



THINGS TO COME

C O N F E R E N C E

PARTICIPANT MANUAL

THINGS
TO COME
C O N F E R E N C E

Church  **Renewal**
INTERNATIONAL



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INTRODUCTION

**WHY SHOULD WE LEARN
ABOUT END TIMES?**

WHY SHOULD WE LEARN ABOUT END TIMES?

A. To give us hope so that we persevere to the end

First: God is in control

Matthew 24:6 (BSB) *You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed.*

Matthew 24:21–22 (BSB) *For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again. ²² If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short.*

Second: The Son of Man (Jesus) will come in power and great glory

B. To prepare us to give account at Jesus' return

Matthew 25:19 (BSB) After a long time the master of those servants returned to settle ACCOUNTS with them.

2 Peter 3:7 (NIV) ... the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

2 Peter 3:11a (NIV) Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?

2 Peter 3:11b–12a (NIV) You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God

C. To answer people's questions and help them cross the finish line

- **27% of verses in the Bible are about End Times and Eternity!**

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.



SESSION 1

**INTERPRETIVE KEYS
UNLOCK END TIMES**

INTERPRETIVE KEYS UNLOCK END TIMES

A. Interpret the Bible literally unless it's clearly figurative

To interpret literally means nothing more or less than to interpret in terms of normal, usual, designation.

Bernard Ramm

Two reasons for literal interpretation:

1. In daily communication, we understand speech literally.
2. We understand books in a literal manner.

The Bible is to be interpreted like any other book.

Martin Luther

B. Prophecies of Christ's 2nd advent will be fulfilled literally

Prophecies of Christ's 1st advent were ALL fulfilled literally

1. Isaiah predicted that God would become a man.
2. Isaiah predicted that a virgin would give birth to Him.
3. Daniel and Isaiah predicted that Messiah (GOD) would die.

C. The OT covenants are in effect forever

First: In the Covenants God made remarkable promises to Israel

1. Make them into a great nation, both numerically & spiritually.
2. Give them a land of their own.
3. Give them a Seed who will crush the serpent.
4. Make them a blessing to the nations.
5. Give them a Davidic King to rule over Israel and the world.

Second: God said that the covenants were everlasting or eternal

1. Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 17:7 (BSB) *I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you (Abraham) and your descendants after you...*

2. Davidic Covenant

Jeremiah 33:20–21 (BSB) *This is what the LORD says: If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that day and night cease to occupy their appointed time,²¹ then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant and with My ministers the Levites who are priests, so that David will not have a son to reign on his throne.*

3. New Covenant

Ezekiel 37:25–26 (BSB) *They will live in the land that I gave to My servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live there forever with their children and grandchildren, and My servant David will be their prince forever. ²⁶And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary among them forever.*

D. The End Times prophecies were not fulfilled by 70 AD

- **Futurism:** says that End Times prophecies await future fulfillment
- **Preterism:** says that End Times prophecies were fulfilled by 70 AD

First: Revelation was written 20+ years after the 70 AD War

- **Irenaeus:** John received the Revelation toward the end of the reign of Domitian, which ended in 96 AD.

Two important implications:

1. End Times prophecies in Revelation refer to the future, not 70 AD.
2. Since Revelation is based on OT End Times prophecies, they too await future fulfillment.

Second: The 70 AD war couldn't have been the Great Tribulation

Matthew 24:21 (NIV) *For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again*

There have been much worse tribulations since 70 AD

- **70 AD:** 1 Million Jews died
- **WWII:** 6 Million Jews died

Third: Jesus said that He would return physically in person

Matthew 24:29–30 (BSB) *Immediately after the tribulation 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 powers of the heavens will be shaken.’³⁰ At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will **SEE** the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.*



SESSION 2

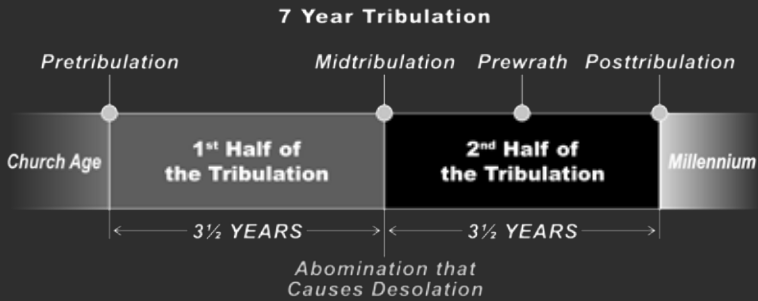
THE RAPTURE

THE RAPTURE



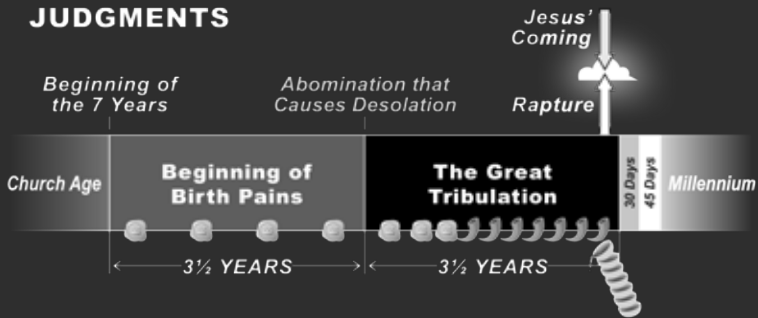
1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (BSB) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. ¹⁷After that, we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

RAPTURE VIEWS



A. The rapture occurs at the end of the Tribulation

TRIBULATION WITH JUDGMENTS



First: Jesus' return occurs after Antichrist is revealed

2 Thessalonians 2:1–4 (NIV84) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him (rapture), we ask you, brothers, ²not 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. ³Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come UNTIL the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness (Antichrist) is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He 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.

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 at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation

Second: Last trumpet indicates that rapture occurs after Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (BSB) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the **trumpet of God**, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. ¹⁷After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Matthew 24:30–31 (BSB) At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹And He will send out 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

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (BSB) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — ⁵²in an instant, 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.

Revelation 11:15 (BSB) Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices called out in heaven: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

Third: The Resurrection indicates that rapture occurs after Tribulation

Revelation 20:4–5 (BSB) Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection.

Summary

The coming of Jesus, the resurrection and rapture of the saints, the judgment of the wicked, and the destruction of Antichrist all occur at the end of the Tribulation!

B. The Church will be present in the Tribulation

First: Jesus said His followers will SEE the abomination of desolation

Matthew 24:15 (BSB) So when you SEE standing in the holy place ‘the abomination of desolation,’ described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand)

Second: The Great Tribulation will be shortened for the sake of the elect

Matthew 24:21–22 (BSB) For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again. ²²If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short.

