

From Tribulation to Eternity

Tonight we will look at what the Bible says about the time after the rapture of the church to the time that God brings the new heaven and the new earth for all eternity.

Rev 1: 3

“This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

You and I are blessed by God.

Why?

Because God said He would bless both the reader of this prophecy and He would bless the one who hears and obeys this prophecy.

So, if I don't read it to you and if you don't hear and obey it, we will not be blessed. It's just that simple.

I want to be blessed and I am sure you want to be blessed also. Remember Bible prophecy is not given to us to scare us,

Bible prophecy is given to us to prepare us.

Then He says THE TIME IS NEAR

In our first study we have looked at prophecy from the time of Daniel whom God revealed Nebucudnezzar's dream of the world empires that would be from Babylonian to the millennial reign of Jesus.

We also studied that there would be a "parenthetical pause" known as the church age.

This parenthetical pause is between the Roman Empire and the 10 toes of half iron and half clay or also know as the Revived Roman Empire.

1. Sunday night we looked at the next event on God's prophetic calendar, that being the RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH.
2. We discussed that the Bible says that the church will be raptured before the tribulation begins. We looked at biblical proof that God has not appointed us to wrath but is is a time of Jacob's trouble.

Tonight we examine what happens on earth after the church is raptured to heaven.

Just a reminder, there are 2 distinct things that will happen in heaven while the tribulation is taking place on the earth.

1. The judgment seat of Christ. Where our works will pass through the fire and we will be rewarded for what we did for Christ through obedience to His word.

2. The marriage supper of the Lamb. Where we will celebrate our wedding with Jesus.

WE should say that a 3rd thing that will take place in heaven, we will be with our Lord and Savior for ever.

There are very significant prophecies about the tribulation. Jesus was very clear when he gave His disciples a sermon called the olivet discourse.

Jesus and some of His disciples had just left the temple. Listen to what the disciples asked Jesus and then listen to His answer.

We see this played out in Mathew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21

READ LUKE 21:5-33

Jesus prophecies about what would happen in Israel very soon; that great deception and lies about Him would spread; false teachers and heretics would abound; wars and rumors of wars, nations in turmoil, earthquakes all over. Everyone would see the son of man coming in the clouds. (Unlike the rapture that takes place in an instant and no one will be able to see the church being taken away, when Jesus returns the 2nd time every eye will see Him. And they are terrified because like a kid with his hands caught in the cookie jar they know that they are caught in their sins and they are terrified.

Here are some facts about what Jesus prophesied in the olivet discourse.

1. Apostasy. (That means falling away) In America alone, church attendance has dropped by 73% since 1937. Jesus prophesied of a great falling away.

2. Earthquakes. According to the US geological survey earthquakes began to be measured on 1751. Since 1900 there have been more than 10,000 strong earthquakes.

3. Wars and violence. The 20th century was the most murderous in recorded history. The total number of deaths associated with wars have been over 187 million. That is 10% of the world's population since 1913.

4. The current war in Gaza was predicted in Psalms 83:1-8.
Look what God said would happen to Gaza for what they did to Israel.

Amos 1:6-8 "This is what the LORD says:
"The people of Gaza have sinned again and again,
and I will not let them go unpunished!
They sent whole villages into exile,
selling them as slaves to Edom.
So I will send down fire on the walls of Gaza,
and all its fortresses will be destroyed.
I will slaughter the people of Ashdod
and destroy the king of Ashkelon.
Then I will turn to attack Ekron,
and the few Philistines still left will be killed,"
says the Sovereign LORD."

Zephaniah 2:4-6 "Gaza and Ashkelon will be abandoned,
Ashdod and Ekron torn down.
And what sorrow awaits you Philistines

who live along the coast and in the land of Canaan,
for this judgment is against you, too!

The LORD will destroy you
until not one of you is left.

The Philistine coast will become a wilderness pasture,
a place of shepherd camps
and enclosures for sheep and goats.”

5. False teachers and false Christs. Stay in the Bible. Filter everything you see on TV and social media.

6. Famines. Between 1958 too 1962 the great China faamine occurred killing an estimate of 30 million people from starvation, and an estimated 33 million births were lost or postponed. “Today the global food crisis that is effecting 48 countries, with about 238 million people that are in an acute level of food insecurity; according to humanitarian aid.ec.

According to (FAO) food and agriculture organization (may 28,2023) 828 million people or 10% of the world’s population go to bed hungry each night. That is 46 million more that the previous year.

Famine is on the rise and Jesus prophesied it.

