

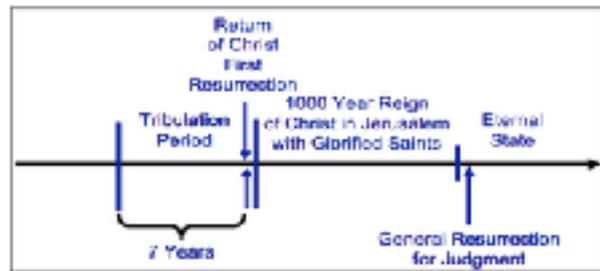
## TRIBULATION

### 1. Definitions.

- a. The ***tribulation*** is a future seven-year period during which God will give one final warning to unbelieving humanity. It will be a time of suffering unlike any the world has ever seen. The tribulation is preceded by the church age and rapture and is concluded with Jesus' second coming, the confinement of Satan, and the beginning of the 1000-year Messianic kingdom.
- b. The ***great tribulation*** is the final three and a half years of the seven-year tribulation. Conditions on earth will be especially bad. God's wrath will be completed during this time.

c. OT Names.

- (1) The Time of Jacob's Trouble—Jeremiah 30:7
- (2) The Seventieth Week (a seven) of Daniel—Daniel 9:27
- (3) Jehovah's Strange Work—Isaiah 28:21
- (4) Jehovah's Strange Act—Isaiah 28:21
- (5) The Day of Israel's Calamity—Deuteronomy 32:35; Obadiah 12–14
- (6) The Tribulation—Deuteronomy 4:30
- (7) The Indignation—Isaiah 26:20; Daniel 11:36
- (8) The Overflowing Scourge—Isaiah 28:15, 18
- (9) The Day of Vengeance—Isaiah 34:8; 35:4; 61:2
- (10) The Year of Recompense—Isaiah 34:8
- (11) The Time of Trouble—Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15
- (12) The Day of Wrath—Zephaniah 1:15
- (13) The Day of Distress—Zephaniah 1:15
- (14) The Day of Wasteness—Zephaniah 1:15
- (15) The Day of Desolation—Zephaniah 1:15
- (16) The Day of Darkness—Zephaniah 1:15; Amos 5:18, 20; Joel 2:2
- (17) The Day of Gloominess—Zephaniah 1:15; Joel 2:2
- (18) The Day of Clouds—Zephaniah 1:15; Joel 2:2
- (19) The Day of Thick Darkness—Zephaniah 1:15; Joel 2:2
- (20) The Day of the Trumpet—Zephaniah 1:16
- (21) The Day of Alarm—Zephaniah 1:16



d. NT Names.

- (1) The Day of the Lord—1 Thessalonians 5:2
- (2) The Wrath of God—Revelation 15:1, 7; 14:10, 19; 16:1
- (3) The Hour of Trial—Revelation 3:10
- (4) The Great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb of God—Revelation 6:16–17
- (5) The Wrath to Come—1 Thessalonians 1:10
- (6) The Wrath—1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 11:18
- (7) The Great Tribulation—Matthew 24:21; Revelation 2:22; 7:14
- (8) The Tribulation—Matthew 24:29
- (9) The Hour of Judgment—Revelation 14:7

## 2. Reminders.

- a. God's revelation about the tribulation has taken place progressively. That's how the Bible works.

## 3. Key Terms.

- a. θυμός.
  - (1) **Re 15:1** 1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath (θυμός) of God is finished.
  - (2) **Re 16:1** 1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath (θυμός) of God.
- b. ὀργή.
  - (1) **Ro 5:9** 9 Because, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath (ὀργή) of God.
  - (2) **1 Th 5:9** 9 For God has not destined us for wrath (ὀργή), but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Messiah....
- c. θλίψις.
  - (1) This Greek word is used 42 times in the NT. The two common meanings of the term are: (1) a hardship of any kind; and (2) the (great) tribulation.<sup>1</sup>
  - (2) **Mt 24:21** 21 For then there will be great tribulation (θλίψις), such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.
  - (3) **Re 7:14** 14 And [the angel] said to me [John], These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation (θλίψις). They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

## 4. Importance.

- a. The tribulation is one of the “major highways” of prophecy in Scripture.<sup>2</sup> As such it is a biblical doctrine that cannot be ignored. Unfortunately many churches today are afraid to discuss it (e.g., a Dunedin church skipping over Lk 21 in 2020).