Third: The righteous and wicked will remain until the final harvest

Matthew 13:24–25, 30 (BSB) Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and slipped away ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Fourth: Jesus warns the elect to not be deceived by false prophets

Matthew 24:4–5 (BSB) Jesus answered, “See to it that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

Matthew 24:23–24 (BSB) At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There He is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders that would deceive even the elect, if that were possible.

Fifth: Jesus will gather the elect after the Tribulation

Matthew 24:29–30 (BSB) Immediately after the tribulation 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 powers of the heavens will be shaken.’³⁰ At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:31 (BSB) And He will send out 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.

C. The Church, not just Israel, is in view in the Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24:15 (BSB) So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination of desolation,’ described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand).

D. Separate resurrections and raptures for Israel and the Church creates a contradiction

Matthew 24:30–31 (BSB) At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹And He will send out 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.

1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (BSB) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — ⁵²in an instant, 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.

E. Imminency (at any moment) is not taught in Scripture

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

First: A posttribulation rapture rules out an 'any moment' rapture

- Refer to the 3 points made in section A. The rapture occurs at the end of the Tribulation

Second: Jesus' prediction about Peter ruled out an 'any moment' rapture

John 21:18-19 (BSB) “Truly, truly, I tell you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Third: Jesus said many SIGNS must occur before His return

Matthew 24:3 (BSB) While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will these things happen, and what will be the SIGN of Your coming and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24:33 (BSB) So also, when you see all these things, you will know that He is near, right at the door.

F. Those who are raptured follow Jesus back to earth

First: Bridesmaids escorted the bridegroom to the bride's house

Matthew 25:1, 6a (BSB) At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom... ⁶At midnight the cry rang out: “Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!”

Second: Citizens escorted a returning king, warrior, or dignitary back into the city

Third: Crowds accompanied Jesus back into Jerusalem

John 12:12-13 (BSB) The next day the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting: “Hosanna!”

G. We are expected to know the season of Jesus' return

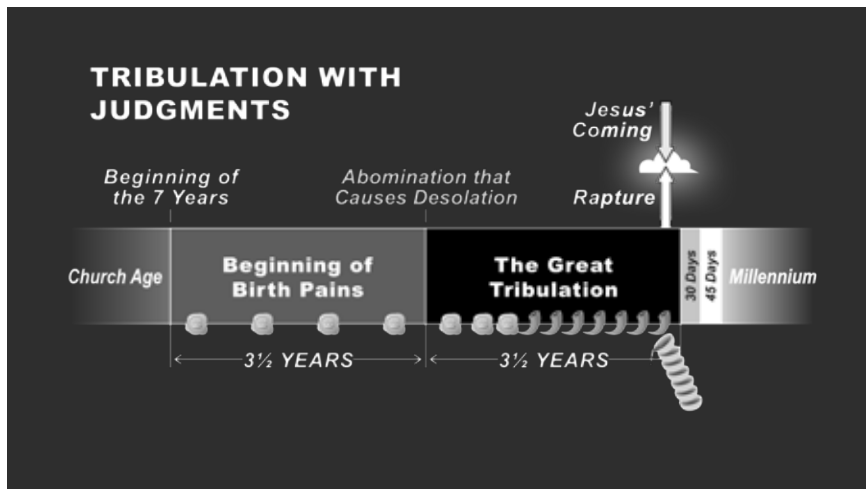
Mark 13:28-29 (BSB) Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near.²⁹ So also, when you see these things happening, KNOW that He is near, right at the door.



SESSION 3

**THINGS TO COME STORYLINE
PART 1**

THINGS TO COME STORYLINE - PART 1



A. God's sovereign purposes for the Tribulation

Purpose 1: To bring in a great spiritual harvest

1. God will create conditions that will cause many to seek salvation

Isaiah 45:7 (BSB) *I form the light and create the darkness; I bring prosperity and create calamity. I, the LORD, do all these thing*

Ezekiel 33:11 (BSB) *...I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked should turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

Job 30:24 (ESV) *Yet does not one in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand, and in his disaster cry for help?*

Job 33:29–30 (BSB) Behold, all these things God does to a man, two or even three times, ³⁰to bring back his soul from the Pit, that he may be enlightened with the light of life.

2. God will raise up a great witness in the earth

- **There will be much disciple-making going on!**
- Church Renewal International is part of preparing the global Church for this!

3. There will be a great harvest

Revelation 7:9 (BSB) ...I looked and saw a multitude too large to count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes...

Revelation 7:13–14 (ESV) One of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the GREAT TRIBULATION. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Purpose 2: To save Israel

Leviticus 26:14–17, 33 (BSB) If, however, you fail to obey Me... ¹⁶then this is what I will do to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting disease, and fever that will destroy your sight and drain your life... ¹⁷And I will set My face against you, so that you will be defeated by your enemies... ³³I will scatter you among the nations...

Deuteronomy 30:1–3 (BSB) When all these things come upon you — the blessings and curses... and you call them to mind in all the nations to which the LORD your God has banished you, ²and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey His voice with all your heart and all your soul... ³He will restore you from captivity and have compassion on you and gather you from all the nations to which the LORD your God has scattered you.

Hosea 6:1 (BSB) Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us to pieces, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bind up our wounds.

Purpose 3: To judge the wicked and the nations

Zechariah 12:3–4, 9 (NIV) *On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. ⁴On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness,” declares the Lord... ⁹On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.*

Purpose 4: To purify the Church

Revelation 19:7–8 (BSB) ... the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. ⁸*She was given clothing of fine linen, bright and pure.” For the fine linen she wears is the righteous acts of the saints.*

1. He will purge the Church of those who won't fully follow Jesus

Matthew 24:9–10 (BSB) *Then they will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰At that time many will fall away and will betray and hate one another*

2. He will refine the believers who are left

B. The storyline begins with Israel's return in 1948

Matthew 24:15 (BSB) *So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination of desolation’*

First: Israel returns from exile after 1900 years of exile

Isaiah 11:11–12 (BSB) On that day the Lord will extend His hand a second time to recover the remnant of His people from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. ¹²He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will collect the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

1. The ‘second time’ isn’t Judean return from Babylon (538 BC)



2. The ‘second time’ isn’t the Jewish return in 1948

Isaiah 11:6, 9 (BSB) The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the goat... ⁹the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the sea is full of water.

3. The 'second time' is a future Jewish return after the Tribulation

Ezekiel 39:23, 25, 28 (BSB) And the nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity, because they were unfaithful to Me... ²⁵Now I will restore Jacob from captivity... ²⁸Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, when I regather them to their own land...