These are just a few statistics that are fulfillment of the prophecy Jesus gave nearly 2000 years ago about the condition of the world right before his 2nd coming.

Tonight we will look at the book of revelation and see the horror of the tribulation.

Then we will look at what happens when Jesus returns with His church to set up his 1,000 year reign.

This is followed by the resurrection of the dead and the Great white throne judgement.

Then we see God make a new heaven and a new earth where we will forever be with God and His son, our savior for all eternity.

Chapter 4 and 5 of Revelation is a scene in heaven after the rapture.

Revelation 4:1

“Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.” And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it.”

There are 2 interesting things about this verse.

1. This is the rapture of the church
 - a. Must take place after this (chapters 2& 3 the church age)
 - b. Instantly (Harpazo, rapture)
2. We are in heaven because we now see the very throne of God. John also tells us what he sees
 1. The throne of God and a sea of glass in front of it
 2. 7 golden lamps which represent the 7 spirits of God
 3. 24 elders

4. 4 living beings crying Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty
5. The 24 elders cast their crowns before the throne.
6. Pronounce "You are worthy , O Lord, our God.

Chapter 5 tells us about this scene in heaven.

1. It talks about a scroll with 7 seals on it that no one could open. No one in heaven, no one on the earth, and no one under the earth could be found worthy to open the scroll.
2. John weeps because no one is found worthy to open the scroll. The angel tells John, stop weeping. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir of David's throne has won the victory He alone is worthy to open the scroll and its 7 seals.

1. Pause a moment here. It is noteworthy to understand Jesus has fulfilled prophecy from Genesis chapter 49:9-13 "Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor. He ties his foal to a grapevine, the colt of his donkey to a choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk."

2. Rev 19:13 Jesus fulfills what Jacob prophesied "He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called "The Word of God."

This is when Jesus returns His 2nd time and stops the battle of armageddon and puts and end the the final world order of man.

My favorite part in chapter 5 verse 11 is the heavenly choir where every person in heaven, millions upon millions upon millions sing a song of praise to Jesus. Another proof the church is in heaven to sing to their savior and will not go through the tribulation.

Chapters 6-19

This is the description of the worst time to come on earth that will ever be.

It tells of 2, 3 1/2 year periods that make up the 7 years of tribulation. Note, these years are numbered as 30 day months which coincide with the Jewish 30 day calender.

The first half of the tribulation they will think that they finally have peace. The Jews will think that this one world leader is the Christ, the Messiah because he is bringing peace to Israel. The world will also believe this man will be the one to bring in world peace, but there will be no peace, because the prince of peace himself has not come.

Daniel prophesied about this person in chapter 7:8,24-25
“While I was thinking about the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the previous horns were plucked out before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like human eyes, and a mouth uttering great boasts.

24-25

‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will humble three kings. And he will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make

alterations in times and in law; and they will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.”

The world has been lied to and they think this new one world leader will bring them peace and prosperity, when in actuality he will be the most narcissistic, vile person this world will ever see. This person (antichrist) will establish the most evil regime the world has ever seen.

Rev 13:1-18

“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 crowns, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast that 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 fatally wounded, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”

1. The beast comes from the sea.

a. The sea represents turbulence among the peoples or nations of the world.

b. Jesus came from Heaven.

2. The we also see in (Daniel 11:39) that he makes a peace treaty with Israel for 7 years which allows the Jews to rebuild the temple and start animal sacrifices.

I believe that the dome of the rock will remain with the soon to be 3rd temple which would set north of the dome, directly in line with the eastern gate.

Revelation 11:1,2

“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.” The last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

- a. The 2nd beast is a just a man like the anti-christ is just a man.
- b. He is a false Holy Spirit. He imitates supernatural manifestations however they are satanically inspired.

Look what Deut 13:1-3 states about a false prophet like this person will be;

““If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let’s follow other gods (whom you have not known) and let’s serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

- c. The Anti-christ is the embodiment of the Nebuchadnezzar’s stature of world empires (leopard Greek, bear like Medo-persian,)

c. He is healed of a fatal head wound. Tries to imitate Jesus rising from the dead.

d. The whole world marvels at this healing and give their allegiance to him and worship him

e. He again speaks blasphemes against God. And he does whatever he wants for 42 months (3 1/2 years) over every peoples group. Because their names were NOT written in the book of life.

f. Makes war with the Jews whom he made a 7 year peace deal 3 1/2 years earlier. Sets up an image of himself in the 3rd temple.

g The false prophet (religious leader) makes everyone to worship the 1st beast, performs satan inspired miracles and deceives the people of the world.

h. Vs 15. The false prophet gives breath to the image that is set up in the temple so that it would speak.

