

# The Bible and The End Times

# **The Bible and The End Times**

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The cover image contains Greek text from Revelation Chapters 19, 20, and 21. These chapters contain a few of the many prophetic passages throughout the Bible regarding the end times.

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# 1. Introduction

The Bible gives us a large amount of information regarding the end times. The primary focus of this book is regarding the timing aspect of Christ's second coming, and the rapture, as it appears to be given to us in God's word. It may be helpful to first go through a brief summary of some key periods and events of the end times and beyond.

**Before:** This is a generic period encompassing everything before the rapture, or in other words from creation to the rapture.

**The Rapture:** When Christ will take believers from the earth to be with Him in heaven. Additionally, these believers along with believers who previously died will be resurrected and given their new glorified bodies.

**Between:** A period of unknown length between the rapture and the start of the tribulation.

**Antichrist Covenant:** When the antichrist makes a covenant with Israel. This is the official start of the seven year tribulation.

**The Tribulation:** Seven years of God's mercy and wrath upon an unbelieving world to punish sin and bring many to saving belief in Christ.

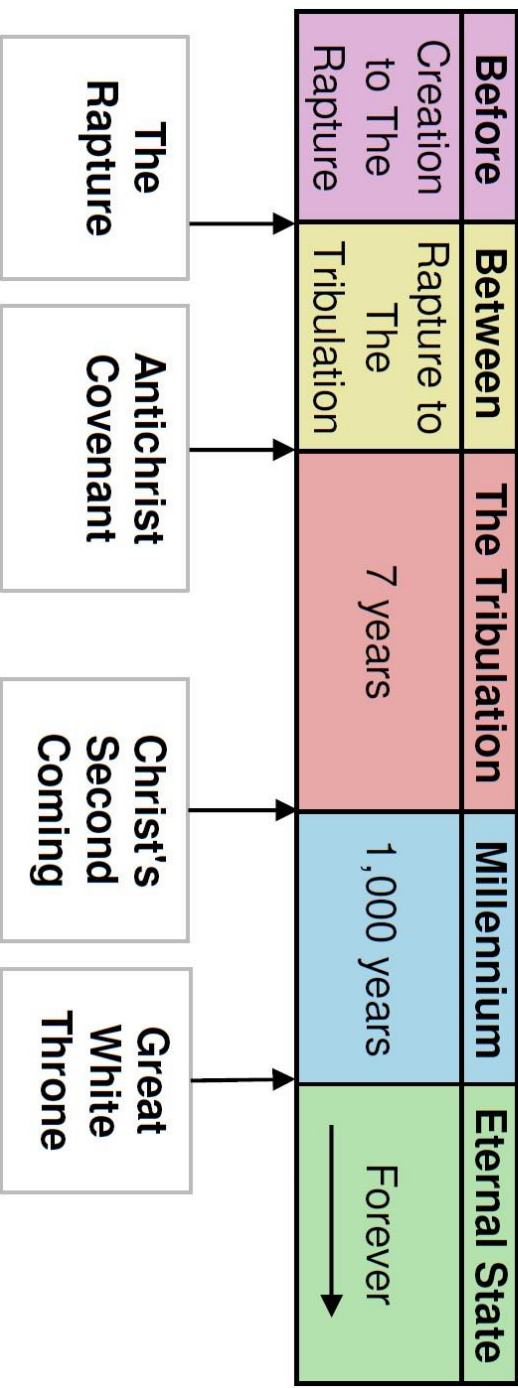
**Christ's Second Coming:** When Christ comes to the earth again and sets up His kingdom over the whole world from Jerusalem.

**Millennium:** Christ will reign over the earth for 1,000 years and it will be a wonderful time of peace and freedom from war.

**Great White Throne:** When God will judge all unbelievers.

**Eternal State:** Unbelievers will face eternal death, which is an eternity of suffering in the lake of fire, separated from God and therefore separated from all that is good. But for believers, God will put an end to death, and it will be an eternity of peace and joy and love on the new earth and in the new heavens, in the glorious and wonderful presence of God.

# Basic End Times Timeline



## 2. Knowing the Timing

### Not Knowing the Day or the Hour?

Since God's word appears to give us a significant amount of detail regarding the timing of the Lord's second coming, it would not seem appropriate to interpret the passages below in a contrary manner.

- But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. (Mark 13:32–33) NKJV
- But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only... Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24:36–42) NKJV
- Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (Matthew 25:13) NKJV

The passages above may refer to the exact date and time depending upon what time zone a person is in, or they may refer to another aspect of His second coming.

But the passages above may also refer to the rapture, since the rapture is at some unknown point and starts off the sequence of end times events, which culminate in His second coming.

Even though we do not know exactly when the rapture will occur, we can have some understanding on the general timing of it in relation to the timing of His second coming.

### Birth Pains and Weather

God's word gives us prophecies and signs regarding His second coming so that we can know when it is near.



- So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! (Matthew 24:33) NKJV
- So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! (Mark 13:29) NKJV
- So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. (Luke 21:31) NKJV

The Bible compares the end times and Christ's second coming to the various pains a woman experiences leading up to the birth of a child.

- All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. (Matthew 24:8) ESV
- These are but the beginning of the birth pains. (Mark 13:8) ESV
- 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. (1 Thessalonians 5:1–4) NKJV

You do not know the exact day or hour that a child will be born but you definitely know when it is getting near. You know the "prophecy" of nine months, and you know the "signs" of the enlargement of the belly, the baby moving around, and the pains & contractions. Also, the pains & contractions can start days in advance, coming and going, and increasing in frequency and intensity as it is getting closer.

The Bible also compares the forecasting of weather to the discerning of times.

- He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.'

Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. (Matthew 16:2–3)  
NKJV

Jesus basically said they could know what weather was coming soon by discerning the signs, however they had not used the signs and prophecies given in the Scripture to discern the timing of His coming. Hopefully we do not make the same mistake and fail to use the prophecies and signs from the Bible to discern the timing of His second coming.

## His First and Second Comings

Jesus indicated that they should have known the timing of His first coming (His visitation).

- If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation. (Luke 19:42–44) NKJV

Here are some of the prophecies and signs that they should have recognized for His first coming:

1. The prophecy of the 69 weeks/sevens in Daniel 9:25 (69 sevens = 483 years from the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah).
2. The prophecy of the virgin birth in Isaiah 7:14. Also, the sign of Mary sharing the story of Gabriel and her miraculous pregnancy, and her story was probably widely circulated.
3. The prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus even quoted this passage about himself in the synagogue in Luke 4:16-21.
4. The prophecies in Isaiah 29:18 and Isaiah 35:5-6. Jesus gave the sign of healing the blind, deaf, and lame multiples times.

5. The prophecy through Simeon. Simeon declared Jesus was the Salvation (Luke 2:30-32).
6. Other prophecies fulfilled in Jesus. For example, the everlasting Ruler being born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), the King coming on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9), and the righteous Servant being rejected and suffering and dying as an offering for our sin (Isaiah 53).
7. The sign of Jesus raising the dead. Regarding Jesus raising the widow's son, Luke 7:17 says "this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region". Regarding Jesus raising Lazarus, John 12:9-11 says "Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus."
8. The sign of the star and the wise men, and the star may have been prophesied in Numbers 24:17. Even if the people did not recognize the star, they should have at least paid attention to the wise men. It appears that what the wise men said was widely known according to Matthew 2:3 "all Jerusalem with him".
9. The sign of Gabriel's announcement to Zacharias, and then Zacharias not being able to speak. Luke 1:22 says they perceived that he had seen a vision. Luke 1:65 says "all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea". They knew that there would be something special regarding John as said in Luke 1:66 "all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, 'What kind of child will this be?'".
10. The prophecy through Zacharias. Zacharias prophesied many things about John and the Messiah in Luke 1:67-79.

11. The prophecy about John the Baptist in Isaiah 40:3. Not to mention John's actual ministry and saying he was preparing the way of the Lord (John 1:23, Luke 3:16). Also, the sign of John proclaiming that Jesus was the lamb of God (John 1:29, 36).
12. The sign of the angels appearing to the shepherds. The angels announced the birth of the Messiah. Luke 2:17 says "they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child".
13. The sign of the testimony of Anna. Anna spoke about the baby Jesus. Luke 2:38 says "she...spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem".

Even though many people did not recognize His first coming, some did recognize it through the prophecies and signs. If we value what has been given to us in the Bible, then we have the opportunity to see the Day of Jesus' second coming approaching.

- And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24–25) NKJV

It is important to note that the prophecies surrounding Jesus' first coming were fulfilled literally. The prophecies surrounding His second coming will be fulfilled literally as well.

Here are some of the prophecies and signs that we should recognize for His second coming:

1. The prophecy of 6,000 years from creation until His second coming. This will be discussed in detail in the chapter titled "The Millennial Week Prophecy".
2. The prophecy of the generation that sees the restoration of the nation of Israel will also be the generation that sees His second coming. This will be discussed in detail in the chapter titled "The Fig Tree Prophecy".

3. The prophecy in Psalm 90 which appears to indicate that either the rapture, or start or mid-point of the tribulation, will be within 80 years of Israel's birth as a nation. This will be discussed in detail in the chapter titled "The Psalm 90 Prophecy".
4. The signs of wars, rumors of wars, conflicts among nations and people groups, famines, diseases, natural disasters, false messiahs, false prophets, false teachings, love of self, love of money, pride, boasting, blaspheming, disobedience, slander, love of pleasure, evil people growing worse and worse, deception, mocking, and scoffing. These and other signs are discussed in Matthew 24, 1 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy 3, 2 Peter 3, and other passages. To some extent these signs have been throughout history, but we should look for when these signs occur after the nation of Israel has been restored and also when they are increasing in frequency and intensity.
5. The indirect signs indicating certain prophecies are near fulfillment. Here are a few examples:
  - a. The push towards global government which is helping to prepare for the global government of the antichrist. See Daniel 7:23 and Revelation 13:3, 8, 12.
  - b. The push for digital currencies which is helping to prepare for the mark of the beast, since no one will be able to buy or sell except those who have the mark. The mark will likely be tied to a digital currency account or ID of some sort, with that digital currency being the only payment method permitted for buying and selling. See Revelation 13:17.
  - c. The advancements in artificial intelligence and other technologies which will likely be used by the antichrist for intense surveillance and control over the people of the world.
  - d. The satellites and the internet which will facilitate certain things in the tribulation. It will help with the

control of people, and it will enable people to witness certain things. For example, the world marveling at the beast (Revelation 13:3-4), and the nations seeing the dead bodies of the two witnesses (Revelation 11:9).

This book focuses more on the prophecies than on the signs. But, before discussing the prophecies, it is valuable to show the importance of Biblical typology, and that will be discussed in the following chapter.

### 3. Typology is Important

#### What is Typology?

The Bible should be taken literally in order to receive the objective meaning given to us by God. Taking the Bible literally is in fact the only way that the Bible can be taken, because if it is taken symbolically or allegorically then you end up with thousands of subjective opinions and nothing of value.

The Bible does however use symbols, allegories, parables, and various figures of speech at times. When these are used it is evident from either the immediate context, or from the context of the rest of Scripture. Symbols used in the Scripture are explained elsewhere in Scripture.

For example, birds are sometimes used in the Bible as a symbol of evil. Here are two passages illustrating that symbol for us:

- As a cage is full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit. (Jeremiah 5:27) NKJV
- Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them... Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. (Matthew 13:3–19) NKJV

Below is another example. In Revelation 1:16, John saw a sword coming out of the mouth of the Lord Jesus. However, when we realize that symbols used in the Bible are explained elsewhere in the Bible, then we can see that a sword is a symbol for words.

- He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Revelation 1:16) NKJV
- For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12) NKJV
- And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17) NKJV
- The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. (Psalm 55:21) NKJV
- Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words (Psalm 64:3) NKJV

Another interesting element in the Bible is typology. Typology means how actual literal historical items (such as people, places, objects, or events) in the Scriptures can be a “type” (a picture, or prophetic foreshadow) of things to come.

Typology is a gift from God and is one of the many things that show us how amazing His word is. However, typology should always be for the illustration and confirmation of literal truths already presented in the Bible. One should not make up their own typology to try to present a teaching that is not literally presented in Scripture.

Here are just a few examples of how actual events in the life of Joseph were typological of, or a prophetic foreshadow of, events in the life of Jesus.

**1a. Joseph:** Joseph brought unto his father their evil report...and...they hated him (Genesis 37:2,4) KJV

**1b. Jesus:** The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. (John 7:7) NASB

**2a. Joseph:** When they saw him from a distance...they plotted against him to put him to death. (Genesis 37:18) NASB

**2b. Jesus:** All the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. (Matthew 27:1) NKJV

**3a. Joseph:** God sent me before you...to save your lives by a great deliverance. (Genesis 45:7) KJV

**3b. Jesus:** We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. (1 John 4:14) NASB

**4a. Joseph:** All the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence?" (Genesis 47:15) NKJV

**4b. Jesus:** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35) NASB

## Examples Pointed Out in Scripture

Many types are specifically pointed out in Scripture. The following are four examples that Jesus pointed out for us.

1a. Jacob dreamed of a ladder from earth to heaven.

- Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. (Genesis 28:12) NKJV



1b. Jesus is the ladder by which those who believe may reach heaven.

- And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” (John 1:51) NKJV
- Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6) NKJV

2a. Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish.

- Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (Jonah 1:17) NKJV

2b. Jesus was three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:40) NKJV

3a. Moses lifted up the serpent on the pole and all who looked at it lived.

- Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” (Numbers 21:8) NKJV

3b. Jesus was lifted up on the cross and all who look to Him by believing are given eternal life.

- And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:14–15) NKJV
- Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:22) NKJV

4a. The Lord provided bread from heaven and water from the rock to satisfy the hunger and thirst of the Israelites.

- So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. (Exodus 16:15) NKJV
- You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, and brought them water out of the rock for their thirst (Nehemiah 9:15) NKJV

4b. Jesus is the true bread and water of life, who came down from heaven, and satisfies those who believe with eternal life.

- Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world...I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:32–35) NKJV
- And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.” (Revelation 21:6) NKJV
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6) NKJV

Here is an example that Paul points out for us. The rocks that the Israelites drank from were pictures of Jesus the true Rock.

- All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:3–4) NKJV

In Galatians 4:21-31, Paul points out another example for us. He shows how Isaac and Sarah are a type of freedom and grace through the promise and work of the Holy Spirit, whereas Ishmael and Hagar are a type of bondage through the works of the flesh. Below is just a part of that passage.

- For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. (Galatians 4:22–24) NKJV

Melchizedek, the king of Salem, was an actual person in the time of Abraham. Melchizedek is mentioned only twice in the Old Testament, once in Genesis 14:18-20 and once in Psalm 110:4. However, he is mentioned nine times in the New Testament book of Hebrews. There is a substantial illustration of the importance of this typology in Hebrews 6:19 to 7:22. Below is just a part of that passage.

- For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. (Hebrews 7:1–3)

Another thing to learn from the typology of Melchizedek is that typology is about how the details are presented in the Bible. For instance, sometimes typology has meaning through the absence of something or someone in the Biblical narrative. For example, Melchizedek obviously had a birth and a death, but Hebrews illustrates the importance of the Bible not mentioning the details of Melchizedek’s birth and death, because God intended that to be a foreshadow of Christ, who is God and therefore has no beginning or end.

## The Importance of Typology

Typology is important to God. This can be seen by the examples of typology explained for us in the Bible, but it can also be seen by Moses messing up the typology that the Lord had intended.

Moses was instructed to strike the rock the first time.

- Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (Exodus 17:6) NKJV

This was to foreshadow that Israel would strike Jesus at His first coming.

- I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6) NKJV

Moses was supposed to speak to the rock the second time.

- Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.” (Numbers 20:8) NKJV

This was supposed to foreshadow that Israel would call upon Jesus for His second coming to deliver them.

- Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. (Psalm 50:15) NKJV

However, instead of speaking to the rock the second time, Moses struck it. Because of this, God did not allow Moses to enter the promised land.

- Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod...Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.” (Numbers 20:12) NKJV
- For...you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes (Numbers 27:14) NKJV

## 4. The Millennial Week Prophecy

### History in a Week

It appears that God's word shows us that the first phase of man's history on earth will last for 7,000 years. This is a week with each of the seven days being a millennium. This includes 6,000 years from creation to Christ's second coming, plus the following 1,000 years for the reign of Christ on earth. This is foreshadowed in the Scriptures through a week being divided into 6 days of work followed by 1 day of rest.

The Bible appears to give multiple indicators that there will be 2,000 years from the year Jesus was crucified to the year of His second coming. Therefore, the 7,000 years can also be broken down as: 4,000 years from creation to His crucifixion, then 2,000 years to His second coming, then 1,000 years for His reign.

Even though many Jewish people currently have a wrong understanding of who the Messiah is, the basic millennial concept of the Messiah coming at or by 6,000 years appears to have been held by many Jewish people over the years as shown by this quote from a Wikipedia article:

*"According to classical Jewish sources, the Hebrew year 6000 marks the latest time for the initiation of the Messianic Age. The Talmud, Midrash, and Zohar state that the date by which the Messiah will appear is 6,000 years from creation."*

The basic concept appears to have been held by some early church leaders as well. The following are quotes from two of them.