4. If the 'second' return is future, the first must be 1948!

Second: God brings back unbelieving Israel in 1948 to chastise her, so that she will believe

Ezekiel 22:17–22 (BSB) ... this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Because all of you have become dross ²⁰... I will gather you in My anger and wrath, leave you there, and melt you. ²¹Yes, I will gather you together and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you will be melted within the city. ²²As silver is melted in a furnace, so you will be melted within the city. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out My wrath upon you.'"

C. Israel will enter into a peace accord with Antichrist

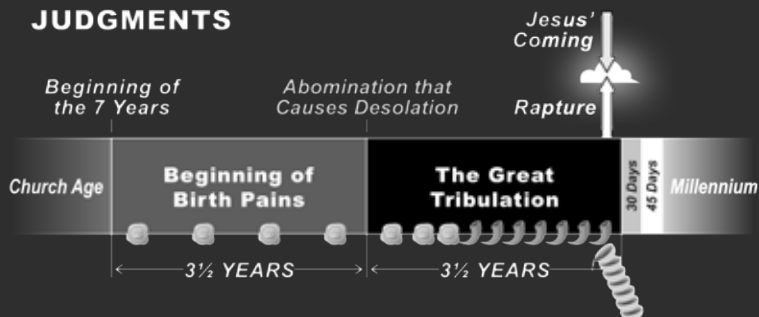
Oslo Accords 1993



Daniel 8:23–25 (BSB) ... an insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne. ²⁴His power will be great... He will cause terrible destruction and succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men along with the holy people. ²⁵... he will cause deceit to prosper... In a time of peace he will destroy many...

Daniel 9:27 (BSB) And he (Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with many for one week...

TRIBULATION WITH JUDGMENTS



D. Satan is cast out of heaven

Revelation 12:1–5 (BSB) And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and crying out in the pain and agony of giving birth. ³Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky, tossing them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, ready to devour her child as soon as she gave birth. ⁵And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Revelation 12:7–9 (BSB) Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels. ⁹And the great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Revelation 12:12 (BSB) ... woe to the earth and the sea; with great fury the devil has come down to you, knowing he has only a short time.”

2 Thessalonians 2:7–8 (BSB) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed...



SESSION 4

**THINGS TO COME STORYLINE
PART 2**

THINGS TO COME STORYLINE - PART 2

E. The identity of Antichrist's empire and coalition

Revelation 12:17b–13:2 (BSB) And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. ^{13:1}Then I saw a beast with ten horns and seven heads rising out of the sea... And the dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Revelation 17:9–10, 12 (BSB) The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰There are also seven kings... ¹²The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom...

7 Kingdoms (empires)

- From the past
- Ruled consecutively

10 Kingdoms (nations)

- In the future
- Will rule simultaneously

First: The seven consecutive Middle Eastern empires

Revelation 17:10–11 (BSB) There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. ¹¹The beast that was, and now is not, is an eighth king, who belongs to the other seven and is going into destruction.

Five empires that 'have fallen' (from John's point of view)

1. Egyptian.
2. Assyrian.
3. Babylonian.
4. Medo-Persian.
5. Greek.

One empire in existence at John's time ('one is')

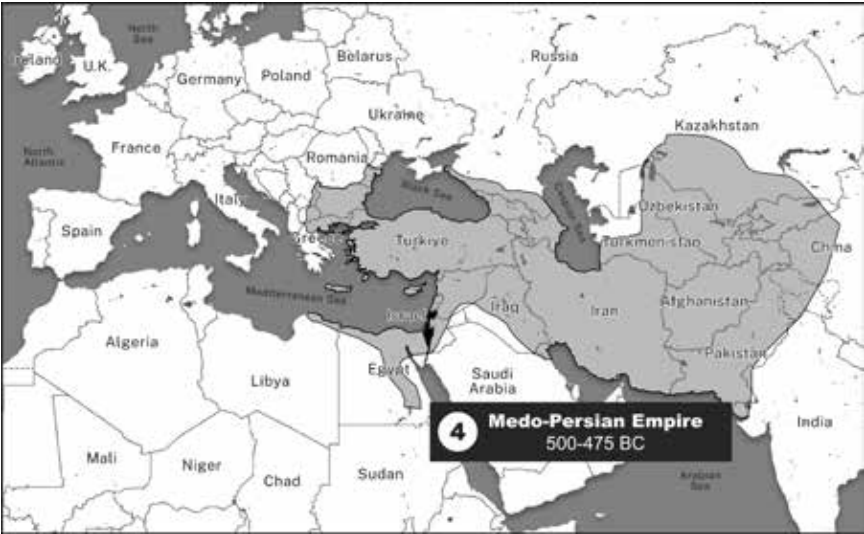
6. Roman.

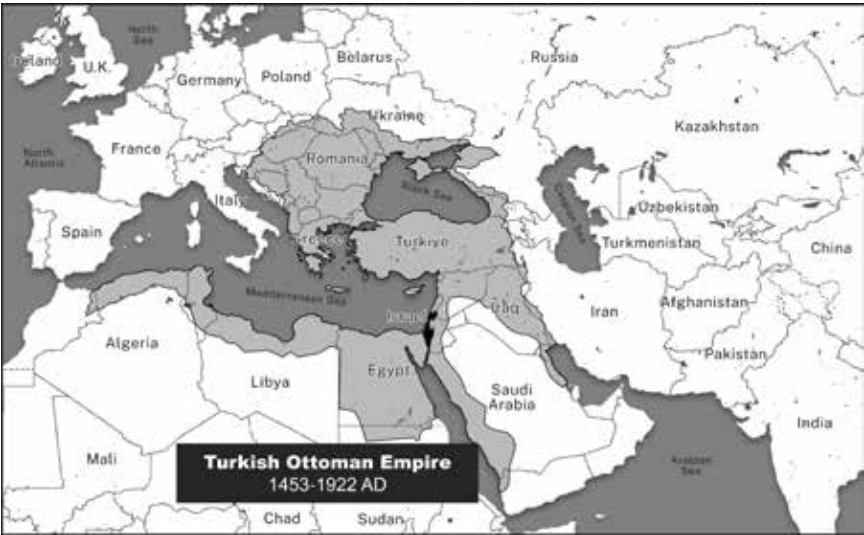
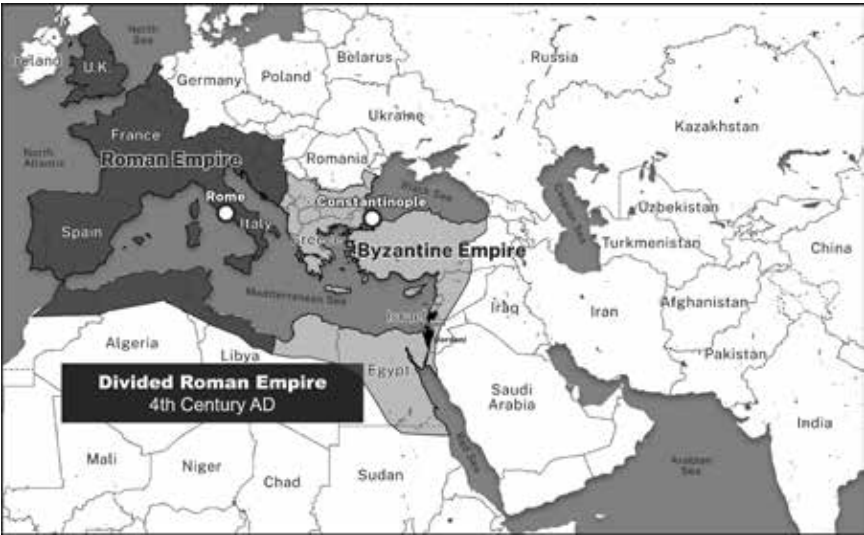
Two future empires from John's point of view ('has not come')

