

The Great Tribulation or The Day of the LORD

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The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ will return to this earth to reign and that there will be a short period of unprecedented global distress immediately prior to His return. This short period of distress is called the Tribulation or The Day of the Lord.

The Great Tribulation is a time of Divine judgment and is distinctly different to the tribulation endured by Christians. Jesus told His disciples, *“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). The tribulation experienced by Christians comes from the world but the great Tribulation is the outpouring of God’s wrath upon a wicked world.

This period when earth will experience the wrath of God will be so severe that the human race will be in danger of extinction. When speaking about the signs of *“the end of the age”* Jesus said:

*“Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should **no flesh be saved**: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened”* (Matt.24:21-22).

Isaiah wrote of this time:

“Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof... The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left” (Isa.1-6).

The Great Tribulation:

- 1) Begins immediately after the Rapture of the Church
- 2) Lasts for seven years and is divided into two periods of 1,260 days
- 3) It is *“the time of Jacob’s (Israel’s) Trouble”* - but he shall be saved out of it (Jer 30:7; Dan.9:27).
- 4) It is the time when the Gentile nations will be judged: It concludes *“the times of the Gentiles”* (Luke 21:24).

5) It is the time when Satan & Antichrist will be universally worshipped

6) It will be a time of environmental desolation.

7) It concludes with the return of Jesus Christ to reign as King of kings.

The Tribulation begins Immediately After the Rapture of the Church

The Thessalonian Christians had two concerns: In the first Epistle Paul answered the first: that Christians who died might miss the Rapture. In the second Epistle Paul addressed the believers' fear that the Tribulation had already come and they had not been Raptured.

The answer to the first concern was that Christians who died would not miss the Rapture because their souls will come **with Christ** and their bodies will be raised first **before** the living saints are changed. Furthermore Paul assured them that the Rapture would occur **BEFORE** the Day of the Lord (Tribulation) and that God has "*not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1Thess.5:9).

The answer to the second concern was that the Thessalonians could not be in the Tribulation **NOW** because **two things must occur BEFORE** the Day of the Lord begins: There must be "*the Departure first*" and the "*the man of sin must be revealed*". Paul then indicated that someone was hindering the revelation of the "*man of sin*" and until He was removed, the "*man of sin*" (Antichrist) could not appear.

So the order will be: The Tribulation cannot begin until the Antichrist is revealed, but Antichrist cannot be revealed until the Departure of the One who is hindering his revelation (2Thess.2:1-13).

It is the presence of the true Church in the world that restrains the powers of darkness and then only because the Holy Spirit indwells the Church. When the Holy Spirit is "*taken out of the way*" the Church will also be taken and that is what Paul calls "*the Departure*".

The Church is indwelt by the Holy Spirit who has baptized every believer into the body of Christ. It would be impossible for the body of Christ to remain here without the Holy Spirit.

While most Bible translations today translate 2Thess.2:3 as "*a falling away*" it should be noted that all English translations before 1611 translated it as "*departure*". The Greek scholar Kenneth Weust's

Expanded Translation translates it as “the Departure” and the *Amplified Bible* gives “Departure of the church” as a paraphrased alternative in a footnote. The Greek word in its verbal form appears 15 times and is translated 11 times as “depart” (usually a **physical departure**), once, it is translated “refrain”, “fall away”, “drew away”, and “withdraw”. Once it is a **departure from ERROR!** (1Tim.6:5) so we cannot assume that the Greek word *apostasia* means apostasy just because it sounds like it. The real meaning of the word is “depart” and the context determines what the departure is from.

The context of 2 Thess.2:3 is the departure of the One who is hindering the revelation of the Antichrist. (See Weust’s *Prophetic Light in the Present Darkness*, chapter 3).

In the Olivet Discourse Jesus gave the Jewish disciples several signs that would indicate to the nation when “*the end of the age*” had come. The term “*end of the age*” is the Tribulation which Jesus described in the Olivet Discourse. The sign must be before the event or it is of no use. A sign after the event is useless.

One sign would be the Days of Noah and the other **the sudden, global disappearance of individuals**: “*one shall be taken, and the other shall be left*” (Matt.24:40-42). Jesus repeated these signs in Luke 17:26-37 and added the sign of the days of Lot. Just as the judgment of God fell the day that Noah entered the ark and the day Lot departed from Sodom, so the day the Church departs, the Tribulation will begin.

The word translated “*taken*” means “to receive to oneself” and the word “*left*” means “to put away”. When the disciples asked the Lord, Where would they be “*taken*”, the Lord likened it to eagles rising and gathering to the **living, saving body** (Greek *soma*, not a dead carcass which would be *ptoma*). At the Rapture believers receive the salvation of their bodies in resurrection as we rise to the risen, saving body of Christ (Luke 17:37).

Therefore, the Tribulation cannot begin “*except there come the departure (of the Church) FIRST and the man of sin be revealed*” (2Thess.2:3).

The Tribulation Lasts for Seven Years

The Tribulation is only a short period of time comprised of two periods of 1,260 days or a total of 2,520 days which is seven prophetic years (A prophetic year has 360 days).

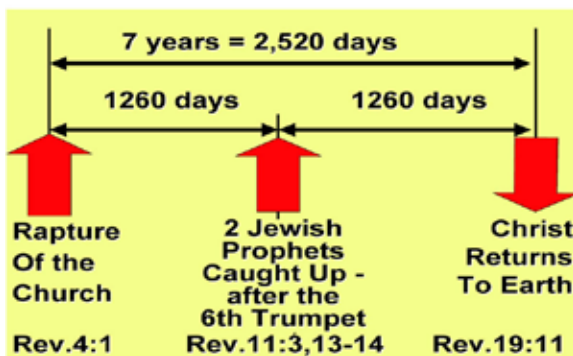
The Book of the Revelation gives a chronological outline of future events from the formation of the Church on the day of Pentecost to

the eternal state.