Irenaeus (approx. 130 AD to 202 AD) from Book 5 of Against Heresies:

*"For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded. And for this reason the Scripture says: 'Thus the heaven and the earth were finished, and all their adornment. And God brought to a conclusion upon the sixth day the works that He had made; and God rested upon the*

*seventh day from all His works.’ This is an account of the things formerly created, as also it is a prophecy of what is to come. For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years; and in six days created things were completed: it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at the sixth thousand year.”*

Hippolytus of Rome (approx. 170 AD to 235 AD) from his commentary on Daniel:

*“And so it is absolutely necessary for six-thousand years to be fulfilled, so that the Sabbath rest may come, the holy day, in which God rested from all his works which he began to do. The Sabbath is a model and an image of the coming kingdom of the saints, when the saints shall co-reign with Christ, when he arrives from heaven, as also John in his Apocalypse describes. For a day of the Lord is as a thousand years. And so since in six days God made all things, it is necessary for six thousand years to be fulfilled.”*

Here is a quote from an article in the Journal of Creation:

*“It is clear from a close reading of the Church Fathers that the widely held belief of the church in the first few centuries after Christ was that the creation occurred less than 6,000 years prior to their time of writing; at least it seems to have been the majority opinion among the church leaders. This belief was also seemingly tied in with an understanding of the timing of the Second Coming of Christ and millennial reign; a pressing question for the early church. The millennial scheme symbolically linked six days of creation with 6,000 years of Earth history, with the final millennium rest seen as foreshadowed by the seventh day of rest in the creation account...Influence for the symbolic linkage between the six days of creation and the six thousand years until the millennial reign of rest may have been passed down directly from the Apostles, especially John, the author of Revelation. Irenaeus, who lived during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, claims to have received the teaching from Papias and Polycarp, who received it directly from John. Influence may also have derived from Peter’s writing, wherein the Apostle was responding to questions about the return of Christ. Peter wrote that for God “a day is like a thousand years” (2 Peter 3:8) and that the Christians should be patient regarding*

*the question of Christ's return...It would seem then that there was a widely held belief in a recent creation during the few centuries following the events of Christ's life on Earth. This was linked to a millennial scheme where the six days of creation prefigured 6,000 years of Earth history, followed by a millennial seventh 'day' of rest. Such millennial schemes are found in the writing of Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Hippolytus, Theophilus, and Basil."*

However, what God says in His word is much more important than what people say, so let's see what the Scriptures say.

## Appointed Times

Appointed dates and times are important to God. The Israelites came out of Egypt on the exact same day as they went in.

- Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. (Exodus 12:40–41) NASB

The feasts of Israel are at appointed times.

- These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. (Leviticus 23:4) NKJV

The end is at an appointed time.

- The four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released (Revelation 9:15) ESV
- I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time...for at the appointed time the end shall be. (Daniel 8:19) NKJV
- Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. (Acts 17:30–31) NKJV

- You will arise and have pity on Zion; it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come. (Psalm 102:13) ESV

Should we be aware of the appointed time of the Lord's second coming?

- Even the stork in the heavens knows her appointed times; And the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow observe the time of their coming. But My people do not know the judgment of the LORD. (Jeremiah 8:7) NKJV

It appears that Christ's entry on the donkey presenting Himself as King was prophesied exactly, and that the people should have been aware of it. The prophecy was 69 "weeks", but the word "weeks" can mean "sevens". This means there would be 483 years (69 sevens x 7 for each seven = 483 years) from the command to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince.

- 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 (Daniel 9:25) NKJV
- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9) NKJV

Jesus pronounced judgment on them because they did not know the appointed time of His arrival.

- And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him...Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will...surround you...And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation. (Luke 19:35,41-44) ESV



Similarly, it appears that there will be exactly 2,000 years from the year that Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts to the year that Jesus will fulfill the fall feasts. However, the 2,000 years would not be to the exact day since the spring and fall feasts are at different parts of the year.

Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts all in a row, all in the same year, and all in Israel. He did this by His sinless sacrifice (Feast of Passover & Unleavened Bread, see Leviticus 23:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 5:7), His resurrection (Feast of Firstfruits, see Leviticus 23:9-14 and 1 Corinthians 15:20), and His pouring out the Holy Spirit (Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost, see Leviticus 23:15-22 and Acts 2:1-4).

Jesus will fulfill the fall feasts all in a row, all in the same year, and all in Israel. He will do this by His second coming and gathering Israel to Him (Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement, see Leviticus 23:23-32 and Leviticus 25:9-10), and starting His reign in the millennial kingdom (Feast of Tabernacles, see Leviticus 23:33-43).

Before we get to Scriptures on the 2,000 years from the year of His crucifixion to the year of His second coming, it is helpful to gain some understanding on the 7 days and 7,000 years pattern.

## The 7 Days and 7,000 Years Pattern

In this passage, God says that He declares the end from the beginning. This appears to not only show that the end can be calculated from the beginning, but also that the beginning gives us a clue on how to do so.

- Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure' (Isaiah 46:9–10) NKJV

In the beginning, God gave us the seven day pattern by creating everything in six days and resting on the seventh day.

- Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (Genesis 1:31–2:2) NKJV

It appears that this was given to us as a pattern for daily life, but that it also is a prophetic pattern for man's history on earth.

- Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest (Exodus 23:12) NKJV

Here in Leviticus we see that the six days of work and seventh day of rest pattern was applied to years, so that there are six years of working the land and one year of rest for the land.

- Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. (Leviticus 25:3–4) NKJV

If a day can correspond to a year, then can a day also correspond to a millennium?

- For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past (Psalm 90:4) NKJV
- But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Peter 3:8) NKJV

In the verses above we see that to the Lord a day is as a thousand years, and so it does indeed seem appropriate to correspond the pattern to six thousand years of work (man's corrupt rule on earth) and one thousand years of rest (Christ's righteous rule on earth).

The passage that talks about the millennial reign of Christ, in Revelation chapter 20, mentions “thousand years” six times.

- ...bound him for a thousand years...till the thousand years were finished...reigned with Christ for a thousand years...rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished...shall reign with Him a thousand years...when the thousand years have expired (Revelation 20:2–7) NKJV

This appears to be another hint that this one thousand years of Christ’s reign will come after six thousand years of history. It also appears to emphasize the fact that the seventh millennial day is exactly 1,000 years, and therefore the prior six millennial days are each exactly 1,000 years as well.

The seventh day of the week is also called the Sabbath day. Notice below that the seventh day is “to the Lord your God”. The Lord our God’s reign begins on the Sabbath millennial day.

- Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work...For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:9–11) ESV

Notice below that seventh day is “holy to the Lord”. His holy reign begins on the Sabbath millennial day. Also, notice that this passage says that the Sabbath is a sign forever.

- Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD...It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested (Exodus 31:15–17) NKJV

Jesus will be Lord over all the earth during His Sabbath millennial reign.

- Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath. (Mark 2:28) NKJV

Man's corrupt rule will be brought down and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that seventh millennial day.

- The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. (Isaiah 2:11) NKJV

Here is a picture of the peace and rest that the earth will enjoy during the seventh millennial day under Christ's rule.

- It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow...that you will take up this proverb...and say: "How the oppressor has ceased...The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers...The whole earth is at rest and quiet; They break forth into singing. (Isaiah 14:3–7) NKJV
- The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat...and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole...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 11:6–9) NKJV

## Additional Illustration

Many of the Psalms have titles which are original to the Scripture (not like the section titles that are in some modern Bibles, which are not part of Scripture). The original Scriptural title for Psalm 92 is "A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day." This appears to be referring to the millennial Sabbath day due to the context.

- But You, LORD, are on high forevermore. For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, for behold, Your enemies shall perish; All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered... My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; my ears hear my desire on the wicked who rise up against me. The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:8–13) NKJV

Psalm 90:4 is repeated below but with some neighboring verses included for context. Besides this passage mentioning the wisdom in numbering days, please notice how the “day as a thousand years” is linked to the tribulation and second coming:

1. The destruction from God’s wrath
2. A flood
3. How long until the Lord’s return?

- You turn man to destruction, and say, “Return, O children of men. For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night. You carry them away like a flood...For we have been consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified...So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. (Psalm 90:3–13) NKJV

2 Peter 3:8 is repeated below but with some neighboring verses included for context. Besides this passage mentioning the day of the Lord (which is the 24 hour day of His second coming followed by the millennial day of His reign), please notice how the “day as a thousand years” is linked to the tribulation and second coming:

1. The fire of God’s wrath (as further illustrated by Zephaniah 1:18)
2. The flood (as further illustrated by Matthew 24:38-39)
3. Where is His coming?

- Scoffers will come in the last days...saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?...” For this they willfully forget...the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire...But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day...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 (2 Peter 3:3–10) NKJV

- Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. (Zephaniah 1:18) ESV
- 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 24:38–39) NKJV

Matthew 24 gives us a clue to see that the current 6,000 year age ends with Christ's second coming at the end of the tribulation, which is then followed by the next age which is the 1,000 year kingdom of Christ.

- The disciples came to Him privately, saying, "...what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"...Jesus answered and said..."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. 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." (Matthew 24:3-30) NKJV

In the passage below, God said that Adam would die in the day he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam did indeed die spiritually in the 24 hour day that he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but he also died physically in the millennial day that he ate because he lived for only 930 years.

- But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. (Genesis 2:17) NKJV
- Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died. (Genesis 5:5) ESV

## The Days of Creation

As already mentioned, the passage below says that God declares the end from the beginning, and this appears to show that the six days of creation plus one day of rest foreshadow the 6,000 years of man's rule on earth followed by 1,000 years of Christ's rule on earth.

- Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure' (Isaiah 46:9–10) NKJV

However, it also appears that each 24 hour day of creation foreshadows something that happens in each millennial day of history. Below are some possible applications, but perhaps there are others that fit better than these.

1<sup>st</sup> Day of Creation: God created light, and separated the light from the darkness.

- God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness...And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:3–5) ESV

1<sup>st</sup> Millennial Day: Adam & Eve started in light, but because of their sin they became darkness and were separated from the light and goodness of God. As a result, all of their descendants are born as children of darkness. But those who trust in Christ become children of light.

- But your iniquities have separated you from your God (Isaiah 59:2) NKJV
- For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8) NKJV
- You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:5) NKJV

2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Creation: God divided the waters below from the waters above.

- God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. (Genesis 1:6–8) NKJV

2<sup>nd</sup> Millennial Day: God used water from below (water from the fountains of the great deep) and water from above (rain from the windows of heaven) to bring the judgement of the global flood.

- In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life...all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. (Genesis 7:11–12) NKJV

It appears that Peter actually illustrated this one for us in the same passage that mentions “one day is as a thousand years”.

- Scoffers will come in the last days...They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming?” For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water (the waters from the waters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of creation) by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished (the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennial day)...But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness (2 Peter 3:3–9) ESV

It seems like Peter was telling them to be patient for the Lord’s coming, because at that time there were still two millennial days remaining before the Lord’s promise would be fulfilled.



3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Creation: God gathered the waters together and dry land appeared, and He also created seed producing plants on the land.

- God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so...Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so....And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day. (Genesis 1:9–13) NKJV

3<sup>rd</sup> Millennial Day: Abraham is promised that through his seed all nations would be blessed. God brought the seed of Abraham out of Egypt, and then God gathered the waters of the Red Sea together so they could pass through on dry land, and then they were planted in the land of Israel. Eventually the ultimate seed of Abraham, Jesus, comes from these people.

- The LORD caused the sea to go back...and made the sea into dry land (Exodus 14:21) NKJV
- And with the blast of Your nostrils the waters were gathered together...You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which You have made for Your own dwelling (Exodus 15:8,17) NKJV
- In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 22:18) NKJV
- Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. (Galatians 3:16) NKJV

4<sup>th</sup> Day of Creation: God created the stars for signs and seasons. God created the great light of the sun to give light to the world.

- God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens...and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years ...and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night.

He made the stars also...And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day. (Genesis 1:14–19) NKJV

4<sup>th</sup> Millennial Day: God gave prophets as signs pointing to the season of Jesus (such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, and others). Jesus Christ, the true great light, came near the end of the fourth millennial day, to give the light of life to the world.

- We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, and there is none among us who knows how long. (Psalm 74:9) ESV
- The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali...the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (Isaiah 9:1–2) ESV
- I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. (John 12:46) NKJV
- Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12) NKJV

5<sup>th</sup> Day of Creation: God caused the waters to bring forth abundantly, and the living creatures were commanded to be fruitful and multiply.

- God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures”...And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply”...So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. (Genesis 1:20–23) NKJV

5<sup>th</sup> Millennial Day: Water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. God poured out the Holy Spirit near the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> millennial day, and He brings forth abundantly in drawing people to become living new creations through faith in Christ. Believers have been instructed to be fruitful and multiply.

- And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:17) NKJV
- For I will pour water on him who is thirsty...I will pour My Spirit on your descendants (Isaiah 44:3) NKJV
- Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:37–38) NKJV
- Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him...has passed from death into life. (John 5:24) NKJV
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) NKJV
- And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) NKJV
- Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly (Acts 6:7) NKJV

6<sup>th</sup> Day of Creation: God caused the earth to bring forth living creatures that were instructed to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. God created man in His own image and gave him dominion over the earth.

- God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind"...Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over...all the earth..." So God created man in His own image...Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it"...Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Genesis 1:24–31) NKJV

6<sup>th</sup> Millennial Day: During the 6<sup>th</sup> millennial day, by the working of the Holy Spirit, believers continue to be fruitful and multiply, and many come to life through faith in Christ. The mission work of proclaiming the gospel expands greatly and fills the earth. At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> millennial day, believers will be conformed to the image of Christ and be given dominion over the earth along with Christ.

- As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”...for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” (Romans 10:15–18) ESV
- For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29) NKJV
- As we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. (1 Corinthians 15:49) NKJV
- And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:10) NKJV
- And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron’...as I also have received from My Father (Revelation 2:26–27) NKJV

7<sup>th</sup> Day of Rest: God blessed the seventh day and made it holy and rested.

- Thus the heavens and the earth were finished...he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy (Genesis 2:1–3) ESV

7<sup>th</sup> Millennial Day: Humanity will rest from the influence of Satan, his minions, and the corrupt rule of man during the 1,000 year holy reign of Jesus.

- He laid hold of...that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:2-4) NKJV
- How the oppressor has ceased...The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked...that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution. The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing. (Isaiah 14:4–7) ESV

## The Last Days

Since Jesus' first coming was near the end of the fourth millennial day, the millennial week was well over half finished. Therefore, Jesus has indeed spoken to us in these last days (or times) of the millennial week.

- God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds (Hebrews 1:1–2) NKJV
- He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you (1 Peter 1:20) NKJV

A little later, near the start of the fifth millennial day, the Holy Spirit was poured out. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is indeed being poured out in these last days of the millennial week.

- But Peter...said to them, ..."These are not drunk, as you suppose...But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:14–17) NKJV

It makes sense in light of the millennial week, that at the time Revelation was written with four days past and only two days left,

the end of the age was indeed near. Now we are near the end of the sixth day and the end of the age is very very very near.

- Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Revelation 1:3) NKJV

## The Prophecy of Two Days

The Bible appears to break down this week of 7 millennial days in multiple ways, such as 6 days + 1 day, or 4 days + 2 days + 1 day, or 4 days + 3 days. This section will discuss a prophecy in Hosea Chapters 5 & 6 that illustrate the 4 days + 3 days concept. This passage in Hosea appears to show that Jesus' sacrifice was at the very end of the fourth millennial day. This will be followed by two millennial days of His "absence" and then the third millennial day of His reign on the earth.

Below is the full passage, and then it will be broken down with some comments.

- I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me." Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth. (Hosea 5:15–6:3) NKJV

## Hosea Chapter 5

### Verse 15 part 1: I will return again to My place

**Comments:** Talking about Jesus' ascension, returning to His place with the Father (see John 7:33, 13:1, 17:11, and 20:17). This seems to indicate that the year of His ascension (the year that he fulfilled the spring feasts) was the last year of the fourth millennial day and therefore the starting point of the final three millennial days.

Also, a little earlier in that same year, Jesus cursed the fig tree and cursed Israel for rejecting Him. This indicated the same starting point for Israel's two millennial day period of suffering before the joyful third millennial day.

Israel's rejection of the Lord, the curse, and their eventual repentance and blessing will be discussed in more detail in "The Fig Tree Prophecy" chapter.

At His ascension Jesus returned to His place, but at His second coming Jesus will again come out of His place to execute judgment upon the remaining unbelievers who have refused to repent, and upon Satan.

- For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity...In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish...that twisted serpent (Isaiah 26:21–27:1) NKJV
- For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split Like wax before the fire (Micah 1:3–4) NKJV

**Verse 15 part 2:** Till they acknowledge their offense.

**Comments:** Until Israel acknowledges their offense of rejecting their Messiah Jesus.

**Verse 15 part 3:** Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

**Comments:** Through the afflictions of the two millennial day period of suffering, but especially through the affliction of the final seven years in the tribulation, Israel will come to desire and seek Jesus.

## Hosea Chapter 6

**Verse 1:** Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

**Comments:** In addition to spiritual suffering and blindness, Israel was torn apart nationally shortly after they rejected Jesus. Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD, and the Jews were eventually scattered all over the world. Israel started to be nationally bound up as Jews started returning to Israel in the late 1800s, and the nation was formed in 1948 shortly after the holocaust. Israel will be fully bound up spiritually and nationally at their repentance and Jesus' second coming.

**Verse 2 part 1:** After two days He will revive us;

**Comments:** After 2,000 years (at the end of the tribulation), God will revive them spiritually when they turn to Him for salvation.

**Verse 2 part 2:** On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.

**Comments:** After the two millennial day period of suffering, the third millennial day starts, which is the millennial kingdom. At this time, Israel will not only be raised up spiritually by having turned to Jesus, but also raised up nationally to a position of honor during the millennial kingdom, and living in the sight of King Jesus.



**Verse 3 part 1:** Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning;

**Comments:** The timing of Jesus' second coming is established, and is as certain as the timing of the morning (discussed in more detail in "The Pre-Tribulation Rapture" chapter).