7. Islamic Turkish Ottomans (1453-1922).
8. Restored Islamic empire and caliphate (future).









Second: Eighth empire consists of 10 nations surrounding Israel

Revelation 17:12–13 (NIV) The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive (future) authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

Zechariah 12:2 (BSB) Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the SURROUNDING peoples (nations). Judah will be besieged, as well as Jerusalem.



Ezekiel 38:2,4–6, 16 (BSB) Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Prophesy against him... ⁴I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws, and bring you out with all your army — your horses, your horsemen in full armor, and a great company armed with shields and bucklers, all brandishing their swords. ⁵Persia, Cush, and Put will accompany them, all with shields and helmets, ⁶as well as Gomer with all its troops, and Beth-togarmah from the far north with all its troops — the many nations with you... ¹⁶You will advance against My people Israel like a cloud covering the land. It will happen in the latter days...

Psalms 83:3–8 (BSB) With cunning they scheme against Your people and conspire against those You cherish, ⁴saying, “Come, let us erase them as a nation; may the name of Israel be remembered no more.” ⁵For with one mind they plot together, they form an alliance against You — ⁶the tents of Edom (Jordan) and the Ishmaelites (Saudi Arabia) of Moab (Jordan) and the Hagrites (Egypt), ⁷of Gebal (Lebanon), Ammon (Jordan), and Amalek (Sinai), of Philistia (Gaza) with the people of Tyre (Lebanon). ⁸Even Assyria (Iraq & Syria) has joined them...

F. A false religious system fuels Antichrist's coalition empire

Revelation 17:1–3 (BSB) “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.”²The kings of the earth were immoral with her, and those who dwell on the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her immorality.”³And the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, where I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:5 (BSB) And on her forehead a mysterious name was written: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17:7 (BSB) “Why are you so amazed?” said the angel. “I will tell you the mystery of the woman...”

First: Identifying Babylon the Prostitute

1. The beast is allied to the woman called Babylon the Great

Revelation 17:3–5 (BSB) I saw a woman SITTING on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.⁴The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.⁵And on her forehead a mysterious name was written: Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.

2. Babylon: literal city & spiritual hub of Satan's End Times empire

Revelation 17:18 (BSB) And the woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.



1 Peter 5:13 (BSB) The church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, as does my son Mark.

3. The Prostitute wields great influence over the nations

Revelation 17:1 (BSB) Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.”

Revelation 17:15 (BSB) Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute was seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”

Revelation 17:18 (BSB) And the woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 17:5 (BSB) And on her forehead a mysterious name was written: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.



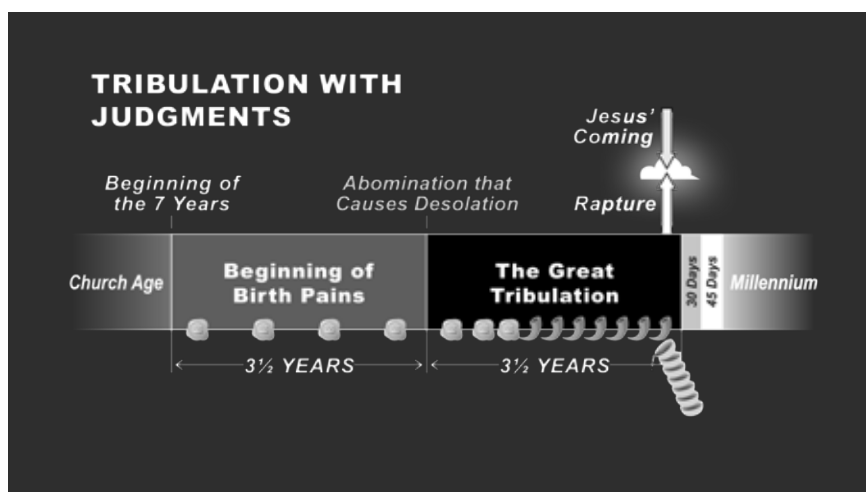
Kaaba in Mecca



Second: The Prostitute will support destroying Israel and the saints

Revelation 17:5–6 (BSB) *And on her forehead a mysterious name was written: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶I could see that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and witnesses for Jesus.*

G. The abomination of desolation



Ezekiel 38:10–11 (BSB) On that day, thoughts will arise in your mind (Gog - Antichrist), and you will devise an evil plan. ¹¹You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwallled villages; I will come against a tranquil people who dwell securely, all of them living without walls or bars or gates —

Daniel 11:31 (BSB) His forces will rise up and desecrate the temple fortress. They will abolish the daily sacrifice and set up the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 9:27 (NIV) **HE** (Antichrist) 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 at the temple he will SET UP an abomination that causes desolation...

Isaiah 28:15 (BSB) "We have made a covenant with death; we have fashioned an agreement with Sheol... we have made lies our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

Isaiah 28:18 (BSB) Your covenant with death will be dissolved, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be trampled by it.

H. Antichrist's multinational forces will invade and defeat Israel

Ezekiel 38:10–12 (BSB) You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwallled villages; I will come against a tranquil people who dwell securely, all of them living without walls or bars or gates — ¹²in order to seize the spoil and carry off the plunder, to turn a hand against the desolate places now inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and possessions and who live at the center of the land.’

Zechariah 14:2 (BSB) For I will gather all the nations for battle against Jerusalem, and the city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women ravished. Half of the city will go into exile...

Zechariah 13:8 (NIV) In the whole land,” declares the Lord, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

Luke 21:20–24 (BSB) But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that her desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out... For there will be great distress upon the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations. And Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Revelation 11:2 (BSB) But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months.