In chapters 2 and 3 the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia are prophetic of seven stages of Christendom concluding with the ecumenical, charismatic church of Laodicea.

In chapter 4 John foresaw his own rapture through the door into heaven and in chapter 5 the Lord takes the book of judgment sealed with seven seals. As the Lord breaks each seal a judgment is poured

out upon the earth and this continues until chapter 18 when the final judgment is poured out on apostate Christendom led by the Papal system of Rome. The seventh seal announces seven trumpet judgments and the seventh trumpet announces the seven vial (bowl) judgments. The seals and trumpets are in the first 1,260 days and the vials are in the second 1,260 days.



In chapter 19 John foresaw the return of the Lord in glory to reign and the millennial kingdom is described in chapter 20 which concludes with the resurrection to damnation of the unsaved and the lake of fire.

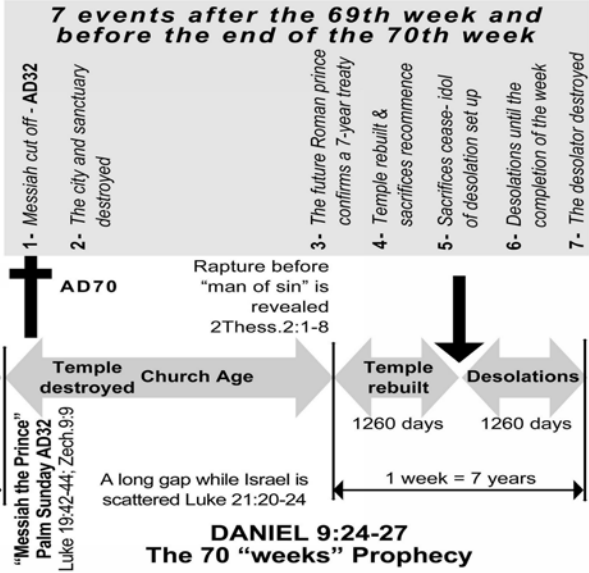
Chapters 21 and 22 describe the new heavens and new earth which is the eternal state. Only resurrected saints dwell in the new earth.

Our focus in this study is the portion of the Book of Revelation from **chapters 6 to 18** which describe the events of the seven-year Tribulation. The **first half** is seen in chs. 6 - 9, the events at the **mid-point** are described in chs. 10 to 14 and the **second half** is seen in chs. 15 to 18.

We have already seen that the Day of the Lord begins with the revelation of the "man of sin" (Antichrist) and Daniel indicates that he will "confirm the covenant with many for **one week**" (Dan.9:27). The word "week" is simply "seven" in the Hebrew and we know that it means "seven years" because it is the last "week" out of 70 "weeks" that began at Passover in the 20th year of Artaxerxes 445BC. (See separate study on the 70 "weeks" prophecy.)

Decree to Restore & Build Jerusalem in 20th year of Artaxerxes - Nisan, 445BC

The Key to all Bible Prophecy



Six blessings on Jews & Jerusalem

There were 483 prophetic years fulfilled to the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday before the crucifixion, and there was to be a **long gap** between the 69th and 70th "week" before a Roman prince would "*confirm the covenant*" for the final seven years of Israel's history before the Kingdom of God is established on earth.

Halfway through this seven years the Roman prince becomes the demon-possessed "*man of sin*" (Antichrist) and breaks his covenant with Israel. Thus John refers to two Jewish prophets who witness for the **first 1,260 days** (Rev.11:3) after which the rebuilt Tribulation Temple is occupied by Gentiles for the **second 42 months** (Dan.9:27; Rev.13:5).

The nation of Israel will turn to the Lord in the **first half** of the Tribulation and in the **second half** of the 7 years will be persecuted by Antichrist.

Some hold that Israel will not be saved until she sees the Lord coming in glory and power at the end of the Tribulation but that is impossible. When Christ returns it will be **too late** for anybody to repent for the Lord is coming "*in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (2Thess.1:8). Halfway through the 7 years Israel is described as those that "*keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*" (Rev.12:17). This means they must be saved in the first half of the 7 years.

In Revelation ch.12 Israel is described as a woman with 12 stars (12 tribes, Gen.37:1-11) who brought forth "*a man child*" (Christ) who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The Dragon (Satan) will persecute the woman (Israel) but she will be protected by God for the **1,260 days** which is the **second half** of the 7 years (Rev.12:6). It is described as "*a time, and times, and a half a time*" or **3½ years** in Rev.12:14.

Halfway through the 7 years Satan makes war with heaven and will be cast into the earth by Michael and his angels. Satan will then come down "*having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time*" (Rev.12:12).

At the mid-point of the 7 years the Roman prince is demon possessed by the angel of the bottomless pit and becomes the "*Beast*" and power is given to him to "*continue forty and two months*" (Rev.13:5),

These Scriptures are confirmed in Daniel 7:25 where the final Gentile ruler of the Revived Roman Empire gains control for "*a time, and times, and the dividing of time*" or **3½ years** and again in Dan.12:7 where the question is asked, How long? shall the Tribulation continue and the answer is given: "*a time, times, and an half*" or **3½ years**.

From all of these Scriptures we see that the Tribulation will be a definite period of **seven years in the last days which has two periods of 1,260 days** or a total of 7 years after which the godly remnant of Israel will survive and six conditions will prevail on the Jews and Jerusalem:

1)"*finish the transgression*", 2)"*make an end of sins*", 3)"*make reconciliation for iniquity*", 4)"*bring in everlasting righteousness*", 5)"*seal up the vision and prophecy*", 6)"*anoint the most Holy (place)*"(Dan.9:24). This can only be possible in Christ's millennial Kingdom.

