

4. BIBLE PROPHECIES OF COMING WORLD EVENTS : A PANORAMIC VIEW

A panoramic view of events that will happen shortly.

(Note: content not completed. Work still in progress. Some details yet to be included)

Jesus Is Coming Back!

Acts 1:6-12

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

Revelation 22:6-7,12-13,20-21

6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

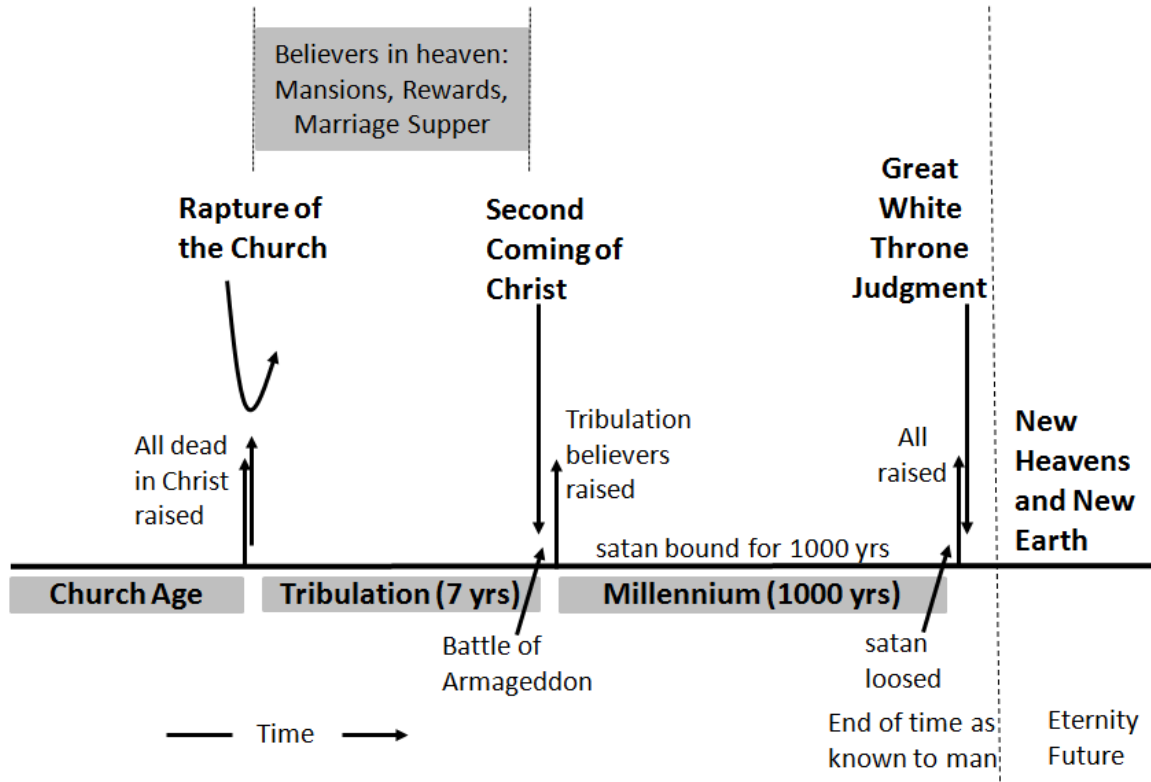
12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Here To Eternity : An Overview



The Rapture

Christ's return is in two stages: The Rapture and The Second Coming. These are separated by a period of 7 years. The Rapture is when Christ returns to receive believers in mid-air.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."

55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The word "Rapture" does not appear in the Bible. It was coined from Latin words that mean to be "snatched away".

This Rapture signals the end the Church age, as the Church is taken out of the earth.

The Rapture precedes the tribulation period which will go on for 7 years.

At the Rapture the spirits of all who people who have died and gone to heaven, will come with the Lord Jesus and reunite with their physical bodies. In an instant these physical bodies will be reformed, resurrected in a glorified state, with a glorified body. Those believers who are alive, will have their bodies change instantly to become glorified (immortal bodies) and we will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

This glorified body will be like the glorified body that the Lord Jesus had after His resurrection. It passed through walls (John 20:26), could be touched and felt (John 20:27), could eat (Luke 24:43), could ascend into heaven (John 20:17, Acts 1:9), etc.

Like A Thief In The Night

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

The Day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:2) comes like a thief in the night, at a time when it is least expected. In this context the "Day of the Lord" begins immediately after the Rapture as the Tribulation period commences and continues through the 1,000-year reign of Christ. Keep in mind that the renovation of the world by fire afterward is still called the Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:10).

The Trump of God

Trumpets in Scripture were used to assemble people and directing their movements (Numbers 10:2). We also see the manifest presence of God was "ushered in" with the sound of the trumpet (Exodus 19:16). Along with the shout and the voice of the archangel, the trumpet will sound at the Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Some refer to this as a secret exodus as only believers will hear this "call" and be caught up instantly.

Both 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52 indicate that a trumpet will sound at the time of the Rapture. This trumpet is not the same as the 7th trumpet of Revelation 11:15-13:18. The trumpet at the Rapture is the "trump of God" calling together the saints in resurrection and to be caught up into heaven. The other is the trumpet of the 7th angel (Revelation 11:15) part of the seven trumpets announcing woe to men on earth, after the seven seals and before the seven bowls. There will also be another "great sound of a trumpet" at the Second coming of Christ as He steps out of heaven to engage in the battle of Armageddon and thereafter gather the Tribulation saints (Jews and Gentiles) to Himself (Matthew 24:30-31, Revelation 19:17-21).