J. Everyone who refuses to worship the beast is killed.

K. The false prophet forces everyone to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead.

L. Number is number of man. 666. False trinity.

God's perfect number is 777. Representing God the Father, God the son , and the Holy Spirit. Satan has always wanted to be God and receive the praise and adoration due on only to God.

These 2 Satan inspired, evil men have 5 political agendas.

1. They will have a one world leader. He will be over every tribe, peoples, languages. He will rule globally over all who live on the earth.

2. They will set up the one world government. Vs 3 the whole earth was amazed and followed the beast.

3. They will install a one world economy. Vs 16, 17 (NIV)

“It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

There goal is destroy every thing that has to do with capitalism and individual business ownership.

We can see that happening right now. They tried through COVID. Mayors and governments sat down to ‘DETERMINE’ which businesses were essential, and which ones were not.

4. They will set up a 1 world religion. Millions upon millions of people will be deceived into following this false religion.

As of April 2023 a 3 building complex was complete in Abu Dhabi. Listen to this. Its was commissioned by “The Higher Committee of Human Fraternity.”

It features 3 temples and a garden inn the middle of the temples.

1. The central theme is that these temples represent the 3 religions; even though they are vastly different, they share there roots from Abraham.
2. The 1st is a mosque named “ the Eminence Ahmed El-Tayeb Mosque. It faces Mecca.
3. The 2nd is a synagogue. Named “the Moses Ben Maiamon Synagogue. It faces Jersusalem.
4. The 3rd is a church. It is named “the facade of St. Francis church. It faces the sun.

We studied Sunday night that the Jerusalem will be the capital of the world and that Jesus our messiah will rule from Jerusalem for 1,000 years.

We see in Rev 13 that the anti-christ will desecrate the 3rd temple in Jerusalem.

5. The new world order will have a one world military. Vs 4.
“They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?”

From chapter 6 to chapter 19 we see Israel will rebuild the temple and animal sacrifices to God are started again.

The Jews will be forced to flee from Jerusalem because the anti-christ will desecrate the temple with an image of himself.

Jesus prophesied this in His Olivet discourse. Mathew 24:15,16
““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.”

As we discussed Sunday evening; the 3rd temple will be built on the temple mount directly in line with the eastern gate.

Rev 11:1,2

“Then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, “Go and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers. But do not measure the outer courtyard, for it has been turned over to the nations. They will trample the holy city for 42 months.’

While the Jews are in Petra the Lord will send 21 judgments upon the earth.

7 Seal judgements

7 trumpet judgments

7 bowl (vial) judgements

Jesus tells us in Mathew 24:21,22 “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again. And if those days had not been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

We don't know how many people will die during the great tribulation, only God knows.

Most of the destruction that takes place during the great tribulation will be done by wars, disease, famine, wild beasts, and horrible brutality.

The 4 horses of the apocalypse are (1) the anti-christ on the white horse, (2) War on the red horse where it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that people would kill one another. (3) Famine. The black horse brings food shortage of unfathomable imagination. (4) Death brought about the sign of the ashen horse. “Death and hades was following him.

In chapter 6 verse 8b

“Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and famine, and plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.”

The Call to Repent.

6 times between chapters 6 and 19 the Bible says “and they refused to repent of their sins.”

God is still trying to draw people out of their sins and open their eyes to the truth, but just like those people of Noah’s day, they loved this world and they pleasures of sin more than they loved the truth.

From chapters 6-19 we see God is calling people to repent by anointing 144,000 jews to be evangelist. Chap 7 vs 2-8

He has angels flying in the sky with a scroll written on both sides calling mankind to repent.

Chapter 11 reveals 2 witnesses that have authority from God to prophecy for 1260 days. No harm can come against them during their ministry. They have authority from God to call down fire from heaven to devour their enemies. They shut up the sky so rain will not fall during 1260 days. They turn water into blood. They strike the earth with every plague as often as they desire.

They will be killed after they complete their ministry by the anti-christ.

Their bodies will be displayed in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 days. Then God will raise them from the dead and they will ascend into heaven.

The peoples of the world will tremble in fear because of their being resurrected back to life.

The Return of The Messiah

Webster defines Messiah as “the expected King and deliverer of the Jews.”

Jesus asked Peter in Mathew 16:13-16

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

The Jews, to this day, are still looking for the Messiah to come.

