



“The End of the Church Age”

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

PART 3

Between Rev. 3 & 4

March 26, 2017

Weather: Sunny, colder today; fair and cold tonight. Cloudy tomorrow. Temp. range today 35-38; Thursday 44-50. Additional details on Page 4c.

The Morning News

CITY EDITION

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MULTITUDES MISSING

DISASTER STRIKES EARTH

Dead and Missing Estimated in Millions

NEW YORK — A worldwide disaster, described as the worst in history, has taken the lives of countless thousands, with hundreds of thousands — perhaps millions — missing. Reports began to come to the combined news bureaus of major television networks and newspapers last night shortly after 8:45 P. M. Confusion and chaos caused widespread panic and alarm as people all over the world suddenly and mysteriously vanished without a trace.

Chaos in virtually every major city around the globe has been disrupted and world leaders are at a loss for answers. There are also reports and rumors which indicate some of the world leaders may, in fact, be among the dead or missing.

Every aspect of human life has been affected. The whole of mankind is acting as if in a state of global shock.

The death count continues to rise. It was covered mostly by panic, fear, and the sudden disappearance of people from critical job functions.

For example, reports from North America, Europe and Australia list transportation difficulties and disruption of several populations. Thousands were stranded out of control on highways, causing considerable traffic jams. At least three major airlines crashed — killing a total of 817 persons, caused when pilots or air traffic controllers guiding the aircraft to safe landing disappeared.

Italy, the largest single group missing seems to be children. Witnesses or relatives reportedly showed up in many of these strange, directionless children. The fact that there is such a small “body count” — or deaths — among this age group gives rise to rumors about an outer space kidnapping.

Word count in of crippling losses in business and economy, in

GRAVES SPLIT OPEN

The above scene was reported in connection to reports that the worst disaster the systematic extermination and disappearance of millions. Visitors found graves split open almost as though natural resurrection had taken place.

POLICE UNABLE TO CONTROL MOBS, LOOTING

CHICAGO — The surviving members of Chicago's police force have been pressed into 12-hour shifts to help maintain a relative sense of law and order following the most disappearance yesterday. A Deputy Police Superintendent also said nearly 10,000 Illinois National Guard and federal troops were activated for patrol duty in Chicago and suburbs.

In addition to widespread looting, which has broken out not only in the Windy City but in every major city, the police force is coping with unusual acts of violence and vandalism.

Assaults, murders and劫掠 crimes have increased alarmingly, said a police spokesman. Gangs have killed 137 persons in Chicago alone, while many more were the victims of individuals.

Major General Russell Barrett said, "It's almost as if suddenly all the restraints were gone. Some of these characters are committing heinous crimes that make the Stock, Manson, and other brutal killings seem pale by comparison."

Police and soldiers have exchanged gunfire in at least eighteen instances during the past 24 hours, according to a station source.

Hundreds Of Wrecks Drivers Missing

PANIC AND TERROR WORLDWIDE

All Radio And Television Networks Cancel Scheduled Programs To Broadcast News Of Missing Ones

Many Hospital Patients And Babies Suddenly Disappear

7 Reasons for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture

I. The Nature of the Tribulation.

- It will be a time for the wrath of God upon the earth.

Rev 6:16-17

16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- *It will be a time of God's dealing with Israel.*

Jer 30:3-7

3 'For behold, days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.' The Lord says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.'"

4 Now these are the words which the Lord spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah:

5 "For thus says the Lord,
I have heard a sound of terror,
Of dread, and there is no peace.

6 'Ask now, and see

If a male can give birth.

Why do I see every man

With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth?

And why have all faces turned pale?

7 'Alas! for that day is great,

There is none like it;

And it is the time of **Jacob's** distress,

But he will be saved from it.

1 Sam 12:22-23

22 "For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself.

Ps 89:3-4

3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen;

I have sworn to David My servant,

4 I will establish your seed forever

And build up your throne to all generations.

Ps 94:14

14 For the Lord will not abandon His people,

Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

Rom 11:1

11 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He?
May it never be!

II. The Nature of the Church.

- The Church is the object of God's grace, not His wrath.

1 Thess 5:9-11

9 For **God has not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thess 1:10

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who **rescues us from the wrath to come**.