## 5. Views.

- a. Idealist: Revelation presents *spiritual realities* that are true of every generation.
- b. Preterist: Revelation prophesies events that have mostly *already been fulfilled*.
- c. Historicist: Revelation prophesies events that have been unfolding *in history*.
- d. Futurist: Revelation presents prophetic events mostly *awaiting future fulfillment*.<sup>3</sup>

## 6. Purpose.

- a. To humble man's pride.
  - (1) **Is 2:10-21** 10 Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the splendour of his majesty. 11 The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and Yahweh

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<sup>1</sup> Lewis S. Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 7:306.

<sup>2</sup> Lewis S. Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 7:306.

<sup>3</sup> Some theologians (W. Grudem) aren't sure whether the tribulation has happened.

alone will be exalted in that day. 12 For Yahweh of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low. 13 Against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up, and against all the oaks of Bashan. 14 Against all the lofty mountains, and against all the uplifted hills. 15 Against every high tower, and against every fortified wall. 16 Against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft. 17 And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and Yahweh alone will be exalted in that day. 18 And the idols shall utterly pass away. 19 And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the splendour of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. 20 In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, 21 to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the splendour of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.

- (2) **Is 13:11** 11 I will punish the world (לְכָל) for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity. I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.
- b. To bring in everlasting righteousness, seal prophecy, and anoint the Millennial temple.
- (1) **Da 9:24** 24 Seventy weeks [490 years] are decreed about your people [Israel] and your holy city [Jerusalem], to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity [Jesus' first coming], to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place [Jesus' second coming].
- c. To test mankind.
- (1) **Re 3:10** 10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of testing (τῆς ὥρας τοῦ πειρασμοῦ) that is coming on the whole world, to test (πειράζω) those who dwell on the earth (τοὺς κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς).<sup>4</sup>
- d. To proclaim the gospel of the whole world.
- (1) **Mt 24:14** 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
- e. To gather the nations for judgment.
- (1) **\*Joe 3:1-2** 1 For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel....
- (2) **Joe 3:12-13** 12 Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I [Yahweh] will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. 14 Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of Yahweh is near in the valley of decision.
- f. To punish unbelievers and reward believers.

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<sup>4</sup> This is a technical phrase for tribulational unbelievers.

- (1) **Is 26:20-21** 20 Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. 21 For behold, Yahweh is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.
  - (2) **Lk 21:22** 22 ...For these are days of vengeance/punishment/dispensing of justice/rectifying wrong (ἐκδίκησις), to fulfil all that is written.
  - (3) **\*Re 11:18** 18 The nations raged, but your wrath (ἡ ὀργή σου) came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.<sup>5</sup>
- g. To empty the earth.
- (1) **Is 24:1-6** 1 Behold, Yahweh will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants. 2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest. As with the slave, so with his master. As with the maid, so with her mistress. As with the buyer, so with the seller. As with the lender, so with the borrower. As with the creditor, so with the debtor. 3 The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered, for Yahweh has spoken this word. ...5 The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants, for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.
- h. To break Israel's pride and draw her to Jesus.
- i. Prepare the way for Jesus' second coming.

## 7. Characteristics.

- a. Deception.
- (1) **Mt 24:11** 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.
  - (2) **\*Mt 24:23-27** 23 Then if anyone says to you, Look, here is the Messiah! or There he is! do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, Look, he is in the wilderness, do not go out. If they say, Look, he is in the inner rooms, do not believe it.<sup>6</sup> 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
  - (3) **Mk 13:21** 21 And then if anyone says to you, Look, here is the Messiah! or Look, there he is! do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect [tribulational believers]. 23 But be on guard. I have told you all things beforehand.
  - (4) **\*2 Th 2:9** 9 The coming (παρουσία) of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power, false signs, and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be

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<sup>5</sup> This is a great description of "the day of Yahweh."