Daniel 11:45 (BSB) He will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful holy mountain...

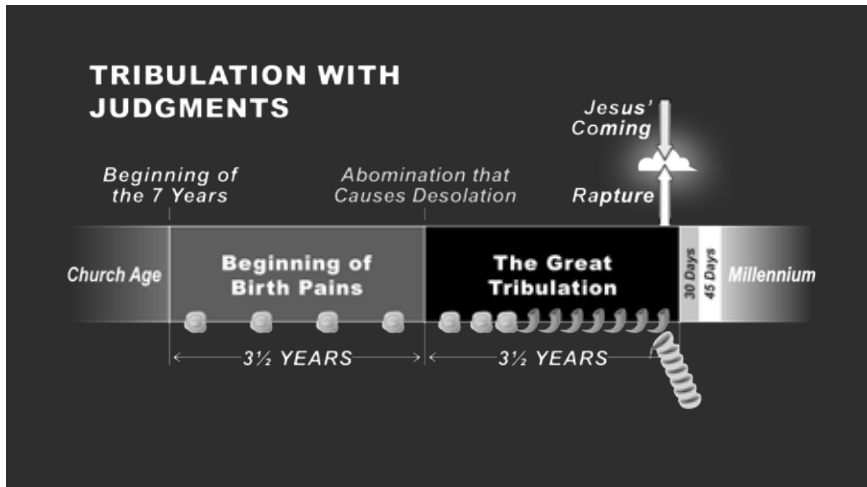
Ezekiel 39:27–28 (BSB) When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them out of the lands of their enemies, I will show My holiness in them in the sight of many nations. ²⁸Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, when I regather them to their own land, not leaving any of them behind after their exile among the nations.



SESSION 5

**THINGS TO COME STORYLINE
PART 3**

THINGS TO COME STORYLINE - PART 3



I. The worship of Antichrist and the mark of the beast

First: Antichrist will demand worship from everyone

Revelation 13:8 (BSB) And all who dwell on the earth will worship the beast — all whose names have not been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain.

Revelation 13:11–12 (BSB) Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. This beast had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. ¹²And this beast exercised all the authority of the first beast and caused the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast...

Revelation 13:13–15 (BSB) And the second beast performed great signs to cause even fire from heaven to come down to earth in the presence of the people. ¹⁴Because of the signs it was given to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived those who dwell on the earth, telling them to make an image to the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet had lived. ¹⁵The second beast was permitted to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship it to be killed.

Second: The mark of the beast

Revelation 13:16–18 (NIV84) 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, ¹⁷so 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. ¹⁸... His number is 666.

J. God's judgments will escalate in frequency and intensity

Seven Seal Judgments

1. White horse rider represents rise of global deception.
2. Red horse rider brings many international and intranational conflicts.
3. Black horse rider brings famines and inflation throughout the world.
4. Ashen horse rider brings death to one-quarter of the world.
5. Religious freedoms vanish as persecution and martyrdom intensify.

6. Sun goes black, moon turns red, stars quit shining, earthquakes.
7. Opens up trumpet judgments.

Revelation 6:15–17 (BSB) *Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the commanders, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶And they said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?”*

Seven Trumpet Judgments

1. A third of the earth and food supply will be burnt up.
2. A third of sea life will die; a third of ships will be destroyed.
3. A third of fresh water will become bitter.
4. A third of light will be blocked out.
5. Demons will torment unbelievers for five months.
6. 200 million troops will kill a third of humanity.
7. Jesus returns!

K. Babylon the Prostitute will be destroyed by Antichrist

Revelation 17:16–17 (BSB) *And the ten horns and the beast that you saw will hate the prostitute. They will leave her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷For God has put it into their hearts...*

Revelation 18:6–8 (BSB) Give back to her as she has done to others; pay her back double for what she has done; mix her a double portion in her own cup. ⁷As much as she has glorified herself and lived in luxury, give her the same measure of torment and grief... 8and she will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her."

Revelation 18:11–20 (BSB) And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, because there is no one left to buy their cargo — ¹²cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; of fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet... ¹³... horses, and chariots; of slaves and souls of men.

Revelation 19:1–6 (BSB) After this I heard a sound like the roar of a great multitude in heaven, shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God! ²For His judgments are true and just. He has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality. He has avenged the blood of His servants that was poured out by her hand."

L. As Jesus returns, the saints will meet Him in the air and follow Him back



M. Jesus' liberation march to save Israel

First: Jesus and the saints will return in-person to fight the nations

Zechariah 14:3-4 (NIV) Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. ⁴On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem ...

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (NIV) This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Revelation 19:14-15 (NIV) The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Malachi 4:1–3 (BSB) For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble...
²“But for you who fear My name...³you will trample the wicked...

Romans 16:20 (BSB) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under YOUR feet.

Second: Jesus will march from Sinai to Jerusalem

View of Jerusalem from the top of Mount of Olives





Deuteronomy 33:2, 5 (BSB) The LORD came (will come) from **Sinai** and dawned (will dawn) upon us from **Seir**; He shone (will shine) forth from **Mount Paran** and came (will come) with myriads of holy ones, with flaming fire at His right hand... ⁵So the LORD became (will become) King in Jeshurun (Israel)...

Jude 14–15 (BSB) Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about them: “Behold, the Lord is coming with myriads of His holy ones ¹⁵to execute judgment on everyone...

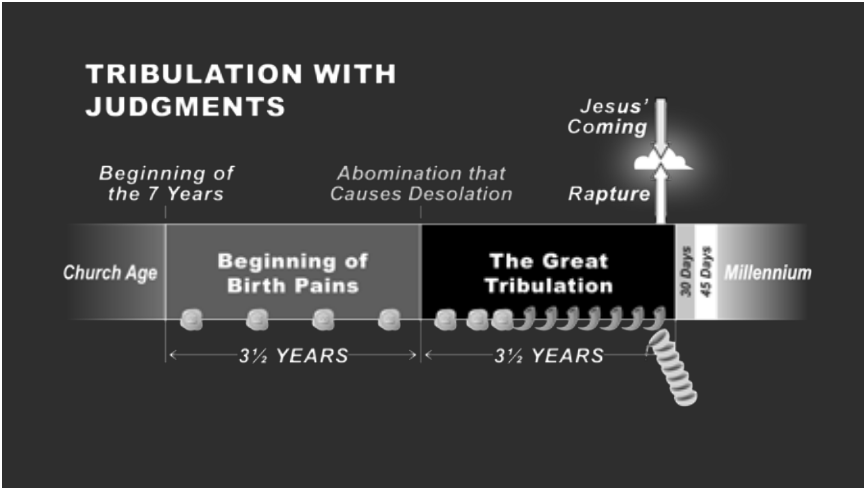
Isaiah 63:1 (BSB) Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah with crimson-stained garments? Who is this robed in splendor, marching in the greatness of His strength? “It is I, proclaiming vindication, mighty to save.”

