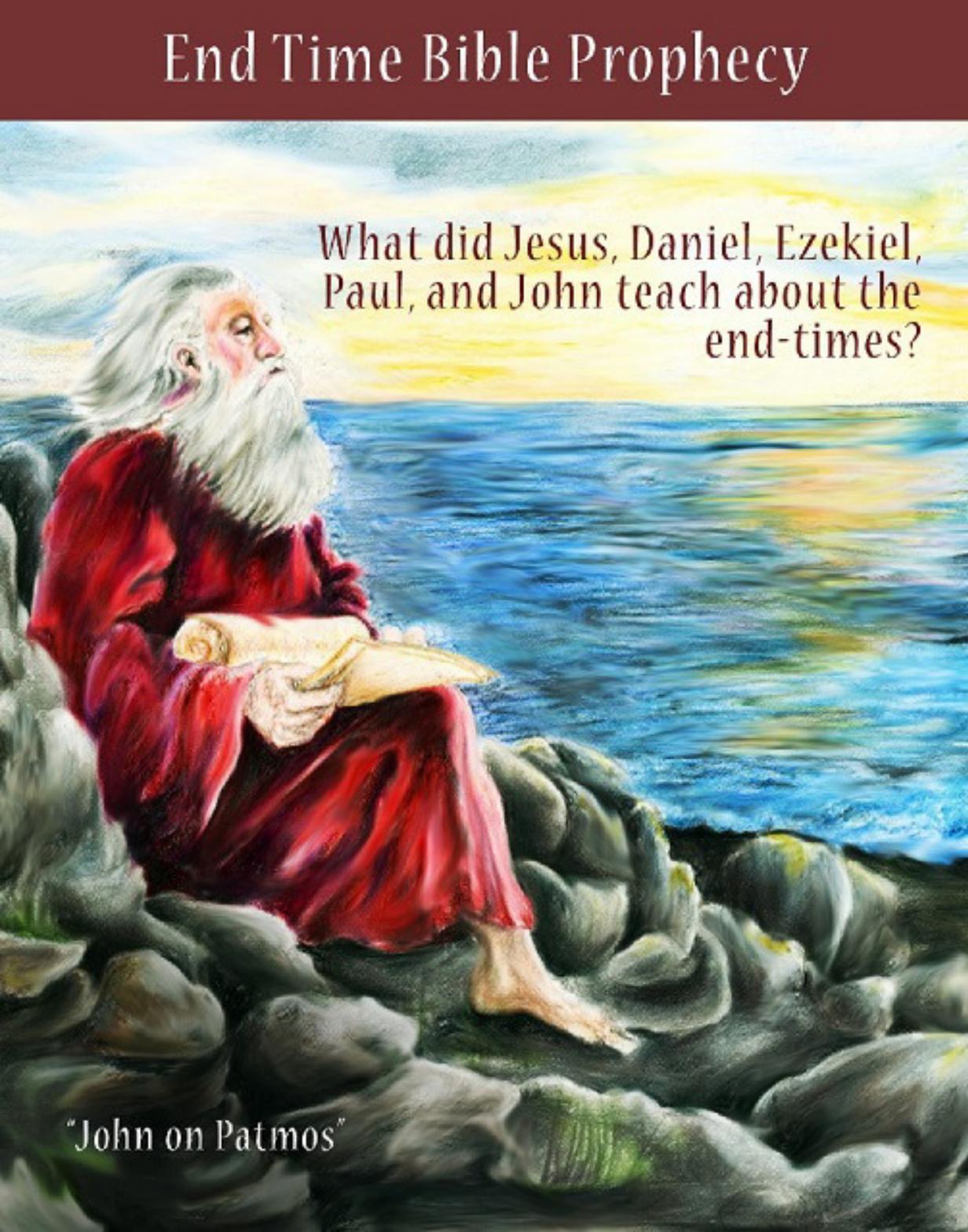


End Time Bible Prophecy

What did Jesus, Daniel, Ezekiel,
Paul, and John teach about the
end-times?

"John on Patmos"



BIBLE PROPHECY:

What did Jesus, Daniel, Ezekiel, Paul, and John
teach about the end-times?

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Overview

Ezekiel foretold the birth of modern Israel, which occurred in 1948 through the United Nations. Zechariah predicted that Israel will one day accept Jesus as Messiah.

The Treaty of Rome established the European Economic Community. This Treaty was later repackaged to define the European Union. Daniel identified this Roman Empire as the preeminent end time superpower 2,500 years ago.

Scripture foretold the Chernobyl nuclear power accident. Ukrainian translations, where this disaster occurred, used the word “chernobyl” to signify nuclear contamination centuries before nuclear power was conceived.

The Bible does not contain even one false prediction, and ancient Dead Sea Scrolls prove the foretold events were recorded centuries before they occurred.

Israel’s religious experts, the Pharisees, were legendary for their understanding about the first coming of the Messiah. Yet they were without a clue when Jesus spoke to them.

Listen only to the authentic prophets concerning the end-times—the prophets who wrote the scriptures. With countless verses referenced, this book is an awesome resource.

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1. Salvation

God planted a garden. He gave Adam authority over this Garden of Eden. Life was magnificent; fellowship with God was routine. God walked in this garden (Genesis 1:1-2:25). God placed two trees in the garden; one was the *tree of life* and the other the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. God told Adam to refrain from eating fruit from the tree that provided knowledge of what is *evil*, but he disobeyed. This sin drove humanity outside Eden into our present world to gain first-hand knowledge of what is evil (Genesis 2:9-3:24).

Adam's transgression disrupted the relationship between God and man. Fortunately, God deeply cared about this broken fellowship and therefore provided the world a Messiah. God's mighty Savior left a throne in heaven and went to earth in human form to rescue Adam, Eve, and their descendants, to include you and me. Every person on earth has disobeyed God, which resulted in a broken relationship. Every person needs a Savior.

God had a dynamic plan for providing salvation. Jesus excelled as a teacher, a healer, and as a miracle worker. However, none of those things could bridge the gap between a holy God and a rebellious man. A perfect God must hold to perfect justice; accordingly, the offenses (sins) of man must be punished. Because punishment could not be avoided the critical question was—who would endure the punishment?

Scripture tells us that before Jesus died, sin was placed upon him, so that a perfect sacrifice would pay the death penalty for sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus took the punishment that you and I deserve, because the shedding of blood is the only payment God accepts (Hebrews 9:22). In his resurrection, Jesus demonstrated authority over death.

God provided a way to eradicate the penalty for sin, and to obtain eternal life, but only on his terms. Each person must acknowledge that he or she has rebelled (sinned) against God, and trust that the shed blood of Jesus—received as a gift—paid the penalty for that sin. It is insufficient to simply believe that God exists (James 2:19). It is never enough for a person to behave in a religious manner, or have another person ask God for forgiveness on his or her behalf. Each person must go directly to the Savior (Hebrews 7:24-27). People must humble themselves before God—as scripture testifies that God *crowns the humble with salvation* (Psalm 149:4).

God offers each man, woman, and child a personal, restored relationship—to anyone who believes him. Belief in God is important because to not believe what God says, is to imply that he is a liar (1 John 1:10). As an

illustration of this point, both the Old and New Testament state that God accepted Abraham simply because *Abraham believed God* (Genesis 15:6; James 2:23). God is able to forgive any sin, but he chooses not to forgive the sin of unbelief.

Faith in Jesus is similar to faith in an airplane. When a passenger boards an airplane, that person believes the plane will fly and land safely. The passenger does not put faith in his or her own ability to fly. In a similar manner, trust God. Trust him to save you, forgive you, and one day safely transport you to heaven. Your belief shows faith in God's abilities, promises, and faithfulness.

2. Covenants

The most meaningful relationships are “covenant” relationships. The best example of a covenant relationship is the marriage covenant. Each person demonstrates whom he or she trusts by the covenants they enter. Just as a bride and groom demonstrate covenant faith in each other, we are called to place covenant faith in God.

The central book of end-time prophecy, titled Revelation, tells about three covenants. Just as with God’s covenants in the Old Testament, scripture depicts covenants in Revelation with a mark on the forehead or hand (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). This type of mark may seem odd. However, consider that a common covenant symbol today, the wedding ring, distinguishes (marks) the left hand of the husband and wife.

During the end-times it will be most convenient to accept the covenant offered by the preeminent world leader, a powerful man commonly called the Antichrist. Initially the leader of a restored Roman Empire, Antichrist will enter a temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and claim to be God. Paul wrote

that Antichrist *sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God* (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

Belief in religion is a second covenant option. A person can have faith in his or her religion without having any faith in God. The Pharisees were the preeminent first-century teachers of Israel; yet their faith was in religion instead of God (Matthew 23:23). Pharisees wore long flowing robes (Mark 12:38), prayed in an impressive manner (Mark 12:40), and routinely fasted (Matthew 9:14). The typical Israeli citizen thought they set the gold standard for religious behavior.

Those who followed such religion were also in perilous danger. Jesus warned the Pharisees and their congregations when he said, *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. (Matthew 23:13-14)*

THREE COVENANTS*

Covenant	Scripture
Faith in Antichrist	<i>He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right <u>hand</u> or on his <u>forehead</u>, (Revelation 13:16)</i>
Faith in Religion	<i>This title was written on her <u>forehead</u>: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Revelation 17:5)</i>
Faith in God	<i>“Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the <u>foreheads</u> of the servants of our God.” (Revelation 7:3)</i>

* Covenants are depicted as a mark on the hand or forehead (Deuteronomy 6:6-8)

The covenant that God offers makes each believer a member of the body of Christ. Jesus took bread during the last supper before his death and said, *take and eat; this is my body* (Matthew 26:26). Paul later noted that we are *members of his body* (Ephesians 5:30). Also at the last supper Jesus took wine and said, *this is my blood of the covenant* (Matthew 26:28). The shedding of blood pays the penalty for sin because without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Hebrews 9:22).

Each believer possesses a personal relationship with God. Jeremiah foretold this covenant relationship; centuries later it was restated in the New Testament. *“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my laws in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”* (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Hebrews 8:10-12) [New Testament believers are citizens of *Israel* (Ephesians 2:11-13)]

3. The Rapture

The end-times will bring the worst suffering the world has ever seen. Jesus said of the end-times, *“For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.”* (Matthew 24:21) There will be global conflict and persecution of Christians. The world will be a miserable place. Jesus told believers, *“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.”* (Matthew 24:7-9)

But there also is good news. There is a way for God’s people to avoid the end-times. A rapture rescues believers from end-time suffering; rapture occurs when God suddenly removes people from earth—taking them up into heaven. The word “rapture” comes from the Latin word “rapio” which means to take away by force. The benefits of an early rapture are obvious. Those leaving the earth will avoid tremendous persecution and suffering.

Jesus and Paul used the words “taken” and “caught up” to refer to rapture. Paul wrote, *“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) Jesus said, *“I tell you on that night, two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.”* (Luke 17:34-35) To be “left” is to be “left behind” on earth.

Jesus cited Noah as an earlier example of God protecting believers just prior to a worldwide (flood) judgment. To emphasize the point, Jesus cited a second example, the destruction of Sodom; angels removed Lot and his family from Sodom immediately before God destroyed that city. *“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. (Luke 17:26-30)*

The Problem

Pastors and authors routinely teach that every Christian will be raptured (removed) from earth at the very start of the seven-year end-time period. Just three authors teaching a pre-tribulation rapture of all believers (Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins of the Left Behind series; Hal Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth) sold over 100,000,000 books, about one copy for every seventy persons on earth. Hal Lindsey's bestseller, The 1980s: Countdown to Armageddon stated "The decade of the 1980s could very well be the last decade of history as we know it." Lindsey sold a lot of books, but was wrong on many issues.

What if a complete pre-tribulation rapture of the entire church is an invalid interpretation? Then not all believers will be removed for the entire seven-year period. The consequence of this bad teaching is catastrophic. Belief that God raptures all Christians into heaven at the start of end-time tribulation has resulted in an epidemic of complacency, and widespread lack of discipline among believers.