<sup>6</sup> These are very important instructions for tribulation believers.

saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- (5) **\*Re 13:12-15** 12 It [False Prophet] exercises all the authority of the first beast [Antichrist] in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. 13 It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast [Antichrist] it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast [Antichrist] that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast [Antichrist] might even speak and might cause those who would not worship (προσκυνέω) the image of the beast [Antichrist] to be slain.
- b. Hatred, betrayal, and lawlessness.
- (1) **\*Mt 24:9-28** 9 Then [in the tribulation] they will deliver you [tribulational believers] up to tribulation (θλίψις) and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because the lawlessness (τὴν ἀνομίαν) will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.
- c. Wonders in heaven and on earth
- (1) **Joe 2:1-2** 1 Blow a trumpet in Zion. Sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of Yahweh is coming. It is near, 2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people. Their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.
- (2) **\*Joe 2:30-32** 30 And I [Yahweh] will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of Yahweh comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved.
- (3) **Joe 3:15-16** 15 The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. 16 Yahweh roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But Yahweh is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.
- (4) **Is 13:13** 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of Yahweh of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.
- (5) **Re 6:12-14** 12 When [Jesus] opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.
- (6) **Lk 21:11** 11 And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

- (7) **Lk 21:25-26** 25 And there will be [in the tribulation] signs in sun, moon, and stars, and on the earth distress/anxiety/dismay/anguish (συνοχή) of nations (ἔθνων) in perplexity (ἀπορία) because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding/expectation (προσδοκία) of what is coming on the world.
- d. War.
- (1) **Zep 1:15-16** 15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
- (2) **Lk 21:10** 10 Then he said to them, Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
- (3) **Joe 3:12-16** 12 Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I [Yahweh] will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. 14 Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of Yahweh is near in the valley of decision.
- e. Famine.
- (1) **Lk 21:11** 11 There will be [in the tribulation] great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences.
- f. Destruction.
- (1) **Is 13:9** 9 Behold, the day of Yahweh comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land (γῆ) a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.
- (2) **Da 9:26-27** 26 ...Even to the end there will be war. Desolations are determined. ...27 And on the wing of abominations one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.
- (3) **1 Th 5:1-4** 1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
- g. Emotional distress.
- (1) **Is 13:6-8** 6 Wail, for the day of Yahweh is near. As destruction from the Almighty it will come! 7 Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. 8 They will be dismayed. Pangs and agony will seize them. They will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another. Their faces will be aflame.
- (2) **Is 24:1-20** 7 The wine mourns, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh. 8 The mirth of the tambourines is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled. 9 No more do they drink wine with singing. Strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. 10 The wasted city is broken down. Every house is shut up so that none can enter. 11 There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine. All joy has grown dark. The gladness of the earth is banished. 12 Desolation is left in the city. The gates are battered into ruins

- (3) **Zep 1:14-18** 14 The great day of Yahweh is near, near and hastening fast. She sound of the day of Yahweh is bitter. The mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring distress/fear/anxiety/worry/depression/harassment (צַרֵּר) on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against Yahweh.
- (4) **Lk 21:25-26** 25 And there will be [in the tribulation] signs in sun, moon, and stars, and on the earth distress/anxiety/dismay/anguish (στυγοχή) of nations (ἔθνωσ) in perplexity (ἀπορία) because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding/expectation (προσδοκία) of what is coming on the world.

h. Death.

- (1) **Is 34:1-3** 1 Draw near, O nations, to hear, and give attention, O peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it, the world, and all that comes from it. 2 For Yahweh is enraged against all the nations, and furious against all their host. He has devoted them to destruction, has given them over for slaughter. 3 Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise. The mountains shall flow with their blood.
- (2) **Zep 1:17-18** Their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of Yahweh. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed, for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.
- (3) **Mt 24:22** 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved.
- (4) **Mt 24:28** 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

## 8. Length.

a. The tribulation will be seven years.

- (1) **Da 9:27** 27 And he [Antichrist] will make a firm covenant (וְהִגְבִּיר בְּרִית) with the many [Jewish majority] for one week [seven years], but in the middle/half (הַצֵּי) of the week [the beginning of the great tribulation] he [Antichrist] will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering. And on the wing of abominations one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.
- (2) From the order to rebuild the Jerusalem temple to the cutting off of Messiah was 69 x 7 years. There is still one more period of seven years to go.<sup>7</sup>

b. The great tribulation will be three and half years.

