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## The Pre-Wrath View

The following study is a description of the end of time as prophesied in the Bible. There are ten subject areas and each topic is described here by following the **outline of the green buttons on the left.**

This study was originally designed as a seminar with an animated powerpoint\* presentation. In the seminar format each topic of the study takes approximately 30 minutes. The seminar has been presented in a five-day format - encompassing two topics each night, and in a weekly session covering one topic each week. There are various other formats the study may take including a weekend format or a three-day presentation.

The entire 10 session powerpoint\* study is available for purchase. The powerpoint files include 472 slides involving hundreds of hours of preparation. Includes animated slides and presentation notes. [Click here](#) for information.

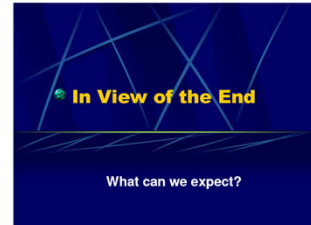
For more information about booking a live seminar [click here](#).

There are three major sources for this study: [The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church](#) by Marvin Rosenthal, [The Sign](#) and [The Rapture Question Answered](#) by Robert Van Kampen.

### What others have said...

*"I was very excited about the information you presented at the seminar I attended on the pre-wrath question. Everything fell into place after taking the study and I have recommended the study to several other people." --Susan Bishop, Northpointe Community Church*

*"Dr. Charpie's study on end times is for anyone who has wished to know more on the subject or who have been confused by previous teachings. His study is thorough, using numerous references from both the Old and New Testaments and his chronological time line makes the events easily understood. Very interesting and informative - well worth your time." -Martha Jones, Grace Baptist Church*



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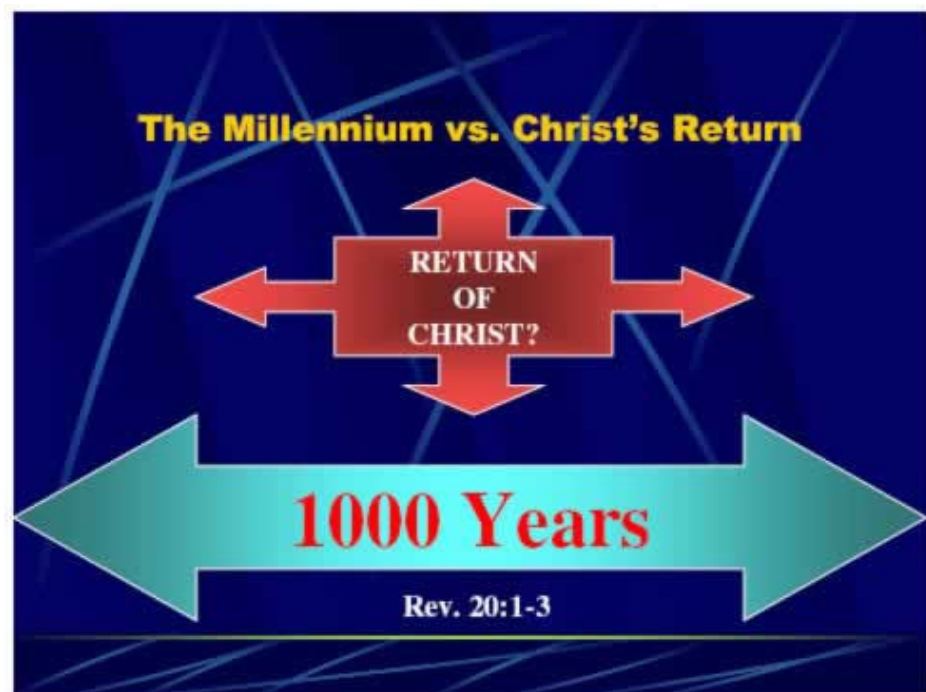
Session 1

## The Millennium

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Christ predicted His return to this earth over two-thousand years ago. Along with that prediction, He spoke of a time when He would return to rule the earth for 1,000 years. The prediction of the 1,000 year or millennial reign of Christ is most explicitly found in the book of Revelation chapter 20 verses 1 through 3. The question that faces interpreters of these predictions is: When and what is the millennial reign of Christ and how does it fit in with His return for His people?

The Millennium is the starting point for understanding end-time prophecy. Many people will claim to have a certain "millennial" position such as pre-millennial or post-millennial. These descriptions explain the relation between Christ's return to earth and the millennial reign as predicted in scripture.



The Millennium is the event predicted in scripture when Jesus Christ will rule this earth for 1,000 years. There are three theories about how these scriptural predictions are interpreted.

- A-millennial View
- Post Millennial View
- Pre-Millennial View

We will discuss each of these and what they mean, but it is important to note that none of these views is universal or definitive. If you find two people that claim to be "A-Millennialists," you will most likely find that they will still have significant differences in their interpretations. The descriptions that follow are typical descriptions of those that hold each of these views.

## **A-Millennial View**

The first view is called the A-Millennial View. The "Ah" in the Greek language is a form of negation, so the name "A-Millennial" means "No Millennium." The view is probably one of the most prevalent views today, particularly in the scholarly realm. Because of the problems of interpreting all the prophecies surrounding the return of Christ, many have chosen, to view the millennium as figurative or symbolic. They also view most of the book of Revelation in the same way. Those who hold to this view see the millennium as prophetic of Heaven. They believe the world will get progressively worse until Christ returns.

## **Post-Millennial View**

The Post Millennial view was much more prominent in previous generations than it is now. It is sometimes called the Preterist View. Those who interpret the millennium in this way see most of the book of Revelation as historical. They see the millennium as beginning at the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. They see the millennium as symbolic of the age we are living in right now. Christ does not rule in a physical sense, but in a spiritual sense. They see the world evolving in to a "new heaven and a new earth." Things will continually get better until Christ comes to reign personally. By the way, they typically see the millennium as a figurative amount of time and not as a literal 1,000 years.

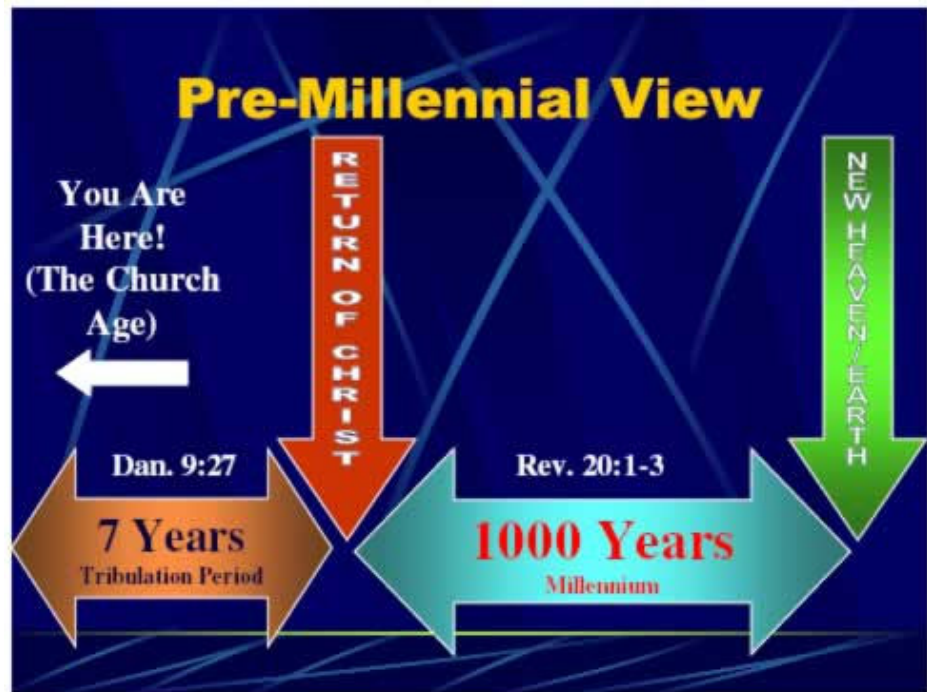


## Pre-Millennial View

The third view is called the Pre-Millennial View and it is probably the most well-known and accepted among most people that have an opinion. It is the most literal interpretation of the scripture and views the millennium as a literal 1,000 years. It sees the millennium as a future event preceded by a seven year period commonly known as the Tribulation Period. It is during this seven year time when God will judge the world and set up His millennial kingdom.

The Pre-Millennial View is depicted by the illustration below. The Millennial reign of Christ will take place right after Christ returns to this earth. After the millennium it is prophesied that God will create a new heaven and a new earth. We are told in Revelation 21:1:

(NIV) **1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." **5** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."



Now the millennial reign will be preceded by a seven year period prophesied in Daniel 9:27. This time has most commonly been called the "Tribulation Period." It is a name derived from scripture because the Bible does indicate that during this time there will be an intense period of trouble or tribulation. Now there is some question about how the return of Christ will fit against this seven years, but we'll address that later.

Now this seven year period we said was most commonly called the Tribulation Period, but a more accurate, scriptural name would be Daniel's 70th Week. Daniel chapter 9 records future events about a ruler who is to come – whom we know as the Antichrist. In verse 27, we are told...

**Daniel 9:27** (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.' In the middle of the `seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

We will get deeper into this later. For now we see that this seven year period will precede the millennium. According to the Pre-Millennial View of things, all of these events are still in the future. We are still in a period commonly called the "church age."

In Revelation 20:1-10, we have quite a detailed description of this thousand year period. This is why many hold to a more literal interpretation of the millennium, and this is the position of this study.

**Rev 20:1-10** (NIV) And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. {2} He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**. {3} He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the **thousand years** were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short

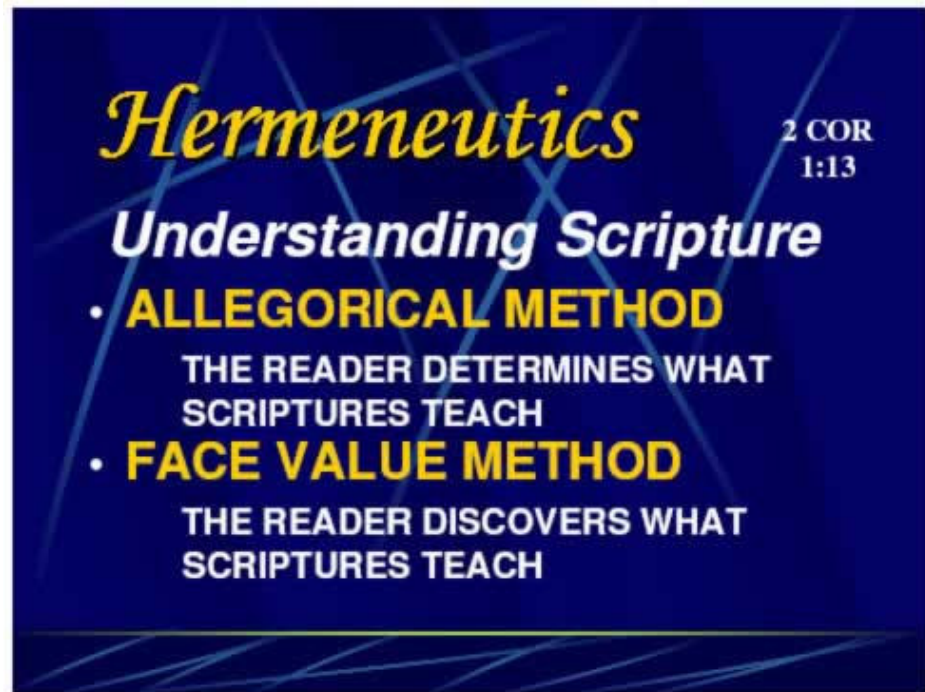
time. {4} I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a **thousand years**. {6} Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a **thousand years**. {7} When the **thousand years** are over, Satan will be released from his prison {8} and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. {9} They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. {10} And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (*emphasis added*)

*An important point to note is that these three views of the millennium not only represent a difference in viewpoint of end-time prophesy, but more importantly they reflect a difference in interpreting scripture.*

There is a fancy word that means the science of interpreting scripture. It is the word "Hermeneutics" (Her-man-new-tics). It simply means "understanding scripture." The Apostle Paul wrote...

**2 Cor 1:13** (NIV) For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand...

God gave us His word so that we might understand His purposes. But how do we interpret scripture? These different views of the millennium reveal that there are two basic ways to interpret the Bible.



The first is the allegorical method. The allegorical method sees everything as a symbol of something else. Both the A-Millennial and Post-Millennial views are allegorical interpretations. They see most prophecies as symbolic. The problem with an allegorical interpretation is that ultimately the reader determines what the scripture teaches because he has to decide what each symbol means.

Opposed to the allegorical method is the “Face Value Method.” This method takes scripture at its most literal, customary meaning. Even a “face value method” recognizes that sometimes the scripture obviously is meant to be taken symbolically – especially in prophesy. But in those instances it is still a face value method in that a symbolic interpretation is clearly taught and often explained. The result is that rather than the reader making a determination of what is being taught, the reader simply discovers what the scripture teaches as it is taken in its most literal sense.

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Session 2

## Daniel's 70th Week

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Session 1 ended with the explanation of how the three views of the millennium reflect our understanding of interpreting scripture. One can approach scripture from an allegorical viewpoint, or a literal - face-value approach. This study takes a literal or face-value approach to interpretation. There are five keys to a face-value hermeneutic or interpretation.

**Five Keys to a Face-Value Hermeneutic**

1. **Accept the meaning of scripture in its most normal, natural, customary sense**
2. **Take scripture in context**
3. **Compare scripture with scripture**
4. **Before truth is realized, all seeming scriptural contradictions must be harmonized**
5. **Watch for Near/Far prophetic applications in scripture**

The first is to accept the meaning of scripture in its most normal, natural, and customary sense. Number two is to take scripture in context. Any individual or group of individual scriptures can be made to say almost anything. The setting and ideas of the passages surrounding the scripture must be taken into account. Number three: compare scripture with scripture. Someone once said that scripture is its own best interpreter. Number four: before truth is realized, all seeming scriptural contradictions must be harmonized. If the proper interpretation is found in a scriptural passage, it will harmonize with all other scripture. Number five: watch for near/far prophetic applications in scripture.

Matthew quoted Isaiah's prophecy to King Ahaz...

**Isaiah 7:14** (NIV) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. **15** He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. **16** But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

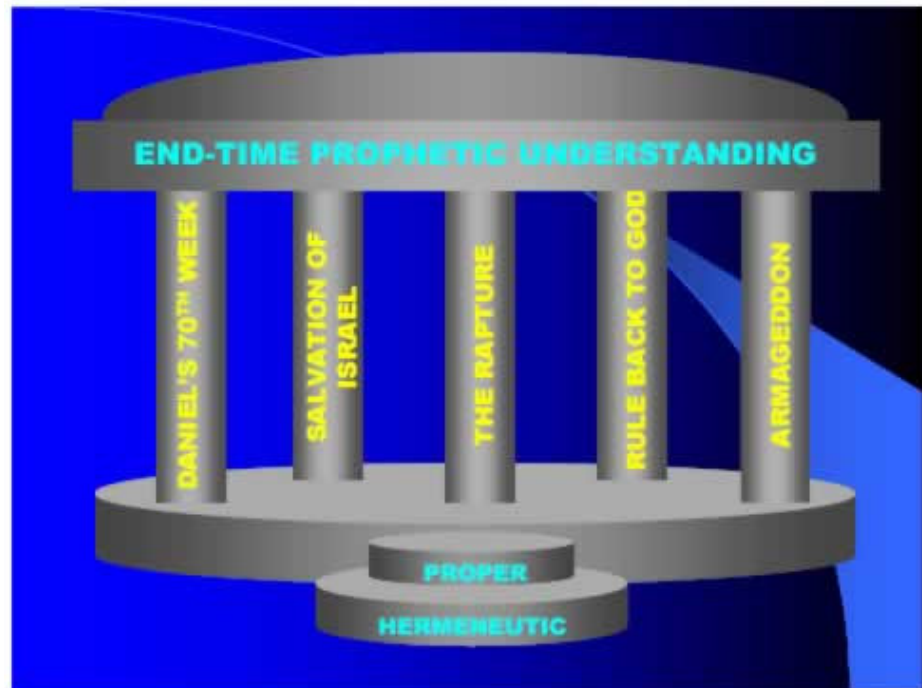
This prophecy was given to Ahaz and was fulfilled in his time. But Matthew quotes this prophecy...

**Matt 1:22** (NIV) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel--which means, "God with us."

There were several hundred years between these two fulfillments. Therefore, it was fulfilled in the near future in King Ahaz's time and in the far future when Jesus was born. This is a common occurrence in Biblical prophecy. So, the fifth key is to watch for possible near/far applications to prophecy.

## Understanding Prophecy

We start with a proper scriptural interpretation (Hermeneutic), and then we must understand that end-time prophecy revolves around five concepts as depicted in the pillars in the illustration below:



These five concepts are 1) Daniel's 70th Week, 2) The Salvation of Israel, 3) The Rapture, 4) God reclaiming rule of this earth, and 5) The Battle of Armageddon. These are five prophetic markers that delineate end-time events.

## Daniel's 70th Week

The first pillar of end-time understanding is Daniel's 70th Week. This week is described in Daniel.

**Dan 9:24** (NIV) Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

These "sevens" are seven years. The KJV called them "weeks" of years. Therefore there are 70 sets of seven years prophesied. Daniel tells us that the 70 "sevens" are decreed regarding two things: 1) your people (Israel) and 2) your holy city (Jerusalem). Then he lists six goals for establishing this period of years.

1. To finish transgression
2. To put an end to sin
3. To atone for wickedness
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up vision and prophecy
6. To anoint the Most Holy

In the next verse he elaborates on this 70 "sevens" of years...

**Daniel 9:25** (NIV) Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

- (7 sevens + 62 sevens = 69 sevens)
- 69 X 7 years = 483 Years

In 445 B.C. Artaxerxes Longimanus issued a decree to rebuild Jerusalem (cf. Neh 2:5). From 445 B.C. to Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem = 483 years exactly! Daniel continues...

**Daniel 9:26** (NIV) *After the sixty-two 'sevens,'* the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. **27** He will confirm a covenant with many for *one 'seven.'* In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (emphasis added)

- 69 sevens + 1 seven = 70th seven = Daniel's 70th Week

We are told in verse 27 that the "ruler who will come" will confirm a covenant with many for one "seven." Most agree that this "ruler" refers to the Antichrist. Therefore the 70th Week of Daniel will begin by the signing of a seven-year covenant by Antichrist with many. Most also agree that this will be a covenant of peace between Israel and the "many." Isaiah writes of this covenant.

**Isaiah 28:15** (NIV) You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

"69 Weeks are past, and only the 70th week remains before 'everlasting righteousness' can be brought to Israel and the most Holy One will be anointed, reclaiming rule over the earth from Satan." (Van Kampen, Robert, The Sign, 1999, page 91).

Daniel's seventieth week is also referred to in the book of Revelation. Although the prophecies do not explicitly mention Daniel the correlation is unmistakable.

**Rev 13:4-5** (NIV) Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" **{5}** The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

- 42 months = 3 ½ years
- 3 ½ years = "the middle of the seven"

**Rev 12:6** (NIV) The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

- 1,260 Days = 3½ Years

**Rev 12:14** (NIV) The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

- Time (1 Year) + Times (2 Years) + ½ Time (½ Year) = 3½ Years

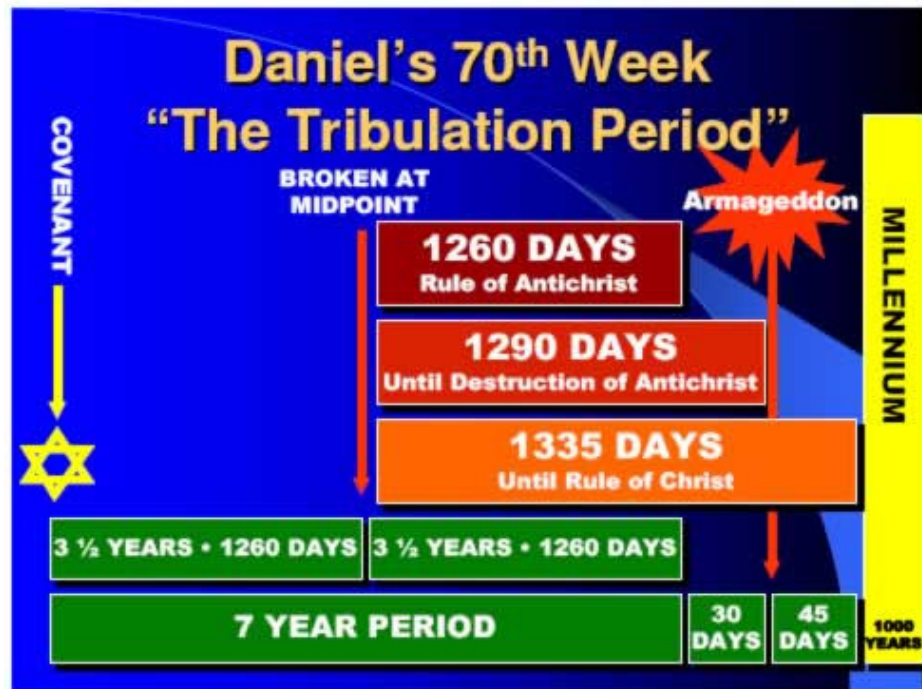
The prophet Daniel elaborates further on these time periods...

**Dan 12:11-12** (NIV) From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. **{12}** Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

- 1,290 days = [ 1,260 days + 30 days ]

- 1,335 days = [ 1,290 days + 45 days ]

Daniel prophesies of "the middle of the seven" which is 3½ years or 1,260 days. Then at the end of the book he mentions that from time that the Abomination of Desolation is set up - which is at the "middle of the seven," there will be 1,290 days - this is 30 days more than the 3½ years. Then he says that "blessed is the one" who reaches the 1,335 days. This is 45 more days than the 1,260 + 30. Each of these periods have a significant point of reference. Rev. 13:5 tells us that he will rule for 42 months or 1,260 days. Daniel 9:27 states the Abomination of Desolation will be set up until the "end is poured out on him." and last, we are told that one is blessed if he reaches the 1,335 days. Therefore, we can put together this picture. The Antichrist will rule until the end of the 70th week or 1,260 days. Thirty days later he will meet his "end." The book of Revelation tells us that his "end" will be at Armageddon. The next event will be the establishment of the millennial reign of Christ which we can surmise will happen 45 days later. This is depicted in the chart below...



The final event that takes place during Daniel's 70th week is the salvation of all Israel. The Apostle Paul states...

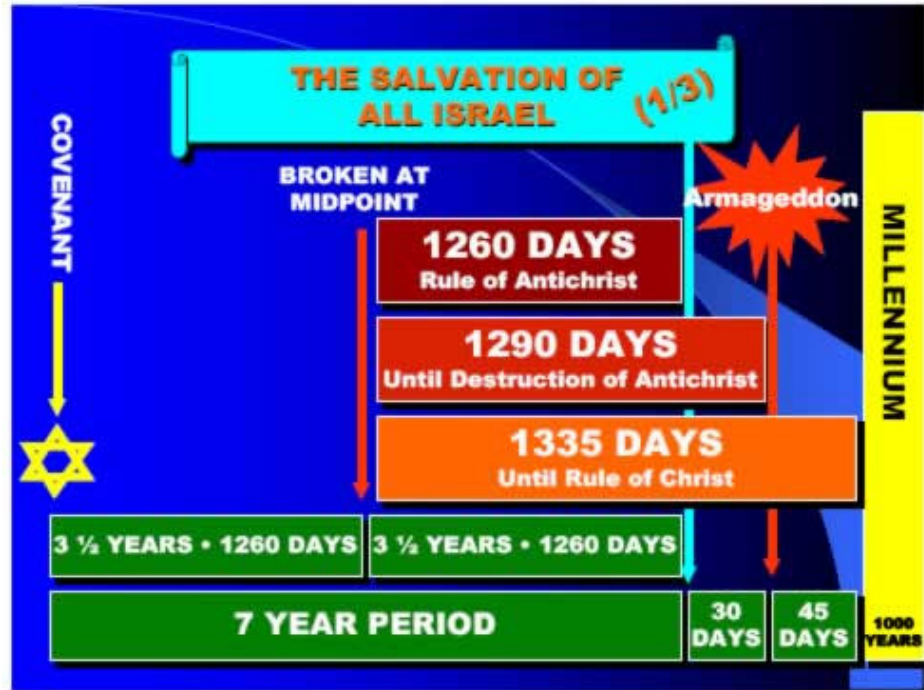
**Rom 11:25-28** (NIV) I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. {26} **And so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. {27} And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins. (emphasis added)

The prophet Zechariah records that by the this time there will only be 1/3 of Israel left!

**Zechariah 13:8-9** (NIV) "In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. {9}

This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

Now we can modify our chart to include this last event of Daniel's 70th Week...



We are left with two time periods that need a more detailed explanation - that is the 30 day period and 45 day period following the 70th Week.