As soon as the 7 years of tribulation are complete Jesus will return to earth with His church and set up His millennial reign.

Rev 19:1-16

“After this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting,

“Praise the LORD!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

His judgments are true and just.

He has punished the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth with her immorality.

He has avenged the murder of his servants.”

And again their voices rang out:

“Praise the LORD!

The smoke from that city ascends forever and ever!”

Then the twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshiped God, who was sitting on the throne. They cried out, "Amen! Praise the LORD!"

And from the throne came a voice that said,
"Praise our God,
all his servants,
all who fear him,
from the least to the greatest."

Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder:

"Praise the LORD!

For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us be glad and rejoice,
and let us give honor to him.

For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb.

and his bride has prepared herself.

She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear."

For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus."

Remember the parable about the wedding and the original guests all made excuses why they couldn't come.

Then the grooms father said go and invite everyone to the wedding so the house would be full.

Then there was one found who wasn't wearing a wedding garment. The father of the groom questioned him and asked how he got in.

The man was speechless.

The order was given to cast the man out into everlasting darkness where there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

That is a picture of heaven and no one may enter unless you are clothed in righteousness.

The only way we can be made righteous is by the blood of Jesus when we make Him Lord of our lives.

Revelation 19:11-21

"Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, shouting to the vultures flying high in the sky: “Come! Gather together for the great banquet God has prepared. Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and strong warriors; of horses and their riders; and of all humanity, both free and slave, small and great.”

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.”

Did you hear that.

In chapter 19 Jesus returns with Us. His church
His regal splendor is revealed and royalty is for all to see.

Notice He (king Jesus) is on a white horse.

We saw in chapter 6 that the anti-christ tries to imitate The true Christ by riding on a white horse.

Jesus is the one and only true King of Kings and Lord of Lords

We come back with Him on white horses too.

Jesus captures and casts the anti-christ and the false prophet into the lake of fire.

He destroys those armies at the battle of armageddon.

A vultures feast

Chapter 20

1. Jesus seizes the dragon and casts him the bottles pit.

2. Vs 4 "Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

3. Vs 5, 6 "This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

4. Jesus rules for 1,000 years and will rule and reign with Him.

5. Great white throne judgement. Devil, and all who rejected Jesus are thrown into the lake of fire.

Vs 11-15

'Judgment at the Throne of God

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 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 who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each 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."

Hell was created for the devil and his fallen angels.

Those who reject the Messiah will, by their own choice will face the same eternal punishment.

Vs 8 "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

6. God will make all things new.

Chapter 21

God will make a new heaven and a new earth.

The first heaven and first earth are passed away.

When that is complete he will send down the New Jerusalem to earth.

Vs 1,2

“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, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

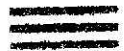
What a majestic and beautiful city it must be.

VS 3-4

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

2 questions 1. Are you ready for what's ahead? If you are ready the rapture is just ahead. If your not ready tribulation and eternal punishments is approaching fast.

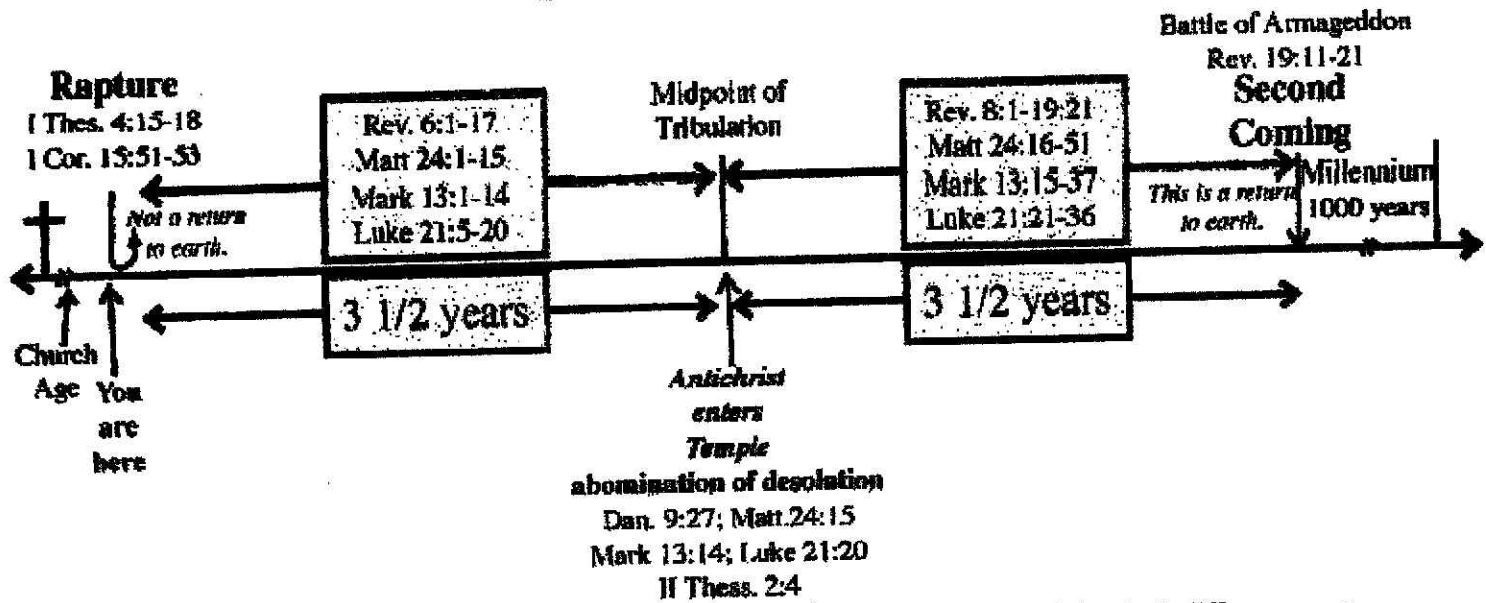
2. How do I get ready?