God established incentives for us to live disciplined lives. Following years of study, teachers are placed in authority over students. After excelling as a leader, an executive gains authority over an entire corporation. Jesus promised positions of authority in his kingdom for believers who wisely handle responsibility. Jesus provided an analogy in the following parable, "*Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that*"

servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions." (Luke 12:42-44)

Jesus also offered incentives for action that matter during this Age. Consider the promise Jesus made to the Philadelphia Church. *Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.* (Revelation 3:10) The only *hour of trial* that affects the whole world is the end-times. By making this promise to a narrowly defined group, Jesus disclosed that not all believers would escape tribulation, but only the believers who endure trials patiently.

Jesus explained what would happen to those who miss the rapture. *The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* (Matthew 24:50-51) The person left-behind was not called a thief or murderer, but a *servant*. Believers in Christ are servants of God (1 Corinthians 4:1). At the early rapture, unprepared servants of God will be left-behind on earth to suffer alongside unbelievers.

The Consequence

Panic will take hold when end-time events begin on earth. Unprepared Christians will act with selfishness and contempt. When the pressure was on, Jesus laid down his life. He expects us to follow that example—to patiently endure every situation. Jesus described the widespread failure to patiently endure just prior to the early rapture. *Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.* (Matthew 24:12-13) Those who stand firm to the end will be rescued from the end times.

Jesus repeatedly warned us to keep watch for this return ...

- *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.* (Matthew 24:42-44)
- *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.* (Matthew 25:13)
- *Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the*

rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch. (Mark 13:33-37)

- *It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. (Luke 12:37-38)*

Believers are to live with hearts not weighed down by anxiety, but instead to trust God for deliverance. Jesus said, *“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”* (Luke 21:34-36)

Jesus taught three parables that tell us how to take advantage of the opportunity for an early rapture.

Parable	Issues
A man leaving on a journey entrusted his property to three servants. Rather than invest the money (called “talents”), one servant simply buried it. Upon learning of this situation the master responded, <i>“You wicked, lazy servant!”</i> (Matthew 25:14-27)	Use your talents for God’s kingdom. - Do you make full use of your abilities and resources? - Do you invest time in God’s work?

<p>Before departing on a journey another master placed one of his servants in charge of his other servants to ensure someone would care for them. But after the master was away a long time, the lead servant began to mistreat the other servants. When the master returns, he will hold that lead servant accountable. (Matthew 24:45-51)</p>	<p>Do not beat up fellow servants of God – instead, care for them.</p> <p>Physical abuse is less common than to beat up emotionally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do you treat your spouse, children, and siblings? - How do you treat co-workers and those you supervise?
<p>Ten virgins took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and did not take oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. Only those who had taken oil were ready when the groom arrived. Those who were foolish were excluded from participating in the wedding. (Matthew 25:1-13)</p>	<p>Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you respond to the Holy Spirit? - Do you personally know the Holy Spirit?

4. Seven Churches

Jesus sent seven letters to seven churches located in a Roman province, called Asia. In each letter Jesus urged us to pay attention saying, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Jesus was saying something like, “If you have an ear, my expectation is that you will listen!” He repeated this expectation seven times, once in each letter.

JESUS URGES US TO “HEAR” THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

Church	Verse	The plea to listen
Ephesus	2:7	<i>He who has an <u>ear</u>, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</i>
Smyrna	2:11	<i>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</i>
Pergamum	2:17	<i>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</i>
Thyatira	2:29	<i>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</i>
Sardis	3:6	<i>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</i>
Philadelphia	3:13	<i>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</i>
Laodicea	3:22	<i>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</i>

Jesus did not provide this urge to listen to warn about invading armies or even nuclear war. This emphasis is to focus our attention on seven letters. In general, Jesus first encouraged the church by recognizing positive attributes. He then discussed a need for improvement. However, Smyrna and Philadelphia did not receive any correction, while Laodicea did not receive any praise.

SEVEN MESSAGES

Church	Commendation	Criticism
Ephesus	Rejects evil, perseveres	Little Passion
Smyrna	Gracefully bears suffering	None
Pergamum	Keeps the faith of Christ	Idolatry, immorality, bad doctrine
Thyatira	Love, service, faith, patience	Idolatry, immorality, bad doctrine
Sardis	Some have kept the faith	Dead
Philadelphia	Perseveres in faith	None
Laodicea	None	Indifferent

These letters may appear outdated however their value transcends time. Some of the practices and doctrines described are no less peculiar than beliefs and traditions of contemporary churches. For example, countless contemporary churches practice idolatry by teaching people to kneel before statues of wood or stone. Even though members refer to these statues as “icons” many are treated as idols (Exodus 20:4-6).

Church History

Jesus could have sent a letter to any of a hundred first-century churches. He did not select many prominent churches, such as Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, or Rome. It is widely thought that Jesus selected these specific churches for at least one reason: when placed end-to-end these letters describe worldwide church history, starting at the first century and ending with the primary church of today.

PREDOMINANCE OF EACH CHURCH

Church	Description	Predominance Began
Ephesus	Second generation (complacent)	95 AD
Smyrna	Martyrs (persecuted, alive)	100 AD
Pergamum	Catholic (compromised doctrine)	312 AD
Thyatira	Catholic (misguided)	
Sardis	Catholic (dead)	
Philadelphia	Protestant (missionary, alive)	1517 AD
Laodicea	Protestant (complacent)	1900 AD

The past two thousand years all seven church types have continued to exist to one extent or another. Today the contemporary church is largely complacent (Laodicea) in nature. However, God's people are found in other conditions. Believers who make scripture interpretation subject to human tradition belong to the Pergamum, Thyatira, or Sardis church. Believers living in countries that execute Christians are part of the Smyrna Church.

Ephesus

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (Revelation 2:1-7)



Ephesus Theater –
- Location of Acts 19:24-34 events

Ephesus was a typical church during the latter part of the first century. Many sincere believers today identify with this church. Ephesus was a home to Paul for two years (Acts 19:9-10) and led by Timothy. This church was also home to the Apostle John.

Ephesus was doctrinally sound; its membership *tested* false teachers and *found them false*. This was a hard-working church—with strong deeds, *hard work and perseverance*. Yet the Ephesus Church had lost its passion. Jesus said, *Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love*. The following outlines what it means to lose your first love.

- I value praise from people more than praise from God.
- I am callous in the way I treat a Christian brother.
- I choose not to witness because I fear rejection.
- My leisure-time thoughts do not turn to God.
- I do not cheerfully give to God's work.
- I become complacent to sin.
- I am slow to forgive.

Because the Ephesus Church did not repent, severe religious persecution began. This persecution was the central theme of the subsequent church, located at Smyrna. Suffering rekindled passion within the church, which prevailed the next two centuries.

Smyrna

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of 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 will not be hurt at all by the second death. (Revelation 2: 8-11)

Smyrna was a beautiful city and the second largest in Provincial Asia. However, the large Jewish population meant that Christians were persecuted. The Smyrna Church produced countless martyrs. Jesus said to this church, *“I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!”* The Smyrna Church predominance between 95 AD and 312 AD paralleled the story of the original Smyrna Church. Refusing to worship Caesar, martyrs unwaveringly laid down their lives, as replacement new believers continually came forward. The Roman Empire martyred an estimated five million believers. Some believe that Christians were fed to wild animals inside the Roman Coliseum.

Smyrna is described as suffering for *ten days*. Some historians note that between 95 AD and 312 AD a total of ten Roman emperors persecuted Christians. Other historians state that there were ten waves of persecution against Christians. Jesus had no criticism of this church. Satan eventually gave

up trying to destroy the church from the outside; instead, he chose to become active in church leadership. The new strategy was to destroy the church from the inside; that is the story of the following three churches.

Pergamum

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it. (Revelation 2:12-17)

The teaching of the *Nicolaitans* became preeminent. Historians translate “Nicolaitans” to mean, “to rule over the laity”—in other words, to rule over non-pastoral members of the church. The first-century church at Pergamum accepted Roman dominance, even the worship of emperors. The Pergamum Church was loyal to the rulers of earth, and not to the eternal King.

The Pergamum time in history saw the rise of Pontiffs, as religious leaders created high-ranking positions in order to rule over God's people. However the second king of Rome (Pompilius 753–673 BC) initiated the College of Pontiffs centuries before Christ. Constantine, a Roman emperor ruling from Constantinople (Istanbul Turkey), made the Catholic Pontiff preeminent. At the time of Christ's birth another Roman emperor, Augustus Caesar, was Pontiff. Those who hold the title of "Pope" walk on a path established by ruthless Roman emperors.

Jesus said Pergamum was *where Satan has his throne*—a possible location of this "throne" was an ornate altar honoring pagan gods. German engineers moved this altar to Berlin between 1878 and 1886. It was placed in the Altes Museum, and later moved to an adjacent building, the Pergamum Museum. These locations are significant because Hitler gave rousing speeches to hundreds of thousands of people from a platform built on the steps of the Altes Museum. After this altar was moved to Berlin that city became a focal point for World War I, World War II, and the extermination of Jews. Berlin also was the place of greatest confrontation (the Berlin Wall) during the Cold War.



On a platform built over the steps of the Altus Museum - Hitler addressed massive rallies of up to a million people.

Thyatira

“To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him

who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations — ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’ – just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Revelation 2:18-29)

A false prophetess nicknamed Jezebel claimed to know deep secrets of God. Today this corresponds to Catholic doctrine, dogma, and traditions, which routinely contradict scripture. During the Thyatira Church period, Roman Catholic Church leaders trivialized the authority of scripture and turned to man-made traditions. Jezebel also taught Christians to indulge in sexual immorality, which deeply harmed the Thyatira Church (1 Kings 16:28-19:2).

In a similar manner Roman Catholic Church leaders committed sexual immorality—a problem that continues into modern times, with priests homosexually molesting altar boys. An Associated Press report quotes Richard Sipe, a former Benedictine monk and priest, as saying that priest sexual abuse is a centuries-old problem, “The Vatican is in the know and has documented its knowledge throughout the centuries.” Two former monks, along with an active Catholic priest, compiled a 300-page document. The authors wrote, “It is a calculated cover-up of epic proportions.” The authors further stated that, “Vatican officials have known about sex abuse by priests going all the way back to the fourth century and have consistently kept quiet about it.” Ancient documents maintained by the Catholic Church prove sexual immorality during the Thyatira Church period.¹

Credible sexual molestation lawsuits have implicated Pope Benedict XVI. For example, plaintiffs in Houston Texas cited a May 18, 2001 letter that he wrote while serving as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In a letter to bishops around the world concerning child molestation, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger wrote that cases of this kind are subject to “pontifical secret.” The lawsuit alleged that Ratzinger was responsible due to his active cover-up of child molestation. The Pope avoided requirements to testify at any trial because he later gained immunity as a head of state.² Jesus criticized *the eating of food sacrificed to idols*. In other words, bread is used in the practice of idolatry. Today in the Catholic sacrifice of the mass, bread is offered to God—for the practice of idolatry. Catholics accept bread consecrated by their priests as actually being Christ in physical form. People kneel before communion bread, which makes that bread an idol.

Sardis

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Revelation 3:1-6)

The fifth church period in history corresponds with the church at Sardis. Among the people on earth, this church had a *reputation* of being alive; but Jesus says this church was dead. A church is dead when building the reputation of church leaders becomes more important than building the *reputation* of God. The reputation for being alive can be seen in the impressive cathedral construction in Europe. Everything was done for the glory of the “one true church.” Honor was also given to its papal leader, who was called “the” representative of Christ on earth. While the reputation of the Roman Catholic leaders was zealously protected, precious little was done for the glory of God.

There can be no greater condemnation of a church than for Jesus to pronounce it dead. Sardis is the Catholic Church, in great need of reformation. Philadelphia tells of the success that came from the Protestant Reformation.

Philadelphia

The Protestant Reformation began the time of Philadelphia pre-eminence. The Philadelphia Church includes a remnant of faithful believers who passionately serve God today. Philadelphia is a Greek word that translates as “brotherly love.”

“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true; who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews, though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God;

and I will also write on him my new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Revelation 3:7-13)

The Gutenberg printing press in the fifteenth century increased the availability of Bibles to ordinary people. Through cruel inquisitions, popes fought those who believed scriptures possessed ultimate authority. Catholic leadership murdered Protestant believers; the charge for which believers were burnt at the stake was called "heresy." (John 16:2) There have been attempts to minimize this event, similar to efforts to deny the Jewish holocaust. While King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella established the Spanish Inquisition in 1478, Spain did not definitively abolish this religious terrorism until 1834. Accountings today use phrases like "greatly exaggerated" to describe execution totals, or do not reference earlier estimates. Biased historians dismiss execution estimates greater than a few thousand. As administrator of Inquisitions, the Catholic Church maintained the records.