These periods will be covered in detail in the next two sessions, but we can classify them as follows:

- 30 Days = Reclamation Period
- 45 Days = Restoration Period

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Session 3

## The 30 Days After the 70th Week

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There are two periods mentioned in the book of Daniel that occur immediately after the end of Daniel's 70th Week.



The 30 day portion can be classified as **The Reclamation Period**, and the 45 day portion can be called **The Restoration Period**. These names are chosen to clarify the things that will happen during each specific period. To understand the 30 day Reclamation Period, we must look back at what will happen at the mid-point of the 70th Week.



## Antichrist Demands Worship

The Antichrist will sign a seven year covenant with Israel and other nations and at the mid-point of the 70th Week, or 3½ years into the covenant, he will break the terms of the covenant and demand that the world worship him.

**Dan 9:27** (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

The Apostle Paul records more clearly what this "Abomination of Desolation" will be...

**2 Thess 2:3-4** (NIV) Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

{4} He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

## Woman Flees to Wilderness

Next, the scripture tells us that the "woman" will flee to the wilderness. Most scholars agree that this woman is a symbol for Israel.

**Rev 12:13-14** (NIV) When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. {14} The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

- Time = 1 year; times = 2 years, ½ time = ½ year
- 1 + 2 + ½ = 3 ½ years

Scripture identifies this "wilderness" as the land of Edom. The prophet Obadiah prophesies against Edom for the way they will treat those of Israel who flee...

**Obadiah 1:12,14-15** (NIV) You should not look down on your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble. {14} You should not wait at the crossroads to cut down their fugitives, nor hand over their survivors in the day of their trouble. {15} The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head.

## 144,000 Are Sealed

**Rev 7:3-4** (NIV) "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." {4} Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

Most scholars agree that this 144,000 identifies the "woman." Therefore, as Antichrist begins to demand the worship of the world, Israel will rebel and at least 144,000 will flee to a desert place prepared for them.

**Ezekiel 20:35-38** (NIV) I will bring you into the desert of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you. {36} As I judged your fathers in the desert of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign LORD. {37} I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. {38} I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

## Two Witnesses Prophecy for 1,260 Days

That number - 1,260 days (or 3½ years) appears again as the book of Revelation foretells of two servants of God that will come on the scene.

**Rev 11:3-6** (NIV) And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." {4} These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. {5} If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. {6} These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

Many have sought to identify these two witnesses, the scripture doesn't explicitly tell us. However, common thought is that these two might be Moses and Elijah.

## Trumpet Judgments Begin

**Rev 8:1-2,6-7** (NIV) When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. {2} And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. {6} Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. {7} The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

This is an overview of the events that are prophesied to take place during the latter half of the 70th Week. Much greater detail will be given to these prophesies and their timing further on - but, to understand the 75 days period that follows the 70th Week, the background of prior events must be understood. These 75 days break down as follows:



The 30 day Reclamation Period will consist of four major events that will serve to finalize God's judgment of the world. Furthermore, as the prophecies are calculated, so often giving the number of days, it is possible to set the timing of the 30 day period and to delineate what will happen during the first five days of this Reclamation Period.

## Two Witnesses Killed

First, we can place the timing of the 30 day period because of the prophecy of the death of the two witnesses...

**Rev 11:7-8** (NIV) Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. {8} Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

We were told in Rev. 11:3-6 that the witnesses WILL testify for 1,260 days. Therefore, they cannot be killed until their testimony is finished. Furthermore, the death of the two witnesses is clearly foretold as occurring just before the seventh angel sounds his trumpet in Rev. 10:7.

- Cannot be killed until end of 1260 Days
- Between 6th and 7th Trumpets

This places the timing clearly at the end of the 70th Week and the beginning of the 30 day period. Specifically, the witnesses are killed WHEN their testimony is finished. Therefore, they will be killed on the first day of the 30 day period.

## All Israel Saved

Prophecies concerning the salvation of Israel also help pinpoint the timing of events during this 30 days. The Apostle Paul gives us a clue as to what will happen next...

**Rom 11:25-26** (NIV) I do not want you to be ignorant of this **mystery**, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. **{26}** And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob." (emphasis added)

Paul is explaining that all of Israel WILL be saved and he calls it specifically a "mystery." This exact same term is used in the book of Revelation as the seventh trumpet is about to sound...

**Rev 10:7** (NIV) But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the **mystery** of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets. (emphasis added)

The prophet Hosea acknowledges the repentant spirit of Israel at the last day. He also provides us with a time frame for Israel's restoration back to their true Messiah.

**Hosea 6:1-3** (NIV) Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. **{2}** After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. **{3}** Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.

So, the restoration of Israel will be a three day process. It is also interesting to note that Hosea states that the Lord will appear and come to them. There are several prophecies that indicate that the Lord will deal personally with Israel in the last day.

**Micah 2:12-13** (NIV) "I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen [*Bozrah*], like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. **{13}** One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the LORD at their head." (emphasis added)

The prophet Micah states that Israel (or Jacob) will be gathered like sheep in a pen. The Hebrew word for pen is the word Bozrah. In fact the King James Version of the Bible translates this verse as follows...

**Micah 2:12** (KJV) ... I will put them together as the sheep of **Bozrah**, as the flock in the midst of their fold... (emphasis added)

The conclusion is that Israel will flee to Edom and to the city of Bozrah. It is also important to note that Micah 2:13 prophesies that there is One who will go up before them... "Their King will pass through before them, the LORD at their head."

## The Journey to Jerusalem

**Isaiah 63:1-4** (NIV) Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." **{2}** Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? **{3}** "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. **{4}** For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come.

All of these prophecies indicate that Jesus will personally appear to those Israelites who flee to the wilderness. He will judge them and they will finally acknowledge Jesus Christ as their true Messiah and Lord. Then he will lead them out of Bozrah on a two day journey to Jerusalem. Other prophecies indicate that the wilderness remnant will not be the only Israelites to come to the Lord. As He journeys to Jerusalem He will be joined by other Jews who remain and will have been in hiding.

**Hosea 11:10-11** (NIV) They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. {11} "They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria. I will settle them in their homes," declares the LORD.

Those who come to Jesus from all over the world are called His children. Other passages indicate that this will be a gathering of all of those who are left - who have accepted Christ as their Savior.

**Isaiah 14:1** (NIV) The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. *Aliens will join them* and unite with the house of Jacob. (emphasis added)

So, this seems to be a universal gathering of all those who believe in Jesus - what a reunion! One of the most moving scriptures about this time is found in Zechariah...

**Zec 12:10** (NIV) And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

As Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem, a multitude of the Israelites will come flocking to Him - recognizing that He is Lord. Now something awesome happens. On the third day Jesus enters Jerusalem. This is also the day prophesied that the two witnesses are resurrected. When the Antichrist kills the two witnesses on the first day of the 30 day period, their bodies will lie in the streets for three days.

**Rev 11:10-11** (NIV) The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. {11} But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.

The scripture is not explicit, but the prophecies lead one to believe that Jesus, Himself, arrives in Jerusalem with redeemed Israel and raises the two witnesses from the dead. What a spectacular possibility! Three days have a significant meaning in scripture. When God prepared to appear to the children of Israel in the wilderness, He had them consecrate themselves for three days.

**Exodus 19:10-11** (NIV) And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes {11} and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

It seems fitting that in three days, all Israel is saved and the two witnesses are resurrected. Prophecy tells us that once He arrives in Jerusalem, Jesus will lead Israel to the Mount Zion, because He is reclaiming His rule over the earth.

**Obadiah 1:21** (NIV) Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

**Rev 14:1,3,4b** (NIV) Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. {3} And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. {4} ... They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

At this point the seventh angel sounds his trumpet...

**Rev 11:15** (NIV) The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

But God's judgment is not quite over...

**Rev 14:7** (NIV) He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

**Rev 14:19-20** (NIV) The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. **{20}** They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

**Rev 15:1** (NIV) I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues--last, because with them God's wrath is completed.

God's final wrath is about to be poured out on the world and it will happen quickly. Revelation describes the seven bowl judgments that follow the seven trumpets. But before these final judgments are poured out, Jesus provides for His followers.

**Zechariah 14:4-5** (NIV) On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. **{5}** You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

In this prophecy, God has prepared a place of refuge for His people before His final wrath is poured out. This is the only place Azel is mentioned, and we know nothing more about it except that it is a place of refuge. Prophecy does mention this time of protection.

**Isaiah 26:20-21** (NIV) Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. **{21}** See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer.

Then the bowl judgments begin...

**Rev 16:1** (NIV) Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."

So, the 30 day period ends up looking like this...



## The Bowl Judgments

- They will happen quickly (possibly in as little as 25 days?)

- All things affected (rather than 1/3 as in the trumpet judgments)
- Seventh Bowl = Total Devastation
- Followed by Armageddon

**Revelation 16:1** (NIV) Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." **2** The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. **3** The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died. **4** The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. **5** Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; **6** for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." **7** And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments." **8** The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. **9** They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. **10** The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony **11** and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done. **12** The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. **13** Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. **14** They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. **15** "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." **16** Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. **17** The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" **18** Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. **19** The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. **20** Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. **21** From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

As you read the bowl judgments, it becomes apparent that they follow one another very quickly. For example, the first bowl is a judgment of sores. But, when the fifth bowl of darkness is poured out, the scripture states that the people cursed God because of the sores - the sores were the first bowl. Therefore the indication is that there will not be much time in between judgments. It makes sense that they would happen in a span of 25 days. Also, the fact that all things are affected would necessitate that the bowls happen quickly, or no one would be left alive.

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Session 4

## The 45 Days Before the Millennium

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We ended the last session dealing with the pouring out of God's final wrath in the form of the seven bowls found in the book of Revelation chapter 16. The 30 day period ends with two final events as depicted below:



### The Bema Judgment

By this time, all of the saints of God will be in heaven having been rescued from the earth in the "rapture." While the Salvation of Israel and God's final wrath are happening on earth, in heaven the saints of God will be undergoing what the scripture calls the "judgment seat of Christ." The word "judgment seat" is the Greek word "bēma," therefore this judgment is often called the "bema judgment." It is foretold by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians...

**2 Cor 5:10** (NIV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat [bēma] of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

The timing of this judgment is revealed in Revelation 11:15-18 as being after the seventh trumpet has sounded.

**Rev 11:15-18** (NIV) The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever. {16} And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, {17} saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. {18} The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth.

There are three prophetic events mentioned in this passage. First, the seventh trumpet is sounded. Second, it is proclaimed that God has once again begun to reign on earth. And third, the time has come for *judging the dead and for rewarding God's servants.*" So, the judgment seat of Christ will be taking place during this time.

We studied that there are 1,260 days for the rule of Antichrist and 1,290 days until the destruction of Antichrist. The question is, what happens to stop the rule of Antichrist during the 30 days? Well, we have seen that Jesus, Himself, will return and lead the Israelites in exile back into Jerusalem and then reclaim rule from Antichrist. With Jesus' return, the power of Antichrist is limited. We are told this in the book of 2 Thessalonians.

**Dictionary entry:**  
ἀναίρεω  
*render ineffective, nullify, cancel; destroy, abolish, do away with*  
(passive *pass*)

**2 Thess 2:8** (NIV) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and **destroy** by the splendor of his coming.

The word destroy in the original language does not mean to annihilate, but to render ineffective.

Therefore, as Jesus appears on the scene, the Antichrist's power is rendered ineffective. In fact, the only two actions we have recorded that the Antichrist will take during the 30 days, is to kill the two witnesses and to gather together the nations for the battle of Armageddon.

## The Battle of Armageddon

**Rev 19:11-16** (NIV) I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. {12} His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. {13} He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. {14} The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. {15} Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. {16} On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

This is a description of the Lord Jesus leading the armies of heaven to the battle of Armageddon. This is the decisive battle when the Antichrist will finally be defeated and the war WILL be over! The scripture tells us that the Lord will be leading the armies of heaven.

**Rev 19:13-14** (NIV) He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. {14} *The armies of heaven were following him*, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. (emphasis added)

The question is, who are these "armies of heaven?" The scriptures are quite clear about the identity of this army.

**Matt 13:40-42** (NIV) As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. {41} *The Son of Man will send out his angels*, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. {42} They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (emphasis added)

Here in Matthew, the scriptures tell us that at the end of the age it will be the angels that are sent to "weed out" the kingdom. Several other times the angels are spoken of as being the agents of divine judgment and completion.

**2 Thess 1:7-8** (NIV) ... This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire *with his powerful angels*. {8} He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (emphasis added)

There are many prophecies that deal with this final conflict.

**Isaiah 34:1-3** (NIV) Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear... {2} The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter. {3} Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a stench; the mountains will be soaked with their blood.

**Rev 19:19-21** (NIV) Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. {20} But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. *The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur*. {21} The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. (emphasis added)

This passage deals with the aftermath of the battle. We are told that the beast and the false prophet (the Antichrist and his right-hand man) will be captured and then thrown into the lake of fire. All the rest are killed by the sword that comes from the Lord's mouth. Some have speculated that this "sword" is the word of God coming from the mouth of Jesus. After all, in John 1:1 Jesus is called the Word.

**Ezekiel 39:4** (NIV) On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals.

We are told twice that the birds will eat the flesh of those who will be killed in the battle. We are also told in Ezekiel that it will take seven months to bury all the dead from the battle

**Ezekiel 39:12-13** (NIV) For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. {13} All the people of the land will bury them, and the day I am glorified will be a memorable day for them, declares the Sovereign LORD.

## The Restoration Period



God's judgment is finished as the last bowl is poured upon the earth...

**Rev 16:17-18** (NIV) The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne,

saying, "It is done!" {18} Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. {19} The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. {20} Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

The seventh bowl symbolizes total devastation. The earth will suffer a catastrophe as never before. It is described as an earthquake more severe than has ever happened before. The cities of the nations collapse and mountains and islands can no longer be found. This is the reason that Jesus protects the saints in the place called Azel.

## The Restoration of Mt. Zion

**Zechariah 14:10** (NIV) The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses.

We are told that the "whole land" will be like the Arabah. The Arabah is a desert. This seems to refer to the devastation described by the seventh bowl. But then we are told that Jerusalem will remain in its place and in fact, be raised up.

**Isaiah 2:2** (NIV) In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

This verse is repeated again in Micah 4:1. Mt. Zion will be raised as "chief:" of the mountains. This seems to be the opposite of what had happened in the seventh bowl. As all mountains disappear, Mt. Zion becomes the greatest of all mountains - and all nations stream to it.

**Ezekiel 20:40** (NIV) For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them...

## The Restoration of Israel

**Jeremiah 31:10-12** (NIV) Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' {11} For the LORD will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. {12} They will come and shout for joy on the *heights of Zion*; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD-- the grain, the new wine and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. (emphasis added)

In Daniel we read that a major reason for the 70th Week was the judgment of Israel. But Isaiah records how Israel will come to truly rely on Jesus - "the Holy One of Israel" as their Messiah. Where they relied on the Antichrist and his covenant, they will now truly rely on the Lord.

**Isaiah 10:20-22** (NIV) In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. {21} A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God. {22} Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand by the sea, only a remnant will return. Destruction has been decreed, overwhelming and righteous.

We also see that Israel will be restored from all nations. But, this will be a restoration of everyone "who is called by my name."

**Isaiah 43:5-7** (NIV) Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. {6} I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth-- {7} everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

**Micah 7:7-9** (NIV) But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. {8} Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. {9} Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

Isaiah makes it plain that the "new" Israel will also include foreigners or gentiles.

**Isaiah 56:6-8** (NIV) And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant-- {7} these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." {8} The Sovereign LORD declares-- he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

## The Restoration of the Temple

**Ezekiel 43:6-7** (NIV) While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. {7} He said: "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel will never again defile my holy name--neither they nor their kings--by their prostitution and the lifeless idols of their kings at their high places.

Whereas other temples were built by man, we are told here that Jesus, Himself, will build this temple, and that he will finally bring true harmony between the roles of priest and king.

**Zechariah 6:12-13** (NIV) Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. {13} It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'

## Christ to Rule Over the Earth

**Daniel 7:11,13-14** (NIV) "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire... **{13}** In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven... He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. **{14}** He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

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## Session 5

# The Rapture

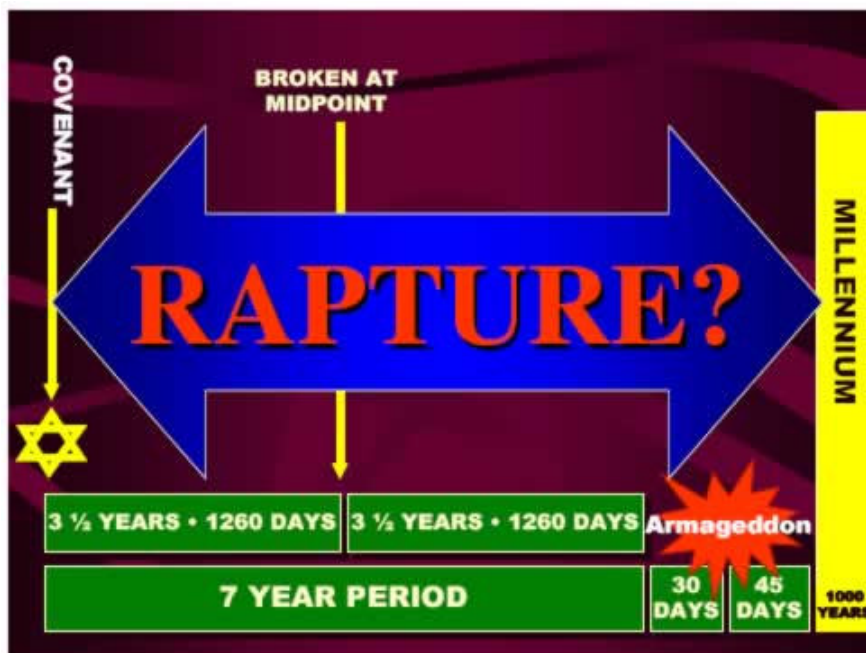
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The rapture is the great "catching away" of all those who have trusted Christ - living and dead. The word "rapture" is not found in scripture. It is from the Latin Vulgate (ancient Latin translation of the Bible) "rapere" which means to "catch up." In 1 Thess 4:17 the Bible states that we will be "caught up" and this is the phrase where the Vulgate used the word "rapere."

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 is the definitive passage that describes the event we call the rapture.

**1 Thess 4:15-18** (NIV) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **{16}** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **{17}** After that, we who are still alive and are left will be *caught up* together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. **{18}** Therefore encourage each other with these words. (emphasis added)

The fact that the saints will be raptured is clear in scripture and there has not been much debate on that fact. However, the timing of the rapture has been hotly debated for centuries. So, the question is, when will the rapture occur?



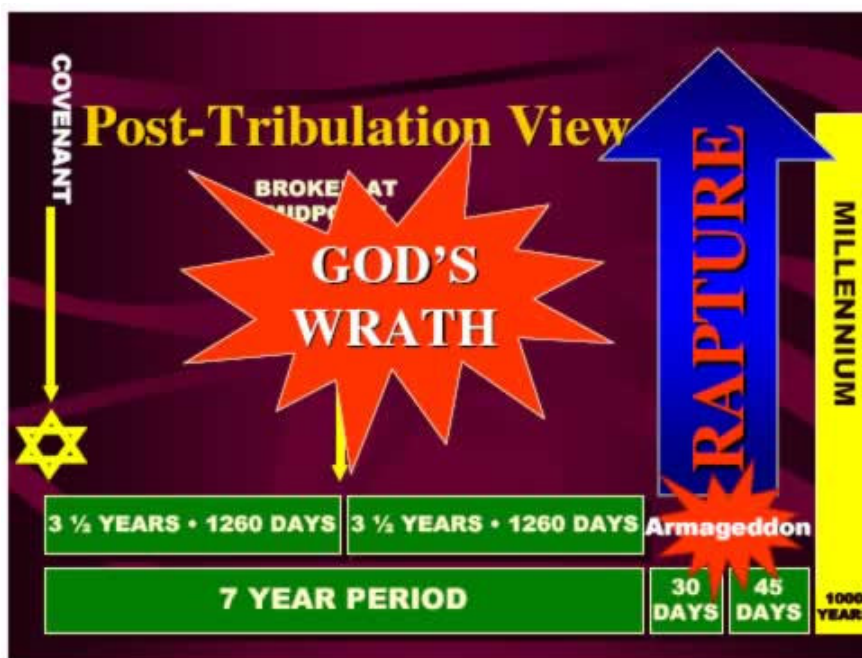
There are three major views as to when the rapture will occur. They are depicted below.



The Pre-Tribulation position is that the rapture will occur at the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week. In fact, those that hold to this view see the rapture as initiating the 70th Week. The Mid-Tribulation position is that the rapture will occur at the mid-point of the 70th Week when Antichrist demands the world worship him. The Post-Tribulation position is that the rapture will occur at the end of the 70th Week. This position is that the second coming is exactly that - the second coming, that Jesus will return at the battle of Armageddon and rapture his saints. Let us look at each of these views in greater detail in reverse order.

## Post-Tribulation Rapture

According to the Post-Tribulation view, the rapture will happen at the battle of Armageddon. All during the 70th Week, God's wrath will be poured out upon this world.



There are some scriptural problems with this view. The first problem is that according to this view, **God's people endure His wrath**. There are many scriptures that teach the opposite...

**Romans 5:9** (NIV) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall *we be saved from God's wrath* through him! (emphasis added)

**1 Thess 1:10** (NIV) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, *who rescues us from the coming wrath*. (emphasis added)

**1 Thess 5:9** (NIV) For *God did not appoint us to suffer wrath* but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (emphasis added)

**Rev 3:10** (NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also *keep you from the hour of trial* that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. (emphasis added)

**Luke 21:36** (NIV) Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to *escape all that is about to happen*, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. (emphasis added)

There is also a problem about the timing of the rapture. According to the scripture, no one knows the day or the hour when the rapture will occur - not even Jesus - only the Father. Now if the rapture occurs at the battle of Armageddon, then **the day is predictable**. Once the 70th Week begins one must only wait 7 years plus 30 days.

**Mark 13:32** (NIV) No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

A third problem is the mere fact that there is not one scripture that clearly specifies this timing for the rapture.

A fourth problem is that there is a conflict in the timing of the Bema Judgment and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb that will follow the judgment. If God's saints are still on earth -

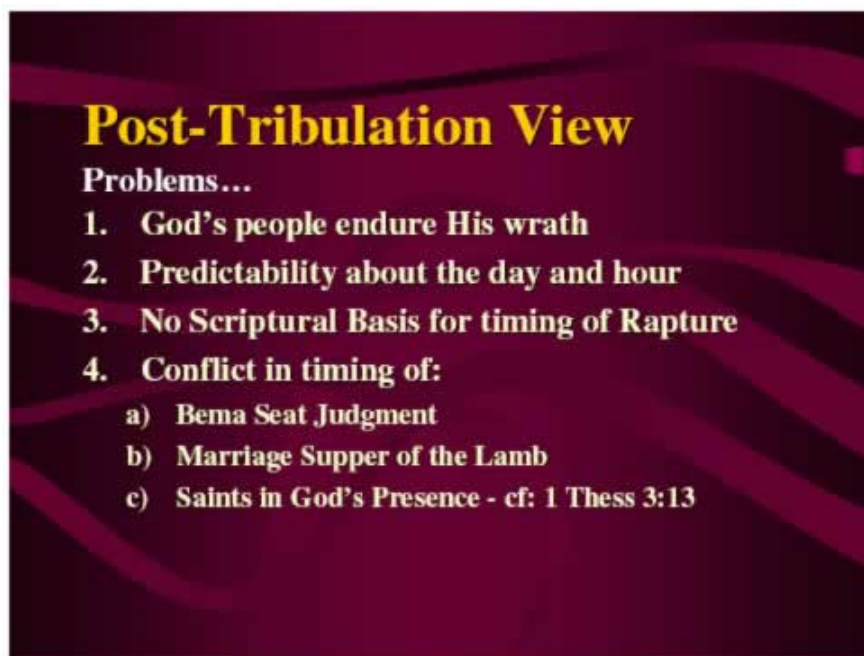
how can they participate in the Bema Judgment or the Marriage Supper?