The Last Days of History

Event	Description	References
Last Days of Preparation	Increase of false prophets and religious compromise within the church	Mt 24:4-5, 10-11, 24; Lk 18:8; 2Th 2:3; 1Ti 4:1; 2 Ti 3:1, 13; 4:3-4; 2Pe 2:1-3; 3:3-4
	Increase of crime and disregard of God's law	Mt 24:12, 37-39; Lk 17:26-30; 18:8; 1Ti 4:1; 2Ti 3:1-8
	Increase of wars, famines and earthquakes	Mt 24:6-8; Mk 13:7-8; Lk 21:9
	Decrease in love and family affection	Mt 10:21; 24:12; Mk 13:12; 2Ti 3:1-3
	More severe persecution of God's people	Mt 10:22-23; 24:9-10; Mk 13:13; Jn 15:19-20; 16:33; Ac 14:22; Ro 5:3
	Those who stand firm will be saved	Mt 24:13; Mk 13:13
	Gospel will be preached to the whole world	Mt 24:14; Mk 13:10
	The Spirit will be poured out on God's people	Ac 2:17-21, 38-39

Prophecy Timeline



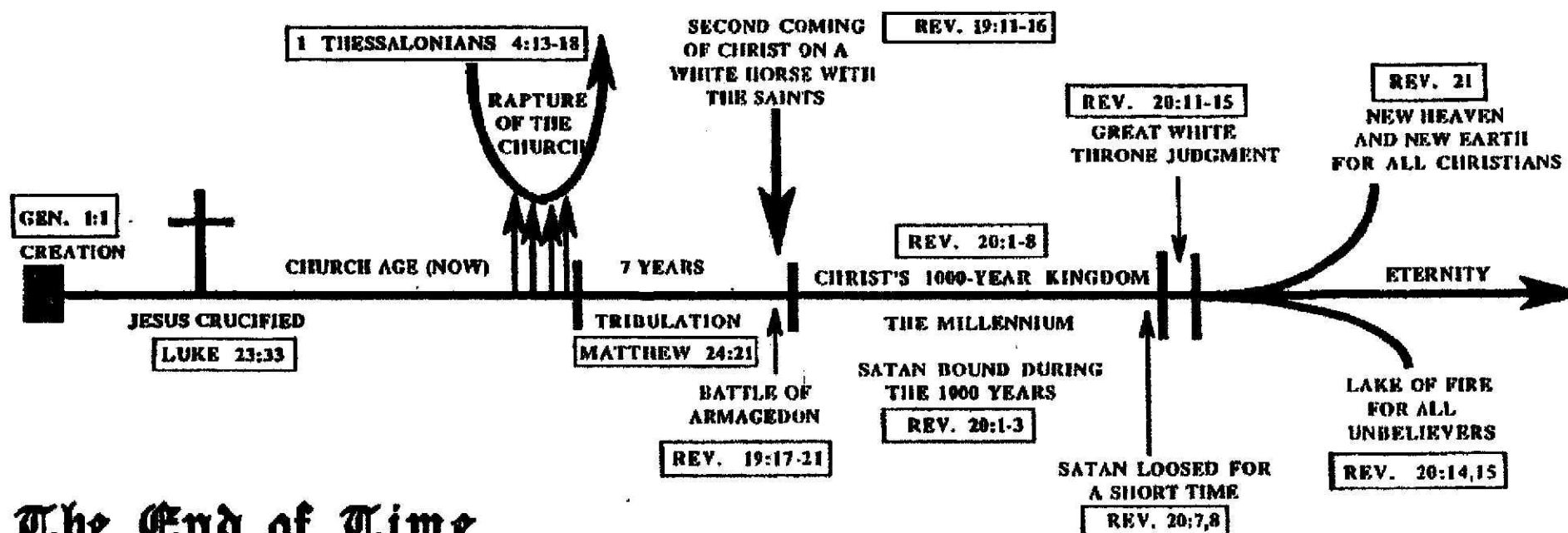
It is confusing to refer to the rapture as the second coming. These are two distinctively different events.

