

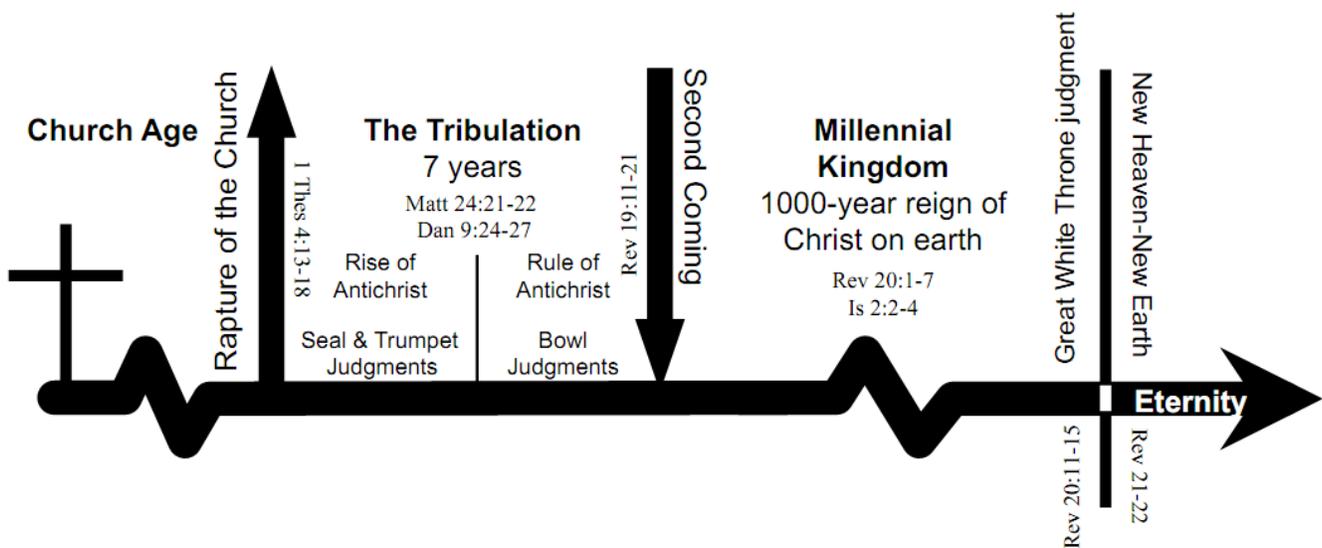
The End Times Titus 2:11-13

A thorough study of the end times will draw our hearts to worship God who is in complete control.

Eschatology: the study of... “last things”
Unfulfilled Biblical Prophecy

- Attention to God
- Accuracy of the Bible
- God’s Power & Wisdom
- God’s Plan & Purpose
- Protect from Counterfeit
- Bring Comfort/Holiness
- Reveals Jesus Christ

For the grace of God has **appeared**, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the **present age**, looking for the blessed hope and the **appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus. —Titus 2:11-13



- The Rapture
- The Tribulation
- Millennial Kingdom
- New Heaven-New Earth

The Rapture

Key Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

“caught up”

Greek: ἀρπάζω (harpazo) (>20 times in GNT)

Latin Vulgate: “rapiemur” (“taken; snatched”)

Medieval Latin: “raptura” (“seize; carry off”)

Word Concept: sudden strength/force; seize; snatch

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago... such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And...such a man...was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.
2 Corinthians 12:2-4

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:39

Other References to the Rapture

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

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

John 14:2-3

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

1 Thessalonians 1:10

...I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Rev. 3:10

Note: “Those who dwell on the earth” occurs 10 other times in Revelation. EVERY other time it clearly refers to them as objects of God’s wrath in the Tribulation.

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”

Revelation 4:1

Revelation 4:4 - places the “24 elders” in heaven

- “24 elders” - Rev. 4:4, 4:10, 5:8, 11:16, 19:4

- Thrones...Crowns...White Garments... Worship...Prayers of the Saints

- "24 elders" - Represent the Church in heaven throughout the Tribulation
- Thrones...Crowns...White Garments... Worship...Prayers of the Saints
- I hold that the "Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema)" is held in heaven for the raptured Church while the 7-year Tribulation unfolds on the earth.
- The Judgment Seat of Christ is the place and occasion for the divine evaluation of the faithfulness of each Christian's life resulting in the giving or withholding of rewards ("crowns").
- 2 Cor. 5:9-10; 1 Thess. 2:19-20; 1 Cor. 3:11-15

The Rapture:

When is the Rapture?