A fifth problem is also a conflict in timing and is indicated in 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

**1 Thess 3:13** (NIV) May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy *in the presence of our God* and Father *when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones*. (emphasis added)

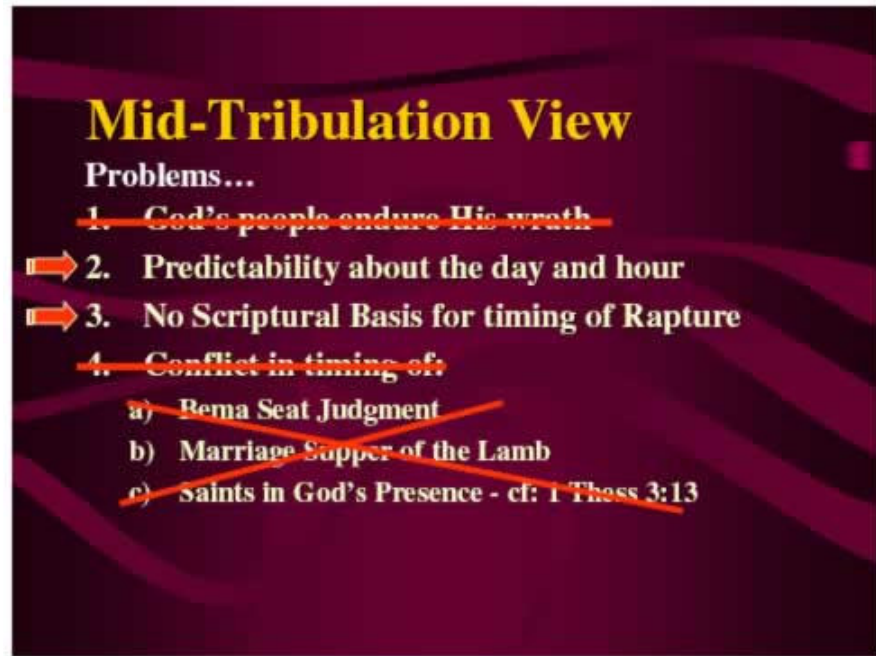
If God's people are in His presence WHEN Jesus returns with His holy ones, then it is impossible for His people to be on the earth when Jesus returns!

The resulting problems are pictured below:



## Mid-Tribulation Rapture

The Mid-Tribulation rapture position was actually a response to the problems created in the Post-Tribulation view. Because the scripture is so clear about God's people not enduring His wrath, some chose to see the rapture happening at the mid-point of the 70th Week. And this position DID solve some of the problems. If the rapture occurred at the mid-point, then God's people would not suffer God's wrath and the conflict in timing of the Bema Judgment and Marriage Supper of the Lamb are solved - as well as the conflict in 1 Thess 3:13.



However, this position still did not solve the predictability problem. One must still only count 1,260 days after the beginning of the 70th Week. Also, again there is no scriptural basis for the rapture occurring at the mid-point of the 70th Week.

## Pre-Tribulation Rapture

By far, the most popular view is the Pre-Tribulation position. This is what has been called the "left-behind" view. According to the Pre-Tribulation view, Jesus will rapture His people at the beginning of the 70th Week. God's people are completely absent from the earth during the 7 years (except those who are saved during the 7 years) while they are going through the Bema Judgment and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Meanwhile, on earth God's wrath is being poured out upon mankind. Many see God's people returning with Jesus at the battle of Armageddon.



During the 70th Week or what is more commonly called "the tribulation period," this view teaches that some very specific things are happening on the earth. There are three significant events that are specific to this view. First, this view sees the seals, trumpets and bowls as all signifying God's wrath and that they are poured out upon mankind during the entire 7 years. Second, the 144,000 Jews spoken of in Revelation chapter seven are seen as Jewish evangelists who will usher in the greatest revival in history - which is the third significant event.



**Revelation 7:3** (NIV) "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." {4} Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. {5} From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad

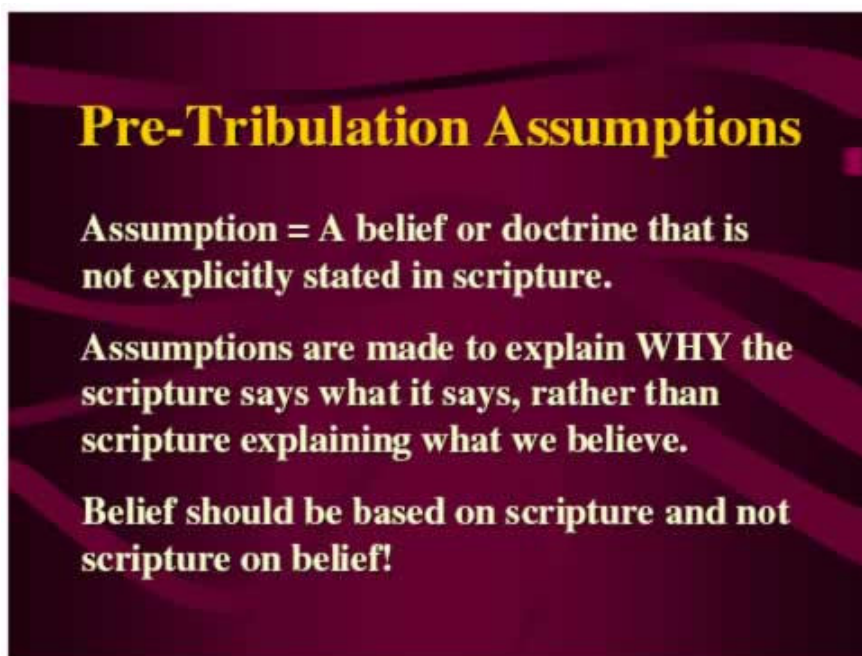
12,000, {6} from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, {7} from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, {8} from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000. {9} After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

These evangelists and the revival explain the multitude that follow in verse 9. Now the Pre-Tribulation view is the only view that has the proper scriptural balance between the deliverance of God's people and the punishment of the ungodly through the pouring out of the wrath of God.



Because the scripture declares that God's wrath will punish the wicked, but God's people will be "rescued from the coming wrath."

There are six assumptions that form the basis of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view. These assumptions are defined as follows:



The first assumption is that the *70th Week is only for the Jewish Nation: Israel and the church are separate entities and God cannot work with both at the same time. The Old Testament is for Jews only.* I have heard it stated that when Jesus arose from the dead the Jewish clock stopped and the Gentile clock started. When the 70th Week arrives, the Gentile clock will stop and the Jewish clock will start once again. This assumption is based on the scripture in Luke 21...

**Luke 21:23** (NIV) How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. **{24}** They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles *until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.* (emphasis added)

This is an assumption because this reasoning does not hold out in scripture. For instance, on the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter spoke to the crowd and applied Old Testament prophecy to describe what was going on with the people who would become the new Christian church.

**Acts 2:15** (NIV) These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! **{16}** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **{17}** "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. **{18}** Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. **{19}** I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. **{20}** The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. **{21}** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Furthermore, he quotes the Old Testament prophecy regarding the Day of the Lord - which should be an exclusively Jewish prophecy - and states that on that day "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

The second assumption is that *Matthew chapter 24 was written specifically for the Jews*. This is an assumption because it is not explicitly stated in scripture and it allows the reader to ignore this passage as irrelevant. We would not allow anyone to blatantly ignore any other passage in this same way. The third assumption is that *Revelation 4:1 signifies the rapture*.

**Rev 4:1** (NIV) After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, **“Come up here,** and I will show you what must take place after this.”

The Apostle John is exiled on the isle of Patmos, and Jesus appears to him in visions and instructs him to write down what he sees. In chapter four, John is told to "come up here" to heaven where his vision continues. Most who hold the Pre-Tribulation view see the words "come up here" as signifying the rapture - the catching away into heaven. The door is open in heaven and the voice is like a trumpet. The problem is that this too, is an assumption. The scripture does not indicate, in any way, this symbolism..

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7, the "one who holds him back" is mentioned (in the KJV he is called the "restrainer") as one who holds back the Antichrist from being revealed until the proper time.

**2 Thess 2:6-8** (NIV) And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. {7} For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the *one who now holds it back* will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. {8} And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (emphasis added)

Those who hold to a Pre-Tribulation view adamantly insist that *the "restrainer" is the Holy Spirit*. Therefore, at the rapture He is taken out of the way with the church allowing the Antichrist to be revealed to the world. This, too, is an assumption because scripture does not identify this one "who holds back."

We have already mentioned the fifth assumption, it is that the *144,000 Jews sealed in Revelation 7 become evangelists*. This is an assumption because nowhere is this stated.

The last assumption is the because of the Jewish evangelists, *the greatest revival in history takes place during the 70th Week*. This is an assumption because nowhere is there any indication that this revival takes place. It is assumed to explain the presence of the multitude that follows.



**Rev 7:9** (NIV) After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

**Rev 7:13-14** (NIV) Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" **{14}** I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

All of these assumptions make sense and fit together. Each assumption can be explained and reasoned - but the sheer number of assumptions causes questions, and promotes the conclusion that this is a view that is forced to fit together.

## Pre-Tribulation Problems

In addition to the assumptions, there are some scriptural problems with the Pre-Tribulation view. The first is that scripture mentions explicitly that *the return of Christ will be unmistakable*. According to the Pre-Tribulation view, the rapture will be only known to those taken to heaven. The rest of the world will know only that multitudes have disappeared. However, scripture indicates on several occasions that when Christ returns it will be obvious.

**Mat 24:26-27** (NIV) So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. **{27}** For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

**Luke 17:23-24** (NIV) Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. **{24}** For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

**Rev 1:7** (NIV) Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

If the rapture is a "secret" to the world, how could these scriptures be relevant? Some have explained that they are speaking of Jesus' return at the battle of Armageddon. Even with that reasoning, why would Jesus make the distinction of not believing if someone tells you "there he is" or "here he is."

Furthermore, why would Christ have not explicitly told his followers that in the last day they would be raptured, *and then* God's wrath would be poured upon the world? ***Why is the pre-tribulational rapture missing from end-time passages?***

Another problem is that according to this view, the Holy Spirit will be absent from the world having been "taken out of the way" by the rapture of the church. Therefore, how do we explain the ***greatest revival in history and the great multitude saved when the Holy Spirit is no longer in the world?***

Furthermore, scripture tells us that rather than a multitude saved, God will cause those who reject Him to be deluded into delighting in wickedness...

**2 Thess 2:10-12** (NIV) ...They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. {11} For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie {12} and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

We are also told in the book of Revelation that even after suffering God's wrath people will still not repent.

**Rev 9:20** (NIV) The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. (*this is after the 6th trumpet has sounded*)

Rather than a great revival taking place, it seems that people will dive more into wickedness and rejecting God than ever before.

Another problem is the application of ***Matthew 24 to only the Jews***. The reasoning is as follows:

- Predicts persecution of God's people, therefore has to apply to Jews & converts during Tribulation Period
- The Disciples were Jews and so He was speaking to them as Jews

But...

- They were and are a part of the Bride of Christ – what would happen to them is the same as will happen to US!
- We would not allow this with any other passage of scripture!

If there is a pre-tribulational rapture, then according to Matthew 24, there must be ***two raptures...***

**Matt 24:29-31** (NIV) Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be

darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' {30} At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. {31} And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

The Son of Man in the clouds, loud trumpet call, send his angels, gather his elect... it sounds a lot like the rapture does it not? Therefore, if the rapture has already happened, there will be another very similar event - supposedly directed at the Jews. The scripture in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 also poses a problem.

**2 Thess 2:1,3** (NIV) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him... {3} Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

This passage begins "concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ *and* our being gathered to Him..." Does this sound like he is speaking of the rapture? Then he goes on to say that "that day" will not come until the "man of lawlessness" (the Antichrist) is revealed. So what comes first? The Antichrist or the rapture?

Last, there is simply no scriptural evidence of Jewish evangelists, revivals, or for the timing of a pre-tribulational rapture.

**Pre-Tribulation View**

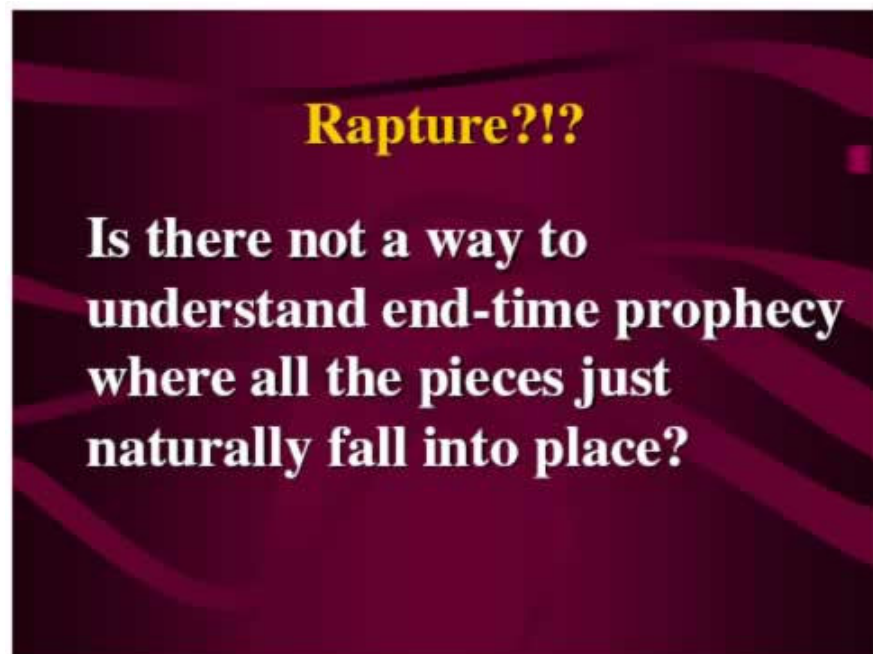
Problems...

1. **The Unmistakable Return of Christ**  
Matt 24:26-27; Luke 17:23-24; Rev 1:7
2. **Absence of Holy Spirit vs. Multitude Saved** 2 Thess 2:7;10-12; Rev. 9:20
3. **Rapture Missing in End Time passages**  
Matt 24; Mark 13; Luke 17 & 21
4. **Matthew 24 only for Jews?**
5. **Two Raptures?**  
Matt. 24:29-31



**All of the Pre-Tribulation problem points can be argued...**

**But the entire picture is still one where all the pieces seem to be forced to fit together!**



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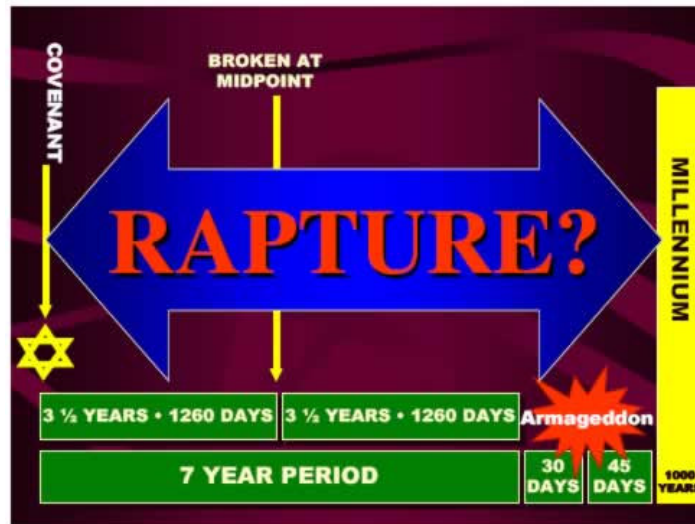


Session 6  
**The Day of the Lord**

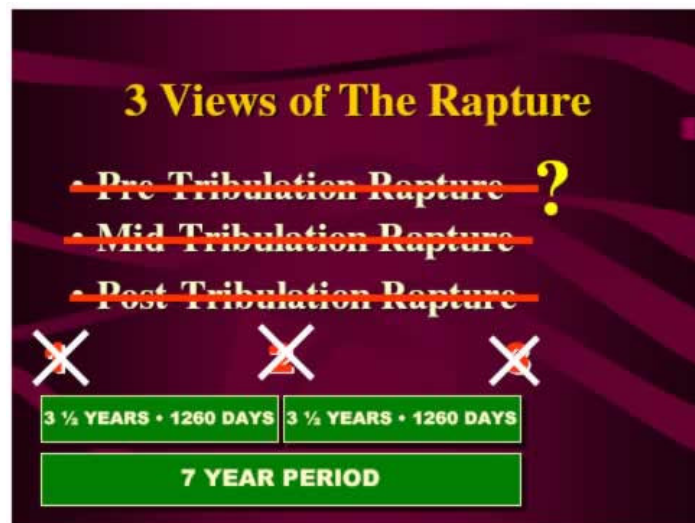
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In our last session we talked about the event in scripture commonly called the rapture. It is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 as being the event when all the saints of God, living and dead, will be gathered to meet Jesus in the air and be taken home to heaven. We discussed how the actual timing of the rapture has been debated for ages.

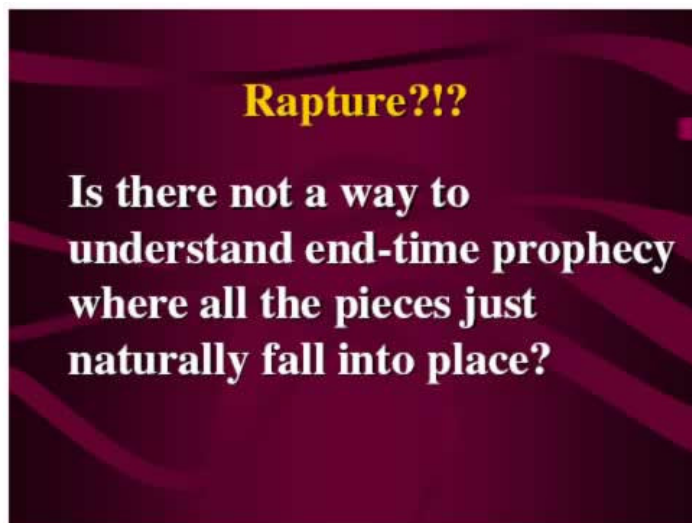
The Day of the Lord



There are three views that are the most prominent and we looked at each in detail. After analyzing each position, it became obvious that each view has its problems and none seem to fit all of scripture in a natural way.



None of the three views seemed to work. So, we asked the question...



The whole purpose of this study is because I believe the answer is "YES!" But, to understand the rapture and the issues surrounding the timing, we must first understand what the Bible teaches about the Day of the Lord.



To understand the Day of the Lord, we must look at what the scripture teaches and discover what the Day of the Lord really is.

## The Day of the Lord in the OT

### A day of wrath and judgment on the unrighteous.

**Isaiah 13:6-9** (NIV) Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. {7} Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt. {8} Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame. {9} See, the day of the LORD is coming --a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

Isaiah continues...

**Isaiah 13:11,13** (NIV) I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. {13} Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.

### Dividing of the religious vs. those who "truly rely on the Lord"

**Amos 8:3-5** (NIV) "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies--flung everywhere! Silence!" {4} Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with

the poor of the land, {5} saying, "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"-- skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales

This verse described people who are religious - they are singing in the temple and they observe the Sabbath, but their heart is in their pocketbooks. Although they are religious they have no problem cheating to make a few extra bucks.

### Day of Judgment on Israel

**Jeremiah 30:11** (NIV) I am with you and will save you,' declares the LORD. 'Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.'

The next verse describes those of Israel who have become complacent and tired of waiting on God - they feel God will do nothing about their sinful condition.

**Zephaniah 1:11-12** (NIV) Wail, you who live in the market district ; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be ruined. {12} At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.'

### Israel will trust the Holy One and be joined by aliens as God's people

**Isaiah 10:20** (NIV) In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 14:1** (NIV) The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Aliens will join them and unite with the house of Jacob.

### God Judges Israel

**Zephaniah 1:17-18** (NIV) I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like filth. {18} Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth."

**Amos 5:18-19** (NIV) Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. {19} It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

**Jeremiah 4:10** (NIV) Then I said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, how completely you have deceived this people and Jerusalem by saying, 'You will have peace,' when the sword is at our throats."

### God purifies His people

**Zep 2:1-3** (NIV) Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation, {2} before the appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's wrath comes upon you. {3} Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger.

**Zep 3:8-9** (NIV) Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them-- all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger. {9} "Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder."

### A day when He comes to live among His people

**Zechariah 2:10-12** (NIV) "Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD. {11} "Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.

### Day of wrath like never before or ever again

**Joel 2:1-2** (NIV) Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand-- {2} a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come.

### Last call to return to the Lord

**Joel 2:10-13** (NIV) Before them the earth shakes, the sky trembles, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine. {11} The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and

mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? {12} 'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' {13} Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

### Day of deliverance for “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord”

**Joel 2:31-32** (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. {32} And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance...

### Sign of the Day of the Lord: sun and stars darkened, moon darkened/to blood

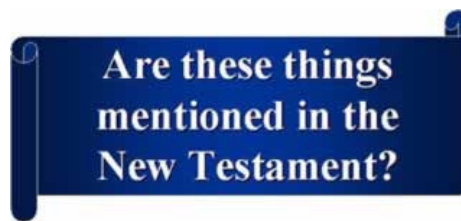
**Joel 2:10** (NIV) Before them the earth shakes, the sky trembles, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

**Joel 2:31** (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

**Joel 3:14-15** (NIV) Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. {15} The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

**Amos 8:9** (NIV) "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.

We can divide these Old Testament verses into three major themes that surround the prophecies regarding the Day of the Lord. First, there is a sign of the Day of the Lord. The sun is darkened and the moon turns to blood (red) and the stars no longer shine. Second, God is coming to judge Israel and the world for their sin. And, third, there is a theme of deliverance. "Rend your hearts and not your garments," "return to the Lord your God," "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."



**Matt 24:29-31** (NIV) Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' {30} At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. {31} And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

**Mark 13:24-27** (NIV) But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; {25} the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' {26} At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. {27} And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

**Luke 21:25-28** (NIV) There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. {26} Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. {27} At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. {28} When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

**Acts 2:20-21** (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. {21} And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

## Three Themes in the New Testament

There are three themes that are present in the scriptures from the New Testament concerning the Day of the Lord. They are:

1. **Sign of Sun, Moon, and Stars** just before...
2. **Jesus comes in power and great glory**

3. **Salvation/Deliverance:** “gather His elect,” “Redemption is drawing near,” “everyone who calls... will be saved.”

Based on these observations, is the Day of the Lord mentioned in the book of Revelation?

**Rev 6:12-14** (NIV) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, {13} and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. {14} The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. {15} Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. {16} They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?"

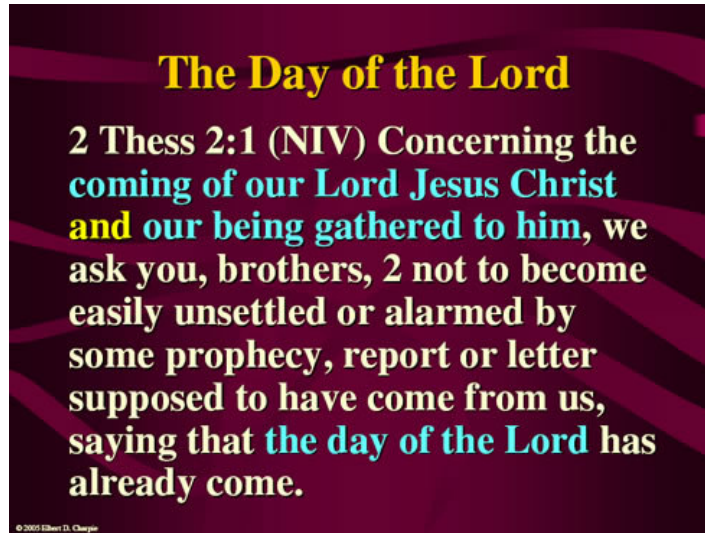
**Rev 7:3-4** (NIV) "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." {4} Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

**Rev 7:9** (NIV) After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. {10} And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

**Rev 7:13-14** (NIV) Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" {14} I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."



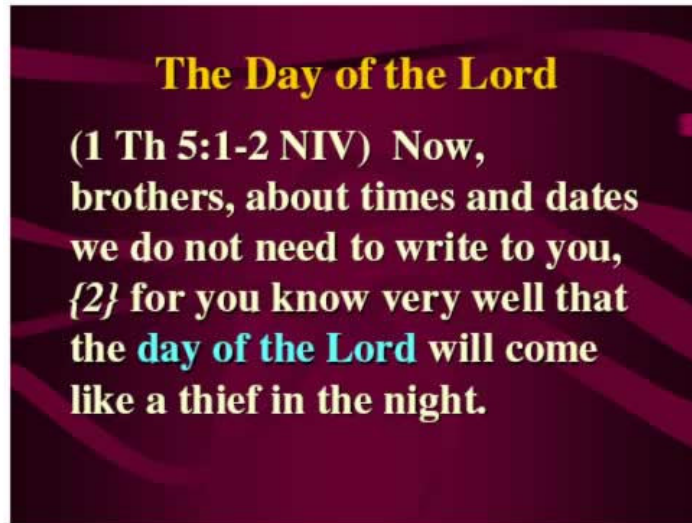
So, we see that the themes surrounding the Day of the Lord are throughout the Bible, but what does this have to do with the rapture?



In 2 Thessalonians 2 Paul writes about the "coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" and "our being gathered to Him." Now what is the event at the coming of the Lord Jesus AND our being gathered to Him? This is so specific that it points directly to the rapture of the saints. Then in verse 2, he names the event that is described as the "coming" and "gathering" and calls it "the Day of the Lord."...



In this passage in 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18, everyone agrees that this passage IS giving the details about the rapture of the saints. It is important to remember, though, that in the original language there were no chapter divisions. So, the Apostle Paul writes about the rapture and then continues in chapter 5 verse 1 immediately...



Paul has just been telling them what it will be like when Jesus returns to rapture the church and immediately he begins to address when this will happen - and it is blatantly obvious that what he has been talking about, HE calls "**the day of the Lord**." The realization that the Bible DOES talk about the rapture, but the Biblical term for the rapture IS "**the day of the Lord**" is a stark revelation. And now we must ask...