What is historically verifiable is that Protestant believers eventually fled to America; the Pilgrims were not Catholic. In 1790, the United States named Philadelphia Pennsylvania its capital city. Larger than any other city in the colonies, both the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution were signed at Independence Hall. The overall Philadelphia Church provided a worldwide missionary outreach. A remnant of Philadelphia believers continue to serve God today. Because these believers continue to keep God's command to *endure* persecution *patiently*, Jesus will act upon his promise to keep this church from the *trial that is going to come upon the whole world*. This

protection means that Philadelphia believers will not suffer through the end-times.

Laodicea

The Laodicea Church predominance began about 1900, with a wealthy church membership predominately interested in its own comfort and security. Members enjoy their place in society and are proud of their religion. Laodicea is a church with much religion—but little passion.

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich: I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

(Revelation 3:14-22)



Hot water brought in from Hierapolis was lukewarm upon arrival in Laodicea.

Laodicea is the primary end-times church; it is the preeminent church in western civilization today. Laodicea places its founder on the outside; Jesus said to this church, *I stand at the door and knock*. Many Christians today have wealth. Yet their spiritual poverty caused Jesus to say they were *neither cold nor hot*, but *lukewarm*. Laodicea is an educated church, smart enough to avoid complete complacency, and therefore is not cold. However, instead of passionately applying that knowledge, to make Laodicea hot, members apply their God-given talents to sustain their own comfort. Laodicea is a weak church that is lacking credibility and intensity.

Laodicea has sufficient communication tools to reach entire the world with the gospel, but is largely ineffective. The Laodicea Church is compromised; its members have bought into another religion. This religion sets our priorities and demands our loyalty. This is an infrequently recognized religion, called Secularism. The Laodicea Church believes it possible to passionately care about both God and money. In fact, a person is capable of loving only one or the

other. Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. (Matthew 6:24)*

Laodicea sees itself as rich and that members *do not need a thing*. Jesus answers saying in effect, “you need everything!” Jesus says this kind of church makes him sick. He will spit (literally “vomit”) this church out his mouth. Jesus’ warning of discipline for the Laodicea Church will one day touch millions of believers.

The End-Time Church

Today believers identify with a denomination, such as Baptist or Lutheran, or claim a non-denominational status. God also categorizes believers; every believer is a member of one of the seven churches of Revelation. The Philadelphia Church has a bright future. Jesus promised it protection: *I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth (Revelation 3:10)*. The only hour of trial that affects the whole world is the end-times. In contrast, Jesus warns the Laodicea Church: *those whom I love I rebuke and discipline (Revelation 3:19)*.

Many scholars anticipate the same future for both Laodicea and Philadelphia church members; that shared future is an early rapture. However, it is reckless to state with certainty that a group of believers promised discipline will share the same future as believers promised removal from earth for the entire end-time period.

TWO FORCASTS

Church	Promise or Warning	Implication
Laodicea	<i>Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.</i> (Revelation 3:19)	Faces discipline, not an early rapture.
Philadelphia	<i>I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world</i> (Revelation 3:10)	Participates in the early rapture.

Notes:

1. Doyle, T; Sipe, R; Wall, P. Sex, Priests, and Secret Codes: The Catholic Church's 2,000 Year Paper Trail of Sexual Abuse. Volt Press. Santa Monica. 2006.
2. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas Houston Division, Civil Action No H-05-1047. 2005

5. The Scroll

John is transported to God's throne room to provide a first-hand account of the end-times. *After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.*" (Revelation 4:1) From God's throne room John observed epic world events centuries ahead of time.

*At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. (Revelation 4:2) John was given vision into future kingdoms and events. This phrase, *in the Spirit*, means something like, "I then saw a new vision" (Revelation 1:10; 17:3; 21:10). Here John sees a *throne in heaven*, with God sitting on that throne. John described God in terms of the reflection and brilliance of precious stones (Revelation 4:3).*

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. (Revelation 4:4) The elders dress as Jesus had promised the

churches, with crowns (Revelation 2:10, Smyrna), and white clothing (Revelation 3:5, Sardis). King David organized God's priesthood into 24 divisions (1 Chronicles 24:4-19). Some speculate the twenty-four elders are the twelve patriarchs of the Old Testament, plus twelve apostles of the New Testament.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. (Revelation 4:6-8) These four angels are a composite of high-ranking angels, specifically cherubim and seraphim; they are an exalted order of angels (Ezekiel 1:5-25; Isaiah 6:1-4).

The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:10-11) As elders lay their crowns before the throne, they demonstrate that the honor of wearing crowns belong to God alone.

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. (Revelation 5:1) This scroll is a critical legal document; some believe it to be the deed to planet earth. This scroll has also been referred to as "the redemptive plan of God" or as "God's

last will and testament.” The scroll is in God’s right hand to underscore power and authority.

And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. (Revelation 5:2-3) When no one came forward, John wept. John understood the need for God to finish his redemptive plan for earth. *I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. (Revelation 5:4)* The issue is not whether anyone is strong enough, but whether anyone is *worthy* enough to break the seals (Isaiah 29:11; Daniel 12:4). The seals must be broken to read the document, for the document to take effect.

Soon the announcement comes that Jesus is worthy to execute God’s plan. *Then one of the elders said to me, “do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” (Revelation 5:5)* The reclaiming of the earth is initiated through the opening of the seven seals. As each seal is broken, God’s plan is advanced (Revelation 6).

Jesus, called the *Lion of the tribe of Judah*, was on the throne. John was expecting a lion to come forward; instead he sees a Lamb come forward to break the seals. *Then I saw a Lamb looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne (Revelation 5:6).* God (the Father) then relinquishes possession of the scroll to Jesus (Revelation 5:7).

6. Seven Seals

End-time events begin with the opening of a scroll locked with seven seals. Jesus alone can open these seals. The opening of the first four seals brings four angels riding horses; these are commonly referred to as the “four horsemen of the apocalypse.” People on earth cannot see these angels or their horses.

Four Horsemen

SEAL #1: *I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” I looked and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. (Revelation 6:1-2)*

The Spirit of CONQUEST comes into the world arena. This angel brings the desire for world domination. This Spirit works to establish a one-world government with the Antichrist in command. It approves of efforts to establish

an international monetary system to give Antichrist global economic power. This Spirit also backs efforts to forcefully conquer the earth in the name of religion, such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS, ISIL). Antichrist will claim authority over all nations and institutions.

SEAL #2: *When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.* (Revelation 6:3-4)

The Spirit of WAR is the second angel entering the world scene. War is a common response to the aggression that accompanies a spirit of conquest—as seen coming from the first seal. This angel rides a red horse, with red symbolizing bloodshed. Jesus taught concerning this time, *"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."* He then described the starvation that is depicted in the next Seal, *"There will be famines and earthquakes in various places."* (Matthew 24:6-7)

SEAL #3: *When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"* (Revelation 6:5-6)

The Spirit of FAMINE causes a catastrophic food shortage. Wheat and barley are basic food requirements; people are paying their entire salary to feed themselves.

SEAL #4: *When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth, to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. (Revelation 6:7-8)*

The Spirit of DEATH, with *authority to kill ... over a fourth of the earth* comes forward. This fourth angel is "*Death.*" This angel rides a pale horse—the color attributed to a person near death. "*Hades*" is the unseen world of the dead. This place had two separate abodes, a place where God's people lived and another area for condemned persons. Jesus called the area of Hades where believers dwelt "*Abraham's side.*" (Luke 16:22; AKA "*Abraham's Bosom*") *That Hades was following close behind Death* meant that following death, people travel to the unseen world. In other words people die (Death), and then immediately travel to the unseen world (Hades).

Many people will die because of *plague* or *pestilence*, a possible reference to disease-causing microorganisms, which are increasingly resistant to antibiotic treatment. This also could be a reference to biological warfare. To *kill by wild beasts* is reminiscent of the days when the Roman Empire fed Christians to the lions. However, the application here points to soldiers on the battlefield. Ezekiel foresaw wild animals feasting on human flesh: *Son of Man*,

this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls. (Ezekiel 39:17-18)

A Call for Justice

SEAL #5: *When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. (Revelation 6: 12-17)*

Those in heaven see the release of the four horsemen, and know this event signals the start of the end-times. The martyrs ask, "How long ... until you judge those who murdered us?" The martyrs are told to wait patiently *until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed*. In other words, there are still more believers to be martyred. Just as Israel poured the blood of sacrificed animal at the base of the altar (Exodus 29:12; Leviticus 4:7), in a similar manner, the souls of sacrificed martyrs were under the altar in heaven.

The Visible Seal

SEAL #6: *I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"* (Revelation 6:12-17)

The spilling of innocent blood has stained the earth *blood red*. The people on earth soon see another planet that appears covered with blood, the moon. When the *sun* is blotted out (*turned* black) during a lunar eclipse, the moon really does turn a *blood red* color. The moon turns a metallic red resembling the color of iron in blood. At that time, the entire world, to include *every mountain and island*, shakes. (Revelation 6:14) This event is punctuated by a worldwide earthquake, likely caused by meteorites slamming into earth, one after another, similar to how *figs drop* to the ground *from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind*.

These events should shake the world to its senses. God wants people to confess sin—repent—and turn to him. Even unbelievers will know that

scripture foretold this event. People will also know that this event precedes the outpouring of God's wrath. They will say *the great day of wrath has come* and seek religious leaders to plot a course that might deter such wrath. However people do not say, "I repent of my sins." Instead, they believe the best option is to *hide*. This wrong attitude creates an opportunity for dishonest teachers and false prophets to say "follow me and find safety." Using this type of approach, the Antichrist and false prophet will lead most of the world astray.

Antichrist may proclaim that if people repent, then God will withhold disaster. For example, God showed mercy to ancient Nineveh. *When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.* (Jonah 3:10) *If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.* (Jeremiah 18:7) Yet it will be impossible to follow false prophets—and simultaneously repent.

Early Rapture

Next God protects selected believers, specifically those identified as being "the servants of our God." The seal placed upon these believers identifies them for participation in the impending rapture. After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the

living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” (Revelation 7:1-3)

At the time God provides his servants this protection, the earth will have remained unharmed by end-time events. The *land* and the *sea* are unharmed—even the *trees* have not been harmed.

Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. (Revelation 7:4) The early rapture of the Philadelphia Church includes 144,000 Jewish believers. These 144,000 Israelis are never again seen on earth, but are seen on “Mount Zion,” an ancient term for “heaven.” (Revelation 7:4-8, 14:1) Angels seal Philadelphia Church members around the world, identifying them for immediate rapture. Then this great multitude of raptured believers, all members of the Philadelphia Church, suddenly appears in heaven. *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.* (Revelation 7:9)

A question is asked about the identity of those who suddenly appear in heaven—who are they?—and where they came from? *Then one of the elders asked me “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them*

white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:13-14) The answer clearly states that this multitude was rescued from the great tribulation—they were just raptured from earth. That more than just the 144,000 Israeli believers are raptured is evident from the number being *a great multitude that no one could count*. Further evidence that more than just Jewish believers are raptured is that the multitude is *from every nation, tribe, people and language*.

An obscure event from Israel's history foreshadowed this early rapture. God has already protected passionate believers, *those who grieve and lament* over wicked behavior, from disaster. Those protected first received a *mark* on the forehead, matching the seal on the foreheads of the 144,000 Israelis who participate in the early Philadelphia rapture. Ezekiel wrote that the LORD had given an angel the following instructions. *“Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.” As I listened, he said to the others, “Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter old men, young men and maidens, women and children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.* (Ezekiel 9:4-6)

This rapture must occur at this point—after the sun is blotted, the moon turns blood red, and a worldwide earthquake occurs—because this sequence of events matches what Jesus taught.

Jesus' commentary in the Gospels is consistent with events in Revelation.