- (1) **Da 12:7** 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen [Jesus], who was above the waters of the stream. He raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever [the Father] that it would be for a time, times, and half a time [3 1/2 years], and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

<sup>7</sup> Lewis S. Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 7:307.

- (2) **Da 12:11-12** 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days [3 1/2 years plus 30 days]. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days [45 more days].
- c. The great tribulation may possibly be shortened.
  - (1) **Mt 24:22** 22 And if those days [great tribulation] had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect [tribulation believers] those days will be cut short.

## 9. Timeline.

- a. Overview.
  - (1) The order of tribulation events is the same in Da 9, Mt 24, and 2 Th 2.
- b. Church age.
  - (1) **Mt 24:4-8** 4 And Jesus answered them, See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name saying, I am the Messiah, and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.
  - (2) **Lk 21:8-9** 8 And he said, See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name saying, I am he! and, The time is at hand! Do not go after them. 9 And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place [in the church age], but the end [times] will not be at once.
  - (3) **Lk 21:12-18** 12 But before ( $\pi\rho\acute{o}$ ) all this [in the church age before the tribulation] they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your [church age] opportunity to testify. 14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be delivered up even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and some of you they will put to death. 17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will [ultimately] perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives [in the Messianic kingdom and beyond].
  - (4) **2 Th 2:6-7** 6 And you know what [the Holy Spirit in the church] is restraining him [Antichrist] now so that he may be revealed ( $\acute{\alpha}\pi\omicron\kappa\alpha\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\pi\tau\omega$ ) in his time [at the beginning of the tribulation]. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he [the Spirit] who now restrains it [the Antichrist rebellion] will do so until he [the Spirit] is out of the way.
  - (5) See *Church Age* and *Church Age Apostasy*.
- c. Rapture.
  - (1) See *Rapture*.
  - (2) The period of time between the rapture and the beginning of the tribulation is unspecified. With the church removed, it will probably not be a long period. The

rapture is when the whistle is blown. The beginning of the tribulation is when the ball is kicked.

d. Beginning of the tribulation.

- (1) The tribulation will begin when Israel signs a peace treaty with the Antichrist.
  - (a) **Da 9:27** 27 And he [Antichrist] will make a strong covenant (וְהִגִּיר בְּרִית) with the many [Jewish majority] for one week [seven years]....
- (2) With the Holy Spirit out of the way, Antichrist will be revealed.
  - (a) **2 Th 2:3-8** 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day [the day of Jesus' second coming] will not come, unless the rebellion (ἀποστασία) comes first, and the man of lawlessness [Antichrist] is revealed/disclosed/brought to light (ἀποκαλύπτω), the son of destruction.... 6 And you know what [the Holy Spirit in the church] is restraining him [Antichrist] now so that he may be revealed (ἀποκαλύπτω) in his time [at the beginning of the tribulation]. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he [the Spirit in the church] who now restrains it [the Antichrist rebellion] will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then [as the tribulation begins] the lawless one will be revealed (ἀποκαλύπτω)....

e. First half of the tribulation.

- (1) There is a difference of opinion when the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls will take place.
  - (a) A. Fruchtenbaum believes the seals and trumpets will take place in the first half of the tribulation, and the bowls in the second half.
  - (b) M. Svigel believes the seals are general to the entire tribulation, the trumpets take place in the first half of the tribulation, and the bowls in the second half.
  - (c) M. Hitchcock believes the seals take place in the first half of the tribulation, the trumpets in the second half, and the bowls all at once at the end of the second half.
  - (d) At this stage, I personally am going with Fruchtenbaum's view. But the other views have merit and are possible.
- (2) Seven seals (first quarter of the tribulation).
  - (a) First seal — The rise of Antichrist.
    - (1) **Re 6:1-2** 1 Now I watched when the Lamb [Jesus] opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, Come! 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse [Antichrist]! And its rider had a bow, and a crown [authority] was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer [put down rebellion].
  - (b) Second seal — War.
    - (1) **Re 6:3-4** 3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, Come! 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.
  - (c) Third seal — Famine.
    - (1) **Re 6:5-6** 5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, Come! And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius,

and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!

