediately begins a vicious assault on Israel and other believers. However, God has a special place prepared for the believing Jews, protecting them from Satan's onslaught for the remainder of the Tribulation.



**10 HORNS**  
From Daniel 7 we know that the 10 horns represent 10 kings that will rule the world at the start of Tribulation.

**7 HEADS**  
Daniel 7 also tells us that by mid-Tribulation, only 7 of these rulers will remain as the Antichrist causes 3 kings to fall.

**THE CHILD**  
In verse 5, we're told that the child is a son who will rule all the nations with a rod of iron, which is a reference to the Messiah as described in Psalm 2:9

**THE WOMAN**  
The woman, with the sun, moon and 12 stars is a reference to Joseph's dream in Gen 37, where these celestial bodies represent the tribes or people of Israel. Scripture also depicts the nation of Israel as a woman.

“ And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

Rev 12:13-16 ”

For correct interpretation, it's important to realise that symbology is used extensively in Rev 12. The devil isn't literally a red dragon, and the woman doesn't depict Mary with baby Jesus. When the woman flies into the wilderness aided by the great eagle, the same metaphor was used when God delivered Israel from the Egyptians and bore them on eagles' wings - Ex 19:4.



As a result of the 144,000 and the two witnesses' testimonies, there are many **believing Jews**, known as the **remnant**. Satan's focused attack on Israel has the potential to bring an end to the believing within Israel and if that happened, the remnant would be extinguished, which would be contrary to God's promises.

So God prepares a place of refuge for the remnant, and at the moment Satan was cast out of heaven, the believing Jews flee Jerusalem. This flight is described in Matt 24:15-21:

“ Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak... For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

### WHERE WILL THEY GO?

Micah 2:12 gives us the name of this place:

“ I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like **sheep in the fold**.

The Hebrew word for "sheep in the fold" is **Bozrah** (or Botzrah), the name of a place in the wilderness near Jerusalem. Its modern name is **Petra**. It is here that the believing Jews wait out the remainder of Tribulation in safety.

But not all Jews are in Petra, and when Satan realises, he can't touch the remnant, his anger is directed at the unbelieving Jews and all believing Gentiles.

**PETRA** Petra is approximately 100 miles (162km) south of Jerusalem and is a rocky place with high cliffs and a maze of narrow canyons and wadis. If fleeing on foot from Jerusalem, it would require God's supernatural providence to protect the remnant, in a similar way to the exodus from Egypt.

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# THE ANTICHRIST & FALSE PROPHET

## Revelation 13

We've mentioned the Antichrist briefly in Rev 6 with the four horsemen, but here in Rev 13, we're shown in more detail how the Antichrist rises to power. It begins with a symbolic beast coming from the sea; a beast who gains its power from the dragon.

“ And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast:”

Rev 13:1-3 ”

### RISE AND RESURRECTION

The Antichrist was already a prominent military or political leader at the start of the Tribulation but 3.5 years later, he becomes the most powerful leader in world history. He is depicted by a beast that includes features of a lion, bear and leopard. Individually, these creatures represented separate kingdoms in Daniel 7, but now the Antichrist inherits, and is the embodiment of, all previous Gentile kingdoms.

At the time of mid-Tribulation, the Antichrist will suffer a fatal head wound, possibly at the hands of 3 of the 10 kings. But Satan gives the Antichrist his power, indwells him, resurrecting him from the dead. The beast is now even more powerful than he was before, able to defeat the 3 kings and the 2 witnesses in Rev 11. Through this union, Satan becomes the object of the world's attention and worship, and the Antichrist ascends to become the leader of the world.



### THE FALSE PROPHET

The False Prophet arrives on the scene, completing the false trinity. Depicted as a lamb, but with the voice of a dragon, this man speaks for Satan and works with the Antichrist to convince the world to worship Satan.

“ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.”

Rev 13:11-14 ”

The message of the False Prophet is reinforced by his ability to rain fire from heaven, but his power is limited to when he is in the physical presence of the Antichrist. An image, or statue, honoring the Antichrist is then erected in the Temple, and through demonic power, is brought to life. It is able to kill those who refuse to worship it.

### THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The False Prophet also binds everyone to the Antichrist through economic means, by mandating a mark on each person's forehead or right hand. Without this mark, one cannot buy or sell anything.