Before Tribulation ("pre trib")?

Midpoint of Tribulation ("mid trib")?

After/At End of Tribulation ("post trib")?

Before Tribulation ("pre trib")

- God's pattern: remove righteous before wrath
 - Noah & family removed before flood
 - Lot removed from Sodom before destruction
 - Passover: Israel removed from the plagues
- Israel & Church are distinct entities
 - Israel chosen by God in Ex. 19; Dt. 7.
 - Church begins in Acts 2
 - Both individually memorialized in Rev. 21

Before Tribulation ("pre trib")

- The Rapture focuses on the Church
- The Second Coming/Trib focuses on Israel

The Rapture: Five Aspects

1. Return of Christ: in the air; not to earth
2. Resurrection: all Christians: Pentecost to Rapture
3. Rapture: living believers caught up into the Lord's presence w/o experiencing physical death.
4. Reunion: with the Lord & other saints
5. Reassurance: words of comfort

The Tribulation

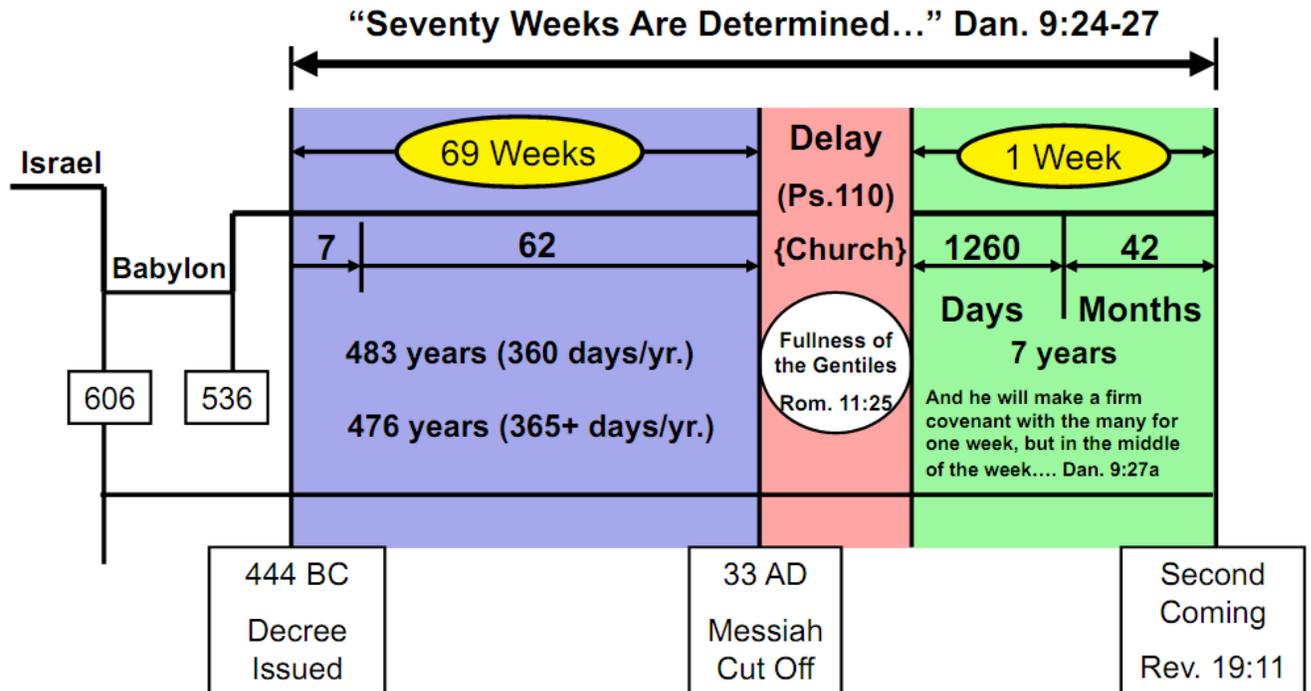
Key Text: Daniel 9:24-27

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

So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (7 + 62 = 69 weeks)...

Then...the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

And he (Antichrist) will make a *firm covenant* with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate...