In Daniel 12:11-12 we learn that there will be **1,335 days from the mid-point** of the seven years when Antichrist moves into the Temple at Jerusalem and causes the sacrifices to cease, till the nations that survive the Tribulation are judged and the righteous living nations are blessed in the kingdom. It will take an **additional 75 days** after Christ returns before the remnant that survive the Tribulation are blessed and the nations that followed Antichrist are cast into the lake of fire (Matt.25:31-46).

This period of great Tribulation is a **short period**. Paul stated:

"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will

finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth" (Dan.9:27).

The Tribulation is the Time of Jacob's (Israel's) Trouble

We have already seen that the Rapture of the Church must occur **before** Antichrist is revealed and the Tribulation begins, which means that the Tribulation begins with not one saved person on the face of the globe. However, we know that God is a God of love who has no pleasure in the death of the wicked and He has chosen to use human vessels to make known His Truth in the earth.

We have also seen that the 7 years of Tribulation is the last 7 years of **Israel's history** before the nation is blessed in the Kingdom of Christ on earth. It is not surprising therefore that we find 144,000 Jewish men are sealed by God as His servants **BEFORE any of the Tribulation judgments begin to fall**. These Jewish witnesses are from the 12 tribes of Israel (Rev.7:1-8) and the angels who are given power to "*hurt the earth*" (Rev.7:2) are told:

*"Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **TILL we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads**" (Rev.7:3).*

These servants of "*our God*" are the servants of the **God of Israel**; of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their task will be to preach "*the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world for a witness*" (Matt.24:14). It is Israel and not the Church that witnesses in the Tribulation.

The Gospel of the Kingdom was the message preached by Jesus when He came the first time: He preached, "*The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*" because He had come as the King. He was rejected and the Kingdom was **deferred until Israel repents** so when the disciples asked the Lord, "*Will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*" (Acts 1:6), Jesus had to tell them it was not the right time. First they must preach "*unto the uttermost part of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). However, after the Church age runs its course Israel will again turn to the Lord.

Bearing in mind that Jesus gave His Jewish disciples the sign of a global disappearance of individuals it is not surprising that **the Rapture will trigger** the conversion of 144,000 Jewish men to Jesus Christ. Much effort has been put into informing Jews of God's prophetic program in books and the internet so that they are well informed of the Rapture of the True Church and of Israel's role in the 7 years of Great Tribulation.

When every born-again Christian suddenly is raptured it will be impossible for many Jews to deny that Jesus Christ is their Messiah. Then, when the Roman prince at the head of the Revived Roman Empire (EU) suddenly confirms a covenant with Israel for 7 years, they will be left in no doubt that the 70th “week” of Daniel’s prophecy has begun. Each event portrayed in the Book of the Revelation will be anticipated and the 144,000 will go out in every country to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom; that Christ is about to return in glory and power and the Kingdom of heaven is about to be established.

These Jewish preachers will cover the entire globe. Their number is adequate for if world population was 7 billion there would be one preacher for every 48,600 persons on the globe. They will be able to preach in all languages for they already are scattered across the globe and are linguistically well equipped.

There will be two special witnesses located at Jerusalem and miraculous powers will be given to them for their protection. Like Elijah they will be able cause the rain to cease during the days of their testimony which will be for the first half of the 7 years. We read: *“they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth”* (Rev.11:3).

At the conclusion of the first 1,260 days Antichrist will be permitted to slay them and their bodies will lie in the street at Jerusalem. However, after 3 days these two men will be raised up and caught up to heaven in the sight of the people (Rev.11:7-12).

All of the 144,000 will also suffer martyrdom by the mid-point of the 7 years and are seen **around the throne in heaven** in Rev.14:1-4. They are only the *“firstfruits”* of Israel to be saved and through their testimony the entire nation will turn to the Lord.

The Conversion of Israel

The conversion of Israel is foretold in many Scriptures. Paul indicated it would be **after** the *“fulness of the Gentiles”* has been gathered in. (Rom.11:25). In the context of Romans chapter 11, the *“fulness of the Gentiles”* refers to the completion of the number of believers in this Church age. The Church is neither Jew nor Greek but all those who are *“in Christ Jesus”* (Gal.3:28). After Pentecost the Kingdom was offered to Israel upon repentance and faith in Christ but the nation rejected the message. Peter told the nation:

“God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ

should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began**" (Acts 3:18-21).

When the nation refused to repent the Apostle Paul told the Jewish elders at Rome,

*"The heart of this people has grown calloused, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. **Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it**"* (Acts 28:27-28).

In this age Israel is blinded as Isaiah prophesied (Isa.6:9-13) and Paul wrote:

*"blindness in part is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so **all Israel shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins"* (Rom.11:25-27).

The conversion of Israel will result from the preaching of the 144,000 and it will be at the time of an invasion of Israel led by Russia. The nations involved will be Iran (Persia), Turkey (The House of Togarmah and Gomer), Libya and Sudan (Ethiopia). This will be a Russian-led Islamic invasion.

Details of the invasion and Israel's conversion are described in Ezekiel chs.38 and 39 and Joel ch.2. At this time two thirds of the people in the land of Israel will perish (Zech.13:8-9) but the remaining third will cry out to the Lord and God will destroy the invading army leaving only one sixth of their number to escape to Siberia (Ezek.39:2; Joel 2:20). The land of Magog (Russia) will be burned (Ezek.39:6).