Rev 3:10

10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

III. The Nature of the Millennium.

- The Millennium involves earthly people that procreate and have children.
- Those taken in the rapture will be believers who will be given a new "transformed" body which will not procreate.
- All unbelievers will be taken in judgment at the Second Coming.

Matt 25:31-34

31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

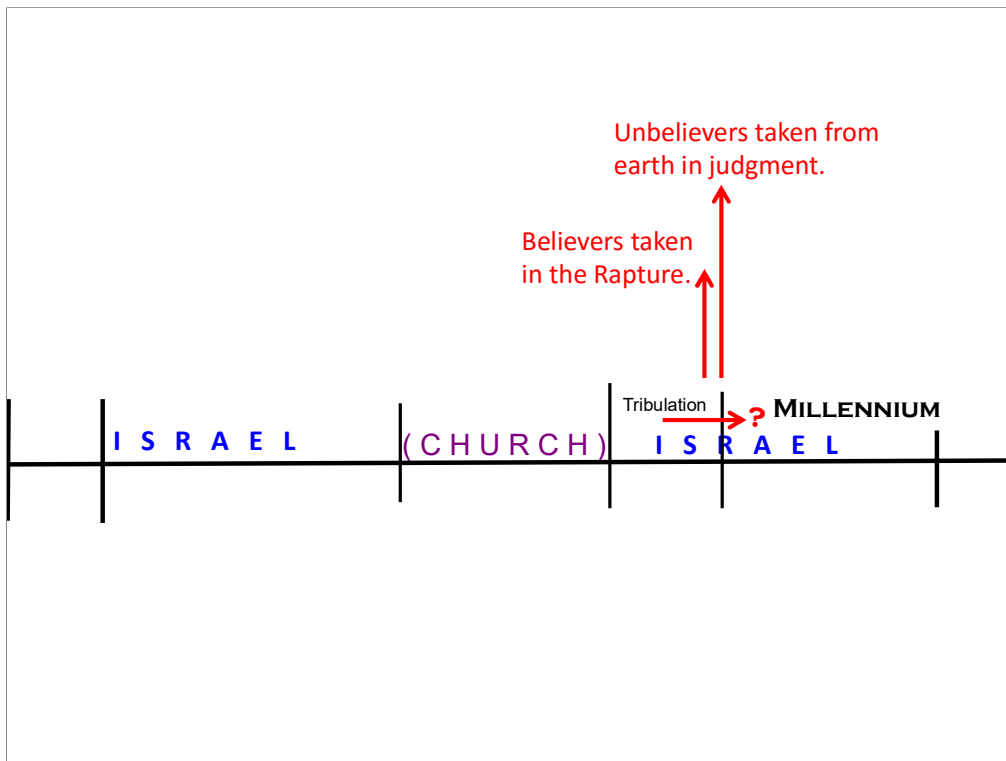
32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world

41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

- ***If the Rapture and the Second Coming occur at the same time, there are no earthly people left with human bodies to procreate.***
- ***So who goes into the millennium??***



IV. The Nature of the Chronology.

1. Rev. 19

1. Marriage of the Lamb. (7)
2. Clothed in white linen (rewards). (8)
3. The Church returns with Christ at the Second Coming. (11,14)