**Verse 3 part 2:** He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

**Comments:** The early (or spring) rain of His first coming in which He fulfilled the spring feasts, and later (or fall) rain of His second coming in which He will fulfill the fall feasts. Notice how the passages below in James and Jeremiah relate.

- Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (James 5:7–8) NKJV
- Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest. (Jeremiah 5:24) NKJV

## Millennial Week Illustration

I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face: In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me." (Hosea 5:15)

Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us: He has stricken, but He will bind us up. (Hosea 6:1)

Creation to Christ's Sacrifice				The Church Age		Millennium
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
1,000 years	2,000 years	3,000 years	4,000 years	5,000 years	6,000 years	7,000 years

After two days  
He will revive  
us; (Hosea 6:2  
part 1)

On the third day He will  
raise us up, that we may  
live in His sight. (Hosea  
6:2 part 2)

## Exodus Typology

There appear to be many types (prophetic foreshadows) of the millennial week in the Bible. The Hosea passage in the previous section was speaking literally about the last three days of the millennial week, however the Exodus passage in this section appears to contain typological meaning about the last three days. Below is the passage, and then it will be broken down with some comments.

- Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people...Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled...Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. (Exodus 19:10–18) NKJV

### Exodus Chapter 19

**Verse 10:** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.” (Exodus 19:10) NKJV

**Comments:** “Today and tomorrow” represent the two millennial days after Jesus’ sacrifice and how during this time He cleanses people from sin and washes their clothes and makes them white in the blood of the lamb (see Revelation 7:14)

**Verse 11 part 1:** And let them be ready for the third day.

**Comments:** Notice the importance of being ready for the “third day”

**Verse 11 part 2:** For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

**Comments:** At the very beginning of the third millennial day, at His second coming, the Lord will come down upon the Mount of Olives in the sight of all people (Revelation 1:7, Psalm 97:2-6).

**Verse 16 part 1:** Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning,

**Comments:** The Lord's second coming will be in the early morning of the third millennial day since His sacrifice, which is the seventh day of the millennial week and is also known as the day of the Lord.

**Verse 16 part 2:** that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain;

**Comments:** There will be thunderings and lightnings and thick clouds at His second coming (Revelation 16:17-18, Joel 2:1-2, Zephaniah 1:14-15, Psalm 18:7-14, Psalm 97:2-6).

**Verse 16 part 3:** and the sound of the trumpet was very loud so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

**Comments:** This could be the great sound of a trumpet for the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets at the Lord's return (Matthew 24:30-31, Leviticus 23:23-25).

**Verse 18 part 1:** Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire.

**Comments:** The Lord Jesus will descend upon the Mount of Olives at His second coming (Acts 1:11-12, Zechariah 14:3-4, Psalm 144:5) and He will come with fiery judgment (Psalm 18:7-14, Psalm 97:2-6, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, Malachi 3:2, Psalm 50:3, Isaiah 66:15-16).

**Verse 18 part 2:** Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

**Comments:** There will be smoke at His second coming, and also the Mount of Olives will quake greatly as it splits in two (Psalm 144:5, Psalm 18:7–14, Zechariah 14:3-4).

Verse 10 & 11 of Exodus 19 above mentioned “today and tomorrow” and “the third day”. Notice the similar language that Jesus spoke in verse 32 of Luke 13 below.

- And He said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish My course.’” (Luke 13:32) ESV

After His ascension, Jesus continues to deliver people from sin for two millennial days. He finishes the course of history with the third day of His millennial reign.

The passage below in Exodus 24 seems to be similar to Exodus 19 above, but being typological of the whole seven days of the millennial week, instead of just the last three days.

- Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. (Exodus 24:16–17) NKJV

## Temple Typology

Solomon’s temple is described in 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles. This temple was destroyed by the Babylonians and the temple at the time of Jesus was a rebuilt temple. But it is likely that the rebuilt temple had the same length dimensions, especially considering that the future millennial temple described in Ezekiel 41 will have the same length dimensions.

The temple was 60 cubits long in total, with the outer sanctuary being 40 cubits long, and the inner sanctuary being 20 cubits long. There was a veil between the outer and inner sanctuaries.

The temple appears to foreshadow the 6,000 years (60 cubits x 100) of this age of man. The outer sanctuary appears to represent the 4,000 years (40 cubits x 100) from creation to Christ's sacrifice. The inner sanctuary appears to represent the 2,000 years (20 cubits x 100) from Christ's sacrifice to the end of the age.

The veil between the outer and inner sanctuaries was torn at Christ's sacrifice, indicating that was the year of transition from end of the first 4,000 years to the start of the last 2,000 years. At the end of this 2,000 years, the age of man will be over and the age of Christ's millennial reign will begin.

The verses below show the length dimensions and also the veil between the outer and inner sanctuaries.

- The house that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long (1 Kings 6:2) ESV
- The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long (1 Kings 6:20) ESV
- And he made the veil of blue and purple and crimson fabrics and fine linen (2 Chronicles 3:14) ESV
- Then he brought me into the sanctuary...and he measured its length, forty cubits...Also he went inside...He measured the length, twenty cubits...and he said to me, "This is the Most Holy Place." (Ezekiel 41:1-4) NKJV

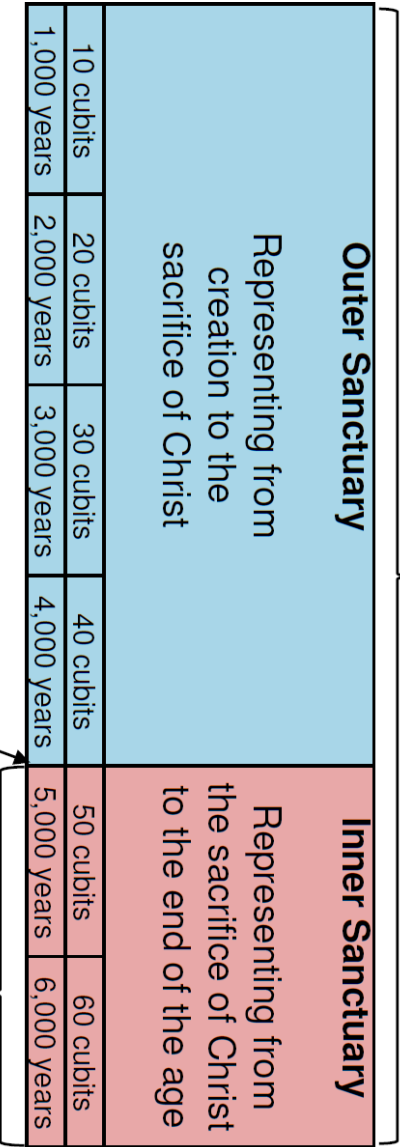
Not only did the veil being torn represent how Christ's flesh was torn at His crucifixion, and how we may now freely approach God through Jesus, but it also appears to represent that the final 2,000 years of the age of man started in the year of His crucifixion.

- And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Mark 15:37-38) NKJV
- Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated

for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:19–22) NKJV

## Temple Illustration

The house that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long (1 Kings 6:2)



And he made the veil of blue and purple and crimson fabrics and fine linen (2 Chronicles 3:14) And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Mark 15:37–38)

The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long (1 Kings 6:20)

## Four Days and Two Days Typology

Here are some types related to it being the fourth millennial day when Jesus came and then two more millennial days after the year of His sacrifice to reach the final millennial day of His reign.

### *Man dead for four days*

When Jesus came to raise Lazarus, Lazarus had already been dead four days.

- When Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. (John 11:17) NKJV

When Jesus came to raise man to life by His sacrifice and resurrection, man had already been dead in sin for four millennial days.

- And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1) NKJV

### *The good news came in four days*

In four days, Peter (the Greek word for Peter means “rock”) came to Cornelius with the gospel.

- Cornelius said, “Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and...Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.” Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “...God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ...To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:30–36,43) NKJV

At the end of the fourth millennial day, Jesus (the true “ROCK”) came to the world as the gospel Himself.

- He is the Rock, His work is perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4) NKJV



- For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4) NKJV

### *He is coming again in two days*

Most of the parables in the book of Luke are introduced as being a parable, but the story of the good Samaritan does not include such an introduction. Therefore, it is uncertain whether this is typology based on history, or symbolism based on a parable. Either way, it contains valuable insights.

Here is the story of the good Samaritan, which will then be broken down along with some comments and other verses.

- Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ (Luke 10:30–35) NKJV

## **Luke Chapter 10**

**Verse 30:** Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.”

**Note:** The man fell among thieves, and was left half dead.

**Typology/Symbolism:** Mankind fell among sin and Satan, and was left half dead (alive physically, but dead spiritually).

- The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10) NKJV

**Verses 31 to 32:** Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

**Note:** The priest and Levite, who were ordained by the law to perform sacrifices and services, did not help him.

**Typology/Symbolism:** The law, and the sacrifices and services performed by the Levitical priesthood, did not save mankind.

- Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not...the order of Aaron? (Hebrews 7:11) NKJV
- For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect...For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. (Hebrews 10:1–4) NKJV

**Verses 33 to 34:** But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

**Note:** A certain Samaritan came to where the man was. He had compassion on the man, sacrificing his resources, and administering healing to the man, with oil and wine

**Typology/Symbolism:** Jesus was God and came to mankind by becoming a Man Himself. He had compassion on mankind,

sacrificing Himself, and bringing true healing to all who believe, through His blood (wine) and the Holy Spirit (oil).

- For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son (Romans 8:3) NKJV
- Every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:11–12) NKJV

**Verse 35:** On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

**Note 1:** The Samaritan handed custody of caring for the man over to the innkeeper, and then departed.

**Typology/Symbolism 1:** Jesus handed custody of caring for mankind by proclaiming the gospel over to believers, and then He departed at His ascension.

- And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature...” So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven... And they went out and preached everywhere (Mark 16:15–20) NKJV

**Note 2:** The Samaritan paid the innkeeper two denarii, and instructed him to care for the man until he comes again. The two denarii he paid to the innkeeper represented compensation for two days of service, or in other words that he would come again in two days. This can be seen from the following verse:

- Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day (Matthew 20:2) NKJV

**Typology/Symbolism 2:** Believers on earth are instructed to care for mankind by proclaiming the gospel until Jesus comes again in two millennial days.

**Note 3:** The Samaritan said that when he comes again, he will repay the innkeeper.

**Typology/Symbolism 3:** When Jesus comes again, He will repay (or reward) believers.

- Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. (Revelation 22:12) ESV

### *2,000 until the appointed time*

The incident with the demons and the swine is recorded in Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-17, and Luke 8:26-37. In this incident, the demons asked Jesus if they were going to be tormented before the appointed time.

- They cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” (Matthew 8:29) NKJV

The demons begged Jesus to not be cast into the abyss.

- And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. (Luke 8:31) NKJV

The demons asked Jesus to be allowed to go into the swine and Jesus gave them permission. They went into the swine and the 2,000 swine ran down into the sea.

- Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. (Mark 5:11–13) NKJV

The passage above mentions there being “about” two thousand swine. However, it seems that the typological meaning that was intended to be conveyed by the Lord is simply two thousand, as opposed to “approximately” two thousand. The Greek word

translated to “about” in the passage above is most often translated to “as” and “when”. A few examples are below.

- Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him (Matthew 1:24) NKJV
- Because they counted him as a prophet. (Matthew 14:5) NKJV
- As He says also in Hosea: “I will call them My people” (Romans 9:25) NKJV
- When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb (Luke 1:41) NKJV
- And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board (Acts 20:14) NKJV

The typology in the Mark passage above appears to be Jesus saying that at the appointed time, which is 2,000 years after His victory over sin and death, the demons (and Satan) will definitely go into the abyss, just like the swine went into the sea.

- Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed (Revelation 20:1–3) NASB
- On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders. (Isaiah 24:21–23) ESV

## *Two days until His favor returns to Israel*

In the passage below, Jesus stayed with the Samaritans two days and then returned to Galilee. Then the Galileans received Him seeing the things He did at the feast.

- So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word...Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee... So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast. (John 4:40–45) NKJV

After His sacrifice, Jesus stays 2,000 years with the church (which is a blend of Jew & Gentile like the Samaritans were), then His favor will return to Israel (Galilee was an area in Israel), and at the end of the tribulation Israel will receive Him as their Messiah. The part “received Him having seen what He did at the feast” could be symbolic of Israel receiving Jesus when they see Him in His second coming to fulfill the fall feasts, or when they realize that He had fulfilled the spring feasts earlier.

- You will arise and have pity on Zion; it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come. (Psalm 102:13) ESV

## *2,000 until meeting the Messiah*

The mercy seat of the ark of the covenant is representative of the throne of Jesus, or even Jesus Himself.

- I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark (Exodus 25:22) NKJV
- Moses...heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark (Numbers 7:89) NKJV
- I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. (Leviticus 16:2) NKJV

The ark (including the mercy seat) departed from the camp of Israel and then entered the Jordan River. The children of Israel followed at a distance of 2,000 cubits and then met the mercy seat and crossed over the river into the promised land.

- They...came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over...and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God...then you shall set out from your place and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure.”...And Joshua said,...“Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.” (Joshua 3:1–11) NKJV

The passage above mentions there being “about” two thousand cubits. However, it seems that the typological meaning that was intended to be conveyed by the Lord is simply two thousand, as opposed to “approximately” two thousand. The Hebrew word translated to “about” in the passage above is translated to “as” and “when” and “according” and “like” many times. A few examples are below.

- Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly (Genesis 38:29) NKJV
- And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it (Genesis 34:7) NKJV
- Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream. (Genesis 41:11) NKJV
- Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. (Exodus 19:18) NKJV

The typology in the Joshua passage above appears to be: The Lord Jesus departed from Israel in the ascension. The children of Israel will turn to their Messiah 2,000 years later and meet Him at His second coming and the establishment of His throne, and then Israel will cross over into the promised millennial kingdom.

In the passage below, Israel had just gone through the Red Sea on dry ground, and Moses prophesied of the fear and dread that would be upon the people of the land until Israel crossed the Jordan River and received the inheritance the Lord had promised them.

- Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm they will be as still as a stone, till Your people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over whom You have purchased. You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which You have made for Your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established. “The LORD shall reign forever and ever.” (Exodus 15:16–18) NKJV

However, the passage above appears to have another layer of prophetic meaning of the fear and dread that will fall upon the world during the tribulation until Israel crosses over into salvation and receives the inheritance of the kingdom as the Lord has promised them. (The Hebrew word for “pass over” in the Exodus 15 passage above is the same Hebrew word for “cross over” in the Joshua 3 passage above.)

## Six Days and Seventh Day Typology

Here are some types related to the first six thousand years of man and the final thousand years of Christ.

### *The judgment at the end of six*

At the end of Noah’s sixth century, the judgment of the flood came.

- Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. (Genesis 7:6) ESV

At the end of earth’s sixth millennium, the judgment of fire will come.

- The world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being



reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment...But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. (2 Peter 3:6–8) NASB

This will happen at the Lord's second coming.

- For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matthew 24:38–39) ESV

### *His glory is revealed after six*

After six days, they saw Jesus shining like the sun on a mountain, and then they offered to make tabernacles.

- “I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.” Now after six days Jesus...led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light... Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles” (Matthew 16:28–17:4) NKJV

After six millennial days, Israel will see Jesus coming and shining like the sun and setting foot on the Mount of Olives, and then Israel will welcome the kingdom of Jesus in fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

### *Six of man followed by the seventh of justice*

Leah bore six sons (six men) followed by one daughter (Dinah's name means judgment or justice).

- And Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons.”...Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah. (Genesis 30:20–21) NKJV

History will have six thousand years of corrupt rule by men, followed by one thousand years of righteous judgment and justice by Jesus.

### *Trouble for six and no evil in the seventh*

This one is more of a prophecy, rather than a type, but it fits well here. Though he probably didn't realize it, Eliphaz appears to have given a correct prophecy regarding the millennial week in the verse below. This is similar to how Caiaphas gave a correct prophecy about Jesus without realizing it (see John 11:49-52).

- He shall deliver you in six troubles, Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you. (Job 5:19) NKJV

There will be six thousand years of trouble and persecution to believers. In the seventh millennium, no evil shall touch or hurt believers.

- 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 11:9) NKJV

### *The trumpet at the start of the seventh*

Jesus prophetically fulfilled the spring feasts in the same year at His first coming, and He will prophetically fulfill the fall feasts in the same year at His second coming.

The feast of trumpets is the first of the fall feasts and is at the start of the seventh month.

- Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. (Leviticus 23:24) NKJV

The second coming will be in fulfillment of this feast and will be at the start of the seventh millennium.

- Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven...and they will see the Son of Man coming...And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet (Matthew 24:30–31) NKJV

### *Hidden for six and then takes the kingdom*

Below is a passage from 2 Kings which has been abbreviated for easier clarity in this discussion. This passage talks about Joash, the son of king Ahaziah, becoming king after being hidden for six years since Athaliah murdered his other family members. Following this passage, it will be broken down along with some comments and other verses.

- So he was hidden...in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land. In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought...the bodyguards and the escorts...into the house of the LORD to him. And he...showed them the king's son. Then he commanded them, saying, "...you shall surround the king on all sides...you are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in."...Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king...And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and...they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"...All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets...And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains...and said to them, "Take her outside under guard"...So they seized her; and...she was killed (2 Kings 11:3–16) NKJV

## **2 Kings Chapter 11**

**Verse 3:** So he was hidden...in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

**Note:** Joash was hidden for six years while the evil Athaliah reigned over the land.

**Typology:** The glory of Jesus was hidden from the world for six millennial days while Satan reigned over the earth (through man).

**Verse 4 to 14:** In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought...the bodyguards and the escorts...into the house of the LORD to him. And he...showed them the king's son. Then he commanded them, saying, "...you shall surround the king on all sides...you are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in."...Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king...And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and...they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"...All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets...

