

History of the Earth Timeline

Age of Peace

The Age of Fulfillment will end with The Battle of Armageddon as detailed in many scriptures and Revelation. Since no Man knows the day or the hour when Jesus will come again, I did not even venture a guess as to when, either in AC or AD, that those events will occur. However, I have listed them out in this timeline in what I believe is the proper chronological order. Could I be wrong about the chronology of these End Times events? ABSOLUTELY!!! Please don't get hung up on it. No one REALLY knows how it will all pan out and in what order except God.

That said, I put the events in the chronological order I did because of various scriptures and how they detail the events. For example, in Matthew 24 we find that Jesus Himself gave an account of what would happen and when. So, if we read Jesus' words correctly, we get a timeline that is actually very similar to the chronological order we find in Revelation. And so, for many events, I have made an attempt to explain why I believe they occur in the order I have placed them in. I have also included the scripture references so you can study it for yourself.

I considered placing The End Times at the end of The Age of Fulfillment. After all, that is when it really takes place. It is the conclusion of that age. But then I realized that there wouldn't be much to this timeline if I didn't include The End Times here. Besides, in spite of the fact that it concludes the previous age, it begins this age and actually goes along with this age in regards to its overall theme and story.

The only problem with including it in this timeline is that it isn't exactly a very peaceful timeline. It's actually anything BUT peaceful. And yet, it's called The Age of Peace because once Jesus defeats the Antichrist and False Prophet, He will usher in an era of 1,000 years of world peace. So most of the years within this timeline will be peaceful. It's just the first 7 years that will take up most of the timeline that will be full of war, distress, cataclysms, death, carnage, and so forth. Therefore, this timeline will not seem very peaceful at all.

One thing to note about The End Times is that everything occurs on the World Scale. What this means is that events aren't local. They happen all over the entire Earth. This is important to note because many events have occurred before, but they didn't occur on a World Scale like in The End Times.

For example, with The Ride of the White Horseman of the Apocalypse we find a conqueror bent on taking over. Well, world history has been full of such people. What makes this one so special? The answer is that he will attempt to take over the whole Earth. This won't be just a Roman Empire kind of thing where the Emperor takes over the Middle East, parts of Europe,

other parts of Asia and Africa. No. This conqueror will attempt to take over the whole wide world from the Americas to the Orient.

So as we get into this timeline, keep this in mind. All the events are special because they are no longer just about Israel or a few nations in the Middle East. All the events of The End Times occur on a grand, Whole Earth, level.

That said, here is The End Times and The Age of Peace timeline. Again, take it with a grain of salt, for it is the future we're talking about, and God hasn't revealed all the details of the future for a reason.

Prelude - The End Times

“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Revelation 12:1-5.

“Before she was in labor, she gave birth; before her pain came, she delivered a male child. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children. Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?” says the Lord. “Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?” says your God. Isaiah 66:7-9.

The sign in Heaven in Revelation 12 is actually a vision that details events that already occurred. The woman is most likely Israel, specifically Jerusalem and Mount Zion, having twelve stars on her head. This especially seems true because of Isaiah 66:7-9. The sun and moon under her feet appear to be a shout out to Joseph's dream of the sun and moon bowing to him. It seems to symbolize that Zion, aka the ruling mountain of Jerusalem, is the Queen of Heaven since even the sun and moon are under her feet. Another reason it makes sense that this is Israel is because the woman gives birth to a Child who is clearly Jesus.

The Red Dragon, we are told later in the chapter, is Satan. In Revelation 17, we are told that the seven heads are seven mountains or hills. Now in Chapter 17, it is referring to the Beast that the Harlot Babylon is sitting on, but the Beast and the Red Dragon are the same, as their descriptions are identical. The only difference between the two is that the Beast is Satan in the flesh - in human form. This is intentional. Just as God has a Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Spirit - so Satan will have an Unholy Trinity - The Dragon, The Beast of the Sea, and the Beast of the Earth. The Dragon is Satan, the Beast of the Sea is the Antichrist, and the Beast of the Earth is the False Prophet.

The ten horns are ten kings who have not received their power yet, but they will during the End Times. The seven crowns, or diadems, are believed to be the seven last kings of Jerusalem. Who were the seven last kings of Jerusalem? Some speculate that they are Herod the Great, his three sons Herod Archelaus, Herod Antipas, and Herod the Tetrarch. Then Herod Agrippa

and last was Herod Agrippa II. Whether this is true or not, I don't know. It seems to fit, but nowhere does it actually say this. It's all theories from various theologians throughout the years.

During the time that Revelation was written, five of these Herod's were dead. The sixth was still alive. The seventh, as Revelation 17:9 states, "has not yet come." The Seventh King is supposedly the Antichrist. Jesus, however, is caught up to the Throne of God so that Satan can't touch Him anymore. The only way he can hurt Jesus now is to attack Israel and Jesus' Church. Basically, Satan can only attack Jesus indirectly.

But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:43-44.

Notice Christ warns those He is speaking to in this chapter that His return will be like a man coming to catch a thief in his home. Thus, He is not just referring to The Rapture but to the entire End Times. The Day of the Lord is often used to refer to all the events of The End Times. It is not just the literal day of His descending on the clouds and rapturing up His people. His return is to save His people who are still alive, yes, but it is also to catch "the thief" who is trying to steal His world.

Therefore, when Jesus and others state that no one knows the day or the hour, it doesn't mean we won't have any idea at all when Christ will be literally descending on the clouds. There will be lots of signs, and the Bible actually even gives us certain durations for events. So it means that we simply will not know the exact day or hour of ALL The End Times events which the Bible calls "The Day of the Lord".

When you read this particular passage together with Matthew 24:40-42, you will see that verses 40-42 are written to let those who are living during The End Times so they will know what it will be like when Jesus actually descends on the clouds. He advises them that they should be watching and ready for Christ's return. He says, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." But then notice how in verse 44 He says, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

By saying "you also" Christ makes it clear that He was first talking to those who would be alive at the time of His literal descent on the clouds; when He raptures the church and prepares for The Battle of Armageddon. Then He also warns those who live prior to The End Times that they also should be ready because all of the events that are about to follow will begin at a day and hour that no one will expect. So always keep in mind that The End Times, The Day of the Lord, often called "The Second Coming", is not just a single event. It is everything you are about to read from The Beginning of Sorrows until The Battle of Armageddon.

Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 2 Peter 3:3-4.

This is pretty much where we have existed as a world since Jesus ascended. There have been and are so many scoffers walking according to their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Surely God isn't real and the Bible is a lie because we're still here. He still hasn't come. They've been saying that for 2,000+ years now." This will only get worse.

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. Matthew 25:13.

This warning sounds very much like the one above. Always, the Lord is warning people to watch and be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. How does one prepare? They prepare by doing God's work and trusting in Him; believing Him at His Word.

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.

I believe we are already beyond this time period presently. After all, there is a whole lot of talk about peace and safety and how we need to all work together to have peace, but it has been going on for years upon years since the 1960s at least. All over the world, countries are striving to break down racial and religious barriers. It is socially unacceptable to take a stand for your beliefs because that is viewed as being anti-peace. It is VERY unpopular to say or do anything that is against allowing everyone to do whatever they think is right - for who are you to tell anyone what they should and should not do.

The Beginning of Sorrows

All these are the beginning of sorrows. Matthew 24:8.

These are the beginnings of sorrows. Mark 13:8.

The Beginning of Sorrows is a time period that leads up to The Great Tribulation. It is full of awful things and sin and rebellion and catastrophe on a global scale, but it is nothing compared to what will come during The Great Tribulation itself. There will also be wars springing up all over the world with rumors of more wars to come. Then disaster will strike, changing the face of the world.

A worldwide cataclysm, The Apocalypse, will render the face of the Earth unrecognizable. In the aftermath, which will leave the Earth's population decimated, new empires will rise to pick up the pieces and take over the world. These will pave the way for the Antichrist to unite the world under him, for during The Beginning of Sorrows, the Antichrist will rise to power.

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Matthew 24:34.

The generation born sometime during The Beginning of Sorrows will not pass away until all of these events take place. So there will be some who are born at this time that will survive all the way until Christ returns. Does that mean those who will be born at the beginning of The Beginning of Sorrows, or does it mean those who are born towards the end of it? Only God knows. Either way, Jesus wasn't referring to the generation that was alive when He spoke these words. He was speaking about the generation that will be alive when The Beginning of Sorrows takes place.

How do we know this? Look at the whole passage. He is saying that those who see the signs that The Great Tribulation is coming, THEY will not pass away until everything is fulfilled. That's why, just before Matthew 24:34, He says, "So you also, WHEN YOU SEE ALL THESE THINGS, know that it is near—at the doors!" He is saying that those who see all these things - that generation - will not pass away.

For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. Matthew 24:5.

"The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. Luke 17:22-23.

And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them. Luke 21:8.

“Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many. Mark 13:5-6.

False prophets increase in numbers, and the situation gets so bad that MANY, not just some, will claim to be Jesus. Have we already checked this box? In the 17th century, Rhys Evans claimed to be Jesus. In the 18th century, Kondratiy Selivanov and Ann Lee both professed to be Jesus. Ann Lee claimed to be the female incarnation of Him.

In the 19th century, John Nichols Thom, Arnold Potter, Baha’u’llah, William W. Davies, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, Cyrus Teed, and Carl Browne all professed to be the reincarnation of Jesus. Actually, William W. Davies claimed he was Michael the archangel and his son was Jesus.

In the 20th century, John Hugh Smyth-Pigott, Halie Selassie, Ernest Norman, Krishna Venta, Jesu Oyingbo, Ahn Sahg-hong, Sun Myung Moon, Anne Hamilton-Byrne, Jim Jones, Marshall Applewhite, Charles Manson, Yahweh ben Yahweh, Laszlo Toth, Wayne Bent, Ariffin Mohammed, Mitsuo Matayoshi, Tony Quinn, Hogen Fukunaga, Jose Luis de Jesus, Inri Cristo, Thomas Harrison Provenzano, David Icke, Hasan Mezarci, Shoko Asahara, David Koresh, Marina Tsvigun, and Sergey Torop.

Notice how the numbers substantially increased in the 1900s. In the 21st century, we have already seen 8 who have claimed they are the Messiah. Apollo Quiboloy, Alan John Miller, David Shayler, Maurice Clemmons, Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez, Todd Kincannon, Gabbie Hanna, and Ezra Miller. So yes. I think it’s safe to say that the world has already seen this come to pass.

Ride of the White Horseman of the Apocalypse

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. Revelation 6:1-2.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Matthew 24:6-7.

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.” Then He said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Luke 21:9-10.

But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Mark 13:7-8.

The White Horseman is called “Conquest”, and he is essentially a conqueror, someone bent on taking over the world. There isn’t much to say about this event other than that I have to wonder if it has already occurred as well. After all, what was World War II about but the Axis Powers - Nazi Germany, the Kingdom of Italy, and the Empire of Japan - attempting to take over the whole world.

And what did they use as their primary weapon of war? Was it a sword? No. It was a ranged weapon - the gun. The bow, therefore, could be symbolic for the gun. I’m not saying with 100% certainty that this is the true fulfillment of Revelation 6, but it sure does fit.

To add to this, what happened after World War II? Wars and rumors of wars again on a grand scale. How long have we as a world been discussing the potential for a Nuclear Holocaust or World War III? It has been since World War II.

Ride of the Red Horseman of the Apocalypse

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. Revelation 6:3-4.

The Red Horseman takes peace out of the world. Now, I contemplated which event in modern history fits this better. Was it fulfilled more by the Nuclear Arms Race / Cold War or the Terrorism of 911 and after. Both struck terror into the hearts of people all throughout the world, and they continue to do so to this day. Or was it the invention of the Internet?

Regardless, it seems the world has checked this event off of The End Times Events List as well. Since World War II, terror and hostility have filled the whole world. Though people today aren’t as scared of a Nuclear Holocaust as they were back between the 1940s to 1980s, it is still a very real threat, and it is still a major fear throughout all the nations of the Earth.

And what else do we see? Families are falling apart, divorce is on the rise, family members are killing one another, and children are no longer safe to go to school. Never before in the history of the Earth have we seen so much violence on such a scale. Mass school shootings have

made it so that parents are scared to send their kids outside. Everywhere, there are stories of fathers and mothers killing their kids or one another, kids killing their parents, siblings killing one another, and so forth. And there is so much hatred and racism. Even Christians who are supposed to show love to everyone, are filled with anger and hate - easily offended - and they are mocking and criticizing others, condemning many to Hell and judging others when Jesus specifically taught "Judge not lest you be judged."

The Red Horseman is called "War", but could also be known as "Strife", and that name seems appropriate. The world has been full of strife since World War II, and it is only getting worse. With the Internet connecting people from all over the world to one another, and since people aren't forced to face one another - but they communicate via social media - they feel they can say and do whatever they want without consequences. After all, what can the other people online do to them if they aren't there physically?

Thus, warfare is occurring all over the world between people who have never met one another, constantly inciting each other on a level that has never before occurred. Strife, indeed, exists throughout the Earth, and it will most assuredly only increase.

Ride of the Black Horseman of the Apocalypse

When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." Revelation 6:5-6.

And there will be famines, pestilences... Matthew 24:7.

And there will be famines and troubles. Mark 13:8.

And famines and pestilences; Luke 21:11.

The Black Horseman is called "Famine" but could also be called "Pestilence". On a worldwide scale, famine and sickness will cause the world to suffer. Has this happened yet? Covid seems a pretty good candidate for this one. We are still seeing Covid at work, though it has finally been tamed down a bit. Regardless, on a worldwide scale, there has been illness and deaths by illness, and production lines came to a screeching halt. Covid-19 affected the whole world, and the Earth has changed drastically ever since. So although it might not be the fulfillment of this prophecy, it sure scarily fits.

But what does the oil and the wine mean? Many believe that it means luxury. In other words, though there would be a worldwide pandemic during this event, many people would still live in comfort and ease. Basically, the luxury industries will survive while necessities are sparse.

Again, I can't help but think that Covid fits here. While people were losing their jobs and businesses were going bankrupt forever, many were working from home, watching TV, playing video games, meeting without needing to go anywhere, etc. While Third World areas struggled to survive, many were relaxing and enjoying themselves.

Ride of the Pale Horseman of the Apocalypse

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. Revelation 6:7-8.

The Pale Horseman is called "Death", and Hades (aka Hell) follows him. Again, this is on a worldwide scale, but at least we are told that it will only occur "over a fourth of the earth". Nevertheless, it will affect the WHOLE world. Therefore, although only a fourth of the world will die, it will be a fourth of ALL the people of the world, from every corner of the Earth.

And how will people die? "To kill with sword" means people will die via warfare. This is likely going to be World War 3, but it might not be. It could just be a terrible war that draws the attention of the entire world.

But what's more, war isn't the only thing that causes death at this time. "With hunger" means that famine will kill on a grand scale. So, to be clear, this will be worse than Covid-19. The famine that will occur at this time will be wiping out scores of people.

"With death" could mean anything, but it likely means that people are going to die in a variety of ways on a grand scale. Accidents, old age, murder, the weather, etc. Basically, it sounds like during this horseman's ride, the news is going to be filled with death regularly. And yet, we are comforted by the knowledge that it will actually only wipe out a fourth of the Earth's population.

Now, I will say that there is a good chance that a big portion of the number of deaths could belong to the Baby Boomer generation. After all, they presently constitute about 20-21% of the entire world's population. Keeping this in mind, within the next 10-20 years, we're going to start seeing this entire population dying out, most likely in vast numbers. Presently, they are all in their 60s-80s. That could be what "with death" means in Revelation 6:8. It could just mean that a lot of people are going to die of old age besides all the deaths by other means.

I don't think this one has hit us yet - THANK GOD! I think it's coming, but it hasn't gotten here yet. I can't think of a single incident in the world that fits this one. Especially the last cause of death "by the beasts of the earth." As of yet, we haven't heard of large numbers of animals killing people.