Third: Jesus will destroy Israel’s enemies and set the captives free

Zechariah 12:9 (BSB) On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Habakkuk 3:4–5, 12 (BSB) His radiance was like the sunlight; rays flashed (will flash) from His hand, where His power is hidden. ⁵Plague went (will go) before Him, and fever followed (will follow) in His steps... ¹²You marched (will march) across the earth with fury; You threshed (will thresh) the nations in wrath.

Revelation 16:1 (BSB) Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God’s wrath.”



Seven Bowl Judgments

1. Painful sores break out on those with the mark of the beast.
2. The sea turns to blood and everything in the sea will dry up.
3. The rivers and springs turn to blood.
4. The sun scorches people with intense heat.
5. Antichrist's kingdom is plunged into darkness.
6. The Euphrates dries up, allowing kings to march to Armageddon.
7. A great earthquake and hailstones destroy Babylon.

Revelation 16:2 (BSB) *So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and loathsome, malignant sores broke out on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.*

Zechariah 14:12–13 (BSB) *And this will be the plague with which the LORD strikes all the peoples who have warred against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. ¹³On that day a great panic from the LORD will come upon them...*

Isaiah 63:1–3 (BSB) *Who is this coming from Edom, from **Bozrah** with crimson-stained garments? Who is this robed in splendor, marching in the greatness of His strength? “It is I, proclaiming vindication, mighty to save.” ²Why are Your clothes red, and Your garments like one who treads the winepress? ³“I have trodden the winepress alone... I trampled them in My anger and trod them down in My fury; their blood spattered My garments...*

Psalms 110:6 (BSB) *He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead; He will crush the leaders...*

Psalm 68:6–8 (BSB) ... He leads (will lead) the prisoners out to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a sun-scorched land. ⁷O God, when You went (go) out before Your people, when You marched (march) through the wasteland, Selah ⁸the earth shook (will shake)...

Fourth: In righteousness, Jesus will wage war

Habakkuk 1:3–4 (BSB) Why do You make me see iniquity? Why do You tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me. Strife is ongoing, and conflict abounds. ⁴Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

Revelation 19:11 (BSB) Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. With righteousness He judges and wages war.



SESSION 6

**THINGS TO COME STORYLINE
PART 4**

THINGS TO COME STORYLINE - PART 4

N. The final battle for Jerusalem

Revelation 16:12–16 (BSB) And 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 of the East... to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty... ¹⁶And they (demonic spirits) assembled the kings in the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.





Habakkuk 3:13–14 (BSB) You crushed the HEAD of the house of the wicked and stripped him from head to toe. Selah ¹⁴With his own spear You pierced his head, when his warriors stormed out to scatter us...

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (BSB) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival.

Ezekiel 39:12–13 (BSB) For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. ¹³All the people of the land will bury them...

O. The salvation and regathering of Israel

First: The salvation of Israel

Zechariah 13:9 (NIV) *This third I will put 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.’”*

Zechariah 12:10, 13:1 (BSB) *Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the people of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look on Me, the One they have pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son... ^{13:1}“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the people of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.*

Jeremiah 31:33–34 (BSB) *... after those days, declares the LORD. I will put My law in their minds and inscribe it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My people. ³⁴No longer will each man teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will ALL know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquities and will remember their sins no more.”*

Second: The regathering of Israel

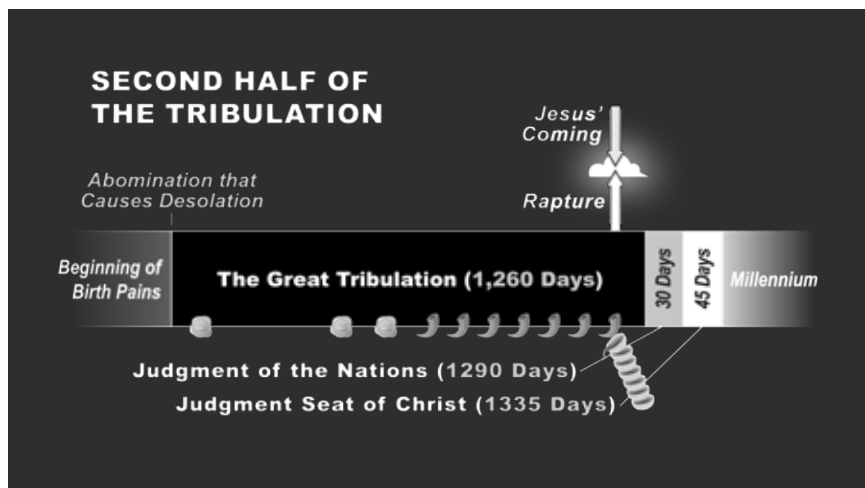
Jeremiah 31:8–11 (BSB) *I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth... They will return as a great assembly! ⁹They will come with weeping... ¹⁰The One who scattered Israel will gather them and keep them as a shepherd keeps his flock. ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and redeemed him from the hand that had overpowered him*

Amos 9:15 (BSB) I will firmly plant them in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land that I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

Joel 3:17 (BSB) Jerusalem will be holy, never again to be overrun by foreigners.

Ezekiel 28:24 (BSB) For the people of Israel will no longer face a pricking brier or a painful thorn from all around them who treat them with contempt.

P. The 75-day transition period



Daniel 12:1 (NIV) 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.

Daniel 12:7 (BSB) It will be for a time, and times, and half a time.

Revelation 12:6–14 (BSB) And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her to be nourished for 1,260 days... ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle to fly from the presence of the serpent to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

Daniel 12:11–12 (BSB) And from the time the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹²Blessed is he who waits and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

- 1,290 days is 30 days more than the 1,260 days of the Tribulation
- 1,335 days is 45 days more than the 1,290 days

Q. The judgment of the nations

Matthew 25:31–33 (BSB) When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

Matthew 25:34 (BSB) Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...

Matthew 25:41 (BSB) Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:40 (ESV) Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

Joel 3:1–3 (BSB) Yes, in those days and at that time, when I restore Judah and Jerusalem from captivity, ²I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning My people, My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations as they divided up My land. ³They cast lots for My people; they bartered a boy for a prostitute and sold a girl for wine to drink.