Josephus wrote that the Magogites "were by the Greeks called Scythians" and we know the Scythians dwelt across the northern shores of the Black Sea to Kazakhstan. Ezekiel wrote:

*"So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God **from that day and forward**"* (Ezek.39:22).

The Lord will gather Israel back to the land at **the end of the Tribulation** and every Jew on the face of the earth will relocate to the land of Israel:

*“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, ...Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but **I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.** Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have **poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel,** saith the Lord GOD” (Ezek.39:25-29).*

The cleanup after this invasion will take time. The burial of dead bodies will take 7 months and they will be burning the debris for 7 years which will only be completed in the millennial Kingdom.

Israel's Conversion on One Day

It will take the Russian-led Islamic invasion to bring Israel to her knees and turn to Christ as Saviour and Lord. Joel chapter 2 gives a graphic description of this invasion and the desolation caused by the invading armies which are described as *“the northern army”* (Joel 2:20). This is a different army to the one raised by Antichrist at the battle of Armageddon.

The northern army is from Islamic nations, and comes in the first half of the Tribulation. It is destroyed by God and the remnants of that army are *“removed far away”* to Siberia. There is a period of seven months following the invasion when the dead are buried. This invasion results in the Spirit being poured out upon Israel (Joel 2:21-32).

However, the army raised by Antichrist in the second half of the Tribulation is from *“all nations”* (Joel 3:2) and Armageddon occurs several years later at the time Christ returns.

Joel chapter 2 describes the Russian-led Islamic invasion in the first half of the Tribulation and Joel chapter 3 describes the conflict in the second half of the Tribulation concluding with Christ's return (Joel 3:16) followed by the blessing of Israel in the millennial Kingdom (Joel 3:17-21).

The conversion of Israel will be on **one special day**, probably on a day of Atonement about the 2nd year of the Tribulation. The day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is on the 10th day of the 7th month and

it is preceded by the Feast of Trumpets on the 1st day of the month. The days between are called “days of awe” when Jews sorrow over their sin and prepare for the Day of Atonement. Joel chapter 2 begins with :“*Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm*” because of the invading army but in Joel 2:15 he writes:

*“Blow the trumpet in Zion, **sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:** Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. **Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?** (Joel 2:15-17).*

This trumpet call to repentance could be a **Feast of Trumpets** and will bring a Divine response: “*Then will the Lord...pity his people*” (Joel 2:18).

The story of Joseph portrays him as a type of Christ who is rejected by his brethren, sold, and delivered to the Gentiles, but he reigns on the throne during 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of dearth. This dearth may be typical of the 7 years of Tribulation and it is **after two years** that Joseph is reconciled with his brethren, the children of Israel. If this is a correct understanding of the type then at the end of the second year, at a feast of trumpets and Yom Kippur, Israel will turn to Christ. Christ died as the Passover lambs were slain and the feasts are therefore prophetic. Yom Kippur is the day Israel is forgiven.

Isaiah wrote of that day:

*“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? **Shall the earth be made to bring forth IN ONE DAY? or shall a nation BE BORN AT ONCE?** for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her” (Isa.66:7-10).*

Isaiah stated that “*BEFORE Zion travailed*” she was delivered of a “*man child*” (Christ) but “*AS SOON AS ZION travailed*” she brought

forth her children. The firstfruits will be the 144,000 and the whole nation will come to Christ in one day!- *“And so all Israel shall be saved”* (Rom.11:26).

Israel’s travail is in the Tribulation and Jesus said that **the first half of the Tribulation** was the *“beginning of sorrows (travail)”* for Israel (Matt.24:8). This will be when Israel will be born again of the Spirit under the New Covenant.

Ezekiel wrote that *“Israel shall know that I am the Lord, from **THAT DAY AND FORWARD**”* and Zechariah wrote: *“I will remove the iniquity of that land **IN ONE DAY**”* (Zech.3:9).

Israel will become the object of Satan’s attack once they are saved and Antichrist will then do all in his power to exterminate the Jews. Immediately after the Rapture the ungodly leaders of Israel will sign a treaty with Antichrist for 7 years but these leaders will perish in the Islamic invasion (Ezek.34:1-13) and Antichrist will be left with a nation that is saved and seeking to glorify Christ.

After the Islamic invasion Israel will be permitted to bury the dead in the valley of Hamongog on the east side of the Dead Sea, a task that will take 7 months, and they will commence to cleanup the debris but their allegiance to Christ will not be tolerated and the Jews will have to flee from Jerusalem into the wilderness of Judea where God has prepared a place of refuge for them during the second half of the Tribulation (Matt.24:15-21). John wrote of this refuge:

*“And the woman (Israel) fled **into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days...***

*And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent”*** (Rev.12:6,14).

Jesus warned of this time:

*“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea **flee into the mountains”*** (Matt.24:15-16).

Isaiah gave a major prophecy of the Tribulation in what has become known as the “Little Apocalypse” in chapters 24 to 28 of his prophecy. He foretold much about Israel’s plight in that terrible time. After describing how the nations are judged Isaiah speaks of the remnant

of Israel who have turned to the Lord:

*“When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the **shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes** when the vintage is done. They shall lift up their voice, **they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD**, they shall cry aloud from the sea. Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea” (Isa.24:13-15)..*

The ungodly Jews who made a covenant with Antichrist will perish but the remnant will all turn to Christ. They are the **gleanings** of the olive tree and the grape vine. Both the olive tree and the vine are symbols in Scripture of Israel (Ezek.17:1-10; Rom.11:16-24) and Israel will sing in the fires of the Tribulation knowing that soon Christ will return.

*“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth...Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts **shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously”** (Isa.24:21-23).*

Daniel's Tribulation Chronology

Daniel described the **first half** of the Tribulation in Dan.11:36-45 and the **second half** in chapter 12.