Therefore, at last, I think we have moved into the realm of the future. I mean, it is entirely possible that we haven't even seen any of these Horsemen yet. It is only my speculation that the first three have already been fulfilled. That's the tricky part about prophecy. You won't know until it is completely fulfilled exactly how God will do it. After all, many of Daniel's prophecies have already been fulfilled, but Jesus referred to a Daniel prophecy when He spoke of The End Times saying that the abomination - aka the Antichrist - will come before Jesus returns. So although much of the prophecy Jesus was referring to has already been fulfilled, we know that it will yet be fulfilled in full.

Now, I'm going to venture a wild guess, and I'm going to say that this prophecy, unfortunately, is going to be fulfilled soon. I think that The Ride of the Pale Horseman is going to come much quicker. I think as the days approach, the upcoming events are going to start hitting the Earth with quicker and quicker succession.

Why? Mankind is once again following the example of the Tower of Babel. They are reaching into the stars for salvation, hoping to escape the Earth before The End Times. Satan, of course, would love this, for if he could colonize a planet with humans, he'll break God's Prophetic Word. After all, humanity's end will come ON the Earth. It will NOT come on other planets.

And why would God allow Mankind to colonize any other worlds? After all, we are sinners. We are a taint on the universe. We are like a virus. He has to quarantine us here so we don't spread to the stars and thus carry sin with us for all eternity. Only by keeping us here on Earth can He finally purge the universe of sin once and for all. As you continue reading, you'll see that this must be true. So the closer we get to actually accomplishing colonization of other worlds, the sooner the rest of The End Times events will likely play out.

And, of course, the world is sliding faster and faster into sin on a grand scale. As the years pass, every year seems to shove us quicker towards worldwide deprivation. Each generation is caring less and less about God and more and more about games, toys, movies, sports, phones, apps, TV, cars, houses - basically, the things of this world. It's like we are pushing God harder to bring about the last of what many call "The End Times Plagues".

The Apocalypse

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”
Revelation 6:9-17.

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. Joel 2:31 and Acts 2:20.

And earthquakes in various places. Matthew 24:7.

And there will be great earthquakes in various places... and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. Luke 21:11.

And there will be earthquakes in various places. Mark 13:8.

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” Revelation 12:7-12.

“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people.” Daniel 12:1.

This event seems to conclude The Beginning of Sorrows. This would be The Apocalypse - The Sixth Seal, because although the entire End Times might be referred to as “The Apocalypse”, this event in particular devastates the world and changes it forever. It is the climax of The Seven Seals, for The Seventh Seal is more like an aftermath and a transition from The Seven Seals to The Seven Trumpets. This catastrophe is the end of the Old World and the beginning of The Great Tribulation. Everything after this is Post-Apocalyptic.

The Apocalypse begins with a sort of calm before the storm. Notice that the events with The Fifth Seal are all done in Heaven. There is no real effect, it seems, on the Earth. The martyred souls cry out for vengeance. They are hungering for God to wipe out Satan and his evil minions once and for all.

Now, IF The Rapture takes place prior to The Great Tribulation, I believe this is when it would happen. Notice how a white robe is given to each of the souls under the altar, and they will rest a little while longer. Then, in chapter 7, we find a Great White Multitude, and it says that they “come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

This sorta lines up with 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 which says, “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. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

So, IF The Rapture takes place at this point in time, just prior to The Apocalypse, the reason the martyred souls appear during The Fifth Seal event is because they have just been resurrected and brought up out of the world to reside in Heaven until the entire wrath of God has been completed upon the Earth. Thus, The Dead in Christ have risen.

Then after we hear about The Apocalypse, we are told that all Christians from across the world were also raptured up - according to this theory - coming out of the world just as The Great Tribulation is about to begin. Thus, they have “come out of the great tribulation,” and they have been “caught up together with” The Dead in Christ “to meet the Lord in the air.”

One problem I have with this is that 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 says that, “the Lord Himself will descend...” and it will be with the sound of a trumpet. But this is not detailed out in Revelation at all. In fact, we find that this occurs later in Revelation 14 when the Son of Man comes to reap the harvest of the Earth after the last of The Seven Trumpets sounds. And we know that it occurs after The Seven Trumpets because immediately after an angel is sent to gather God’s Grapes of Wrath into bowls for the final Seven Bowls Judgments.

If The Rapture occurs at the time of The Apocalypse, why doesn't Revelation say so? Why would John NOT take such an opportunity to glorify Christ by saying that the Church will be spared from having to endure such a horrible calamity? Why on Earth would he completely ignore something that believers would absolutely want to hear about? It would have been a great encouragement to them and us today to tell us when The Rapture would happen if it didn't happen at the time of the blasting of The Last Trumpet. And yet, Revelation is eerily silent about a Rapture event at any other time but right before the The Seven Bowls Judgments.

Also, note Paul's intent in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. The believers were obviously worried that their loved ones who had died would not be caught up to meet them in the air when Jesus returned. Those who died would remain dead and gone while they were the only ones to be raptured. That was their fear.

Paul was, therefore, trying to encourage them that when Jesus returned, everyone who died during The Great Tribulation would be caught up to meet those who were still alive. If Jesus came at that point in time when Paul wrote those words, the people he was writing to would see their dead loved ones again. That's what Paul was trying to say.

After all, those Christians were enduring great persecutions. Many, including Paul, seemed to think that Jesus' Return might come at any time especially because many of The End Times prophecies were being fulfilled back then - or so it seemed. They genuinely thought that they were living in The Great Tribulation because of just how harsh Christian persecution was for them.

But my biggest issues with a Pre-Tribulation Rapture are in Revelation 20:4-6 and Matthew 24:29-31. In a nutshell, Revelation 20 teaches about The First Resurrection. Essentially, there are two groups of people who will take part in The First Resurrection. The first is "the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands." In other words, this would only include everyone who died during The Great Tribulation. This is directly fulfilling the promise to the martyred souls during The Fifth Seal event. The number of martyrs, after The Great Tribulation, was now complete. That is why this group is singled out.

But here is one part of the passage in Revelation 20 that includes all other believers prior to the Millennial Reign. In verse 4 it says, "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them..." They? Who are they? It wouldn't be those just mentioned above, for it talks about the above mentioned group AFTER mentioning the group sitting on the thrones. So the "they" is referring to a different group altogether - a group mentioned previously in Revelation.

In order to answer this, we must look to the previous chapter. Beginning in Revelation 19:6, it says, "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders..." Further down, it describes them in verse 8, "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts

of the saints.” This is referring to The Bride of Christ. Who is The Bride of Christ? The Church throughout all time.

And it continues to tell us that all of these involved are going to attend The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Who are they? A great multitude. Who are the ones in the great multitude? Presumably those in chapter 7, for the same basic descriptions are given.

But it makes no sense that it would only include those who died prior to The Great Tribulation. This event occurs AFTER The Second Coming of Jesus. Thus, at this particular point, ALL believers, dead and alive, have finally been gathered up to be with Jesus after He descends on the clouds. Even the 144,000 Israelites would be included in this number, for The Two Witnesses have gone about preaching and teaching Jesus to the world for 3 ½ years, and they most likely focused on preaching and teaching the 144,000.

To add to this, after The Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we find that Jesus appears on His White Horse along with the Armies of Heaven, “clothed in fine linen, white and clean,” and they follow Him on white horses. The Great White Multitude goes with Him as He rides down and wipes out the Antichrist and False Prophet and all their armies. Basically, ALL Christians from Adam to Jesus’ Second Coming ride with Him to get their revenge on Satan and all that is his.

But here is the issue. If The Rapture of this Great White Multitude occurs at the time of The Apocalypse - or pretty much any time prior to The Second Coming after The Seventh Trumpet - why is it then called The First Resurrection? If the Dead in Christ are raptured up to Heaven with the living at any point prior to The Second Coming, then The Dead in Christ would be resurrected prior to The First Resurrection. That doesn’t make any sense. Why would it be called The First Resurrection unless it is literally the first time anyone is resurrected?

And then there’s Matthew 24:29-31. It starts by saying, “Immediately after the tribulation...” Then it details out events that occur in Revelation at the time of The Seven Trumpets. After that, it says, “THEN the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” And along with this event of Jesus’ Second Coming it says in verse 31, “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

So if there is a Rapture at any time prior to Jesus’ Second Coming, then there would have to be multiple raptures. How many times is Jesus going to take up His people out of the Earth and bring them into Heaven? And if it was more than one event, why didn’t any apostle write about it being more than one rapture event? Again, why didn’t John include a few details about it in Revelation 6 or 7?

In conclusion, when does The Rapture occur? The evidence seems to point to the time right after The Seven Trumpets and right before The Seven Bowls - that it takes place at the same time as The Second Coming. After all, why would Jesus Himself NOT tell His followers in

Matthew 24 that, "First, all who are alive in Christ shall be caught up to meet Me in the air. I will spare you from the disaster to come just as God spared Noah during the Flood and just as God spared Lot from Sodom. THEN there will be wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famine, and pestilence..." Or, if a Pre-Trib Rapture takes place just before or during The Apocalypse, why didn't Jesus say, "After The Beginning of Sorrows, I will take up My people, both dead and alive, and I will protect them in Heaven throughout The Great Tribulation. This is the First Resurrection"?

But instead, He tells His followers in Matthew 24:22, "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." Who does He shorten the days of The Great Tribulation for? His elect. Those who love Him. If we are all taken out of the Earth, then He might be talking about only those who accept Him after The Rapture. But let's face it, if the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world entirely AND the Church as well, who on Earth would actually accept Christ as Lord and Savior? No one.

After all, it is the Holy Spirit who convicts people of sins and draws them to Christ. He just uses us, His Church, to do it. So if we're taken out of the Earth entirely, there would be no Christians on Earth left to endure The Great Tribulation and draw anyone else to Him. I tell you the truth, no one accepts Christ unless the Holy Spirit draws them to Him. It is not possible. It is this way so that God gets all the glory.

Don't get me wrong. I WANT to believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture. I WANT to believe that Jesus will take us all out of the Earth prior to any of this, but I just don't see that it makes sense, nor do I see scripture to support it. I mean, who wants to live through a massive cataclysm and then the rise and fulfillment of the Antichrist? No one wants to go through the darkest days the Earth has ever seen.

Now those who believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture have made a good point when they state that Jesus Himself proclaimed that the coming of the Son of Man would come like a thief in the night. No one knows the day or the hour, not even the angels. But when Jesus' Second Coming occurs, it will be exactly 3 ½ years after The Apocalypse. People will see all sorts of signs, for each of The Seven Trumpets will usher in a catastrophe that should be recognizable. And when The Two Witnesses are martyred, Jesus' Second Coming is right on the heels of that event.

So how could Jesus be referring to His Second Coming when He says in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only"? And in verse 44, He says, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." He wanted ALL of His followers to be ready for the Son of Man's Day, for they would never know when it was coming. That is only true IF The Rapture happens before the events of Revelation 6, or at the very least before The Apocalypse. Right?

Paul addresses this, actually, in 1 Thessalonians 5. He says, "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 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. BUT YOU, BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, SO THAT THIS DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness."

Ah! So Paul has explained this. Jesus WAS referring to His Second Coming after The Seventh Trumpet and before The Seven Bowls Judgments. When He said that no one would know the day or the hour, He was referring to the world. Christians, who have been enlightened by God's Word, WILL know because they have been thoroughly warned by Christ and His disciples and apostles. For them, the Day of the Lord will NOT overtake them as a thief in the night. This is why Paul tells the Thessalonians that they are "sons of light and sons of the day." It is because they will know when it is coming because they will see all the signs that God already promised would happen - just as Noah knew the Flood was coming but the unbelievers did not.

And so, Paul was encouraging the believers, "Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 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. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore, comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

This last line is what Christians often use to support the Pre-Trib Rapture. How could Paul's words be comforting to anyone if there is no Pre-Trib Rapture? Well, notice what Paul is saying. Our hope is that whether we are alive or dead "wake or sleep", we will live "together with Him." THIS is The Helmet of Hope of Salvation. It is knowing that even if we die, we will live together with Jesus forever. We will be resurrected from the dead into immortal, spirit bodies, and we will rule and reign with Christ forever. THIS is the comfort that we should be spreading to one another, not that we will escape tribulation and pain and suffering.

And, if you think about it, even IF you do not live through the Apocalypse and The Great Tribulation, this message is still true. We all go through hardships and pain. There are many times that life just plain stinks. Hardships and stresses and deaths will come, and they will be hard to endure. But if we wear The Helmet of Hope of Salvation, we will find comfort in knowing that even should death take us, yet will we live again with our saved loved ones and Jesus, forever and ever. And if pain and suffering are things we have to endure, He is faithful and just to reward us for each and every pain and suffering we endure - especially if we endure it because of our faith in Him.

So what was Paul's point? WE who believe in Christ should see the signs and be prepared as we see His day approaching. The rest of the world will be clueless and unprepared, but WE should not be. And as we see the Antichrist rise to power, WE then know that if we do not flee, he will find us and capture us and torture us and kill us. So WE can be wise and prepare for that terrible day, for those who are wise will see it coming and will know what to do when it does.

And this makes sense, then, with what Jesus said in Matthew 24:15. He said, "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." Jesus was warning those who believe in Him and God that once the Antichrist rises to power, FLEE! Hide. Don't even go back to your house and grab clothes. Flee as fast as you can and don't look back. Was He saying this for the sake of the unbeliever? No. They won't care. They won't believe His words. It was for the believer. It was to warn US!

But one thing remains that is not explained. Who, then, is The Great White Multitude in Revelation 7 if they are not The Raptured Church? Why would John list them AFTER The Apocalypse along with the sealing of the 144,000 Israelites unless they WERE The Raptured Church taken to Heaven and protected for the duration of The Great Tribulation? And why does it say in verse 14 that they are "the ones who come out of the great tribulation"? If they are not The Raptured Church, why does it say this?

First, consider that the passage does not say that they are raptured. It does not say that they are resurrected or even alive. It says that they have "come out of the great tribulation." They, like the martyrs, have been given white robes, and they are before God night and day praising him. Then it tells us that they will "neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat." And God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This implies that these are people who have endured suffering. It suggests that they probably died from hunger, thirst, scorching heat, etc. They lost loved ones and wept heavily because they endured great pain and suffering. Coming immediately after The Apocalypse, it therefore indicates that they went through The Beginning of Sorrows and The Apocalypse, and they died during those times. Now, they will no longer endure hardships, but they will be with Christ forever in paradise.

Therefore, I do not think that this Great White Multitude is The Raptured Church. Instead, I believe they are those who have finally found peace from all their trials and tribulations. They are those who will die just before The Great Tribulation, during The Beginning of Sorrows and The Apocalypse, so they will be spared from the worst that the Devil has to offer. Death, for them, will be considered a blessing, for they will not have to endure The Great Tribulation.

This, then, means that The Great White Multitude is most likely ALL the souls of ALL Christians from the beginning to the end, just as I mentioned above in reference to the Armies of Heaven. Every Christian that has ever lived, who has died, is in Heaven presently, and they will certainly be a Great White Multitude who has been cleansed by the Blood of Jesus, just waiting for that day when He returns and The First Resurrection occurs.

Anyway, regardless of this, after the martyrs are told to wait, The Sixth Seal is opened, and a massive earthquake such as the world has never seen before occurs throughout the WHOLE EARTH. But it isn't just the whole Earth. It also affects the sun and moon and stars. In other

words, this is a Universe Cataclysm. The whole universe is suddenly hit by some sort of massive calamity. It damages the sun and moon, and many of the stars are cast out of their positions in the sky.

And since we hear that the stars will be cast to the Earth, we know that during this catastrophe, meteorites in great numbers will plummet towards the Earth and make planetfall. I'm guessing these will probably come from that asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, but who knows? It could just be all the satellites we've made for ourselves around the Earth - or both. Either way, there will be the appearance of stars plummeting to Earth, and there will be great devastation worldwide and even in our solar system.

This part of Revelation tells us that "every mountain and island was moved". This means that the land will be drastically changed throughout the whole world. Islands will vanish or become continents. Continents will become islands. Mountains that once existed will crumble and fall while new mountains will rise. Rivers will run dry. New rivers will spring up. This will essentially be a more drastic change to the world than the initial splitting of the continents.