Those who receive the mark and worship the beast are now unsavable, and those who refuse the mark will be killed. At mid-Tribulation the world is faced with the choice of worshipping the false trinity, with the promise of temporary security, but the ultimate destination of an eternity in a lake of fire, or follow the true God with the likelihood of being martyred but enter into eternal life.

The mark is represented by the numerical value of the Antichrist's name, which is 666. Numbering a name is a Jewish system performed on a name written in Hebrew. So whatever the Antichrist's name is, it needs to be translated into Hebrew and then converted into its numerical value.

**NOTE** Remember, during the first half of Tribulation the Antichrist begins his rise as a political and military leader. He is not one of the ten world leaders of that time, since Daniel 7 tells us he will be an eleventh ruler. Instead, he comes into power by negotiating a covenant to permit Israel to return to sacrifice according to Daniel 9. But now at the mid-point, he breaks that covenant, and defiles the temple by setting up his own image there. Both Jesus and Daniel refer to this image as the Abomination of Desolation, and when this is in place, it's the trigger for the remnant to flee to Petra.

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to receive the mark of the beast  
worship and receive his image, and the worshiper receive  
him, and receive the mark of the beast, and receive his image.

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# THE REAPING

## Revelation 14

In Revelation 14, John describes a scene that begins with the 144,000 singing around the throne in Heaven. This is followed by a number of angels, each in turn, declaring or describing various aspects of mid-Tribulation, providing us further insight to events that we're already familiar with. There are 7 key points covered in this chapter:



# SEA OF GLASS

## Revelation 15

Revelation 15 is a transition chapter out of the mid-Tribulation period and into the final half of the 7 years. John describes the contents of this chapter as a **sign**, as seven angels holding the final seven plagues prepare to release the wrath of God.

### 1 THE 144,000

The 144,000 evangelists are singing a song in the heavenly Mt Zion - a song that only they could sing. This is a special honour for the first fruits of the martyrs; the first group whose lives have been sacrificed in the first 3.5 years of Tribulation.

### 2 THE GOSPEL REACHES ALL THE EARTH

“ And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.

Rev 14:6 ”

This fulfils Matthew 24:14 in the Olivet Discourse where Jesus says the gospel will be preached in the whole world, and then the end will come. Although Jesus instructs us to preach the good news to all nations, His return isn't dependent on our efforts as He can use an angel to reach every nation and tribe.

### 3 BABYLON IS NAMED

This is the first time Babylon is mentioned in Revelation and will be revealed as the city of the Antichrist.

### 4 MARK OF THE BEAST

The mark of the beast was introduced in the previous chapter, described as being essential for any form of commerce, but here, we read the eternal consequences of receiving it.

“ If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

Rev 14:9-11 ”

### 5 PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

Mentioned in verse 12, this describes the **hope** that believers can hold onto during this time - “Blessed are the dead who die from now on!” for it is better to die earlier in the second half of tribulation then struggle to survive.

### 6 REAPING OF THE BELIEVERS

Throughout the Tribulation, there will be a reaping of believers through martyrdom, but this will increase in the final half of Tribulation as the Lord allows the Antichrist to prosper and have success in killing saints for 3.5 years.

### 7 REAPING OF THE UNBELIEVERS

In Rev 12:17-20, an angel with a sickle reaps the unbelievers. This group will be placed into the great winepress of the wrath of God to the effect of massive bloodshed and death. This produces a long and deep river of blood.

If this river is to be taken literally, this would be a foretelling of the war of Armageddon at the end of Tribulation which takes place in the Kidron Valley. There, the Antichrist's armies are destroyed in preparation for the return of the Messiah.

“ And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

Rev 14:9-11 ”

Standing on this sea are those who had been victorious over the beast, i.e. those who were martyred in the Tribulation. Because they have died without giving in to the enemy's demands, they have passed the test and entered Heaven.

They overcame the mark because they never loved their physical life more than the Lord and this is exactly the kind of eternal perspective that all believers are expected to maintain.

After this scene, John sees the Lord preparing to pour out His final wrath upon Israel and the world, as He opens the tabernacle in Heaven as a **sign** of His impending return to the earthly tabernacle.

This is then followed by the 7 angels preparing to pour out their 7 bowls of God's wrath, which brings us into the latter half and towards the end of the Great Tribulation.

### MID - TRIB EVENTS



### EARLY MID - TRIB



This section contains detailed notes and commentary for each event in the timeline, providing a deeper understanding of the biblical text and its implications for the Tribulation period.