It appears from 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52 that there may be two trumpet sounds at the time of the Rapture. The first trumpet announcing the Lord's descent, *"for the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven,...with the trump of God..."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16), similar to Exodus 19:16. The second or "last trump" is to announce the instant resurrection, glorification and catching up of the saints... *"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed"* (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Believers In Heaven

During the 7 years believers :

- ✓ will be with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4)
- ✓ will see Him as He is (1 John 3:2)
- ✓ will be like Him living in glorified bodies (1 John 3:2)
- ✓ will know God as we are known, or as the Message Bible renders this: "knowing him directly just as he knows us" (1 Corinthians 13:12)
- ✓ be welcomed into their mansions in heaven (John 14:1-3)

- ✓ stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive rewards for the work we have done. All works done in the flesh will be destroyed. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10,12; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15).
- ✓ engage in worship as redeemed kings and priests (Revelation 5:8-10)
- ✓ will be joined in worship by Tribulation martyrs (Revelation 6:9-11; Revelation 7:9-17)
- ✓ be part of the Marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7,8)

The New Testament refers to several crowns which will be given to believers for their life, testimony and service:

- ✓ A crown of Righteousness : "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:8).
- ✓ An imperishable crown : "And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown." (1 Corinthians 9:25)
- ✓ A crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19; Philippians 4:1) at seeing people whom you ministered to in heaven.
- ✓ A crown of life : "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12). "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)
- ✓ A crown of glory : "and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." (1 Peter 5:4)

Revelation 3:11

Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Why We Believe In A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Of The Church?

#1, The Departure Must Happen

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,
2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

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.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,
10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit is the one restraining force on the Earth today. Once the Church is taken out of the way, then the lawless one will be revealed (vs 7-8). Why do we say that *"He who now restrains"* refers to the Church? For the following reasons:

(1) The apostle Paul in His writing to the Thessalonians had already informed the Thessalonians about the Church - the entire body of believers - being taken into Heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) and he reminds the Thessalonians of this (1 Thessalonians 2:5). So it is only right to interpret this in a manner consistent to his writings.

(2) The Church is called the salt, the light, empowered to advance the Kingdom against the works of darkness. Hence it is the Church that acts as a restraint to evil

(3) The Holy Spirit works primarily through the Church, the Body of believers.

The Antichrist cannot be revealed until the Church departs from this world. This does not mean that the Holy Spirit must be removed from the earth. We do not have a definitive indication of the Holy Spirit being taken out of the earth in Scripture. Instead this is what we know about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit.

- ✓ We know that the Holy Spirit is God and so is omnipresent (present everywhere at all times, Psalms 139:7-11) and hence will continue in some way to move upon the earth.
- ✓ We know that during the outpouring of the Spirit continues through the entire period of the Last Days until the great and terrible day of the Lord. During the Tribulation there will be people saved and turn to the Lord when they see the signs (Acts 2:16-21, Revelation 6:9-11; 7:13-17, 15:2-4; 20:4-6). Many of them will be martyred during the Tribulation. These Tribulation believers will need the work and empowering of the Holy Spirit more than ever (John 14:16-17).
- ✓ We also know that during the Tribulation there will be people who will bear the testimony of Jesus as stated in Revelation 12:17: *"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."* We also know that the Holy Spirit is the testimony of Jesus, as stated in Revelation 19:10: *"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*
- ✓ We also read that when the Lord returns to deliver Israel at the battle of Armageddon He will pour out His Spirit of grace and supplication upon them (Zechariah 12:8-10).

#2, The Promise to the Church in Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:10

and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

In the opening of his letter Paul states that the Lord Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come. Then after having described the catching away of the believers to meet the Lord in the air, and having instructed them to encourage each other with this hope (chapter 4), Paul affirms to the believers that God has not chosen us to suffer under His anger but has called us to experience salvation through Jesus and live with Him. Once again this should bring us comfort and hope. So we see in the context of the Lord's coming, it is the joy of believers to experience God's saving and delivering work and not be under the wrath of God that will be poured out on the earth.

#3, The Promise To The Church in Revelation 3:10-11

Revelation 3:10-11

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from (ek) the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Speaking to the Church in Philadelphia, the Lord Jesus promises those who keep His Word and persevere that He will keep them from "the hour of trial" that will come upon the whole world. This is a clear indication that the Church will be kept away from the time of Tribulation that comes upon the whole earth. Revelation 3:10 indicates church is kept from (ek) the hour of temptation. Ek means "out of" or "evacuation". Would have used "dia" if the meaning is "through."

#4, The Exhortation And Typology Used In Matthew 24

We see Christ's Olivet discourse in Matthew 24 (and Luke 21) clearly demarcating distinct time periods.

- Matthew 24:4-14 The Signs of the End Times Leading up to the Tribulation (see also Luke 21:7-19)
- Matthew 24: 15-19 The Tribulation period (see also Luke 21:20-26)
- Matthew 24:30-31 The Second Coming : Gathering of the Tribulation Saints (Jews and Gentiles) at the end of the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:17-21). (See also Luke 21:27)

- Matthew 24:32-51 Exhortation to all believers (the Church) to be always ready for the rapture. (See also Luke 21:28-36).

The Rapture must take place between Matthew 24:14 where the Lord Jesus states "then the end will come" and Matthew 24:15 where the Lord Jesus starts talking about the Antichrist. Matthew 24:15 is the beginning of the end.