Even the atmosphere is going to roll up like a scroll, exposing the world more to the harshness of space. This doesn't mean that ALL of the atmosphere will vanish. This just means that layers of it will be wiped out. I don't think there's going to be a blue sky anymore. It's going to be a whole different color or simply look like night all the time. When it is day, you'll still see the blackness of space - maybe.

This is sort of a pivotal point in The End Times. Regardless of everything that's happened prior to this event, once this occurs, there's no doubt that The End Times are taking place. The Great Tribulation is coming, and it's coming very soon.

What causes this cataclysm? It appears to me that it is Satan's final fall to Earth. In Revelation 12, Satan and his demons war with Michael and his angels in a final attempt to claim Heaven by force. The result is a third of the stars being cast to Earth. After Satan is cast to Earth, notice that it says that he is no longer able to accuse anyone before God any longer. Not only that, but he has come to the Earth with great wrath. It is after this time that he goes about persecuting Israel and Christians with great vehemence, and he gives power to the Antichrist.

So we know that this event hasn't occurred yet because if it had Satan would be full of wrath in the world right now. Christians wouldn't be sitting comfortably in their homes sipping coffee while watching church on Sunday mornings. Satan would be driving unsaved people with serious vehemence into Christian homes, forcing them to accept HIM as god or die. This, as you will soon see, is exactly what is about to occur during The Great Tribulation.

Therefore, there WILL come a day when Satan will be cast once and for all out of Heaven. This seems to be what causes The Apocalypse. There will be a war between the angels and demons, and when Satan falls, the universe will suffer for it. From that point onward, Satan will NOT be allowed to leave the Earth again.

Another reason I believe this event occurs at this time is because of what follows in Revelation 7. In Revelation 7, we see that 144,000 Israelites will be sealed and protected miraculously by God. This lines up with the woman in Revelation 12 who flees into the wilderness and is protected. These 144,000 are protected for 3 ½ years, just as the woman in the wilderness will be protected for 3 ½ years. This is why this event with the 144,000 comes next.

This also lines up with Daniel 12. I think that this passage here in Revelation is the fulfillment of Daniel 12. This is the Time of Michael the Great. He will finally gain his victory over Satan after millennia of spiritual gorilla warfare. That is why in Revelation 12, the Heavens are rejoicing... but whoa to the Earth!

The First Three Beast Kingdoms

Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. Daniel 7:2-4.

As described later in Daniel 7, this is the first of four kingdoms which will "arise out of the earth." It is not totally clear when these kingdoms will be formed nor is it clear which kingdoms they represent, but all four kingdoms are world ruling nations. We can assume that these four kingdoms rise after The Apocalypse because the fourth kingdom is the World Empire of the Antichrist. They are also said to come up "from the sea", implying the Beast of the Sea in Revelation, who is the Antichrist.

That said, the Lion Kingdom in this passage could represent the UK. After all, the UK is often represented by a Lion. In the beginning of the UK's Empire, they went about all over the world establishing colonies like the USA. It was almost as if the UK had been given wings like an eagle, for they colonized places in just about every corner of the Earth.

Also interestingly, the USA is represented by an eagle, and the Lion was said to have eagle's wings that were stripped from him. Could that represent how the USA revolted and won their independence from the UK? So it could be that this has already been fulfilled and that one of the three World Empires that will give power to the Antichrist is the UK and/or the USA.

It is possible. However, it is also possible that we don't even know the kingdom that this Lion Beast represents. Maybe it hasn't even been established yet. Maybe it will only rise out of the ashes of the UK and/or USA. Whatever the case, I put the rise of The Four Beast Kingdoms just before The Rise of the Antichrist, at the end of The Beginning of Sorrows. This is because the first three kingdoms help to establish the fourth kingdom which is the Antichrist's.

And I think that regardless of who the Lion Beast kingdom is, it is the first kingdom after The Apocalypse. I think it has eagle's wings because it will immediately try to gather all the survivors of The Apocalypse into refugee cities for the survival of humanity. It will have aerial superiority, until something happens to completely devastate its aircraft.

Why do I think this is the case? Well, it is logical to assume, regardless of when the rise of the Lion Kingdom is, that after such a devastating world cataclysm that someone with helicopters, airplanes, etc. will utilize them to rescue people. Whoever this is, they will be the saviors of humanity and heroes to the people.

And they will undoubtedly gather survivors to refuge cities, basically any cities that even remotely survive. As a result, no matter what nations existed previously, most will gladly submit to the authority of the nation who does this. Of course, there will be those who resist, preferring to survive on their own, and many lesser kingdoms will likely rise - some good and most evil. But regardless, it makes sense that the World Power at this point will be whoever leads the rescue efforts for the vast majority of the world.

“And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’ Daniel 7:5.

The Bear Kingdom in this passage could represent the USSR or Russia. After all, the symbol for the USSR/Russia has been the bear. Therefore, the fulfillment of this prophecy could be the rise of the USSR back in the early 1900s. The three ribs in its mouth between its teeth could be the three political groups the Soviet Union consumed. These were the Social-Democrats (or Mensheviks), the Social Revolutionaries, and the Anarchists. When the Soviet Union was formed after the Russian Civil War, these three groups no longer existed; only the USSR.

This being the case, it is possible that either the USSR is the second beast already come and gone, or it is the second kingdom to rise after The Apocalypse - possibly rising up from the ashes of former Russia. If this prophecy hasn't already been fulfilled, and it is a future kingdom that arises after The Apocalypse, this kingdom is going to be violent and vicious (as the Soviet Union had been). It is "raised up on one side", so it is likely that it will attack the first kingdom from one direction. The three ribs could mean anything, if it doesn't mean the three political parties of the early 1900s, but my theory is that it symbolizes that the second kingdom will consume three portions of the first kingdom, possibly three of its leaders or three-fourths of its land.

It is likely also that it is because of the second beast that the first beast loses its wings. As I read it, the second kingdom makes the first kingdom look like a nation of heroes and champions while the second kingdom looks like nasty villains. This would explain why the Lion stands on two feet like a man and has a man's heart, but the Bear will devour much flesh.

“After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. Daniel 7:6.

If this Beast Kingdom has already been fulfilled, the only thing that makes sense to me is that it is Middle Eastern Terrorists. This would be Iraq, Afghanistan, ISIS, etc. They have four wings and four heads because they fly about to the four corners of the world.

But, quite honestly, this kingdom is the one that makes me think that none of the Daniel 7 kingdoms have come to pass yet. Although the first two fit very well as the UK/USA and USSR/Russia, the third kingdom doesn't really fit any kingdoms that I can think of in the world today.

This Leopard also appears to have aerial superiority, like the Lion prior to having its wings taken from it, and the four wings seem to symbolize the four winds, meaning it has the ability to fly around and cover the whole Earth. No portion of the Earth is out of its reach.

And so, it seems that the Leopard Kingdom will establish strongholds all over the world. Four heads would likely symbolize four main leaders or four lesser kingdoms that make up the overall nation. Either way, the Leopard establishes domination of the world, it seems, defeating the Bear Kingdom and probably throwing down the Lion Kingdom as well - though small remnants of both the Lion Kingdom and the Bear Kingdom survive.

This, again, seems to lay the groundwork for The Rise of the Antichrist, which is why I have to wonder if none of these three have come yet. That sad, there is always the possibility that Daniel's vision shows us two World Powers that rise prior to The Apocalypse, and two that rise afterwards. In other words, it could be the Leopard Kingdom that goes about the world after The Apocalypse, and they gather up all the people into refuge cities, preparing the way for The Rise of the Antichrist.

Either way, the lion is bold and courageous. The bear is strong and savage. The leopard is an animal that symbolizes stealth and cunning. So keep these things in mind when it comes to the “personalities” of The Three Beast Kingdoms. The lion will likely be a bold and courageous people. The bear will be a vicious nation that tears other kingdoms apart, and the leopard will likely be a power that overcomes the others with sabotage, subterfuge, cunning, gorilla tactics, and the like.

God Protects 144,000 Israelites

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God.

And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” 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: of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed. Revelation 7:1-8.

‘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. Ezekiel 37:21.

Ezekiel is clearly speaking only about Israelites and not Christians. Notice the wording. He is going to gather the children of Israel from among the nations. Also notice those who are sealed in Revelation 7. They are all Jews from the four corners of the Earth, from the four winds. At this time, God gathers and seals the 144,000.

These appear to be 144,000 devout Jews of pure Jewish descent. They don't appear to be Christian at all, but God is going to save and protect them because they are devoted to Him. They just don't have a full understanding of the truth of Jesus Christ. This truth will be taught to them later, and they will accept it. This is why God will seal them and protect them, because He knows they will accept Him once they learn about who Jesus really is - their beloved Messiah.

This sets the stage for the Woman in the vision in Revelation 12 and fits with Zechariah 14. First the 144,000 righteous Jews are gathered after The Apocalypse when the whole world is devastated. They gather in Jerusalem and Israel along with Jews from all over the world. So it is clear that Jerusalem is one of the only cities that survives The Apocalypse.

Then, not long after this, as you will soon see, the Antichrist attacks Jerusalem and tries to kill many. However, as Revelation 12 states, and as indicated in Zechariah 14, a remnant of the Jews are protected by God and rescued. These 144,000 escape the city and go into exile. The Earth opens up, splitting the Mount of Olives in two to form a valley, and they escape into the wilderness.

Then, at the time of The Second Coming, Jesus comes and stands on Mount Zion like a banner to gather the 144,000. That's when He gathers all the Christians from the four corners of the Earth. This is The Second Coming and The Rapture.

The Great White Multitude

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

As described above under The Apocalypse, I believe these are all the souls of Christians throughout the generations who have died. Now, they are comforted and may live in peace with Jesus. He has taken away all of their sorrows and He comforts them completely. But they are not alive just yet. They are only soul and spirit. Their bodies are still dead and gone. The First Resurrection has not yet occurred.

The Aftermath

When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 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. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

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. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. Revelation 8:1-6.

While the Antichrist is rising to power, God will continue to send His punishments down upon the Earth to both hinder the Antichrist and punish him and all who refuse to accept Christ. The above will occur most likely during this time, as the Antichrist is attempting to gain power.

This is what I typically refer to as "The Aftermath" to The Apocalypse. A series of noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake will follow The Apocalypse. These are in preparation for the punishments that will take place at the end of The Great Tribulation.

The Rise of the Antichrist

Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, to the oppressing city! She has not obeyed His voice, she has not received correction; she has not trusted in the Lord, she has not drawn near to her God. Her princes in her midst are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave not a bone till morning. Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people; her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

The Lord is righteous in her midst, He will do no unrighteousness. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He never fails, but the unjust knows no shame. Zephaniah 3:1-5.

This scripture shows the moral state of Israel and Jerusalem in particular just before the Antichrist takes it over. By itself, it doesn't seem to be about The End Times. However, finish reading the chapter, which you will find further down in this timeline, and you will see how it fits into all these events.

So, Israel and Jerusalem are first populated once more after The Apocalypse by the Jewish people, but their moral state is not good. Overall, the city will be full of rebelliousness and wickedness. They will be treacherous and vile. Only the 144,000 will be godly and the only ones who will be spared.

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. Revelation 12:13.

This does not occur in a moment. This single sentence takes place over time. Satan is cast to Earth but then he goes off to find a way to get his revenge. So he seeks out the Antichrist and empowers him. Then through the Antichrist he persecutes the woman, who is Israel and Jerusalem in particular.

So I believe that this passage refers to The Rise of the Antichrist, and eventually his kingdom will march on Israel and specifically upon Jerusalem. Until he actually gains the power to do this, he mocks and persecutes the Jews, leading other Gentiles to do the same. While doing this, he will gain more and more support to eventually invade.

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

‘Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. 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. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. Daniel 7:7-8; 11-12; 17; 23-25.

The last Beast Kingdom in Daniel 7 rises to power. This is the Antichrist's Kingdom. It is different from all other kingdoms. This kingdom is first established by ten kings. The ten horns represent these ten kings. Three of the kings will be subdued by the Antichrist, though they continue to exist, according to Revelation, because they remain until the very end to mourn for Babylon.

By "subdued", therefore, it must mean that the three kings are going to be essentially enslaved or charmed by the Antichrist. Whether through blackmail or simply by gaining their undying fealty, or possibly even by mind control, these three kings will become the Antichrist's henchmen. So for 3 ½ years, this Empire will rise to power only to have the Antichrist take it over in the end and establish himself as Emperor. This will be very similar to the Roman Empire.

We know all this takes place at the same time, The Great Tribulation, because of the final week in Daniels' 70 weeks vision. For 3 ½ years, the Antichrist will establish his power. Then, at the halfway point, he will stop the sacrifices of the temple and set himself up as a god. THEN The Great Tribulation begins which will last another 3 ½ years.

When does the 3 ½ years of his rise to power begin? That, we don't know. It could be years upon years between The Apocalypse and The Fourth Beast Kingdom's rise to power. After all, three other kingdoms must rise and fall before the final kingdom is established and the Antichrist takes control.

So my theory is that years will go by after The Apocalypse as the world tries to reestablish civilizations. The Lion Kingdom will rise to power at first to gather as many as they can from the devastated wildernesses of the world. The Bear Kingdom will rise next and nearly wipe out the Lion, though not completely. Then the Leopard will rise up and beat down the Bear, though the Bear will also still continue. Finally the Fourth Beast's Kingdom will rise and unite all the others under its banner.

The Ten Kings of the Fourth Beast are potentially ten leaders from the three other governments, but this is just speculation. It could also be ten new kings who rise to power and establish the new empire. Honestly, it could go a plethora of ways. The three horns could be the first three kingdoms that are subdued, and between the three, there are ten rulers. Or it could be ten lesser kingdoms that all unite and form one empire, and the Antichrist manages to gain the support of three of them.

The point is, who knows? We could speculate all day and never actually arrive at the correct answer. God is purposely vague here.

But what we do know is that the three first kingdoms survive until Christ's Return because Daniel 7:12 says, "As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time." These are undoubtedly the kings in Revelation 18 who will mourn for Babylon. Though they will continue to exist culturally and so forth, these kingdoms will no longer be true nations with any real power. They will be totally ruled over by the Antichrist, and they will not rebel against him. They will give him absolute control over the civilized world, and they will bow down and worship him. The only people who will not be ruled over by the Antichrist's Empire are those who live in the wilds and wildernesses - "the uncivilized".

The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.

“Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means. Daniel 8:20-25.

This is an example of how many times prophecies are partially fulfilled at points but then completely fulfilled later. This prophecy in Daniel 8 refers to what has already happened prior to Jesus coming and dying on the cross. Through this vision, God was revealing to Daniel that the Medes and the Persians would be overthrown by the Greeks.

However, God was also revealing that the Greek Empire would split into four. Then Rome would rise and conquer all the lands of the Greek Empire, including Israel. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was then the ruler who came after, seizing the throne Seleucid around 175 BC. He had a conflict with the Jews and even suppressed a revolt in Jerusalem. At that time, he stopped the worship of God in the Temple. Thus, he fulfilled many of the Antichrist prophecies.

However, Jesus made a point to state that the Daniel prophecies were not completely fulfilled. He mentioned the Antichrist who will come at The End Times, referring to him as the "abomination of desolation" and even going so far as to mention it is the same as in Daniel (see Matthew 24:15). So He is clearly not referring to a past monarch who fulfilled the scripture previously.

Therefore, although Antiochus and other rulers throughout time may have fulfilled scripture in part, there are still elements of the prophecies that have not been fulfilled, making them incomplete. These will only be totally fulfilled by the Antichrist. When it refers to "the latter time of their kingdom" it is referring to The End Times.

Thus, it looks like the Antichrist will likely come from an empire which is composed of the same peoples as the Medes and Persian Empire and the Greek Empire and later the Roman Empire. In other words, the Antichrist will be a Gentile ruler who will rise to power and trample the Temple of God in Jerusalem, just as some scriptures say that the temple will be trampled until the time of the Gentiles is over.