# THE 7 BOWLS

## Revelation 16

The 7 bowls of wrath are poured out towards the end of the Tribulation so there may be a tentative time of "peace" from mid-Tribulation to this point, much like being in the eye of a hurricane. As you read the first 10 verses, notice the sufferings: scorching heat, darkness, no water, no refreshment, at the mercy of the enemy, no relief from physical torment. This is a preview of Hell, yet the world responds with blasphemy and unrepentance.

“ So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and a harmful and painful sore afflicted the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, the One who is and who was, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

And the fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given power to scorch people with fire. And the people were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

And the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.”

Rev 16:2-11

Most of these bowl judgments parallel the plagues of the Exodus. There the nation of Egypt held Israel captive and the judgments brought Israel freedom and ultimately entrance into the Promised Land. Likewise, these judgments are part of the plan to free Israel from slavery to sin and unbelief and into the Kingdom.

Imagine living with excruciating sores in a world with little to no rain, and no natural sources of fresh water. Now add to that a scorching sun that literally expels tongues of fire. Fuel and fires would ignite and spread everywhere with no means of extinguishing them. There may not be electricity and vehicles may not operate under these conditions.

The heat would also increase the rate of decomposition of the dead animals and people, making the air wretched.

### HAR-MEGIDDO

The 6th and 7th bowls may seem insignificant compared to the first five, but they set in motion a larger set of events. We call this climax the War of Armageddon, which ends the Tribulation and leads to Christ's Second Coming.

As the 6th angel pours out his bowl, the great river Euphrates dries up. This is the major river of Mesopotamia in present-day Iraq running near the ancient city of Babylon. As a natural barrier between Babylon and Jerusalem, its drying up will allow the Antichrist to move his military forces westward towards Jerusalem. The world is in a virtually unlivable state, and seeing this opportunity arise, Satan and his demons quickly gather the remaining rulers of the world, amassing their armies at a location named Har-megiddo in northern Israel.

With no water, the world knows that death is closing in, and they know God is behind these judgments. The call goes out to attack the Lord's city so that when Christ returns to the Mount of Olives and the temple, the Antichrist's forces will be waiting to destroy Him. Moreover, the enemy will target the remaining Jews in the city. If he can destroy these Jews, he hopes to make Christ's return impossible. This war unfolds in five stages over the next several chapters.

### THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE

The final judgment is a tremendous earthquake unlike any earthquake before. It levels all the mountains, every island disappears and continents are split apart. Then 100 pound rocks rain down from the sky crushing people, obliterating everything.

Jerusalem is spared this carnage, and to an extent, Babylon survives, but is split into three. This brings an end to all the judgment on the world, and a voice from Heaven is heard, saying, "It is finished!".



- 1 LOATHSOME SORES**
- 2 SEAS TURNED TO BLOOD**
- 3 FRESH WATER TURNED TO BLOOD**
- 4 SCORCHING SUN**
- 5 PAINFUL DARKNESS**
- 6 EUPHRATES DRIES UP**
- 7 EARTHQUAKE & HAILSTONES**

Wicked, vile sores that disrupt the flesh in unimaginable ways

All sea creatures die. This would shut down the water cycle of the planet, resulting in no rain.

How long can the world survive on stockpiles of water? All animals would die.

No water, with a sun that scorches flesh, the stench of burning and decaying bodies would fill the air.

Malignant sores, burnt skin and no water, now an intense and tormenting darkness.

This paves the way for the Antichrist and 7 kings to attack Jerusalem.

The Earth is completely pummeled and levelled. Babylon is split into three.

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# WAR OF ARMAGEDDON

## Revelation 18

Rev 18 describes how people will react at the news of Babylon being destroyed. But how will Satan's capital come to an end? We know that the 7th bowl judgment releasing the great earthquake splits Babylon into three pieces. But prior to that event, many Old Testament prophets spoke of Babylon being captured in the end times, and so we look to Jeremiah 50 and 51 for more insight into Babylon's demise.