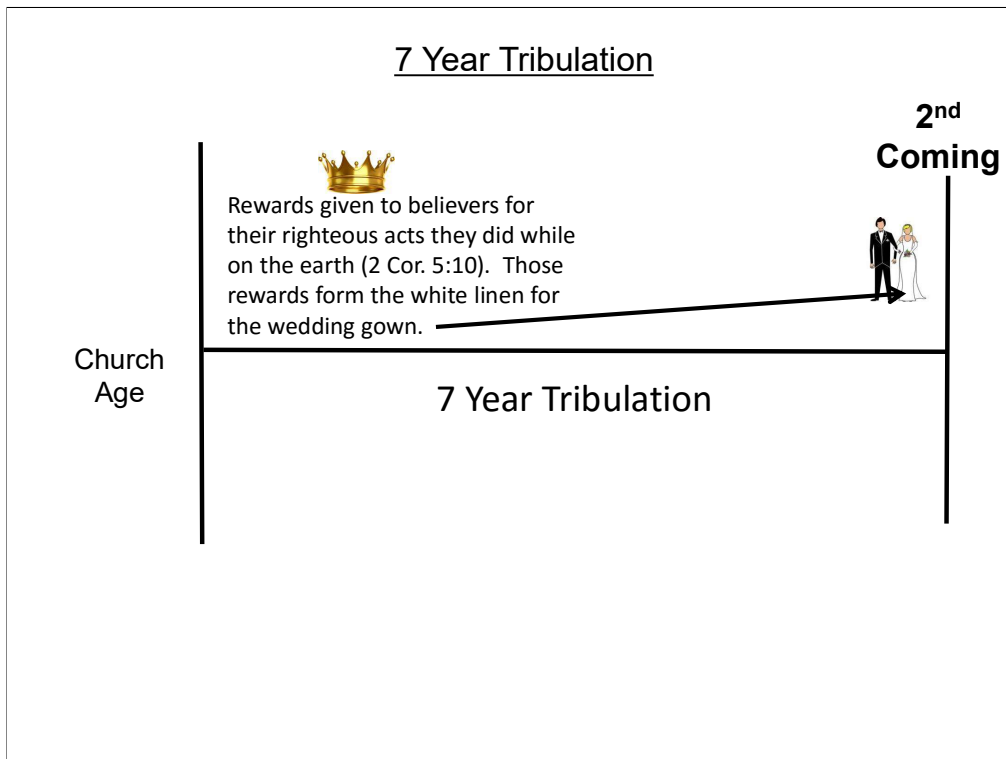
Rev 19:7-8,11,14

7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the **marriage of the Lamb** has come and His **bride has made herself ready.**"

8 It was given to her to **clothe herself in fine linen**, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the **righteous acts of the saints.**

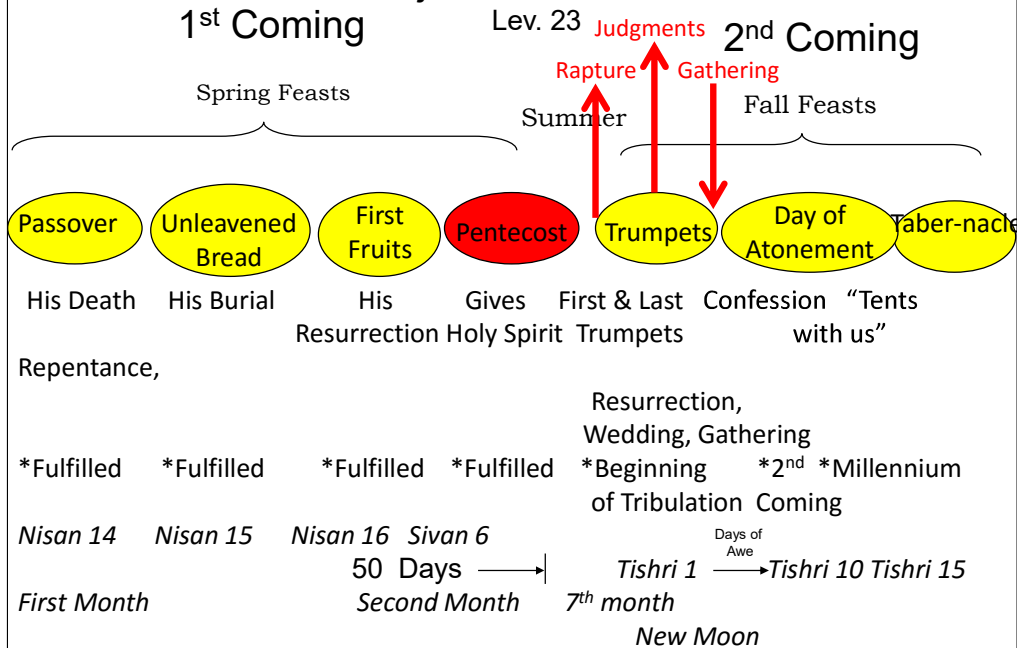
11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

14 And the **armies which are in heaven**, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, **were following Him on white horses.**



2. Feasts

7 Major Feasts of Israel



Dan 9:24-27

24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, [and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.]