So from the time that Israel and Judah fell until the Antichrist is defeated, this is The Time of the Gentiles where the world is ruled by the Gentiles. The Antichrist may not be Greek or Roman or Mede or Persian, but he will be a Gentile, and he will take over an empire, The Fourth Beast Kingdom, that is led by the Gentiles.

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.

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. 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. 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?"

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. Revelation 13:1-6.

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 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. 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, 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.

Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 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.

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. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

Now here we have the fulfillment of The Beast Kingdoms in Daniel. Notice that The Beast of the Sea, The Empire of the Antichrist, has similarities to the Lion, Bear and Leopard in Daniel. Also notice that he is given authority for forty-two months. Forty-two months is 3 ½ years. He has ten horns, just like in Daniel. He is the eighth king spoken of in Revelation 17, and yet he is made up of the other seven. All of the scriptures line up.

What will he do for 3 ½ years? Well, besides persecuting Christians and killing a bunch of people and torturing them, he is going to blaspheme God, His Tabernacle, and all the angels and saints who have died and now dwell in spirit and soul in Heaven. He will steal worship away from God, drawing all worship to himself.

But don't be fooled! To sinful Man, the Antichrist is going to be a hero of heroes and a champion. He is going to be very charismatic and strong, and people are going to love him and think he is the best. He will become their hope for the future, for he will promise all people security and wealth and health and safety and unity and peace and prosperity. This will especially win people's affections during such a time as the Post Apocalyptic World.

One final thing to note, The Beast of the Sea receives a head wound on one of his heads and lives. Some interpret this to mean that the Antichrist himself will receive a mortal head wound and miraculously survive. This could be the interpretation, but there is another potential as well.

The heads of beasts in previous interpretations were either lesser kingdoms that made up the beast or mountains or hills (ie. seven mountains or hills supposedly symbolize Rome or Jerusalem). If this is the case, then it is not the Antichrist who will suffer a terrible, mortal wound, but it will be the Empire of the Antichrist. Maybe one of the primary cities or kingdoms of the empire will be almost totally destroyed, but the Antichrist will miraculously save it.

Either way, we know that it is a miracle that The Beast of the Sea doesn't die, for the people marvel and worship the Antichrist for this miracle in particular. Either the Antichrist himself will miraculously survive a terrible head wound, or his empire will survive a near-total destruction. It doesn't really matter which is the case, for in the end the Antichrist will use it to boost his own popularity and power.

And we know that he will do great signs and wonders and miracles. He will be a powerful miracle-worker, mimicking Jesus and gaining support from all corners of the Earth. I'm guessing he will be a powerful sorcerer of incredible magic power, but he will also be super intelligent and technical savvy. Based on how our world is going, it makes sense to me that the Antichrist will combine magic and technology to become supreme in both, gaining support from cultists and scientists alike. Even as scientists are deceiving the world today, convincing people that their theories are true with super technical "proof" that is impossible to refute because no one can neither prove nor disprove their theories, so the Antichrist will be the same, causing even the top minds to marvel over his superior intellect.

“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.

“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.

“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.

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.” Daniel 9:24-27.

This prophecy is best understood together. Breaking it apart causes it to lose some of its meaning. Basically, God was giving Daniel a precise timeline of events. In scripture we find that Cyrus the Great issued a decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem 70 years after it had been destroyed. From that time on, all the way up until the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, all the events occurred in order and right on time with what God showed Daniel in this prophecy.

Each week is 7 years. So the city was rebuilt 49 years after Cyrus issued his decree. That is the first 7 weeks. 434 years would then be the 62 weeks. At the end of the 434 years, Jesus was crucified, "cut off, but not for Himself." Finally, the rest of the passage refers to The End Times. Though some of it was again fulfilled in 70 AD when Jerusalem was sacked and the Temple of God destroyed, the prophecy would not reach its full completion until the Antichrist.

He shall rise to power in 3 ½ years, take over Jerusalem and establish his reign, and then rule for 3 ½ more years. These last 3 ½ years will be The Great Tribulation.

The Two Witnesses

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

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

Around the time Jerusalem is attacked, some time near the escape of the 144,000, the Two Witnesses will be sent by God to Earth to be a thorn in the side of the Antichrist and False Prophet for the entire duration of The Great Tribulation. They will be great prophets with incredible power, and they will be invincible - until the very end, that is.

But their objective isn't to destroy the Antichrist or anyone in his kingdom. Their role is to witness to the people of the Earth - most likely to the 144,000 in particular. They are to let the people know who the true Messiah is, and they will have the power - like Moses before Pharaoh - to do great signs and wonders that are even greater than the False Prophet and his minions.

Now, if you notice, the Two Witnesses are said, in Revelation 11:5-6, to have great power and authority. It says, "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. 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."

Does this mean that The Trumpet Judgments are from the Two Witnesses? It doesn't appear to be so. Although they will have the power to do similar things to The Trumpet Judgments, it says that they will have the ability to do plagues "as often as they desire." Thus, their judgments and punishments and curses will be ongoing through the 3 ½ years while The Trumpet Judgments occur at the very end.

This should give all Christians some comfort. There is hope during The Great Tribulation. God will not leave His Children totally without help. The Two Witnesses will be like Twin Jesuses for the duration of The Great Tribulation. They will undoubtedly help to protect and shepherd Christians everywhere. Some Christians, we are told, will be captured and martyred, but many will undoubtedly be protected by the Two Witnesses.

But who are they? Who knows? We can speculate, but there is absolutely no way to be sure. One thought that I consider to be the best theory is that the Two Witnesses are Enoch and Elijah, for they are the only two people in the history of the Earth who were raptured up into Heaven by God. Therefore, it makes sense that these two great prophets would return to try to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ during The Great Tribulation. Both lived during terrible times, dealing with witchcraft and sick and perverted people. Their lives on Earth previously would have totally prepared them for this moment, and their time in Heaven throughout the millennia would also have given them great insights into who God really is.

The Great Tribulation

“And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.” Daniel 12:1.

The Beginning of Sorrows will end with the inauguration of the Antichrist as Emperor of the Earth with Satan as God and the False Prophet as the High Priest of Satan’s church. The Antichrist will completely outlaw anyone who does not bow to him, and there will be only one religion - HIS. To help him enforce this, he will institute the Mark. Without the Mark, no one can buy or sell anywhere in his empire, and since the world will be devastated with few resources, it will be difficult indeed for anyone to survive without accepting the Mark.

Now also many nations have gathered against you, who say, “Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.” But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord, nor do they understand His counsel; for He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor. Micah 4:11-12.

Micah 4 starts with the victory of Israel and its King. Then, in this passage, it goes back in time to let us know that before Jesus claims Israel forever, the nations will gather against Jerusalem and besiege it. Therefore, we see that it clearly points out that many nations will gather against Jerusalem, just as other scriptures say this very same thing about The End Times.

A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Zechariah 14:1-2.

And one of the first things the Antichrist will do prior to being Emperor is take over Jerusalem. Up until this time, he will have been persecuting Israel and hating them, but now he will gather all of his forces and invade. He will ransack Jerusalem, take it over, make it the seat of his new throne, turn the physical temple into a temple to Satan, plunder everything, he and his men will rape the women (among other horrible things), and he will chase half of the city into exile.

This means that there will be 144,000 Jews who are devoted to God and therefore sealed and protected. These will go into exile. But there will be approximately 144,000 Jews who will survive the Antichrist’s invasion that will be absolutely rebellious to God. They will remain in Jerusalem and will worship the Antichrist and join his empire.

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. Matthew 24:15-22.

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 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. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

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. 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. Luke 21:20-24.

“So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter. For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days. Mark 13:14-20.

The Antichrist will take over the physical Temple of God and convert it into a temple to himself, stealing all worship from God and forcing all to worship him. He will then proclaim himself to be Emperor of the Earth. Then he will pursue the 144,000 Israelites and try to kill them, but God will protect them.

I have to wonder if this passage is both physical and spiritual. I think Jesus meant that the Antichrist would invade Jerusalem and set himself up as God in God’s physical temple, but I also think it means that he would establish worship of him and Satan in the hearts of Mankind throughout the whole world. THIS is the true abomination of desolation, for the Temple of God,

the Third Temple, is no longer a building. It is within human beings. WE are the Third Temple of God. And so, to fulfill this scripture, the Antichrist will turn the hearts of even Christians over to himself and Satan, robbing God of worship on every level.

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Revelation 12:6.

Though this verse occurs earlier in Revelation 12, it skips a lot of steps in between. As is often the case in scripture, the writers will give more of a summary of what happened and then go back and give details. This verse is referring to The Great Tribulation, for many places tell us that The Great Tribulation will only last for 3 ½ years. The woman will be protected for 1,260 days which is 3 ½ years. So when she flees into the wilderness, it will be to escape the Antichrist. She will be protected there for the 3 ½ years of The Great Tribulation.

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 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. Revelation 12:14-17.

This links right back to Revelation 12:6 and Daniel 7. "Time, times and a half time" means 3 ½ years. So here we see the greater details of Israel's escape. Satan, through the Antichrist, will attack Israel and try to destroy the 144,000 in particular. The Earth, however, will help, and the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and Satan will be forced to give up on chasing them. They will then turn their sights to hunting Christians. I'm guessing that the Two Witnesses will have something to do with the escape of the 144,000, that they will be like Moses leading the Israelites away from their enemies, and through a miracle, they will rescue them.

The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt. Isaiah 11:15-16.

This is either referring to God gathering his people to seal the 144,000, or more likely referring to their escape and exile from Jerusalem. Notice the tone. It is referring to when Israel escaped on dry land from Egypt. So it seems more likely that it is referring to how God will dry up the sea so the 144,000 can escape.

This then fits with Revelation 12. The Dragon tries to destroy the Woman with water, but the land saves the Woman and swallows up the Dragon's tidal wave, probably via a great earthquake. Just as God parted the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to cross through on dry land, then He dropped it back down on the Egyptians heads to destroy them, so it seems God will do something similar for the 144,000.

“Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” says the Lord. “For surely I will command, and will sift the house of Israel among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground. All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, who say, ‘The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us.’ Amos 9:8-10.

At first this seems to be referring to when Jesus will descend and wipe out the Antichrist and his followers. However, notice that God will "sift the house of Israel from among all nations." So I think this is referring to God bringing all the Israelites together who He has sealed. He will protect them during The Great Tribulation. All the Israelite sinners will eventually die, referring to Christ's Return, but He will not allow even one of the 144,000 to be touched, "not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground."

Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. 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. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You. Zechariah 14:3-5.

This appears to be the formation of the Valley of Armageddon. God will split the Mount of Olives in two - the Earth rescuing the Woman - and the 144,000 "shall flee through My mountain valley." So we know that this isn't Jesus' Second Coming because the purpose of splitting the mountain is to allow God's people to escape the calamity that has befallen Jerusalem.

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. Matthew 24:9.

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. 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. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 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. Revelation 13:7-10.

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

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

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. 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, 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. 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. Revelation 13:11-18.

And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Matthew 24:10-11.

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:23-24.

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. Mark 13:21-23.

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. Matthew 24:12-13.

Having failed to kill the 144,000, the Antichrist and False Prophet will turn their wrath towards Christians; hunting, torturing, and killing them. This is when the False Prophet becomes a major figure in the Empire of the Antichrist. Up until this point, he is probably just a right hand to the Antichrist, but at this point, he becomes, essentially, a High Inquisitor. He will cast all sorts of spells, do all sorts of amazing things, and he will glorify the Antichrist and Satan more than any other person.

Again, like the Antichrist, the False Prophet will be loved by all the citizens of the Empire. They will honor and revere him and respect him as the epitome of what a citizen of the Empire should be like. He will be the Antichrist's Champion and Chief Enforcer.

But it won't just be Christians that he seeks. They will be his primary targets, but he will hunt and kill anyone who does not submit to the Empire of the Antichrist. Anyone who refuses to accept the Emperor's Mark will be captured, tortured, and coerced into accepting the Mark or die. And no one will be able to buy or sell without the Mark on their hands or foreheads. A person without such things will have to survive on their own in the harsh and cursed wilderness.

Interestingly, this concept is much more believable today. How hard would it be, in this day and age, to enforce something like this? Basically, instead of credit cards, you have to have a microchip embedded under your skin either in your hand or on your forehead. All chip readers at every store, bank, etc. will require such an implant, and if you don't have one, you're obviously not a member of the Empire. You can't get through doors or gates, walk the streets, etc. without an implant, for sensors could be placed everywhere in cities to detect if someone doesn't have a chip. This would not be hard to do.

And here's another interesting thing I learned. Right behind a person's forehead is a part of the brain called the Frontal Lobe. This is the part of the brain that controls eye and head movements, speech, and a person's behaviors and emotions. Basically, if someone were to develop a microchip implant that could take control of this area of the brain, a person would no longer have any control over what they look at, what they say, and the movements of their head. Thus, the microchip would pretty much take control of a person, for what you look at and where you turn your head, that's where you go. Right?

But what's more, this part of your brain is also where your emotions and behavior are located. This means that if a microchip implant were to control this part of the brain, a person would no longer have any control over their moods or their impulses, opinions, beliefs, passions, etc. Whoever controlled such an implant would essentially make it impossible for a person to ever believe in God. They would never want to think about Him, nor would they care about anything but whatever the controlling entity wanted them to care about.

This makes perfect sense with this part of the End Times. Why is it that once you accept the Antichrist's Mark that you won't be able to ever repent from that time onward? It's because the Mark will completely short circuit the person's ability to even consider God as an alternative to what the Antichrist and False Prophet want the person to think or feel. Once they receive that Mark, they become enthralled by their Empire, no longer able to even consider rebellion ever again.

And this is why the Antichrist's Empire will be free of human crimes (though not moral/godly sins) and free of war. If you are a citizen of the Empire, you will live in prosperity and peace in these terrible times. For you, it will be an easy life - as long as you do everything you are supposed to do - which you will because you will have no free will or choice. The Empire can

regulate all your emotions and desires and behaviors, ensuring that you will remain in your place doing exactly whatever the Empire wants you to do. You will be a slave, and you will love it. They will control your emotions so that you will never doubt that you are anything but a loyal and loving citizen.

But you will have sold your soul and mind and will to Satan, and there will be no escape for you after that. You will be a slave and a tool, a zombie with intelligence who the Antichrist can do whatever he wants to, and you will love him for it. If he wants you to throw your life away for no reason, he can do so, and no one will think he's terrible for it. He will control all within his empire, and no one will even remotely consider trying to assassinate him or rebel against him.

The only people he will war with are those who are outside his empire. That is why the False Prophet will hunt down Christians and anyone who refuses to accept the Mark. He will hunt them with a vengeance, because they will be the only threats, ever, to the Empire's supremacy. But when he's found them, he won't want to simply kill them. He will want to capture them and torture them to try to force them to accept the Mark so that they will strengthen the Empire and maybe even turn on their own former friends and loved ones.

And they will. People will turn on one another. They will betray and hate and deceive. And many will try to lure especially Christians into traps by saying that they have seen Jesus. Then the uneducated Christians, who do not know scripture well enough, will believe them and fall into their traps.

And even more false prophets and wizards and witches will increase in numbers, deceiving many and convincing people to join their cult, which is the Antichrist's religion. These will basically be like other inquisitors and knights and hunters who are seeking out those who refuse to join the Empire. Sound familiar? Where do you think secular movie makers get such ideas?

But notice what it says in Revelation 13. God is giving advice to His Children who will live during this time. Do you want to escape the Antichrist? Besides not allowing yourself to be deceived by false prophets and teachers and wizards, not becoming ensnared by the lies that "Jesus is here", God tells us, "If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 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."

So how do you avoid capture? How do you escape the Antichrist and False Prophet and all who serve them? Run. Hide. Don't try to fight back. As Jesus said, when the Antichrist shows himself, flee. Don't look back. Don't try to grab your belongings. Don't be like Lot's wife who paused and looked back, for anyone who does such things will likely be captured, tortured, convinced to take the Mark, or they will be martyred.