If that is true then we will find the following validations:

- All Prophecies will naturally fit
- All Prophecies will harmonize
- All Problems with other views will be answered
- There will be no scriptural contradictions

We will examine these further.

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Session 7

## The Pre-Wrath Rapture

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The last session dealing with the Day of the Lord, was significant in that it taught how the "Day of the Lord" and the rapture are connected. It taught that there are 3 themes which surround the Biblical teaching of the Day of the Lord - in the Old Testament, New Testament and in the book of Revelation.

**The Day of the Lord**  
3 Themes also in Revelation

- Sign of Sun, Moon, and Stars just before
- Jesus comes in power and great glory
- Salvation: “gather His elect,”  
“redemption is drawing near,”  
“everyone who calls... will be saved.”  
“Salvation belongs to our God...”

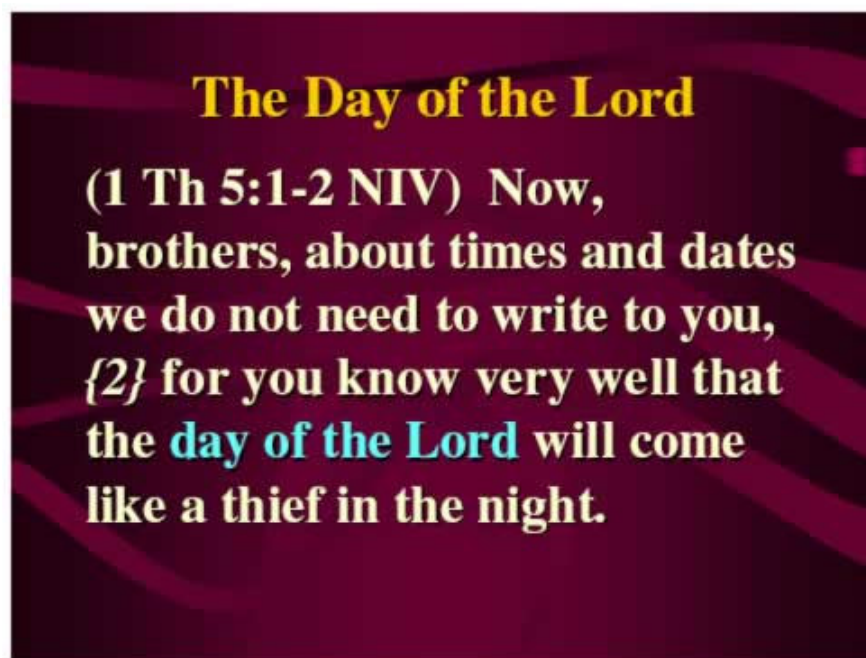
**What about the Rapture?**

Understanding more about the Day of the Lord led us to connect the teaching of the rapture with the teaching about the Day of the Lord, and we asked the question...



We found that in the Apostle Paul's teaching about the rapture, he called the event "The Day of the Lord."





Paul, himself, called his teaching about the saints being "caught up" together with Jesus in the clouds the "Day of the Lord!" We ended the last session by stating that if this is true then four things will validate this teaching...

- All Prophecies will naturally fit
- All Prophecies will harmonize
- All Problems with other views will be answered
- There will be no scriptural contradictions

## All Prophecies Naturally Fit

There are 6 major passages in the New Testament that deal with the second coming of Christ. These are:

- Matthew 24
- Mark 13
- Luke 17
- Luke 21
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- Revelation

Let us look at each of these passages and find out if they support the teaching of the Day of the Lord.

**Mat 24:29-31** (NIV) Immediately after the distress of those days '*the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky,* and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' {30} At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. {31} *And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.* (emphasis added)

Here we see the sign of the Day of the Lord, Jesus returning and His elect being gathered (rapture!?!).

**Mark 13:24-27** (NIV) "But in those days, following that distress, "*the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; {25} the stars will fall from the sky,* and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' {26} "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. {27} *And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.* (emphasis added)

Again, the Day of the Lord appears in Mark. Luke 17 does not mention the sign but does include some very important information that we will look at closely, but Luke 21 does follow the same pattern.

**Luke 21:25-28** (NIV) "There will be *signs in the sun, moon and stars.* On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. {26} Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the *heavenly bodies will be shaken.* {27} At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. {28} *When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* (emphasis added)

Again, the three themes - including the sign of the Day of the Lord - appear together. Although Acts is not one of the major passages, the three themes also appear there.

**Acts 2:20-21** (NIV) *The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood* before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. {21} *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'* (emphasis added)

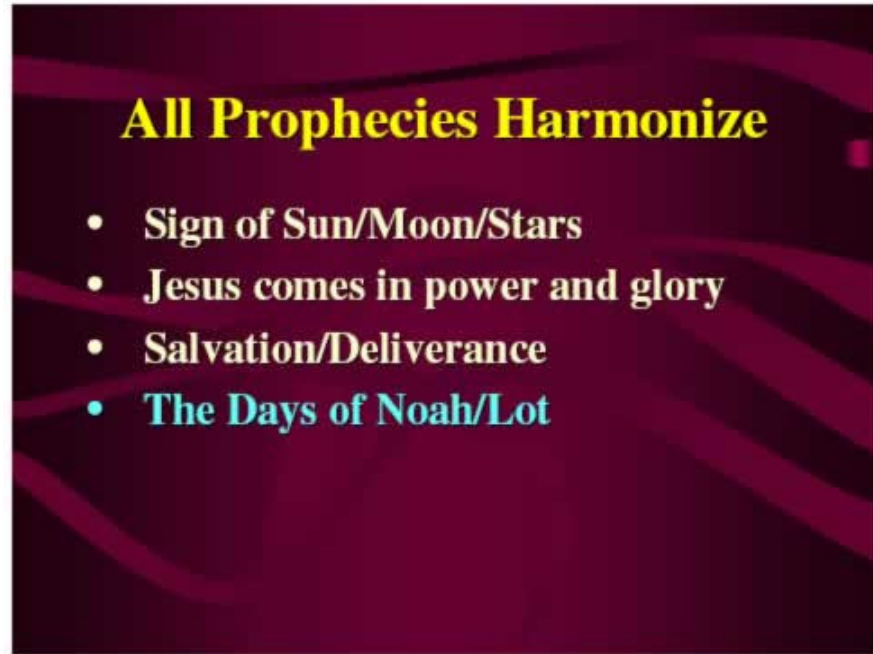
The book of Revelation also follows this same pattern of the teaching of the Day of the Lord.

**Rev 6:12-17** (NIV) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The *sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,* {13} and the *stars in the sky fell to earth,* as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. {14} The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. {15} Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. {16} They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and *hide us from the face 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 can stand?" (emphasis added)

**Rev 7:9** (NIV) After this I looked and there before me was a *great multitude that no one could count,* from *every* nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. {10} And they cried out in a loud

voice: "*Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.*" (emphasis added)

We have already seen how in 1st and 2nd Thessalonians the teaching supports the Day of the Lord, in fact, the Apostle Paul actually *calls* the rapture - the Day of the Lord. We have seen how all prophecies harmonize including the themes of the Day of the Lord. Now let's look at Luke 17.

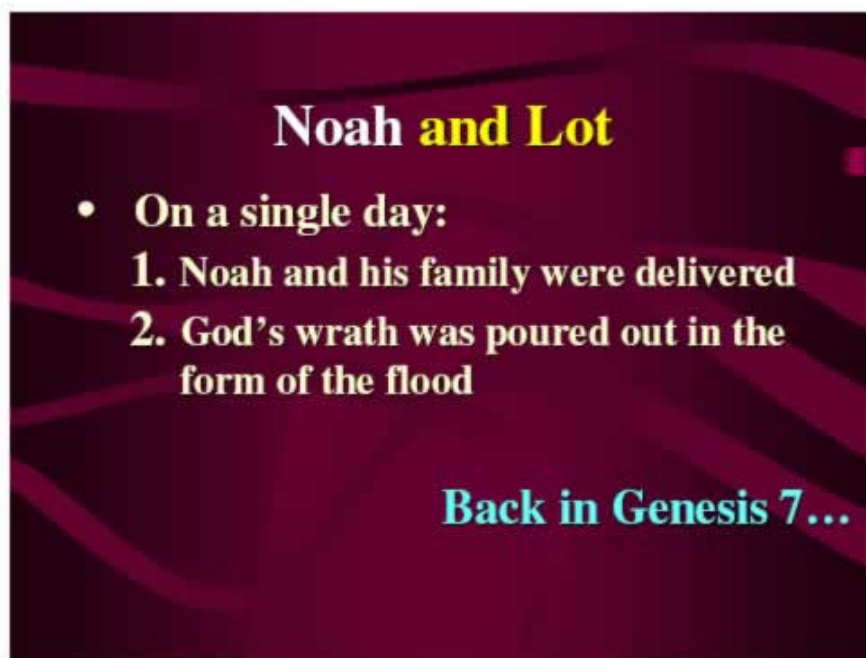


**Luke 17:26-27** (NIV) Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. {27} People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage *up to the day* Noah entered the ark. *Then the flood came* and destroyed them all. (emphasis added)

This same thought is repeated in Matthew...

**Matt 24:37-39** (NIV) As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. {38} For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, *up to the day* Noah entered the ark; {39} and they knew nothing about what would happen *until the flood came* and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (emphasis added)

I have heard many sermons on Noah and Lot, but the idea that was always conveyed was that the world was going on just as it always had until judgment came - people were eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. The thought I have heard preached is the unexpected nature of Christ's return. *But this is not what this passage is teaching.*



The idea this passage is teaching is that judgment and deliverance came on a single day. This becomes even more apparent when we look back at the Genesis story.

**Gen 7:1-4** (NIV) The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. {2} Take with you seven... {4} *Seven days from now* I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." (emphasis added)

In Genesis God begins by telling Noah that in seven days the judgment flood will come. Many have used this verse to support a Pre-Tribulation view that just as God warned Noah that the flood would come in seven days, the rapture will happen at the beginning of the seven years. The problem is that the story does not unfold that way.





On a single day, in both cases, God delivered His people while pouring judgment out on the wicked. Luke 17 makes an amazing statement comparing this to Jesus' return...

**(Luke 17:30 NIV) "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed."**

So, when Jesus is revealed at His return, on a single day God's people will be delivered and judgment will be poured out on the wicked. This describes the Day of the Lord. God will rapture His people and that will initiate the Day of the Lord when God will pour out His wrath upon this world. And this is called...

## The Pre-Wrath View

**2 Pet 2:5-7,9** (NIV) if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; **{6}** if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; **{7}** and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the

filthy lives of lawless men {9} if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

## Does the book of Revelation support the Pre-Wrath view of the end-times?

**Rev 6:12-17** (NIV) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The *sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, {13}* and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. {14} The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. {15} Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. {16} They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?*" (emphasis added)

**Rev 7:9-10** (NIV) After this I looked and there before me was a *great multitude that no one could count*, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were *holding palm branches in their hands.* {10} And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (emphasis added)

In the book of Revelation we are explicitly told that this sign of the sun, moon and stars signals the day of the wrath of the Lamb. Immediately after the day of wrath begins, we find this multitude in heaven that no one can count from every tribe and nation. It is interesting that they are wearing robes and have palm branches in their *hands*, therefore they must have resurrected bodies. Who else could this multitude be except the raptured saints from all the ages!

Now there is one other point to consider as we look at Noah...

**Mat 24:39-41** (NIV) and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and *took* them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. {40} Two men will be in the field; one will be *taken* and the other left. {41} Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

**Dictionary entry:**  
**αἶρω**  
*take, take up;*  
*take away, remove*  
*set aside Col 2:14;*  
*carry; sweep away (of*  
*a flood); raise (of*  
*one's voice); take over,*  
*conquer (Jn 11:48);*  
*kill (Jn 19:15); keep in*  
*suspense (Jn 10:24)*

I have heard many discussions and speculations on the verb "take" in this passage. Some question has been raised at the connection between those "taken" in the flood and those "taken" at the coming of the Son of man. Some have speculated that since those in the flood were taken to destruction, it is those "left" who will meet the Lord. However, what we don't see is that these are two different verbs in the original language. For those taken in the flood the verb is "airo," which means "to take away" or "remove."

The second verb is different. It is the word "paralambano" which means "to take

**Dictionary entry:**  
**παραλαμβάνω**  
*take, take along;*

along," "receive," or "accept." Therefore this verse is saying that those "taken" in the flood were "removed" while those "taken" at the coming of the Son of man were "received."

**As in the Days of Noah**

- **Comparison is not the ones taken**
  - flood = taken to destruction
  - rapture = taken to be with Jesus
- **Comparison is of unexpected judgment and redemption at the same time!**

**Matt 24:36-39** (NIV) *No one knows* about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. {37} As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. {39} ...*and they knew nothing* about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. *That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.* (emphasis added)

**All Prophecies Harmonize**

- **Sign of Sun/Moon/Stars**
- **Jesus comes in power and glory**
- **Salvation/Deliverance**
- **The Days of Noah/Lot**
- **The understanding of suffering and judgment**

**2 Thess 1:4-10** (NIV) Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your

perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. {5} All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and *as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God*, for which you are suffering. {6} God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you {7} and *give relief* to you who are troubled, and to us as well. *This will happen when* the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. {8} He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. {9} They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power {10} *on the day* he comes *to be glorified in his holy people* and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. *This includes you*, because you believed our testimony to you. (emphasis added)

**All Prophecies Harmonize**

- Sign of Sun/Moon/Stars
- Jesus comes in power and glory
- Salvation/Deliverance
- The Days of Noah/Lot
- The understanding of suffering and judgment

**Fit Together and Make Sense?!?**

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## Session 8

# The Timing of the Rapture

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In the last session dealing with the Pre-Wrath view of the rapture, we looked at validating the Pre-Wrath view by harmonizing the prophecies concerning the end of time. The next task is to find if all the problems with the other views are answered by the Pre-Wrath view. But to do this, we must first determine the timing of the rapture according to what the scripture says. The Bible tells us that there are three events that will happen together at the Day of the Lord.

### Rapture Timing

**3 Events Happen Together**

- Sign of Sun/Moon/Stars
- Jesus comes in power and glory
- Rapture  
(Salvation/Deliverance)

**Timing: Look for these Events!**

So, in order to determine the timing, we must look for these events in prophecy and discern if there is harmony as to the time when these things will occur.

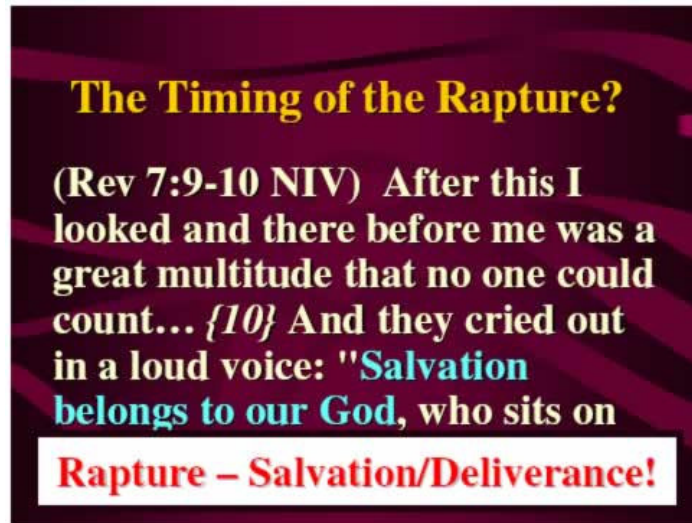
The book of Revelation locates the sign of the Day of the Lord after the sixth seal is broken.

**Rev 6:12-13** (NIV) I watched as he opened the *sixth* seal. There was a great earthquake. The *sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair*, the whole *moon turned blood red*, {13} and the *stars in the sky fell to earth*, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. (emphasis added)

Now we must determine what are these seals and what do they signify. In the prior chapter of Revelation, we are told of a scroll sealed with seven seals. These seals were common in the Apostle John's day. A scroll could be sealed with multiple seals, but it could not be opened until all the seals had been broken.

**Rev 5:1-2** (NIV) Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and *sealed with seven seals*. {2} And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to *break the seals and open the scroll?*" (emphasis added)





So, based on the scripture in the book of Revelation, we can deduce that the rapture will follow the breaking of the sixth seal before the Day of the Lord begins.



## The Seven Seals of Revelation

**Rev 6:1-2** (NIV) I watched as the Lamb opened the *first of the seven seals*. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" {2} I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and *he was given a crown*, and he rode out *as* a conqueror bent on conquest. (emphasis added)



The rider on a white horse looks and sounds like a hero, but the implication is that he does not deserve his title. He was *given* a crown which seems to indicate that he did not earn it. Secondly, we are told he rode out *as* a conqueror. Most scholars agree that this seal describes the appearance of the Antichrist on the scene. He will begin the 70th Week by looking like the answer to the problems of the world.

**Rev 6:3-4** (NIV) When the Lamb opened the *second seal*, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" {4} Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was *given power to take peace from the earth* and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword. (emphasis added)

The second seal is a rider on a fiery red horse and it's rider was given power to take peace from the earth. This seal symbolizes *war*.



**Rev 6:5-6** (NIV) When the Lamb opened the *third seal*... I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. {6} Then I heard... "*A quart of wheat for a day's wages*, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!" (emphasis added)



### 3 Famine

The third seal is a rider on a black horse and we are told that a quart of wheat will sell for a days wages. This, then, is a reference to the coming of famine.

**Rev 6:7-8** (NIV) When the Lamb opened the *fourth seal*... {8} I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named *Death*, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. (emphasis added)

The fourth seal is a rider on a pale horse whose name is death. As this seal is opened the ¼ of the earth is under the power of this rider to kill by wars, famines, and other catastrophes. It seems that the ¼ quantity applies to the segment of the world under its control and not necessarily to the number who are actually killed.



### 4 Death

**Rev 6:9** (NIV) When he opened the *fifth seal*, I saw under the altar the souls of those *who had been slain* because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. {10} They called out in a loud voice, "*How long*, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" {11} Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were *told to wait a little longer*, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. (emphasis added)



### 5 Martyrs

As the fifth seal is opened the scene changes to heaven and we are introduced to souls there who had been slain because of their faith. They are told to wait a little longer until the full numbers of martyrs are fulfilled.

**Rev 6:12-13** (NIV) I watched as he opened the *sixth seal*. There was a great earthquake. The *sun* turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole *moon* turned blood red, {13} and the *stars* in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.

**Rev 6:17** (NIV) For the great day of their *wrath* has come, and who can stand? (emphasis added)

When the sixth seal is opened the sign of the Day of the Lord occurs - the sun turns dark, the moon turns red, and the stars fall from the sky, and God's wrath is proclaimed as having come.



### 6 Sign

**Rev 8:1-2,5-6** (NIV) When he opened the *seventh seal*, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. {2} And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given *seven trumpets*... {5} Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth... {6} Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets *prepared to sound them*. (emphasis added)



### 7 Day of the Lord

As the seventh seal is broken, the angels with the seven trumpets prepare to sound them. The Day of the Lord's wrath has come. The seven trumpets begin to pour out God's wrath upon the world.

## Timing of the Rapture?

- The Seals in Revelation Compared to...
- The timing of Matthew 24

**Mat 24:4-5** (NIV) Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. {5} For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.



### 1 Antichrist



### 2 Wars

**Mat 24:6-7** (NIV) You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. {7} Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...

**Mat 24:7** (NIV) ... There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.



### 3 Famine

**4 Death**

**Mat 24:8-10** (NIV) All these are the beginning of birth pains. {9} "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. {10} At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other..."

**5 Martyrs**

The scripture then describes a period of suffering where these fourth and fifth seals will be opened. It says that this time of suffering will be unparalleled in all of history.

**Mat 24:21-22** (NIV) For *then* there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. {22} If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. (emphasis added)

In Matthew 24 from verses 10 until verse 20, describes a time of suffering...

It is important to note the indicators that Matthew uses to show the relation of time. In verse 9 he starts, "Then you will be handed over..." and then in verse 10 he states, "At that time many will turn away from the faith..." He continues in verse 21 "For then there will be great distress..." All of these references center around verse 15...

**Mat 24:15-16, 19** (NIV) *So* when you see standing in the holy place *'the abomination that causes desolation'*... {16} then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. {19} How dreadful it will be in those days... (emphasis added)

Therefore, we can place the fourth and fifth seal suffering centered around the Abomination of Desolation. And we know

that the Abomination of Desolation is the mid-point of the 70th Week when Antichrist demands that the world worship him. The suffering between the fourth and fifth seals, then, follow the Antichrist's demand for worship.



Matthew 24 defines, then, the first through third seals as the "beginning of birth pains." So, we can illustrate the seals and the timing to look like the diagram below...



Now, back to Matthew 24, the next event in the passage is the sign of the Day of the Lord - the sixth seal!



Matthew 24 continues...

**Matt 24:30-31** (NIV) *At that time* the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. **{31}** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (emphasis added)

**Matt 24:37-38** (NIV) As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **{38}** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **{39}** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. *That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.* **{40}** Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. (emphasis added)



The diagram below depicts how the seven seals fall in the 70th Week of Daniel according to Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation.



The exact timing of when each seal will happen is not clear except that the first 3 seals will happen before the mid-point, the 4th and 5th around or just after the mid-point, and the 6th and 7th seals after the mid-point.



Jesus told us in Mark 13:32 that no one knows the day and the hour. But He did say...

**Matt 24:32** (NIV) Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. **{33}** Even so, *when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.* (emphasis added)

We can know His coming is "right at the door." So, we cannot say exactly when during the final half of the 70th Week that

the rapture will occur - but according to Matthew 24 it will be sometime during the second 3½ years. Jesus did give us two exciting clues as to when it would happen:

## Two Clues...

- **Matt 24:22 (NIV) "...for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."**
- **Matt 24:29 (NIV) "Immediately after the distress of those days..."**

We can say that the tribulation of the second half of the 70th Week will be cut short for the elect (saints), and that the rapture will take place *immediately* after the distress of those days. It helps us to realize why the New Testament writers would say, "even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

There is one other important note when placing the timing of the rapture. It will happen before the 1st trumpet sounds and the seventh trumpet sounds at the end of the 70th Week. The fifth trumpet that sounds brings 5 months of torment to those on the earth. Therefore, presumably the rapture would have to happen at least 6 months prior to the end of the 70th Week for all the other trumpet judgments to fit in.

The rapture could happen as quickly as 6 months or less into the second half of the week, or as much as 2½ to 3 years into the week. The fact that Jesus uses the word "immediately" causes this writer to believe that the rapture will happen **very** early in the 2nd half of the 70th Week.

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Rapture Problems

Wrath of God

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Session 9

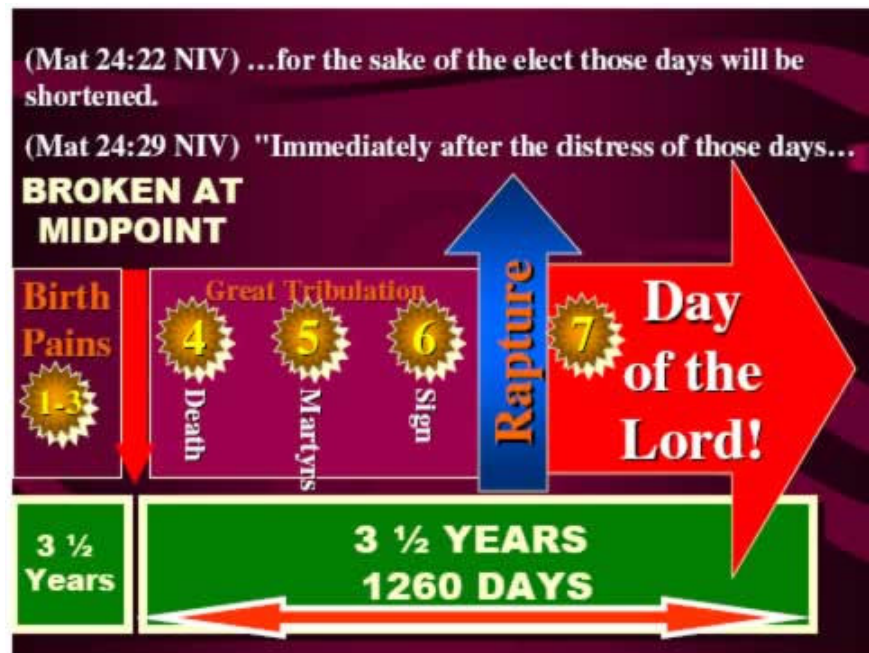
## Rapture Problems Answered

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Let us take a moment to discuss the theological perspective of this study. If you hear enthusiasm in this study - it is not arrogance to suggest that the pre-wrath view is correct and anyone who disagrees is wrong. On the contrary, the enthusiasm I feel in this study is because for the first time for me - the pre-wrath view allowed all the prophecies to naturally fit together, it gave me a truly scriptural perspective on the end of time, and it was a watershed issue that caused me to change my own theology - from what I had been taught to what I believe the scripture teaches.