As the Lord Jesus exhorts His believers to be always ready, He then draws from the Old Testament, and uses Noah, the days of Noah and the ark to illustrate the taking away of people. The ark was a place of safety that kept the people from the flood (judgment) that came upon the rest of those who did not enter the ark. Once the judgment was over, the people who had been kept safe were back on the earth. The ark then is a type or represents to us the taking away to safety (or the Rapture) of those who are saved.

Matthew 24:36-42

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

#5, The Chronology Of The Book Of Revelation

The book of Revelation was written chronologically. Revelation 1:19 says: *"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."* (past, present and future). Chapter 1 speaks of the past, chapters 2 and 3 speak of the present, and chapters 4-22 speak about the future. In chapters 4-5 we read about *"twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads"* (Revelation 4:4). These elders are believers, like others who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and made kings and priest to our God (Revelation 5:9-10). So for these elders to have received their crowns, all believers must have been already brought to heaven and the Judgment Seat of Christ must have already taken place. This would mean that the Rapture has taken place. After chapters 4-5 where we have the elders worshipping along with others, comes chapter 6, commences the description of the Tribulation. Hence this is another strong reason for us to conclude that the Rapture does take place before the Tribulation.

#6, Daniel's Seventieth Week for Israel Not The Church

Daniel 9:24-27

24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

The seventy weeks of Daniel are concerning the people of Israel and the holy city of Jerusalem. Hence the seventieth week (the 7 years of Tribulation) has to do with the people of Israel and Jerusalem and not about the Church. The Church came between the 69th week, that is after the Messiah was crucified and will be "Raptured" (taken out of the way) before the start of the seventieth week.

Who Will Be Raised Up From The Dead At The Time Of The Rapture? Will We Meet The Old Testament Saints Raised Up In Ephesians 4?

"...God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus...the dead in Christ will rise...Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them..." (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)

"...the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52)

It is clear from both these passages that all believers in Jesus, those who have died along with those who are alive will be caught up at the time of the Rapture.

But what about the Old Testament saints and those who believed and died before the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

We know that the Old Testament saints believed in the resurrection and that they would be raised up "at the last day" or "the end of the days" (Job 19:25-27, John 11:24, Daniel 12:2,3,13; Isaiah 26:19; Hosea 13:14). They believed in individual judgment and reward (Isaiah 40:10; Ezekiel 11:21; Ezekiel 20:33-44 Ezekiel 22:17-22; Zechariah 3:7; Zechariah 13:9; Malachi 3:16-18; 4:1), and also in the new heaven and new earth (Isaiah 65:17,18; Isaiah 66:22; Hebrews 11:10,16,39,40). Those who heeded the message of God died and went to a place called Paradise.

Hades was the place where the souls and the spirits of all humans went until the cross. Sheol (Old Testament) and Hades (New Testament) are one and the same. In Sheol or Hades there were two compartments, one for the wicked and the other for the righteous (Luke 16:22, 23). The thief on the cross went down to Paradise (also called Abraham's Bosom) (Luke 23:43). This

is where Christ went upon His death (Acts 2:27,31). There He ministered to His people and led captivity captive (Ephesians 4:8-10), releasing and transporting them into the third heaven of 2 Corinthians 12:2. That is why Paradise is referred to as "up" (Revelation 2:7; 2 Corinthians 12:4). So presently, the Paradise side of Hades has been emptied by Him who has the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 20:13). The spirits of the Old Testament saints are now in the third heaven with Christ. They are called saints because of their position "in Christ." They were saved by looking forward in faith to a coming Messiah, just as people are saved today by looking back in faith to the Savior.

Some, e.g. Jack Van Impe (Impe, 2016) position the resurrection of the Old Testament saints right at the end of the Tribulation, before the start of the Millennium. We differ from this in our view point and believe that the Old Testament saints will be part of those whom *"...God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus..."* (1 Thessalonians 4:14) and who will be raised at the Rapture. We believe this for the following reasons:

1, While God has made provision for the Church, we (both the Old Testament saints and us New Testament believers) will be made perfect together as indicated in Hebrews 11 : *"But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them....And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us."* (Hebrews 11:16,39-40).

2, The great cloud of witnesses, the heavenly Jerusalem, the church of the firstborn, *"the spirits of just men made perfect"* in Hebrews 12:1,22-24, includes the Old Testament saints taken up into heaven by Jesus Christ. Hence these *"spirits of just men"* will be brought back with Jesus in 1 Thessalonians 4:14.

3, Hence the whole family in heaven and earth mentioned by Paul in Ephesians 3:15 includes the Old Testament saints, who are now part of the family of God.

All of us, believers who have died, believers who are alive, and the Old Testament saints will have glorified bodies at the Rapture, and will be in heaven with glorified bodies during the 7 year period. These along with the resurrected Tribulation saints and well as the saints who made it alive through the Tribulation, will be the saints who administer Christ's Kingdom during the Millennium here on earth.

Who Will Be Taken Up In The Rapture?

Is there something more to be done to be "rapture ready" other than being born again/saved and living as believers?

All those who are "in Jesus" that is those who are saved (or born again into God's family) will be taken up in the Rapture. This is the only qualification. The Parables the Lord Jesus gave us in relation to His coming, e.g. parable the Ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), the ten talents (Matthew

25:14-30) and others, are intended to teach us how to live in a state of readiness, and not as a means of "earning our ticket" for the flight out. Salvation is always by grace through faith.

Will We Recognize Each Other In Heaven?