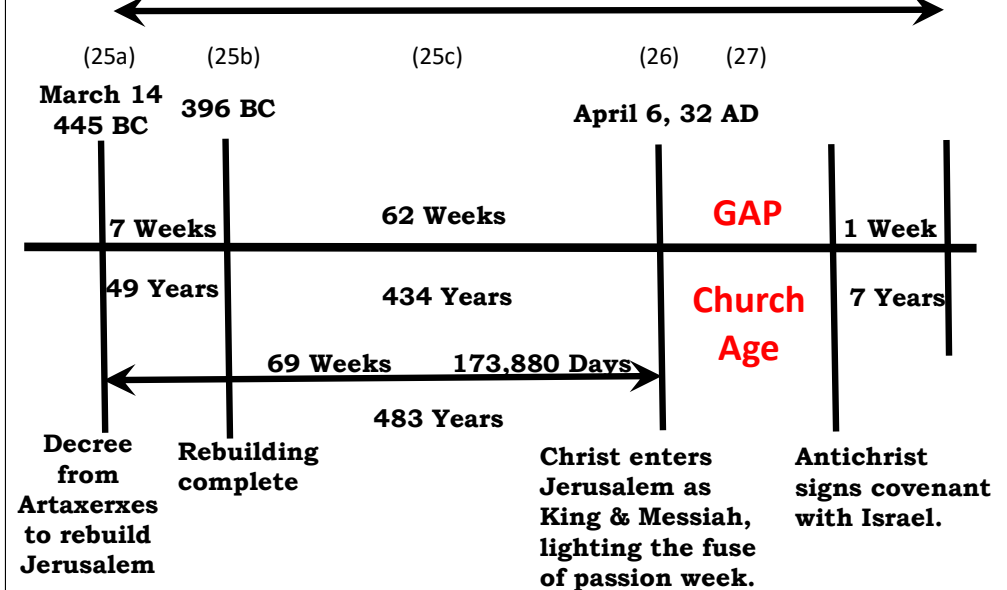
27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

3. Daniel 9 Prophecy

Daniel 9:24-27

(24)

70 Weeks (7's) = 490 years



V. The Nature of Christ's Imminency.

Acts 1:6-8

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times (χρονος - chronos = length of time) or epochs (καιρος - kairos = characteristics within a length of time) which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Paul

1 Thess 4:15

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Cor 1:7

7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom 13:11-12

11 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.

12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near

1 Cor 10:11

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for **our** instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

1 Thess 1:10

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues **us** from the wrath to come.

1 Thess 5:23

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may **your** spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 2:1

1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our** gathering together to Him,

Titus 2:11-13

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing **us** to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

James

James 5:7-9

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

8 **You** too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that **you** yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

John

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we** will be like Him, because **we** will see Him just as He is.

Peter

1 Peter 1:13

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to **you** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:7

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, ^{you} be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

2 Peter 3:11-12

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought **you** to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,

Author of Hebrews

Heb 10:25

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as **you** see the day drawing near.

V. The Nature of Christ's Imminency.

- We are to look for the Son – not signs.

1 Thess 1:10

10 and to **wait for His Son** from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

**If a foreshadowing of Tribulational signs occurs they will be general and not specific and so it will be difficult to identify an exact time.*

**There are no signs of the times because we are not in the time of the signs.*

Heb 1:1-2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 in these **last days** has spoken to us in His Son,

1 Peter 1:20-21

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these **last times** for the sake of you
21 who through Him are believers in God,

2 Peter 3:3-4

3 Know this first of all, that in the **last days** mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,
4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

1 John 2:18

18 Children, it is the **last hour**; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the **last hour**.

Jude 17-18

17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,
18 that they were saying to you, "In the **last time** there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.

1 Tim 4:1-3

1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in **later times** some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,
3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

2 Tim 3:1-5

1 But realize this, that in the **last days** difficult times will come.
2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,
3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,
4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