The first part of Daniel chapter 11 from verse 1 to verse 35 has already been fulfilled. It foretold the history of four kings of Persia and the Grecian Empire to the Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163BC). Antiochus brought the Grecian era to a close and the Roman Empire dominated thereafter.

From chapter 11 verse 36 the prophecy is of Antichrist in the last days of whom Antiochus was a Type. The chronological order of events during the first half of the Tribulation is as follows:

i) After the Rapture Antichrist will *“divide the land for gain”* (Dan.11:39). This no doubt will be associated with the covenant he will confirm for 7 years with Israel. He will resolve the issue of the division of the Land allowing the Temple to be built next to the Dome of the Rock.

ii) Egypt (*“the king of the south”*) , probably at the head of Arab countries, will invade Israel and be overthrown by Israel and Antichrist (Isa.19). Antichrist, as the head of Europe, will bring **Egypt and other countries** in the Middle East under his control at this time (Dan.11:40-43).

Daniel 11:36 to 12:13

- ▶ The king of the south (Egypt) invades Israel.
- ▶ Egypt destroyed and the Middle East occupied by the Roman prince (**King of the North**).
- ▶ Tidings out of the East (Iran) and North (Russia & Turkey) trouble him - Israel repents (Ezek.39:22).
- ▶ Antichrist shall utterly "make away many" Jews.
- ▶ He shall plant... his palace "between the seas in the glorious holy mountain".
- ▶ A time of trouble "such as never was", begins.

Israel has the "testimony of Jesus Christ" and fights for survival with Divine help (Rev.12:17; Zech.14:14).

▶ Antichrist will "shatter the power of the **holy** people" and then Christ returns.



1,260 days testimony. The Gospel of the kingdom preached by 144,000 Jewish "servants of God"

Time + times + half a time = 3 1/2 years (1,260 days)
1,290 days
1,335 days

◀ Antichrist confirms the covenant with Israel for 7 years and divides "the land for gain". The Temple built.

◀ The "abomination that maketh desolate set up" and Temple sacrifices cease. Two prophets killed and resurrected.

◀ "Blessed is he that... cometh to the 1,335 days" - to the kingdom

The 75 days after Christ returns provides time for the judgment of the living nations (sheep and goats-Matt.25:32), the resurrection of Tribulation martyrs to everlasting life(Rev.20:4), and the banishment of Antichrist and his followers "to shame and everlasting contempt"(Rev.19:20-21).

iii) Russia and the Islamic armies of Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan from the north and east will be stirred up and invade Israel. This will trouble Antichrist since Russia supplies much of Europe's fuel and has the power to blackmail the EU in order to prevent the EU from assisting Israel (Dan.11:44).

iv) At this time Israel will suffer terribly but when they turn to the Lord the Russian/Islamic army will be destroyed by God (Ezek.38/39; Joel 2:20). Now Antichrist finds that his covenant is with a converted nation that worships Jesus Christ and he will "go forth with great fury to destroy, and to utterly make away many" (Dan.11:44).

v) Finally Antichrist will move into the Temple:

"He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas (Dead Sea & Mediterannean) in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (Dan.11:45).

At this point Antichrist is possessed by demonic powers and the last 1,260 days begins. Chapter 12 describes the awful events in the **2nd half** of the Tribulation; for "a time, times, and an half" (Dan.12:7).

Israel's Fight for Survival

When Antichrist (The Beast) causes the Jewish sacrifices to cease halfway through the Tribulation (Dan.9:27) and occupies the rebuilt Temple, he will turn on the Jews and seek to destroy them utterly. Jesus told the Jewish disciples that when they saw the "abomination of desolation stand in the holy place" (of the Temple) they were to "flee into the mountains" (Matt.24:15-16) of Judea on the east of the city.

The Judean wilderness is limestone country and is riddled with caves all the way to the Jordan Valley. If one stands at Jericho and looks back toward the wilderness they will see cliffs that are pock-marked with caves. Joshua's two spies hid in these caves for 3 days to escape the men of Jericho. A monastery has been built along the face of the cliff with access to caves.

When David fled from King Saul he hid in caves. On one occasion he, and 600 men, were in a cave and King Saul entered without knowing that David and his men were there. The Dead Sea scrolls were hid in eleven caves for centuries. Bedouin shepherds take their flocks of sheep into these desert caves at night time.

The Israeli military announced a few years ago that they were constructing an underground military control centre in the Judean hills at a cost of nearly one billion dollars. All houses built in Israel must have an underground shelter because of the threats by Iran of a nuclear or chemical attack.



In the north of Israel the largest underground hospital in the world has been built; It is the Rambam Fortified Underground Hospital in Haifa with 2,000 beds which can take casualties while Israel is under fire from rockets and other attacks; its cost is about \$800 million.



Furthermore, the hill country of Judea has a large aquifer which, until the desalination plants were built, supplied 30% of the nation's water; it flows through Hezekiah's tunnel at Jerusalem into the Pool of Saloam and pours out of the desert at Engedi near the Dead Sea creating a waterfall. The caves would have access to fresh water.

Today Israel is well armed and when these believing Jews flee they will be able to fight for their survival. Zechariah wrote of this time:

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege



both against Judah and against Jerusalem... In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem... In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them" (Zech.12:1-8).

It was said of David that he had slain his 10,000s while Saul had slain his 1,000s (1Sam.18:7) and the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 Assyrians in one night.

If we read the history of Israel we will find that they never lost a battle while they followed the Lord so when Israel turns to the Lord in the Tribulation God will fight for them. Zechariah wrote:

"Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zech.14:3).

Antichrist and the nations will pay a high price for seeking to destroy Israel. Armageddon will be the death knell of Antichrist and the kings of the earth who follow him.