And I want to emphasize that Revelation 13 says, "he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword." So don't be fooled. If you try to pick up a weapon and war with the Antichrist, he will win. You will die. They will find you and kill you.

This is why it also says, "Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." It is because you will WANT to fight back. You will WANT to pick up a weapon and attack. You will desire to war with the Empire and try to overthrow them. But again, God's advice to all who live during that time is, DON'T. DON'T fight back. Run and hide, and trust that He will take care of you. Think of Noah. Think of Lot. They escaped from the devastation, and God protected them and sustained them. He will do the same during The Great Tribulation as well for all who will be patient and trust in Him.

That said, remember the Apostles. Remember the Christians during the Early Church. Some will still be ordained for death. Some will be counted worthy by God to suffer and die for His Name's sake, to carry on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to try to save the Lost who haven't accepted the Mark. Some will suffer and die for a purpose, to accomplish God's will, giving their lives so that perhaps one more person might be saved from eternal damnation. For those who this happens to, God will reward them a hundred times more than the suffering that they endure.

Lastly, it says, "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold." But above I just said that human crime would not exist, nor would rebellion. By lawlessness, it means that the Empire of the Antichrist will be totally against God's Law. This means that the Empire will be all about hate and spite and mockery and false love and sex and violence and drugs and pleasure of every kind, even unnatural pleasure and perverted and sick and immoral acts. No one will rebel against the Antichrist, but everyone will rebel against God. The world will truly be a nightmare for the righteous but an absolute paradise for those who love pleasure and seek nothing but self-gratification.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

“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 heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Matthew 24:29.

“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; 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. Luke 21:25-26.

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Mark 13:24-25.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 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, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Matthew 24:36-39.

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. 2 Peter 3:10.

The heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 2 Peter 3:12.

The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Then 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. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Then 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 water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” Revelation 8:7-13.

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke... and it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls. Joel 2:30 & 32.

The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The Lord also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the Lord will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. “So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again.” Joel 3:15-17.

Notice what Matthew 24:29 says. AFTER the tribulation, the sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars will fall. The powers of the heavens will be shaken. These all line up with The Seven Trumpet Judgments in Revelation. And so, we know that The Seven Trumpet Judgments actually don't occur until the end of The Great Tribulation. They mark the beginning of Jesus' Second Coming.

Therefore, no one knows the day or the hour of Jesus' Return. They might be able to count out how many days from the Apocalypse until The First Trumpet sounds, but nothing tells exactly how long each Trumpet Plague takes. Do they all come immediately? Are they spread out over months of time? The only Trumpet Plague that we really receive a timeframe on is The Fifth. So, we know that The Trumpets must start at least five months prior to The Second Coming of Jesus.

Either way, The Trumpets mark the end of the Antichrist's reign and The Great Tribulation. This is why the scriptures say “AFTER the tribulation”. So, we know that 3 ½ years marks the timeframe from The Apocalypse to The Great Tribulation. After that, we have no real indication how much time transpires between The First Trumpet and The Seventh.

But from the moment The First Trumpet sounds, the Antichrist will no longer be able to focus on hunting Christians and rebels, nor will he care. Each disaster The Trumpets bring will draw all of his attention. He will have to go on the defensive to preserve his empire to the best of his abilities. He will have no more time to track down and hunt anyone.

Think Egypt and the Israelites. The Plagues of Egypt were meant to be a sort of foreshadowing to these plagues that God will bring upon the entire world during The End Times. While God protects His people from these terrible events, His people will watch as disaster upon disaster falls upon the Empire of the Antichrist. God will get His revenge on behalf of His people.

Thus, The Trumpets are also the proclamation from Heaven that the Antichrist's Empire has come to an end. He is no longer the Emperor of the Earth. Heaven is denouncing his authority and power, and Jesus will soon come to take it away from him by force.

So, during this time, God will continue to destroy the Earth with natural disaster after natural disaster. As each spiritual trumpet in Heaven is sounded, a new catastrophe occurs, making life harder for everyone.

This might be just for the Empire, but it doesn't really say that. Therefore, this, of course, could drive many to the Empire for help. As The Second Coming approaches, the lines become more clear. Who will accept Christ, and who will accept the Antichrist? There will still be those who accept neither, but the vast majority will accept one or the other.

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails.

Their power was to hurt men five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

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

Revelation 9.

God unleashes two severe plagues with the sounding of The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets. It isn't entirely clear what these two enemy forces are, but the first force under Abaddon tortures many for five months while the second utterly wipes out a third of the world's remaining population.

So, are these forces demons and angels? Are they symbolic of human armies that go to war against the Antichrist? And if they are demons, why do they fight against Satan's people? They are clearly unleashed upon the Empire of the Antichrist, for it says that the Empire STILL does not cease in their demon worship and sorcery and so forth. It also points out that those who have God's seal on their foreheads, the 144,000, are protected.

I see no reason to believe that these forces are anything but what Revelation says that they are. I mean, it is fairly clear that the closer things get to Jesus' Second Coming, the more supernatural everything is going to get. Besides this, Jude 6 tells us that there are fallen angels "bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."

There are two potential interpretations for that scripture. Are the fallen angels bound for this moment where they will be released to wreak havoc upon Mankind, or are they bound simply until the Final Judgment when Jesus will judge all and cast evil into the Lake of Fire? I think the first interpretation is true largely because Revelation specifically tells us that Abaddon is "the angel of the bottomless pit".

So, it makes sense to me that at some point during the early days of the world, there were some truly terrible angels who rebelled against God, giving up their former positions of power and their dwelling place, and they were so terrible and destructive that no trial was needed. They were bound in everlasting chains and held in the Abyss - a bottomless pit in Hell - until such time when God would release them upon Mankind. I think He reserved them for The Fifth Trumpet.

The first group is, therefore, most likely demons led by a powerful demon named Abaddon - the Destroyer. Meanwhile, the second group, The Sixth Trumpet, is led by angels who lead a Heavenly Host to swoop down and slaughter Mankind. The angels are terrible but merciful, bringing death to everyone they come across. This is in stark contrast to the wickedness of the demons of The Fifth Trumpet who torture people but then supernaturally prevent them from even killing themselves.

And notice that The Sixth Trumpet Angelic Host will slaughter people as they first encounter them AND as they pass by. Their horses have tails with dragon heads (serpent means dragon usually, not snake). This means that as the horse and rider pass by a group of people, any who escape the initial fire and brimstone coming from their mouths would still have to escape the tails also. This makes it clear that these angels will not likely miss any that they come upon. As their deadly wind blows upon a city or town, ALL will perish within. IF there are survivors, they will be VERY few in number.

This leaves me to ask, "Will these forces be visible or invisible?" I think they'll likely be invisible. Sure, there will be physical signs, like the smoke rising from a vast crater during The Fifth Trumpet, and it will block out the sun and sky, but I don't think people are going to actually see locust demons swarming around torturing them.

And that makes sense to me because that makes it all the more terrifying. Mankind will suffer and seek to die, even trying to kill themselves because the pain is so bad, but they won't even know what is happening to them and why they can't seem to succeed in taking their own lives.

It seems to me that what will probably happen is a huge meteor will hit the Earth and punch a hole in it all the way to the Earth's Core - which I believe IS the Abyss, the Bottomless Pit. Then there will be vast billowing clouds of smoke that blankets the sky all across a vast majority of the Empire; if not all of it. As a result, people will feel as if they are being stung continually by scorpions, for the very atmosphere will be hostile.

This will last for five months, and during this time, many will want to and even attempt to commit suicide, but fail. Why will they fail? Who knows? Maybe the Antichrist and False Prophet will heal them each time and prevent them from committing suicide in order to preserve their Empire. Or maybe, as mentioned above, it'll be a supernatural thing. Maybe Abaddon and his locust demons will use their powers to prevent death.

Either way, all of a sudden, after five months, people will start dropping like flies - The Sixth Trumpet. It seems almost like it may be from the same event, for they will die from fire and smoke and brimstone. A third of the survivors of Mankind will just start dropping dead.

But, again, I do think that this will only happen to the Empire and to all unbelievers. I think that Christians and the 144,000 shall be protected just as Moses and the Israelites were protected from the Plagues of Egypt.

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."

And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Revelation 10.

This moment is probably something that will only occur in the spiritual world. Besides various thunderings occurring on Earth, I think there won't be any noticeable physical phenomenon. The point of this chapter of Revelation seems to be that through the angel, God is proclaiming victory over the Beast of the Sea and the Beast of the Earth just before Jesus returns and the final judgments fall.

As for the significance of the little book and what's in it, who knows? God seems to have purposely hidden this and the Seven Thunders from us, so it is useless to even speculate. Whatever it is, it seems like a blessing at first, but in the end it will become a terrible thing. It also seems to be aimed at the many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings. Finally, it seems that the reason John needed to eat the book was because God was putting the words of a specific prophecy into John's mouth. That is usually the symbolism used for such things.

When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Revelation 11:7-10.

Just before The Seventh Trumpet, the Antichrist seems to win at last over the Two Witnesses. I believe "the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit" is the Empire of the Antichrist. After all, in Revelation 17:8, we are told that the beast that the harlot rides on is "The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction." Thus, it seems that just before Jesus returns, the Two Witnesses will at last be killed by the Antichrist and False Prophet.

At this point, their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days. During this time, there will be great celebration within the Empire of the Antichrist. Their enemies have finally died. Proof that the Antichrist is God and the God of Christians is false - or so they'll believe.

We know that the city is Jerusalem because it says "where also our Lord was crucified". So, Jerusalem seems to be the Capital of the Empire, and it is here that the Antichrist and False Prophet rule from. This makes sense since during The Rise of the Antichrist, they took over the Temple of God in Jerusalem and converted it to be a Temple of Satan.

This will undoubtedly be a horrible three and a half days for all Christians and the 144,000, for up until the day of their deaths, the Two Witnesses were likely the champions of the Saints. And just like when Jesus was crucified, though everyone had been forewarned that He would rise again, the believers during this time will probably not believe that the Two Witnesses will rise again. Thus, they will hide and fear that their time is coming soon when the Antichrist and False Prophet will find them and eliminate them.

Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

"I have cut off nations, their fortresses are devastated; I have made their streets desolate, with none passing by. Their cities are destroyed; there is no one, no inhabitant. I said, 'Surely you will fear Me, you will receive instruction'— So that her dwelling would not be cut off, despite everything for which I punished her. But they rose early and corrupted all their deeds. Zephaniah 3:6-7.

After 3 ½ days, suddenly, without warning, the Two Witnesses will come back to life. Everyone who sees it will freak out and flee. God will call down to the Two Witnesses from Heaven, and they will ascend - the first to be raptured. At this point, it seems that Jesus is already making His descent, and the Dead in Christ are rising to meet Him in the air; the Two Witnesses being the first of the Dead in Christ to rise.

In the same hour, a great earthquake will devastate a tenth of the city. We are told here that 7,000 people are going to die as a result, and finally, at this point, everyone else in Jerusalem will temporarily give glory and honor to God. This will be like a final revenge against the Antichrist and False Prophet before The Battle of Armageddon.

And yet, it won't be enough to convert them to Him. This just proves that a person can actually give glory to God, but they aren't His. They can still give Him praise but hate Him. Fear causes people to acknowledge that someone is the supreme authority, but it doesn't change the person nor does it mean that the person will respect the authority after the fear is gone.

This is why God can only save those who are repentant. If you have a repentant heart, then He will forgive your sins because He knows that your heart is towards being good. You WANT to be His, and you WANT to change. He can work with that. That is the kind of person He is looking for.

There is no mention of how much time passes after this point before The Seventh Trumpet sounds, but it does say that the third woe is coming quickly. Therefore, it is almost certain that The Second Coming of Jesus Christ comes VERY soon after the Two Witnesses are taken up to Heaven. I believe it will be the very same hour - again because the Two Witnesses are resurrected and raptured up to Heaven as the first of the Dead in Christ to rise and meet Him in the air.

The Rapture

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail. Revelation 11:15-19.

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. Matthew 24:14.

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Matthew 24:30-31.

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. Mark 13:26-27.

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” Luke 21:27-28.

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. 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. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Matthew 24:27.

For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. Luke 17:24.

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Revelation 1:7.

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. Revelation 14:14-16.

"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious." It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11:10-12.

"And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:1-3.

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14.

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. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it, " says the Lord .' Ezekiel 37:12-14.

Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. Matthew 24:40-42.

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

“In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.” Luke 17:26-36.

“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 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. They have cast lots for My people, have given a boy as payment for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

“Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against Me? But if you retaliate against Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head; because you have taken My silver and My gold, and have carried into your temples My prized possessions. Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem you have sold to the Greeks, that you may remove them far from their borders.

“Behold, I will raise them out of the place to which you have sold them, and will return your retaliation upon your own head. I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off; for the Lord has spoken.” Joel 3:1-8.

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder.

And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These

are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 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.”

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

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.” Revelation 14:1-13.

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name. “They shall be Mine,” says the Lord of hosts, “on the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. Malachi 3:16-18.

For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Matthew 24:28.

“Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.” Luke 17:37.

There are so many Old and New Testament scriptures about Jesus' Second Coming, and they all say the same thing. With the sounding of the Last Trumpet, Jesus will return to the Earth in full glory and honor and splendor. He will descend on a cloud, and as He does, He will send His angels out to the four corners of the Earth to collect His Saints - ALL of them, both dead and alive.

The graves will open, and the Dead in Christ shall rise first, from the Beginning of Creation until The Second Coming, and they will ascend towards where He is in the sky. Then those who are alive, who rejoice at seeing His coming, they shall be caught up in the Spirit to meet Him and the Resurrected as well.

And the 144,000 are there also, for throughout The Great Tribulation, they become believers in Jesus Christ. My guess is that the Two Witnesses probably have a lot to do with this. I think that, at first, these 144,000 are just devout Jews who don't know Jesus but who love God and serve Him via the Jewish faith. And so they are sealed by God and protected so that they can learn who Jesus really is and become His followers also - kinda like how the disciples during Jesus' day were chosen before they even really knew who He was.

But these are just the Jews who are alive at the time of The Great Tribulation. Like all Christians, the Jews who existed prior to Jesus' death and resurrection would also rise and meet them. Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Jeremiah, and all who went before, they will come up out of their graves and unite with all the Saints throughout all time.

And where will they gather? Jesus will gather them in the air, but then they will descend upon Jerusalem, landing upon Mount Zion. Why? Because Jerusalem is about to be destroyed, along with the Antichrist and False Prophet. So "wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together." He takes them to Mount Zion to prepare to lead His army in victory against the usurper of His Throne.

Now, notice Revelation 14:1-13. This is a bit odd. First Jesus appears on Mount Zion. Then there are angels that fly around making proclamations like, "If you accept the Antichrist's Mark, you are condemned," and, "If you are a Christian and you die at this point, you will be blessed."

Well, that doesn't seem to make sense. From a timing perspective, Jesus wouldn't appear on Mount Zion BEFORE He descended on the clouds because He told us Himself that the next time we would see Him would be when He descended on the clouds. So He wouldn't first suddenly appear in Jerusalem and then return to the sky where He would then descend and gather His people.

Thus, the timing in Revelation 14 seems to be a bit loose. It makes much more sense that He first appears in the sky, in the clouds, with great thunderings and lightnings and so forth. Then He gathers His people and descends upon Mount Zion.

But the second odd thing about this portion of scripture is that the angel warns about the Mark of the Beast. Weird. Why do that if there has already been 3 ½ years of him branding people with the Mark? Why warn people at that point? Isn't it a bit too late? And we know that this portion comes AFTER The Seventh Trumpet and Jesus' descent because one of the angel's proclaims that Babylon is fallen. They would only do that AFTER Jerusalem was already hit during The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses, and Jesus descended to claim the city.

Well, it seems to me that this proclamation is for the remnant of people in the world. Essentially, not everyone will be either a Christian or an Imperial. There will still be people in the uncivilized places of the world who will shun both or simply hide from all. But, during this final event just before Jesus wipes out the Antichrist, ALL eyes will see Jesus.