Matthew 24:29-31	Mark 13: 24-27	Luke 21: 26-28	Revelation 6:12 – 7:14
WORLDWIDE DISTRESS			
<i>Immediately after the distress of those days...(v29)</i>	<i>But in those days, following that distress, ... (v24)</i>	<i>Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world ...(v26)</i>	
SIGNS IN THE SKY AND EARTHQUAKES			
<i>...“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be <u>shaken</u>.” (v29)</i>	<i>...“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be <u>shaken</u>. (v24,25)</i>	<i>...for the heavenly bodies will be <u>shaken</u>.(v26)</i>	<i>I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when <u>shaken</u> by a strong wind. (6:12-13) ... and every mountain and island was <u>removed from its place</u>. (v14)</i>
JESUS IN THE CLOUDS			
<i>At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man <u>coming on the clouds</u> of the sky, with power and great glory. (v30)</i>	<i>At that time men will see the Son of Man <u>coming in clouds</u> with great power and glory.(v26)</i>	<i>At that time they will see the Son of Man <u>coming in a cloud</u> with power and great glory. (v27)</i>	<i>The <u>sky</u> receded like a scroll, rolling up, (v14).</i> [Note: this would unveil a view of Jesus, in the sky, coming in clouds]
WORLDWIDE DISTRESS			
			<i>Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the</i>

		<i>throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”(v15-17)</i>
INSTRUCTIONS FOR BELIEVERS		
		<i>When these things begin to take place, stand up and <u>lift up your heads</u>, because <u>your redemption is drawing near</u>. (v28)</i>
PHILADELPHIA HARVESTED FROM EARTH		
<i>And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the <u>four winds</u>, from one end of the heavens to the other. (v31)</i>	<i>And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the <u>four winds</u>, from the <u>ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens</u>. (v27)</i>	<i>After this I saw <u>four</u> angels standing at the <u>four</u> corners of the earth... (7:1)</i>
PHILADELPHIA ARRIVES IN HEAVEN		
		<i>After this I looked and <u>there before me</u> was a <u>great multitude</u> that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb ... (7:9)Then one of the elders asked me “<u>These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?</u>” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “<u>These are they who have come out of the great tribulation</u>... (7:13-14)</i>

SEAL #7: *When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. (Revelation 8:1)*

After Jesus breaks the seventh seal, the scroll can be read and put into effect. However, excitement subsides with the realization that Israel and the Laodicea Church are left-behind. Global nuclear war arrives with the first three trumpets, which immediately follow. For such reasons, there is *silence in heaven for about half an hour*.

Seven Seal	Description	Seen on earth?
Seal #1 (Revelation 6:1-2)	Angel on a white horse (Spirit of Conquest)	no
Seal #2 (Revelation 6:3-4)	Angel on a red horse (Spirit of War)	no
Seal #3 (Revelation 6:5-6)	Angel on a black horse (Spirit of Famine)	no
Seal #4 (Revelation 6:7-8)	Angel on a pale horse (Spirit of Death)	no
Seal #5 (Revelation 6:9-11)	Martyrs ask God to avenge their blood.	no
Seal #6 (Revelation 6:12-17)	The moon appears covered with blood; people panic.	yes
The Early Rapture (Revelation 7)	Believers who endure with patient maturity are raptured.	yes
Seal #7 (Revelation 8:1)	Silence in heaven for about half an hour	no

7. Seven Trumpets

Any nation undergoing attack has an overriding interest in destroying their opponent's nuclear capabilities. Therefore initial strikes in a nuclear war target land-based aircraft and missiles. Non-military targets on the land would also be struck. This is what occurs at the first trumpet. At the second trumpet nuclear weapons strike oceans in an attempt to destroy warships and submarines. Then at the third trumpet low-tech "dirty" nuclear weapons are deployed; using conventional explosives, these bombs spread nuclear contamination over large areas.

TRUMPET #1: *The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.* (Revelation 8:7)

The initial trumpet brings *hail and fire mixed with blood ... hurled down upon the earth ... and a third of the earth* will be burned. This is a description of nuclear attacks against land-based targets. Such targets include yet-to-be-launched nuclear missiles still on the ground, and those somewhat protected in silos beneath the ground. Countless other land targets will be in flames.

TRUMPET #2: *The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.* (Revelation 8:8-9)

Yet-to-be-launched nuclear missiles located on warships and submarines are targeted in the second round of nuclear attacks, with a third of the *ships ... destroyed*. In addition to surface ships, many submarines have extensive nuclear missile launching capabilities. Submarine missiles use satellite navigation and therefore can be as accurate as land-based missiles. In addition to destroying ships, *a third of the living creatures in the sea died*. Jesus described the oceans saying, *“nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.”* (Luke 21:25)

Target	Delivery	Vulnerability	Launch Order
Land	Aircraft with nuclear bombs	Must be launched within a few minutes of a massive nuclear attack, or they are likely to be destroyed on the ground.	<u>TRUMPET #1</u> Dispatch early; aircraft can be recalled
	Land-Based Missiles	Must also launch within a few minutes of a nuclear attack, or are at risk for being destroyed.	<u>TRUMPET #1</u> Slower to launch; cannot recall
Ocean	Missiles and Bombs	Aircraft carriers deploy fighter aircraft that carry nuclear weapons. Submarines hide missiles deep in the ocean.	<u>TRUMPET #2</u> Delay launch; hidden and held in reserve.
Civilian	Radiological (Dirty) Bomb	Use by underdeveloped nations and/or terrorists. Harm due to nuclear contamination	<u>TRUMPET #3</u>

TRUMPET #3: *The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water – the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.* (Revelation 8:10-11)

With this trumpet, *a star falls from the sky*. Note the impact—on *a third of the rivers and on the springs of water*. This contamination is so extensive that a third of the waters are contaminated, *and many people died* from these contaminated waters.

This trumpet depicts the detonation of a bomb made from nuclear material, designed solely to spread radioactive contamination. Governments and terrorists incapable of exploding a nuclear bomb can more easily build such a low-technology weapon. Frequently referred to as a dirty bomb, it can spread radioactivity using only conventional explosives. Such a great star, blasted above the earth, would magnify the geographical area contaminated. In the end, there are contaminated rivers, lakes, and ultimately drinking water.

That the name of the star is *Wormwood* is significant. Wormwood is a group of plants found around the world. In Russian and Ukrainian language, wormwood translates as “chernobyl.” The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident produced contamination that was the first-ever to be rated a level 7 event, the highest score on the International Nuclear Event Scale. This power plant was named after the wormwood plants in the area; it would be similar to

an English-speaking country naming a nuclear plant Ragweed. Today “Chernobyl” (wormwood) is synonymous with nuclear contamination.

Wormwood (English to Ukrainian)
полин, чорнобиль;гіркота, прикрість
[wormwood polyn, chornobyl’; hirkota, prykrist’]
Chernobyl (Ukrainian: Чорнобиль, Russian: Чернобыль)

When John wrote Revelation, he did not comprehend nuclear power. Today the words he wrote are synonymous with nuclear contamination. Remember that *when the third angel sounded his trumpet ... a great star ... fell from the sky* (Revelation 8:10). Wormwood belongs to the Asteraceae plant family. The Asteraceae family was derived from the Greek word for star. Aster is the word from which the star-symbol asterisk (*) was derived.

Revelation was written in Greek; wormwood translates as chernobyl in the Ukrainian and Russian languages. John did not coordinate with the scientists who would later place wormwood in the Asteraceae (star) plant family. Scientists did not coordinate their naming of this plant with those who would later name the nuclear power plant, Chernobyl. That this star plant also turns water *bitter* is not a coincidence either. No person coordinated any of these facts with the great nuclear disaster that inevitably followed. Only God could perfectly align these factors ahead of time.

TRUMPET #4: *The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of*

them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. (Revelation 8:12)

Darkness could result from smoke or increased volcanic activity. However, there is a method for darkening a searing hot earth that might be desirable following nuclear war. Theoretically, objects deployed in space could deflect sunlight with the purpose of cooling an overheated earth. Should extreme measures be implemented the world could be *plunged into darkness*, which actually occurs at the fifth bowl of God's wrath (Revelation 16:10).

TRUMPET #5: *The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. (Revelation 9:1-6)*

Next an angel, also referred to as a star, is seen with the key to a bottomless pit inside the earth, called the Abyss. This angel releases demons that were trapped inside the Abyss for thousands of years. This demonic attack

warns unrepentant people of what hell will be like. Locusts normally attack crops, but these locusts have power to sting like scorpions. These locusts only attack *people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads*. People will suffer so badly they desire to die, but are unable. A foretaste of hell, where people *will long to die, but death will elude them*.

TRUMPET #6: *The sixth angel sounded his trumpet and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.* (Revelation 9:13-16)

Four angels, who today are bound at the Euphrates River, will be released to kill a third of mankind. The corresponding deaths occur at this point. The four released angels ride horses, just as the four horsemen of the apocalypse rode horses. That the four angels are bound at the Euphrates River points to Iraq, the nation through which most of this river flows.

An army with two hundred million members advances against Israel. This army is likely an alliance of eastern nations. China is capable of raising such a force; India also has a population over a billion people. The Soviet Union dissolved into multiple nations; even if disbanded China would still be united in a shared ethnic and cultural history spanning thousands of years.

The earth's destruction is progressing rapidly. *The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.* (Revelation 9:17-19)

To believe a delusion, is to believe what is false despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. To believe in *idols* and *magic arts* after world events have fully validated Bible prophecy is an incredible delusion. *The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.* (Revelation 9:20-21)

Seven Trumpets	
1	Nuclear strikes against land-based targets burn a third the earth. (Revelation 8:7)
2	Nuclear strikes against ocean-based targets. (Revelation 8:8-9)
3	Nuclear contamination of water. (Revelation 8:10-11)
4	Darkness covers the earth. (Revelation 8:12)
5	Smoke pours from the Abyss; demonic locusts come from the smoke. (Revelation 9:1-11)
6	200,000,000 soldiers descend on Israel; fire, smoke, sulfur kill a third of humanity. (Revelation 9:13-19)
7	Resurrection of two witnesses Rapture of the Laodicea Church The harvest of Israel (Revelation 11:15-19; 14:14-20)

At the sixth trumpet Gentiles worldwide will have accepted the mark of the beast. However God will protect Israel from the beast the first three and a half years (Revelation 12:6). Israel will turn to God at the seventh trumpet.

8. Transition

**At the mid-point of the seven years,
Israel turns to Jesus Christ.**

The mid-point of the end-time seven year period is filled with world-changing events. First God unveils a mystery; the seven thunders spoke, but John did not write down what was said. *And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."* (Revelation 10:4)

Much mystery about "who God is" persists to this day. With the information disclosed in the seven thunders, this mystery will be over, this mystery will be finished, this great *mystery of God will be accomplished*. Scripture records this event saying, *But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished.* (Revelation 10:7) The seven thunders reveal information about God's very nature, which will prompt Israel to accept Jesus as Messiah. At this time the final Gentile to become a believer in Christ steps forward and eternal salvation becomes a gift to Israel alone.

Two witnesses who preached in Jerusalem the initial half of the final seven years will be martyred, resurrected and then raptured to heaven. The entire world will see this event (Revelation 11:3-12). God also raptures the reformed Laodicea Church into heaven; this second rapture of the Church removes every Gentile believer, with none left behind (Revelation 14:16).

Also at this time the Antichrist travels to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. There he will proclaim himself to be the Messiah that Israel has sought since ancient times. Paul wrote concerning Antichrist – *He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.* (2 Thessalonians 2:4). However Israel will reject Antichrist and embrace Jesus Christ (Zechariah 12:10); Israel will give *glory to the God of heaven* (Revelation 11:13).

Israel's rejection of Antichrist sets the stage for Israeli martyrs the second half of the final seven years. The Israeli harvest lasts three and a half years, and ends with Christ rescuing Israel at the Second Coming (Revelation 14:18-20; 19:11-21).

Events at the mid-point in the seven years are transitional; the course of world events is forever changed.

THE FINAL SEVEN YEARS

First Half	Transition (Mid-Point)	Second Half
Seven Seals	Seven Thunders	Israel Persecuted
Early Rapture	- reveal the mystery of God	Seven Bowls of Wrath
Seven Trumpets	Two Witnesses	The Second Coming
Christians Persecuted	- martyred, resurrected, raptured	
	Dead in Christ	
	- resurrected	
	Alive in Christ	
	- raptured	
	Unbelieving Gentiles	
	- cut off from salvation	
	Israel	
	- receives salvation	

9. The Last Trumpet

The seventh trumpet is where the resurrection of God's people occurs—along with the second, and final, rapture of the Church. A description of this rapture can be found by grouping events between the start of the seventh trumpet and the first bowl of God's wrath—into one event. This event is the *seventh* and *last* trumpet.