**Note 1:** The true servants of the king were brought to the house of the Lord and they saw Joash, the king's son.

**Typology 2:** The saints will be brought to the Lord in the rapture and they will see the glory of the Son Jesus.

- Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory (John 17:24) ESV

**Note 2:** A little after that, which was in the seventh year, with weapons and trumpets, Joash comes with his servants and takes his kingdom.

**Typology 2:** A few years after the rapture, at the start of the seventh millennial day, with the sound of a trumpet, Jesus will come with His saints (who are "His weapons") to bring judgment on the earth, and Jesus will take His kingdom.

- 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 (Matthew 24:30–31) NKJV
- The LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You...and the LORD shall be King over all the earth. (Zechariah 14:5,9) NKJV
- That He may establish your hearts...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:13) NKJV

- They come...from the end of heaven— The LORD and His weapons of indignation, to destroy the whole land. (Isaiah 13:5) NKJV
- Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment (Jude 14–15) NKJV

**Verses 15 to 16:** And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains...and said to them, “Take her outside under guard”...So they seized her; and...she was killed (2 Kings 11:3–16) NKJV

**Note:** Athaliah is seized and killed.

**Typology:** Satan will be seized and thrown into the abyss for a thousand years, and then after a short period of release at the end of the millennium, he will be cast into the lake of fire forever.

- And he laid hold of...Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss (Revelation 20:2–3) NASB

### *Six steps before reaching the glory*

Solomon’s kingdom was a glorious kingdom of peace and rest.

- For he had dominion over all the region...and he had peace on every side all around him. And Judah and Israel dwelt safely...all the days of Solomon. (1 Kings 4:24–25) NKJV
- Then Solomon sent..., saying: “...now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence.” (1 Kings 5:2–4) NKJV

There were six steps to reach Solomon’s glorious throne, which was surrounded by two lions.

- The king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with refined gold. There were six steps to the throne and a round top to the throne at its rear, and arms on each side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the arms. (1 Kings 10:18–19) NASB

The six steps are similar to the six mentions of “thousand years” in Revelation 20:2-7. There will be six thousand years to reach the truly glorious kingdom of peace and rest of Christ, who is the Lion of Judah.

- But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah...has prevailed” (Revelation 5:5) NKJV
- Then a throne will be established in steadfast love, and on it will sit in faithfulness...One who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness. (Isaiah 16:5) ESV

## Where Are We At?

There are many estimates for the year of creation. However, they are all simply estimates based on various assumptions. The Bible gives us genealogies and lineages that help us to get fairly close, but they do not contain exact dates, and there are also a few other uncertainties.

One of the more commonly presented estimates is 4004 BC by James Ussher, however many other people have estimated dates more recent than this. Below are some estimates of the BC year of creation from an article by Answers in Genesis. Added to the bottom of this list is the BC year of creation according to the current Jewish calendar.

**Before 4004 BC:** 4192 Scotus, 4141 Condomanus, 4103 Lydiat, 4079 Maestlinus, 4062 Ricciolus, 4053 Salianus, 4051 Spondanus, 4042 Anstey, 4041 Lange, 4021 Reinholt, 4005 Cappellus

**After 4004 BC:** 4001 Faulstich, 3993 Johannes Kepler, 3983 Petavius, 3975 Klassen, 3974 Becke, 3971 Dolen, 3970 Reusnerus, 3968 Claverius, 3966 Longomontanus, 3964 Melanchthon, 3963 Haynlinus, 3961 Martin Luther, 3958 Salmeron, 3949 Scaliger, 3927 Beroaldus, 3836 Helwigius, 3761 Jewish Calendar

The Jewish year at the start of 2024 AD was 5784 (5,784 years since creation). However, various scholars believe the Jewish

calendar is off by around 150 to 250 years for multiple reasons. One of the main reasons is mentioned in a Wikipedia article: *“The missing years in the Hebrew calendar refer to a chronological discrepancy between the rabbinic dating for the destruction of the First Temple in 422 BC...and the academic dating of it in 587 BC...The traditional Jewish date recognized by the rabbis as the “year of destruction” is approximately 165 years later than the accepted year...This discrepancy is referred to as the “missing years”.*”

Even though the Old Testament years are harder to reconcile, the number of years that have passed since the time of Christ appear to be fairly accurate. The cross referencing of various calendars and other information such as eclipses, natural disasters, and major events appears to indicate that the number of years since the time of Christ is off by very little, somewhere between zero to three years at the most.

There is some uncertainty regarding the exact year that Jesus was crucified, but the range of estimates is fairly narrow. Therefore, it is easier to tell where we are at on the millennial timeline if we start from the estimates for the crucifixion, instead of starting from the estimates for the creation.

There is about a ten year range of estimates for the crucifixion, but it appears that most believe Jesus was crucified around 30 AD to 33 AD.

If Jesus was crucified around 30 AD to 33 AD, then adding two millennial days would put the second coming at somewhere around 2030 AD to 2033 AD (with the rapture at least 7 years before the second coming). However if the calendar, or the year of His crucifixion, is off by a few years then it could be up to a few years later. This is not predicting an exact date, but if this understanding on the millennial week is correct then it does appear that the Bible shows us that the end times events are in the very near future.

# 5. The Fig Tree Prophecy

## Israel, The Fig Tree

The prophecy of the fig tree coming back to life appears to be a huge sign that the end is very near. However, we first need to develop some foundational understanding.

Figs represent the people of Israel, so a fig tree can represent the nation of Israel.

- Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge those who are carried away captive from Judah, whom I have sent out of this place for their own good, into the land of the Chaldeans. For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land...And as the bad figs which cannot be eaten, they are so bad’—surely thus says the LORD—‘so will I give up Zedekiah the king of Judah, his princes, the residue of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt.’ (Jeremiah 24:5–8) NKJV

Figs and grapes represent the people of Israel, therefore a fig tree or a vine (or vineyard) can represent the nation of Israel.

- I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. (Hosea 9:10) NKJV

A vineyard represents the nation of Israel.

- What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?...For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help. (Isaiah 5:4,7) NKJV



A vine and fig tree represent the nation of Israel.

- For a nation has come up against My land, strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he has the fangs of a fierce lion. He has laid waste My vine, and ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away (Joel 1:6–7) NKJV

Those sitting under the vine and fig tree are like those sitting under the umbrella or canopy of Israel. Nathanael was under the fig tree and Jesus called him an Israelite indeed.

- And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree (1 Kings 4:25) NKJV
- Jesus saw Nathanael...and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed”...Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” (John 1:47–48) NKJV

## The Other Trees

This passage in Ezekiel equates other types of trees with other nations.

- Indeed Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon...and of high stature...Therefore its height was exalted above all the trees of the field... Under its branches all the beasts of the field brought forth their young; And in its shadow all great nations made their home...The fir trees were not like its boughs, and the chestnut trees were not like its branches; No tree in the garden of God was like it in beauty...Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Because you have increased in height, and it set its top among the thick boughs...therefore I will deliver it into the hand of the mighty one of the nations (Ezekiel 31:3–11) NKJV

The beasts under the branches mentioned above appear to represent rulers, as shown in the verse from Daniel below.

- These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. (Daniel 7:17) ESV

The verse below seems to confirm that various trees represent various people groups or nations.

- The vine has dried up, and the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree— All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men (Joel 1:12) NKJV

## The Fig Tree's Suffering

Here in Luke, we see that Israel was expected to bear fruit, and if they wouldn't then they would be cut down and thrown into the fire of suffering (starting from when they rejected their Messiah and lasting two thousand years).

- Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." (Luke 3:8–9) NKJV

From this parable later in Luke, it appears that after three years (or seasons) of ministry, Jesus did not find fruitfulness in Israel, and gave a warning to Israel.

- He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'" (Luke 13:6–9) NKJV

The “let it alone this year also” part above may represent the last year (or season) of Jesus’ ministry before His crucifixion. The “dig around it and fertilize it” part may represent Jesus feeding Israel with the word of God during the final year (or season) of His ministry.

Later, near the time of His crucifixion, Jesus inspected a fig tree and did not find fruit on it, therefore He cursed it and it withered.

- In the morning, as He returned..., He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, “Let no fruit grow on you ever again.” Immediately the fig tree withered away. (Matthew 21:18–19) NKJV

This appears to be Jesus saying that He still did not find fruitfulness in Israel and so it will suffer the curse of withering away since they have rejected the Messiah. Later the sentence of being cut down was executed by the Romans in 70AD. The “Let no fruit grow on you ever again” could mean that they will never bear fruit again as the current nation (or in their old nature), but they will bear fruit when the nation is brought back to life (or in their new nature when they turn to Christ).

Jesus had found nothing but leaves on the fig tree. Israel had leaves, which was an appearance of life, but actually they were spiritually dead because they rejected the life which is available only in Jesus. Therefore, Israel bore no fruit and was cursed, and withered away, and was cast into the fire of suffering.

- He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out...and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:5–6) NKJV

The verse below, which comes a little after Jesus cursed the fig tree, seems to confirm that the fig tree does indeed represent the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel failed to bear fruit and so God’s channel of blessing was then given to the nation of the church.

- I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. (Matthew 21:43) NKJV
- But you are a...holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9) NKJV

The extra detail below in Mark regarding the cursing of the fig tree says “it was not the season for figs”. This appears to be typological that when Jesus came to Israel at His first coming, it was not the season for Israel’s fruitfulness (but that season would come later at His second coming).

- And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. (Mark 11:13) NKJV

Close to the time that Jesus cursed the fig tree (above in Matthew and Mark), Jesus spoke the actual curse against Israel (below in Luke).

- If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation. (Luke 19:42–44) NKJV

Israel should have been aware of the time of the visitation of the Messiah. Instead they rejected Him and suffered the curses of partial blindness and destruction.

Here we see that the partial blindness will be upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

- For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that

blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (Romans 11:25) NKJV

This outcome was foretold here. Israel did not know the time of their Messiah, were not fruitful, and their leaves withered.

- Even the stork in the heavens knows her times, and the turtledove, swallow, and crane keep the time of their coming, but my people know not the rules of the LORD... Therefore they shall fall among the fallen; when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the LORD. When I would gather them, declares the LORD, there are no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree; even the leaves are withered, and what I gave them has passed away from them.” (Jeremiah 8:7–13) ESV

## The Context is Israel Focused

Now we come to Matthew 24 which contains the fig tree prophecy. The prophecy is in verses 32 to 34, but before we get to that it is helpful to show that the context of the preceding verses in this chapter are focused on Israel (even though some of the meaning can apply to others as well). Therefore, this context, in addition to the foundational understanding developed above, show that the fig tree prophecy is about Israel.

### Matthew Chapter 24

**Verses 1 to 2:** Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

**Comments:** They were talking about the temple, which is in Israel. Also, since the destruction of the temple is mentioned above in Verse 2, but it shows up again in Verse 15 below, this shows that the temple will be rebuilt, and therefore the following verses do not refer to the destruction of Israel in 70AD, but instead refer to the end times.

**Verse 3:** Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

**Comments:** They sat on the Mount of Olives, which is in Israel. The Mount of Olives is the very place He went up from at His ascension, and is also the very place He will come down to at His second coming. They also asked for the signs of His second coming and the end of the age (which are at the same time).

**Verses 4 to 5:** And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.

**Comments:** There have been multiple false messiahs in Israel since Israel was born in 1948, and there will probably be several more until the second coming.

**Verse 6:** 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.

**Comments:** Wars and rumors of wars involving Israel have almost been non-stop since Israel was born in 1948.

**Verse 7:** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

**Comments:** Both shortly before Israel was born in 1948, and since then, there have been many global conflicts, and the “United Nations” of the world have risen up against Israel, and there have been several famines and pestilences.

**Verse 8:** All these are the beginning of sorrows.

**Comments:** The Greek word for sorrows means birth pains. There were the birth pains leading up to the nation’s birth in 1948 (the two world wars, the holocaust, and others). Since then, there have also been the birth pains for Israel’s new birth. These will

continue to increase in frequency and intensity, and will reach the climax in the tribulation and second coming, at which time the people of Israel will be born again when they turn to Christ for salvation.

**Verse 9:** “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

**Comments:** Most nations hate Israel and there have been many United Nations resolutions against Israel in recent years. There are few nations left that support Israel, and it seems that they too will abandon Israel by sometime during the tribulation.

**Verse 10:** And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

**Comments:** This probably includes both the people within Israel betraying and hating one another presently, and also a larger fulfillment in the tribulation.

**Verse 11:** Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

**Comments:** False prophets in Israel in current times and in the tribulation.

**Verse 12:** And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

**Comments:** Lawlessness has certainly increased and love has certainly gotten colder since 1948. This will likely continue to get worse and worse up to the second coming.

**Verse 13:** But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

**Comments:** The believing mortals who endure to the end of this age (including enduring through the judgments of the tribulation and second coming) will be saved by the arrival of Jesus and will proceed as mortals into the millennial kingdom.

**Verse 14:** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

**Comments:** This does not mean that the gospel has to be proclaimed through the whole world before the rapture happens, because “the end” does not refer to the rapture. Instead, it refers to the end of the current age (see Matthew 24:3), which is the end of the tribulation at the second coming of Christ. It is called the end of the age because it will be followed by the next age which is the millennial reign of Christ.

Even after the church is raptured, various witnesses during the tribulation will indeed finish proclaiming the gospel to the whole world before “the end”. These witnesses will include many believers who are slain for their testimony (Revelation 6:9), the 144,000 servants who are sealed, redeemed, follow Jesus, and speak truth from their mouth (Revelation 7:3-4 & 14:1-5), the two witnesses testifying along with great signs and that many in the world will see (Revelation 11:3-10), and the angel proclaiming the gospel to every nation, tribe, language, and people (Revelation 14:6).

**Verse 15:** “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand)

**Comments:** The newly built temple will be in Jerusalem in Israel, and will be desecrated by the antichrist at the mid-point of the tribulation.

**Verse 16:** “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

**Comments:** They are to flee to the mountains around Israel.

**Verses 17 to 20:** 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.



**Comments:** Regarding the fleeing from Israel during the tribulation.

**Verse 21:** 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.

**Comments:** The second half of the tribulation, which will be even more intense than the first half.

**Verse 22:** And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

**Comments:** The Lord cuts those days short by His second coming and He stops the enemies who have gathered to attack Israel. The Lord cuts short the enemies' plans.

**Verses 23 to 26:** "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. See, I have told you beforehand. "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.

**Comments:** Great deception, false prophets, false christs, and false signs and wonders in the tribulation.

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

**Comments:** When His second coming occurs, it will be clear and quick, just like a flash of lightning.

**Verse 28:** For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

**Comments:** The verse above may be related to the passage below, and may be speaking of God's judgment against those who gathered to attack Israel.

- “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 (Ezekiel 39:17–18) NKJV

**Verses 29 to 30:** “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. 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.

**Comments:** The true Messiah will return down to the earth on the Mount of Olives, in Israel. It will be very clear to the whole world, and everyone will see Him. This is in contrast to the rapture in which only believers will go up to Him in the clouds and only believers will see Him.

**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.

**Comments:** The verse above is not talking about the rapture or the gathering of the church. Instead, this is the final gathering of the Jewish people to Israel. Additional Scripture about this gathering of Israel is in the chapter titled “The Pre-Tribulation Rapture”.

## The Prophecy of The Fig Tree

Now we get to the actual fig tree prophecy in verses 32 to 34. Here is the full passage, and then it will be broken down with some comments.

- Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things,

know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. (Matthew 24:32–34) NKJV

## Matthew Chapter 24

**Verse 32 part 1:** Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves

**Comments:** Israel as the fig tree was cursed and withered away, but after many years the nation came back to life and put forth leaves in 1948. But the ripe fruit of the salvation of the nation is not there yet.

**Verse 32 part 2:** you know that summer is near.

**Comments:** Summer is the time of harvest. In other words, you know that the harvest of the salvation of the nation is near.

**Verse 33 part 1:** So you also, when you see all these things

**Comments:** The phrase “all these” is also used in verse 8 in referring to the sorrows (or birth pains), so the “all these things” in verse 33 seems to be the birth pains mentioned in verses 4 to 26 along with the nation of Israel having sprouted back to life.

**Verse 33 part 2:** know that it is near—at the doors!

**Comments:** When you see all these signs, the nation of Israel reestablished along with all these birth pains which are increasing in frequency and intensity, you know that the second coming and Israel being born again is very near. As we have seen this happening since 1948 and even much more drastically in recent years, we can know that it is very near. Because the rapture is at least 7 years before the second coming, we can know that the rapture is even closer. Also, the phrase “know that it is near” can also be translated as “know that He is near”, or in other words “know that Jesus is near”.

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

**Comments:** The phrase “this generation will by no means pass away” appears to mean that there will be a significant number of Jewish people who were alive at the birth of Israel in 1948 and who will still be alive at the Lord’s second coming.

## The Fig Tree Springing to Life

When Israel was destroyed by Rome in 70AD, the Jewish people started scattering all over the world, and continued scattering through the world as settlements continued to farther lands over the years. However, God promised to bring them back to the land from all over the world.

- “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. (Jeremiah 16:14–15) NKJV

Here is another promise from God to regather the nation of Israel from all over the world.

- 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 11:11–12) NKJV

Notice above how God said He would gather Israel the second time. The first time was from captivity in Babylon. The second time was from all over the world after being away for nearly 2,000 years.

After many days, the Lord’s mercy did visit them in the latter years (near the end), and they came back into their land.

- 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 (Ezekiel 38:8) NKJV

The land of Israel had indeed been a desolate waste land for many years before Jewish people started coming back and planting trees and establishing farms. Some people started coming back in the late 1800s, with more coming after that, and even larger amounts coming in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s.