(d) Fourth seal — Death.

(1) **Re 6:7-8** 7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, Come! 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with famine, and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

(e) Fifth seal — Cry for vengeance.

(1) **Re 6:9-11** 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

(f) Sixth seal — Great earthquake and signs in the sky.

(1) **Re 6:12-17** 12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?

(g) Seventh seal — Seven trumpets.

(1) **Re 8:1-2** 1 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

(h) Note.

(1) The order of events in Revelation and the order of events in Matthew are strikingly similar: (a) war (Mt 24:6-7; Re 6:3-4), (b) famine (Mt 24:7; Re 6:5-6), (c) death (Mt 24:7-9; Re 6:7-8), (d) martyrdom (Mt 24:9-10, 16-22; Re 6:9-11), (e) the sun and the moon darkened with stars falling (Mt 24:29; Re 6:12-14), (f) divine judgment (Mt 24:32-25:26; Re 6:15-17).<sup>8</sup>

(3) Seven shofars (second quarter of the tribulation).

(a) First shofar — Hail, fire, and blood on the land.

(1) **Re 8:6-7** 6 Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. 7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and

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<sup>8</sup> J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*, 280-82.

fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

(b) Second shofar — Fiery mountain thrown into the sea.

(1) **Re 8:8-9** 8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

(c) Third shofar — Great star falls on the rivers.

(1) **Re 8:10-11** The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

(d) Fourth shofar — Sun, moon, and stars darkened.

(1) **Re 8:12** 12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

(e) Fifth shofar/first woe — Locust-scorpions for five months.

(1) **Re 8:13-9:12** 13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow! 1 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. 2 He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. 3 Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. 6 And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them. 7 In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold. Their faces were like human faces, 8 their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. 10 They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. 11 They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon. 12 The first woe has passed. Behold, two woes are still to come.

(f) Sixth shofar/second woe — Third of mankind killed.

- (1) **Re 9:13-21** 13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number. 17 And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them. They wore breastplates the color of fire, of sapphire, and of sulphur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire, smoke, and sulphur came out of their mouths. 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire, smoke, and sulphur coming out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound. 20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent (μετανοέω, aor.) of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent (μετανοέω, aor.) of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.
- (g) Seventh shofar/third woe — .
- (1) **Re 11:15-19** 15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he shall reign forever and ever. 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God 17 saying, We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. 18 The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth. 19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.
- (4) General characteristics.
- (a) Persecution, apostasy, betrayal, hatred, false prophecy, lawlessness.
- (1) **Mt 24:9-13** 9 Then [in the tribulation] they will deliver you [tribulation believers] up to tribulation (θλίψις) and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because the lawlessness (την ἀνομίαν) will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
- (b) Trampling of Jerusalem by the nations.
- (1) **Re 11:1-2** 1 Then I [John] was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there, 2 but do not measure the court outside the temple. Leave

that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city [Jerusalem] for forty-two months [3 1/2 years].

(c) Testimony of God's two witnesses.

- (1) **Re 11:3-6** 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days [3 1/2 years], clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. 6 They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.
- (2) **Mt 24:14** 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

f. Midpoint of the tribulation.

- (1) The gospel will be proclaimed one final time.
  - (a) **Mt 24:14** 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
  - (2) Satan and the demons will be thrown down to earth.
    - (a) **Lk 21:26** 26 For the [Satanic/demonic] powers (δυνάμεις) of the heavens will be shaken [at the midpoint of the tribulation].
    - (b) **Re 12:7-10** 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon [Satan]. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him [at the midpoint of the tribulation]. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now the salvation, the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.
  - (c) **Re 12:12** 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath/displeasure/anger/rage/indignation (θυμὸν μέγαν), because he knows that his time is short (ὀλίγος)!
- (3) The Antichrist will arrive and kill the two witnesses.
  - (a) **Re 11:7** 7 And when they [the two witnesses] have finished their testimony, the beast [Antichrist] that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them....
- (4) The Antichrist will sit in the Jerusalem temple and proclaim himself as God.
  - (a) **2 Th 2:1-12** 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day [the day of Jesus' second coming] will not come, unless the rebellion (ἀποστασία) comes first, and the man of lawlessness [Antichrist] is revealed/disclosed/brought to light (ἀποκαλύπτω), the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat [at

the midpoint of the tribulation] in the temple of God [in Jerusalem], proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?<sup>9</sup>