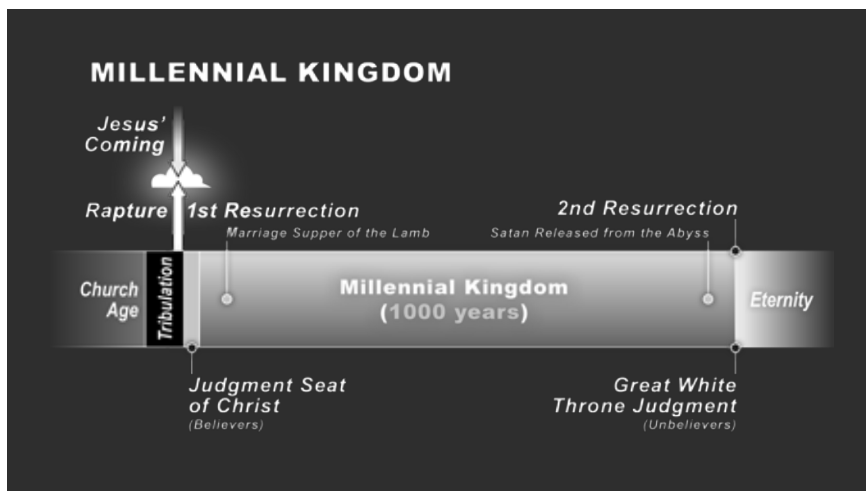
View of Jerusalem from Mount of Olives



R. The Judgment Seat of Christ

This topic will be covered in Session 8.

S. The Millennium



First: The Millennium is a literal future kingdom

Revelation 20:4–5 (BSB) I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast (Antichrist) or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.⁵The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection

Revelation 5:10 (BSB) You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign upon the earth.

Revelation 1:7 (BSB) Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him — even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.

Second: The Millennial Kingdom cannot refer to the eternal state

1. Six times John says that the Kingdom will be 1000 years

2. John mentions two resurrections that bookend the Millennium

Revelation 20:4–6 (BSB) And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete.

3. John says Satan is loosed once more at the Millennium's end

Revelation 20:2–3 (BSB) He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³And he threw him into the Abyss, shut it, and sealed it over him, so that he could not deceive the nations until the thousand years were complete. After that, he must be released for a brief period of time.

Revelation 20:7–8 (BSB) When the thousand years are complete, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth... to assemble them for battle.

Third: Purposes for the Millennial Kingdom

1. To bring salvation to the nations

Isaiah 49:6 (BSB) I will also make You a light for the nations, to bring My salvation to the ends of the earth

Isaiah 26:18 (NIV) We were with child, we writhed in labor, but we gave birth to wind (passed gas). We have not brought salvation to the earth, and the people of the world have not come to life.

Ezekiel 38:21–23 (NIV) I will execute judgment on him (Gog) with plague and bloodshed... and on his troops and on the many nations with him. ²³And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.

Revelation 15:4 (BSB) Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Psalms 22:27 (BSB) All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD.

2. To demonstrate the wickedness of the human heart

Revelation 20:7–9 (BSB) When the thousand years are complete, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth... to assemble them for battle... ⁹[they] surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

3. To vindicate God's righteous judgments

Acts 17:31 (BSB) *For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed.*

Fourth: Events and conditions in the Millennial Kingdom

1. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. (Isa 4:1-6; 25:6-9; Rev 19:9)
2. Satan will be bound for 1000 years. (Rev 20:1-3, 7-10)
3. Jesus will reign over the nations from Jerusalem. (Psa 2:6; 110:2)
4. The saints will reign with Jesus. (Lk 19:15-17; Rev 20:4;)
5. The nations will go to Jerusalem to worship King Jesus. (Zec 14:16-18; Isa 2:3)
6. The world will be rebuilt, and agriculture will flourish. (Amos 9:13; Rom 8:21-22)
7. People will live much longer. (Isa 65:20-22)
8. Topographical changes. (Zec 14:8-9; Rev 20:4, 6)
9. Israel will be rebuilt by foreigners. (Isa 60:10; Jer 31:4-5)
10. Jesus' reign will be characterized by justice, righteousness, and peace. (Psa 2:8-9; 110: 5-6; Isa 2:4; Mic 4:3)



SESSION 7

JUDGMENT AND HELL

JUDGMENT AND HELL



A. The Great White Throne Judgment

First: The places of the dead before the judgment

Luke 16:23,26 (BSB) In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham from afar, with Lazarus... ²⁶a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that even those who wish cannot cross from here to you...

Luke 16:25 (BSB) But now he (Lazarus) is comforted here, while you (rich man) are in agony.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (ESV) ... we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Second: What happens at the Judgment



Revelation 20:4–5 (BSB) I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete...

Revelation 20:11–15 (NIV) I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it... ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³... Hades gave up the dead that were in them... ¹⁵Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

B. The reality of hell

First: Human beings are conscious after death

1 Peter 3:18–19 (BSB) For Christ ... was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit,¹⁹ in whom He also went and preached to the spirits in prison

Second: Hell is unending conscious torment for unbelievers

Luke 16:23–25 (BSB) In Hades, where he was in torment...²⁴ So he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. For I am in agony in this fire.'

Revelation 14:10 (NIV) They will be tormented in burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

Matthew 5:30 (NIV) And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Luke 13:28 (NIV) There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

Revelation 14:11 (NIV) And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever.

Matthew 25:41 (NIV) Then he (Son of Man) will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

C. How could a loving God send people to hell?

First: God's love requires moral standards (holiness) to exist

John 3:19–20 (NIV) *Light (Jesus) has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light... for fear that their deeds will be exposed.*

1 Corinthians 13:6 (NIV) *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

Second: God must uphold justice to preserve love

2 Samuel 11:27 (NIV) *But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.*

2 Samuel 12:11 (NIV) ... the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you.

2 Samuel 12:13b (BSB) “The LORD has taken away your sin,” Nathan replied. “You will not die.

2 Samuel 12:14 (BSB) ... because by this deed you have shown utter contempt for the word of the LORD, the son born to you will surely die.

- **Without justice:** God forgives David but wrongs Uriah
- **With justice:** God loves both David and Uriah

Colossians 3:6 (NIV) *Because of these (sins), the wrath of God is coming.*

Third: God's solution is to rescue a remnant from hell

1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 (NIV) ... Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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!

John 3:18, 36 (BSB) Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son... ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

When someone charges that they cannot reconcile God's love with His wrath, we would say that we cannot reconcile God's love WITHOUT His wrath.

D. How does a lifetime of sin merit an eternity of wrath?

First: Duration of punishment matches duration of damage

Second: Sinners will increase their sinning in hell

Psalms 145:9 (NIV) The Lord is good to ALL; he has compassion on all he has made.

Third: Not even punishment will produce repentance

Revelation 16:8–9 (NIV) The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. ⁹They 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.