The Nature of the Tribulation

A time “such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.”
Matthew 24:21

The Nature of the Tribulation:

- Unparalleled worldwide terror & calamity (AC)
- God’s wrath on unbelievers
- Unparalleled evangelism and faith in Christ
- Great destruction & desolation

The Structure of the Tribulation

Remember the “Tribulation preview” from Daniel 9:

- 7 year period for Israel (“decreed for your people”)
- Antichrist makes “firm covenant” with Israel
- Antichrist breaks the covenant at middle of week
- Antichrist brings “abominations” on Israel

The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24) also helps:

- Deceptions, wars, famines, earthquakes (1st half)
 - “all these are the beginning of birth pangs”
- Abomination of desolation in the holy place (2nd half)
 - “for then there will be great tribulation”

The events of the Tribulation period are recorded in great detail in Revelation 6-19.

The 7 Seal Judgments: Revelation 6:1 - 8:5

The 7 Trumpet Judgments: Revelation 8:6 - 11:19

- The Beast (Antichrist) & False Prophet (Rev. 13)
- Mark of the Beast; 666

The 7 Bowl Judgments: Revelation 16:1-21

The 7 Bowl Judgments (Revelation 16:1-21)

- Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) = Har-Mageddon
- Hebrew: Har (hill)
 - Megiddo - hilltop fortress 16 miles SW of Nazareth in the Jezreel Valley in northern Israel.
- Napoleon: "the perfect battlefield"

The Fall of Babylon (Revelation 17-18)

- The Religious Branch (Revelation 17)
- The Commercial Branch (Revelation 18)
- I hold to a literal revived empire of Babylon (Iraq) whose religious, political and economic influence will impact the whole world.

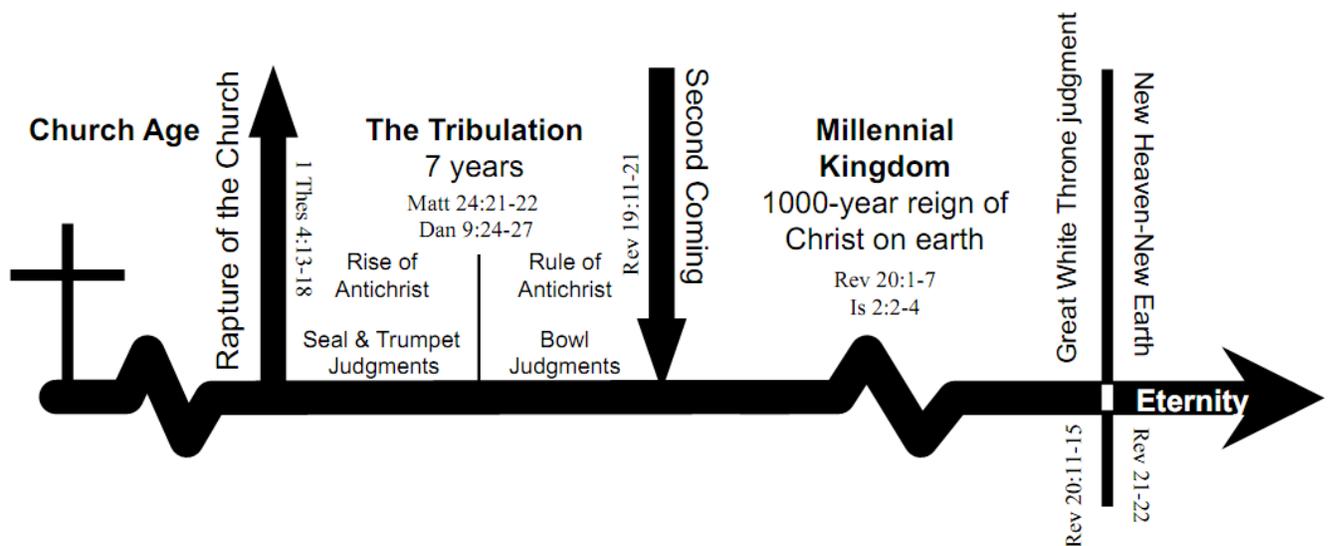
The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

- The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19:1-10)
- The Glorious Return of Christ (19:11-21)

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.
Revelation 19:11

The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

- To render judgment
- To end the Tribulation
- Opposing armies defeated
- Beast (Antichrist) & False Prophet thrown into the lake of fire



The Millennial Kingdom

Key Text: Revelation 20:1-7

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead (i.e., unbelievers) did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison.

1,000 years - referenced 6 times in 7 verses!

The term "Millennium" comes from the Latin term *mille*, meaning "thousand".