Start with the announcement of the last trumpet. *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."* (Revelation 11:15) The statement, *the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord*—is from persons instantaneously raptured from earth into heaven. They are describing their experience by saying something like, "What I saw one moment was (*the kingdom of*) *the world*—then immediately the view changed, became a view of heaven, which is *the kingdom of our Lord*."



The rapture story does not immediately continue in Revelation. John slows the story to insert detail about primary end-time characters.

BREAK TO DESCRIBE PERSONALITIES

Inserted Material	End-Time Characters
Revelation 12	A Woman, a Dragon, and the Woman's Offspring
Revelation 13	Beast out of the Sea (Revelation 13:2-8) Beast out of the Earth (Revelation 13:11-18)
Revelation 14:1-5	The Lamb and the 144,000 of Israel

The story of the greatest harvest of God's people continues ...

Two harvests occur at the last trumpet. The first harvest takes even the very last Gentile ever to accept God's salvation: *I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one 'like a son of man' with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, 'Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth and the earth was harvested. (Revelation 14:14-16)*

Paul also taught that there would be a resurrection of the dead, followed by a rapture of believers—*at the last trumpet*. Believers who are alive will be changed—given bodies that will survive all eternity. *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the*

twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

Paul further wrote about this last trumpet rapture being for those left-behind from the initial rapture. In the following verses “*and are left*” refers to those believers who were left-behind on earth for the first 42 months. *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

Israel Harvested

Gentile believers are now in heaven, through either rapture or physical death. The time for Gentiles ends at this halfway marker in the final seven years. Gentiles remaining on earth can no longer accept salvation. Unbelieving Gentiles will have taken the mark of the beast. During the seven thunders, they will have heard the very nature of God, yet still reject God. They respond, “Not now, not ever!” To be fully convicted by the Holy Spirit of your need to accept the Messiah and to reply “not now, not ever” is to consider yourself to be greater than the Holy Spirit. Jesus said such blasphemy would never be forgiven (Matthew 12:31-32).

In contrast, Israel will respond positively to the seven thunders. Paul foretold that the entire nation of Israel would turn to Christ following the conversion of the last Gentile believer; *Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved.* (Romans 11:25-26).

Israel is the vineyard of the last trumpet. *Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine because its grapes are ripe." The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.* (Revelation 14:17-20) Isaiah identified this vine thousands of years ago: *The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel.* (Isaiah 5:7)

Instead of being immediately taken up into heaven this nation, which rejected Jesus for two thousand years, is harvested in God's wrath. The violent nature of the Israeli harvest is because Satan will initiate intense persecution. In response, Israelis will demonstrate an uncompromised allegiance to God.

10. Israel

Scripture foretold the past two thousand years of Israeli history. Ezekiel wrote about Israel's exile from its homeland, which occurred in 70 AD with the Roman destruction of Israel. He also foretold the suffering of Jews while in exile at the hands of enemies, to include Adolph Hitler. Ezekiel quoted God as saying, *and the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid my face from them.* (Ezekiel 39:22-24)

Jews returned from exile and Israel was reestablished May 14, 1948. God foretold of a time when he would *no longer hide my face from them* (the Israeli people). God will reveal himself to the Israeli people, and Israel will accept Jesus as its redeemer. Concerning the establishment and purpose of modern Israel (referred to as "them" and "they" below), Ezekiel quoted God as saying, *"When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God,*

for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind, I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord.”
(Ezekiel 39:27-29)

Zechariah wrote about the moment Israel will accept a crucified Messiah, the one pierced on the cross. *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first-born son.* (Zechariah 12:10)

Initial Peace

Israel’s protection during the end-times comes from a seven-year agreement with Antichrist, referred to as “He” in the following verse. *He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’* (Daniel 9:27) This verse refers to an agreement that initiates the seven-year end-time period. It is possible that Europe will accept Israel as part of the European Union and/or European Economic Area—world leaders have already considered this possibility.

Peace will not last, as Antichrist turns against Israel in the middle of the seven years. The three and a half years of protection Israel receives at the start of the end-times corresponds with the time Israel remains in unbelief concerning Jesus. Scripture cites this 42-month delay five times.

ISRAEL'S TIME OF UNBELIEF

	3 ½ years – 1260 days	3 ½ years – time, times and half a time*	3 ½ years – In the middle of the 'seven'
Daniel 9:27			X
Daniel 12:6-9		X	
Revelation 11:3	X		
Revelation 12:6	X		
Revelation 12:13-14		X	

* TIME, TIMES AND HALF A TIME = [1 + 2 + ½] YEARS = 3 ½ YEARS

The question asked in Daniel, *“How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?”* The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, *“It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”* (Daniel 12:6-7) Nothing could be fulfilled concerning Israel until the initial three and a half years are completed. At that time, Israel will accept Jesus as Messiah, and modern Israel becomes a spiritually re-born nation.

Two Witnesses

The initial three and a half years of the end-times, God provides Israel two witnesses. These are the first authentic prophets sent to Israel since the first century. *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.* (Revelation 11:3-6)

The two witnesses will preach from Jerusalem during the first 42 months. These witnesses will have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain, just as Elijah did when confronting King Ahab (1 Kings 17:1). These witnesses will have power to turn the waters into blood, just as Moses did before Pharaoh (Exodus 7:20).

After 42 months, God withdraws protection for the two witnesses, and both are executed. *Now when they had finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.* (Revelation 11:7-8) The place where these witnesses are murdered is the same city where their Lord was crucified. The Jerusalem on earth is corrupt, as *Sodom* was corrupt, and

worldly, like *Egypt*. The future heaven, the New Jerusalem, provides a sharp contrast to the corrupt Jerusalem on earth (Revelation 21).

The funeral celebration is appalling. *For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.* (Revelation 11:9-10) Through television coverage, *people from every people, tribe, language and nation will look upon the two corpses.* The contempt will be so great that no one buries them. People celebrate by sending each other gifts. Just as the birth of the Christian faith, people celebrate by exchanging gifts. People will celebrate this apparent end to the Christian faith with the same tradition.

However, the story transitions into a resurrection and rapture, it ends in victory. *But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.* (Revelation 11:11-12)

Then Israel accepts Jesus as Messiah. *At that very hour there was a severe earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.* (Revelation 11:13) Israel must possess faith to give God glory; without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)

A Third Temple

The Temple Mount in Jerusalem will be a critical end-time setting. Because Muslims control the Temple Mount today, the idea that an Israeli Temple could be built at this site is considered unlikely. Yet there is growing evidence Israel will be able to rebuild on the Temple Mount. For example, archeological findings indicate the Islamic shrine on the Temple Mount might be on a location other than the site of the first two Israeli temples.

In Revelation, God surveys the Temple Mount, an action that demonstrates he is taking control. John, the writer of Revelation, *was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.* (Revelation 11:1-2)

A Temple could be built on the location of the two ancient temples, with the Islamic Dome of the Rock remaining intact in the outer court. At the middle point of the end-times, after 42 months, Israel will prohibit Muslim access to the Temple Mount.

Broken Promises

God does not permit Antichrist to attack Israel for the first half of the final seven years. Israel is the woman in the following story. *The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.* (Revelation 12:6) Later more details are given; the

dragon and serpent is Satan, and the male child is Jesus. *When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. Now leap forward to the end-times. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to a place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.* (Revelation 12:13-14)

Antichrist will establish an agreement with many nations, to include Israel, for a seven-year period. In the middle of those seven years, he will break the agreement and stop the Jewish practice of sacrifice and offering. *He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'* In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27) The blood sacrifice of lambs for the atonement of sins will return as a cornerstone of the Jewish faith at the Third Temple. Antichrist will enter the Temple and claim to be Israel's Messiah. He will stop the *sacrificing* of lambs and require people to worship him.

Paul wrote about Antichrist, *he will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.* (2 Thessalonians 2:4) Antichrist will declare that he is the Messiah that Israel has sought after since the fall of Adam and Eve (Daniel 11:36). Israel will respond to Antichrist with an emphatic "no!" As a result, Israel will be persecuted. *On that day, when all the nations of*

the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. (Zechariah 12:3)

The violent harvest of Israel is depicted; enemy soldiers act as war criminals. *I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. (Zechariah 14:2)*

This over-running of Jerusalem brings our Messiah back to earth to fight for Israel. *Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. (Zechariah 14:3-4)*

11. Two Beasts

Two Beasts lead the aggression against Israel.

Daniel foresaw the Roman Empire hundreds of years before it was established. In Daniel's vision, the Roman Empire was to be the fourth and final great world empire.

DANIEL'S FOUR GREAT EMPIRES

Major Empire	Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Chapter 8	Identification
Babylonia 626 BC – 539 BC	Head of Gold	Lion		Daniel 2:38
Medo-Persia 539 BC – 330 BC	Chest and Arms of Silver	Bear	Ram	Daniel 8:20
Greece 330 BC – 167 BC	Belly and Thighs of Bronze	Leopard	Goat	Daniel 8:21
Rome 63 BC – The End	Legs of Iron; Feet of Clay	Terrifying and Frightening Beast		Daniel 9:26 (Rome, 70AD)

Beast Out Of the Sea

Thrown from heaven, an ancient serpent-dragon (Satan) travels to earth. Upon arrival, Satan immediately calls to his son, the Roman Empire beast coming up out of the sea. *And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.* (Revelation 13:1)

This end-time superpower beast must be from Rome. *The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.* (Revelation 17:18) At the time Revelation was written, Rome was *the great city that rules over the kings of the earth*. That same city will rule over the *kings* (world leaders) during the end-times. Daniel also identified Rome as the final great empire. *The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.* (Daniel 9:26) This prophecy refers to events that occurred in 70 AD. The *people* were Roman soldiers, the *city* was Jerusalem, and the *sanctuary* was the Second Temple. Accordingly, the Romans are the people of the ruler in the end times; the final empire must be Roman.



The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. (Rev 13:1)
Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. (Rev 13:11)

This son-of-Satan is described in detail. That the beast *once was, now is not, and yet will come* refers to the tendency of the Roman Empire to wax and wane (Revelation 17:8). For example, The Roman Empire remained alive far beyond the so-called “Fall of Rome” in 476 AD; the Eastern Roman Empire did not fall until 1453. The Holy Roman Empire was an alliance of western European nations ruled by Frankish and German kings; it prospered from 800 AD to 1806 AD.

The infamous beast *out of the sea*, first foretold twenty-five hundred years ago, is now in view (Daniel 7:7). In 1957, six nations signed the Treaty of Rome, which founded the European Economic Community. Marking the start of the present-day Roman Empire, this treaty was actually signed at Rome’s city hall. Then six other nations joined the European Economic Community. This 12-member group, called the European Community, joined with six European Free Trade Association nations to form the 18-nation European Economic Area. The 1992 Treaty of Maastricht, also called the Treaty on European Union, created the European Union. Decades of nonstop integration have produced a contemporary Roman Empire.

This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man’s number. His number is 666. (Revelation 13:18)



Six charter members of the European Economic Community (EEC) – formed by the Treaty of Rome – came into force January 1, 1958.

- (1) Belgium
- (2) Netherlands
- (3) Luxembourg
- (4) France
- (5) Italy
- (6) West Germany



Six additional nations join the EEC before it became the European Community, effective November 1, 1993.

- (1) United Kingdom
- (2) Spain
- (3) Portugal
- (4) Greece
- (5) Denmark
- (6) Ireland.



Six members of the European Free Trade Association combine with the European Community—to form the European Economic Area. January 1, 2004

- (1) Austria
- (2) Finland
- (3) Iceland
- (4) Norway
- (5) Sweden
- (6) Liechtenstein

The great unfaithful church is a woman named “*Babylon*.” This woman is geographically collocated (sits) upon the empire’s capital city. “*This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.*”

(Revelation 17:9) Romulus and Remus founded Rome on seven hills: Capitoline, Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Esquiline, Quirinal, and Viminal. Even with the Seven Hills of Rome being common knowledge, spiritual mysteries take discernment. A *mind with wisdom* is needed, because seeing Rome as the preeminent city for deception requires unlocking perhaps the greatest delusion in history.

