

PERFECT ENDING

WHY YOUR ETERNAL FUTURE MATTERS TODAY

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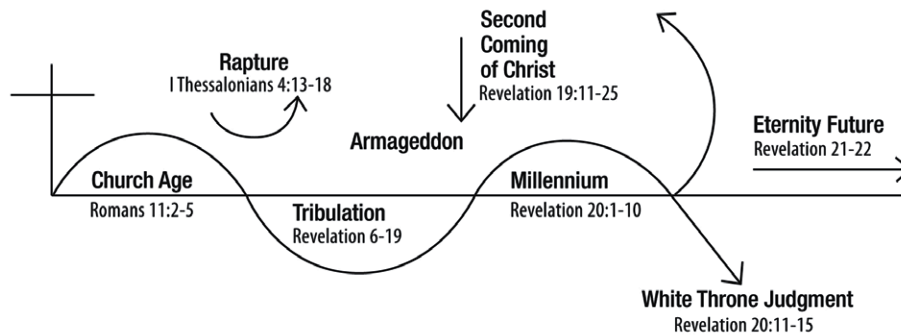
THE BEGINNING OF THE END
WHEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE Part 2

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Introduction: Last time we began looking at the final seven years of earth's history known as the Great Tribulation. Today we are going to delve into the specific details and the purpose of this horrific event.

Definition: The Tribulation is the final **seven years** of earth's history that begins **after** the Rapture and concludes with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Prophecy Chart



God's Stopwatch

Daniel 9:24-27
490 years



I. **Act 1: The Beginning of the Tribulation**

A. **The Rise of the Antichrist**

1. He will come to power **after** Christians are removed from the earth. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-9)
2. He will likely be a **Gentile**. (Revelation 13:1)
3. He will rule over a revived **Roman** empire that will be in the form of a ten-nation confederacy. (Daniel 9:26-27)
4. He will oppose the people of God and attempt to change the **laws** of God without opposition. (Daniel 7:25)

B. **The Rise of the False Prophet**

Revelation 17:16 "And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire."

Revelation 13:16-17 "16 And he [the false prophet] causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name."

C. **The Sealing of the 144,000**

Revelation 7:3-4 “³Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the bondservants of our God on their foreheads. ⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.”

Revelation 7:9, 14 “⁹After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁴...These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

1 Thessalonians 5:3 “While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” Then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”

II. Act 2: The Mid-Point of the Tribulation

Daniel 9:27 “And he 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, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

Daniel 7:21 “I kept looking and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them,”

Daniel 11:45 “And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.”

Revelation 11:2-3 “²And leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations [Gentiles under the rule of Antichrist]; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Revelation 13:5 “And there was given to him [Antichrist] a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.”

Matthew 24:15-16, 29-30

“¹⁵ Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; ²⁹ But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, ³⁰ and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”

III. Act 3: Earth's Final Hours

Matthew 24:21-22 “²¹ ...great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. ²² And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.”

A. The Seal Judgments (Revelation 6)

Revelation 6:1-2: Begins with the **rise** of the Antichrist

Revelation 6:3-4: **War**

Revelation 6:5-6: **Famine**

Revelation 6:7-8: **Death** from the famine that will destroy one-fourth of the world's population

Revelation 6:9-11: **Martyrdom** of those converted after the Rapture of the church

Revelation 6:12-17: Tremendous **cosmological** disturbances

B. Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8-9)

First Trumpet Judgment: God uses a mixture of **hail** and **fire** to Destroy one-third of the earth's vegetation.

Revelation 8:7 "And the first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up."

Second Trumpet Judgment: Involves "something like a great **mountain** burning with fire" falling into the sea.

Revelation 8:8-9 "8 And the second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood; 9 and a third of the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed."

Third Trumpet Judgment: A falling star destroys one-third of the earth's fresh **water** supply during the third trumpet judgment.

Revelation 8:10-11 "10 And the third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters; 11 and the name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter."

Fourth Trumpet Judgment: Involves a disruption of the **rotation** pattern of the earth and moon causing wide fluctuations in temperatures.

Revelation 8:12 “And the fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were smitten, so that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.”

Fifth Trumpet Judgment: As described in Revelation 9:1-12, Satan (the “star from heaven”) unleashes **demonic** tormentors to persecute mankind, except those who have been sealed by God.

Revelation 9:6 “And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them.”

Sixth Trumpet Judgment: The assembling of a massive army of two hundred **million** soldiers who are later described as coming from the east.

Revelation 9:16 “And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.”

Revelation 16:12-16 “¹²And the sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east. ¹³And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; ¹⁴for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. ¹⁵(Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.) ¹⁶And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.”

Revelation 9:15 “And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind.”

Revelation 9:18 "A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths."

C. The Bowl Judgments (Revelation 16)

Revelation 16:17-19 "17 And the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air; and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." 18 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. 19 And the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath."

IV. The Purpose of the Tribulation

Isaiah 26:21a "For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity."

Ezekiel 33:11 "...'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'"

Prayer