So I think the proclamation is to warn the remnant of the people throughout the whole world, "The Antichrist is about to send out a call. This call will be for ALL people across the world to battle against Jesus, whom they will call 'The Imposter and Invader'. The Antichrist will undoubtedly use every tactic to gain your support, for he will be scared and desperate. Don't answer his call! Reject his Mark and reject Him! Accept Christ, for blessed are those who die in Christ from this point on."

And the third weird thing about this portion of scripture has to do with the death of Christians after this point. What? Christians will die after The Rapture? That doesn't make sense. Does it? Won't we all be changed into new, immortal forms? How then can we be killed?

Well, The Battle of Armageddon is coming soon after The Rapture. In any battle, there are casualties. Now, this is just my theory, but I think that those who are alive in Christ at the time of The Rapture will still be able to die. Why? Because they didn't die previously. Hebrews 9:27-28 says, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many."

"It is appointed for men to die once." Enoch and Elijah did not die, but they were raptured. So, if they come back as the Two Witnesses, they will die once and be resurrected also. Jesus even had to die once and be resurrected. But what about all those who are raptured during Jesus' Second Coming? Shall they not also die once? If everyone else in the history of the world is appointed to die once, those raptured during The Rapture must also die once. Right?

And isn't that what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:22? "For as in Adam ALL die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." And also, in verse 26, "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." So death will not stop until the very end of all creation before the New Heavens and the New Earth are created. And finally, and most convincingly, in verse 36 it says, "Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies."

Thus, only two possibilities exist as far as I can tell. Either everyone who is alive who is raptured during The Rapture dies instantly and is resurrected right then and there, OR everyone who is alive in Christ will die during The Battle of Armageddon as they fight with the Antichrist, False Prophet, and all of their armies.

Well, if the latter is true, that would certainly make sense as to why the angel and the Holy Spirit say, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on," and, "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." I mean, if they give their lives while fighting the worst people to ever live, that is a worthy way to die. And also, I would assume that they would be resurrected immediately after death, for it is said that they "would not sleep".

So, imagine it. You have endured the worst time in the history of Mankind. You survived The Great Tribulation and escaped the Antichrist long enough for Jesus to return. You are caught up to meet Him in the air along with all the resurrected dead including every loved one you ever knew. For 3 ½ years - and really more than that because you also endured portions of The Beginning of Sorrows - you have been living in fear and sorrow, for death and chaos and carnage and pain and suffering have been all you've known. And who is to blame?

THEM! The Antichrist, False Prophet, and every one of the selfish, self-centered, sick and depraved people who exist in the Empire. So, now that you've been raptured and rescued from that land, and there is Jesus with you in all His glory, along with all your loved ones, what are you going to want to do?

If it was me, oh yeah! Give me a weapon and let me go and get revenge on all those sick people who caused all my pain and suffering. There is NO hope for their redemption. No amount of trying to convince them will save them. They are thoroughly rotten. I don't have to feel guilty in the slightest for taking their lives, and at last I can get even with them for hunting me for 3 ½ years. While I struggled and fought just to survive on practically nothing, they HUNTED me and everyone I love. Now's my chance to fight back and get even.

And yes, I will certainly die, but my death will be quick. Then I will be brought back to life in an instant, and I will even get my revenge on the one who just killed me. And because I was martyred for the sake of Christ, I will gain even more honor and glory and prestige FOR ALL ETERNITY. Sure, I have to fight a battle and die, but in the end I will receive incredible rewards beyond my imagination as one of the Great Martyrs of Christ. Sure makes a lot of sense to me as to why the voice from heaven would say, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

But the only issue with this is that 1 Corinthians 15:52 says, "and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." So doesn't that mean that the Raptured Saints would be incorruptible, meaning they can't die?

Well, not necessarily. Notice that it says “the dead will be raised incorruptible,” but “we shall be changed.” The “we” refers to those who are alive in Christ when The Rapture takes place. So it doesn’t say that The Raptured Living Saints shall be incorruptible. It is only the dead who shall rise and be incorruptible. At least, that’s the way I read it.

If the other possibility is, in fact, true, and the living die and are resurrected instantly during The Rapture, then the meaning of “blessed are the dead” could simply be that whoever dies and is a Christian after The Rapture, during The Millennial Reign of Jesus - for there WILL actually be mortal, living people who live on Earth during that time and who aren’t part of The Rapture - THOSE Christians will be blessed.

I doubt that this is true because it says, “and their works follow them.” Those who become Christians who die during The Millennial Reign don’t seem to have a whole lot of opportunities to perform a lot of good works such as getting martyred and persecuted and so forth. Jesus will reign on the Earth for 1,000 years, and there will be peace for the entire duration. So why would their works follow them? It seems to make more sense that it would be referring to the many works of those who remain pure to the Lord during The Great Tribulation, who give up their lives in the end to fight the Antichrist.

Therefore, I think The Raptured Living Saints shall still have to die, but they will die in a glorious battle getting their revenge against the Antichrist. And they will be blessed for their deaths, for once they die, they will be immediately resurrected with their incorruptible bodies - dying once as all Men are destined to die once, but not “sleeping the sleep of death” as they will be instantly resurrected to continue the fight as immortals.

The Destruction of Jerusalem

Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”

So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs. Revelation 14:18-20.

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”

After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. Revelation 15.

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.” So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.”

And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons,

performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. Revelation 16.

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

“Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has

not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.” Revelation 17.

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ Therefore her plagues will come in one day — death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and

incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'

"They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'

"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth." Revelation 18.

"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.

"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. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.

"Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years. And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien— because they do not fear Me," says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:1-5.

“Therefore wait for Me,” says the Lord, “Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. Zephaniah 3:8.

Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word: “Your brethren who hated you, who cast you out for My name’s sake, said, ‘Let the Lord be glorified, that we may see your joy.’ But they shall be ashamed.” The sound of noise from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the Lord, who fully repays His enemies! Isaiah 66:5-6.

After Jesus arrives on Mount Zion, there will no longer be a delay. He will rain destruction down upon Jerusalem, and upon the Empire of the Antichrist. The Seven Bowls Judgments are fierce and swift, and they will fall in quick succession.

In several places, it says that Babylon will fall in one hour. Babylon is symbolic of the spiritual condition of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is basically so awful and terrible, it is equated to the city of Babylon - a place that most Jews despised above all else because of their history with that place. This is why the symbolism is used in reference to Jerusalem. It is to show that Jerusalem has become the primary city of rebellion and evil, just as bad as Babylon had been. It is meant to violently hit home to the hearts of the Jews.

But does it all take place within one literal hour? I see no reason to believe otherwise. These Seven Bowls Judgments are meant to be swift and harsh and final. They are to display the incredible power of God and of His Christ, Jesus. They are also meant to be like the Plagues of Egypt, and their purpose is to utterly wipe out the Empire of the Antichrist. By the end, not only will the world as a whole see great devastation, but the Empire will be brought to total ruin. No cities or ancient structures will remain standing, even Jerusalem which is split in three. ALL Imperials will be displaced and homeless.

Now notice that towards the end, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and Satan will call out to all the kingdoms of the Earth. They will flee Jerusalem and gather in the Valley of Armageddon, which I think will be east of the city where the Mount of Olives once stood. There, they will try to summon and gather all the nations of the world to try to do battle against Jesus and His Army of Saints. All who bow to the Antichrist will answer the call, especially everyone who has the Mark.

And as they gather, they will turn back and look at Jerusalem and mourn for its total destruction. They will remember all the sick and perverted fun they had during The Great Tribulation, but even after all this, they will STILL not repent and turn to God. They will still follow the Antichrist and put their trust in him and Satan, believing that with sheer numbers and all their sorcery and so forth, they will defeat Jesus and the Saints. Especially after everything Jesus just did to their Empire, I’m sure they will hate Him all the more and view HIM and all Christians as the evil ones.

Several things to note about this End Times Jerusalem. One is that it is on the sea. It is a port city. Yes, presently, Jerusalem is not a port city. But remember, during The Apocalypse, mountains are brought down, islands are wiped out, new islands are made, and the land is drastically changed all over the world. It seems that Jerusalem becomes a port city after The Apocalypse.

Secondly, these passages solidify that Jerusalem is the seat of the Antichrist's reign. We know this because within this city many of God's people are martyred, it rules over every nation and tribe and tongue in the Earth, it talks about the kings that were before - presumably the Herods who ruled over Israel and then the Antichrist who is to come - it plays the harlot which Israel and Jerusalem often did throughout its history, and the righteous are told to come out of it (which is The Rapture) just before the final judgment.

In regards to this final point, I believe that Jesus will take His Saints out of Jerusalem just before the Seven Bowls Judgments. It really doesn't make sense that He'd stay with them in Jerusalem as He destroys the city utterly. I think He only went to Mount Zion to basically proclaim that it was His. He'd be taking it back by force with His Army. I think it's like an intimidation tactic.

So He and His Saints will come up out of Jerusalem as the destruction rains down upon it and the Empire. This is then also why we see in Revelation 19 that Jesus is in Heaven again, and this time He and His Saints are mounted on horses and prepared for war. It looks like He takes them to Heaven to equip them for The Battle of Armageddon while God utterly devastates Jerusalem and the Empire of the Antichrist.

Finally, notice that during the Seventh Bowl Judgment, a Second Apocalypse occurs that is even greater than the first. It is worse than any other earthquake in the history of the world. Therefore, once again, the entire face of the Earth is changed before Christ's Third Coming when He will charge with His Saints into the Valley of Armageddon.

Why does God utterly change the Earth's surface yet again? I believe this is to set up the world for the Millennial Reign. Remember, the entire Heavens and Earth will NOT be utterly destroyed just yet. Jesus will reign over the Old Heavens and Earth for 1,000 years after this. But during The First Apocalypse, the world was divided and devastated. It was brought to near ruin.

So I think another earthquake occurs not only to utterly destroy every city of the Empire, but it is also to establish the Final Old Earth, the one that Jesus will rule over Himself. I believe this Final Old Earth will be one land mass, like the Earth was when God first created it, and it will be more flat and good for farming and crops and so forth. That is why it says, "Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." This indicates that there will no longer be islands, but all the land will come back together. And it also implies that all the land will be open meadows and fields, at least in the Land of Israel around Jerusalem.

The Battle of Armageddon

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 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."

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was

captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. Revelation 19.

“Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hooves bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples; I will consecrate their gain to the Lord, and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth.” Micah 4:13.

“Therefore wait for Me,” says the Lord, “Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. Zephaniah 3:8.

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10.

And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths. It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the Lord will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand; Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance. Such also shall be the plague on the horse and the mule, on the camel and the donkey, and on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be. Zechariah 14:12-15.

Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; together they shall plunder the people of the East; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them. Isaiah 11:13-14.

Come near, you nations, to hear; and heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world and all things that come forth from it. For the indignation of the Lord is against all nations, and His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter. Also their slain shall be thrown out; their stench shall rise from their corpses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; all their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree. “For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment. The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made overflowing with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams.

For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. The wild oxen shall come down with them, and the young bulls with the mighty bulls; their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust saturated with fatness.” For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

Its streams shall be turned into pitch, and its dust into brimstone; its land shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever.

But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it, also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. And He shall stretch out over it the line of confusion and the stones of emptiness. They shall call its nobles to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all its princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in its palaces, nettles and brambles in its fortresses; it shall be a habitation of jackals, a courtyard for ostriches. The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the jackals, and the wild goat shall bleat to its companion; also the night creature shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. There the arrow snake shall make her nest and lay eggs and hatch, and gather them under her shadow; there also shall the hawks be gathered, every one with her mate.

“Search from the book of the Lord, and read: Not one of these shall fail; not one shall lack her mate. For My mouth has commanded it, and His Spirit has gathered them. He has cast the lot for them, and His hand has divided it among them with a measuring line. They shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.” Isaiah 34.

The burden against Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw. “Lift up a banner on the high mountain, raise your voice to them; wave your hand, that they may enter the gates of the nobles. I have commanded My sanctified ones; I have also called My mighty ones for My anger— those who rejoice in My exaltation.”

The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like that of many people! A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together! The Lord of hosts musters the army for battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven—the Lord and His weapons of indignation, to destroy the whole land.

Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, and they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.

For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine. "I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, a man more than the golden wedge of Ophir.

Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger. It shall be as the hunted gazelle, and as a sheep that no man takes up; every man will turn to his own people, and everyone will flee to his own land.

Everyone who is found will be thrust through, and everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered and their wives ravished. "Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, who will not regard silver; and as for gold, they will not delight in it. Also their bows will dash the young men to pieces, and they will have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye will not spare children.

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, and their houses will be full of owls; ostriches will dwell there, and wild goats will caper there. The hyenas will howl in their citadels, and jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come, and her days will not be prolonged." Isaiah 13.

But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:7.

For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of

Jacob. Then people will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of the Lord; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors.

It shall come to pass in the day the Lord gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: “How the oppressor has ceased, the golden city ceased! The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers; he who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he who ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted and no one hinders.

The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing. Indeed the cypress trees rejoice over you, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, ‘Since you were cut down, no woodsman has come up against us.’ “Hell from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming; it stirs up the dead for you, all the chief ones of the earth; it has raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

They all shall speak and say to you: ‘Have you also become as weak as we? Have you become like us? Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your stringed instruments; the maggot is spread under you, and worms cover you.’

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’

Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. “Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?’

“All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, everyone in his own house; but you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, like the garment of those who are slain, thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot.

You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land and slain your people. The brood of evildoers shall never be named. Prepare slaughter for his children because of the iniquity of their fathers, lest they rise up and possess the land, and fill the face of the world with cities.”

“For I will rise up against them,” says the Lord of hosts, “and cut off from Babylon the name and remnant, and offspring and posterity,” says the Lord. “I will also make it a possession for the porcupine, and marshes of muddy water; I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” says the Lord of hosts.

The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, “Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand: That I will break the Assyrian in My land, and on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his yoke shall be removed from them, and his burden removed from their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”

This is the burden which came in the year that King Ahaz died. “Do not rejoice, all you of Philistia, Because the rod that struck you is broken; for out of the serpent’s roots will come forth a viper, and its offspring will be a fiery flying serpent.

The firstborn of the poor will feed, and the needy will lie down in safety; I will kill your roots with famine, and it will slay your remnant. Wail, O gate! Cry, O city! All you of Philistia are dissolved; for smoke will come from the north, and no one will be alone in his appointed times.” What will they answer the messengers of the nation? That the Lord has founded Zion, and the poor of His people shall take refuge in it. Isaiah 14.

Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants. And it shall be: As with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor.

The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered, for the Lord has spoken this word. The earth mourns and fades away, the world languishes and fades away; the haughty people of the earth languish. The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left. The new wine fails, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh. The mirth of the tambourine ceases, the noise of the jubilant ends, the joy of the harp ceases. They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

The city of confusion is broken down; every house is shut up, so that none may go in. There is a cry for wine in the streets, all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. In the city desolation is left, and the gate is stricken with destruction. When it shall be thus

in the midst of the land among the people, it shall be like the shaking of an olive tree, like the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done.

They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing; for the majesty of the Lord they shall cry aloud from the sea. Therefore glorify the Lord in the dawning light, the name of the Lord God of Israel in the coastlands of the sea. From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: "Glory to the righteous!"

But I said, "I am ruined, ruined! Woe to me! The treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously, indeed, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously." Fear and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall be that he who flees from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit, and he who comes up from the midst of the pit shall be caught in the snare; for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth are shaken. The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again.

It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. Isaiah 24.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand: A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations.

A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; the land is like the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; surely nothing shall escape them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; and like swift steeds, so they run. With a noise like chariots over mountaintops they leap, like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, like a strong people set in battle array.

Before them the people writhe in pain; all faces are drained of color. They run like mighty men, they climb the wall like men of war; every one marches in formation, and they do not break ranks. They do not push one another; every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, they are not cut down. They run to and fro in the city, they run on the wall; they climb into the houses, they enter at the windows like a thief.