The ancient Roman Empire is widely believed to be a great civilization. History depicts the nations and tribes they conquered—as barbarian. Yet Rome boasts of an ancient coliseum where slave gladiators fought and died at the whims of the crowd. Roman pride in this coliseum is analogous to Germans being proud of Dachau, which is a World War II prison camp where Nazi rulers executed millions of Jews. Rome brought slavery, crucifixions, and the government that crucified Jesus.

Antichrist

The primary beast in Revelation refers to Antichrist and the Roman Empire that he rules. Antichrist turns his attention from Europe, to world domination at Temple Mount in Jerusalem at the 42-month point. In like manner, the authority (life span) of this beast is limited to the initial forty-two months of the end-times. *The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.* (Revelation 13:5)

The support the dragon (Satan) provides the beast (Antichrist, Rome) is impressive. *The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.* (Revelation 13:2) However, remember that Satan first offered this kingdom to Jesus. *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."* (Matthew 4:8-9)

This Roman Empire will eventually govern nations far beyond its initial eighteen members. *The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worship the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"* (Revelation 13:3-4) This Roman Empire will devour the entire earth. *"He gave me this explanation: The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it."* (Daniel 7:23) *And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.* (Revelation 13:7)

Beast out of the Earth

The False Prophet leads this second beast (Revelation 19:20). This fraudulent prophet is normally interpreted as being a religious leader; yet no scripture requires him to be religious. Any person who says, "God chose me to lead you to safety" then leads people to destruction, is a false prophet. A false prophet claims to possess authority from God, and then leads people to

destruction. Like the European beast, the beast out of the earth consists of a political leader and his subordinate nations. Just as the *beast out of the sea* (Europe) follows the dragon (Satan), *the beast out of the earth* (America) will support Europe (Revelation 13:2, 12).

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon (Revelation 13:11). The American beast has two horns like a lamb. To those who are deceived this beast will appear gentle, like a lamb. Yet this beast spoke like a dragon—speaking with the authority of Satan. The American beast will require everyone to submit to European authority. This American beast *exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast* (Revelation 13:12).

The United States is the primary nation. One horn is Canada (or possibly French Quebec). The other is Mexico (or possibly Latin America). The North American Free Trade Agreement gave birth to this second beast. A strengthening of the Organization of American States or the Free Trade Area of the Americas could create an American Union, much like the European Union.

Credible Deceptions

Satan is not so concerned with causing people to do evil acts, but to have them believe deceptions. Scripture states that the beast and false prophet *deluded those who had received the mark of the beast* (Revelation 19:20). *And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from*

heaven to earth in full view of men. (Revelation 13:13) Concerning a critical end-time moment Jesus instructed, *“Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.”* (Matthew 24:17). Perhaps people are on the roofs to watch *fire come down from heaven to earth* (Revelation 13:13).

The false prophet will also be a master of deception. *Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed* (Revelation 13:14-15). Daniel and Jesus also spoke of this deception, as being an *abomination* at the third temple (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matthew 24:15).

From a monetary standpoint, Antichrist and the false prophet will have the power to demand of everyone, “accept or perish.” Concerning the false prophet: *He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark* (Revelation 13:16-17). Life for believers will be horrific: *He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.* (Revelation 13:9-10)

12. Seven Bowls

All nations attempt to conquer Israel.

God responds by pouring out wrath.

From seven golden bowls, angels will pour out God's wrath upon the Gentile nations. God's wrath comes from his intolerance of sin, from his holiness. God's command center during these attacks is the temple in heaven. *Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.* (Revelation 15:6-7)

God's wrath is holy; so the seven angels who are to pour out God's wrath upon the earth leave the temple wearing golden sashes, symbolic of royal and priestly functions (Ezekiel 9:2). God's wrath is awesome. *And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power.* (Revelation 15:8) *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."* (Revelation 16:1) The seven bowls are similar to the plagues that God delivered against Pharaoh and ancient Egypt.

BOWL #1: *The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. (Revelation 16:2)*

The ugly and painful sores will only afflict people having the mark of the beast—so Israel will be spared. This plague could be anthrax, which causes *boils* on both *men and animals*. This event matches the plague of boils Moses brought against Egypt. *So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on men and animals. (Exodus 9:10)*

BOWL #2: *The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died. (Revelation 16:3)*

The oceans and sea turn from water into blood. Note the similarity to another plague that God delivered through Moses. *This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.” (Exodus 7:17-18)*

BOWL #3: *The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”*

And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.” (Revelation 16:4-7)

The martyrs under the altar are now satisfied seeing justice. Remember these martyrs had cried out at the fifth seal. *They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” (Revelation 6:10)* At the third bowl, the altar responds with approval concerning God’s judgment.

BOWL #4: *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. (Revelation 16:8-9)*

Now the sun will scorch people with intense heat. It is likely that the natural atmospheric protection, such as the ozone layer, will have been destroyed. People responded by cursing God. With hardened hearts, the walking dead (condemned) people are incapable of repenting. This occurred in ancient Egypt—when *the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart. (Exodus 10:27)*

BOWL #5: *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done. (Revelation 16:10-11)*

Moses delivered a similar judgment against Egypt. *Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt—darkness that can be felt.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward the*

sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. (Exodus 10:21-23)

BOWL #6: *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. (Revelation 16:12)*

At the time of Armageddon, the flow of the Euphrates River in Iraq will dry to allow armies to invade Israel. This dried riverbed opens the way for the armies of the kings from the East, to travel to the valley of Armageddon in Israel (Revelation 16:16). The Ataturk Dam in Turkey has already stopped the flow of the Euphrates in 1990 while filling a reservoir.

That there are *kings from the East* (plural, kings, more than one king) could result from China dissolving into smaller countries that are unified in a confederacy. This confederacy could result from the desire of China to bring Taiwan under its control, while also allowing the freedoms that Hong Kong needs to prosper. Such a confederacy might include other economic and population powerhouses to include India, Japan, and South Korea.

A huge army of two hundred million people will travel from the East, across the Euphrates River to the Valley of Armageddon. *It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.*

The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number. (Revelation 9:14-16)

Three evil spirits are now speaking through the dragon (Satan), the beast (Antichrist), and the false prophet. Their message is to world leaders—to send armies to Armageddon. *Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. (Revelation 16:13-14)*

At Armageddon, these armies will attempt to destroy Jesus as he returns to earth. *Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. (Revelation 16:16)* The battle of Armageddon is the final battle of this Age (Revelation 19:11-21; Zechariah 14:2-9).

THE SEVEN BOWLS

Poured on the ...	Result
1. Land	Sores upon people with the mark of the beast (Revelation 16:2)
2. Sea	The sea turns to blood; the sea dies (Revelation 16:3)
3. Rivers	Rivers and springs turn into blood (Revelation 16:4-7)
4. Sun	Sun scorches people with intense heat (Revelation 16:8-9)
5. Throne of the beast	Kingdom of the beast is plunged into darkness (Revelation 16:10-11)
6. Euphrates River	River dries to allow armies to cross on march to Armageddon (Revelation 16: 12-16)
7. Into the air	Large earthquakes and hailstones collapse cities, to include Rome (Revelation 16:17-21)

BOWL #7: *The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, pearls of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. (Revelation 16:17-21)*

God reserves the final judgment for those who kept religious traditions from ancient Babylon; it features the destruction of Rome. God gives this city of the false king (Antichrist) and the false high priest (Pope) the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. *"When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!" (Revelation 18:9-10)*

13. Babylon

Proverb: All roads lead to Rome.

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:13-14; Revelation 17:1 – 18:24)

When ancient empires conquered, the victor frequently took authority over the conquered nation's religion. For example, in 170 BC, King Antiochus Epiphanes ruled Israel. He aggressively imposed the Greek culture and religion on Israel by erecting a statue of the Greek god Zeus at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The Roman Empire integrated the religious practices of conquered nations into its religion. The Roman Empire took control over Christian religion in 312 AD. A Roman emperor, Constantine, made Catholic teaching preeminent. Declaring himself the supreme pontiff (Pontifex Maximus), Constantine held authority over all other pontiffs. Because of this entanglement between the church and governing state, the Catholic Church accepted traditions and bad doctrine that originated in ancient Babylon. Even today, Roman Catholic tradition holds a status equal to scripture; scripture is interpreted a manner that validates tradition.¹

Revelation depicts a Roman Church that shares in the corruption of the Roman Empire. It describes this empire (beast) and church (prostitute woman)

as entwined. *The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.* (Revelation 17:18) The capital city and church are the same city, Rome.

Scriptures depict the Roman Church as a woman, named Babylon. *Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.* (Revelation 17:7) Rome is a mystery with two components—the first is a woman who is a prostitute (Roman Church) and the other half is a beast (Roman Empire). While the first is preeminent in religion, the other seeks world conquest.

The relationship the Roman Church shares with world leaders is based on *adultery*—a shared disloyalty to God. *With Babylon, the kings of the earth committed adultery.* (Revelation 18:3) Babylon commits adultery against God by being faithful to the kings (leaders) of this world, but not to the king of heaven. Pope John Paul II was a typical Roman Catholic leader. Eighty prime ministers, presidents, kings, and queens attended his funeral; it was the largest gathering of statesmen in history.²

Countless people, even many believers, continue to think highly of the Roman Church; the *inhabitants of the earth* are intoxicated with her religion and traditions. *With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."* (Revelation 17:2)

Bread and Idolatry

Babylon is dressed like a prostitute *in purple and scarlet with gold, precious stones and pearls*. However, what really offends God is contained inside a golden cup, which is her chalice. *The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.* (Revelation 17:4) Babylon worships the contents of the golden cup instead of God.

Sacraments in the Catholic Church promote the alleged ability of priests to perform miracles. For example, priests are supposedly able to transform bread into the body of Jesus. Catholics call this transformation “transubstantiation.” Concerning Babylon, there is a *golden cup in her hand that is filled with the filth of her adulteries*. Catholic doctrine says through transubstantiation, its chalice contains the literal Body of Christ—and therefore this bread is worshiped as being God.

The Wrong Rock

Roman religion established the office of Pontiff (pope). This position, thought to have started with Peter, actually began hundreds of years before Jesus. For example, Julius Caesar became Pontifex Maximus in 63 BC. Caesar Augustus became Pontifex in 12 BC, and held that position at the time of Christ.



Julius Caesar as Pontiff
Coin is a Denarius – cited in
Mark 12:16 and Luke 20:24-25

The idea that there should be a Christian pontiff resulted from the misinterpretation of a single scripture. Jesus said, *“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”* (Matthew 16:18) However, the “rock” upon which the true church was built was Jesus, not Pope Peter (Isaiah 26:4; Psalm 42:9; Ephesians 2:20-21). Even Peter disagreed with Roman Catholic interpretation; he identified Jesus as the primary rock, the cornerstone of the church.

For in Scripture it says:

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”* (1 Peter 2:6)

God sends a clear message to people in a pagan church. Many are authentic believers who have been deceived.

Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

*“Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.* (Revelation 18:4-5)

This is the call that so many people trusting in a religious tradition have already heard, to leave tradition and follow Christ. This message has filled countless scripture-based churches with former Roman Catholics.

Notes:

1. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Citta del Vaticano. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Part One, Section One, Chapter Two, Article 2-II, The Relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture. 2003.