Other numeric references in Revelation

- 144,000 sealed from all tribes (7:4)
- 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes (7:5-8)
- 5 months = effect from stings (9:10)
- 42 months - the nations "trode" the holy city (11:2)
- 1,260 days for Two Witnesses to prophesy (11:3)
- 7,000 killed by earthquake (11:13)

Serpent (Satan) imprisoned for 1,000 years

Tribulation believers reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs.

Old Testament saints participate in the MK

Raptured Church returned with Christ to end the Tribulation and then reigns with Him for 1,000 years

When Christ returns to earth He will establish Himself as King in Jerusalem, sitting on the throne of David (Luke 1:32-33).

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (Matthew 25:31)

The unconditional Old Testament covenants demand a literal, physical return of Christ to establish the kingdom.

Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3)

- Promised Israel a land, a posterity, a ruler, and a spiritual blessing

Land Covenant (Deut. 30:1-10)

- Promised Israel a restoration to and an occupation of the land

Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:16)

- Promised a ruler for the throne of David

New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

- Promised Israel forgiveness (blessing)

The Millennial Kingdom is the enactment and enjoyment of the fulfillment of the covenants as Israel is:

- Regathered from the nations (Matt. 24:31)
- Converted to Messiah (Zech. 12:10-14)
- Restored to the land under Messiah's rule

The conditions during the Millennial Kingdom reveal a perfect environment physically and spiritually:

- Peace (Micah 4:2-4; Is. 32:17-18)
- Joy (Is. 61:7, 10)
- Comfort (Is. 40:1-2)
- No poverty (Amos 9:13-15)

The conditions during the Millennial Kingdom reveal a perfect environment physically and spiritually:

- No sickness (Is. 35:5-6)
- Righteousness (Matt. 25:37; Ps. 24:3-4)
- Obedience & Holiness (Jer. 31:33; Is 35:8)
- Truth (Is. 65:16)

Government will be fair, just and minister of righteousness:

- Christ will rule as king (Is. 9:3-7; 11:1-10)
- David will rule as regent (Jer. 33; Amos 9:11)
- Nobles & governors will also rule (Is. 32; Matt 19)

A revived Jerusalem will be the center of the world and rule:

- Jerusalem called "City of Truth" (Zech. 8:3)
- Jerusalem's elevation will rise (Zech. 14)
- Other topographical changes occur (Zech. 14)

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. 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.

Micah 4:3

At the end of the Millennial Kingdom: (Rev. 20:7-15)

- Satan is released from his prison
- Satan deceives the nations (AGAIN!)
- Satan is banished to the lake of fire forever
- Unserved dead of all ages are resurrected & judged at the Great White Throne Judgment

New Heaven-New Earth

Key Text: Revelation 21-22 (General)

Key Text: Revelation 21:1-4 (Specific)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:1-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

Revelation 21:1-4

And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:1-4

- First heaven & first earth “passed away” (21:1)
- No longer any sea (21:1)
- No longer any death, mourning, crying, or pain (21:4)
- All things made new (21:5)
- No longer any temple (21:22) {Lord God & Lamb are the temple}
- No longer any need for sun or moon (21:23) {God & Lamb illumine}
- No longer any night (21:25; 22:5)
- No longer any unclean, abomination, lying (21:27; 22:15)
- No longer any curse (22:3)

New Heaven-New Earth is distinct from the Millennial Kingdom age but similar in its restorative nature. It is the culmination of God’s plan to restore that which was ruined at the fall.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...

The Holy City

- Descends out of heaven
- Settles on surface of the earth?
- Suspended above the earth?
- “*Made ready* as a bride” (Rev. 21:2)
- “I go and *prepare* a place for you” (John 14:3)
- Perhaps “the holy city” is what Jesus is preparing now and will be the eternal home of the redeemed after the Rapture?

The Holy City

- Hebrews 11:10 – Abraham was looking for the city whose architect and builder was God.
- Hebrews 11:16 – ...(those who died in faith) desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.
- Final destiny & abode of all believers from all eras
- The union of heaven and earth forever
 - We don’t go to heaven; heaven comes to us
- God dwelling with redeemed humanity on earth
- “God with us” (Immanuel), fully and finally!

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20b

- Attention to God
- Accuracy of the Bible
- God’s Power & Wisdom
- God’s Plan & Purpose
- Protect from Counterfeit
- Bring Comfort/Holiness
- Reveals Jesus Christ