During our time in heaven we will have glorified bodies like Christ and will know one another. Consider what happened at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-4) where Moses and Elijah appeared. Although the disciples had never seen them in the flesh they were able to immediately "know" who these men were. Similarly there will be a "knowing" where we will *"know even as we are known"* (I Corinthians 13:12) and this would include the recognition of others in heaven. There will be no marriages in heaven at this time (Matthew 22:23-30).

The Seven Year Tribulation - Daniel's Seventieth Week

The 7 years of Tribulation is also referred to as "Daniel's Seventieth Week" or the "Time of Jacob's Trouble" in Scripture.

Daniel's Seventieth Week

In Daniel 9:25-27, Daniel first referred to a 69 week period. Daniel prophesied that after 483 years (69 weeks, each week = 7 years) from the time of the issuing of the decree by Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem the Messiah would come, be rejected and die (Daniel 9:24-26). This was fulfilled exactly as he foretold.

And then in Daniel 9:27, Daniel referred to another period (a week). This period of time is also called "Daniels's Seventieth Week" (Daniel 9:27). In history, the first 69 weeks involve Israel (Daniel 9:24) and it follows that the seventieth or final week must also involve Israel.

What do we really know about the Tribulation?

Order of key events during the tribulation

Three Sets Of Seven Judgments

There are three sets of seven judgments that commence at the starting of the Tribulation.

Seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls.

Each of these reveal what the world experiences during the Tribulation.

The Seven Seals

Rise of the Antichrist (first seal, Revelation 6:1), war (second seal, Revelation 6:3-4), famine (third seal, Revelation 6:5-6), death and hell (fourth seal, Revelation 6:7-8), martyrs (fifth seal, Revelation 6:9-11), wrath of God (sixth seal, Revelation 6:12-17), silence in heaven (seventh seal, Revelation 8:1).

Tribulation commences with the opening of the first seal in Revelation 6:1, which reveals the rise of the Antichrist. As each of these seals are being opened events on the earth are progressing.

Rise Of A Leader (Called The Antichrist Or The Beast)

The world will witness the rise of a leader (called the Antichrist or the Beast) from a confederacy of ten western nations. These ten nations were once part of the Roman Empire.

Daniel 7:24

The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.

See also:

Revelation 13:1, Daniel chapters 2,7,8,9, 2 Thessalonians 2:3,8

The ten nations are pictured by the ten toes of Daniel's image (Daniel chapters 2,7) and the ten horns of Revelation 13.

A 7-Year False Peace Treaty

Daniel 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; ...

The Antichrist will come into prominence and power by presenting a "peace program" to the nations. Will most likely result in the dividing up of land belonging to Israel (Joel 3:2).

Third Temple Rebuilt And Priesthood And Sacrifices Restored

At some point, either just before the rise of the Antichrist or immediately after, during the tribulation, a third temple will be built in Jerusalem (the first was Solomon's Temple – destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, the second was the rebuilt temple during Ezra's time which was destroyed in AD 70 by Titus the Roman general), with Old Testament style temple worship restored, with Jewish attendants. It is possible that the permission to erect this temple in Jerusalem will be part of the peace agreement between the Antichrist and the Jewish people.

We refer to this as the "Tribulation Temple".

The 144,000 Jewish Evangelists

Revelation 7:3-4

3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

The 144,000 Jewish evangelists are sealed, possibly marked by the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30, Joel 2:28-29). From what we see in the ensuing passage of Revelation 7:9-17, we can infer the following about the 144,000 Jewish evangelists: we infer that the 144,000 Jewish evangelists will proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to the whole world. This will result in a world-wide revival, causing many from the nations to be saved. However, this will also result in a huge numbers dying as martyrs for Jesus.

Many Tribulation Martyrs

The opening of the fifth seal reveal that there will be many who will be martyred (Revelation 6:9-11). In between the sixth and the seventh seal we get a glimpse of what is happening in heaven. We see *"...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.."* (Revelation 7:9), but all of these people worshipping in heaven are the Tribulation martyrs, people who have been killed for believing in Jesus at this time (Revelation 7:9-17).

Increased Prayer and Intercession

Revelation 8:3-5

3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

It is possible that there will be a global revival of prayer and intercession by Tribulation saints on the earth at this time, before the seven trumpet are blown.

The Seven Trumpets

Following this there will be seven trumpet judgments over the earth:

- Hail, fire, blood (first trumpet, Revelation 8:7)
- sea turned to blood (second trumpet, Revelation 8:8-9)
- waters poisoned (third trumpet, Revelation 8:10-11)
- planets darkened (fourth trumpet, Revelation 8:12)
- first woe - loosing of demons to torment people (fifth trumpet, Revelation 9:1-12)
- second woe - loosing of two hundred million (possibly) demons to kill 1/3 of population (sixth trumpet, Revelation 9:13-21)
- Proclamation of Christ's triumph (seventh trumpet, Revelation 11:15-18)

Between the sixth trumpet and the proclamation of the seventh trumpet we have a record of the condition of people on the earth, and this most likely marks at the mid-way point (3 1/2 years) of the Tribulation period, the breaking of the peace treaty and the arrival of the two witnesses at this time.

Hardness of Heart, Bound To Sin

Revelation 9:20-21

20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

In spite of all that is happening on the earth, many will not repent but continue in rebellion.