2. Wikipedia. *List of dignitaries at the funeral of Pope John Paul II*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dignitaries_at_the_funeral_of_Pope_John_Paul_II

14. Second Coming

First-century Israelis longed for a redeemer who would destroy the Roman Empire. They turned against Jesus when his salvation provided spiritual deliverance from sin, and not military deliverance from Rome. At the Second Coming, Jesus will destroy the world empires and deliver Israel. As enemy soldiers overrun Jerusalem, Christ returns to earth – riding a horse – to defend Israel. As Christ returns the battle shifts from a war against Israel to a war against God. *Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.* (Revelation 19:19)

Accompanied by the armies of heaven, Jesus will rescue Israel. From the Valley of Jezreel (Armageddon) the nations will attempt to destroy Jesus as he returns. *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.* (Revelation 19:11-14)

Zechariah foretold that Israel will be on the brink of defeat when Jesus returns. *I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.* (Zechariah 14:2-4)

Jesus simply speaks and his enemies die. *Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword*, with which to strike down the nations. (Revelation 19:15) *The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse.* (Revelation 19:21) *And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.* (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

In heaven there is a celebration of incorruptible flesh called the wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9). Jesus spoke of this feast at the Last Supper; it is the greatest Passover celebration ever. *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.'* (Luke 22:14-16) Jesus was saying concerning this future Passover meal, "I will eat it again; it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

15. Future Ages

Scriptures provide a glimpse into the future Millennium Age and New Jerusalem Age. Two events shape the character of the Millennium Age. First, an angel binds Satan and throws him into the Abyss for a thousand years. Then Israeli believers who died during the final 43 months of the end-times are resurrected. With Satan removed from the scene and all God's people resurrected from the dead, the Millennium Age occurs. Following the Millennium is the final resurrection. These people are brought before the Great White Throne to face judgment and eternity in the lake of fire. Then the New Jerusalem, which is the eternal heaven, descends to earth.

BEYOND THE END-TIMES

Timeframe	Events
Pre-Millennium	Satan is bound for 1,000 years Resurrection of Israelis martyred the final 3 ½ years
Millennium Age	Satan is released at the end of 1,000 years Enemies prepare to attack Jerusalem; God stops this attack
Pre-New Jerusalem	The Great White Throne Judgment – of the damned
New Jerusalem Age	New Jerusalem, a garden city, is placed on a restored earth

Pre-Millennium Events

At the end of our Post-Flood Age, an angel binds Satan and casts him into the Abyss for a thousand years. *I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.* (Revelation 20:1-2) Accordingly the Millennium Age is described as a thousand years of peace. Yet even with Satan bound, sins resulting from human weaknesses continue. The prideful boasting of what we have (possessions), or boasting about what we do (position, ability), or lusting the things we see—come from weakness in our own character (1 John 2:16).

Also Israelis who died during the final 43 months are resurrected, bringing to life all God's people. *I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.* (Revelation 20:4)

Those with *authority to judge* encompass all believers (1 Corinthians 6:2; 1 Corinthians 6:3). Those *beheaded* are predominately end-time Israeli martyrs. Throughout history countless Jews have been beheaded; this execution type started when Muhammad beheaded Jews in Medina. All believers – both Jew and Gentile – will reign with Christ during the Millennium.

Inserted is a reference to the fate of the damned, and a contrast is made to the good fortune of believers. *(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.* (Revelation 20:5-6)

That the rest of the dead are not resurrected until the thousand years were ended—refers to the final and largest harvest, which resurrects persons bound for hell.

The first six harvests are grouped together; the term to describe them is the “first resurrection.” The people who take part in the first resurrection will reign with Christ during the Millennium Age and enjoy eternal life.

The Millennium Age

God will restore the earth from the ecological catastrophes and make it fit for habitation. Just as the Ark took Noah’s family from the Pre-Flood Age into the next Age, there will be Israelis alive at the return of Christ who move from the Post-Flood Age into the Millennium Age. Persons born into the Millennium Age will live to be hundreds of years old, like the extended life spans typical in the Pre-Flood Age (Genesis 5:5, 9:29). During the Millennium Age, Jesus will reign on earth as King. His people will reign in subordinate roles.

The following reads like an eternal heaven. However because people still die it must be referring to the Millennium Age. *“Behold, I will create a new*

heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD. (Isaiah 65:17-25)

The Millennium Age ends with Satan being released to organize the enemies of God. *When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (Revelation 20:7-9)*

The Great White Throne

The final harvest follows the Millennium Age. This harvest resurrects people destined for hell and brings them before Jesus' throne. *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.* (Revelation 20:11-15)

These unfortunate people will stand before the great white throne of Jesus Christ. Even after being resurrected, this pathetic group is still described as *the dead*. Decayed bodies are resurrected in no better condition than at the time of death. The damned will have a body that is constantly dying, but unable to die. Jesus said that hell was a place where, *'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'* (Mark 9:48) The word "worm" refers to maggots. People are also tormented with burning sulfur (Revelation 14:10; 21:8). Organic sulfur causes the odor associated with rotten eggs, and sulfur dioxide has a suffocating odor. The book of life records names of all who have eternal life (Exodus 32:31-33; Revelation 3:5; Philippians 4:3).

God will judge his people with a kinder and gentler judgment, featuring rewards. *For we will all stand before God's judgment seat* (Romans 14:10). During this judgment, fire will test the quality of each man's work. *If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward* (1 Corinthians 3:13-14).

New Jerusalem

God sends the holy city, New Jerusalem, to earth. This final heaven will be a garden city where God dwells with his people. The tree of life seen the Garden of Eden, will be in this Garden of Jerusalem (Genesis 2:9; 3:22; Revelation 22:2).

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:2-4)

Appendix A: Harvests

Each person will participate in an end-time harvest. One of these harvests will transport you to heaven or to hell. In the following parable, a person is either wheat bound for heaven, or a weed bound for hell. *Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ “An enemy did this.’ He replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ “No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”* (Matthew 13:24-30)

Jesus later interpreted this parable, making its meaning clear. *Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the*

good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. (Matthew 13:36-39)

Most prophecy interpreters maintain that there is just one end-time rapture. However when challenged most agree that the two witnesses, whom God resurrects and then immediately transports to heaven, participate in a rapture that is separate from other believers. In fact, nothing in scripture prevents a third rapture from occurring.

Recognizing that there are multiple end-time raptures also reconciles the two major schools of thought concerning the rapture. Countless scholars believe the rapture occurs at the start of the seven-year end-times. Other scholars, with equal academic credentials, believe the rapture is at the mid-point of the seven years. The fact is that a rapture occurs at both places.

SCRIPTURES DEPICTING TWO RAPTURES

Rapture	Corresponding Scripture
Worldwide—of the church	<i>Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day our Lord will come. (Matthew 24:40-42)</i>
Jerusalem—for two witnesses	<i>Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. (Revelation 11:12)</i>

There are a total of seven end-time harvests.

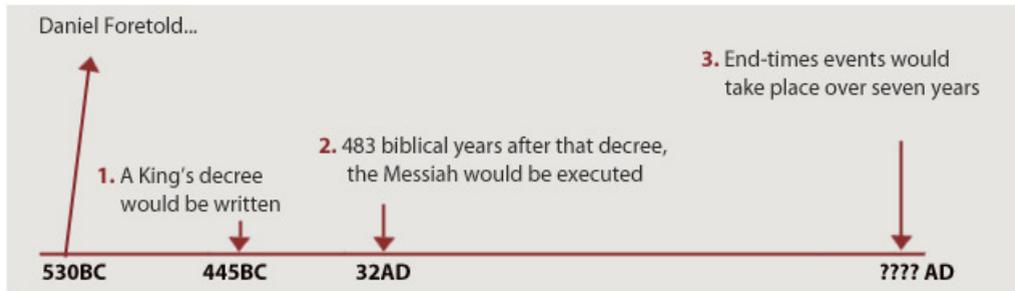
SEVEN HARVESTS

Harvest		Impacts	Time Frame	Scripture
1	Rapture	Philadelphia Church	Start of 7 Years	Revelation 7:9; 13-14
2	Rapture	Two Witnesses	3 ½ Years	Revelation 11:7-12
3	Resurrection	Asleep in Christ	3 ½ Years	Revelation 14:14-16
4	Rapture	Laodicea Church	3 ½ Years	Revelation 14:14-16
5	On Earth	Martyred Israelis	3 ½ – 7 Years	Revelation 14:17-20
6	Resurrection	Beheaded Israelis	After the 7 Years	Revelation 20:4
7	Resurrection	The Damned	After the Millennium	Revelation 20:13-15

Appendix B: Seven Years

The time allotted to end-time events is limited to seven years.
Daniel foretold a 490-year timeline; 483 years occurred just as predicted.
Based on that track record, the remaining end-time seven years are inevitable.

God limited the time allotted to end-time events to seven years. These seven years are part of a larger 490-year timeline that the prophet Daniel described—in just four verses. Realize that 483 of the 490 years have already occurred, exactly as predicted. In the following graph, events (1) and (2) occurred exactly as Daniel predicted in 530 BC. Historical validation of this scriptural material as legitimate prophecy, capable of flawlessly predicting future events, is critical. It demonstrates the ability of these same scriptures to foretell the still-future end-time events.



At first these verses appear exceptionally difficult. Start with the summary below.

Daniel 9:24-27	Paraphrase of Main Points
<p><i>“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. (Daniel 9:24)</i></p>	<p>There is a 490-year period for Israel and the city of Jerusalem, during which time God’s will for our Age will be completed. 70 x 7 years = 490 years</p>
<p><i>“Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. (Daniel 9:25)</i></p>	<p>It is important to understand how these 490 years are distributed. <i>From the issuing of King Artaxerxes’ (then future) decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (resulting from the Babylon captivity), until the Christ comes to Jerusalem, the week of Jesus’ execution, will be 483 years. (7 x 7 years) + (62 x 7 years) = 483 years</i></p>
<p><i>After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. (Daniel 9:26)</i></p>	<p>Christ <i>will be</i> stripped of everything and be executed. Then the <i>people of the</i> future Antichrist, the Romans, <i>will destroy Jerusalem and the Second Temple, which occurred in 70 AD. The end-times will come upon the world like a flood. It will not be pleasant—wars will continue until the end.</i></p>
<p><i>He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27)</i></p>	<p>Antichrist will <i>confirm a</i> peace treaty with many nations for a ‘seven’-year period. <i>In the middle of the seven years, he will put an end to the Jewish Old Testament sacrifice and offering (yet to be reestablished) at the (yet to be rebuilt) Temple, violating the treaty. Inside the temple, he will set up an altar to himself. Antichrist is destined for a horrific demise.</i> (7 x 7 years) + (62 x 7 years) + (1 x 7 years) = 490 years</p>

Daniel Wrote	Interpretation
decree to restore and re-build Jerusalem	Persian King Artaxerxes decree, 445 BC
seven 'sevens'	49 years = 7 x 7 years
sixty-two 'sevens'	434 years = 62 x 7 years
the people of the ruler	Roman/European people
the ruler who will come	Antichrist
Anointed One	Christ
cut off	Executed (Crucified)
the city and the sanctuary	Jerusalem and its Temple; (Rome destroyed in 70 AD)
He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'	Antichrist's peace treaty for a seven-year time period.
in the middle of the 'seven'	At the 3 ½ year point (42 months)
he will put an end to sacrifice and offering	Antichrist will stop the sacrifice of animals at the re-built Temple
wing of the temple he will set up...	Antichrist will make an altar to himself
end that is decreed	Antichrist thrown into the Lake of Fire

The Overview

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. (Daniel 9:24)

There is a 490-year timeline for Israel and the city of Jerusalem, to complete God’s purposes (70 x 7 years = 490 years). The counting of the 490 years began in 445 BC when King Artaxerxes wrote the foretold *decree to*

restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 7:11-28). God halted the counting of these years only seven years before the 490 years were completed—at 483 years. This interruption coincided with the crucifixion of Jesus and the establishment of the New Testament covenant. Accordingly there remains one final seven-year period for Israel, which will occur during the end-times.

Israel

Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and re-build Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. (Daniel 9:25)

Daniel wrote prophecy that established a 490-year timeline for Israel in 530 BC. He foretold that the Anointed One (Christ) would come to Jerusalem 483 years after the issuing of the decree to restore and re-build Jerusalem. King Artaxerxes issued that decree in 445 BC. Then as predicted, 483 years (of 360 days) later Jesus entered Jerusalem the week of the crucifixion. The math is $(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7) = 483$ years. Sir Robert Anderson calculated the dates as being from March 14, 445 BC (1 Nisan in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes) to April 6, 32 AD (10 Nisan the year Jesus enters Jerusalem).

Some historians dispute these dates. Jewish years were shorter than 365 days; accordingly, current calendars do not depict the elapsed time as 483 years. Other variables such as leap years make conversion to ancient calendars difficult. To resolve controversy set aside calculations of exact dates. Only one

person claimed to be the Messiah at the time the 483 years expired — Jesus of Nazareth.

The 483 years in the past are one ‘seven’ year period short of the 490 years. This final seven-year period is reserved for the end-times. The initial 483 years ended at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion, when the “Time of the Jews” gave way to the “Time of the Gentiles.”