Then it happened just as God declared. The nation of Israel was born in one day. It was formed on May 14, 1948.

- “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) NKJV

The “before she was in labor” and “before her pain came” may refer to the fact that Israel’s national birth was before the years of persecution from the nations of the world, and also before the pain of the tribulation period which leads up to Israel’s spiritual birth in Christ.

On the next page is the front page of The Palestine Post newspaper from May 16, 1948 showing that the nation of Israel was born two days earlier.



Notice in the passage below how God said He would regather Israel into their own land, and then after that he would sprinkle clean water on them and give them a new heart and put His Spirit in them.

- For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you (Ezekiel 36:24–27) NKJV

We have definitely seen God gather Israel into the land (and more people are coming each year), and we have definitely seen Israel primarily rejecting the Lord Jesus and not yet cleansed of their sins. At the end of the tribulation, the remaining people of Israel (see Romans 11:26-27) will receive a new heart and receive the Holy Spirit when they turn to the Lord Jesus, and the Lord will do a final gathering of Israel.

The verse below appears to be harmonious with the fig tree prophecy. It appears to say that the generation that sees Zion built up (Israel restored and fairly prosperous as a nation) will also see the appearance of His glory at the second coming.

- When the LORD shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. (Psalm 102:16) KJV

Similarly, the passage below shows that the gathering of all nations against Israel, which is shortly before His second coming, will be near the time that Israel is restored (“at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem...”).

- 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. (Joel 3:1–2) NKJV

The passage below seems near fulfillment. Israel had a decent amount of support from various nations early on. Israel has been built up and is fairly prosperous, but now most nations are turning against Israel.

- 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. (Zechariah 12:3) NKJV

## All The Trees

As shown earlier, the fig tree can represent Israel, and other trees can represent other nations. The fig tree prophecy is also in Luke 21 which has an additional insight because Luke 21 mentions “all the trees”.

- Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. (Luke 21:29–32) NKJV

Israel, the fig tree, sprouted when it became a nation in 1948. However, many other trees also sprouted in the 1900s when several nations were formed as various empires were breaking apart (such as the British, French, Ottoman, and Spanish Empires).

Also, the fig tree sprouting appears to represent when Israel was born in 1948 (not 1967 which is when the eastern part of Jerusalem and some other territory was recovered) since it appears that “all the trees” refer to the other nations being born (and not them recovering part of a city or other territory).

Below is a list that has been condensed from Wikipedia showing some of the nations that were born in the years before and after 1948:



**Before 1948:** 1907 New Zealand, 1910 South Africa, 1912 Albania, 1917 Finland, 1918 Estonia, 1921 Mongolia, 1922 Ireland, 1943 Lebanon, 1945 Indonesia, 1946 Syria

**After 1948:** 1951 Libya, 1956 Tunisia, 1957 Malaysia, 1960 Chad, 1962 Jamaica, 1963 Singapore, 1964 Malta, 1966 Guyana, 1971 Qatar, 1973 Bahamas, 1975 Suriname, 1981 Belize

## The Summer

Matthew 24:32 mentioned that when the fig tree puts forth leaves you know that summer is near, and summer is the time of harvest.

In the Bible, the winter is the cold rainy period, and the summer is the warm sunny period.

- While the earth remains..., cold and heat, winter and summer...shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22) NKJV
- You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter. (Psalm 74:17) NKJV

Many people believe that the book of Song of Solomon is also symbolic of Christ's love for the church. Verses 10 through 13 in chapter 2 of this book seem to contain symbolism for the rapture of the church. Here is the full passage, and then it will be broken down with some comments.

- My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away. (Song of Solomon 2:10–13) ESV

## Song of Solomon Chapter 2

**Verse 10:** My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away,

**Comments:** Christ calling up His beautiful bride in the rapture. Arise can represent both the resurrection in the rapture and also rising up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

**Verse 11-12:** for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

**Comments:** The winter of Israel’s deadness for many years is past, and there are signs of life and the harvest of Israel in the summer is near.

**Verse 13 part 1:** The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

**Comments:** Israel, as the fig tree, has figs developing but they are not yet ripe and ready for harvest. Israel, as the vine, has grapes that are in blossom, but not yet ripe and ready for harvest.

At Jesus’s first coming it was not the season for Israel’s fruitfulness, but now near the second coming, Israel’s season for fruitfulness is near.

- And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.  
(Mark 11:13) NKJV

**Verse 13 part 2:** Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

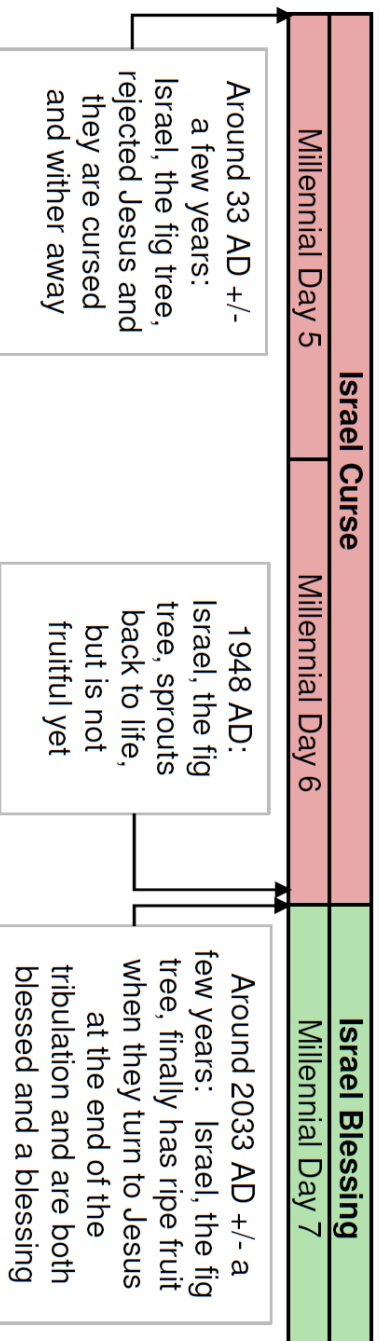
**Comments:** This appears to further represent that the rapture happens before the tribulation and before the harvest of Israel.

## Timing of The End Times Events

The fig tree prophecy and associated prophecies appear to show that the generation that saw Israel born in 1948 will not pass away until the second coming takes place. As of the start of 2024, it has already been 75 ½ years since the nation of Israel was born, and the average life expectancy in Israel is about 83 years. In order for there to be a significant number of people from this generation still alive at the second coming, it is likely that the end times events will start unfolding in the very near future.

## Fig Tree Illustration

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness.’... And it shall come to pass that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. (Zechariah 8:7-8, 13) NKJV



# 6. The Psalm 90 Prophecy

## Why This Psalm?

Psalm 90 appears to tell us that either the rapture, or start or mid-point of the tribulation will be within 80 years of Israel's birth. The nation of Israel was born in a day, as prophesied by Isaiah, on May 14, 1948.

- Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? (Isaiah 66:8) NKJV

We will discuss verses 3 through 17 of Psalm 90. Here is the full passage, and then it will be broken down with some comments.

- You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night. You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up: In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers. For we have been consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days! Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, the years in which we have seen evil. Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands. (Psalm 90:3–17) NKJV

Bible passages and prophecies often have multiple layers of meaning or fulfillment. This is one of the many things that show us how wonderful God's word is.

There can be a passage telling about something that has already happened, but that same passage is also a prophecy about the future.

There can also be a prophecy in the Bible that will have a fulfillment in the near future, but will have another fulfillment in the distant future.

A specific example of this is that some of the passages and prophecies about the destruction of Israel and Jerusalem by the Babylonians many years ago, have another layer that is prophetic of Israel and Jerusalem in the tribulation.

## The Passage with Comments

### Psalm 90

**Verse 3:** You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men."

**Comments:** This appears to be referring to mankind in general facing the destruction of the tribulation, and being called upon to repent and turn to the Lord.

**Verse 4:** For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night

**Comments:** As discussed in more detail in "The Millennial Week Prophecy" chapter, this verse specifically mentions a thousand years are like a day to the Lord. Note this is in the context of both the wrath of the tribulation, and the Lord's return as mentioned later in Psalm 90.

**Verses 5 to 6:** You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up: In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.

**Comments:** The second coming is compared to a flood multiples times in Scripture. Below is one example from Matthew 24 and notice the similarity between “You carry them away like a flood” above and “until the flood came and took them all away” below.

- 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 24:38–39) NKJV

Also, the mention of morning and evening in Psalm 90:5-6 appears to relate to the mention of morning and evening in the passage below. The evening in these contexts appears to be a reference to the tribulation and second coming.

- For you have forgotten the God of your salvation...therefore, though you plant pleasant plants...and make them blossom in the morning that you sow, yet the harvest will flee away in a day of grief and incurable pain...The nations roar like the roaring of many waters, but he will rebuke them, and they will flee far away, chased like chaff on the mountains before the wind and whirling dust before the storm. At evening time, behold, terror! (Isaiah 17:10–14) ESV

**Verses 7 to 8:** For we have been consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

**Comments:** In verse 7, the language switches from them/they to we/us/our, and therefore the focus appears to shift from mankind and the nations of the world in general, to Israel as a nation specifically. Notice the similarities of anger and wrath and iniquities in the two verses above to the passage below in reference to the tribulation. The second part below refers to Israel calling out to God in the tribulation.

- How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire? Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You, and on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.

For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place. Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name's sake! (Psalm 79:5–9) NKJV

**Verse 9:** For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.

**Comments:** The Hebrew word translated as “passed away” in this verse could also be translated as “turned back” or “turned away”. This seems to be saying that Israel’s days growing up as a nation, that is pleasing in their own eyes, started in 1948 and then after days of growth and development is turned away to days of decline in the tribulation of God’s wrath.

The passage below in Lamentations is probably both a reflection on the calamities Israel faced when it was destroyed by Babylon, and also a prophecy on the calamities that Israel will face in the tribulation. The “cast down” and “thrown down” and “brought them down” language of this passage in Lamentations seems to relate to the “passed away” or “turned back” or “turned away” language of Psalm 90:9.

- How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in His anger! He cast down from heaven to the earth the beauty of Israel, and did not remember His footstool in the day of His anger. The Lord has swallowed up and has not pitied all the dwelling places of Jacob. He has thrown down in His wrath the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; He has brought them down to the ground; He has profaned the kingdom and its princes. He has cut off in fierce anger every horn of Israel; He has drawn back His right hand from before the enemy. He has blazed against Jacob like a flaming fire devouring all around. (Lamentations 2:1–3) NKJV



**Verse 10 part 1:** The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

**Comments:** The 70 to 80 years mentioned in this verse does not appear to be referring to an average lifespan. The Hebrew word translated as “lives” in this verse is actually “years” and would literally be translated as “the days of our years”. Additionally, the context of Verses 13 to 17 seems to indicate, not a death at 70 to 80 years, but a continuation beyond the 70 to 80 years of labor and sorrow, and beyond the years of wrath, into years of gladness and glory. That, along with the collective language, appear to indicate that this is a prophecy of the end times in which something will happen between 70 to 80 years after the nation of Israel’s birth in 1948.

The passage below about Israel in Psalm 78 mentions wrath and days and years just like Psalm 90:9-10. Also, the word “consumed” in the passage below is the same Hebrew word that is translated as “consumed” in Psalm 90:7 and “finish” in Psalm 90:9. This further seems to confirm that the Psalm 90 passage is talking about Israel.

- The wrath of God came against them, and slew the stoutest of them, and struck down the choice men of Israel. In spite of this they still sinned, and did not believe in His wondrous works. Therefore their days He consumed in futility, and their years in fear. When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God. Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. (Psalm 78:31–35) NKJV

**Verse 10 part 2:** Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;

**Comments:** The nation of Israel had a “promising start” in 1948 but the years since then have been full of labor and sorrow with several wars, many terrorist attacks, much abuse from the United Nations, and the other things that Israel has had to endure since its birth. Israel will have even more labor and sorrow after the rapture and during the tribulation, but then they will repent and turn to the Lord and He will deliver them.

The word “pain” in the Psalm 25 passage below is the same Hebrew word that is translated as “labor” in Psalm 90:10. Notice how the passage below seems to carry the context of Israel facing sufferings, including the tribulation, and then turning to the Lord.

- Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses! Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins. Consider my enemies, for they are many; And they hate me with cruel hatred. Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles! (Psalm 25:16–22) NKJV

The word “labor” in the Psalm 107 passage below is the same Hebrew word that is translated as “labor” in Psalm 90:10. Notice how the passage below seems to first show the Jews being gathered out of the lands to form the nation of Israel in 1948 and then facing sufferings, including the tribulation, and then turning to the Lord. Other parts of this Psalm, not included below, seem to carry additional pictures of the tribulation, and also pictures of the second coming and the millennium.

- And gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south...Because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High, therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. (Psalm 107:3,11–13) NKJV

**Verse 10 part 3:** For it is soon cut off,

**Comments:** Despite all the sorrow and hardship, Israel has had a certain measure of national and economic success and prosperity and development since 1948, but this will essentially be cut off in the hardship and tribulation following the rapture. The word “soon” in this verse can mean “quickly”, and so it could mean either that the cut off is soon from 1948, or that when the cut off occurs, it happens quickly.

The “cut off” time may be referring to the time of the rapture, when the post-rapture trials for Israel start, or it may be referring to the time that the seven year tribulation starts, when Israel makes a covenant with the antichrist (Daniel 9:27, Isaiah 28:15,18), or it may be referring to the mid-point of the seven year tribulation, when the antichrist cuts off sacrifices and desecrates the temple (Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11).

**Verse 10 part 4:** [and we fly away.](#)

**Comments:** At the mid-point of the tribulation, after the antichrist desecrates the temple, Israel will fly away to the wilderness to be protected for the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation.

The woman in the passages below from Revelation 12 represents the nation of Israel as can be seen from Genesis 37. In Revelation 12:1 we see the woman clothed with the sun and moon and 12 stars, and in Genesis 37:9-10 we see that Joseph’s dream of the sun and moon and 12 stars (11 stars plus himself) represented the family of Jacob (or Israel) from whom the nation of Israel came. The woman flies to the wilderness to be protected for 1 time + 2 times + ½ time = 3 ½ years (or 1,260 days).

- [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. \(Revelation 12:14\) NKJV](#)
- [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. \(Revelation 12:6\) NKJV](#)

The passage below is literally talking about God rescuing the nation of Israel from slavery in Egypt. But it also appears to have a prophetic foreshadow of God bringing the nation of Israel to Him in repentance after they fly to the wilderness and have seen what God has done to the unbelieving world (represented by the Egyptians) in the tribulation. Please notice how both Revelation 12 above and Exodus 19 below mention eagle’s wings.

- The children of Israel...came to the Wilderness...and the LORD called...saying, “...You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” (Exodus 19:1–4) NKJV

Here is a warning from Jesus to fly away to the mountains when they see that the antichrist has desecrated the temple.

- “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”. (Matthew 24:15–16) NKJV

Here is a passage in Psalm 11 linking the flying away to the mountains and the end times pouring out of wrath.

- In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, “Flee as a bird to your mountain”?...Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup. (Psalm 11:1–6) NKJV

The Psalm 55 passage below contains several end times themes such as Israel flying away, the great distress of Israel, and the antichrist breaking his covenant with Israel. The Hebrew words translated as trouble and iniquity in this passage are the same words translated as labor and sorrow in Psalm 90:10.

- Give ear to my prayer, O God, and do not hide Yourself from my supplication...because of the oppression of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me...My heart is severely pained within me...Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me. So I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. Indeed, I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. I would hasten my escape From the windy storm and tempest.” Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues, for I have seen violence and strife in the city...Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it. Destruction is in its midst; Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets...Let death seize them; Let them go down alive into hell...He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; he has broken his covenant. The words of his

mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. (Psalm 55:1–21) NKJV

Notice the similarity in Psalm 55 above to Revelation 19 below. They both mention the deceit of the antichrist and the false prophet, the antichrist's desire for war, and that both the antichrist and false prophet will go down alive into the lake of fire (the beast = the antichrist).

- And I saw the beast...gathered together to make war...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 (Revelation 19:19–20) NKJV

**Verse 11:** Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

**Comments:** This verse again mentions God's anger and wrath, and it is in the tribulation and His second coming when His wrath is poured out upon an unbelieving world.

**Verse 12:** So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**Comments:** Notice how verse 12 of Psalm 90 mentions the numbering of our days for wisdom. This appears to refer to wisdom for the end times in two ways:

1. Psalm 90:4 – The importance of numbering the millennial days in which Jesus' second coming appears to be 2,000 years from the year of His crucifixion and resurrection.
2. Psalm 90:10 – The importance of numbering the days of the 70 to 80 years from Israel's birth. This appears to be a warning to Israel and the world that the end times judgments will begin sometime between 70 to 80 years after 1948.

The 70 to 80 years in Psalm 90:10 appear to be a judgment countdown (from 1948 until the rapture or start or mid-point of the tribulation), similar to how the 120 years in Genesis 6:3 appeared to be a judgment countdown (from then until the flood).

- And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” (Genesis 6:3) NKJV

As a reminder, verse 5 of Psalm 90 mentioned that the judgment was like a flood. Below are two additional passages that compare the end times to the flood in Noah’s day.

- 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...Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (Luke 17:26–30) NKJV
- For this they willfully forget...the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment (2 Peter 3:5–7) NKJV

In this typology, it appears that the day Noah entered the ark represents the day that the tribulation begins. Then they were in the ark 7 days before the flood waters came and those 7 days appear to represent the 7 years of the tribulation. The flood waters coming right after the 7 days appear to represent the final massive judgment at Jesus’ second coming right after the 7 years of the tribulation.