After 42 Months (3 1/2 Years), The Antichrist Breaks The Peace Treaty

Daniel 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

Midway, the Antichrist will enter the Temple in Jerusalem, declare himself to be God, and demand worship from the Jews in their own temple (2 Thessalonians 2:4). The Image of the Beast will be set up in this Temple as a final act of blasphemy (Daniel 12:11).

Daniel 12:11

"And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Antichrist attempts to destroy God's people, the Jews Revelation 13:7.

Mid-point of 7 year tribulation, begins the "Great Tribulation"

There will be about 3 1/2 years from the breaking of the peace treaty till the end of the tribulation. This period is known as the Great Tribulation.

The Two Witnesses

See Revelation chapter 11

Revelation 11:1-6

1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Malachi 3:1-2

1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap.

Malachi 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

It is likely that the two witnesses (prophets) will appear in Jerusalem mid-way during the Tribulation period, after the Antichrist has broken the peace treaty and desecrated the Temple and Jerusalem is being under the power of the Gentiles. For 3 1/2 years these two witnesses will proclaim the truth of the kingdom message, corroborating the preaching of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. The message of Christ's return will be preached throughout the world. All will be made aware of the timetable of the end, the eventual fall of Antichrist, and the coming kingdom of Christ.

These two witnesses will be miraculously protected for three and one-half years. Their power to bring plagues will draw the attention of the world (Revelation 11:6). When they have concluded

their work, they will be slain and the whole world will see their dead bodies lying in the streets of Jerusalem. After three and one-half days of the earth's rejoicing (Revelation 11:10), they will be resurrected and ascend to heaven in a cloud while their enemies watch, paralyzed with fear.

In determining who the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation 11:3 are most biblical scholars have narrowed the choice down to either: Elijah, Moses or Enoch. Malachi 4:5,6 foretell that Elijah will come as one of those witnesses. It is corroborated by the fact that Elijah did not die a physical death but was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind and chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:9-11). Moses appeared with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3) which was a picture of future events. Many of the plagues of the Time of Jacob's Trouble are similar to those brought by Moses in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. The Bible also tells us that Moses' body was preserved by God (Deuteronomy 34:5-6; Jude 9). Like Elijah, Enoch did not die (Hebrews 11:5), and some think that his exemption from death was in view of his coming martyrdom during the Great Tribulation. His message must also be considered. Evidently Enoch had been given a revelation of the Second Coming of Christ and had announced it to his generation (Jude 1:14-15).

The Woman and The Man Child

Revelation 12

The Rule Of The Antichrist

Revelation 13:1-10

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The Beast (Antichrist) is empowered by the Dragon (Satan) to come into power and exert influence over all the world.

He demonstrates lying signs and wonders.

2 Thessalonians 2:

The Beast, The False Prophet And The Dragon

The Beast (Antichrist)

The False Prophet (the second Beast, a religious leader)

The Dragon (Satan)

Then emerges the second Beast who is a religious leader, also called the False Prophet who gets people to worship and follow the Beast (the Antichrist) and embrace his mark.

Revelation 13:11-18

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

One World Currency And The Mark Of The Beast 666

Once this world leader comes to power he introduces a global identification system, and a one world currency. The False Prophet (the second Beast) gets people to embrace this.

Revelation 13:16-18

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

The last 3 ½ years (42 months) of the 7-year tribulation period will be the bloodiest in world history.

Many More Martyrs

Revelation 14:11-13

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'"
"Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Many more will die when they refuse to worship the image of the Beast and refuse the mark of the Beast.

God's Judgement And Satan's Wrath

The Great Harlot

Babylon

Time of Jacob's Trouble - Times of the Gentiles

The Great Tribulation is a time of incomparable judgment from God (Daniel 12:1, Joel 2:2, Matthew 24:21). A total of 21 judgments fall on the earth. They constitute three series of seven each and are described as the seal, trumpet and vial (or bowl) judgments (See Revelation chapters 6,8,9,15,16). This is the "Time of Jacob's Trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7).

Jacob's trouble is so named because of Jeremiah's prophecy: *"Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it."* (Jeremiah 30:7). He was speaking of the second half of this seven-year period known as the Great Tribulation. The earth is plunged into its most horrendous hour (Matthew 24:21). Jeremiah 30-31 summarize Israel's endurance in the hour of Tribulation. In Ezekiel 38-39, seventeen different passages mark Israel as the victim of Gog and Magog's deadliest war.

Luke 21:20-26

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

23 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.

24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

The Battle of Gog and Magog - Precursor To The Battle of Armageddon

Russia invades Israel from the North

This will happen at a time when Israel is at rest or peace – because of the earlier peace treaty Ezekiel 38, Daniel 11

Ezekiel 38

1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

10 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan:

11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'—

12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.

Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal

Originally descendants of Japeth, son of Noah (Genesis 10:1,2)

Magog – descendants found in modern Russia

Tubal – Tobolsk people located southwest of Siberia

Meshech – original name for Moscow.

Rosh – name of the tribe dwelling in the area of the Volga, and is the word for Russia.

Allies of Russia will be Persia (Iran and Iraq), Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer (parts of Eastern Germany and Slovakia), Togarmah (Turkey), and Egypt.

God Himself will intervene and the invaders of Israel will be defeated. This will be a brief but destructive war in history. Only a sixth of the fighting forces will be left after the battle (about 85% killed).