Jesus Christ
Pentecost

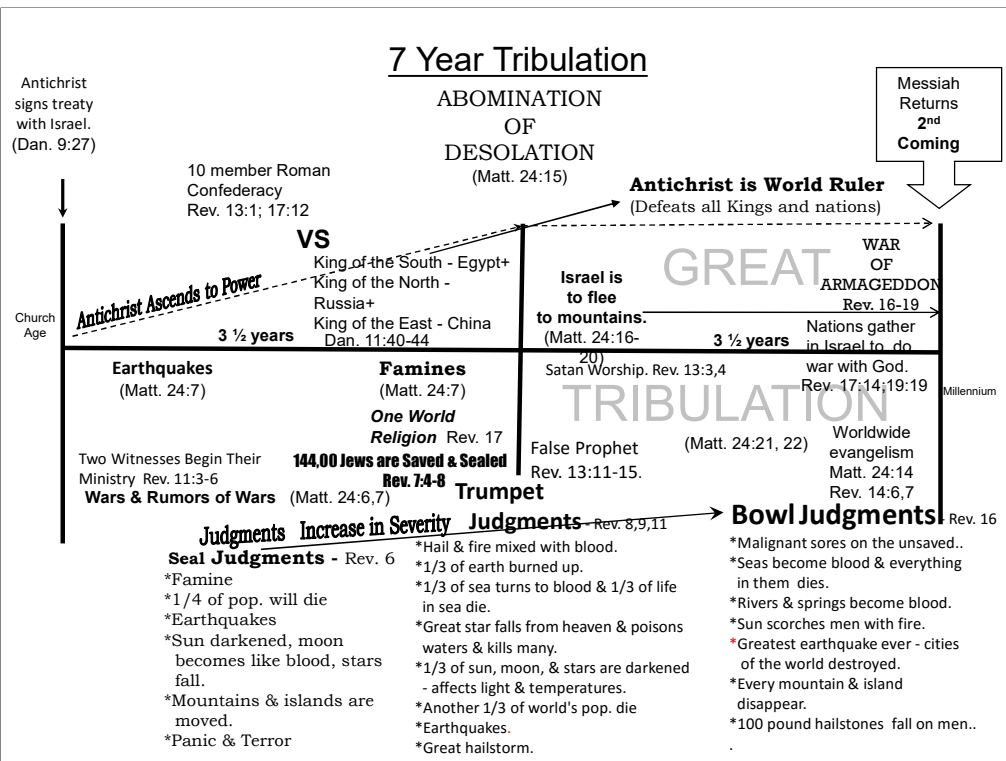
Rapture

Church Age

Looking for the Son

- mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods.





Matt 24:1-14

- 1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the **temple buildings** to Him.
- 2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."
- 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, **"Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"**
- 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.
- 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.
- 6 "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.
- 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.
- 8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.
- 9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.
- 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.
- 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.
- 12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.
- 13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.
- 14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- 15 "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),
- 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.
- 17 "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.
- 18 "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.
- 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
- 20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.
- 21 "For then there will be a **great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.
- 22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.
- 23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.
- 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.
- 25 "Behold, I have told you in advance.
- 26 "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.
- 27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, **so will the coming of the Son of Man be.**
- 28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

- 29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**
- 30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.**
- 31 "And He will send forth His angels with **A GREAT TRUMPET** and **THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER** His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.
- 32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;
- 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.
- 34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.
- 35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
- 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
- 37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
- 38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,
- 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- 40 "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

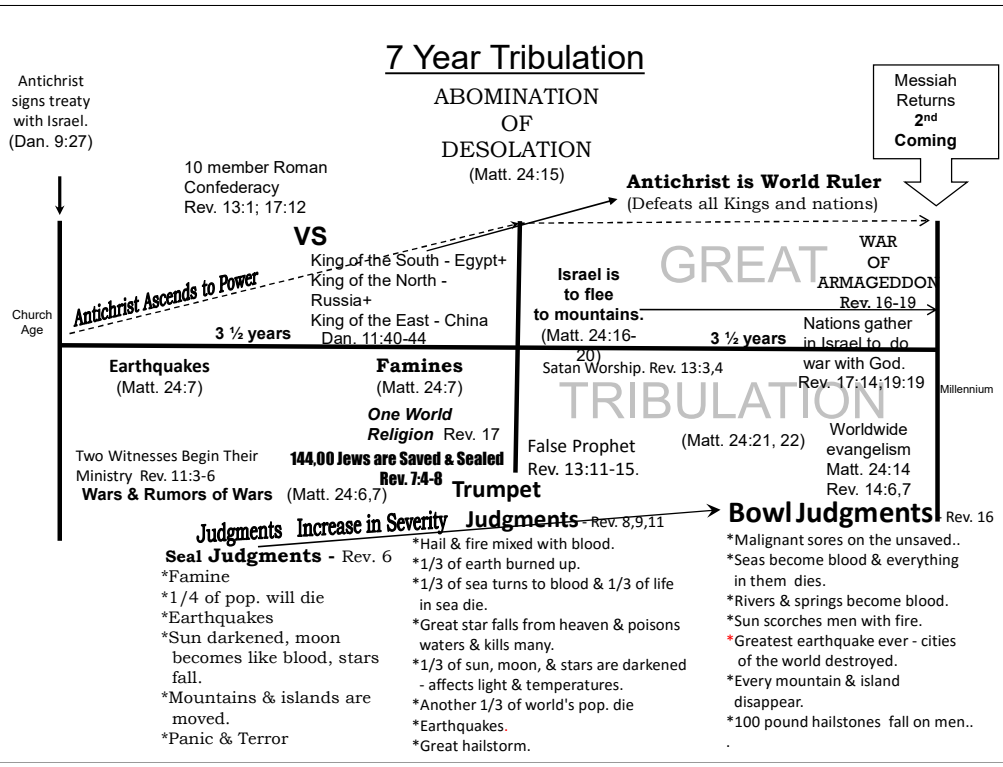
42 "Therefore be on the alert, **for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.**