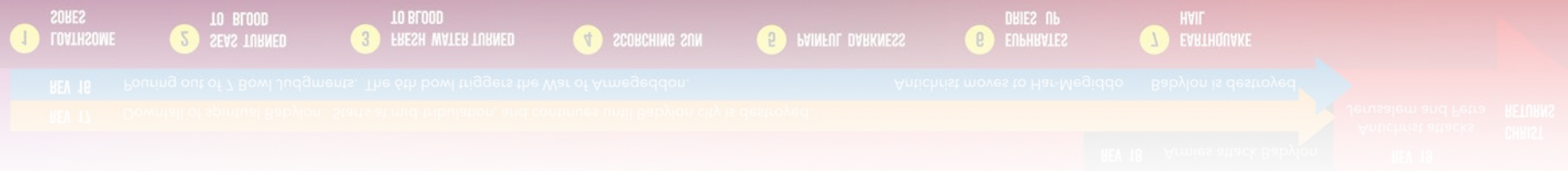
“Babylon has been captured... For a nation has come up against her out of the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon, a horde of great nations from the land of the north, and they will draw up their battle lines against her; from there she will be taken captive.

Jer 50:2-3, 9 ”

Jeremiah goes on to name the attacking armies as being from Ararat, Minni, Ashkenaz, and the Medes. This roughly corresponds to the region of north eastern Turkey and Armenia, near their borders with Georgia. But why would they attack Babylon if earthly kings have aligned themselves with the Antichrist? Rev 17:17 states that the worldly kings only follow the beast until it's time for the word of God concerning Babylon to be fulfilled. This suggests that they will break away from the Antichrist's forces and attack Babylon when he leaves his city undefended during his attack on Jerusalem.

There are five stages to the War of Armageddon, and it's important to recognise that there is some overlap between the events of Chapters 16, 17 and 18 as suggested by the timeline below. The first three stages of this battle are:

- I The Euphrates River dries up allowing the Antichrist to amass his forces north of Jerusalem at Har-megiddo (Rev 16)
- II As Babylon is undefended, some of his allies stage a coup and conquer Babylon. The victory is short lived as the earthquake and hail then destroy the city along with the invaders.
- III With his headquarters gone, the Antichrist is furious and goes forth to annihilate Jews in Jerusalem and Petra (Rev 19)



# THE COMING OF CHRIST

## Revelation 19

In Chapter 19 we read of Christ's climactic return to earth, accompanied by his Bride, the Church saints. Christ defeats the Antichrist and his forces, slaying all who have the mark of the beast and casting the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire. Chapter 19 is a summary of Christ's return from a heavenly viewpoint, but for the details on how things unfold on earth, and Satan's battle strategies before his ultimate demise, we look back to the Old Testament prophets.

### STAGE III - THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

The Antichrist and his forces, sitting in northern Israel, have heard of the destruction of their capital Babylon. Furious, and with only one play left, he presses southward to annihilate the Jews in Jerusalem and instructs any surviving forces in Babylon to head to Petra (Bozrah) and do likewise to the Jews there.

Daniel 11:45 tells us that the Antichrist's army eventually reach a point between the Great Sea and the Holy Mountain, and from there they advance east to Jerusalem, surrounding the city and sieging it. Because the Tribulation has reduced society to a rudimentary level of technology, warfare returns to a medieval style. Zechariah and other Old Testament prophets tell us the Antichrist uses siege ramps, horses and swords. For a similar reason, the Jews in Jerusalem are protected, to some extent, by the walls of the city.

Jesus had already set the terms for His Second Coming for His people. As we read in Luke 13, they must call out for Him as their Messiah.

“ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'”

Luke 13:34-35 ”

God permits this attack on Jerusalem, as it's ultimately designed to bring the Jews to repentance. Zechariah describes the assault as follows:

“ For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.”

Zech 14:2 ”

Hosea 6 tells us that the battle would go on for two days, and then on the third day the nation of Israel would be brought to faith by the Spirit, and as they respond by calling out on Jesus, He comes to them.

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Zechariah 14:2

### STAGE IV - JESUS DESCENDS ON PETRA

Christ's glorious return to earth isn't a singular moment resulting in the immediate annihilation of His enemies. It's a carefully scripted and foretold sequence of events that spans a number of days. In Isaiah 34, the Lord describes his sword as being ready to descend and to destroy the nations. His sword is filled with blood, and first on the agenda is a specific group He has devoted to destruction - "For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom." - Isa 34:6

Part of the Antichrist's forces have arrived in Petra (Bozrah) intent on hunting down the Jews in hiding. But little do they know that **they** are the prepared sacrifice, whose blood will stain the mountains. In Rev 19, Jesus descends with His army behind, but He alone does the fighting and as He arrives in Petra, all those that sought to kill His people are annihilated.