Russia will be driven back to Siberia (Ezekiel 39, Joel 2:20). Russia will strengthen her forces and come back on the offensive. This continues, until all nations become involved and are gathered together against Israel at Jerusalem, leading up to the battle of Armageddon (Zechariah 14, Revelation 16:16)

The Kings of The East

The Final Conflict - Armageddon

The Antichrist is defeated at Armageddon by Jesus Christ

Zechariah 14, Revelation chapters 16, 19

Armageddon is prophesied as the largest and bloodiest battle in history - with a river of blood flowing for 200 miles! And the images in the Bible of the great clouds which dissolve the elements could be those of atomic/nuclear warfare!

The Second Coming of Christ

The Tribulation period will end with the Battle of Armageddon and with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to set up His government (kingdom) on earth. Revelation 19:11-16

Antichrist and the false prophet will be cast in to the lake of fire.

Battle of Armageddon -Judgment of the nations

Zechariah 14:1-4

1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

Matthew 25:31

Tribulation saints who died are raised

The Millennium

Millennium

Rebuilding and repopulating the Earth

People with immortal bodies and those with mortal bodies

Millennial Temple

Jerusalem the center of worship

Jerusalem will finally become the city of peace and capital of the world when Christ returns and sets up His kingdom (Daniel 2:24).

Satan will be bound for 1000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

Life In the Millennium

At the end of the seven year time of Tribulation, Christ will return with His saints. The saints who return with Jesus will have their new glorified bodies (Philippians 3:21). Those who survived the Tribulation Hour and who are not condemned in the judgment of nations are allowed to enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies (Matthew 25:34). Since they are in mortal bodies and are able to procreate, babies will be born during this thousand year period. They, of course, will also have mortal bodies.

Because Satan is bound in Revelation 20:1-2, there is no enticement to sin among these mortals, their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. However, the children born during the Millennium still possess the old Adamic, or sin prone, nature. Because Christ rules with a rod of iron, they are kept under control for that thousand year period.

During the millennial reign of Christ, the earth is filled with tamed and beautiful animals of all descriptions (Isaiah 11:6)

The Millennial Temple

Ezekiel's Temple (Ezekiel 40-48; Isaiah 56:6-8; Jeremiah 33:15-18; Zechariah 14:16).

Temple worship will be reinstated along with its animal sacrifices during the Millennium. Just as the Lord's Supper symbolizes Calvary for Christians, animal sacrifices will symbolize Christ's sacrifice at Calvary for Israel.

At The End of The Millennium

After 1,000 years of being bound, Satan is loosed again for a brief season (see Revelation 20:7); because God has always wanted everyone to follow Him by his or her own free will. So these millennial children are tested and some will indeed overcome having accepted Jesus during this

period. However, I am sad to say that multitudes after being with Jesus and seeing His sweetness, His tenderness, His love and His compassion will say, "I want to be with Satan." It is really the same as at His first coming, when the people were with Jesus, and yet refused Him.

Final rebellion by those with mortal bodies
Fire judgment on rebellion
Satan cast into lake of fire

The Great White Throne Judgment

Resurrection of unsaved
Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The Great White Throne Judgment is described in Revelation 20:11-15. This judgment is only for unbelievers. The unsaved dead are resurrected from the temporary Hell (Hades), stand before God to be judged out of the books mentioned in Revelation 20:12, hear that their names are not found in the book of Life because they have never received Christ, and are cast ALIVE into the permanent Hell known as the Lake of Fire (Gehenna) to be eternally tormented and separated from God.

Renovation By Fire

2 Peter 3:8-14

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

New Heavens and New Earth

Purification and renewal of earth and heavens

All things new

Curse on earth removed

New heavens and new earth

Revelation chapters 21, 22

The New Jerusalem

Two Jerusalem's are mentioned in Scripture (Galatians 4:25-26; Hebrews 12:22). One is the earthly home of the believers during the millennial period. The other is heavenly – the New Jerusalem, or celestial city, which hovers over the earth in space for one thousand years before settling on earth forever. Christ has been preparing this new Jerusalem for 2,000 years (John 14:2). This magnificent masterpiece descending toward earth reminds one of the elegant beauty of a bride on her wedding day (Revelation 21:2). Verses 9-27 present a glowing description of the city.

5. END TIMES : BIBLE PROPHECIES AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

#1, Israel Formed As A Nation (May 14, 1948)

God promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation (Genesis 12:2,3) and give him the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession (Genesis 17:8). The boundaries of the promised land are found in Genesis 15:18-21.

From the time of king David through to the present day, the land of Israel, and specifically the city of Jerusalem has been the center of the most volatile political, religious and military problems in the entire world. Jerusalem has experienced 46 sieges, 32 partial destructions, has been burned to the ground 5 times, and has seen over 4 wars since 1948. From the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 by Titus the Roman general, through to Hitler's Ovens in 1945, Jewish blood has been spilled across Europe and other parts of the world.

God's Word promised that they would be regathered as a nation:

Jeremiah 31:10

"Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'

Ezekiel 37 – the valley of dry bones, describes the regathering of Israel

Ezekiel 37

12 Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel;

Desert blossoming as a rose (Isaiah 35:1)

In 1948 Israel finally became a nation. The formation of Israel as a nation is an important prophetic milestone, as we move toward the end times.

#2, One Generation Will See All These Things

Jesus said that the generation that saw the budding of the fig tree (figurative of Israel), would be the generation that would live to see all things fulfilled

Matthew 24:32-34

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

in Matthew 24:34. He stated that a specific generation would live to see His return.

What would be the time period of one generation. There are different ways to look at this.

Going By The Genealogy Records:

According to Matthew 1:17, there were 42 generations between Abraham and Jesus Christ. This covers a period of 2,160 years. Divide the 2,160 by 42 and it comes to 51.4.