Tribulation - 7 years

THE RAPTURE	THE RETURN (SECOND COMING)
Christ comes in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)	Christ comes to the earth (Zechariah 14:4)
Christ comes for His saints (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)	Christ comes with His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13; Jude 1:14)
Believers depart the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)	Unbelievers are taken away (Matthew 24:37-41)
Christ claims His bride	Christ comes with His bride
Christ gathers His own (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)	Angels gather the elect (Matthew 24:31)
Christ comes to reward (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)	Christ comes to judge (Matthew 25:31-46)
Not in the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 15:51)	Predicted often in the Old Testament
There are no signs. It is imminent.	Portended by many signs (Matthew 24:4-29)
It is a time of blessing and comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18)	It is a time of destruction and judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12)
Involves believers only (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)	Involves Israel and the Gentile nations (Matthew 24:1-25:46)
Will occur in a moment, in the time it takes to blink. Only His own will see Him (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)	Will be visible to the entire world (Matthew 24:27; Revelation 1:7)
Tribulation begins	Millennium begins
Christ comes as the bright morning star (Revelation 22:16)	Christ comes as the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2)

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Scripture	Pre-Trib	Mid-Trib	Post-Trib
Mat 24:26-51	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mark 13:21-37	Yes	Yes	Yes
Luke 17:20-37	Yes	Yes	Yes
Luke 21:20-36	Yes	Yes	Yes
John 14:2-3	Yes	Yes	Yes
Romans 5:9	Yes	No	No
1 Cor 15:50-58	Yes	Yes	Yes
Phil 3:20-21	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 Thes 1:9-10	Yes	No	No
1 Thes 2:19	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 Thes 3:13	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 Thes 4:13-5:11	Yes	No	No
2 Thes 1:5-10	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 Thes 2:1-12	Yes	No	No
2 Thes 3:6-15	Yes	Yes	Yes
Titus 2:12-13	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 Peter 2:12	Yes	Yes	No
Rev 3:7-22	Yes	No	No



The End of Time

Creation--The world as we know it began when God created the heavens and the earth. The story of creation can be found in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2.

Jesus Crucified--The turning point of history was when Jesus was crucified. Because of his sacrifice of himself for our sins, we can have eternal life. The only way to avoid the Tribulation and eternal punishment is to accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

Rapture--The rapture of the Church will take place when Jesus comes in the clouds to take all Christians to heaven before the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Those Christians who have died will be raised from the dead first and will rise up to meet Jesus in the air, then the Christians who are still alive will be caught up together with them and be taken to heaven.

Tribulation--This 7-year period will be a time when God pours out His wrath upon the earth as punishment upon those who have rejected Jesus as Savior. It will be a time of great trouble on the earth. The Antichrist will deceive many people into rejecting God even further.

Second Coming--Jesus will return to the earth on a white horse, followed by all of the Christians from all time. He will come to destroy the Antichrist and the forces of the Devil once and for all. This battle at the end of the Tribulation period is known as the Battle of Armageddon.

Millennium--After Jesus destroys the forces of evil in the Battle of Armageddon, he will set up his 1000-year kingdom. Here he will rule the earth in total righteousness and peace, and Christians will reign with him as kings and priests. Satan will be bound during this time, but will be released for a short time at the end of the 1000 years in order to tempt those who have never before been tempted. Then he will be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity!

Judgment--At the end of the Millennium, all of the wicked dead will be judged. Since their names will not be found in the Book of Life, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity.

New Heaven and Earth--All Christians will spend eternity in Paradise--the New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21 and 22.