Could the pre-wrath view be wrong? Absolutely! I don't believe anyone has God totally figured out! We are trying to understand the infinite with our small finite minds. However, because of the harmony of the scriptures in the pre-wrath view - I feel closer to the truth than I have ever been. But you, the student of the scriptures, must decide for yourself what the scriptures teach.

When we ended the last session, we decided that the rapture would occur sometime during the second 3½ years of Daniel's 70th Week (The Tribulation Period).

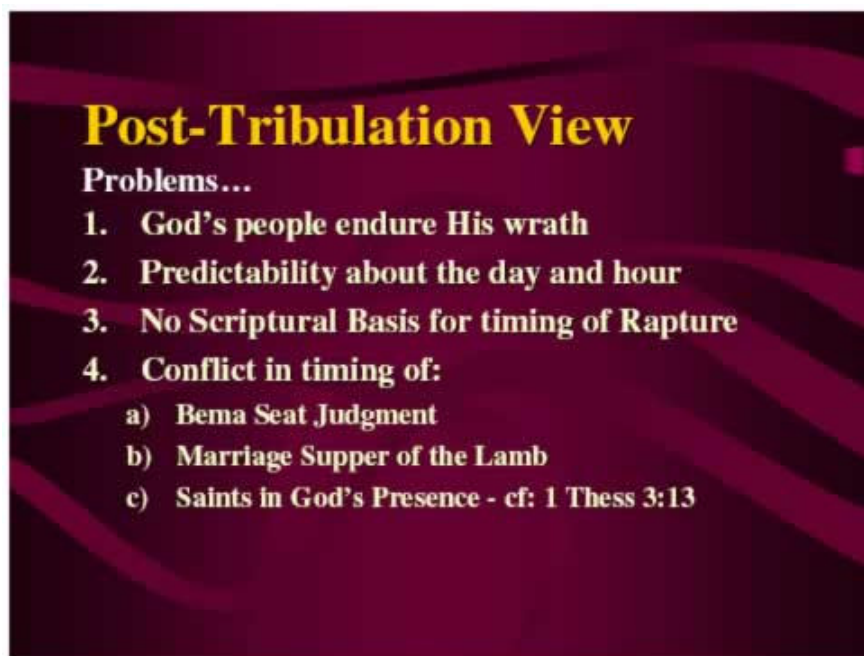


Jesus told us that no one knows the day and the hour except the Father. But, He said that we will be able to tell by the things that are happening that the time is near - "even at the door." Jesus gave us two clues dealing with the distress that would occur at the mid-point of the 70th

Week when the Antichrist will demand the world worship him. First, He said that the days will be shortened for the sake of the elect, and then He said that "immediately after the distress of those days" the rapture would occur.

Now if the pre-wrath view is correct, then all the problems we encountered with the other views should be taken care of. We saw that the post-tribulation and mid-tribulation views shared a common set of problems.

## Post & Mid Tribulation Problems



## Conflicts in Timing

The book of Revelation records...

**Rev 11:15** (NIV) The *seventh* angel sounded his trumpet... {18} The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. *The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants...* (emphasis added)

We have seen that the seventh trumpet blows at the end of the 70th Week. At this point the saints have already been in heaven for at least a little time. Now the 30 day restoration period beings. These 30 days give God ample time to deal with the judgment of the saints. When must recognize that God is omni-present - which means He can be anywhere and everywhere at the same time. Therefore, He could judge each person all at once.

## Scriptural Basis for Timing

We have already seen that there are various scriptures that support a pre-wrath timing of the rapture.



## Predictability About the Day and Hour

Jesus warned...

**Matt 24:36** (NIV) No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

**Matt 25:13** (NIV) Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

But Jesus also said...

**Matt 24:15** (NIV) So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand...

**Matt 24:32** (NIV) Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

The Apostle Paul wrote...

**1 Thess 5:1** (NIV) Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 ***But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.*** (emphasis added)

Therefore...

- We may not know the day or the hour, BUT...
- We may know that it is near "***even at the door!***"
- Those ***NOT*** living in darkness will ***NOT*** be surprised like a thief in the night
- We do not know when the rapture will occur but ***we will know***

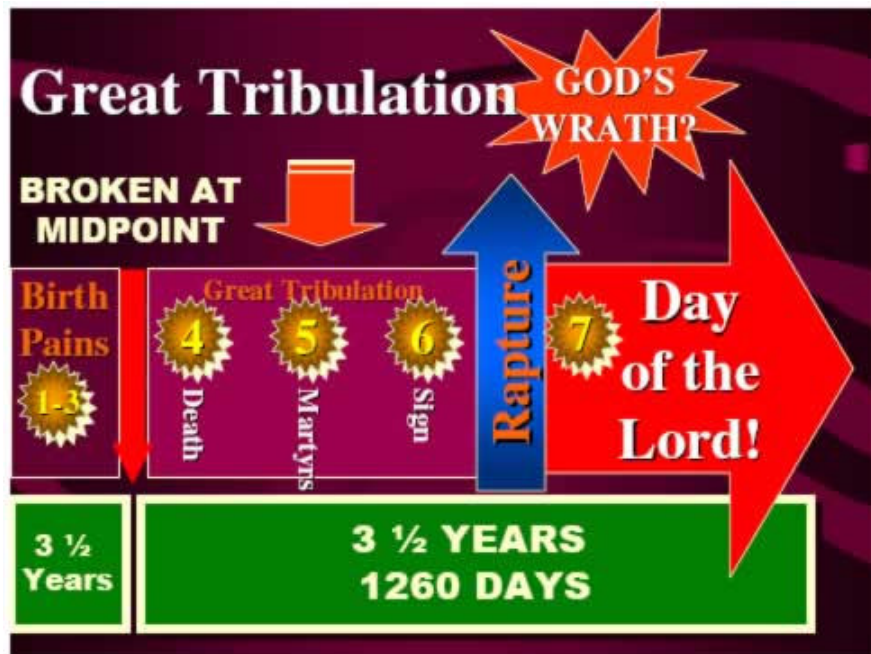
*the signs that it is very near*

# God's People Endure His Wrath



Do you remember that we said in a post-tribulation view God's people endure the wrath of God, yet the scriptures clearly tell us that God's people will be delivered from God's wrath. This would seem to be a problem for the pre-wrath view also.

Is the second half of the 70th Week, also called the "great tribulation" God's wrath?



Do you remember the scriptures about God's people being rescued from God's wrath?

**Rom 5:9** (NIV) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

**1 Thess 1:10** (NIV) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

**1 Thess 5:9** (NIV) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Rev 3:10** (NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

We know that the Day of the Lord is an outpouring of God's wrath, but is God's wrath poured out *before* the Day of the Lord begins?



**Rev 6:16-17** (NIV) They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?"

- First Mention of God's Wrath!
- After 6th Seal & the Sign
- Is there "Wrath" before this?

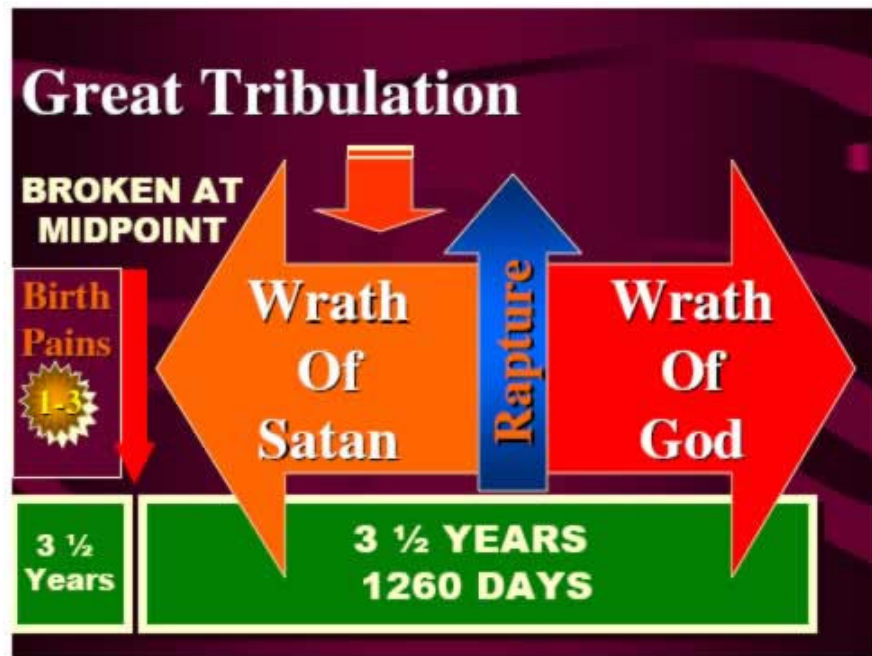
The Bible tells us in Revelation chapter 12...

**Rev 12:7-9** (NIV) And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. {8} But he was not strong enough, and they *lost their place in heaven*. {9} The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. *He was hurled to the earth*, and his angels with him. (emphasis

added)

**Rev 12:12** (NIV) Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with *fury* (KJV = *great wrath*), because he knows that his time is short. (emphasis added)

Revelation 12 flashes back to the war in heaven between Satan and the angels. The scripture declares that the Devil has come down to earth having great wrath. God's wrath is not mentioned in the book of Revelation before the 6th seal and the Day of the Lord. But, the seals do tell us the tragic events that will take place on earth under the reign of Antichrist. Therefore, it is evident that God's wrath is poured out after the Day of the Lord begins, but it is the wrath of Satan that takes place before the Day of the Lord.



The Bible teaches...

- We will suffer persecution (Matt 24)
- We will NOT suffer God's wrath

There is one other passage that seems to interfere with this idea.

**Luke 21:36** (NIV) Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape *all that is about to happen*, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. (emphasis added)

This verse tells us that we may escape ALL that is about to happen. Does this mean persecution too? Let us go back to the scripture...

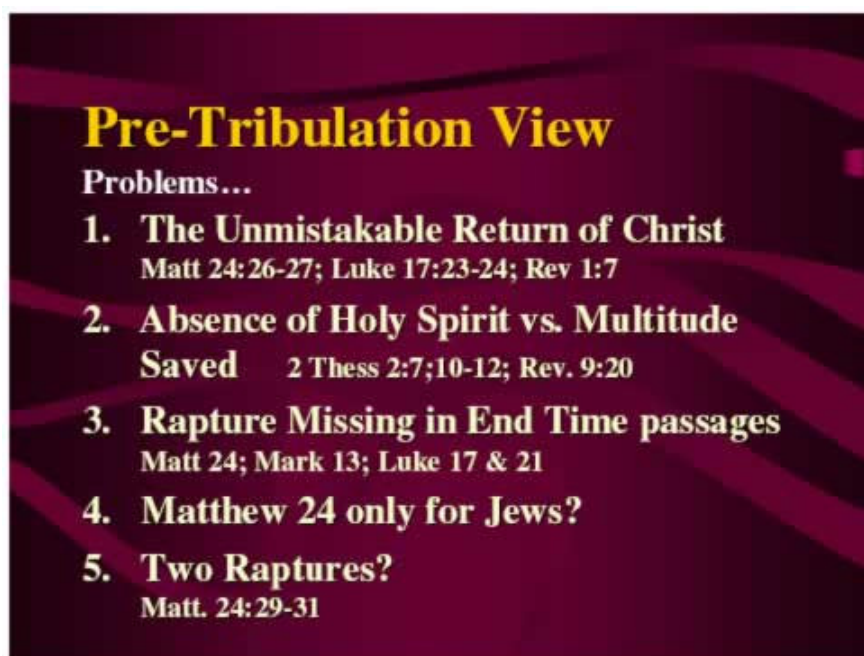
**Luke 21:25-28** (NIV) There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars... {27} At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. {28} When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads,

because your redemption is drawing near.

**Luke 21:34-36** (NIV) Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and *that day* will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. {35} *For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.* {36} Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape *all that is about to happen*, [referring to "that day"] and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. (emphasis added)

Now we see that in verse 34 we are talking about "that day" and that day IS the Day of the Lord. Those who love Jesus WILL escape all that is about to happen on "that day" - we will have already been raptured!

## Pre Tribulation Problems



**Pre-Tribulation View**  
Problems...

- 1. The Unmistakable Return of Christ**  
Matt 24:26-27; Luke 17:23-24; Rev 1:7
- 2. Absence of Holy Spirit vs. Multitude Saved** 2 Thess 2:7;10-12; Rev. 9:20
- 3. Rapture Missing in End Time passages**  
Matt 24; Mark 13; Luke 17 & 21
- 4. Matthew 24 only for Jews?**
- 5. Two Raptures?**  
Matt. 24:29-31



## Unmistakable Return of Christ

According to the pre-wrath view, when Jesus raptures the church it will not be a secret appearance. When He comes in the clouds it WILL be like the lightning flashes from east to west. People WILL disappear as they are "caught up" to be with the Lord, but everyone will know what is happening. We are told this in the book of Revelation...

**Rev 6:14** (NIV) The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. **{15}** Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. **{16}** They called to the mountains and the rocks, "***Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?" (emphasis added)

## Absence of Holy Spirit/Multitude Saved

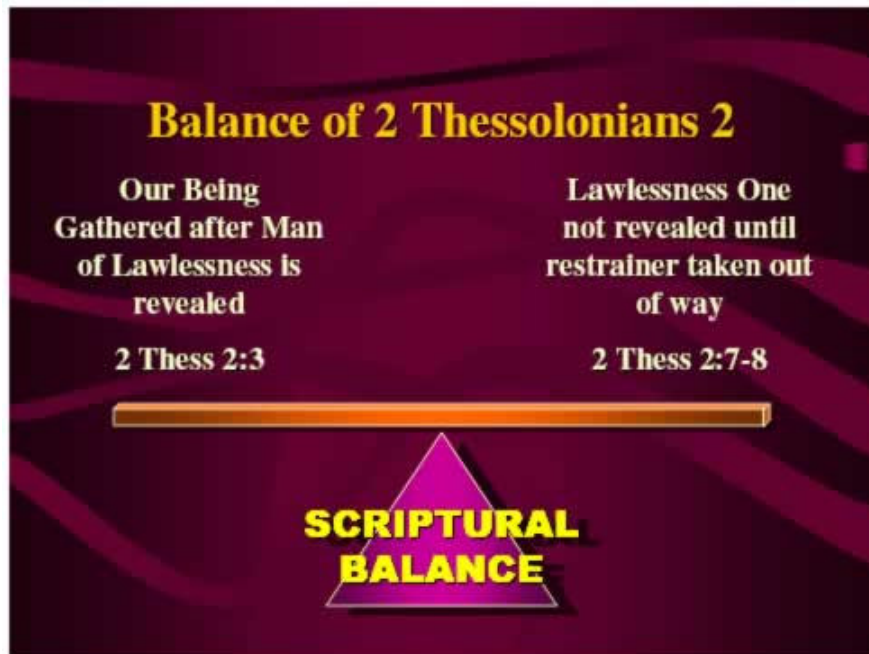
The rapture will take place on the Day of the Lord, rather than at the beginning of the 70th Week. Also, the restrainer is not necessarily seen as the Holy Spirit. The multitude saved are those raptured souls from all generations who have followed Jesus.

**2 Thess 2:6-8** (NIV) And now you know what is holding him back, ***so that he may be revealed at the proper time.*** **{7}** For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back ***will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.*** **{8}** ***And then*** the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (emphasis added)

The pre-tribulation view teaches that the restrainer IS the Holy Spirit and that He will be removed with the church at the rapture.

- The One Who Holds Back = “The Restrainer” = Holy Spirit
- At the Rapture, the Holy Spirit is removed from the world *with the church* allowing the Antichrist the freedom to reveal himself to the world

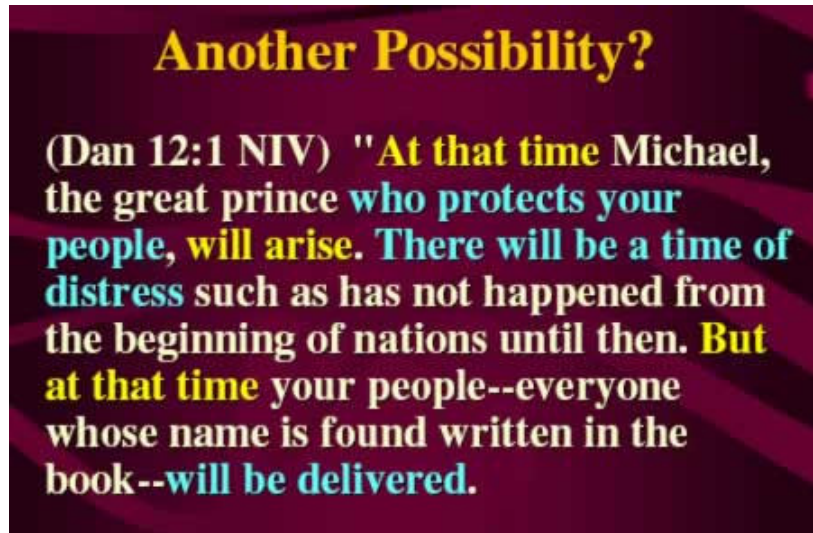
**2 Thess 2:1,3** (NIV) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and *our being gathered to him... {3}* Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for *that day will not come until* the rebellion occurs and the *man of lawlessness is revealed*, the man doomed to destruction. (emphasis added)



There is a scriptural problem here because we are told "our being gathered to Him" will not happen until the Antichrist (Man of Lawlessness) is revealed. But, we are also told that the Antichrist cannot be revealed until the restrainer is taken out of the way. The logic of the restrainer being the Holy Spirit and being removed at the rapture is an impossibility. The scriptural order is 1) restrainer taken out of the way, 2) Antichrist revealed, and 3) the church raptured.

**This also answers the pre-tribulation problem of "What Comes First?"**

So, there is still a nagging question - who, then, is this restrainer?



In Daniel there is a verse that identifies this particular episode of the end of time as "a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of the nations until then." This same phrase is also in Matthew 24...

**Matt 24:21** (NIV) For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.

At this time, Michael the archangel is identified as the one who protects "your people." He will "arise." That word is "to stand" or "to cease." Whatever else it means, when Michael "stands" it initiates this time of distress. Could Michael be the "one who holds back?"

**There are three points we must understand...**

1. **The Scripture DOES NOT identify the restrainer**
2. **There is NO OTHER indication that the Holy Spirit is removed during this time**
3. **2 Thessalonians 2 makes identifying the restrainer as the Holy Spirit impossible**

## **Rapture Missing in End Time Passages**

This problem no longer exists when we identify the Biblical name for the rapture as "The Day of the Lord." It is then found in the Old Testament, the New Testament and the book of Revelation.

## **Matthew 24 Only for the Jews Two Raptures**

When Matthew 24 is seen viewed as any other prophecy, and as it coincides with the other end time passages, these two problems are answered. There is only one rapture as it appears in Matthew 24. It is one and the same as the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:18ff.

## No Scriptural Basis

- Evangelists
- Greatest revival in history
- Timing of a pre-tribulation rapture

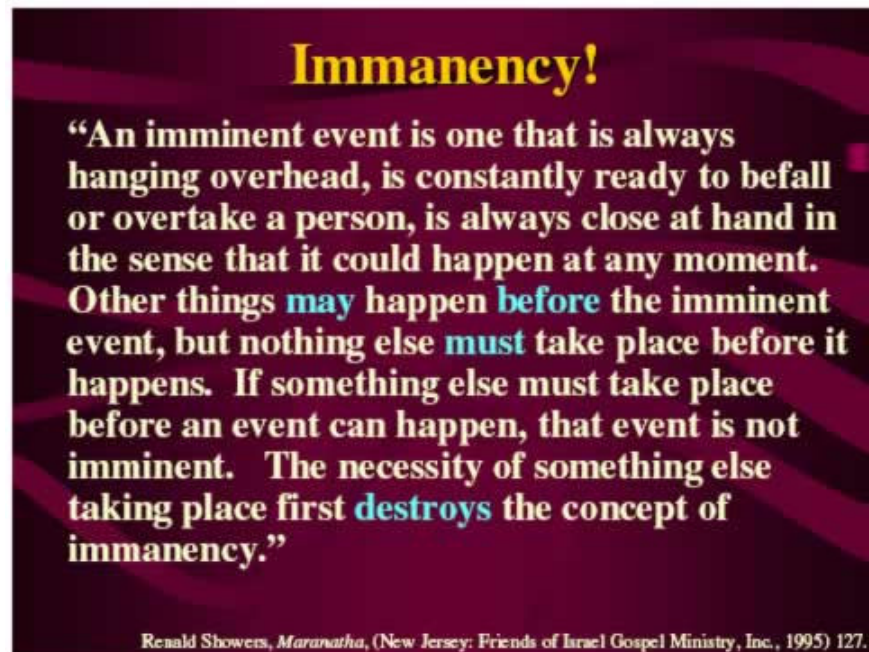
These problems are all solved when we understand that the rapture IS "The Day of the Lord." There is no longer any need for evangelists or revivals to explain the multitude that appears in heaven. The most obvious answer for the multitude is the correct one - the raptured saints. There is no longer any need to justify a rapture or coming of Christ at the beginning of the 70th Week. He will return for His people at the time outlined in Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, and Revelation 6 and 7.

## No Scriptural Contradictions

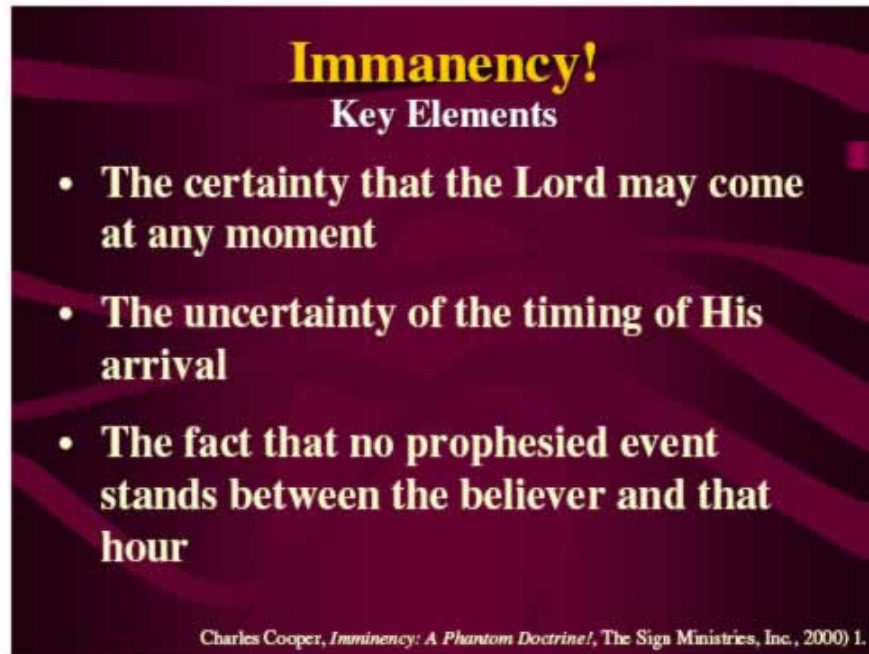
The last test of validity is that no scriptural contradictions will be found that bring into question the order of events in the pre-wrath view. In the several years I have been studying the end times, I have yet to find a single verse of scripture that contradicts the teaching of the pre-wrath view.

## Immanency

There is one other issue that needs to be addressed before we leave the pre-tribulational problems. Those who hold to a pre-tribulational rapture promote the teaching that the coming of Christ is an immanent event. Immanency is defined as follows:



## Key Elements



Immanency is based upon scriptures such as these...

**James 5:7-9** (NIV) Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. {8} You too, be patient and stand firm, because *the Lord's coming is near*. {9} Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. *The Judge is standing at the door!* (emphasis added)

**Phil 4:5** (NIV) Let your gentleness be evident to all. *The Lord is near*. (emphasis added)

**1 Cor 1:7** (NIV) Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you *eagerly wait* for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (emphasis added)

**1 Cor 16:22** (NIV) If anyone does not love the Lord--a curse be on him. *Come, O Lord!* [Marantha!] (emphasis added)

### There are two main arguments for immanency.

1. The Lord is near – they were expecting Him at any time!
2. They were eagerly waiting – “Come, O Lord!” – if persecution or wrath were involved why “eagerly wait?”

We have already shown that the coming of the Lord is equated with the "Day of the Lord."

**2 Thess 2:1** (NIV) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him... {3} that day...

There is a passage in Zephaniah that states that the Day of the Lord is also near...

**Zephaniah 1:14** (NIV) The great day of the LORD is near-- near and coming quickly. Listen! ...

This passage was written 400 years before Jesus was born. Using the same reasoning we would have to say that the Day of the Lord is also immanent! But scriptures tell us that there are several things that must happen before the Day of the Lord.

**Joel 2:31** (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

**Mal 4:5** (NIV) See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

**2 Thess 2:3** (NIV) Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

**“If something else must take place before an event can happen, that event is not imminent. The necessity of something else taking place first destroys the concept of immanency.”**

Jesus coming is near in the same way the prophets proclaimed the Day of the Lord is near. There are prophecies that have to take place before the Day of the Lord and so the Day of the Lord is NOT immanent.