Now in Luke 3:23-38, you have 77 generations from Adam to Jesus Christ. That's a period of 4,000 years. Divided by 77 it comes out to 51.9.

So based on this we could estimate that the length of a generation is about 52 years.

Going by the typical life-span

If we take a typical life-span, then a generation would be about 70-80 years (Psalm 90:10).

Although Israel became a nation in 1948, it was only in 1967 that it recaptured Jerusalem.

So if we do some math here, based on the 1967 date:

1967 + 52 = 2019

1967 + 70 = 2037

While our intent is not to set a specific date, doing this exercise awakens us to another very important "signs of the times" about the return of the Lord.

#3, The Church Coming To Maturity

Ephesians 4:11-15

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Acts 3:19-21

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

The Lord Jesus is coming back for a Church that is mature, that has come to the knowledge of the Son of God, that is without spot or wrinkle. He will be retained in the heavens until the restoration of all things - one of which was the Church to be restored to its original state. Looking at the history of the Church and seeing where the Church is, we know we are very close to the coming of the Lord.

#4, Knowledge And Travel Explosion

Daniel 12:4

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Knowledge explosion and great increase in travel. This is important, because this is key in exerting influence and control over nations, which paved the way for a world ruler and one world government.

#5, Global Political, Economic And Social Condition

Increase in wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6, Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9,10)

Luke 21:9,10

9 But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

10 Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."

#6, Fear, Hate, Terror, Despair

Distress of nations and peoples hearts failing for fear (Luke 21:25,26)

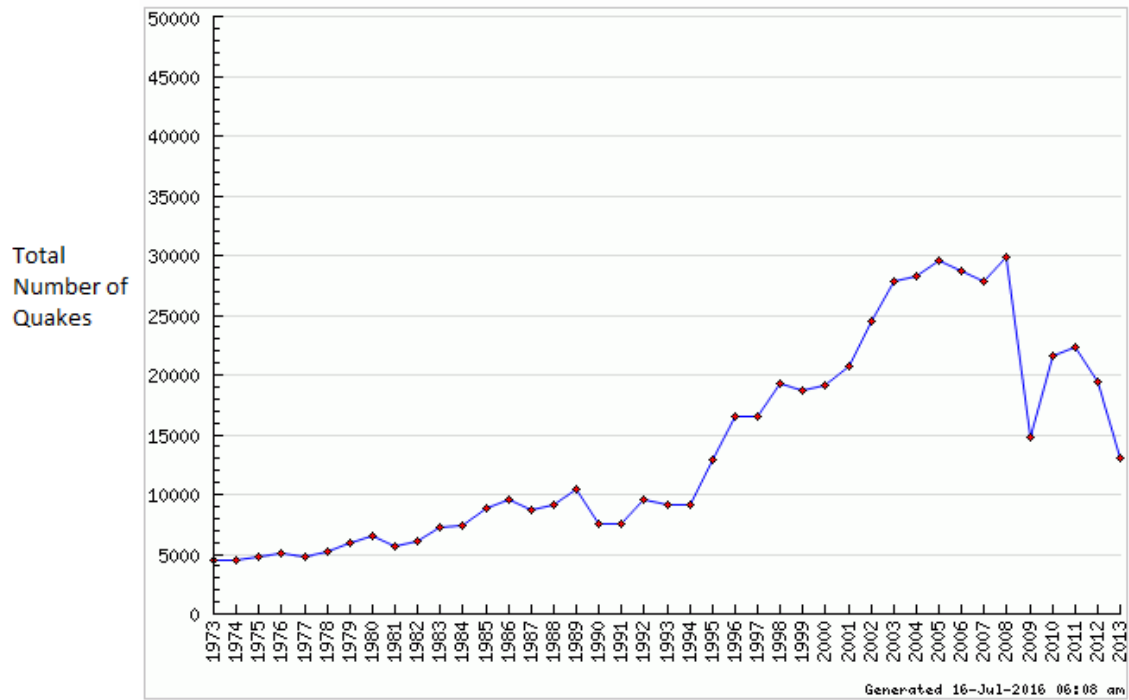
Luke 21:25,26 "... and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, ...men's hearts failing them from fear"