Now Micah tells us what Jesus does next:

“ I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; like a flock in the midst of its pasture, they will be noisy with men. The breaker goes up before them; they break out, pass through the gate and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, and the LORD at their head.”

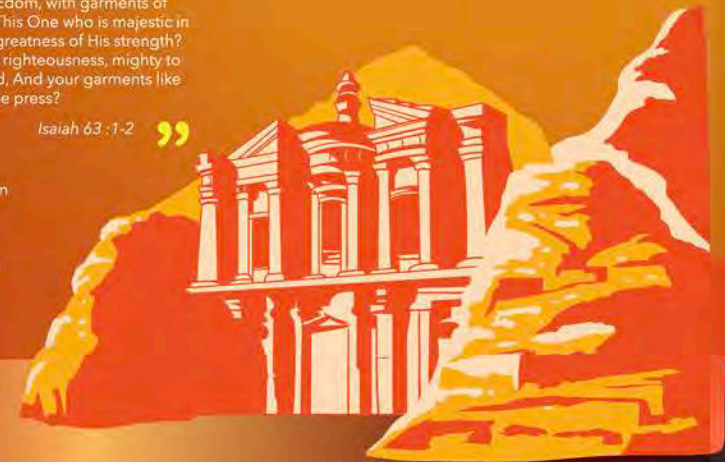
Micah 2:12-13 ”

This is a description of the remnant being released from their place of protection and provision at the end of the Tribulation. Jesus defeats those attacking the remnant and then He opens the gate and leads them out. But where does He lead this Exodus-like group to? Isaiah, in his vision as he's standing on the walls of Jerusalem while the Antichrist is attacking the city, gives us the answer. As the wall crumbles around him, flames enrage and screams are heard, he looks into the distance and asks:

“ Who is this who comes from Edom, with garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I, the One who speaks in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is Your apparel red, And your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?”

Isaiah 63:1-2 ”

Isaiah sees Jesus heading towards Jerusalem coming from Bozrah within Edom. His clothes are red from the blood of the battle He just fought at Bozrah. So Jesus leads the remnant from Bozrah to Jerusalem and as He approaches the city, it is being attacked by all of the Antichrist's remaining forces.



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**STAGE V - JESUS ARRIVES AT JERUSALEM**

Hosea describes the Antichrist's attack on Jerusalem as a time of distress which brings the surviving Jews there to finally acknowledge that Christ is Lord. Upon their confession, Jesus returns and saves them on the third day.

“ I will go away and return to My place  
Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face;  
In their distress they will search for Me.  
“Come, let's return to the Lord. For He has torn us, but He will heal us;  
He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.  
He will revive us after two days;  
He will raise us up on the third day,  
That we may live before Him.”  
Hos 5:15-6:2 ”

The Antichrist's forces have moved southward from Har-Megiddo and have been attacking Jerusalem from the west.

Jesus, with his heavenly army, descends on Petra, formerly known as Bozrah, within the ancient region of Edom, where modern-day Jordan is. He destroys the enemies there, saving the Jewish remnant and leads them out of Petra then heads north towards the east of Jerusalem.



“ Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. You will flee by the valley of My mountains... Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!”  
Zech 14:3-5 ”

When Jesus reaches Jerusalem, the Antichrist's forces have already been attacking the city from the west for three days. God has been supernaturally limiting the success of the invasion, using the event to bring the remaining Jews there to repentance. On the third day of battle, Jesus arrives, standing on the Mount of Olives on the east of Jerusalem.

Zechariah tells us that Jesus will change the geography, splitting the Mount of Olives into two, creating a valley and an escape route for the surviving Jews in Jerusalem. Once His people are safely out of the city, Jesus, through his spoken Word, will destroy the Antichrist and all his forces.

“ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay **with the breath of His mouth** and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ”  
2 Thes 2:8 ”

“ For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ”  
Hab 4:12 ”

Jesus' word is more than enough to destroy anything, because it's the only thing holding everything together. It was His word that spoke Creation into existence. So at the word of Christ, the Antichrist's body is split open, his armies die in a similar fashion, and the battle is over quickly. The War of Armageddon, the Age of the Gentiles, and the Tribulation come to an end. Finally, the earth is at rest from war.