The second argument is that the New Testament believers were "eagerly waiting" for the Lord to come. If persecution or wrath were involved - why would they eagerly wait?

**Titus 2:13** (NIV) while we **wait** for the blessed hope--the **glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ... (emphasis added)

- We don't eagerly await suffering
- We DO eagerly await HIS APPEARING!

The point is that we can eagerly await His Appearing even though it might include suffering. Is there anything that has to happen before Jesus comes - "yes!" If His coming is the Day of the Lord then there is a sign in the sun, moon, and stars, and the appearing of Antichrist and the coming of Elijah that must come first - so His coming is not immanent.

## Could Jesus come now?

I also believe the answer is **yes**. Even though there are events that must come first, I believe these events could fall into place very quickly - maybe without notice. It is interesting that Jesus told us...

**Matt 24:15** (NIV) So when you see standing in the holy place `the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand...

What Jesus said to look for was the Abomination of Desolation. That does not happen until the mid-point of the 70th Week - 3½ years into the tribulation period. Is it possible that we may

not know what is happening until we are already at the mid-point?

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What the scripture says about the end of time!

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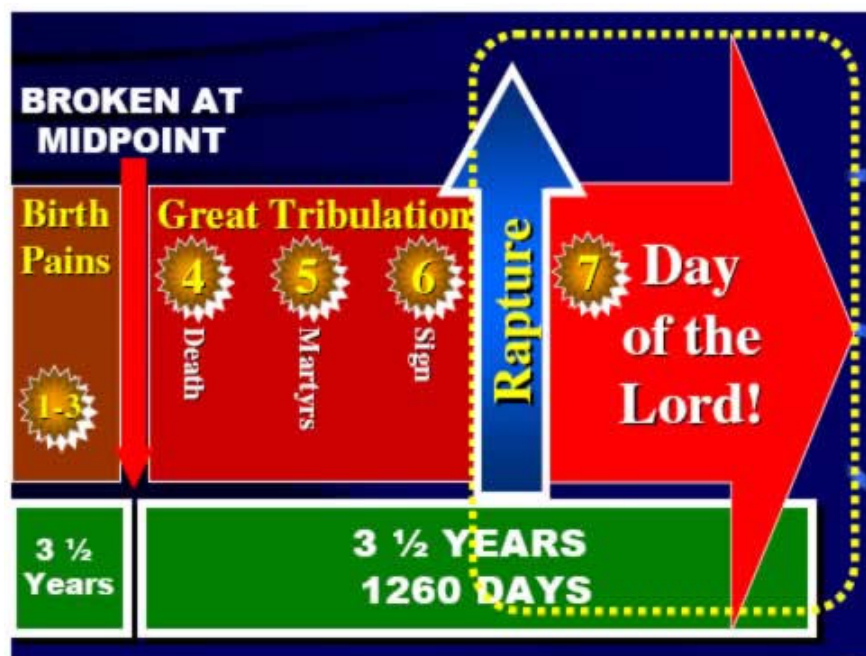
Session 10

## The Wrath of God

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The last session we will deal with depicts the events that will comprise God's wrath in the Day of the Lord. These events are foretold in the book of Revelation symbolized by the sounding of the *seven trumpets* and the pouring out of the *seven bowls*.

As we focus on the wrath of God, we will be narrowing in on the Day of the Lord that takes place as the saints of God are raptured from the earth to heaven.



**Rev 8:1-6 (NIV)** When he opened the *seventh seal*, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. {2} And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given *seven trumpets*. {3} Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. {4} The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. {5} Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake. {6} *Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.* (emphasis added)

The division of the trumpets and bowls in the book of Revelation allow us to separate God's wrath into two parts that we will call the "beginning wrath" and the "final wrath." The wrath of

God will begin as the *seventh seal* (Rev 8:1-6) on the scroll of "The Day of the Lord" is broken and the scroll is opened.



## The First Trumpet

**Rev 8:7** (NIV) The *first* angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A *third of the earth* was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

As the first trumpet sounds a fiery hail storm burns up 1/3 of the earth. We are told 1/3 of the trees and all green grass are also affected.

1  
Third of the Earth

## The Second Trumpet

**Rev 8:8-9** (NIV) The *second* angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A *third of the sea* turned into blood, {9} a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. (emphasis added)

At the second trumpet, something like a volcano is described either erupting or crashing into the sea. It kills 1/3 of sea-life and turns 1/3 of the seas into blood.

2  
Third of Salt Seas

## The Third Trumpet

**Rev 8:10-11** (NIV) The *third* angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water-- {11} the name of the star is Wormwood. A *third of the waters* turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter. (emphasis added)

3  
Third of Fresh Water

At the third trumpet it appears a meteor or meteor shower strikes the earth and spoils 1/3 of all fresh water. Names in the Bible give meaning and significance - and here this meteor is named Wormwood. Wormwood is defined as "a nonpoisonous but bitter plant common to the Middle East. Wormwood often is used in analogy to speak of bitterness and sorrow" (Holman Bible Dictionary).

4 Third of Sun, Moon, Stars

## The Fourth Trumpet

**Rev 8:12-13** (NIV) The *fourth* angel sounded his trumpet, and *a third of the sun* was struck, *a third of the moon*, and *a third of the stars*, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. {13} As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "**Woe! Woe! Woe** to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the *other three angels!*" (emphasis added)

At the fourth trumpet a third of the day and night become darkness. There is also a warning that things are about to get worse.

## The Fifth Trumpet

**Rev 9:1-12** (NIV) The *fifth* angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. {2} When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. {3} And out of the smoke *locusts* came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. {4} They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. {5} They were not given power to kill them, but only *to torture them for five months*. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. {6} During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. {7} The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. {8} Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. {9} They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. {10} They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power *to torment people for five months*. {11} They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. {12} *The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.*

5 Five Months Torment

Third of Mankind Killed

## The Sixth Trumpet

**Rev 9:13-21** (NIV) The *sixth* angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. {14} It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." {15} And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released *to kill a third of mankind*. {16} The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I

heard their number. {17} The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. {18} *A third of mankind* was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. {19} The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury. {20} The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues *still did not repent* of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. {21} Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.



## The Small Scroll

**Rev 10:1-3** (NIV) Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. {2} He was holding a *little scroll*, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, {3} and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. (emphasis added)



The small scroll signifies that the work of the large scroll is complete and now the small scroll is opened.

## Events Completed by Large Scroll

- Daniel's 70th Week is completed (Dan 9:24)
- Israel's transgression will be completed
- Israel's sin will be ended
- Israel's iniquity will be atoned for
- The Times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled (Luke 21:24)
- The Fullness of the Gentiles will have come in (Rom 11:25)
- The first woe is completed (Rev. 9:12)
- The 6th Trumpet Judgment is finished (Rev. 11:13-19)
- The 3½ year ministry of the two witnesses will be done (Rev 11:7)

**Rev 10:4** (NIV) And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down." {5} Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. {6} And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "*There will be no more delay!*" {7} But in the days when the *seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet*, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." {8} Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once

more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." {9} So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will *turn your stomach sour*, but in your mouth it will be as *sweet as honey*." {10} I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as *sweet as honey* in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, *my stomach turned sour*. (emphasis added)

### Sweet:

- God's gracious redemption of Israel
- The completion of the spiritual Kingdom of God

### Sour:

- Final wrath of God
- Worst ever to be poured out on man

**Rev 10:11 - 11:2** (NIV) Then I was told, "You must *prophesy again* about many peoples, nations, languages and kings." {11:1} I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. {2} But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. *They will trample on the holy city for 42 months*. {3} And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for *1,260 days*, clothed in sackcloth... {5} If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. {6} These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. {7} *Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them*. (emphasis added)

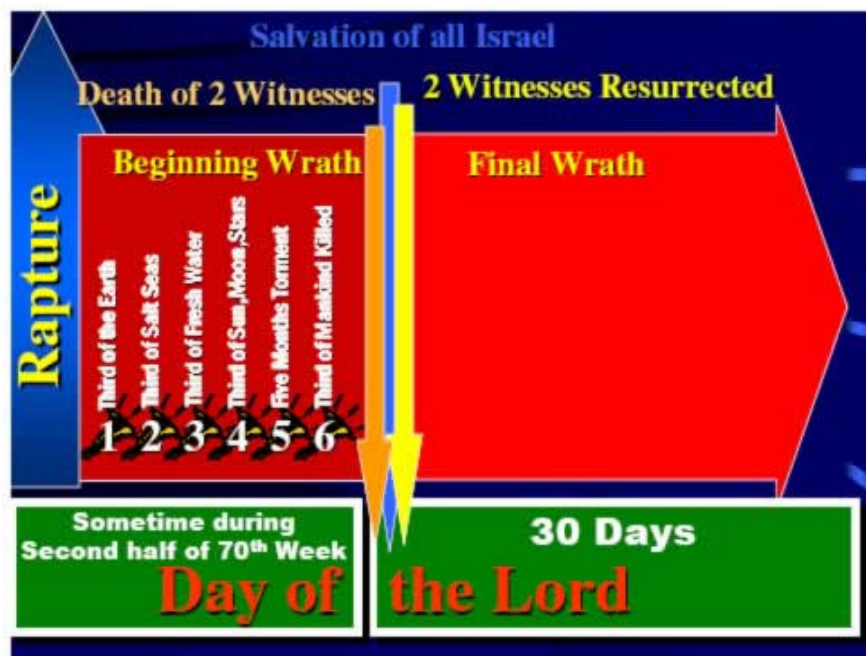
As the large scroll completes, the ministry of the two witnesses comes to a close and the 30 day reclamation period begins...

**Rev 11:11-14** (NIV) But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. {12} Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. {13} At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. {14} *The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon*. (emphasis added)

## Events Initiated by the Small Scroll

- The 30 day Reclamation period begins (Dan 12:11)
- Everlasting righteousness will be brought in to Israel (Dan 9:24)
- Seal up vision and prophecy (Dan 9:24)
- Death and resurrection of two witnesses (Rev 11:7,11-12)

- The second woe is completed (Rev 11:14)
- The seventh trumpet is sounded (Rev 11:15)
- Almighty God begins His reign over earth (Rev 11:17)
- The last of God's wrath begins (Rev 11:18, 15:1)



## The Seventh Trumpet

**Rev 11:15** (NIV) The *seventh* angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." (emphasis added)

**Rev 15:1** (NIV) I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the *seven last plagues*--last, because *with them God's wrath is completed*. (emphasis added)



## The Final Wrath

**Rev 15:7-8** (NIV) Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels *seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God*, who lives for ever and ever. {8} And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. (emphasis added)

Now the final wrath of God will be poured out upon those dwelling on the earth. It is symbolized by seven golden bowls that will be poured out upon mankind. We have stated that these judgments will happen quickly, possibly in as little as 25 days.



## The First Bowl

**Rev 16:1-2** (NIV) Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." {2} The *first angel* went and poured out his bowl on the land, and *ugly and painful sores broke out* on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. (emphasis added)

## The Second Bowl

**Rev 16:3** (NIV) The *second angel* poured out his bowl on the *sea, and it turned into blood* like that of a dead man, and *every living thing in the sea died*. (emphasis added)

It is important to note that whereas the trumpets affected 1/3 of the seas, waters, earth, etc. The bowls now affect *everything*.

## The Third Bowl

**Rev 16:4-7** (NIV) The *third angel* poured out his bowl on the *rivers and springs of water, and they became blood*. {5} Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; {6} *for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets*, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." {7} And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments." (emphasis added)



## The Fourth Bowl

**Rev 16:8-9** (NIV) The *fourth angel* poured out his bowl on the sun, and *the sun was given power to scorch people with fire*. {9} They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. (emphasis added)

Note that even in the intense throes of judgment, people still are hard-hearted and refuse to repent. Even in the pouring out of His wrath - God's goal is that people may finally recognize Him and repent of their selfish ways.

## The Fifth Bowl

**Rev 16:10-11** (NIV) The *fifth angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and *his kingdom was plunged into darkness*. Men gnawed their tongues in agony {11} and cursed the God of heaven **because of their pains and their sores**, but they refused to repent of what they had done. (emphasis added)

The description of the "pain and sores" refers back to the first bowl judgment, which shows the rapid progression of these judgments.



## The Sixth Bowl

**Rev 16:12-16** (NIV) The *sixth angel* poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to *prepare the way for the kings from the East*. {13} Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. {14} They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, *and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty*. {15} "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." {16} *Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon*. (emphasis added)

All Armies to Armageddon



## The Seventh Bowl

**Rev 16:17-21** (NIV) The *seventh angel* poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" {18} *Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake*. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, *so tremendous was the quake*. {19} The great city split into three parts, and the *cities of the nations collapsed*. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. {20} Every island fled away and the *mountains could not be found*. {21} From the sky *huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men*. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. (emphasis added)



## The Bowl Judgments

- The happen quickly possibly in as little as 25 days
- The trumpet judgments affect 1/3 of mankind
- The bowl judgments affect all mankind

## Armageddon

**Rev 19:17-21** (NIV) And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, {18} so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." {19} *Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army*. {20} But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. *The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur*. {21} The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. (emphasis added)



## The 45 Day Restoration Period The Millennial Reign of Christ!

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# Pre Wrath Ministries . org

What the scripture says about the end of time!

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## Premier Issue!

Welcome to the first issue of the PreWrath Ministries.org newsletter. It is our initial design to publish this newsletter bi-monthly and to include articles on new insights into the prewrath view, new features on the website and new materials that are available from PreWrathMinistries.org and others. We also will include information about the growth of the prewrath view and what others are saying about it—positively and negatively. To subscribe to this e-mail newsletter in PDF format, visit <http://prewrathministries.org>.

### New Features on Prewrathministries.org

Now available at Prewrathministries.org - We have finished compiling the complete 10 session study "In View of the End" in 10 PowerPoint files that include presentation notes. There are 472 slides in 10 files. Each session is designed to last approximately 30 minutes. The PowerPoint presentation can be purchased as a web download or on CD delivered by USPS Priority Mail.

### What Others Are Saying

The research on this site includes looking at what some of the pre-trib sites have to say about the PreWrath view. There are some sites which describe the PreWrath view inaccurately as the 3/4 rapture view. They conclude that it is a modified mid-tribulation position where the rapture takes place 3/4 through the 70th week. They miss that the PreWrath view is nothing more than a literal, chronological reading of Matthew 24. The scripture declares that no man knows the day or the hour. To be more accurate these other sites would have to describe PreWrath as the "somewhere in the second half" view. It cannot be an adaptation of the mid-tribulation view because the entire underlying theology behind the two views is completely different. The mid-tribulation view is a reactionary view contrasted against other views. The basis for the PreWrath view is to understand exactly what scripture teaches. It

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Feature Article: The Mark of the Beast... When?

*By Elbert Charpie*

One of the great events of end-time prophecy is the Mark of the Beast. Many have ventured as to what the mark will be or how it will be applied. But there are a couple of strategic points regarding the mark of the beast that must be understood. First, we need to understand that this mark is more than simply an identification mark. The mark seals the eternal destiny of the one who receives the mark. The scripture tells us, (Rev 14:9 NIV) "A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, 10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." Therefore, to receive the mark of the beast is to reject God. Secondly, the mark serves as a sign for judgment as God's final wrath is poured out upon the earth. We are told that the first two bowl judgments are directly aimed at those who have received the mark of the beast.

Now, as we contemplate the mark of the beast, there are a couple of questions that come to mind for which there are no explicit answers. First, can a Christian be forced to take the mark and would that cause him to lose his salvation? And second when, during the unfolding of events, will the mark of the beast take place?

In answer to the first question, the scripture would seem to indicate that the mark is forced upon people according to the NIV, (Rev 13:16) "*He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, 17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.*" But the word "forced" is the word "poieō" which means "to make, do, cause, effect, bring about..." Even though the word means "to make" it is more along the meaning of "to bring about" rather than "to force." The word translated "to receive" is the word "didōmi" which means "to give." Therefore a more accurate rendering might be like the KJV "he caused... to give them a mark." Also, in Rev 14:9 it says "...If anyone worships the beast and

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### **The Mark of the Beast (cont'd)**

his image and **receives** his mark on the forehead or on the hand..." there seems to be the sense that the mark has to be taken willingly. Furthermore in the first bowl judgment it says that "painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark **and** worshipped his image." There is a sense where these two activities of worshipping the beast and receiving the mark go together. In the passage we quoted earlier where it said, (Rev 14:9 NIV) "...*If anyone worships the beast and his image **and** receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, 10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.*" - again the receiving of the mark is linked to worshipping the beast. It may be that the mark itself, even if it were forced, would not be enough to condemn a soul. The scripture does say in Rev 14:11 (NIV) "...*There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, **or** for anyone who receives the mark of his name.*" The "or" would lead one to believe that the mark would be enough, but the word "or" here is "kai" normally translated "and." So, it may very well be that the mark alone would not be enough and that may explain why the mark could not be forced. Now we come to the question, when will the mark of the beast take place in the unfolding of events?

There is some evidence, in this writer's opinion, that the mark of the beast may not be instituted until after the rapture takes place. Therefore much of the question of a Christian receiving the mark may not apply. First, the mark of the beast is not mentioned in any of the judgments of God's wrath until the bowl judgments take place which happens at the end of the 70th week. Second, the description of the beasts and the mark are in Rev. 13. We are told of a first beast that arises and has the authority of the dragon. We are told "the whole world was astonished and followed the beast" (verse 3). In verse 5 it says that "the beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months." This coincides with 2 Thess 2:4 (NIV) "He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God." So, this would be the Abomination of Desolation which will happen at the mid-point of the 70th week or the beginning of the final 42 months. At this point we are told in the last part of verse 10: "This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints." In various scriptures God's people are told to be patient until His coming. James 5:7 (NIV) "Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." Rev 3:10 (NIV) "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth." This also seems to coincide with the martyrs being told to wait a little longer until the full number of those who were to be killed is fulfilled in Rev. 6:11. Immediately after that is the sixth seal where the sign of the Day of the Lord appears and the rapture takes place and the multitude appears in Rev. 7:9. Back in Rev. 13, the word "Then" is used to start the next verse in Rev. 13:11 about a second beast who uses miraculous signs and sets up an image of the first beast and then institutes the mark of the beast. This flow of events seems to lend itself that the mark may not be instituted until after the rapture. Last, as Jesus is telling his disciples about what will happen at the end of time in Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 17 and 21, and Paul describes it in 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, no mention is made of the Mark of the Beast. Although persecution of God's people is described, it seems a terrible omission if God's people were to have to make that choice as they waited for the Lord to rescue them from the persecution of the Antichrist.

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### **What Others Are Saying (cont'd)**

is pre-millennial in scope and utilizes a literal, face-value hermeneutic. For this writer, the PreWrath view was the first perspective of end-time theology where all the prophecies naturally fit together and made sense.

These other sites use Matt 24:9 to prove that persecution or tribulation happens before the mid-point of the 70th week - and therefore that the entire 70th week is the "Tribulation Period." But verse 9 begins "Then" and verse 15 about the Abomination begins "So." The "then" and "so" link these verses together to show that they are describing the same period of time.

## **Coming Soon to PreWrath Ministries.org**

Coming soon to PreWrath Ministries.org is a one-session study on the seven churches of Revelation. This is a refreshing look at a scripture that is puzzling. It answers questions like - "Why are the churches described at the beginning of a book describing the Day of the Lord?" and "What do the seven churches have to do with end-time prophecy?" It also shows how the seven churches support the PreWrath view of the return of Christ.

Keep watching for new studies coming soon!

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

We are now making our newsletters available on the website at <http://prewrathministries.org/news.html>. In addition, visitors may subscribe to the newsletter and they will be sent the newsletter by email as a PDF attachment as soon as each newsletter is available.

## What Others Are Saying

Recently, I was visiting a Christian web forum where they were discussing the pre-wrath view of the end times. I was struck by the interpretations of the prewrath view and some of the assumptions that were made about it. I would like to address a couple of those assumptions.

First, the prewrath view is attributed to be a modification of the post-trib view. Last time I dealt with some who see it as an adaptation of the mid-trib view. The truth is that both mid-trib and post-trib views neglect the scripture where Jesus says no man will know the day and the hour. Furthermore, the prewrath view sees the rapture as happening at an undisclosed time somewhere between the midpoint and the end of the 70th week of Daniel. It will definitely happen **before** God begins to pour out His wrath in judgment of the world.

The second issue I found was that it was stated that the prewrath view, like the pre-trib view, has only been around since the late 1800's. Although the name "prewrath" is relatively new, the teaching of the prewrath view is as old as the church. I actually show on the website at <http://prewrathministries.org/faq.html> under the question "How new is the prewrath view?" that the early church fathers wrote on the end of time including the elements of the prewrath view. Matt 24 IS the prewrath view. So, rather than something new, it is only the name that is new.

## Feature Article: The Two Witnesses... When?

By Elbert Charpie

I had someone write in about the timing of the two witnesses described in Rev. 11, and so I wanted to dedicate this issue to understanding when the two witnesses will appear. The scripture that describes the ministry of the two witnesses is as follows:

*Rev 11:3 (NIV) And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. 7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. 8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. 11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. 13 At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. 15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."*

We are told that the two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days or 3 ½ years. We know that the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel (7 years) is divided in half and much is said about the final 3 ½ years. But the question is: **when do the two witnesses appear?** There are only two choices. Some have placed them appearing at the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week – which would mean their ministry culminates at the mid-point, the other choice is that they appear at the mid-point of the 70<sup>th</sup> week and their ministry finishes at the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

If they appear at the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, then they will be killed at the mid-point - and I am wrong in what I propose in my study that they are killed at the beginning of the 30 days after the 70<sup>th</sup> week. And I cannot say that it is impossible for it to happen this way.

However, I believe the overwhelming evidence is that these two witnesses will appear at the mid-point for the following reasons:

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- 1) The context of the death of the two witnesses in the book of Revelation is between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets. Furthermore, the scripture delineates this time by three “woes” that surround the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets. The Antichrist is not revealed until the midpoint which would make these latter trumpet judgments happen at the mid-point. This means that the first 4 judgments would have to happen **before** the Antichrist is revealed.
- 2) The beast that comes from the Abyss attacks them. The Antichrist is not revealed until the mid-point of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. Although it is possible he is revealed and immediately kills the two witnesses – this seems improbable.
- 3) Every other passage that deals with the 1,260 days or 3 ½ year period obviously points to the second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. If this passage deals with the first half – it is the only passage that does. The scripture basically ignores the first half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week because this is covered by the seals being opened.
- 4) The scripture says in Rev 11:10, “The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.” The witnesses are blamed for tormenting “those who live on the earth.” The judgment of the world – God’s wrath – does not begin until the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week.
- 5) The phrase “inhabitants of the earth” is literally “the ones dwelling on the earth” or “earth dwellers.” It is a technical term that refers to those left on the earth after God has removed his people.
- 6) Verse 15 says, “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world **has become** the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.’” The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet immediately follows the death of the two witnesses and at that point God reclaims the rule of the earth – this does not happen at the mid-point, therefore, the death of the witnesses has to happen after the 70<sup>th</sup> week is over. We do know that in Daniel 9:27 we are told...

Dan 9:27 (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.' **In the middle of the `seven'** he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, **until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.**" We are then told in Dan 12:11...

Dan 12:11 (NIV) "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, **there will be 1,290 days.** Therefore, 30 days after the 70th week (1260 + 30 days = 1290 days) the Antichrist will be destroyed. Therefore, the world does not become “the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ” until the 70th week is over.

For these reasons I believe the two witnesses appear at the mid-point rather than the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. Therefore, they will be killed at the end of their testimony (1260 days) which would make it the first day of the 30 day period following the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

We need to understand that much of the scriptural focus of the last days centers around the second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel. Even in Daniel 9:27 where the 70<sup>th</sup> week is described it skips immediately to the mid-point:

*Daniel 9:27 (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.' **In the middle** of the `seven' he will..."*

Furthermore, Jesus himself said:

*Matt 24:15 (NIV) "So when you see standing in the holy place `the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--  
16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

The event He said to look for is the “Abomination of Desolation” which doesn’t happen until the mid-point of the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Understanding this makes it all the more clear that the testimony of the two witnesses happens during the focal time that surrounds the coming of the Day of the Lord which is the second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

We have created a new **Guestbook** feature on the website. This not only allows for feedback from site visitors, but also allows others to share in the quest for truth that the Pre-Wrath view provides concerning end-time prophecy. It is encouraging to find out that there are other people who think the same way you do and that are struggling with the same issues with which you may be struggling. It also helps to find people that are coming from a similar theological background and how they have come to a Pre-Wrath belief. Please sign the guestbook the next time you visit PreWrathMinistries.org!