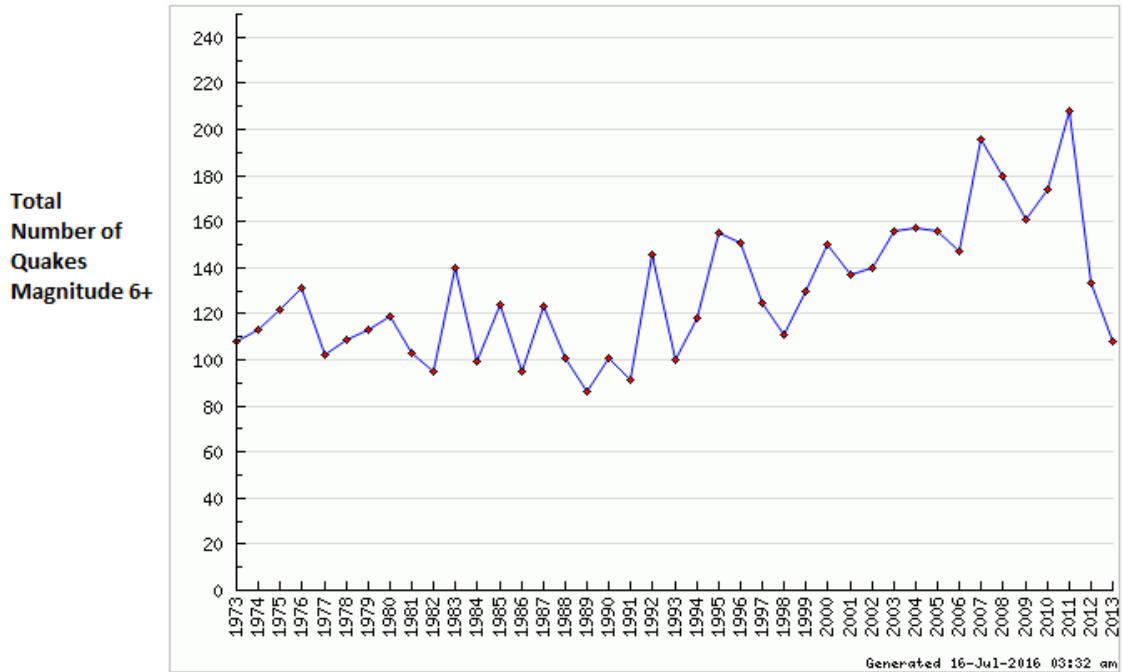
#7, Weather And Geo-Physical Conditions

Increase in earthquakes and other weather conditions.

Luke 21:11

And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.





Graph above provided by DL Research. - <http://www.dlindquist.com>. Graphs generated with data provided by the U.S. Geological Survey (<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/>).

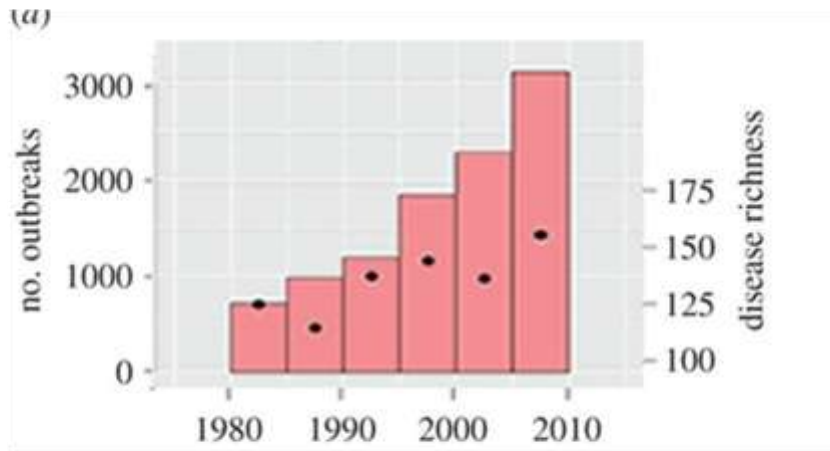
#8, Plagues, Pestilences, Epidemics

Increase in famines, plagues, epidemics.

Luke 21:11

And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

**Global number of human infectious disease outbreaks
and richness of causal diseases 1980–2010.**



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Global rise in human infectious disease outbreaks

Katherine F. Smith, Michael Goldberg, Samantha Rosenthal, Lynn Carlson, Jane Chen, Cici Chen, Sohini Ramachandran, Published 29 October 2014.

Journal of the Royal Society Interface

<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/11/101/20140950.full>

#9, Moral Condition Of Man

Increase in sin and ungodliness.

Matthew 24:12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

As it was in the days of Noah – gluttony, drunkenness, immorality, corruption, violence (Matthew 24:37, Genesis 6:11, 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

As it was in the days of Lot (Luke 17:28,30)

#10, Deception, Global Spiritualism And False Spirituality

False Christs and False Prophets (Matthew 24:5,24; 2 Peter 2:1)

Matthew 24:4-5

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Increase in cults and false religions.

1 Timothy 4:1,2

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

#11, The Gospel To The Nations

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

#12, Increased Persecution

Luke 21:12,13

12 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake.

13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

#13, Israel (Jerusalem) Becoming The Epicenter Of Conflict

We have discussed this in an earlier chapter, where as we approach the final stages Israel and Jerusalem will become the epicenter of conflict in the Middle East.

#14, The Temple Mount - Ready To Rebuild

We have discussed this in an earlier chapter, where the Jews are well prepared and ready to rebuild the Temple on the Temple Mount.

#15, Possibility Of The Ten Nation Confederacy

With the European Union having many member states who were part of the former Roman Empire it is very possible for 10 of these to enter into some form of confederacy (alliance) out of which will emerge one strong leader (the Beast also called the Antichrist).

#16, Possibility Of A New World Order

With all the upheavals that are happening politically among the nations it is possible that many nations will align themselves with a strong leader who promises to have an answer to the many challenges confronting all of us.

#17, Possibility Of A One World Currency And Universal Id

Given the technology we have it is very easy to bring into place a universal system of identification and financial transaction, similar to what the Antichrist will do with the "mark of the beast".

#18, Peace Talks With Israel And The Plan To Divide The Land

As we have seen earlier there have been several attempts to bring peace to the Middle East crisis. This seems to be intensifying with pressure on Israel mounting to give up territory in order to establish peace.

Joel 3:1-2

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

11:59, THE FINAL COUNT DOWN. Are You Ready?

For those who are yet to believe in Jesus

Are you ready? Are you prepared for the prophecies about to unfold! What will you and your family do at the time of the end?

for those who already believe

What are you doing for the Kingdom of God? How are you living your life, knowing the times in which we live? Are you living "Rapture ready"?

1 John 3:2,3

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.