All opposing armies have been destroyed and a large group of Jews on earth have been saved. There will also be some believing Gentiles on earth at Jesus' coming and unbelieving Gentiles who weren't part of the army, and who survived the Tribulation. We'll soon discover what happens to all surviving humans as we transition into the thousand year Kingdom period. But before that period can begin, there is a lot of cleaning up to do as the world has been totally devastated during the Tribulation and in need of serious rebuilding!



Read Habakkuk 3:3-13 which is a prophecy of Christ's return to Jerusalem. It describes God coming from Teman, which was a district within Edom. The name Teman was also a synonym for "south". The demise of the Antichrist is described in v13, where Christ strikes him and lays him open from neck to thigh.

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# 1000 YEAR KINGDOM

## Revelation 20

### THE 75 DAY INTERVAL

Earlier in Revelation, we learned that the midpoint of Tribulation occurs when the regular sacrifice is abolished and the image of the beast is set up in the Temple. We also learned that half of the Tribulation is equal to 1260 days, which is 3½ years using the Jewish calendar year of 360 days. However, in Daniel 12, he writes:

“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!”  
Dan 12:11-12

1290 and 1335 days provide two additional markers that are 30 days, followed by a further 45 days, after the return of Christ. This 75 day interval is essentially a time to prepare the earth and the saints for the 1000 year Kingdom period. The world is restored to its intended beauty, the temple is rebuilt and cleansed, the enemy is judged and the OT and Tribulation saints are resurrected ready to enter the Kingdom.

### WHO WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM?

Those who are made righteous by faith will enter the Kingdom, but not all will be sinless. Saints who have died or been raptured will enter the Kingdom in their sinless resurrected bodies. This includes the OT saints, Church saints and Tribulation Saints. However, there will also be Jewish and Gentile believers who survive the Tribulation and enter the Kingdom in their sinful human bodies.

Because sin is still present, there is a need for rulers, laws and a government - a government that we are a part of in some form as we rule and reign with Christ.

### WHAT WILL THE KINGDOM BE LIKE?

Revelation doesn't give us any details on what Kingdom life will be like as numerous other passages in the Bible already describe various aspects of the Kingdom.

“And the wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little boy will lead them.”  
Isa 11:6

The natural world will return to a state similar to before the fall of Adam. As Isaiah describes, animals will live peacefully with each other as there will be no predator-prey relationship, and mankind too, will not be threatened by animals. Ezekiel 36:35 describes the land as becoming “like the Garden of Eden”.

- The mount on which Jerusalem sits will be elevated to be the chief of all mountains
- Jesus will rule all nations from his place in the Temple
- People from all nations will come to it to learn from God (Mic 4:2)
- Streams will flow out of Jerusalem to the Mediterranean and Dead Seas (Zech 14:8)
- The Dead Sea will be rejuvenated, fresh and filled with fish (Eze 47:10)
- The 12 apostles will rule over the 12 tribes of Israel (Mat 19:28)
- Gentiles believers entering the Kingdom on the first day will inherit land in distant nations and have the opportunity to rule in Christ's government, being a testimony and a sign in those nations (Rev 20:4, Is 66:19)
- Christ communicates directly with us to ensure perfect governing (Is 65:24)
- We will build our own houses and live in them (Is 65:21)
- Children born in the kingdom will live to at least 100 years old (Isa 65:20)
- Only those who believe in Jesus will live past 100 years.



### RETURN OF CHRIST

This marks the end of the Tribulation.

### 30 DAYS

Removal of the image of the beast, rebuild and cleanse the Temple. Restore the world.

### 45 DAYS

Resurrect and reward those who are to enter the Kingdom. Satan thrown into the abyss.

### 1000 YEAR KINGDOM

A millenium of peace under Jesus' perfect rule. Although sin is still present, Christ and his government of sinless saints ensures it never gets a foothold.

RETURN OF CHRIST

30 DAYS

45 DAYS

1000 YEAR KINGDOM

we are the only ones who will survive the Tribulation. We will be the only ones who will be resurrected and rewarded in the Kingdom. We will be the only ones who will be able to live in the Kingdom.



**THE FINAL WAR**

“ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth; Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Rev 20:7-9 ”

When Satan is released at the end of the 1000 years, he immediately deceives humanity, rallying those who are envious of Israel to wage war against Christ's nation. Ezekiel 38-39 covers this battle in detail. It begins with a thought planted in Gog's mind to invade the unwalled villages of Israel. He then assembles a mighty army from various nations, and using rudimentary, wooden weapons, they attack on horseback.