43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

44 "For this reason you also must be ready; for the **Son of Man is coming** at an hour when you do not think He will.

10 signs in the Tribulation:

1. Deception by false Christs. (4,5)
 - There have been false Christs before, but now the number has intensified and escalated.
 - They are empowered by demons to do supernatural feats.
 - The world begins to disintegrate.
 - Suffering will be unbearable.
 - Sin will reach its maximum potential.
 - The Church is gone.
 - The restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is gone.
 - False Christ's will rise to the occasion bringing promises.
2. Wars and rumors of wars. (6, 7a)
3. Famines & Earthquakes. (7b)
4. Persecution of Believers. (9)
5. Apostasy. (10)
6. The rise of false prophets. (11)
7. Increase in lawlessness. (12a)
8. A cold world. (12b)
9. Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world. (14)
10. The Abomination of Desolation. (15)



If you believe that the Church will go through the tribulation, what preparations are you making for it?

VI. The Nature of the Context of Rev. 6-19

- Rev. 1-3 – Church Age.
- Rev. 4-5 – The Church in Heaven.
- Rev. 6-19 – The Tribulation.
***Not 1 mention of the Church**
- Rev. 20-22 – The Millennium and the Eternal State.

VII. The Nature of the Jewish Marriage.

1. **Betrothal** (bridegroom left his home and traveled to home of prospective bride to pay a price to purchase the bride).
2 Cor 11:2
2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I **betrothed** you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.
1 Cor 6:20
20 For you have been **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body.
2. **Bride prepares her wedding garment of white linen.**
Rev 19:7-8
7 . . .and His bride has made herself ready."
8 It was given to her to clothe herself in **fine linen**, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

3. **Bridegroom announces he is going to his Father's house to prepare a place for them to live.**

John 14:2-4

- 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; **for I go to prepare a place for you.**
- 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

4. **In Israel the father determined the wedding day when he was satisfied all was prepared before he gave permission to the son to go get his bride.**

Matt 24:36-37

- 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, **but the Father alone.**

5. **Bridegroom comes personally for his bride and brings her to his father's house. The marriage of the bride and groom take place.**

1 Thess 4:16-17

- 16 For the **Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Rev 19:7-8

- 7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."
- 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

6. The couple spends 7 days in the place prepared for the honeymoon. The groom is sheltering the bride from the activities of the world.

Rev 3:10

10 I also will **keep you from the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

****If the Church goes into the Tribulation, you have to ask: "Why would the bride of Christ receive the wrath of her groom just before the wedding?"***

7. After the honeymoon, the couple is presented to the world.

Rev 19:14

14 And the **armies** which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, **were following Him on white horses.**

Rev 1:7

7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and **every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him;

8. The wedding feast begins in the new home of the bride and groom.

Rev 19:9

9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper** of the Lamb.'

Rapture

Christ comes for His saints.

World is unchanged and unjudged.

God's wrath follows.

Rapture can occur at any

moment – no signs.

Only revealed in the N.T.

Satan is very active afterward.

Christ comes as the "Morning Star"

Israel is unchanged.

His coming is unseen.

Second Coming

Christ comes with His saints.