Demonic Activity in the Tribulation

As we draw near to the end of the age we can expect Satan to become more active and Paul indicated this would be the case within Christendom:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy" (1Tim.4:1-2).

Jesus warned that many false prophets would arise in the last days and would deceive many. However, the greatest deception will come half-way through the Tribulation when demonic activity will reach a peak.

At the beginning of the Tribulation Antichrist will appear as the **political head** of the Revived Roman Empire and as such will sign a covenant with Israel. He will present himself as a man of peace for we read,

*"When they shall say, **Peace and safety**; then destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1Thess.5:3).*

Like Antiochus Epiphanes in the Grecian era (175 to 163BC) *"he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries" (Dan.11:21).*

As the Tribulation approaches its mid-point, **the bottomless pit will be opened** and all the demons that were confined there at the time of the Flood will be released (Rev.9:1-12; 2Peter 2:4; Jude1:6). These demons have a king over them named, Abaddon (Heb.) and Apollyon (Gk.), and they selectively attack the men who follow Antichrist and who receive his mark, which means that God's people are protected.

Shortly after this, the Dragon (Satan) and his angels, attack the throne of God in heaven and there will be **war in heaven (Rev.12:7)**. In this present age Satan has access to heaven but Michael, who is the guardian angel of Israel (Dan.12:1), gathers his angels and **casts Satan down to earth** so that he no longer has access to heaven.

Satan's reaction is understandable; he comes down *"with great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time"* (Rev.12:12).

At this point in time Antichrist, who has previously had only a political role, will become **possessed with a demon from the bottomless pit**; most likely Abaddon, the king of the demons and *"angel of the bottomless pit"* (Rev.9:11). This explains why Antichrist is said to come from the bottomless pit:

"The beast (Antichrist) that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition" (Rev.17:8).

We are also told that Satan gave Antichrist his power:

"And they worshipped the dragon (Satan) which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months" (Rev.13:4-5).

The Trinity of evil will be manifest as the Dragon (Satan), the Antichrist, and the False prophet. Just as the Godhead has the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet will seek to replicate the Godhead. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, came from heaven and possessed a human body on earth and a demon will come from the bottomless pit and possess the Roman prince; Antichrist. Antichrist will suffer a deadly wound by a sword to his head and will be healed to copy Christ's death and resurrection.

Jesus said that the Devil was *"a liar, and the father of it"* (John 8:44) and Antichrist will come with great powers of deception.

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power"

and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;" (2Thess.2:9-10).

With all of modern technology at his disposal and the media under his control, only those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit will be able to stand against him. The powers of demonic deception and the means used can be seen in the preparations for the battle of Armageddon. The rulers of the entire world will be convinced that earth is to be invaded and miracles will be performed to convince them that Satan and Antichrist should be followed:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev.16:13-14).

Since the mid 20th century the world has been conditioned to accept miracles by charismatic television "evangelists" and by the Catholic Church. The claim that men have gifts to perform healing miracles, to cast out devils and to prophesy, is just one part of the program to precondition the masses into accepting Satan's mastermind; Antichrist and his false prophet. Just as the Holy Spirit gave the Apostles power to perform miracles so the False Prophet will will perform miracles as the 3rd person in the trinity of evil.

Jesus warned that this would happen and that these miracle workers would even perform miracles in Jesus' name! What better way to deceive?

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:22-23).

The false prophets in the days of Jeremiah claimed to be prophesying in the name of the Lord and one of them, Hananiah, claimed that God "had broken the yoke of the king of Babylon". He said that within "two full years" all the vessels of the Temple would be returned to Jerusalem. Jeremiah told him he was prophesying lies in the name of the Lord and that he would die that year. He died in the 7th month (Jer.28:1-17).

Allegiance to Antichrist and Satan during the latter half of the Tribulation will seal the eternal destiny of souls:

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his

*forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the **wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture** into the cup of his indignation; and he shall 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 ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name” (Rev.14:9-11)*

Environmental Disasters

Throughout the 7 years of Tribulation the earth will be plagued with environmental disasters and law and order will completely break down. In the first half of the Tribulation, when the 6th seal is broken, there will be a global earthquake that will cause men to flee into the caves to hide *“themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains”* (Rev.6:15). This earthquake is most probably the same one that will occur at the time of the Russian/Islamic invasion of Israel (Ezek.38:20). It is accompanied by an upheaval in the heavens when great meteorites will strike the earth; the sun will be darkened and the moon will turn blood red (Rev.6:12-13).

Vast bush fires will sweep across one third of the earth (Rev:8:7) and a massive volcano will erupt effecting one third of the oceans, disrupting shipping, and polluting the seas. Meteorites will poison the drinking water and the sun, moon and



stars will be darkened for one third of the day and night. Luke wrote: *“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; **the sea and the waves roaring**”* (Luke 21:25).

Universal famine and war will make normal life impossible and the entire world will be mobilized for the battle of Armageddon in the Middle East. Billions will die from the effect of earthquakes, wars, famine, and contaminated water resources. In two judgments alone one half of the world population will perish and Jesus said that *“except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh would be saved”* (Matt. 24:22).

One cannot help but wonder if **the Green Movement** is part of Satan's preparation for the Tribulation because Antichrist will need to have an explanation for the changes in the environment. It is God who controls the weather but the Green Movement attributes it to man so if Antichrist can blame man for the droughts and famines he can organize the international community to "rectify" the problem and **thus gain Global control.**

All the talk of life in space and of aliens from distant planets invading the earth is brain-washing the younger generation and preconditioning them to oppose the King of kings when He returns in the heavens. Satan's program of deception has already begun and the younger generation is lapping it up.