Noah being 600 years old at the coming of the flood waters appears to represent that the earth will be 6,000 years old at the second coming of the Lord. The remnant of those remaining after the flood repopulated the earth after leaving the ark, and the remnant of mortal believers remaining after the tribulation and second coming will repopulate the earth going into the Millennium.

Another interesting typology possibility is in relation to the verse below. Since the Pharaoh is a type of the antichrist, perhaps the age that Moses and Aaron interacted with Pharaoh is typological of the age that the nation of Israel will have when they have some type of interaction with the antichrist (around 2028 to 2031).

- And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:7) NKJV

**Verse 13:** Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.

**Comments:** This seems to be Israel humbled through the affliction of the tribulation and turning to the Messiah Jesus and therefore calling upon Him to return. As the two passages say below, Jesus will return to Israel when Israel returns to Him.

- Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:7) NKJV
- Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the LORD of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3) NKJV

**Verse 14:** Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

**Comments:** After Israel turns to the Lord, the Lord’s mercy will come to them very early on the seventh millennial day (at the very start of it). The passage in Psalm 85 below appears to be a representation of Israel’s repentance and their hope of rejoicing in the Lord.

- Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us

Your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation. (Psalm 85:1–7) NKJV

**Verse 15:** Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, the years in which we have seen evil.

**Comments:** When Israel turns to Jesus and when He returns, then they will have many years of gladness in the millennial kingdom and beyond.

**Verse 16:** Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children.

**Comments:** Israel will see the work and the glory of Jesus at His second coming and in His kingdom. The church will get to see His glory earlier, at the rapture.

- Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see My glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24) ESV

**Verse 17:** And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

**Comments:** The beauty of the Lord will be upon Israel spiritually when they receive salvation in Jesus, and the beauty of the Lord will be upon Israel as a nation when they are raised to prominence as the world headquarters in the millennial kingdom.

## 7. The 70 Weeks & Image Prophecies

### Double Reference and a Gap

The two prophecies discussed in this chapter don't give direct information on the timing of His second coming, however they do provide some valuable insights that help with overall understanding.



Before getting to these two prophecies, it is helpful to discuss what double reference prophecies are and the associated gaps of time.

A double reference prophecy is a prophecy referring to two different events in the same passage. There are several double reference prophecies in the Bible such as this one illustrated for us by Jesus.

- He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:16–21) NKJV

Jesus was quoting from the Isaiah passage below, but notice how He only quoted the part about His first coming, and then He stopped and closed the book and said that part was fulfilled. The other part will not be fulfilled until His second coming.

- **FIRST COMING:** “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,  
**SECOND COMING:** and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” (Isaiah 61:1–3) NKJV

The passages below are two other examples of double reference prophecies showing His first and second comings.

- **FIRST COMING:** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; **SECOND COMING:** And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6–7) NKJV
- **FIRST COMING:** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. **SECOND COMING:** I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.’ (Zechariah 9:9–10) NKJV

Note that there is a gap of time in between Jesus’ first and second comings. The prophets of the Old Testament saw the mountain tops of the first and second comings of Christ but they didn’t see the valley, or the mystery, of the church age in between them.

- Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand **FIRST COMING:** the sufferings of Christ and **SECOND COMING:** the glories that would follow. (1 Peter 1:10–11) NKJV

## The 70 Weeks Prophecy

The 70 weeks prophecy in Daniel chapter 9 is another double reference prophecy, in which there is a gap of time in between the 69th and 70th weeks. Here is the full passage, and then it will be broken down with some comments.

- At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved;

therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: “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 9:23–27)  
NKJV

## Daniel Chapter 9

**Verse 23:** At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

**Comments:** The angel Gabriel came at God’s command to give this prophecy to Daniel.

**Verse 24 Part 1:** “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city.

**Comments:** The Hebrew word for week also means seven, showing that this prophecy will be “seventy sevens” in length (70 x 7 = 490 years). The part saying “for your people and for your holy city” shows that this prophecy relates to Israel and the city of Jerusalem, and not to the church.

**Verse 24 Part 2:** 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.

**Comments:** These things show that this prophecy goes through the end of the age since they are not all complete yet. For example, everlasting righteousness may refer to the people of Israel receiving everlasting righteousness through salvation at the end of this age, and it may also refer to the everlasting righteous rule of the Lord Jesus which will begin at the end of this age and go through the millennium and for eternity.

**Verse 25 Part 1:** “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

**Comments:** Seven weeks = seven sevens = it will take 49 years to restore and build Jerusalem, starting from the command of Artaxerxes in the time of Nehemiah.

- In the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes...I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. Therefore the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick?...” So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?” Then the king said to me, “What do you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”...So it pleased the king to send me (Nehemiah 2:1–6) NKJV

**Verse 25 Part 2:** and sixty-two weeks;

**Comments:** Sixty-two weeks = sixty-two sevens = it will take 434 more years after Jerusalem is rebuilt until the Messiah will officially present Himself. The Messiah did officially present Himself exactly 434 years later, when he rode into Jerusalem on the colt, which was in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9. Even though many people spread clothes and branches on the road, Jesus knew their hearts and cursed Israel for not recognizing Him and

the time (Luke 19:28-44). Christ's sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension occurred just days later in the same year.

**Verse 25 Part 3:** The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

**Comments:** A recap on the rebuilding of Jerusalem, which will take 49 years after the command is issued. The wall only took fifty-two days to rebuild (Nehemiah 6:15), but much more rebuilding was needed besides the wall.

**Verse 26 Part 1:** “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

**Comments:** Here is where the mystery gap in time begins. After the sixty-two weeks means after the sixty-nine weeks (the first seven plus the next sixty-two). The sixty-nine weeks ended when Christ presented himself on the colt and cursed Israel for rejecting Him. A few days after this Messiah was cut off on the cross, not for Himself, but for our sins.

**Verse 26 Part 2:** And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

**Comments:** Further after the first sixty-nine weeks, the Roman people destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary (the temple) in 70AD as also prophesied by Jesus' curse of Israel in Luke 19.

**Verse 26 Part 3:** The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined

**Comments:** Further after the sixty-nine weeks, and after Jerusalem was destroyed, Israel was desolate for nearly 2,000 years.

### Verse 27 Part 1: Then

**Comments:** The “Then” means after the first 69 weeks plus after the crucifixion, destruction, and desolation.

### Verse 27 Part 2: he

**Comments:** The “he” is the “prince who is to come”, or the evil leader that will rise to power over the whole world (also known as the antichrist, or the beast). It appears that he will be related to the Roman people somehow. See Verse 26 Part 2 above.

### Verse 27 Part 3: shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;

**Comments:** The final 70<sup>th</sup> week of the 70 weeks prophecy will start when the antichrist makes a covenant with Israel. This period is also known as the tribulation, and will end exactly seven years later with Christ’s second coming.

### Verse 27 Part 4: But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

**Comments:** In the middle of the tribulation, the antichrist stops the sacrifices and desecrates the temple. This also shows that a temple will be built in Jerusalem before this point.

### Verse 27 Part 5: 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”

**Comments:** The second coming of Christ is when the Lord puts an end to the abominations and desolations of the antichrist.

This prophecy does not say 490 years of 365 days, but instead God gave us the proper year length for this prophecy in the book of Revelation (see Revelation 12:14 and 12:6). Since we know that half of the tribulation is 1,260 days, we can then see that the whole tribulation is 2,520 days, and therefore 360 days for each of the 7 years.

Since the 70<sup>th</sup> week is measured in 360 day years, it seems logical that the first 69 weeks were also measured in 360 day years. Since God is a God of order and design and precision, it seems very likely that the calendar year actually was 360 days originally, but that something happened later to change it to 365 days.

It is possible that through some astronomical event or supernatural intervention, that the calendar year will be changed back to 360 days sometime before the start of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. But it is also possible that the Lord may simply apply 360 days as a prophetic year even with the calendar year being 365 days now.

Since the church was not there for the first 69 weeks, it seems to follow that the church will not be here for the 70<sup>th</sup> week and will be raptured beforehand.

## 70 Weeks Illustration

The First 69 Weeks		The Final 70th Week		
<b>7 Weeks</b>	<b>62 Weeks</b>	<b>Mystery Gap</b>	<b>1 Week</b>	<b>Millennium</b>
49 years From the command until Jerusalem is rebuilt	434 years From Jerusalem rebuilt until Messiah rejected (a few days after this is the crucifixion)	1,993 years The mystery of the church age and up to the tribulation	7 years This is the tribulation and it ends with Israel's acceptance of the Messiah and His second coming	1,000 years Christ ruling as King over the earth

2,000 years (2 millennial days) between the year of Christ's sacrifice and the year of His second coming (see Hosea 5:15-6:2)



## The Image Prophecy

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream in Daniel chapter 2 showing the empires that would exist starting from then and going through to the final antichrist empire, right before Christ's return. Here is the full passage with the dream and its interpretation. After this, the dream part will be broken down with some comments.

- “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break

in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” (Daniel 2:31–45) NKJV

## Daniel Chapter 2

**Verse 31 to 32 Part 1:** “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image’s head was of fine gold,

**Comments:** The head of gold represented the first empire, which is the Babylonian empire. Nebuchadnezzar was ruling over this empire at the time he received this dream.

**Verse 32 Part 2:** its chest and arms of silver,

**Comments:** The chest and arms of silver represented the second empire, which is the empire of the Medes & Persians (two arms = Medes & Persians). Artaxerxes was ruling over this empire at the time the 70 weeks prophecy started.

**Verse 32 Part 3:** its belly and thighs of bronze,

**Comments:** The belly and thighs of bronze represented the third empire, which is the Greek empire.

**Verse 33 Part 1:** its legs of iron,

**Comments:** The legs of iron represented the fourth empire, which is the Roman empire (two legs = Roman empire later split between west and east). The 69<sup>th</sup> week ends during this empire.

The mystery gap of the church age is hidden here between the legs and the feet.

**Verse 33 Part 2:** its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

**Comments:** This will be the final antichrist world empire, which appears to relate to the Romans somehow due to being partly of iron. The feet have 10 toes which means this empire will initially have 10 leaders as further illustrated by the ten horns in Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation chapters 12, 13, and 17.

**Verse 34 Part 1:** You watched while a stone was cut out without hands,

**Comments:** The stone cut without hands represents the eternal uncreated Son of God, the Rock of Salvation.

**Verse 34 Part 2 to 35:** which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

**Comments:** The Lord Jesus will destroy man's corrupt rule, and the Lord's kingdom will be over the whole earth. As mentioned in Revelation 11:15, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ".

As mentioned previously, the mystery gap of the church age is hidden between the iron legs (Rome) and the feet of iron & clay (final empire). All empires in between these two are not mentioned because they are in that hidden valley of the church age between the mountain peaks of the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks. Prior empires such as Egypt and Assyria are not included because these were before the dream.

Here are two passages from the New Testament showing the mystery of the church age which was hidden before but has now been revealed.

- I now rejoice in my sufferings...for the sake of His body, which is the church...to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has

been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:24–27) NKJV

- How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel (Ephesians 3:3–6) NKJV

## 8. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

### Caught Up

At some point in time the body of true believers, known as the church, is taken away to be with the Lord Jesus. This event is referred to as the rapture. The rapture also includes the resurrection of all who trusted in Christ, including those who died previously and those who are still alive at the time of the rapture.

The word “rapture” is derived indirectly from the Latin translation of the Greek word ἁρπάζω (harpazo). This Greek word is used several times in the New Testament (Strong’s Greek #726) and basically means to take away, or snatch away, or catch away.

Here are some of the verses in which this Greek word is used.

- When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. (Matthew 13:19) NKJV
- Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. (John 6:15) NKJV

- And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. (John 10:28–29) NKJV
- The Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more (Acts 8:39) NKJV
- Such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) NKJV
- And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. (Revelation 12:5) NKJV

This verse uses the same Greek word and is specifically referring to the rapture.

- 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 4:17) NKJV

There are various views regarding the timing of the rapture in relation to the second coming of Christ, however it appears that the Bible shows that the rapture will occur at some time before the beginning of the final seven years that end with Christ's second coming.

This final seven years, which is a time of God's mercy and wrath upon an unbelieving world, is known by different names, including "The 70<sup>th</sup> Week" (from the Daniel 9 prophecy) and "The Tribulation". Therefore, this view is usually called the pre-tribulation rapture, and is often abbreviated as pre-trib.

## Israel Distinguished from The Church

Salvation has always been and always will be by God's grace through faith in God our Savior. This is the same for all classes of people. However, the Bible does make some distinctions between two specific classes of people, one known as Israel and one known as the church.

To better understand the timing of the rapture, it is helpful to keep a proper distinction between these two classes of people. Here is a brief description of each:

**Israel (or the Jews):** Jacob is the grandson of Abraham and God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Israel, also known as the Jewish people, are comprised of Jacob's descendants. God chose Israel to be a channel of blessing to the world. Through Israel, we have received the blessing of the Scriptures and the blessing of the Messiah, God becoming a man to save us from our sins.

Even though some Jews did believe, the majority of Israel rejected the Savior Jesus, and Israel was cursed by God. They have suffered under that curse for nearly 2,000 years as they have persisted in unbelief.

But God has given many promises to Israel and He has not abandoned them. Through the tribulation those who survive will receive the Savior, and the nation of Israel will take a position of prominence and once again be a blessing to the world in the millennial kingdom of our Lord Jesus.

**The Church:** The church includes all of those who have trusted in Jesus as their Savior, including both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews), starting from the day of Pentecost and up until the rapture.

As there are specific distinctions of each class, there are also specific promises to each class.

## Some of God's Promises to Israel

*Israel will suffer the tribulation of God's wrath because of their unbelief, but will repent and turn to their Messiah*

- The house of Israel has become dross to Me... I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you shall be melted in its midst. As silver is melted in the midst of a furnace, so shall you be melted in its midst; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have poured out My fury on you. (Ezekiel 22:18,21-22) NKJV
- But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (Deuteronomy 4:29–30) NKJV
- Among the tribes of Israel I make known what is sure...I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me." (Hosea 5:9,15) NKJV
- So is the house of Israel ashamed...For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.' (Jeremiah 2:26–27) NKJV

*Israel will be saved from the tribulation*

- Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:7) NKJV
- And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered (Daniel 12:1) NKJV

*The Lord will do a final gathering of Israel to Himself at Jerusalem when He comes*

- 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 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) NKJV
- “For I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven,” says the LORD. (Zechariah 2:6) NKJV
- 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 11:12) NKJV
- So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come,...who are outcasts..., and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem. (Isaiah 27:13) NKJV

*Israel will be elevated to prominence in the Millennium when Jesus is King over the whole world from Jerusalem*

- At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts. (Jeremiah 3:17) NKJV
- Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.’ “Thus says the LORD: ‘I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.’ (Zechariah 8:1–3) NKJV
- He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken.” (Deuteronomy 26:19) NKJV



- “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 3:20) NKJV

## Some of God’s Promises to The Church

### *The church will not suffer the tribulation of God’s wrath*

It is important to distinguish between tribulation and THE tribulation. As mentioned in the verse below, the church will indeed face tribulation from a sinful world, however the church will not face THE tribulation of God’s wrath.

- In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) NKJV

God’s wrath is for His enemies, not those who trust in Him.

- The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies...The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him. But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, and darkness will pursue His enemies. (Nahum 1:2,7–8) NKJV
- The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath. (Proverbs 11:23) NKJV
- Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. (Proverbs 11:4) NKJV

God’s wrath is appointed for the unbelieving world, however believers will receive salvation. The salvation that believers will receive in the rapture is the fulfillment of several of God’s salvation promises, such as being resurrected, being conformed to the image of Christ, and being saved from His wrath.

- 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. 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 (1 Thessalonians 5:2–9) NKJV

Jesus will appear to believers (those who wait for Him) in the pre-tribulation rapture for salvation from His wrath. His appearance, or second coming, for the world (when every eye will see Him) will be at least seven years later, at the end of the tribulation.

- Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Hebrews 9:28) NKJV
- For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:9–10) NKJV

Believers are saved from God’s wrath through Jesus.

- But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:8–10) NKJV

*The church will receive the blessing of the open door into heaven before the judgments upon the earth*

Jesus promises the church both an open door and that the church will be kept from the hour of trial upon the whole world.

- I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 3:8–10) NKJV

John got a preview of the rapture when he heard the Son of God speaking to him as the sound of a trumpet and saying “Come up here” through the open door into heaven. And this occurred before John saw the judgments of the tribulation upon the earth.

- After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” (Revelation 4:1) NKJV

Here is a passage that associates the promise of the rapture with the sound of the trumpet of God, similar to John in the verse above hearing the voice of God as a trumpet.

- For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:15–18) NKJV

This is another passage associating the rapture with a trumpet sound. The last trumpet referred to here is the last trumpet of the church age, which is the trumpet of God. This is different from the seven trumpet judgments (Revelation 8 to 11) and the second coming of Christ (Matthew 24), which are the trumpets of angels.

- And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 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 15:49–52) NKJV

Here is the Revelation 3 passage again and note how it says to test “those who dwell on the earth”.

- I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 3:8–10) NKJV

A distinction needs to be made between those who dwell on the earth and those who dwell in heaven. At the rapture, the church will be taken to dwell in heaven. This will leave behind those who dwell on the earth, who will experience the tribulation.

- 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 12:12) NKJV
- Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. (Revelation 13:6) NKJV

*The church (the bride) will be taken to be with her Beloved, be made ready, and come with Him at His second coming*

The church is symbolized as the bride of Christ several times in Scripture.