Israel is completely defenseless as they've lived in peace for 1000 years and have no art of fighting and no weapons. But God destroys the attacking multitude supernaturally with fire from heaven before any invasion can begin.

Interestingly, the wooden weapons of the slain provide Israel with a supply of firewood for the next 7 years, and the bodies of the dead are a sacrifice made to the animal kingdom. Animals have always been used as sacrifices, but here at the end of the Kingdom age, when sin is vanquished, the need for animal sacrifice is gone. In a reversal of roles, God uses humanity, those that oppose him, as a final sacrifice to the animals.

According to the chronology of the Bible, the world has existed for around 6000 years. During this time, the world has trusted in mankind (6 being the number of sinful man) and the result has been death, despair, war and destruction.

But in the next 1000 years, we will experience how the world was intended to be, under Jesus' perfect rule. This will bring the age of the world to 7000 years, with 7 being the number of completion and perfection. After this time, after the final war and the judgment of Satan and all unbelievers, sin will be completely removed.

**THE BOOK OF LIFE**

After the end of the war, Satan is judged and thrown into the eternal Lake of Fire, joining the Antichrist and the False Prophet there. At the end of the 1000 years, all unbelievers are resurrected into new bodies to face their judgment. As believers, we were resurrected in the First Resurrection prior to the 1000 year Kingdom. We have no part in this Second Resurrection, which is the raising and gathering of all unrepentent humanity - on display in front of the Creator.

“ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev 20:6, 12-15 ”

Prior to the Second Resurrection, every unbeliever since Creation existed in Hades in torment. But now, Hades gives up its dead to be judged. The sea (abyss) also gives up its demonic beings to be judged.

The Book of Life contains all the names of those who will receive God's mercy and was recorded before the beginning of time. It will testify that these people have not been saved by faith and are not worthy of eternal life. It then remains for them to be judged according to the other books present, however Revelation gives no indication as to what these other books contain.

Once all sinful beings have been cast into the lake of fire, sin is completely vanquished and the earth and all the saints prepare for, and eagerly anticipate, the arrival of the New Jerusalem.



**WAR OF GOG AND MAGOG**

The final battle. It ends with the elimination of all who oppose God.

**7 YEARS**

7 years of cleanup and of peace. A period of testimony to God's faithfulness to Israel.

**NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH**

When sin is completely removed, we will be ushered into the New Jerusalem.

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# NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH

## Revelation 21 & 22

The end of Revelation is the only place we're given a glimpse into what life will be like in the New Heaven and Earth. This was never revealed to the OT saints, but now the Lord begins to open the curtain of that coming period, even as we still wait for the Kingdom to come. In a sense, we can say what will be true for Israel in the Kingdom will finally be made true for all humanity in the New Heaven and Earth.

“ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:1-2 ”

The arrival of the New Jerusalem will be witnessed from the earth, and its appearance will be like that of a bride made ready for a husband. It will be a special moment, giving us something to look forward to even while we live in the 1000 year Kingdom.

“ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rev 21:1-2 ”

Gates are an entry point, so naming the gates after the twelve tribes reminds us Israel is literally the gateway to redemption and to a knowledge of God. God worked through Israel to fulfill His promises of redemption. So the gates will forever remind us that the Lord brought us into this city by working through a family called Israel.

Similarly, John says the foundation will memorialize the role of the Apostles. The foundation of the walls will contain twelve different layers of precious stones representing the twelve men who Jesus called. The Apostles were the men God used to establish the Church and the opportunity for Gentiles to enter into the city as well. These two groups together reinforces that Israel and the Church are distinct, yet work together in God's plan.

“ The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

Rev 21:16 ”

This massive cubed shaped city, adorned with precious stones is a testimony to God's beauty in creation. Here the Godhead will dwell with His people, not in a temple, because with all sin gone, there is no barrier between God and us, and God now IS the temple.

### THE TREE OF LIFE

“ Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Rev 22:1-5 ”

The Tree of Life is sustained by the water of life that comes from God's throne, and it provides healing, suggesting that we may need regular restoration or rejuvenation by the eating of its fruit or using its leaves. Doing this will continually remind us that our life is flowing from God to us; something we should daily recognise even now.

In v17, the Lord makes a final call to come to him, to receive him by faith, so that all may drink from the water of life. Such a glorious future we all have! And to conclude the Bible, Jesus reminds us that He is coming **quickly**.

### YES, I AM COMING QUICKLY

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.



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