So serious is the world about aliens that radio telescopes, such as the one at Parkes NSW, have programs to search for intelligent life on other planets. Some years ago they were receiving signals that raised their hopes but someone pointed out that it only occurred when the microwave oven was heating pies for morning tea.

Bob Brown, a past leader of the Greens Party in the Federal Government lost his credibility when he suggested that they could not find intelligent beings in space because the aliens self destructed when they failed to care for their environment!

The Tribulation is God's Judgment on Gentile Nations

The Book of Daniel gives us a chronological outline of Gentile world power from 606 BC when the Babylonian Empire crowned Nebuchadnezzar as its first King down to the second coming of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. The Bible calls Nebuchadnezzar "a king of kings" (Dan.2:37). There would only ever be four Gentile Kingdoms: Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome before Christ's kingdom will be established. The final Roman Prince will be the Antichrist and at the end of the fourth kingdom Christ will return and smite all Gentile power and authority.

The fourth kingdom is represented by a beast with 10 horns and a "little horn" rises up among the 10 to whom the government is given. This "little horn" is the Antichrist. We read:

*"The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them... And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until **a time**"*

and times and the dividing of time (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years)" (Dan.7:24-25). "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit,...A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened" (Dan.7:9-10).

**DANIEL
CHAPTER 7**

**Babylonian Empire
606BC to 536BC**



**Persian Empire
536BC to 332BC**



**Grecian Empire
332BC to 63BC**



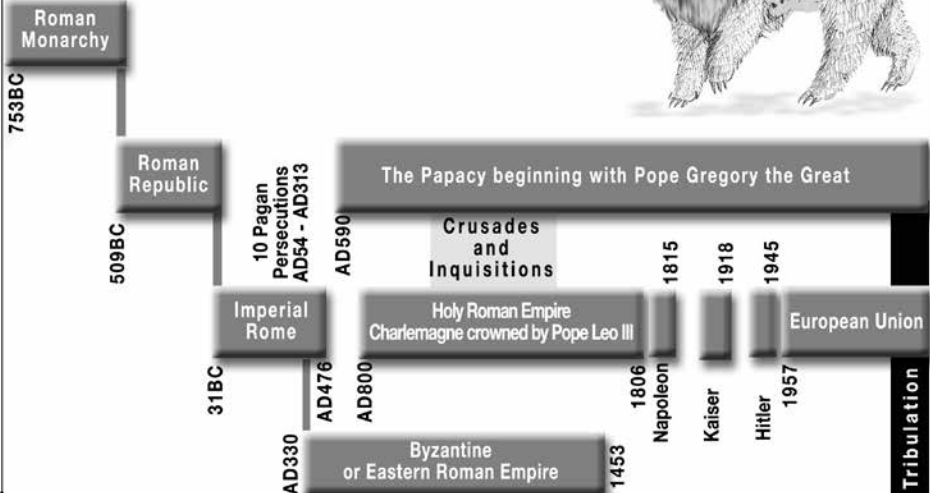
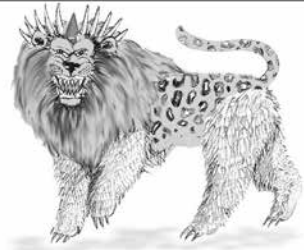
**Roman Empire
63BC till
Christ Returns**



The Roman Empire in its Imperial form ceased at Rome in AD476 but it continued as the Byzantine Empire in Constantinople till 1453 and as the Holy Roman Empire in the West (AD800 to 1804). Napoleon tried to revive it as did Kaiser Wilhelm (1914-18) and Hitler (1939-45) but it has been left to the EU, guided by the Papacy to bring the Empire

The Roman Empire

The 4th World Empire



together in the last days. The Bible described this final stage as a Beast (the kingdom of Antichrist - Rev.17:1-18) ridden by a harlot woman (the Papacy). At the end of the Tribulation Antichrist, and the ten kings (rulers) of Europe, will turn against the Papacy and burn the Vatican City (Rev.17:16-18; 18:1-24). The global uprising against paedophiles in the Catholic Church today may be just the beginning of the animosity that will explode at the end of the Tribulation.

Roman Catholicism, Orthodox, and apostate Protestantism together make up the largest religion in the world and Rome has filled the earth with idolatry and immorality. The great number of paedophiles that have occupied the Catholic priesthood are only now being uncovered. One can only imagine how many have filled her ranks through the 1,000 years of the Dark Ages when there was nobody to expose them and the Papacy controlled the State. The 10 kings of Antichrist's kingdom may be evil and may want to eliminate all worship apart from Satan and Antichrist, but "*God hath put it in their hearts to fulfil His will*" and burn "*Mystery Babylon*" (Rev.17:17).

After the Rapture when the True Church has been removed there will be nothing to stop all branches of Christendom coming together in one world Church; the "mother church" will be able to gather all branches of Christendom back into her fold and appropriately she will be called "*Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth*" (Rev.17:5).

Chapter 18 of the Book of Revelation describes the burning of the city that sits on 7 hills; the commercial impact will cause an economic collapse around the world. The vast wealth of the Church will disappear in smoke as Banks owned by the Vatican, hoarded gold, and priceless relics suddenly disappear:

*"And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more... saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! **For in one hour** so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off"* (Rev.18:11-17).

When the Harlot woman, the false bride of Christ is destroyed, Christ, the Heavenly Bridegroom, will appear in the heavens with His spotless bride. Multitudes in heaven will cry,

"Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and

hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever” (Rev.19:1-3).