## What Others Are Saying

One of the critical arguments against the PreWrath view has to do with the teaching of Imminency. For a description of Imminency, read the end of the main article in this newsletter. Critics say that the PreWrath view does not allow for the imminent return of Jesus - and this is true. They go on to say that imminency is the major concept that keeps evangelism alive in the church. This knowledge that Jesus could come at any moment makes the imperative of sharing Christ all the more urgent and without imminency, there is no urgency to share the gospel. People will wait until they see things happening and then decide. Well, first, the Bible tells us that we are not promised tomorrow. So, there is no guarantee that any of us will see the end-time prophecies fulfilled. Secondly, I must differ with the view that imminency gives evangelism its urgency. I find that the opposite is true. The belief that we will all be rescued in the rapture and have nothing to worry about - to me - makes the church complacent about the return of Christ. The urgency lies in the

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## Feature Article: Pre-Tribulation Assumptions

By Elbert Charpie

As is mentioned on the website, I began as a pre-tribulational rapturist. In fact, I had a friend introduce me to Van Kampen's book The Rapture Question Answered. After reading the book, I saw the validity of the pre-wrath view but resisted embracing the view because for me it meant a complete theological change. Finally, I had to admit that scripturally - I had no choice. Especially the passages in 1 Thess 4 & 5 and 2 Thess 2 convinced me that there was no alternative. The study "In View of the End" was the result. In putting together this study, I realized that my pre-tribulation upbringing was based on 6 assumptions and no clear scriptural evidence. So, in this article I want to look at these 6 assumptions. I define an assumption as a belief or doctrine that is not explicitly stated in scripture. Assumptions are made to explain WHY the scripture says what it says, rather than scripture describing what we believe.

### **Assumption #1: The 70th Week is only for the Jewish Nation: Israel and the church are separate entities God cannot work with both at the same time.**

This assumption is based on the scripture: *Luke 21:23 (NIV) How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles** are fulfilled.* The basis for this assumption is that God dealt with the world through the Jewish nation in the Old Testament, but after Jesus came, a new dispensation of grace came. They see the 70th week of Daniel as a return to the Old Testament dispensation as God deals again specifically with Israel. However, this assumption is invalidated by the scripture in... *Acts 2:15 (NIV) These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'* According to this assumption, this prophecy in Joel should have been applied to Jews only, however, it was applied to the early church. The importance of this assumption is that it gives a foundation to the pre-tribulational claim that Matthew 24 was written specifically for the Jewish people. This is an assumption because nowhere in scripture is this distinction made.

**Assumption #2: Matthew 24 was written specifically for the Jews.** This is an assumption made because Matthew 24 just simply does not conform to a pre-tribulational view of end-time prophecy. The same people that adamantly hold to this assumption would never allow this invalidation of scripture with any other passage - and yet there is nothing in scripture that supports this exclusive application.

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**Assumption #3: Rev. 4:1 signifies the Rapture.** This passage is: *(Rev 4:1 NIV) After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."* There is a door standing open in heaven, a voice like a trumpet, and the proclamation to "Come up here." Pretribulationists vehemently stand by the principle that this passage depicts the rapture. The reason this assumption is so important is that it provides the **only** scriptural evidence of a pre-tribulation rapture. The problem is that the natural sense of the passage is that John was taken by the Spirit into heaven and to see this as applying to the rapture stretches the natural meaning to the extreme - that application is an assumption.

**Assumption #4: The Holy Spirit is the Restrainer in 2 Thess 2:7.** This passage states... *(2 Th 2:6-8 NIV) And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. {7} For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. {8} And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.* That phrase "one who now holds back" in the NASB is "the restrainer" and the "one who letteth" in the KJV. It is never stated, yet pre-tribulationists assume that this "restrainer" is the Holy Spirit. This gives evidence that the Holy Spirit is removed out of the way (along with the church in the rapture) and then the Antichrist is revealed. If this restrainer is NOT the Holy Spirit, then this passage destroys a pretribulation rapture, because the Antichrist MUST come first. The restrainer is simply not identified. However, Daniel 12:1 gives the possibility that the restrainer could be the archangel Michael.

**Assumption #5: 144,000 Jews sealed in Revelation 7 become evangelists.** There is a problem with the pre-tribulation rapture view and that is how to explain the multitude that no one could count that shows up in Rev. 7. Therefore, it is assumed that the 144,000 Jews that are sealed become evangelists and win this multitude during the tribulation period. This is extraordinary when these same assumptions conclude that the Holy Spirit has been taken out of the world. Moreover, the book of Revelation indicates that during the tribulation period (70th week) that rather than responding to God, people will harden their hearts. *Rev 9:20 (NIV) The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk.* This leads to the last assumption...

**Assumption #6: the greatest revival in history takes place during the 70th Week.** This is an assumption because nowhere is there any indication that this revival takes place, in fact, as we have seen the opposite is true. As we have said, this revival is assumed to explain the presence of the multitude that mysteriously appears in heaven. If one does not assume this revival then the only explanation for this multitude would have to be the rapture which would NOT happen before the tribulation period begins.

Now these assumptions are significant in that one must accept all of these assumptions to believe in a pre-tribulation rapture. If any of these assumptions are rejected then the case for a pre-tribulation rapture is seriously in doubt, if not impossible. Yet, these assumptions are also significant because of the fact that they ARE assumptions. There is not a single existing scripture that teaches explicitly a pre-tribulation rapture.

There is one other issue here that could almost be classified as a pre-tribulation assumption. However, it is not a foundational assumption supporting the pre-tribulation view, but comes as a natural consequence of accepting the view. This issue is the doctrine of Imminency. Imminency states that nothing else needs to happen before the rapture takes place, but this is not taught in scripture. Imminency sounds so spiritual and correct as preachers proclaim that "Jesus could come at any moment." However, scripture declares at least three things that must happen before the Day of the Lord occurs. 1) The sign of the Day of the Lord - see Joel 2:31, 2) The prophet Elijah must come - see Malachi 4:5, and 3) The Antichrist must be revealed - see 2 Thess 2:3. None of these has happened as yet, therefore the doctrine of imminency cannot be correct. Now, does this mean Jesus could not come soon? No. In fact, Jesus told His followers in Matthew 24, "When you see standing... the Abomination of Desolation..." Based on Jesus' words there is a possibility that we may not even realize what is happening until the Abomination of Desolation takes place. At that point Jesus return could happen VERY quickly. I also address imminency in the article in this newsletter, "What Others Are Saying."

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Biblical teaching that God's people will be purified and that persecution may very well be a part of that process. The scripture declares that we must be ready - to watch and wait. The message for the lost is that wrath is coming and the only hope is found in Jesus. *Matt 24:44 (NIV) So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. 45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.*

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

Now on the website we have categorized the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page. All of the questions are grouped under subject headings which should make reviewing the questions much easier. Also, as the number of questions has grown, this has helped keep the page more manageable. If you haven't seen it in awhile - go try out the new format.

## Near/Far Prophecy & The 7 Churches

One critical aspect of understanding Biblical prophecy is the recognition of what is called the Near/Far application of prophecy. This is a common aspect of prophecy throughout scripture. One of the clearest examples of this is found when Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah regarding Jesus' birth. God used Isaiah to make a prophecy to King Ahaz over 400 years before Jesus was born: **Isaiah 7:14** (NIV) "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. **15** He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. **16** But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste." This prophecy applied to the situation King Ahaz found himself in back in Isaiah's day. But then Matthew quotes this prophecy to apply to something much farther in the future. **Matt 1:22** (NIV) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel--which means, 'God with us.'" There were several hundred years between these two

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## Feature Article: The Preterist View

*By Elbert Charpie*

The word "preterist" is from the Latin "praeter" meaning "past" or "beyond." The Preterist view is centered on the concept that apocalyptic prophecy, especially in the book of Revelation, was culminated at the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Now it must be said that as with other views there are variations within the Preterist camp, but there are two main views. Partial Preterism sees all prophecy being fulfilled by A.D. 70 except Jesus return and the resurrection of the dead. Full Preterism differs in that it sees even Jesus return and the resurrection of the dead happening by A.D. 70.<sup>1</sup> The Preterist view contains some strong arguments. Among these are the following: In Matthew 24—the Olivet Discourse, the discussion of the end times began with Jesus referring to the destruction of the temple. Of course, this happened in A.D. 70. Also, Jesus made the following comment in this passage... **Matt 24:33** (NIV) "Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. **34** I tell you the truth, *this generation will certainly not pass away* until all these things have happened." Here Jesus plainly states that the generation listening to Him (according to the Preterists) would not pass away until all the events surrounding His return came to pass. According to this view, New Testament writers fully expected Jesus' return within their lifetimes. For example: **Matt 16:28** (NIV) "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." **Rom. 13:12**, "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here." **I Cor. 7:29** and **31**, "The time is short. This world in its present form is passing away." **I Cor. 10:11**, "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come." **Hebrews 10:37**, "In just a very little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay." along with many other passages. The Preterists claim that the NT writers saw Jesus return as "near." Preterists claim that "near" is 30 or 40 years away, not 2,000 or 3,000 years away. Full Preterists believe the rapture happened in A.D. 70 and is evidenced by a lack of missionary activity and Christian writings for nearly a generation after A.D. 70.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, they state that Josephus, Eusebius, Tacitus, and the Talmud all reference heavenly and angelic disturbances that surrounded the fall of Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> For Preterists the "end of the age" that Jesus referenced in Matthew 24, was the end of Biblical Judaism. Full Preterists see the current age as the "new heaven and earth" - only in a spiritual sense. It is new in the sense that Jesus reigns spiritually. They believe that this current age will last perhaps thousands of years and that we are not in the "last days" as futurists promote. Partial Preterists see the millennium as referring to the current age and not as a literal 1,000 years, but as an indefinite period of time.

Now, my problems with the Preterist view are as follows: first, the Preterist view has to approach scripture from an allegorical viewpoint. Even very specific passages in Revelation such as the beasts from the abyss that have such a detailed description could not have taken place before A.D. 70 without it becoming a major earmark of history. Therefore, it has to be an allegorical reference to something else that actually happened. Or, Preterists might assign it to a heavenly or spiritual event of which those on the earth would have no knowledge. It is significant that several times in the book of Revelation the

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## The Preterist View *(Continued from page 1)*

judgments are proclaimed to be directed toward the “earth-dwellers.” This reoccurring theme would seem to make a problem for the assumption that many of these events happened in the heavenly realm. Furthermore, there are scriptures which indicate that there would be a span of time before the end of time would come. For example: **Daniel 9:26** (NIV) “After the sixty-two `sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue *until the end*, and desolations have been decreed.” This indicates that the destruction of the temple will not yet be the end. Also, **2 Peter 3:4** (NIV) They will say, “Where is this `coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” Here, Peter is implying that the Lord may tarry in His coming. Preterists also have a problem when dealing with the Antichrist. Had such a figure appeared on the scene, it would surely have been recorded in history. Preterists claim that Antichrist did not necessarily have to be an individual, but an antichristian spirit. Another problem for the Preterists is the date of the writing of Revelation. Most scholars date the writing in the mid 90's A.D. If this is so, then the Preterist view would be impossible. It would be prophecy after the fact! Preterists hold to an earlier date of right around 70 A.D. In this writer's opinion, if the book were written that close to the fulfillment of the events it described, what was the purpose of the book? No other prophecy in all of scripture was written so close to its fulfillment. The Preterists hold to the argument that the NT writers saw the return of the Lord as being “near.” And, this is true. But, even in the Old Testament, the prophets saw the Day of the Lord as also near. For example: **Isaiah 13:6** (NIV) “Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. **Ezekiel 30:3** (NIV) For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near-- a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.,” **Joel 1:15** (NIV) Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.,” **Obadiah 1:15** (NIV) “The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head.,” **Zephaniah 1:14** (NIV) “The great day of the LORD is near-- near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there.” These prophecies were written at least 400 years before Jesus was born! Luke was still looking for the Day of the Lord in **Acts 2:20** (NIV) “The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Last, the Preterist view seems to ignore the doctrine of the “Day of the Lord.” This teaching had become a concrete doctrine well before the New Testament was written. We know this because Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: **1 Thess 5:1** (NIV) “Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.” These readers were very familiar with the Day of the Lord. But the Day of the Lord is described as a day of judgment and devastation upon all the nations of the earth, and this definitely did not happen in 70 A.D. The Preterists might try to claim that the Day of the Lord is still a future event, but if that is the case, how can it be associated with the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:13ff and 5:1-2? In human reasoning, the Preterist view makes a lot of sense, but when the whole picture of the Day of the Lord and the reason for its coming as explained in Daniel 9:24 is taken into account the Preterist view just doesn't make sense.

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preterism>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.preteristarchive.com/Preterism/stevens-ed\\_p\\_01.html](http://www.preteristarchive.com/Preterism/stevens-ed_p_01.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.preterist.org/>

## Near/Far Prophecy & The 7 Churches *(Continued from page 1)*

fulfillments. Therefore, it was fulfilled in the near future in King Ahaz's time and in the far future when Jesus was born. This is a common occurrence in Biblical prophecy. So, the student of prophecy must be aware that there may be a historical and a future element to any given prophecy. I believe this to be the case when we read of the seven churches at the beginning of the book of Revelation. One cannot deny that these messages applied to the actual first century churches that existed in Asia Minor at the time the book was written. The Preterists would say that this is the only application. Even many futurists may agree. But many, and I believe correctly so, see that these letters to the seven churches have an application much greater also. There are three common views of the churches: 1) They are purely historical letters with no future application, 2) They are symbolic of ages of church history—and most that hold to this view see us presently in the Laodicean church age. 3) They are typical pictures of the general state of the church at the time of the end. After much study and consideration, this writer has come up with a fourth option. There are seven churches and seven seals. The seals depict what will be going on in the world during the 70th week up until the Day of the Lord begins. What if the seven churches depict what is going on in the church during the 70th week. If that is so, there would be some interesting parallels wouldn't there? I have a study on the Seven Churches which I plan to make available on the website in the very near future.

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

Brand new on the website is the Answer Workbook. This is the exact same workbook that accompanies the "In View of the End" PowerPoint® presentation, but all of the answers are already filled in. In live presentations there have been many requests for the answers to workbook blanks that the participants may have missed. This provides the presenter with a tool that makes finding missed answers easy. Also, for those who purchase the study, the answer workbook can be helpful in learning to present the study more effectively.

## The Days of Noah and Lot

Even as a pre-tribulational rapture believer, I was always confused over the scriptures that compare the coming of Christ to the days of Noah and Lot. The passage in question is...

**Luke 17:26** (NIV) "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. **27** People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage **up to the day** Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. **28** "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. **29** But **the day** Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. **30** "It will be just like this **on the day** the Son of Man is revealed (emphasis added).

I had heard many sermons that all basically concluded that as life had gone on in the days of Noah and Lot, life will go on in the last days until unexpectedly Christ will return and judge the world. The emphasis was on the unexpected nature of Christ's return. When I began to

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## Feature Article: The Rapture

*By Elbert Charpie*

I have been asked the question, "Where in the Bible is the Rapture mentioned?" The word "rapture" is not in the Bible. It is from the Latin Vulgate (ancient Latin translation of the Bible) "rapere" which means to "catch up." In 1 Thess 4:17 the Bible states that we will be "caught up" and this is the phrase where the Vulgate used the word "rapere." But the concept of the rapture is in many places. The most definitive description of the rapture is found in 1 Thess 4:15-18.

**1 Thess 4:15** (NIV) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** After that, ***we who are still alive and are left will be caught up*** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. **18** Therefore encourage each other with these words (emphasis added).

But there are many more passages which describe the rapture. For instance, **Matt 24:29** (NIV) "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' **30** "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. **31** **And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other** (emphasis added). Also...

**Matt 24:36** (NIV) "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. **That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left** (emphasis added).

Most people agree with the concept of the rapture, but the controversy comes in deciding exactly **when** the rapture will occur. One aspect of the rapture that is most often overlooked is that the Apostle Paul had his own name for the rapture. In the 1 Thessalonians 4 passage we read above, that chapter ends with verse 18. But immediately the first verse of chapter 5 continues...

**1 Thess 5:1** (NIV) Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2** for you know very well that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night (emphasis added).

It becomes obvious that Paul is continuing the thought he began in chapter 4, but now he gives a name to what he has been talking about—the Day of the Lord!

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## **The Rapture** *(Continued from page 1)*

He does the same thing when he writes about the Lord's coming in 2nd Thessalonians...

**2 Thess 2:1** (NIV) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, **2** not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the **day of the Lord** has already come (emphasis added).

Now Paul defines his subject as "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" **AND** "our being gathered to him." Our "gathering" to Him can only be the rapture. These people were alarmed that they had missed the rapture. He goes on to again name this event as "the Day of the Lord." The fact that the Apostle Paul names this event in both cases where he addresses the rapture in major context proves two assertions. First, the Day of the Lord was a major doctrine of eschatology that was well understood by Paul's readers at the time of writing, and second, the rapture was (and is) a part of the doctrine of the Day of the Lord.

Paul, himself, called the rapture the "Day of the Lord." When you realize this, then anywhere the scripture uses the term "day of the Lord," it is speaking of the rapture and the rapture is all through the scripture. For instance in the book of Acts...

**Acts 2:20** (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. **21** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

This passage begins to take on new meaning, as will many others when the connection is made between the rapture and the Day of the Lord. Matthew 24 begins to make sense and the ultimate conclusion is that the Day of the Lord is initiated by the sign in the sun, moon and stars; the rapture takes place; and then God's wrath begins to fall upon the world. The book of Revelation describes the sign and declares that the "great day of their wrath has come..." and immediately thereafter the multitude appears that "no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language" that are said to come out of the great tribulation. Who else could this multitude be except all of the saints from all of the ages?

Now, when one answers the question, "Where in the Bible is the rapture mentioned?" the conclusion is that the rapture in the form of its Biblical name, "Day of the Lord," is all over the Bible. It is in the Old Testament, New Testament, and the book of Revelation.

## **The Days of Noah and Lot** *(Continued from page 1)*

understand the concept of the Day of the Lord and that this event was initiated by the sign and the rapture, these passages took on new and important meaning. In the Genesis story we read...

**Gen 7:1-4** (NIV) The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. **{2}** Take with you seven... **{4}** *Seven days from now* I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." (emphasis added)

Now because of the "seven days from now" this passage has been used to argue a pre-tribulational rapture because according to the "pre-trib" view the rapture happens seven years before Christ's return. But, if you continue reading the passage you find that Noah and his family did not actually enter the ark until the DAY the flood came...

**Gen 7:12-13** (NIV) And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. **{13}** *On that very day* Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark (emphasis added).

You may notice the highlighted words in the Luke passage at the beginning of this article—"up to the day Noah entered," "the day Lot left Sodom," and "on the day the Son of Man is revealed," and also the Genesis passage "On that very day Noah... entered the ark." There seems to be an almost ridiculous accent on "the day." But, because of the connection of the rapture with the Day of the Lord it becomes apparent that the significance of the Luke passage is the teaching that on the day God delivers His people, His judgment will begin. Now, the Luke passage intensifies the connection between the rapture and the Day of the Lord. Luke says "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed." Therefore, the sign of the Day of the Lord will appear, the saints of God will be raptured, and the Day of God's wrath will begin. The Luke passage is a warning that the Day of the Lord is coming, and also that the Day of the Lord will begin by God rescuing His people.

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

Continually being updated on the website is the Frequently Asked Questions page or FAQ page. Almost every day, I get questions from visitors to the site ranging from theological questions to how to present or defend the Pre-Wrath view with others. I don't pretend to have all the answers, but it is a joy to help those who are trying to understand scripture and find the truth. I invite you to feel free to email me at [elbert@prewrathministries.org](mailto:elbert@prewrathministries.org) if you have a question, or if there is a concept you are struggling to understand. I try to answer all emails and give the best response I can. I may have to answer, "I don't know," but I don't mind digging to find answers.

## The Significance of the Pre-Wrath View

One of the most important questions we can ask is, "Why does it make a difference if we believe the Pre-Wrath view?" I titled my study *In View of the End*. Well, in view of the end—what difference does it make?

I believe that when we begin to see how prophecy fits together and the plan that God has for the last days several things happen:

1) **God's word becomes so much more relevant.** We live in a day when the Bible, and the church, are believed to be more irrelevant to everyday life than ever before. The Pre-Wrath view gives the reader the confidence that God has had a plan all along and that it IS as relevant today as it was when it was written. The result is the understanding that God is going to accomplish what He had set about doing from Genesis 1:1. The end of time is the culmination of all that has happened in scripture before.

2) **God's word becomes so much more clear.** It has amazed me that when I finally gave in to a Pre-Wrath understanding, so much more of the scripture came alive to me.

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## Feature Article: The Last Trump

*By Elbert Charpie*

In the book of 1 Corinthians 15:52 we have a message about the "last trump." The passage is :

**1 Cor 15:50** (NIV) I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." **55** "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (emphasis added).

There were questions raised in the church at Corinth because some were contending that there was no resurrection of the body. The Apostle Paul went into great detail to explain that when the dead are resurrected, they will no longer have earthly mortal bodies, but immortal bodies like Jesus had after His resurrection. In his description, Paul alludes to the rapture when he says that not all will sleep—as in death, but all WILL be changed to have immortal bodies. Then he describes how these will be changed. It will be instantaneous—in a flash—the twinkling of an eye, and it will happen at the last trumpet. There are some, then, that have used this passage to make a defense that the rapture will happen when the 7th trumpet in the book of Revelation sounds. I find this interpretation impossible for two reasons.

First, Paul is concentrating on the subject of the resurrection. This description would seem to coincide with the trumpets associated with the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Matthew 24:31. All three of these passages focus on the deliverance of God's people in the last days. In contrast, the 7th trumpet in the book of Revelation focuses on judgment of the dead and reward of the saints. This 7th trumpet is also called the third "woe" - which indicates that rather than deliverance, this is an event to be dreaded.

**Rev 11:14** (NIV) The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. **15** The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." **16** And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. **18** The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for **judging the dead**, and for **rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints** and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- **and for destroying those who destroy the earth**" (emphasis added).

There is nothing in this passage that implies the rapture of the saints. In addition to this, there is a much greater reason that these trumpets should not be confused. In Revelation, when the sixth seal is opened, the following statement is made:

**Rev 6:12** (NIV) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. the sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **The Last Trump** *(Continued from page 1)*

red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?**" (emphasis added).

The seventh seal initiates the seven trumpets. Therefore, most scholars agree that the seven trumpets are the beginning of the wrath of God. The greatest problem over associating the 1 Corinthians 15:52 trumpet with the 7th trumpet of Revelation is that God's people, then, endure the wrath of God. There are various scriptures which explicitly state that God's people will not go through the wrath of God.

**Romans 5:9** (NIV) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more **shall we be saved from God's wrath** through him! (emphasis added)

**1 Thess 1:10** (NIV) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, **who rescues us from the coming wrath.** (emphasis added)

**1 Thess 5:9** (NIV) For **God did not appoint us to suffer wrath** but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (emphasis added)

**Rev 3:10** (NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also **keep you from the hour of trial** that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. (emphasis added)

**Luke 21:36** (NIV) Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to **escape all that is about to happen**, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. (emphasis added)

The conclusion is that the only connection between these two trumpets is that the 1 Corinthians 15:52 trumpet is called the "last," and the 7th trumpet of Revelation is the last in the sequence of judgment trumpets to sound. The reader has to assume that these are the same and to do so, violates the much more explicit descriptions of what will happen in the last days.

## **The Significance of the Pre-Wrath View** *(Continued from page 1)*

Passages where the scripture speaks of the wrath of God, or the coming wrath begin to make so much more sense—as do scriptures that speak of God's love and deliverance of His people. Scriptures such as...

**Romans 2:5** (NIV) But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are **storing up wrath** against yourself for the **day of God's wrath**, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. **6** God "will give to each person according to what he has done." **7** To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life. 8** But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, **there will be wrath and anger. 9** There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; **10** but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. **11** For God does not show favoritism (emphasis added).

...begin to take on new life and new meaning. It is almost as if a light has been turned on in the scripture.

**3) God's plan becomes so much more urgent.** One of the greatest concerns I have because of a Pre-Wrath understanding is that much of the church may be unprepared for what is to come. By far, the most prevalent view of eschatology is the pre-tribulational rapture. This is the view that was made popular by the best selling "Left Behind" series of books. This is the view I was taught and believed up until around six years ago. I believe Pre-Wrath now because, for the first time, all of the biblical prophecies fit together and make sense. I am sure I have not figured everything out, but I am just as sure that I am closer than ever before. For that reason, I am concerned for THE church that many may be deceived by the Antichrist believing that he could not come upon the scene until they had been raptured. I feel a great sense of urgency to somehow provide enough of a doubt in the minds of pre-trib believers that they may at least be open to another possibility if events should unfold in a way they do not expect.

I will be the first to admit that I would love to be wrong. And, if I am wrong, I really have nothing to lose. But, if I am right there is the possibility that many could be left unprepared for the 70th week of Daniel and unbelieving that it could actually be taking place. Believe me, I would much rather be gone! The thoughts in this article I plan to add as a closing to the final session of the study in the near future.