World is judged and changed.

God's peace follows.

Many signs and events precede

His coming.

Revealed in both O.T. & N.T.

Satan is bound.

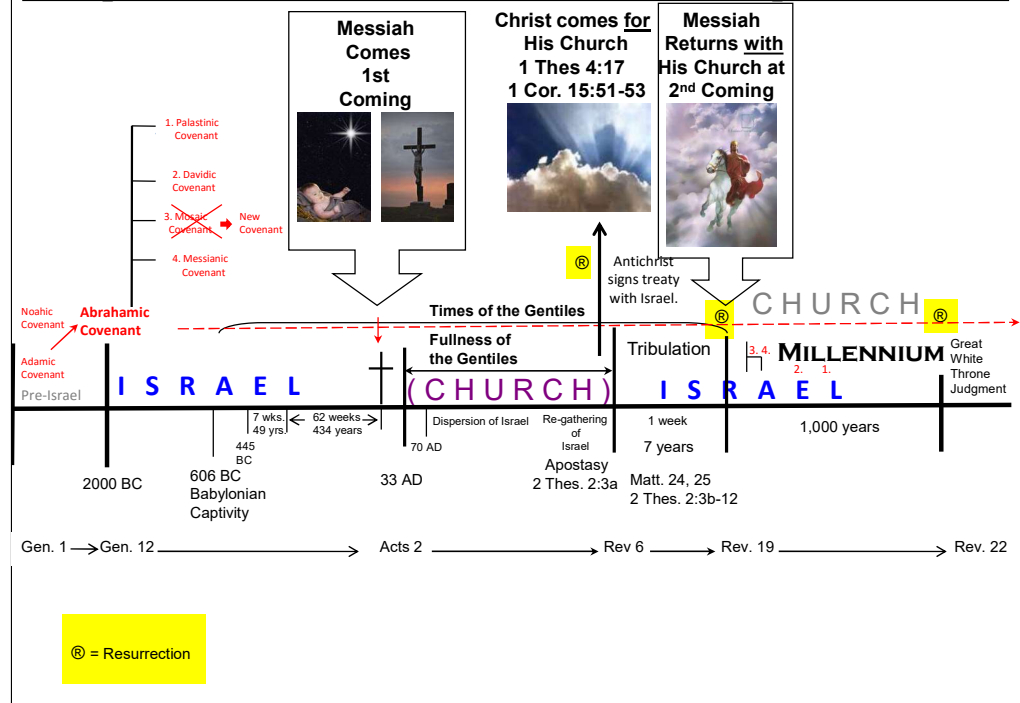
Christ comes as the "Sun of

Righteousness"

All of Israel's covenants are fulfilled.

His coming is seen.

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events





James M. Black
(1856-1938)

“While a teacher in a Sunday-school [in Williamsport, Pennsylvania] and president of a young people’s society, I one day met a girl, fourteen years old, poorly clad and the child of a drunkard. She accepted my invitation to attend the Sunday-school, and joined the young people’s society. One evening at a consecration-meeting, when members answered the roll-call by repeating Scripture texts, she failed to respond. I spoke of what a sad thing it would be, when our names are called from the Lamb’s Book of Life, if one of us should be absent; and I said, O God, when my own name is called up yonder, may I be there to respond! I longed for something suitable to sing just then, but I could find nothing in the books. We closed the meeting, and on my way home I was still wishing that there might be a song that could be sung on such occasions. The thought came to me, Why don’t you make it? I dismissed the idea, thinking that I could never write such a hymn. When I reached my house my wife saw that I was deeply troubled, and questioned me, but I made no reply. Then the words of the first stanza came to me in full. In fifteen minutes more I had composed the other two verses. Going to the piano, I played the music just as it is found to-day in the hymn-books, note for note, and I have never dared to change a single word or a note of the piece since.”

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

1. When the trumpet of the Lord
shall sound,
And time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks,
eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall
gather
Over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I’ll be there.

Refrain

***When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder
I’ll be there.***

2. On that bright and cloudless
morning
When the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection
share;
When His chosen ones shall gather
To their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I’ll be there.

Refrain

3. Let us labor for the Master
From the dawn till setting sun,
Let us talk of all His wondrous love
and care;
Then when all of life is over,
And our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I’ll be there.

Refrain