Armageddon

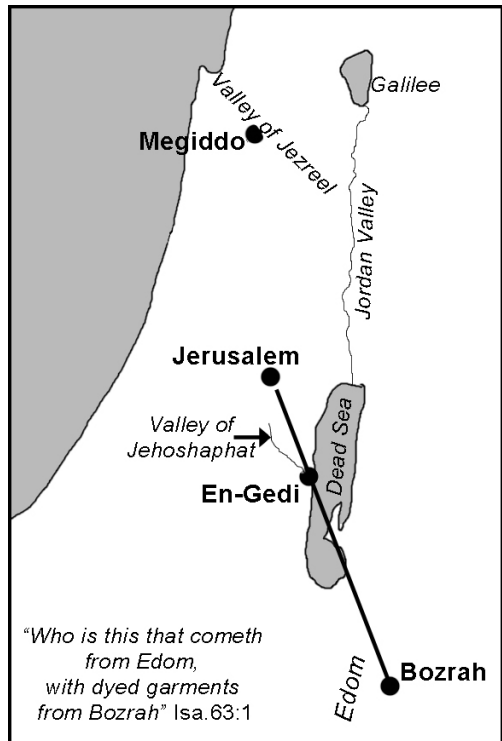
With apostate Christendom, Russia and Islam out of the way, Antichrist will gather **all nations** together to fight against the armies that he knows are coming from heaven. For several years he will have been mobilizing the armies of “*the kings of the east*” to bring them across from Asia (Rev.9:14-18). The River Euphrates will be dried up to make a way for these Asian armies (Rev.16:12) and a massive assault will be organized against the remnant of Israel as they fight for survival. There are already dams constructed on the Tigrus and Euphrates Rivers that can shut off the flow of water at any time.

Millions will pour down from the north into the valley of Megiddo. Others will assemble at Engedi on the shores of the Dead Sea and fight their way up the Valley of Jehoshaphat toward Jerusalem. The battle will be fierce and the blood will flow to the horses bridles.

The Jews that left Jerusalem when Antichrist took over the Temple had returned to occupy the city but Antichrist’s army will sweep into Jerusalem. “*Judah shall fight at Jerusalem*” (Zech.14:14) but

“the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zech.14:2).

Just when it seemed that Antichrist had finally succeeded in wiping out the people of God and thus frustrating all of God’s promises of the Kingdom of Christ on earth, the Lord will



appear and “go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle” (Zech.14:3).

The Jewish remnant will look on Him whom they had pierced. They will wail for **the memory** of the years of rejection but through the years of the Tribulation, while they gave faithful testimony, they lived for this moment. They had preached the Gospel of the Kingdom and had heard the angelic message 42 months beforehand when the two prophets were caught up to heaven from the street in Jerusalem: *“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever”* (Rev.11:15).

Through tears of joy the Jews will see Christ and will exclaim: *“Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation”* (Isa.25:9).

Those martyrs who died for their faith will be raised when Christ returns and they will live and reign with Christ 1,000 years (Rev.20:4).

Isaiah gave this assurance in Isa.26:19: *“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead”* (Isa.26:19).

The Return of Jesus Christ to Reign as King of Kings.

The return of the Lord Jesus to earth will occur “*immediately after the Tribulation*” (Matt.24:29) and there will be no delay beyond the 2,520 days or 7 prophetic days. Jesus said that no man would know the day or hour when He would return; only the Father knows when it will be (Mark 13:32) and that is because nobody knows when the Rapture will take place. However, once the Rapture takes place Israel’s calendar will run its course. The Church age is a “mystery” when a bride is being sought for Christ and once the “*fulness of the Gentiles*” comes in, the Father will send His beloved Son to rapture His bride. The Rapture will trigger the start of Israel’s last “week”.

The marriage of Christ and His Church will take place in heaven while the Tribulation takes place on earth and the marriage supper of the Lamb will be held on earth after Christ return. When Christ returns the bride comes with Him and heaven rejoices saying, *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the*

*fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb**" (Rev.19:7-9).*

Luke makes the order clear:

*"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, **when he will return from the wedding**" (Luke 12:35-36).*

He goes on to say:

*"Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord **when he cometh shall find watching**: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and **make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them**" (Luke 12:37).*

Israel is told to watch for the day when Christ returns *"from the wedding"* and then there will be the marriage supper (Luke12:37). At the last supper Jesus told His disciples:

*"I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you **in my Father's kingdom**" (Matt.26:29).*



The Coming of the Lord to reign will be with a great manifestation of power. He will come *"in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2Thess.1:8). He will appear from the South-east of Jerusalem sweeping through the armies of Antichrist (Isa.63:1-6) on His way to the Mount of Olives where His *"feet shall stand"* (Zech.14:4). The Mount of Olives will split and there will be a great valley running east-west into the Judean desert. The entire area will be shaken by a great earthquake and waters will gush out from under the site of the millennial Temple and flow down through the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea (Ezek.47:1-12; Joel 3:18 ; Zech.14:8).

The entire area from Geber located 6 km north of Jerusalem to Rimmon 15 km north of Beer Sheba will be lifted up to form a plain 61 km long (Zech.14:10). On this plain will be built the millennial

Temple and around the Temple will be land for the priests, the Levites, and the Prince.

The Tribulation Temple will be removed as will the Muslim mosques. The specifications of the millennial Temple and details of the priestly service are given in Ezekiel chapters 40 to 44. The division of the land for the 12 tribes is given in ch.47:13-23 and ch.48:1-35.

Antichrist will be slain, and raised to be cast alive into the lake of fire and all the nations will be



gathered

before the Christ's throne. The saved will enter the kingdom and the unsaved will be cast into "everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels" (Matt.25:31-46).



Isaiah described the scene:

*"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the **host of the high ones** that are on high, and the **kings of the earth** upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days*

*shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the **LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously?** (Isa.24:21-23). ●*