- John answered and said, “...I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom” (John 3:27–29) NKJV

- The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son (Matthew 22:2) NKJV
- For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:2) NKJV
- “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:31–32) NKJV

The Beloved will call (with a voice like a trumpet) for His bride to rise up (in the resurrection of the rapture) and to come away and be with Him in heaven.

- My beloved spoke, and said to me: “Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.” (Song of Solomon 2:10) NKJV
- In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:2–3) NKJV
- 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 4:17) NKJV
- 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. (1 Thessalonians 5:9–10) NKJV

In heaven, the bride is made ready and is clothed in fine linen, white and clean, and then the King and His bride will present themselves to the world at His second coming.

- Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude...crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”...Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The One sitting on it is called Faithful and True...And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. (Revelation 19:6–14) ESV

Notice how similar the Joel 2 passage below is to the Revelation 19 passage above. They both mention the bride coming with the Bridegroom after the bride has been dressed, they both mention the army, and they both mention the horses.

- Blow the trumpet...For the day of the LORD...is at hand...A people come, great and strong...A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns...Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run...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? Blow the trumpet...Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. (Joel 2:1–16) NKJV

The saints coming with the Lord at His second coming was also prophesied in other passages. Here are two examples.

- Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” (Jude 14–15) NKJV
- 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. (Isaiah 13:1–5) NKJV

The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 mentions the groom, and mentions ten virgins, but where is the bride?

- Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who... went out to meet the bridegroom...And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'...and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' (Matthew 25:1–12) NKJV

The bride has been with the Groom and is coming with Him. It appears that the wedding may happen on the earth right after the second coming.

The five wise virgins appear to represent genuine believers at the time of the second coming, who will be allowed to witness the marriage of Christ and the church, be allowed to partake of the marriage feast, and be allowed to enter the millennial kingdom.

The five foolish virgins appear to represent fake believers (fake virgins, fake guests, fake servants), who will be shut out of all these blessings and be cast into outer darkness (hell).

- Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son...But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Matthew 22:1–13) NKJV
- But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him

his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 24:48–51) NKJV

### *The church will not be prevailed against*

Here the Lord promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church.

- I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18) ESV

However, in these two passages we see the antichrist prevailing against the saints. Therefore, the church saints must have been taken from the earth prior to this, and this is referring to a different class of saints, those who are saved after the rapture (sometimes referred to as tribulation saints).

- I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them (Daniel 7:21) NKJV
- 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. (Revelation 13:7) NKJV

## A Few Additional Insights from The Book of Revelation

### *Outline of the book of Revelation*

The Lord Jesus gives us an outline to the book of Revelation in the verse below.

- Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. (Revelation 1:19) NKJV



The “things which you have seen” is the vision of the glorified Lord Jesus in chapter 1.

The “things which are” are the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3, which are representative of the entire church age. Then the church age ends with the rapture as symbolized in Revelation 4:1.

The “things which will take place after this” is everything that happens after the rapture. These are the experiences in heaven in chapter 4, the judgments of the tribulation in chapters 5 through 18, the second coming of Christ in chapter 19, the millennial kingdom and great white throne judgment in chapter 20, and the eternal state in chapter 21. Then the book concludes in chapter 22.

We can see from Revelation 4:1 below, that when Jesus said to John “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this” that the things described in the following chapters must take place after the rapture.

- After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” (Revelation 4:1) NKJV

The church is mentioned several times in chapters 1 through 3, and is mentioned in the last verse of chapter 3, but is absent from mention again until after all the judgments have passed.

To further illustrate this point, the Lord gives the same warning message seven times in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22):

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

However, in the midst of the tribulation in Revelation 13:9 there is a very similar warning message, but the church is absent from mention:

“If anyone has an ear, let him hear.”

## *The 24 elders*

Shortly after he is taken to heaven, and before the judgments, John sees 24 elders on 24 thrones.

- Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. (Revelation 4:4) ESV

Notice above how the 24 elders were clothed in white garments and had crowns on their heads. Notice below how white garments and crowns are promised to the church.

- He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments... “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Revelation 3:5–6) NKJV
- Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. “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 2:10–11) NKJV

It was also promised to church believers to reign with Christ.

- To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5–6) NKJV
- To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (Revelation 3:21) NKJV

One who overcomes, as mentioned in the passages above, is simply someone whose faith is in the ONE who overcame. It is explained well in 1 John 5:4-5 as simply one whose faith is in Jesus, and therefore was born again.

- For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he

who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:4–5) NKJV

The passage below uses a related Greek word and could be translated as “we are more than overcomers through Him”.

- Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37–39) NKJV

The verse below uses a related Greek word and could be translated as “who gives us the overcoming through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

- But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57) NKJV

The 24 elders cannot be believers who died and went to heaven before the rapture, because in the verses below, Paul and Peter inform us that crowns will not be awarded until the Lord appears, which indicates the rapture.

- When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. (1 Peter 5:4) NKJV
- Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8) NKJV

The 24 elders cannot be angels because they have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and come from every nation, people group, and language.

- The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb...And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people

and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:8–10) NKJV

The 24 elders cannot be tribulation saints. The passage below makes a distinction between those on the thrones and the tribulation saints. Also, the tribulation saints are referred to as souls, which means they have not been resurrected yet.

- 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...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4) NKJV

The LORD will punish the wicked at His second coming and will reign over the earth with His elders.

- 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 24:21–23) NKJV

The 24 elders appear to represent the church in heaven after the rapture and after receiving the crowns but before the judgments of the tribulation.

They also appear to represent that the church believers are a royal priesthood, similar to how the priesthood was divided into 24 courses in 1 Chronicles 24:1-19.

- But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9) NKJV

## *The body of Christ*

As previously mentioned, the woman in Revelation 12 represents Israel (see Genesis 37:9-10). The Child represents the Lord Jesus because the Messiah came to the world through Israel, and in the passages below, the Child was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.

- 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...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. 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 12:1–6) NKJV
- The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son...and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance...You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' (Psalm 2:7–9) NKJV
- 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....And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:15–16) NKJV

Even though Jesus will be ruling over the earth in the millennium, the rod of iron (or a strong government) will be needed because the mortal people will still have sinful natures.

Besides representing the Lord Jesus, the Child also represents the church. The church is called the body of Christ, and Christ is the Head.

- Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Corinthians 12:27) NKJV

- And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Colossians 1:18) NKJV

As the Head will rule with a rod of iron, so also the body will rule with a rod of iron, under the Head.

- And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father (Revelation 2:26–27) NKJV

A person “who overcomes, and keeps His works until the end” is simply a person who trusts in His saving work, and is therefore a member of the body of Christ.

In Revelation 12, the Child was caught up to God before the woman fled into the wilderness. Israel will flee into the wilderness at the mid-point of the tribulation. Therefore, it appears that this symbolism indicates that that rapture will occur before the mid-point of the tribulation. Since the head, Jesus, ascended to heaven before the start of the tribulation, it seems logical that the body, the church, will also be caught up to heaven before the start of the tribulation.

## The Rapture Distinguished from The Second Coming

In the rapture, Christ comes in the air and brings the saints up to Him to go to heaven, and only the saints will see Him.

- 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18) NKJV

In the second coming, Christ comes down to the Mount of Olives (the same place where He ascended from) with the saints to bring judgment and rule over earth, and everyone will see Him.

- And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You... And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. (Zechariah 14:4–9) NKJV
- Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses... And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. (Revelation 19:11–15) NKJV
- 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. (Isaiah 13:1–5) NKJV
- Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all (Jude 14–15) NKJV
- When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:4) NKJV
- Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7) NKJV
- 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. 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. (Matthew 24:29–30) NKJV

The rapture is on an unknown day before the start of the tribulation.

- But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Mark 13:32) NKJV

The second coming is known to be exactly 7 years (or 2,520 days) from the covenant with the antichrist, and exactly 3 ½ years (or 1,260 days) from the desecration of the temple by the antichrist. Because of this, many people will know the day of His second coming. Even the enemy will know, and will go out to gather armies for that day.

- 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. (Daniel 9:27) NKJV
- 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) NKJV
- 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. (Revelation 16:14) NKJV
- 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. (Revelation 19:19) NKJV

## The Day of The Lord

### *Introduction*

The term “the day of the Lord” has two senses. In one sense it refers to the 24 hour day of the Lord’s second coming. In another sense it refers to the millennial day of the Lord’s 1,000 year reign.

In a normal day on the earth, the rising of the morning star and later the dawning of light announce that the sun will soon be rising, with the sunrise starting the actual direct light of the day. In



like manner, the rapture of the church and later the tribulation announce that the second coming will be soon be here, with the second coming starting the actual day of the Lord.

Note: The planet Venus can appear in the sky before the sun rises (“morning star”), or after the sun sets (“evening star”). This analysis focuses on the morning star aspect of appearing before the sunrise.

### *The Rapture: The morning star of the day of the Lord*

Just like the morning star rises before the dawning of light and before the sunrise, so also the rapture of the church occurs before the tribulation and before the second coming.

Here the Lord Jesus gives the promise of the morning star blessing to genuine believers.

- And I will give him the morning star. (Revelation 2:28) NKJV

Here we can see that the blessing of the Morning Star is the blessing of Himself. At the rapture, He takes believers to Himself.

- I, Jesus, ...am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star. (Revelation 22:16) NKJV

Here we see the day dawning and morning star linked to the coming of the Lord.

- For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 1:16–19) ESV

## *The Tribulation: The dawning of light of the day of the Lord*

Just like the dawning of light is after the morning star and before the sunrise, so also the tribulation is after the rapture and before the second coming.

Technically the tribulation is the dawning of the day of the Lord, but not the day of the Lord itself. From the two passages below, we can see that the sun and moon will be darkened right after the tribulation and right before the day of the Lord.

- 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. 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. (Matthew 24:29–30) NKJV
- 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) NKJV

Also, we can see in the passage below that the gathering of nations to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, which occurs near the end of the tribulation, is before the day of the Lord (“the day of the Lord is near”).

- 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... Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around... Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat... 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) NKJV

The judgments of the tribulation increase in intensity as it gets closer to the second coming, similar to how the light increases in intensity as it gets closer to the actual sunrise, and similar to how birth pains increase in intensity as it gets closer to the actual birth.

Believers will be kept from the hour of trial, or in other words they will be kept out of the very time period of the tribulation, by being taken out beforehand.

- Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 3:10) NKJV

### *The Second Coming: The sunrise of the day of the Lord*

The sunrise is the second coming, which is at the end of the tribulation, and brings the final and most severe judgments upon the world, similar to how the sun brings direct heat and light. It is the arrival of the day of the Lord both in the 24 hour day sense and in the millennial day sense.

Joel 2:15-16 is repeated here and please notice the reference to the bridegroom going out from his chamber. (The Bridegroom and the bride come together at the Lord's second coming.)

- Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. (Joel 2:15–16) NKJV

This passage in Psalm 19 links the bridegroom coming out of his chamber to the rising sun.

- In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. (Psalm 19:4–6) NKJV

Here we see that the wicked (those who have a rich view of themselves) will be exposed at the second coming for what they really are by the burning heat of the sunrise. But the tribulation saints who remain on the earth will experience the healing of the second coming.

- Because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. (James 1:10–11) NKJV
- “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. (Malachi 4:1–2) NKJV

Here we see the countenance of the Lord Jesus compared to the sun.

- Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Revelation 1:16) NKJV

The second coming will be terrifying to the Lord’s enemies (those who refuse to believe).

- Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory. (Psalm 97:2–6) NKJV
- Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? (Job 38:12–13) NKJV

The rising sun will rescue believing Israel and bring glory to the nation at the end of the tribulation.

- Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea...God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire. “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psalm 46:2–10) ESV
- Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1–3) NKJV

The second coming is the arrival of the day of the Lord.

- 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. (Isaiah 13:9) NKJV
- Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’s wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land. (Zephaniah 1:18) NKJV
- 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) NKJV

## The Mystery of The Rapture

These passages show that there are mysteries that were hidden and kept secret in the Old Testament, but are now revealed in the New Testament.

- According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations (Romans 16:25–26) NKJV
- The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. (Colossians 1:26) NKJV
- By revelation He made known to me the mystery...which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed (Ephesians 3:3–5) NKJV

The mystery of the church is shown in these passages.

- By revelation He made known to me the mystery...which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel (Ephesians 3:3–6) NKJV
- “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:31–32) NKJV

The mystery of the rapture is shown in this passage.

- 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) NKJV

Now that these mysteries have been revealed, we can see how the church and the rapture were hidden in typology.

Each of the typologies below will have a Scripture reference in the title. If you are not yet familiar with the story then it would be helpful to read that Scripture before continuing.

## Days of Noah and Lot Typology

### *Introduction to the days of Noah and the days of Lot*

Jesus specifically states in the verses below that the days of Noah and the days of Lot are typological of the end times.

- And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man...Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot...Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (Luke 17:26-30) NKJV
- But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:37) NKJV

Peter states similarly in the passage below.

- For if God did not spare the...ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked...then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:4–9) NKJV

## *The days of Noah (Genesis 5-9)*

**Days of Noah:** Noah's family entered the ark and then after seven days the flood came, and God preserved them through it all.

**End Times:** A remnant of believers from Israel (and other nations) will be preserved by God through both the judgments of the seven year tribulation and also the flood of judgment at His second coming.

- So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. (Genesis 7:7–10) NKJV

**Days of Noah:** Noah's family repopulated the earth after the flood.

**End Times:** The remnant of mortal believers will repopulate the earth after the second coming.

- So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." (Genesis 9:1) NKJV
- These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. (Genesis 9:19) NKJV

**Days of Noah:** God took Enoch from the earth before Noah's seven days in the ark, and Enoch was absent from the place of judgment.

**End Times:** God will take the church from the earth before the seven years of the tribulation, and the church will be absent from the place of judgment.

- And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. (Genesis 5:24) NKJV



**Days of Noah:** Enoch never experienced death.

**End Times:** Believers taken in the rapture will never experience death.

- By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. (Hebrews 11:5) NKJV
- 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) NKJV

**Days of Noah:** Shortly after the mention of Enoch being taken in Genesis 5, God pronounced the judgment of the flood upon the world in Genesis 6.

**End Times:** Shortly after the rapture, God will pronounce the judgment of the tribulation and second coming upon the world.

- Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth...So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth” (Genesis 6:5–7) NKJV

As a reminder, typology is about how it is presented in the Bible, not about all of the exact historical details. By calculating from the numbers in Genesis 5, we can see indirectly that Enoch was raptured about 669 years before the flood. However, it is still a valid type for the rapture of the church because the rapture of Enoch is mentioned in the narrative shortly before the pronouncement of the flood. Also, it is interesting to note that Enoch’s son Methuselah died in the same year that the flood started (probably shortly before it started).

## *The days of Lot (Genesis 18-19)*

**Days of Lot:** Lot chose an earthly land.

**End Times:** Israel desired an earthly kingdom.

- Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. (Genesis 13:11) NKJV
- Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” (1 Samuel 8:4–5) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Lot’s heart was on earthly cities and moved his tent toward Sodom.

**End Times:** Israel’s heart was toward the earthly city of Jerusalem (which spiritually is called Sodom).

- Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. (Genesis 13:12) ESV
- If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! ... If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy. (Psalm 137:5–6) NKJV
- The great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. (Revelation 11:8) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Lot was shut in the house and protected. This is similar to how Noah was shut in the ark and protected (Genesis 7:16).

**End Times:** The remnant of Israel will be shut in and protected and preserved in the tribulation and second coming.

- So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. (Genesis 7:16) NKJV

- But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. (Genesis 19:10) NKJV
- Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity (Isaiah 26:20–21) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** The angels struck the men outside with blindness, and they could not find the door, and they were not able to harm Lot.

**End Times:** God will strike the persistently unbelieving world with strong delusion. The unbelieving world will also not be able to harm the believing remnant of Israel because the Lord has promised to preserve a remnant.

- And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door. (Genesis 19:11) NKJV
- 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 2:11–12) NKJV
- And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel...will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God. For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return; The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land. (Isaiah 10:20–23) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Lot fled from the city of Sodom into the wilderness and to the mountains to avoid harm.

**End Times:** The remnant of Israel will flee from the city of Jerusalem (which spiritually is called Sodom) into the wilderness

and to the mountains to avoid harm. This will occur in the middle of the tribulation. The woman in Revelation 12 is symbolic of Israel (see Revelation 12:1-2 and Genesis 37:9-10).

- So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.” (Genesis 19:17) NKJV
- Then Lot went...and dwelt in the mountains (Genesis 19:30) NKJV
- Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Matthew 24:15–16) NKJV
- In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, “Flee as a bird to your mountain”? For look! The wicked bend their bow...that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart...Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup. (Psalm 11:1–6) NKJV
- 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. (Revelation 12:14) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Abraham was a man of faith in God.

**End Times:** Believers are people of faith in Christ.

- Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. (Galatians 3:7) NKJV
- So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Galatians 3:9) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Abraham was a stranger and sojourner and pilgrim in the land.

**End Times:** Believers are strangers and sojourners and pilgrims on the earth, as seen in both the Old & New Testaments.

- For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. (1 Chronicles 29:15) ESV
- Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were. (Psalm 39:12) NKJV
- These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (Hebrews 11:13) NKJV
- Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Abraham desired a better heavenly land.

**End Times:** Believers desire a heavenly land and heavenly kingdom.

- They desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:16) NKJV
- And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! (2 Timothy 4:18) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Abraham waited for the heavenly city.

**End Times:** Believers wait for the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem.

- By faith Abraham...dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Hebrews 11:8–10) NKJV
- Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2) NKJV
- But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:22–24) NKJV

**Days of Lot:** Abraham left his tent before the judgment on Sodom was pronounced. Abraham was absent from the place of judgment and he was up with the Lord. We can see that Abraham was up with the Lord since the Lord said “I will go down now” while He was in the presence of Abraham (see Genesis 18:21).