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

This issue for June 2007 is coming out a little late. The beginning of summer has been very busy for me. We ran a May special for the powerpoint® presentation and it went well. For those who have purchased the presentation, it would be helpful to me if you could send me testimonials about how the study was received, any notable comments about the study, and also any suggestions for improvement that you might feel are warranted. I am amazed at the emails I receive of those who had come to a pre-wrath conclusion long before the “pre-wrath” view became the name for it. Please pray that God will continue to use this ministry for His glory.

## The Sign of the Day of the Lord

One of the greatest deciding factors that convinced me of the validity of the pre-wrath view was the understanding that the biblical name for the rapture was the “Day of the Lord” as the Apostle Paul called it in **1 Thess. 5:2** and **2 Thess. 2:2**. But also, the understanding that the Day of the Lord was to be preceded by a sign. When I understood that, I found that the sign was mentioned in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and in the book of Revelation. By following the “sign” of the Day of the Lord, all of prophecy began to fit together and make sense as it had never done for me before. Just to give a few examples, the sign is mentioned in:

**Joel 2:31** (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

**Isaiah 13:13** (NIV) Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.

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## Feature Article: The Salvation of Israel

*By Elbert Charpie*

One of the most significant principles of end-time prophecy is the redemption of the chosen people of Israel. This was God’s plan when He called Abraham, and it has not changed over the ages. The Apostle Paul spoke of the significance of Israel:

**Rom 11:25-26** (NIV) I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. **{26}** And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob." (emphasis added)

When the prophet Daniel prophesied about the 70th week, he pointed out the specific purpose and the subject of the 70th week...

**Dan 9:24** (NIV) Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for **your people** and **your holy city** to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *(emphasis added)*.

The whole reason for the last ‘seven’ (seven years) is for “your people” and “your holy city.” In Revelation it speaks of the woman who gives birth to a child and how the dragon waits to destroy the child, but as soon as the woman gives birth the child is snatched up to God and the woman is protected in the wilderness. Most Bible scholars agree that the woman represents Israel.

**Rev 12:13** (NIV) When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. **14** The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

Then in the wilderness we are told that the Lord will deal with Israel personally...

**Ezek 20:35** (NIV) I will bring you into the desert of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you. **36** As I judged your fathers in the desert of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign LORD. **37** I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. **38** I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Then the Lord (Jesus) will lead Israel on a 3 day journey to Jerusalem.

**Hosea 6:1-3** (NIV) Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. **{2}** After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. **{3}** Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.

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## **The Salvation of Israel** *(Continued from page 1)*

**Micah 2:12-13** (NIV) "I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. {13} One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the LORD at their head." (emphasis added)

**Isaiah 63:1-4** (NIV) Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." {2} Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? {3} "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. {4} For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come.

After the Lord begins His journey, many other Jews will join the march who did not make it to the wilderness. We are told in **Zechariah 13:8-9** that by this time 2/3's of Israel will have already perished.

**Hosea 11:10-11** (NIV) They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. {11} "They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria. I will settle them in their homes," declares the LORD.

One of the most touching passages about his time is... **Zec 12:10** (NIV) And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Lastly, we are told that others besides Jewish people will be joined to this band of followers.

**Isaiah 14:1** (NIV) The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. *Aliens will join them* and unite with the house of Jacob. (emphasis added) It is exciting to know that Israel will finally accept Jesus Christ as their true Messiah. This is the fulfillment of what began when God promised to make Abraham's descendants into a great nation. God's purposes have not changed—what He began He will finish.

## **The Sign of the Day of the Lord** *(Continued from page 1)*

**Matt 24:29** (NIV) "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." 30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

**Acts 2:20** (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

**2 Pet 3:10** (NIV) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

**Rev 6:12** (NIV) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?"

For me, to line up the sign in these and many other places made the prophecies come alive and make sense. For years I struggled with seemingly contradictory statements in prophecy, and assumptions I had been taught about what the scriptures mean. But to understand the consistency of the teachings concerning the Day of the Lord and the sign of the Day of the Lord, brought to life the truth of the scripture and that God, indeed, had a plan that He was implementing all along from the very beginning. Not only did the "Sign" help my understanding of end-time prophecy, but it also increased my faith that God is a God that finishes what He starts. It also made me realize how hidden the things of God are to the wise and learned, and how open they are to the eyes of childlike faith.

## New on Prewrathministries.org

I must begin this issue with an apology. As most of you know I have just moved to a new church field and now pastor at First Baptist Church in Citronelle, Alabama. Citronelle is located about 25 miles north of Mobile, Alabama. This is actually home for me and I am now within 45 minutes of most of my family. There has been so much to do to get the groundwork laid for my ministry in this new church field, and I have not been able to spend as much time on prewrath emails and newsletters as I would want. Therefore, I missed the August newsletter issue and am late for the October issue. So, rather than wait until November, I decided to get an October newsletter out now and then plan for the next one in December. The exciting thing is that my ministry here at First Baptist will provide some new opportunities for teaching the prewrath position. I plan to do a week long seminar on "In View of the End" maybe in the Spring and hope to publicize it throughout our area. Please keep me in your prayers that I will be able to stay on top of my ministry responsibilities here and also have the time to continue to promote the prewrath rapture position. By the way, if you are interested our church has just put up a new website and the address is <http://citronellefbc.com>.

## Why The Holy Spirit Is Not The Restrainer

One of the issues regarding the rapture and the revealing of the Antichrist is the identification of the restrainer as the Holy Spirit. Now, we have already covered some of this in the main article on The Restrainer, but I want to deal more directly with why the Holy Spirit is NOT the restrainer.

It is important to note that nowhere in scripture is the Holy Spirit identified as having a ministry of hindering sin. Rather, the scripture identifies His ministry as:

John 16:8 (NIV) When he comes, he will

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## Feature Article: The Restrainer

*By Elbert Charpie*

The passage in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 introduces an element of Christ's return that has caused much debate. It is found in verses 6 and 7. The passage we are concerned with is... (I have bolded verse 6 & 7)

2 Thess 2:3 (NIV) Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? **6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.** 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

The NASB states these verses like this...

2 Thess 2:6 (NASU) And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains [will do so] until he is taken out of the way.

This is where we get the idea of the restrainer, or the "one who holds back." The pre-trib position has made much of this citing that the restrainer is none other than the Holy Spirit. They conclude that the rapture must happen first because that is when the Holy Spirit will be removed from the world along with the church. However, they go on to teach that the greatest revival in history will take place during the 70th week spurred on by 144,000 "sealed" Jewish evangelists, even though the Holy Spirit has been "taken out of the way." They defend this revival by saying that the Holy Spirit continues to work in the same way He did in the Old Testament. They insist on this interpretation in order to explain the appearance of the multitude in Rev 7:9. Although these explanations seem reasonable, they are, in fact, not supported by scripture. First, the restrainer in 2 Thess 2:6 is not identified, although he is apparently known to the Thessalonian readers because Paul writes "and you know what restrains him now..." Secondly, nowhere is there any evidence that the 144,000 Jews who are sealed become evangelists. On the contrary, the scriptures teach that God will deal with these until they finally come to the point of recognizing Jesus as their true Messiah. Third, there is no scriptural evidence of a revival during the 70th week, rather we are told that the people of the earth still refused to repent.

Now, if the restrainer, then, is not the Holy Spirit—who is he? Does the scripture give us any clue to his identity? I believe there are a couple of passages that point to who this restrainer might be.

First in Daniel we are given a glimpse of a connection between Michael the archangel and the beginning of the tribulation of the 70th week...

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## **The Restrainer** *(Continued from page 1)*

Daniel 12:1 (NIV) "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

Whatever Michael's "arising" is, it is the beginning of the "time of distress." We also know that the archangel Michael is pointed out in scripture to be the defender of Israel. For instance:

Jude 1:9 (NIV) But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Daniel 10:12 (NIV) Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. 14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

Daniel 10:20 (NIV) So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; 21 but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince...)

So, Michael was involved when Moses died, and also when Daniel was seeking to know the future of his people. It is interesting to note that Michael is referred to as "your prince." It was Michael who disputed with the Devil, and it was Michael who fought against the prince of Persia. It is much of a stretch, then, to assume that Michael may be the very one who restrains the "power of lawlessness that is already at work?" When you add to that, that Michael is linked to the beginning of the 70th week tribulation, I think it makes a very strong case for the identity of the restrainer as Michael. Michael is also the one in the book of Revelation who fought against the dragon and cast him down to earth. Restraining doesn't seem too hard of a task after reading that.

## **Why The Holy Spirit Is Not The Restrainer** *(Continued from page 1)*

convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Nowhere is hindering here mentioned. Furthermore, if the Holy Spirit is removed as some have suggested, there is a conflict of other scripture passages that indicate that the Holy Spirit is at work and active during the 70th week.

For Instance...

Mark 13:8 (NIV) Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. 9 "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Matt 10:17 (NIV) "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. 18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Luke 21:13 (NIV) This will result in your being witnesses to them. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Far from being gone, it seems the Holy Spirit will be more active than ever indwelling and giving wisdom as He has done ever since Pentecost. Identifying the restrainer as the Holy Spirit and insisting that He is removed just doesn't make sense. However His presence during the 70th week to convict the world of sin "because men do not believe in me," and of righteousness because Jesus is not present, and of judgment because the Devil is facing judgment makes all the sense in the world. If the Holy Spirit then HAS to be present; the only other conclusion is that someone else is the restrainer.

## New on Prewrathministries.org

I have had several questions sent to me regarding Jesus' return asking whether the rapture and glorious appearing are one or two events - and how Jesus can be at the Bema judgment in heaven and deal with the Jews on earth during the same time period. This is an important enough question that I have added it to my FAQ page and felt it deserved to be answered here.

The pre-tribulational rapture view does see Christ's second coming in two events - the rapture and the glorious appearing seven years later. The prewrath view sees both as the same event. Jesus will come and rapture his saints and every eye will see him. He will return with the armies of heaven at the battle of Armageddon, but this is not a return for His people. From the time of the rapture until Jesus sets up His millennial kingdom, He will be involved in many happenings upon the earth. He will deal with the Israelites in the wilderness and will lead them on a march back to Jerusalem. There they will be protected as God pours out His final wrath upon the earth and as Jesus defeats the Antichrist at the battle of Armageddon. Then Jesus will set up His millennial kingdom which will last for 1,000 years.

So, there is one second coming, but it will last a while until the millennial kingdom is established. In comparison, Jesus came the first time and his coming lasted 33 years.

Jesus does come back and rapture His saints and He does deal with them in Heaven, but at the same time He deals with the Jewish remnant here on earth. It is no problem for Him to travel back and forth. Furthermore, He is God, and as God, He shares the attributes of God including omnipresence (the ability to be everywhere at the same time). As far as the Jews are concerned, they are not raptured. The Jewish remnant will enter the millennial kingdom in their earthly bodies and will have charge of the earth along with a multitude of Gentiles that survive the 70th Week to re-populate the earth.

In the rapture, Jewish people who have accepted Jesus as their true Messiah will also be raptured and therefore, will not be a part of the remnant, but most Jews have rejected Jesus and will not accept Him until the end of the 70th Week.

## Feature Article: The Tribulation

By Elbert Charpie

I want to devote this article to weeding out much of the misconception of the so-called "Tribulation Period," connected with the last days. Those who hold to a pre-tribulational rapture viewpoint have taken the predicted time of tribulation and associated it identically with the 70th week - lasting the entire 7 years. The main scripture that predicts this time is:

Matt 24:21 (NIV) For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

The pre-trib camp views the entire 70th week of Daniel as "the tribulation period." However, let us look at the context of the passage—verse 9 begins...

Matt 24:9 (NIV) "**THEN** you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 15 "**SO** when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand-- 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world...

Notice the words "then" and "so." These words indicate timing and clearly associate this time of persecution AFTER the Abomination of Desolation takes place. Even the pre-trib camp recognizes that the Abomination of Desolation takes place at the mid-point of the 70th week or the beginning of the latter 3 and 1/2 years.

Furthermore, in verse 15, Jesus could have used any event to warn us to watch for the persecution to come, but He chose the Abomination of Desolation. I have said before that this could be evidence that we may not even realize we are in the "tribulation period" until the Abomination of Desolation takes place.

There is an even a stronger argument because almost everyone agrees that the tribulation associated with these latter days is caused by the ascension of the Antichrist to power. Yet, we are told clearly in Revelation that the rule of Antichrist will be limited to 42 months or 3 and 1/2 years.

Rev 13:5 (NIV) The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Compare this with 2 Thessalonians: 2 Thess 2:4 (NIV) He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up

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## **The Tribulation** *(Continued from page 1)*

in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

There is no scripture that links the last day tribulation to a period of longer than 1,260 days. The only way around this for a pre-trib argument is to split up the different passages by suggesting some are the first half of the 70th week and some apply to the last half. However, there is not one single scripture that promotes this division. On the contrary, all scriptural evidence points to a single 1,260 day timeframe, as it relates to end-time events, that has to come at the latter half of the 70th week. There are three major events—the Abomination of Desolation and the revealing of Antichrist leading to his rule of 1,260 days; the fight of the woman to the wilderness - most commonly seen as the persecution of Israel; and the ministry of the two witnesses which lasts exactly 1,260 days. Although the pre-trib camp tries to divide these events, the context in which they happen can make no sense unless they happen concurrently. And, they have to happen during the second half of the 70th week. They are delineated at the front by the Abomination of Desolation and at the back by the sounding of the 7th trumpet and the return to Jerusalem of the wilderness remnant. The ministry of the two witnesses makes no sense unless it happens during the rule of Antichrist. The woman fleeing to the wilderness also has to be tied to the Antichrist's rule, and the rule of the Antichrist does not begin until the Abomination of Desolation takes place.

The scripture is all but silent regarding the first 1,260 days of the 70th week. The only event that is prophesied to happen at the beginning is the signing of the covenant with “the many.” This begins to make sense when the scripture criticizes Israel for making this covenant and for trusting in a time of peace.

Isaiah 28:15 (NIV) You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

Jer 6:11 (NIV) But I am full of the wrath of the LORD, and I cannot hold it in. "Pour it out on the children in the street and on the young men gathered together; both husband and wife will be caught in it, and the old, those weighed down with years. 12 Their houses will be turned over to others, together with their fields and their wives, when I stretch out my hand against those who live in the land," declares the LORD... 14 They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace.

1 Thess 5:2 (NIV) for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

## **The Visible Return of Christ**

One of the greatest stumbling blocks to me when I was a pre-tribulation rapture adherent, was the fact that over and over again Jesus declared that His second coming would be unmistakable. He said...

Matt 24:23 (NIV) At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.

Matt 24:26 (NIV) "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Mark 13:21 (NIV) At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it.

Luke 17:23 (NIV) Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

It just seems that Jesus went to a great degree of trouble to admonish us not to be deceived into thinking that He had come and we had missed it. If the rapture were a “secret” coming and only believers would know of it, why would Jesus make these statements? Furthermore, Revelation tells us:

Rev 6:15 (NIV) Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?"

This is why the pre-wrath view made so much sense to me because there is one coming and everyone will see it. The world will know that God has been true to His word and has returned to judge the world. The amazing thing is that still the world will reject Him. But we are told in 2 Thessalonians...

2 Thess 2:11 (NIV) For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

On the resource page I have made some changes. For the prewrath books I offer on my page—up until now I have just been handling orders and have passed the payment and shipping instructions on to the publisher or distributor. I have now added the ability to order these books directly from Amazon.com. This will accomplish two things. First, this keeps me from having to do double processing on the order, and second, the buyer can get the lowest price available if he chooses to order a used book. I think this will be a win-win situation for everyone.

Also, I was privileged to be asked, by Kristen Wisen, to preview her brand new prewrath novel called The Appearing. Kristen is the daughter of Robert Van Kampen, and she is endeavoring to continue her father's work. The novel was a riveting story about a church that adopted a prewrath doctrine and then put plans into place to prepare for the coming of the Antichrist. The novel is scriptural and will be available through Kristen's website March 1st. A link is provided to pre-order the book.

## What Others Are Saying

I was sent an email where George Bush was presented a scroll from the New Jewish Congress, The Sanhedrin, and The Holy Temple and Temple Mount Movements on January 9, 2008. The text of the scroll can be found at <http://www.templeinstitute.org/megillat-bush.htm>. In the scroll, it addresses President Bush as: "Esteemed Mr. George W. Bush, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal (Ezekiel 38:1), leader of the west!" This was clearly an allusion to the possibility of President Bush not taking Israel's side and becoming the leader of Israel's enemies.

IsraelNationalNews.com reported at "<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/125060>," about an Israeli radio show: "Tamar speaks with Rabbi Chaim Richman from the nascent Sanhedrin who

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## Feature Article: Who Are Gog and Magog?

*By Elbert Charpie*

One of the more difficult passages of scripture are those passages which deal with Gog and Magog. Many have tried to identify these mysterious names - some have applied them to Russia, Assyria, and others and so I wanted to devote this article to examining these passages. Gog and Magog are mentioned in two passages in the Bible, besides 1 Chronicles 5 which lists the name "Gog" in a genealogy. The first passage is Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 which describes a battle against Israel.

Ezekiel 38:2 (NIV) "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him 3 and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 4 I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army--your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords.'"

The battle that Ezekiel records is one that has some striking features. For instance...

Ezekiel 38:20 (NIV) The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. 21 I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.

This record is almost identical to the judgment of the 7th bowl in Revelation which immediately precedes Armageddon...

Rev 16:17 (NIV) The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.

It goes on... Rev 16:20 (NIV) Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. 21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

Furthermore we are told that birds and wild animals will eat the flesh of the fallen hordes of Gog...

Ezekiel 39:4 (NIV) On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **Who Are Gog and Magog?** *(Continued from page 1)*

Ezekiel 39:17 (NIV) "Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood.'"

The book of Revelation records the same thing...

Rev 19:17 (NIV) And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

Therefore, I believe there can be no doubt that the battle described in Ezekiel is the battle of Armageddon. However, Gog shows up again.

Rev 20:7 (NIV) When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Gog and his armies are destroyed at the battle in Ezekiel, so how can they show up again at the end of the millennium? Some say the Ezekiel battle IS the battle at the end of the millennium. But, the next verse begins the Great White Throne judgment and then John records, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." Ezekiel tells us that they will burn the weapons from his battle for 7 years and be burying the dead from that battle for 7 months (Ezek 39:9-14). Therefore, I do not believe Ezekiel's battle could be the one at the end of the millennium. So, what is the answer?

Gog is called the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Therefore, we are talking about a person—either human or spiritual (and in this case demonic). "Magog" literally means "the hordes of Gog." Because of the use of "Gog" and because he shows up in two places where it would be humanly impossible, I believe we are speaking of a person that is a spiritual being. We have precedence for this:

When Daniel was praying for to understand the future of his people, he wrote...

Daniel 10:5 (NIV) I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. 6 His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Daniel 10:12 (NIV) Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. 14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

Now there is no doubt that in the Daniel passage we are talking about angelic beings. Michael the archangel is called a "chief prince." Therefore, I believe Gog could be the demonic leader of the enemies of God's people. In the case of Armageddon, he is the Antichrist. At the end of the millennium, it could very well be Satan himself. Magog is simply the followers of Gog.

## **What Others Are Saying** *(Continued from page 1)*

had part in giving a scroll to U.S. President George W. Bush when he came to Israel this last month. In the scroll, it alluded to him being Gog, from Magog, as written about in the bible." The report is dated 25 Shevat 5768, February 1, 2008.

I am not vouching for the authenticity of this account, but it at least becomes apparent that even in Jewish thought Gog and Magog are the symbols of the enemies of God's people.

The scrolls ends... "Therefore it behooves you to declare: 'I, George Bush, Commander in Chief of the armies of the United States of America, will instruct all of my troops to protect the Divine rights of the nation of Israel, and remove from her any threat.' Before you is a choice: You can merit to eternal life, or be inscribed for eternal disgrace. Your fate and that of all those with you hangs in the balance of the destiny of our land."

<http://www.templeinstitute.org/megillat-bush.htm>

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

New on the resource page is Charles Cooper's new book, God's Elect and the Great Tribulation. It is an interpretation of Matthew 24:1-31 and Daniel 9. I have not read the book yet, but Charles has been a good friend and I have depended on his advice and teaching on several occasions. My understanding of the book is that it takes on the argument that Matthew 24 is only for the Jews. The book shows that it also applies to the church, and it deals with the timing of end time events as laid out in Daniel and Matthew 24.

## What Others Are Saying

Randy Alcorn in his book on Heaven, reviews in great detail what heaven will be like and contrasts some of our popular current belief against what the scriptures actually say. If you have not read this book, I highly recommend it.

One of the major tenets of the book is the fact that what God began in the beginning by creating a perfect earth—the garden of Eden. He will finish when He creates the new heaven and new earth. He shows how scripture teaches that we are not meant for some out-of-body spiritual existence floating around on clouds, rather, we have always been meant to live in a physical earth in physical bodies which will be the final heaven. He goes on to say that he believes, according to scripture, that the new heaven and earth will be a lot like this one - only better!

Related to my discussion of the first resurrection, Randy Alcorn also points out the fact that in scripture God's people are destined to rule the new heaven and earth with Jesus. There is a passage of scripture you and I have heard over and over again, but about which Alcorn's book brought a new and exciting light. The passage is...

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Feature Article: The First Resurrection

*By Elbert Charpie*

One passage I have received a lot of questions about is Revelation 20:1-6. That passage is:

Rev 20:1 (NIV) And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. **4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God.** They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) **This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection.** The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Now the questions I have had raised is "who are these on thrones? - who are these who have been beheaded? - what is the first resurrection? - and how does the rapture fit into all of this?"

First, we need to understand the timing. This episode happens after the battle of Armageddon when the beast and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire and just before the millennial kingdom begins. Jesus has taken back rule of the earth and an angel comes and binds Satan and throws him into the Abyss—and the millennial kingdom begins for a thousand years without the influence of Satan.

According to the Prewrath view the rapture has already taken place and the bema judgment. Those on the thrones - I believe these are the raptured saints from all ages. I base this on the following scriptures that say the saints will be given authority to rule in the kingdom of heaven.

1 Cor 6:2 (NIV) Do you not know that the **saints will judge the world**? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that **we will judge angels**? How much more the things of this life!

2 Tim 2:12 (NIV) if we endure, **we will also reign with him**. If we disown him, he will also disown us;

Rev 5:9 (NIV) And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and **they will reign on the earth.**"

Rev 3:21 (NIV) To him who overcomes, I will give the right to **sit with me on my throne**, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *The First Resurrection* (Continued from page 1)

Matt 19:28 (NIV) Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, **you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Even the passage in Rev 20 here states in verse 6, "they will be priests of God and of Christ and will **reign with him** for a thousand years."

So, I believe there is ample evidence that these given authority are the raptured saints. But, who are those beheaded? Are these the ones at the opening of the 5th seal who were under the altar? Those at the fifth seal were asking "how much longer?" I believe they were looking for the rapture which happens at the 6th seal. And we know that in the rapture the "dead in Christ will rise first." So, I believe these are those who will **become** believers and be martyred for their faith **after** the rapture takes place. They are given special consideration because they died for their faith by being included in the first resurrection.

And that leads me to the last question, what, then, is the first resurrection? Let us look back at the passage...

Rev 20:4 (NIV) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. **And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded** because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life** and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The **rest of the dead** did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) **This is the first resurrection.** 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. **The second death has no power over them**, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

At this point, the ones on thrones are not said to have come to life—they are already seated. The martyrs come to life, as opposed to the rest of the dead, and then we are told that this is the first resurrection. I believe the first resurrection is inclusive of all those mentioned up to this point—those seated on the thrones and those brought back to life, now, at the beginning of the millennium. Now it begins to make sense. The first resurrection consists of all those raptured and those who sacrificed their lives after the rapture for the cause of Christ. They are in glorified bodies and the second death HAS no power over them—their decision has been made. They will not be a part of those that will rebel at the end of the millennium.

Now we know from scripture, such as Isaiah 2, that there will be multitudes left on the earth that survive the Day of the Lord's wrath and yet have not taken the mark of the beast. Because it says...

Isa 2:2 (NIV) In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and **all nations** will stream to it. 3 **Many peoples** will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. **He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.**" The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 **He will judge between the nations** and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Now these people will not be a part of the first resurrection, they will have to wait until the end of the millennium. What alarms me is the description of the rebellion that will occur. It sounds like Satan will still deceive the majority of those living on the earth...

Rev 20:7 (NIV) When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. **In number they are like the sand on the seashore.** 9 **They marched across the breadth of the earth** and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

## **What Others Are Saying** (Continued from page 1)

Isa 9:7 (NIV) Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

The book, Heaven, suggests that the government or rule continually increasing throughout eternity would suggest that maybe this universe was not created for just earth. Maybe we are the beginning, and God's kingdom will increase throughout the universe and maybe as we accept authority and rule in the kingdom of heaven we may find ourselves reigning over other worlds. Of course, our rule would not be for our glory, but for the glory of Him who redeemed us. Now, this is speculation, but if you think about that Isaiah passage - it will boggle the mind to think about how God's kingdom will never cease to increase throughout eternity.