THE 490-YEAR TIMELINE

	Prediction	Event	Total
Start Period #1	There will be a decree <i>to restore and re-build Jerusalem.</i>	Decree Artaxerxes issued in 445 BC that started Daniel’s 490 years.	0 Years
Start Period #2	Jerusalem will <i>be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.</i>	The rebuilding of Jerusalem. (Ezra; Nehemiah)	49 Years
End Period #2	Jesus, <i>the Anointed One, the ruler, will come to Jerusalem.</i>	Jesus enters Jerusalem to be executed in 32 AD.	483 Years
Time of the Gentiles (Today)			
Start Period #3	<i>He (Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.</i>	Antichrist forges a seven-year treaty. He turns against Israel in the middle of the seven years, and stops their religious <i>sacrifice and offering.</i>	490 Years

TIME OF THE JEWS

Time of Jews (initial)		Time of the Gentiles	Time of Jews (end-time)
49 years (7 x 7 years)	434 years (62 x 7 years)	Total Years: Unknown	7 years (1 x 7 years)
Total: 483 years			Total: 490 years

Crucifixion to the End Times

After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. (Daniel 9:26a)

Daniel foretold that the *Anointed One* (Messiah) would be *cut off* (executed). Events the week of the crucifixion signified an end to the initial time of the Jews. Jesus cursed a fig tree, a symbol for the nation of Israel. *The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.* (Mark 11:12-14) *The next day as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.* (Mark 11:20)

This same week Jesus also rejected the Israeli religious system. *On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he*

said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" (Mark 11:15-17)

The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. (Daniel 9:26b)

Daniel is referring to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. This destruction occurred because Israel had rejected its Messiah. The people (Romans) who destroyed the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (Temple) were to be the people of the ruler who will come. In other words, the invading (Roman) army was to come from the (people of the) future Antichrist's kingdom. Therefore, the kingdom of the Antichrist is a Roman Empire.

Jesus also foretold the destruction of the Temple. *Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."* (Matthew 24:1-2) The Roman army ensured that not one stone was left standing on top of another to ensure that all gold and other treasures were plundered from the Temple.

Because these stones were scattered, when Islamic people came to Jerusalem to build on the site of the first two Israeli Temples, they built on a different location. Accordingly, the Islamic shrines are on the wrong location. This error will allow the third Israeli temple to be built, exactly as prophecy foretold, without destroying the politically sensitive Islamic shrines. This rebuilt

Temple is mentioned in Bible prophecy; it is certain to exist during the end-times (Revelation 11:1-2).

The Final Seven Years

The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. (Daniel 9:26c)

Just as no person can escape a comprehensive *flood*; no person living on earth will escape the end-times.

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27)

The end-times start with a seven-year agreement, which Antichrist will break after three and a half years. He will travel to the Temple Mount, where the rebuilt Temple will have reinstated the Old Testament practice of blood sacrifice and offering. Antichrist will stop blood sacrifice, and announce that he is God. Paul said concerning Antichrist that *he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.* (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

God will respond to Antichrist. He will lift the veil that has blinded Israel for two millenniums, and all Israel will see Jesus as its Messiah. The entire nation of Israel will turn to Jesus. The Old Testament described the moment Israel will accept its crucified Messiah—the one pierced on the cross: *And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of*

grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first-born son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great ...” (Zechariah 12:10-11).

Paul also wrote with certainty of Israel’s accepting Jesus. *I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:25-26). At the time all Israel is saved, unsaved Gentiles’ hearts will be hardened, similar to how God hardened Pharaoh’s heart in Egypt (Exodus 10:27). Gentiles will have accepted the mark of the beast.*

“TIME OF THE JEWS” and “TIME OF THE GENTILES”

Time of the Jews	Time of the Gentiles	Time of the Jews (end-time)	
ISRAEL: BELIEF (Old Testament)	ISRAEL: UNBELIEF (New Testament)	UNBELIEF (3 ½ Years)	BELIEF IN CHRIST (3 ½ Years)
		Two witnesses testify in Jerusalem; Israel does not respond.	Worldwide persecution of Israel.
		Last chance for Gentiles to be saved	Israel is saved

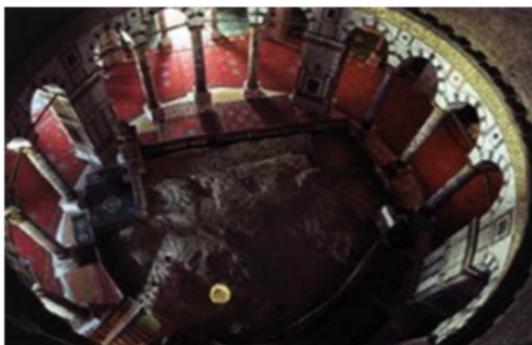
Appendix c: Temple Mount

After Moses led Israel out of Egyptian slavery, the Israelis erected a tent (Exodus 38:21-31). They placed the arc of the covenant inside the tent; the arc was God's dwelling place on earth. Centuries later Israel moved the arc into the First Temple on the Temple Mount. This First Temple was an initiative of King David (2 Samuel 7:2). His son, King Solomon, actually built the Temple (1 Kings 6:1). Construction took seven years; the labor force was 30,000 men (1 Kings 5:13; 2 Chronicles 2:2). Outside the Temple, Israel sacrificed lambs to atone for sin.

Jerusalem, with its Temple Mount, fell to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 BC (Jeremiah 39:1). Babylon took the nation of Israel captive. In 539 BC, Darius the Mede overthrew the conquering Babylonians and imposed the Medo-Persia Empire (Daniel 5:30-31). The following year Cyrus, King of Persia, released a large number of Israelis and instructed those returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1:1-3). In 515 BC, the Temple was rebuilt; this second building on Mount Moriah became known as the Second Temple (Ezra 6:15).

Joseph and Mary dedicated Jesus at this Second Temple (Luke 2:27). This also is where Jesus' searching parents found him teaching as a young man (Luke 2:41-50). Jesus forcefully cleared profiteering merchants from this Temple (John 2:13-16). Jesus and Apostles preached at the Temple (John 2:13-16; Acts 3:1-10). When Jesus died, the *curtain* (veil) inside the Temple that *separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place* tore from top to bottom (Exodus 26:33; Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45). This tearing signified that man now had unimpeded access to God.

Because Israel rejected its Messiah, Jesus foretold this Temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24:1-2). This occurred when Israel fell to the Roman Army in 70 AD. With the Islamic capture of Jerusalem centuries later, the Dome of the Rock shrine and the Al Aqsa Mosque were built on the Temple Mount. The most visible building on the Temple Mount today is the Dome of the Rock, which is built over a "sacred" rock. Islam understands that on God's holy mountain, this Temple Mount, that a rock should be honored. Unfortunately Islam is blinded to the real Rock—Jesus himself (Isaiah 26:4).



THE ROCK OF ISLAM

Appendix D: Time Remains

**Watch the evolving Beast out of the Sea.
Its status relates to the time remaining.**

By watching the European Economic Area (EEA), which is the beast out of the sea, it is possible to approximate how much time remains before Antichrist takes control of Europe. The Roman beast, with seven heads and ten horns, began with eighteen nations. It must undergo transformation to become the ultimate final Roman Empire, ready for the reign of Antichrist (Revelation 17:10-13). At the formation of the EEA-beast, ten nations of the European Community (EC) forfeited their authority to govern to the EC; these nations are the beast's ten horns (Revelation 17:12-13).

The seven "head" nations on the beast are seven countries that were not subordinate to the EC; the six European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations when joining the EEA-beast did not forfeit self-government. The seventh head of the beast is Germany. There is historical precedent that allows the identification of Germany as the primary head of the end-time Roman Empire beast.

Pope John XII crowned the King of Germany, Otto the Great, the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire on 2 February 962. Under Otto and his successors the land that is now Germany became the center of the Holy Roman Empire. German princes elected one of their peers as King of the Germans, after which the Pope would crown this King as Emperor. The 1512 Diet of Cologne changed the name of this empire to the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. It was not until 1806 AD that Napoleon forced this empire out of existence.

German power continued after the end of the Holy Roman Empire. In World War I, Germany essentially went alone against nations from Europe and North America. The World War II Axis alliance united the beast's body (Rome/Italy) with its primary head (Germany).

The forfeiture of governmental power of ten nations to the beast occurred during the watch of ten national leaders, called kings. The following describes their transfer of authority to the EC: The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. (Revelation 17:12-13) The ten horns were the twelve nations of the EC, minus two nations. The two subtracted nations are Germany (the seventh head) and Rome/Italy (the body).

THE ROMAN BEAST MORPHS

	Active Heads	Fallen Heads	Horns	Body	Total Nations	Situation
European Economic Community	United the first six nations of the 6 + 6 + 6 = 18 nation group				6	6
European Community	1	0	10	1	12	6 + 6
European Economic Area	7	0	10	1	18	6 + 6 + 6
European Community/ European Union	4	3	10	1	18+	6 + 6 + 6 + 3 3 heads fall
Future Events (Revelation 17:10-11)						
Expanded European Community/ European Union	2	5	10	1	18+	6 + 6 + 6 + 5 5 heads fall
	Of these two final active heads, one is the final ruler of that nation. The seventh and last ruler of Europe to fall still has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. This sole ruler is to rule for a period of time – will remain in power for a little while.					6 + 6 + 6 + 6 6 heads fall. One king left.
Antichrist Rules Europe	This seventh head is made subordinate to the eighth king, who is the Antichrist.					All seven heads fall under Antichrist
	0	7	10	1	18+	

7 Heads	Seven nations retained decision-making authority, self-governance, at the birth of the European Economic Area. These nations retained the ability to “think” for themselves; each such nation is a “head.”
10 Horns	These nations forfeited sovereignty and authority to the Roman beast. Each gave up its right, ability, and authority to fully rule and reason. As only a center of power, each such nation is a “horn.”
1 Body	The body is an implied anatomical part; the body is where Babylon sits. The “seven hills” further describe the body of the beast.

A Fatal Wound

There was a fatal wound, a splitting of one head on the beast; *one of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed* (Revelation 13:3). The wounded head was Germany, which was split immediately following World War II. It became two separate nations, West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) and the Russian (Soviet Union) controlled East Germany (German Democratic Republic). Splitting a head normally results in a fatal wound. However this beast's fatal wound healed when the Soviet Union released East Germany November 9, 1989.

Falling Heads

Heads fall so that just one person, Antichrist, rules over Europe. The EEA-beast's seven heads correspond to seven kings, who are the leaders of seven nations (Revelation 17:9-10). The following is a description of heads falling: *They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.* (Revelation 17:10) At a specific point, the following will describe the seven "head" nations: five of the seven governments (kings) will have fallen. In 1993 the EC became the European Union (EU); accordingly, the five EFTA nations will forfeit authority to the EU.

This forfeiture is already underway. In 1995, three heads of the EEA-beast became members of the EU, as the EU grew from twelve to fifteen nations. The three "head" nations that have fallen are Austria, Finland, and

Sweden. Iceland submitted an application for EU membership in 2009; however as of June 2013 negotiations between Iceland and EU stopped. Should Iceland's application eventually result in membership, the beast would have four fallen heads. Then only one more EFTA nation that was a 1994 member of the EEA-beast are needed to abandon EFTA membership to join the EU (1994 being the year of formation of the EEA-beast). Only two nations meet that criterion: Norway and Liechtenstein.

Tracking the movement of these nations in relation to EU membership serves to monitor the approaching time when five heads will have fallen. Economic issues cause EFTA nations to refrain from joining the EEA-beast. Norway enjoys one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world; it has substantial oil and gas reserves that increase national sentiment to retain sovereignty. Liechtenstein has the highest gross domestic product per person in the world. Iceland is hesitant to join due to contentious issues concerning its fishing industry.

After these five heads have fallen then *one (king) is, the other (king) has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while.* (Revelation 17:10) In other words, one (of the remaining kings) is still in power, and the other (one last king to rule in Europe before the Antichrist) is yet to come; and when he does come into power, he will remain in power for a while. Accordingly, this seventh king will rule for several years.

Antichrist will rule after the preceding seven kings have lost authority. Antichrist is the eighth and final ruler. *The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.* (Revelation 17:11)