**End Times:** Believers will leave their earthly tents, and receive their glorified bodies in the rapture, before the judgment on the world is pronounced. Believers will be absent from the place of judgment, being caught up to be with the Lord in heaven.

- Then the LORD appeared to him...as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day...and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground (Genesis 18:1–2) NKJV
- By faith Abraham...dwelt in the land of promise..., dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise (Hebrews 11:8–9) NKJV
- Knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. (2 Peter 1:14) NKJV

- For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Corinthians 5:1) NKJV
- 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 4:17) NKJV

As a brief recap, Jesus said that the days of Noah and days of Lot were typological of the end times. In the days of Noah, Enoch was raptured to be with the Lord before the judgment of the flood was pronounced. In the days of Lot, Abraham left his tent to be with the Lord before the judgment on Sodom was pronounced.

## Bride and Groom Typology

### *Isaac & Rebekah (Genesis 22-24)*

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Isaac was miraculously born of a barren woman.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus was miraculously born of a virgin.

- But Sarai was barren; she had no child. (Genesis 11:30) NKJV
- Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14) NKJV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Isaac (who was with Abraham) made it to the place of sacrifice on the third day.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

- Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. (Genesis 22:4) NKJV
- Jesus...took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "...the Son of Man will be betrayed...and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit

on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” (Mark 10:32–34) NKJV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Isaac carried the wood of the sacrifice.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus carried the wood of the cross.

- So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son (Genesis 22:6) NKJV
- And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called...Golgotha, where they crucified Him (John 19:17–18) NKJV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Isaac was not put to death and therefore was raised from the dead in a figurative sense.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus literally rose from the dead.

- By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. (Hebrews 11:17–19) NKJV
- But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.” (Matthew 28:5–6) NKJV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** After we see Isaac being offered and figuratively rising from the dead in Genesis 22:9-13, we do not see him again until Genesis 24:62-67 when he receives his bride. We do not even see Isaac in Genesis 22:19, where we see Abraham and the young men going home after Isaac was offered, but we do not see Isaac himself.

**Jesus & the church:** After the early believers saw Jesus being offered, rising from the dead, and ascending, in general the believers on earth will not see Jesus again until the rapture, when He receives His bride.



- So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba. (Genesis 22:19) ESV
- Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory (John 17:24) ESV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Abraham's servant's name was Eliezer, which means "God is help".

**Jesus & the church:** To believers, the Holy Spirit is God our Helper.

- But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" (Genesis 15:2) NKJV
- But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (John 15:26) NKJV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Abraham sent his servant to get a bride for his son Isaac.

**Jesus & the church:** The Father sends the Holy Spirit to get a bride for His Son Jesus.

- So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house,... "go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac." (Genesis 24:2-4) NKJV
- And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8) NKJV
- In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13) NKJV

- And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30) NKJV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Rebekah “arose” and was “taken” by the servant and “departed” from the land.

**Jesus & the church:** The believers will arise in resurrection by the Holy Spirit, be taken in the rapture, and depart from the earth.

- Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed. (Genesis 24:61) NKJV
- But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11) NKJV

**Isaac & Rebekah:** Isaac comes and Rebekah meets him, and he takes her to be his bride.

**Jesus & the church:** The Lord will come and believers will meet Him in the air, and He will take them to be His bride and to be with Him forever.

- Now Isaac came...and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; for she had said to the servant, “Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?”...Then Isaac...took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. (Genesis 24:62–67) NKJV
- 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 4:17) NKJV

## *Joseph & Asenath (Genesis 37-45)*

**Joseph & Asenath:** Joseph's brothers rejected him and did not believe that he would reign over them.

**Jesus & the church:** Israel in general rejected Jesus and did not believe that Jesus is the Messiah who will reign over them.

- And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. (Genesis 37:8) NKJV
- But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."...And He marveled because of their unbelief. (Mark 6:4–6) NKJV

**Joseph & Asenath:** Joseph's brothers plotted to put him to death.

**Jesus & the church:** The spiritual leaders of Israel plotted to put Jesus to death.

- When they saw him from a distance...they plotted against him to put him to death. (Genesis 37:18) NASB
- All the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. (Matthew 27:1) NKJV

**Joseph & Asenath:** Joseph was raised from the prison and was exalted to the right hand of Pharaoh and put over all of Egypt.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus was raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of the Father and put over all of creation.

- Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be

greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:39–41) NKJV

- He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (Ephesians 1:20–21) NKJV

**Joseph & Asenath:** Joseph took his Gentile bride before the 7 year famine. She was taken up to be with her bridegroom of high position, and she was absent from any mention during the 7 year famine.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus will take His primarily Gentile bride before the 7 year tribulation. The church will be taken up to be with Him and to see His glory, and the church will be absent from the 7 year tribulation.

- And Pharaoh called Joseph’s name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt...Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. (Genesis 41:45,53–54) NKJV
- Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24) NKJV

**Joseph & Asenath:** Joseph’s brothers are mentioned several times during the 7 year famine.

**Jesus & the church:** Unbelieving Israel will go through the 7 year tribulation.

- The famine was over all the face of the earth...And the famine became severe...So Joseph’s ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. (Genesis 41:56,42:3) NKJV

- Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:7) NKJV

**Joseph & Asenath:** Joseph tested and afflicted his brothers during the famine.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus will test and afflict Israel (and the world) during the tribulation, as His mercy to help people repent and also as His wrath against sin. But the church will be kept from this time of trial.

- But Joseph said to them, “It is as I spoke to you...In this manner you shall be tested” (Genesis 42:14–15) NKJV
- At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered (Daniel 12:1) NKJV
- Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 3:10) NKJV

**Joseph & Asenath:** Joseph revealed himself to his brothers after testing them, and they came to him and wept.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus will reveal Himself to Israel after testing them, and they will come to Him and mourn.

- Joseph made himself known to his brothers... But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt...Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. (Genesis 45:1-4,14) NKJV

- And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10) NKJV

### *Moses & Zipporah (Exodus 2-18)*

**Moses & Zipporah:** Israel rejected Moses, and did not think he would deliver them from slavery to Egypt and rule over them.

**Jesus & the church:** Israel in general rejected Jesus, and did not think He would deliver them from slavery to sin and rule over them.

- This Moses whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer (Acts 7:35) NKJV
- But you denied the Holy One and the Just ...and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. (Acts 3:14–15) NKJV
- Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.” (Acts 13:46) NKJV

**Moses & Zipporah:** After being rejected, Moses left Egypt and went to Midian. Moses was gone for many years, until the time when Israel received him.

**Jesus & the church:** After being rejected, Jesus left the world and returned to heaven. Jesus has been gone for many years, until the time when Israel will receive Him after their affliction and testing.

- Then he said, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us?” ...But Moses fled...and dwelt in the land of Midian (Exodus 2:14–15) NKJV

- “I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.” Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. (Hosea 5:15-6:1-2) NKJV

**Moses & Zipporah:** Moses received his Gentile bride Zipporah while away from Egypt, and before the plagues on Egypt.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus will receive His primarily Gentile bride, the church, while away from the world, and before the plagues of the tribulation upon the world.

- Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. (Exodus 2:21) NKJV
- For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:25–26) NKJV

**Moses & Zipporah:** After being mentioned while Moses is on his way back to Egypt, Zipporah is absent from mention again until after all the plagues have passed, Israel has been delivered, and they are on their way to the promised land. Then we see that Zipporah had been away.

**Jesus & the church:** The church will be absent from the tribulation and be away in heaven until Israel repents.

- Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, took Moses’ wife Zipporah, after he had sent her away...Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, came with...his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was camped, at the mount of God. (Exodus 18:2–5) NASB

**Moses & Zipporah:** Besides Zipporah, it appears that the flock is an extra picture of the church. Moses was the shepherd, who took the flock to the mountain of God before the plagues upon Egypt. The flock is absent from mention again, even in Exodus 4:18 when Moses returns to Jethro.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus is the shepherd, who will take the sheep (the church) to God in heaven before the plagues of the tribulation.

- Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. (Exodus 3:1) NKJV
- I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. (John 10:11) NKJV

**Moses & Zipporah:** Then Moses had a “second coming” to Egypt accompanied with plagues and then Israel’s deliverance.

**Jesus & the church:** Jesus’ second coming to the world will be accompanied with plagues (plagues of the tribulation and plagues of His second coming), and then Israel’s repentance.

- Also I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to what I did among them. Afterward I brought you out. (Joshua 24:5) NKJV
- 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. (Revelation 15:1) NKJV

**Moses & Zipporah:** Pharaoh oppressed the Israelites, and the Lord cast him into the sea.

**Jesus & the church:** The antichrist (the beast) will oppress Israel and the world, and the Lord will cast him into the lake of fire along with the false prophet.



- Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. (Exodus 15:4) NKJV
- 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. (Revelation 19:20) NKJV

### *Boaz & Ruth (The book of Ruth)*

**Boaz & Ruth:** Naomi lost her land, and went to a foreign land.

**Jesus & the church:** Israel lost their land shortly after their rejection of Jesus, and were scattered to foreign lands.

- Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. (Ruth 1:1) NKJV
- Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:41–44) NKJV

**Boaz & Ruth:** While Naomi was out of her land, the Gentile Ruth came to know the true God through Naomi.

**Jesus & the church:** While Israel was out of their land, many Gentiles around the world (and some Jews) became part of the church by trusting in the Savior who came through Israel.

- But Ruth said: "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16) NKJV

- I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Romans 11:11) NKJV

**Boaz & Ruth:** Naomi suffered much loss while out of her land through the death of her husband and sons.

**Jesus & the church:** Israel (the Jews) suffered much loss while out of their land through many things over the years, one example being the holocaust.

- The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband. (Ruth 1:2–5) NKJV

**Boaz & Ruth:** Naomi came back to her land while Ruth was still with her.

**Jesus & the church:** Israel came back to their land (in effect in 1948, when the nation was born) while the church was still in the world.

- Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. (Ruth 1:19) NKJV

**Boaz & Ruth:** The husband of Ruth had died, and therefore she could be married to Boaz.

**Jesus & the church:** The church has become dead to the law, that they may be married to Christ.

- So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is

free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. (Romans 7:3–4) NKJV

**Boaz & Ruth:** Boaz took the Gentile Ruth and she became his bride. Then after this verse, Ruth is not seen again for the rest of the book.

**Jesus & the church:** The Lord Jesus will take the primarily Gentile church as His bride up to heaven in the rapture. Then the church will not be seen again for the rest of the age, or in other words will not be seen in the tribulation.

- So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife (Ruth 4:13) NKJV
- After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." (Revelation 4:1) NKJV

**Boaz & Ruth:** While the focus had been on Ruth for a while, the focus then returned to Naomi for the rest of the book, and Naomi took Ruth's child.

**Jesus & the church:** After the church is raptured, the focus will return in large part to Israel, and Israel will take custody of the gospel message in large part through the 144,000 witnesses and others.

- Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. (Ruth 4:16) NKJV
- 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 (Revelation 7:4) NKJV

## Other Typology

### *The image and the furnace (Daniel 3)*

**History:** Nebuchadnezzar set up an image that was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide and issued a command that if anyone did not worship the image, they would be cast into the furnace.

**Typology:** The antichrist, whose number is 666, will set up an image and cause anyone who does not worship the image to be killed.

- Nebuchadnezzar...made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits... Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that...you shall fall down and worship the gold image...and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." (Daniel 3:1–6) NKJV
- 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... 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 13:15–18) NKJV

**History:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were cast into the 7 times hotter fiery furnace.

**Typology:** Israel will be thrust into the midst of the 7 year tribulation of the fire of God's wrath.

- He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. (Daniel 3:19) NKJV
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:23) NKJV
- As men gather silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin into the midst of a furnace, to blow fire on it, to melt it; so I will gather you in My

anger and in My fury, and I will leave you there and melt you. Yes, I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath (Ezekiel 22:20–21) NKJV

**History:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came to the Son of God in the fire.

**Typology:** Israel will come to the Son of God in the tribulation.

- “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Daniel 3:25) NKJV
- In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.” (Hosea 5:15) NKJV

**History:** The Lord brought Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego safely out of the furnace, and they were promoted in the kingdom.

**Typology:** The Lord will bring the remnant of believing Israel safely out of the tribulation, and Israel will be honored in the millennial kingdom.

- Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. (Daniel 3:26) NKJV
- Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon. (Daniel 3:30) NKJV
- Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:7) NKJV
- He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken.” (Deuteronomy 26:19) NKJV

**History:** However, Daniel was promoted and given gifts by the king earlier, and Daniel was conspicuously absent from the whole 7 times hotter furnace situation.

**Typology:** The church will be promoted in the rapture and given gifts by King Jesus, and will be conspicuously absent from the whole 7 year tribulation period.

- Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon (Daniel 2:48) NKJV
- Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8) NKJV

It is also worth comparing Daniel, John, and the church.

Daniel was called beloved in Daniel 9:23, 10:11, and 10:19.

John was called beloved in John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, and 21:20.

The church is called beloved in John 15:9, Ephesians 2:4-5, Ephesians 3:14-19, Ephesians 5:25, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 1 John 4:19, Revelation 1:4-6, and several other places.

Daniel is a type of the church in that he was promoted before the 7 times hotter furnace situation.

John is a type of the church in that in his vision he was taken up to heaven before the judgments of the tribulation were shown.

### *The resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28 & Luke 24)*

The rapture is when the church will be resurrected.

- 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) NKJV

**History:** When Jesus was resurrected, they fabricated a lie to try to hide the truth.

**Typology:** When the believers will be resurrected in the rapture, various lies will be fabricated to try to hide the truth (such as “aliens took them” and other lies).

- When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’ (Matthew 28:12–13) NKJV

**History:** Many people believed and repeated the lies regarding Jesus’ resurrection.

**Typology:** Many people will believe and repeat the lies regarding the rapture of the church.

- So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. (Matthew 28:15) NKJV

**History:** Jesus’ grave clothes were left lying by themselves, and Peter marveled at what had happened.

**Typology:** It is possible that in the rapture, believers’ clothes will be left lying by themselves, and people will marvel at what happened.

- But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. (Luke 24:12) NKJV

### *The storm and the immediate arrival (John 6)*

**History:** Jesus departed to the mountain alone.

**Typology:** Jesus departed to heaven alone in the ascension.

- Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. (John 6:15) NKJV

**History:** The disciples got into the boat and started work by rowing across the sea, but later it got dark and stormy.

**Typology:** The church began its work of sharing the gospel across the world after the Lord's ascension, but later the world will grow especially dark and stormy.

- Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. (John 6:16–18) NKJV

**History:** After a period of time Jesus came to them and the boat was immediately at the land where they were going.

**Typology:** After a period of time Jesus will come to the church and immediately take them to heaven.

- So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. (John 6:19–21) NKJV

**History:** People realized after the fact that His disciples had gone away, and that Jesus was not there either, and then they sought for Jesus.

**Typology:** People will realize after the fact that the church has gone away in the rapture, and that Jesus is not there because His second coming has not happened yet, and then many people will seek the Lord.



- On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. (John 6:22–24) NKJV

**History:** People found Jesus on the other side.

**Typology:** The remnant of Israel and others will find Jesus through the tribulation.

- And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?” (John 6:25) NKJV

## Conclusion

If the understanding presented in this chapter and the previous chapters is correct, then it appears that the Bible shows us that we are quickly coming upon the conclusion of this age.

The rapture will be first, and this will be followed by the tribulation. Then this age will end with the second coming of our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ. Please read the following chapter about the salvation that is available only in Jesus.

## 9. How to Be Saved

God is infinitely holy and sin has a very serious eternal consequence.

To be saved, we need to acknowledge our sinfulness and put our trust in the only hope there is. That hope is Jesus Christ. He is God, whose absolute justice and wonderful love led Him to become a Man, and because He was without sin, He was able to endure the holy judgment of God in our place, and rise again victorious over sin and death.

A few examples of misplaced trust are: trusting in the “church” or another organization, trusting in attendance or services or ceremonies or rituals or confessions, trusting in being part of a “Christian family” or “Christian nation”, trusting in law keeping or good works, trusting in your good deeds outweighing your bad deeds, trusting in comparing yourself to others who are “worse” than you, trusting in being involved in ministry and charitable activities, trusting in a prayer that was said or in regular praying, and trusting in the wrong “Jesus”.

Whether you’re reading this before or after the rapture, the good news is that it is not too late for anyone who wants to be saved, including those who previously rejected Christ, those who thought they were Christians, those who are Jews, those who were part of any type of religion, those who were atheists or agnostics, and those who are part of any other possible category or classification.

Jesus did 100% of the work of salvation. Salvation is received simply by trusting in Christ alone. Some may say that salvation requires you to do something, and some may say that the method of salvation changes after the rapture, but they are wrong.

- Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions (Psalm 51:1–3) NKJV
- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16) NKJV
- Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” (John 6:28–29) NKJV
- For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9) NKJV

- And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:30–31) NKJV

Yes, it is that simple. Here are few Scriptures emphasizing the simplicity of the salvation message:

- And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11–12) NKJV
- Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. (John 6:47) NKJV
- But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3) NKJV

For those who have put their trust in Christ, there is a glorious future:

- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:1–4) ESV

The message of salvation is indeed simple, but it is also helpful to gain a deeper understanding of that message and to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Reading the Bible is immensely valuable, not only for learning about who God is and what He has done, and for growing in relationship with Him, but also for helping to avoid the many false teachings now and in the future.

For more detail on how the simplicity of the salvation message is taught through the whole Bible, please see the booklet titled “The Wonderful Salvation of God” which is available for free download in PDF format at [WonderfulSalvation.com](http://WonderfulSalvation.com)

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