The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble; the sun and moon grow dark, and the stars diminish their brightness. The Lord gives voice before His army, for His camp is very great; for strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it? Joel 2:1-11.

Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’” Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord. “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow— for their wickedness is great.” Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. Joel 3:9-14.

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” says the Lord of hosts, “that will leave them neither root nor branch.

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,” says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 4:1-3.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. Revelation 20:1-3.

At last, The Battle of Armageddon occurs. Jesus descends from Heaven with the Army of Saints, and vengeance is exacted upon the Empire of the Antichrist. There is TOTAL victory. Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet suffer TOTAL losses. According to several scriptures, the Antichrist's Armies seem to be routed at one point, and they attempt to flee to find safety in their own lands, but Jesus and His Army track down every one of them, slaughtering them to the last.

Now notice that in Joel 2, it sounds like the Army of Saints will be totally invincible. But then, notice how in Malachi 4 it says that Jesus will arise “with healing in His wings.” I think this adds credibility to the theory that The Raptured Living Saints who never died will die, but Jesus will instantly heal them. As for the Saints in Joel 2, they are the Dead in Christ who are already immortal, so they are incapable of dying.

During this battle, the Antichrist and the False Prophet are captured, and they are hurled alive into the Lake of Fire. They are the first to go there, for no judgment is required for them. They are usurpers of Jesus' Throne, and their crimes are obvious. There is no justification for their actions, and there are no accusations that they can hurl at God that can possibly delay their end.

But Satan does not get thrown into the Lake of Fire just yet. Instead, he is bound and cast into Hell for a time. Why? There is still one more justification that needs to be dealt with. Even if God Himself ruled over the Earth, and even if Satan was removed so that he could not tempt them, Mankind would STILL sin. They would STILL reject God. And then, even then, when Satan returns, he will easily turn them to rebel, proving that Mankind deserves the Lake of Fire just as much as Satan does. No one will have any excuses left to try to use on the Day of Judgment.

Now, notice that this is not the end for Mortal Man. No. A remnant will survive on Earth. Jesus and His Saints will ONLY slaughter the Empire. Anyone who actually did not accept the Mark of the Beast and who did not join the Empire for The Battle of Armageddon will continue to live on Earth during the Millennial Reign. They will begin to repopulate the Earth once more with Mortal Man. Sinful Man will once again spread out across the whole Earth. This remnant is NOT a remnant of Christians. They are a remnant of non-believers who Jesus and His Saints will rule over for 1,000 years.

This is why, as we continue into the Millennial Reign, you will notice certain scriptures that mention the people of the Earth coming to Jesus and paying homage to Him. You will also notice that there will be some people who will not pay Him homage, and they will be punished for it. These are not the Saints of God. They are people ruled over by Jesus who did not accept Him before His return, but they also did not accept the Antichrist either. They will still live and die as we do today, and they will still continue to have offspring as they work to survive.

As for Babylon, aka Jerusalem, this gets a bit confusing. Some scriptures make it sound as if Babylon will never be inhabited again, implying that it is NOT Jerusalem. After all, Jerusalem will be Jesus' Capital forever. But if Jerusalem is Babylon in Revelation, and it is utterly ruined, and its smoke will rise forever, and nothing will ever inhabit it again, then this seems to be a total contradiction.

Again, remember that there is a great deal of symbolism used in these prophecies. The cities and lands mentioned are not meant to be the literal ones. They represent the future ones. So when it mentions Philistia, it is referring to a future land that will be similar to Philistia in spirit and sinful deeds. Likewise, the Spiritual Babylon of the Antichrist, its people, will be forever wiped out, and Jerusalem will never be a place of sinners and wicked people ever again. It will be the habitation of Jesus and His Saints forever and ever; beginning with The Millennial Reign.

The Millennial Reign

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:4-6.

‘But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’ Daniel 7:26-27.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” Revelation 2:11.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. 1 Corinthians 15:22-28.

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.”

For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

“In that day,” says the Lord, “I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever. And you, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.” Micah 4:1-8.

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

In that day “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the Lord’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the Lord of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 14:16-21.

“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” says the Lord who does this thing.

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God. Amos 9:11-15.

“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, the daughter of My dispersed ones, shall bring My offering.

In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against Me; for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty in My holy mountain. I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel

shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed their flocks and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid.”

Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall see disaster no more.

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

“I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, who are among you, to whom its reproach is a burden. Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, and gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes,” says the Lord. Zephaniah 3:9-20.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist. “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:2-9.

Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s Son. He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice. The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth. In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts. Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper.

He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight. And He shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; prayer also will be made for Him continually, and daily He shall be praised.

There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. Psalm 72.

“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; that you may feed and be satisfied with the consolation of her bosom, that you may drink deeply and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.” For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream. Then you shall feed; on her sides shall you be carried, and be dandled on her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” Isaiah 66:10-13.

“For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.

Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord. And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites,” says the Lord. Isaiah 66:18-21.

And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip with new wine, the hills shall flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; a fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Acacias. "Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness, because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land.

But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the Lord dwells in Zion." Joel 3:18-21.

After the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus will immediately delegate authority to His Saints. Then He will send them out to rule over the world - to gather the surviving Mortal Men who did not accept the Mark of the Beast, and to help them rebuild. He and His saints will also rebuild Jerusalem and Israel, and He will establish His Kingdom there over all the Earth. For a thousand years, there shall be no more dominions (meaning no opposing kingdoms), wars or famine or devastation, but the whole Earth shall have a time of peace and rest.

And the Immortal Saints shall be the rulers of the Earth, shepherding and guiding and protecting the Mortals who will continue to live just as we do now except that they will live and die during a time when God Himself, through Jesus, reigns over the whole world. Jesus and His Saints will establish a single language and religion and kingdom, and they shall show all Creation what life on Earth could have been like if Adam, or any king for that matter, had reigned in perfection even if others had sinned against the Lord. There will be sin, and there will be pain and suffering and death, but there will be love and forgiveness and grace in abundance.

Notice that even the animals are no longer wild during this time period. They are no longer rebellious. The Earth and the Heavens and the wild animals are all subject to Jesus and His Saints, obeying everything that they command. Animals will serve Mankind, even the Mortals, just as they did in the beginning before Adam and Eve sinned. Children will command and lead them, and they will not hurt or harm anyone.

Isaiah 11 specifically points out that there will be children, which is one of the reasons that we know that Mortal Men will continue on the Earth throughout the Millennial Reign. They will continue to have children and die, just as before. We also know that this is true because after the thousand years is over, Satan will be released again, and he will convince Mortal Men to rebel against God. He would not be able to do this with the Saints, for they would certainly never rebel against God. Only Mortal Men, who still live in carnal fleshly bodies, would join Satan in his final rebellion.

The Last War / The War of Gog and Magog

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:7-10.

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.

“Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.”

‘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: You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwallled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’— 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.

Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’”

“Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.”

Thus says the Lord God: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?”

“And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” says the Lord God, “that My fury will show in My face. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’

I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord God. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.” Ezekiel 38.

“And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken,” says the Lord God.

“And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the Lord. So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. Surely it is coming, and it shall be done,” says the Lord God.

“This is the day of which I have spoken. “Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them,” says the Lord God.

“It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there

they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord God.

"They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. The name of the city will also be Hamonah. Thus they shall cleanse the land." '

"And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God, 'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: "Assemble yourselves and come; gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you, a great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams and lambs, of goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, at My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you. You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war," says the Lord God. Ezekiel 39:1-20.

When you see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like grass; the hand of the Lord shall be known to His servants, and His indignation to His enemies. For behold, the Lord will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword the Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many. "Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, eating swine's flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together," says the Lord. Isaiah 66:14-17.

The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel. Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

"In that day," says the Lord, "I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.'

**“In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—
Jerusalem.**

“The Lord will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. Zechariah 12:1-9.

The Bible doesn't really say how Satan is set free, but it lets us know that he will escape from Hell. He will go about the world, and in particular to the lands of the north. These are called Gog and Magog, and they will be a powerful and persuasive people. They will be enticed by the riches and wealth of Israel, and by pride, and they will believe themselves to be strong enough to even overpower Jesus and His Saints. Satan will entice them by convincing them that Israel and Jerusalem are defenseless. With sheer numbers and all the power Satan has to offer, he convinces them that they will utterly wipe out Israel and conquer the world.

Now, I don't think Satan is actually going to appear to them visibly. I think it's going to be something more invisible in nature. Suddenly, these people are going to start questioning Jesus' authority, and they're going to start lusting after the wealth and power and prestige of Israel and its Saints. They will most likely be totally unaware that Satan is the spirit behind such lusts.

Not that it matters whether Satan appears to them visibly or not. The fact remains that this could only occur if the hearts of Men are not towards God. It will only prove that these people don't really love God, for they will be easily persuaded away from serving Him. All this proves that even without Satan tempting people, they will reject God, sin, and serve Him without love and respect but only because they fear Him. Once Satan returns and helps remove their fear of God from them, they will easily be enticed to try to overthrow Jesus and His Saints.

And they will gather THE WHOLE REST OF THE WORLD against Jesus and His Saints. They will literally manage to persuade all the remaining Mortal Men to come in like a flood from all sides, pushing all Saints back to Jerusalem for the final battle. Everyone who loves Jesus will flee to Jerusalem. Then the final battle will occur. Satan and his armies will appear to have the victory.

And that's when God Himself will fight for His people. He will descend Himself upon the armies of Gog and Magog with fire and a massive earthquake, pestilence, flooding rain, great hailstones, and other natural disasters. And the people of Gog and Magog will even turn on one another, slaughtering each other in fear, most likely believing that their own allies are the Saints of God.

And in the end, the Earth will be utterly wiped out. This is the literal End of the World. In God's Wrath, every Mortal left alive in the world will die. In His great anger, He will utterly ruin the Heavens and the Earth. All Creation will thus die, the Old Creation passing away entirely. Nothing that was Mortal will continue to live. The only living that will continue will be Jesus and His Saints. They will be spared from the absolute and total destruction because they were resurrected already.

But what about anyone who is left in the world who believes in Jesus? Will there literally be no one left among Mortal Men who will accept Jesus at that point. Will every last Mortal reject Jesus and join Gog and Magog?

I don't think so, but it seems Gog and Magog will slay the remaining Christians before the final battle at Jerusalem. Either that or there literally will be no Mortal remaining that serves Christ - like Noah's day except without Noah and his family. In other words, it may be that when Satan is released to turn the remaining Mortals against Jesus, there will literally be no one left among Mortals who will side with Jesus and His Saints.

Why do I believe these things? Because after this is The Great White Throne Judgment. During this event, Jesus will finally judge all the rest of the dead - those who were not resurrected during The First Resurrection. And also after this, the New Heavens and New Earth are created, and the New Jerusalem descends out of Heaven to take its place where the Old Jerusalem once stood. All these things prove that all things will be destroyed during this last battle when God will utterly wipe out Satan, Gog, Magog, and all remaining Mortals in the world.

Then Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire once and for all to burn for all eternity along with the Antichrist and False Prophet. Like them, there will be no Judgment Day; no court hearing. There is no need. Satan's sins will at last be complete, proving once and for all that God is Holy and Worthy to Judge while Satan is utterly wicked and evil. Satan's rebellious ways are wrong. God's ways are right.

What is the reason all this needed to happen? To prove to all Creation throughout all time that God is good. His ways are right. He is worthy to rule. He is worthy to judge. Anyone who opposes God is a fool and deserves the Lake of Fire. God did everything He could to save everyone He could without breaching their free will rights. He is fair and holy and just and pure, and the final judgment against evil will be a testament forever of the horrors of rebellion and the bliss of obedience so that no one will ever want to rebel again throughout all eternity.

The Great White Throne Judgment

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. 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. 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. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15.

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All 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. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

‘Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?”

‘The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

‘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. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me.”

‘They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?”

‘He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”

‘Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’ Matthew 25:31-46.

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. Daniel 7:9-10.

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 53.

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11.

At last, the Old Heavens and Earth - the Mortal Universe - will be utterly wiped out and destroyed. There will be nothing left. That is why it says, “from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away.” That means that when God descends in wrath during The Last War with Gog and Magog, His fury will be so unfathomable, that NOTHING Mortal will withstand it. EVERYTHING will be utterly laid to ruin. He, the Almighty God, will finally have had enough.

What is left is the immortal. All will be resurrected from the dead, for spirits cannot die. Spirits are immortal. And so, God must do something with every spirit that has ever existed. He created all spirits from Himself, drawing life from His eternal reservoir of life. But once He gave life, and made it a separate, living being from Himself, it was no longer considered Him. It was its own entity.

Thus, He cannot take back any spirit that He has given, for to do that would be to absorb that spirit and make it one with Him again. This He certainly will not do with a tainted, sinful being, for to do that would be to merge His own pure self with the impure. He can cleanse a willing spirit of impurities, but He cannot cleanse impure spirits that are unwilling to change, for that would be infringing upon their free wills. (Well, technically He COULD continually cleanse them, but if they refuse to change they would become tainted again anyway - a never ending cycle.)

And so, He has only two options. Either He allows the spirit to remain free so that it can dwell with Him in paradise, or He captures the spirit and locks it away in prison, preventing it from freedom and paradise. After all, although He could create an entirely separate environment for all rebel spirits that is away from His Saints, this option would not solve anything. He’d have to remain connected to them to sustain them, and then He’d have to endure, for all eternity, the

wickedness of these evil people who constantly sin against Him and one another without remorse. Even if they just sinned against one another, He would know of it, and He would have to endure their sick and perverted ways forever and ever.

This means that His only real option is to lock up all who are evil, only allowing the good to remain free. And if He locks up evil, He must punish them with pain and suffering forever. Why? Because His Spirit is life. It sustains and enhances life. By rejecting Him, people reject His Spirit, and so they reject life. He removes His Spirit from them, disconnecting life and health from them - because they reject Him - and as a result, they suffer. They endure darkness, because He is light. They endure pain and misery, because He is life and health. They endure imprisonment, because He is freedom and because He cannot trust them to live in a way that will respect and love others.

But to burn forever? There will NEVER be an end to their suffering? Isn't that too harsh? It is from a human perspective, but from God's, it is wisdom. By removing His Spirit, they will no longer have a conscience. The only reason people have a conscience is because the Holy Spirit convicts them of their evil actions. Thus, if the Holy Spirit removes Himself from them, they will no longer feel remorse or guilt - EVER. They will continue to sin forever and ever if allowed to be free, blaspheming Him and hating Him and His people, never once realizing that THEY are the crazy people who actually thought it was good to tell their Creator that He was not real, that He was evil, that He was a joke, that He was a monster, etc. Forever and ever, they will continue to curse Him, thus continually adding more and more justification for the pain and suffering done to themselves forever and ever. Not one will ever repent, for they will never even think of such a thing - and it will all be because THEY rejected Him, wanting to live without His Spirit forever and ever.

And another reason this is right is because these will all be people who have incited God throughout their lives. Over and over and over again, these are the people in the world who have abused and robbed and molested and killed without remorse whatsoever. Those who go to the Lake of Fire are the haters and slanderers who have mocked and ridiculed God and Christians throughout history, who were mean and nasty and bitter and vicious and cruel and utterly selfish. Thus, they will have incited His Eternal Wrath, and they will continue to incite His Eternal Wrath by constantly hurling hatred and insults at Him even as they burn in the Lake of Fire forever - never once considering the possibility that they are wrong and He has always been fair and right and just and good.

Now, prior to this point, every spirit is either sent to Heaven with God or Hell. Their mortal bodies go into the ground and decay, but their spirits do not. Their immortal spirits must go somewhere. If they were not a believer in Jesus Christ - if they did not accept Him as Lord and repent of their ways - they were sent to Hell where they will await The Great White Throne Judgment. If they accepted Christ, they would have gone to Heaven.

But it was not always this way. Prior to Christ dying on the cross, all Saints who believed in the God of Israel and who were devoted to Him, they would go to a paradise near Hell. This is what

many would call "Purgatory", but Jesus called it "Abraham's Bosom." A great chasm separated this place from Hell, and there was comfort there while those who went to Hell suffered in darkness and thirst and pain and suffering. This is found in Luke 16:19-31.