E. What about those who haven't heard about Jesus?

First: Those who haven't heard about Jesus

1. Through the general revelation of creation

Romans 1:18–21 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived... in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

2. Through their consciences

Second: Those who respond to the light, receive more light

Acts 10:4–5 (BSB) “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have ascended as a memorial offering before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa to call for a man named Simon who is called Peter.

Acts 10:19–20 (BSB) *As Peter continued to reflect on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰So get up! Go downstairs and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them.” When Peter met the men they told him that an angel had instructed Cornelius to send for Peter.*



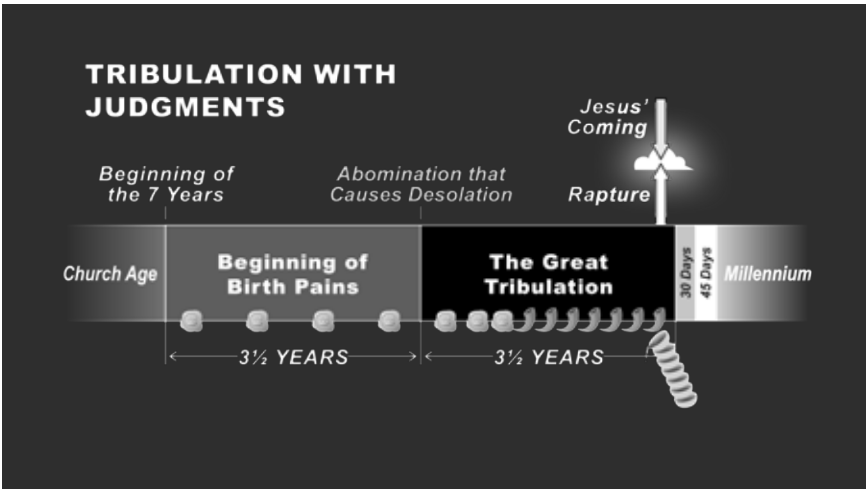
SESSION 8

**THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF
CHRIST**

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Introduction





A. Believers will give account in the end

■ **Hebrews 10:30–31 (BSB)** The Lord will judge HIS PEOPLE.

■ **Matthew 25:19 (BSB)** After a long time the master of those servants returned to settle ACCOUNTS with them.

■ **2 Corinthians 5:10 (BSB)** For WE must ALL appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.

B. Our works will determine our rewards

Two **misconceptions about our works**

1. We are saved by works and rewarded by works.
2. We are saved by faith and rewarded by faith.

First: We are saved by FAITH, not works

Ephesians 2:8–9 (BSB) For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹NOT by works, so that no one can boast.

Second: We are rewarded by WORKS, not faith!

Matthew 25:21 (BSB) ‘Well DONE, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (NIV) If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³his WORK will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s WORK. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive his REWARD. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will SUFFER LOSS; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

1 Corinthians 3:1–4 (BSB) Brothers... ³since there is jealousy and dissension among you, are you not worldly? ⁴For when one of you says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men?

1 Corinthians 3:15 (NIV) If it is burned up, he will SUFFER LOSS...

C. We will care about rewards

1 John 2:28 (BSB) ... remain in Christ, so that when He appears, we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.

First: We WILL value Christ's approval at the judgment

Matthew 25:21 (NIV) “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Matthew 25:26–28 (NIV) ‘You wicked, lazy servant!... you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.

Second: We WILL value Christ's rewards at the judgment

1 Corinthians 9:24–25 (NIV) Run in such a way as to get the prize... we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (NIV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me...

Matthew 6:19–20 (NIV) Do not store up for yourselves treasures ON EARTH, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures IN HEAVEN, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Third: We WILL value promotion at the judgment

Matthew 24:45–47 (BSB) Who then is the FAITHFUL and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household, to give the others their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Luke 19:17 (NIV) ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

“We should be all that we CAN BE on earth so that we can be all that we COULD BE in heaven.

Erwin Lutzer

D. What our works will be tested for

First: Our works will be tested for QUALITY

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (NIV) ... his WORK will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the QUALITY of each man’s WORK.

2 Timothy 2:5 (BSB) Likewise, a competitor does NOT receive the crown unless he competes according to the rules.

Rule 1: We must use right motives

1 Corinthians 4:5 (BSB) He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise (approval, commendation) from God.

Rule 2: We must practice right doctrine

1 Timothy 4:1 (NASB) But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons...

Rule 3: We must run OUR race

Philippians 1:15–17 (BSB) ... some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry... out of selfish ambition...

Second: Our works will be measured for QUANTITY

1. You have to discipline yourself

1 Corinthians 9:25 (BSB) Everyone who competes in the games trains with strict discipline. They do it for a crown that is perishable, but we do it for a crown that is imperishable... I discipline my body...

2. You have to finish your race

Acts 20:24 (NIV) ... my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me...

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (NIV) ... I have FINISHED the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness...

E. Works we will be rewarded for

Luke 12:48 (BSB) *From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from him who has been entrusted with much, even more will be demanded.*

A reward or crown is promised to each of the 15 works listed here!

1. Serving others. (Mt 10:42)
2. Prayer and fasting. (Mt 6:6, 17-18)
3. Bearing insults and being excluded for the name of Christ.
(Lk 6:22-23)
4. Loving and forgiving your enemies. (Lk 6:35-36)
5. Generosity and giving. (Mt 6:3-4; Lk 6:38)
6. Helping the poor, sick or disabled. (Pro 19:17; Lk 14:13-14)
7. Hospitality that cannot be repaid. (Lk 14:12-14)
8. Joyfully trusting Jesus and enduring trials. (1 Pt 1:6-8; Jam 1:12)
9. Working diligently for your employers. (Eph 6:5-8; Col 3:23-24)
10. Faithfulness to truth. (2 Jn 7-8)
11. Righteous living. (Pro 11:18)
12. Exercising self-discipline. (1 Cor 9:25)
13. Witnessing and discipling people. (1 Thes 2:19; Phil 4:1)
14. Faithfully shepherding others. (1 Pet 5:2-4)
15. Leaving houses, family, or careers for Christ. (Mt 19:28-30)

Revelation 22:12 (BSB) *Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to give to each one according to what he has done.*

What about those who are bedridden, in a wheelchair, or suffering from crippling pain?

2 Corinthians 4:8–11 (NIV) We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed... ¹¹For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

2 Corinthians 4:12 (NIV) So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. The person who joyfully trusts God and endures in this so that others can see Him working in their trials will receive a crown!

James 1:12 (BSB) Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life...

Conclusion

Revelation 22:12 (BSB) Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to give to each one according to what he has done.



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