When Jesus died, He went to this Purgatory place, and He "set the captives free", or in some versions "led captivity captive." Ephesians 4 tells us this, saying that He "first descended into the lower parts of the earth," which is that He descended into Hell - Purgatory being like an upper plane set apart for God's Saints. According to 1 Peter 3:19, He "preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient." What this all means is that after Jesus died, He went to Hell, and He preached to them the Gospel. All who accepted, He set free, taking them to be with Him in Heaven when He ascended.

And so, from that time until now, all who die who are Christ's, they go to be with Him in Heaven. I think this is why in Revelation we see The Great White Multitude. They are the spirits of all who accepted Him as Lord and Savior. They have yet to be resurrected at that point, but they dwell with Him in paradise in His Heavenly City - what Paul called "the Third Heaven" (2 Corinthians 12).

But after The Last War, all of the old will have passed away, and this is The Great White Throne Judgment where ALL will be resurrected from the dead and judged. Yes. ALL humans from Creation until The End of the World will stand before Jesus, bow before Him, and face His Final Verdict as living beings with resurrected, eternal bodies. Every single person who was not involved in The First Resurrection will have their bodies and spirits reunited, becoming a new spiritual/physical body, and they will be complete just as they were when they were first created except in a new, immortal shell.

John 5:22 says, "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son." Therefore, we know that Jesus will be the one who judges everyone during The Great White Throne Judgment. He purchased EVERYONE with His Blood, meaning He has the right to judge EVERYONE. ALL sins were paid for by Him, so He basically owns all human souls, giving Him the right to decide who gets to live with Him forever and who doesn't.

And yet, we also know that God the Father judges THROUGH Jesus, for John 8:15-16 says, "You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me." Thus, we know that Jesus' judgments are true because He and the Father are One. Both are judging everyone together as One; Jesus being the physical extension and manifestation of God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Now, here is where it gets tricky. Obviously, if you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, you are safe. All your sins will be forgiven and you will be rewarded for every good thing you ever did in life. You will receive glory and honor and prestige and riches and so forth based on your good works. There is no doubt. If you accepted Christ and repented of your ways, you will be one of His Saints. You will be royalty and rulers over the New Earth - IF you genuinely repented.

But what about those who did not accept Jesus? Are they ALL going to the Lake of Fire? Many Christians would say, without batting an eye, "Yes. Absolutely. Those who are not Christians will burn in the Lake of Fire." But scripture doesn't actually say this. If you notice, the books are opened, and the dead are judged according to their works.

Also notice what Jesus said in Matthew 25. He said that some would question Him and say, "When did I do these things to you?" Why would a Saint ask such a question? A Saint would know that they did those things to Jesus whenever they did them to someone else. But an unbeliever would not. So He is, it seems, referring to the unbeliever who was good to others. And in this passage He determines that this type of person would be saved.

You see, I got to wondering, "Why open the books at all? Why judge the dead according to their works at all if the only thing that matters is whether they accepted Christ or not? After all, there is no need to sit and listen to all past wrongs or rights and so forth if there is nothing to really decide. Is there? The judgment is pretty straightforward if all it takes is "Accept Christ before you die and you are a Saint and you will forever live with God in paradise," and "If you haven't accepted Christ, you are a Sinner condemned to the Lake of Fire." What's to judge at all? Simply cast all who never said the Lord's Prayer into the Lake of Fire without a courtroom hearing. Why are there numerous scriptures that then say they will be judged by their works?

Upon closer examination of the scriptures, I don't think that The Great White Throne Judgment will be quite so straightforward as many Christians believe. I think Jesus IS going to judge everyone based on their works but primarily their hearts. He will take into account whether a person only rejected Him because they were deceived by others. He will take into account those who did good deeds and loved others versus their sins and the severity of their sins. He will determine whether they respected Christians and Jesus even if they didn't accept Him. He will check to see whether they were even told about God or Jesus at all, and so forth. I think God WILL judge all human beings based on whether they truly and genuinely deserve an eternity in a torturous Lake of Fire.

Now, in the past, I reasoned that The Great White Throne Judgment's purpose was to punish the sinner for every one of their sins. If they rejected Christ, they would endure suffering for each sin they had ever committed in life. If they accepted Christ, they would ONLY be blessed with every good thing they did. So the sinner would receive ONLY punishments based on what they did - their good actions counting for nothing - and the saint would receive ONLY rewards based on what they did - their evil actions counting for nothing. I still think this is true to a certain degree, but it seems that Jesus may actually take into account a person's actions in life as a sum total, which is why the books are opened.

That said, will those who escape damnation who weren't Christians in life be royalty and rulers? Absolutely not. They didn't serve Jesus at all in life. They didn't accept Him. Therefore, they may barely escape the Lake of Fire and be citizens of the New Earth, but the Christians who accepted Him and lived for Him will be rulers and royalty over them.

So, I think there is the potential that these “unsaved” could avoid eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire, but only IF their hearts are good, and only IF they are willing to submit to Jesus in the end. Jesus said in Matthew 12:35, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.” What He was saying is that if a person does good in life, that means their heart is good. Such a person is considered a good person.

Therefore, I have to wonder, will God truly just condemn everyone to the Lake of Fire who has not accepted Him as Lord and Savior and who has not repented of sins? What about those who really had no way of hearing the Gospel? Shall they also be condemned forever even though they didn’t accept or reject Jesus? They didn’t even have a chance to hear about Him, so how could they have either accepted Him or rejected Him? Shall they not be given a chance to accept or reject prior to getting cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity? Is that really fair?

And I considered this also. Whom did Jesus forgive when He walked the Earth? Did He only forgive those who asked for forgiveness, or did He actually forgive people who did NOT ask for forgiveness? In truth, I searched the events where Jesus forgave people of their sins, and not one of them repented and asked Him to be their Lord and Savior, nor did they even ask for forgiveness. Most were actually just looking for healing. And yet, He forgave them.

Even the adulterous woman who everyone wanted to stone in John 8, she didn’t say a thing to Jesus until He asked if anyone condemned her. Even then, all she said was, “No one, Lord.” And yet, He told her that He did not condemn her, meaning He forgave her, and she should go and sin no more. Essentially, He told her to repent and that He had already forgiven her.

Then there is Romans 2:12-16 which says, “For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”

In other words, if a person does what is right and good, even if they don’t know the Law of Moses or Jesus or God, they will be judged during The Great White Throne Judgment according to what they know. Basically, the Jews who had the Law and lived according to the Law would be judged by the Law, but the people who did not have the Law would be judged less harshly because they did not have the Law and thus did not have the knowledge of what God considered right and wrong.

And consider that in the Levitical Law, the priests would make atonement for those who sinned unintentionally (Numbers 15:28). By doing so, they actually made it so that the sinner was

forgiven by God when they had no idea that they had sinned. Jesus is our High Priest, and with His death and resurrection, He atoned for our unintentional sins also. Therefore, if a person has committed a sin, if they do so unintentionally because they don't even know what sin is, shall their sins not be forgiven? If they've never heard about Jesus, and they don't know that something is a sin because they've never been taught that it's a sin, will He not forgive them because it was unintentional?

Then I thought, "If everyone who rejects Jesus will end up in the Lake of Fire, does it really matter what severity of sins they committed? I mean, if you're condemned to burn in the Lake of Fire forever, that is the Second Death. It is the Death Penalty for immortal souls. Therefore, what difference does it make how many sins you committed or the severity if everyone who is a sinner and not a saint is simply cast into the fire to be destroyed - to burn forever?"

I used to think that the answer to that is that the severity of the pain would be based on the sins a person committed in life. In other words, a person would be cast into the Lake of Fire at the hottest portion of it if they were the worst sinners imaginable. Meanwhile, someone who did good most of their lives but didn't accept Jesus, they would be where it isn't as hot. They'd be at the edges of the fire where it is painful, but it's not AS painful.

But this makes no sense to me the more I think about it. The Bible equates the condemnation of the sinners to tossing dry kindling into the midst of a fire. You don't selectively place kindling so that some burns less hot than others. You simply toss the kindling into the fire to stoke the flames so that ALL the wood burns. And the kindling burns the quickest because it is dead. And quite frankly, if you are burning alive forever, I don't think it's going to matter much just how hot the fire is. We're talking eternal burning and torment with no relief ever. I can't imagine it's going to matter where you are in the fire.

No. The more I thought about this, the more I realized that there seems to be more to The Great White Throne Judgment than simply, "Are you saved?" ALL the books will be opened, and the dead will be judged according to their works. Those who Jesus judges acceptable will have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Those who He judges unacceptable will not have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Then Jesus will take the ones who are in the Book of Life and He will separate them from the ones who are not, and He will toss the wicked into the Lake of Fire. Meanwhile, the good He will allow into His Eternal Kingdom.

But what about what Jesus said in John 3:36? "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." And also, 1 John 5:10 says, "He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son."

Ah! Notice that both John 3:36 and 1 John 5:10 say that belief and unbelief are deciding factors. It is not the sinner but the unbeliever who is condemned to the Lake of Fire. It is the one who HEARS God's Word, and who rejects it, that is condemned. Those who have not

heard it, therefore, are not necessarily condemned because they have never HEARD God's Word. Again, how can they be condemned for not accepting Christ when they never had the chance to accept or reject Him?

So I view it like an earthly kingdom. If you are a rebel in someone's kingdom, and the king offers you a pardon, if you accept the pardon and submit to the king from that time forward, you are a citizen of the kingdom. This is the believer who hears the Gospel of Jesus Christ and accepts it. Such a person has peace and joy because they KNOW they are saved.

But if you are offered a pardon and you outright reject it and refuse to submit to the king, you will continue to be considered a rebel, you will be locked up, and you will not be allowed to enjoy the rights of a citizen - living in good houses, eating good food, enjoying parties and festivals, etc. This is the unbeliever. This is the one who absolutely will not be saved. No doubts.

In this regard, it IS all about whether the person accepted Jesus as Lord or not. If they truly heard the Gospel and did not believe but rejected Jesus outright, they will certainly be condemned. They basically took the King's Pardon, threw it back in His face, and rejected Him, refusing to submit to Him, without fear whatsoever. The person who blatantly rejects Jesus will absolutely be condemned.

But what about the woman who is born in Islam who has heard only a little about Jesus, but she has been told that it is a bold-faced lie and if she even remotely looks into Jesus she will be cast out of the family? Only Allah is God. She is scared to even remotely learn anything about Jesus. She lives a life that is loving and kind and gentle and meek and basically good, and she dies without ever accepting or knowing Jesus because she never really had the opportunity to hear His Word. Should God condemn her to the Lake of Fire even though she WOULD accept Him if she knew He is God? Someone like this, I wonder if God will offer a pardon to her on Judgment Day.

And what about the one who hears about Jesus, but they don't REALLY hear about Jesus? For example, a person is raised by ungodly parents and taught that Jesus is a total lie. Therefore, the person never even looks into Christianity because they have been lied to. They are taught to love and respect others, and they are gentle and kind and sweet. They die, and they never actually heard the Gospel because no one ever really explained what the Gospel of Jesus Christ really is. Sure, they've heard about Jesus, but to them He was just like any other religion - Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc. Should God toss such a person in the Lake of Fire for all eternity even though they actually were living a life of love and respect just because they never actually heard who Jesus really is?

But, just to be clear, a good and wise king would not offer a pardon to someone who he can clearly see will not truly submit to him. If he reviews their actions and their life's choices, and he determines that they have continually done evil with no remorse whatsoever, why would a good and wise king offer a pardon to such a person? He would not. He would only offer a pardon to those who he deems would actually submit to him and his laws and authority.

And this, I think, is the entire purpose of The Great White Throne Judgment - to determine who, at the end, is truly able to be saved and who is totally without hope of redemption. Basically, are you like a piece of fruit that is rotten to the core so that there is literally nothing within you that can be saved, or are you a person who has some rot but it can be cut out and the vast majority can be saved? I'm just glad HE is the one who has to decide such things, for if it was left up to us humans, we would certainly mess it up.

This, then, also makes sense with other scriptures that tell us to not judge others or condemn them, but to forgive them. After all, if we KNOW someone isn't saved because they're not a Christian, why shouldn't we judge them and condemn them? We'd be speaking the truth because we would KNOW for certain that they were condemned to the Lake of Fire. But if we do not truly know whether they are actually, genuinely condemned, because Jesus will look at ALL of their life and determine on that day whether they are truly condemned, then we most certainly should not judge them or condemn them because we do not know for sure whether they are or are not, in fact, condemned.

And finally, Genesis 18:25 says, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Regardless of what we THINK in regards to how God is going to judge people, we can trust that He is GOING to do the right thing with each and every person that exists and ever has existed. So, this much I know beyond a shadow of a doubt. He WILL only cast those who deserve it into the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

Whether I'm right or wrong about how He will judge the dead during The Great White Throne Judgment or not, He is just and holy and righteous and perfect. And regardless, we should always try to convince others to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior so that they can be absolutely assured that they are saved - even becoming Joint Heirs to the Throne of God. But if someone has not accepted Jesus, we can rest in the knowledge that He will judge right and He will save as many as He can while maintaining His integrity and the integrity of His Eternal Kingdom - not allowing anyone into His Eternal Kingdom who is a threat or a detriment to it and to His people and their eternal happiness.

Jesus' Eternal Kingdom

Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.'

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.

Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.

Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third

chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Revelation 21, 22:1-5.

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13.

And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

“David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their

God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.””” Ezekiel 37:22-28.

It shall come to pass in that day that there will be no light; the lights will diminish. It shall be one day which is known to the Lord— neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen that it will be light.

And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.

In that day it shall be— “The Lord is one,” and His name one. All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s winepresses. The people shall dwell in it; and no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. Zechariah 14:6-11.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.

“And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.” Isaiah 66:22-24.

Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, and pity His people. The Lord will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. “But I will remove far from you the northern army, and will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, with his face toward the eastern sea and his back toward the western sea; his stench will come up, and his foul odor will rise, because he has done monstrous things.”

Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done marvelous things! Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; for the open pastures are springing up, and the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their strength. Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. Joel 2:18-27.

In Revelation, it says that there would be no sea, but in Zechariah it says that the rivers that flow from Jerusalem shall head toward the eastern and western seas. All this means is that the world will be like God originally made our present world. It will be all one landmass, and it will be a tropical paradise without harsh winters or summers, but all year long it will be perfect weather.

And there won't be any night or darkness, but we will dwell in light forever without periods of day and night. Thus, time will cease as we know it. There won't be seasons or days or weeks or months like there is now. Every day will be wonderful, filled with pleasure and delight and joy and peace and prosperity.

However, notice that in Isaiah 66, it talks about the Condemned. What is the purpose of the condemned burning forever in the Lake of Fire? Somehow, the Saints will be able to visit that place, and they will be able to see where the Condemned are. Why? It will be a memorial forever to all Creation of what happens when you disobey the Lord. In this way, no one will ever disobey the Lord again, for all will remember what it was like when evil was allowed to exist in the universe.

Now, although Jerusalem will be the capital of the world, notice that it is not the ONLY city in the world. There will be land from eastern to western sea, and there will be new nations and kingdoms and so forth, all ruled over by the Saints. As God meant it in the beginning, Mankind will spread out throughout all the Earth, and we will subdue it and rule over it forever and ever in perfect harmony.

And eternal life shall be maintained by the Rivers of Life which will flow out of Jerusalem to all the world. We will forever be able to drink from them, no matter where we go in the world, for God will always preserve them. Never again shall evil touch the world or its people, and never again will there be sin and rebellion or war or carnage. Finally, at last, all of God's Creation will live in perfect harmony and unity with love and respect for all.

But Jerusalem shall be the crowning glory of God. There all people will go when it is time to celebrate the feasts and so forth. All people will come from every land, and we will come to Jesus at His Throne and pay homage to Him. He will be the Temple, the Tabernacle, and all the Saints will come and worship on the New Mount Zion.