- (5) The Antichrist will set up the abomination of desolation in the Jerusalem temple.
  - (a) **Da 9:27** 27 ...But in the middle/half (שָׁנָה) of the week [the beginning of the great tribulation] he [Antichrist] will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering [in the Jerusalem temple]. And on the wing of abominations one who makes desolate....
  - (b) **Mt 24:15** 15 So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel [Da 9:27], standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)....
  - (c) **Mk 13:14** 14 But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand)....
- (6) The remnant of Israel will flee to the wilderness.
  - (a) **Mt 24:16-20** 16 ...Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.
  - (b) **Mk 13:14-18** 14 ...Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, 16 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 17 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 18 Pray that it may not happen in winter.
  - (c) **Re 12:6** 6 ...And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God....
  - (d) **Re 12:13-14** 13 And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman [Israel] who had given birth to the male child [the church]. 14 But the woman [Israel] was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent [Satan] into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time [3 1/2 years].
- g. Second 3 1/2 years.
  - (1) General characteristics.
    - (a) Antichrist will devour and trample down the whole earth.
      - (1) **Da 7:23** 23 Thus [the angel] said: As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, trample it down, and break it to pieces.
      - (2) **Re 13:5** 5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months [3 1/2 years].
    - (b) God will protect and sustain the remnant of Israel in the wilderness.

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<sup>9</sup> Paul taught the Thessalonians about the end times during the one month he was with them.

- (1) **Re 12:6** 6 ...And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days [3 1/2 years, the great tribulation].
- (2) **Re 12:15-16** 15 The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. 16 But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.
- (c) Antichrist will war against the tribulational saints and kill many of them.
  - (1) **Da 7:21** 21 As I [Daniel] looked, this horn [Antichrist] made war with the [tribulational] saints and prevailed over them.
  - (2) **Da 7:25** 25 [Antichrist] shall speak words against the Most High, shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law. And they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time [3 1/2 years].
  - (3) **Re 12:17** 17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman [Israel] and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring [tribulational believers], on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.
- (d) Unprecedented suffering.
  - (1) **Mt 24:21-22** 21 For then there will be great tribulation (θλίψις μεγάλη), such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved.
  - (2) **Mk 13:19-20** 19 For in those days there will be such tribulation/trouble/distress/oppression/affliction (θλίψις) as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. 20 And if the Lord [Jesus] had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved.
- (2) Seven bowls.
  - (a) **Re 15:1** 1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.
  - (b) **Re 15:5-16:1** 5 After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, 6 and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. 7 And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, 8 and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished. 1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.
  - (c) First bowl — Painful sores.
    - (1) **Re 16:2** 2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

- (d) Second bowl — Death in the sea.
  - (1) **Re 16:3** 3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.
- (e) Third bowl — Bloody rivers and springs.
  - (1) **Re 16:4** 4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.
- (f) Fourth bowl — Scorching sun.
  - (1) **Re 16:8** 8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.
- (g) Fifth bowl — Darkness and anguish.
  - (1) **Re 16:10** 10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.
- (h) Sixth bowl — Euphrates dried up.
  - (1) **Re 16:12** 12 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. 13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ... 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.
- (i) Seventh bowl — Great earthquake and hail.
  - (1) **Re 16:17-21** 17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, It is done! 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people. And they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.
- h. End of the tribulation.
  - (1) The great tribulation will end with Jesus' second coming.
    - (a) **Mk 13:24-27** 24 But in those days, after that tribulation ( $\theta\lambda\upsilon\psi\tau\iota\varsigma$ ), the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect

- [tribulational believers] from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
- (2) The great tribulation will be cut short. It won't reach the entire 3 1/2 years.
    - (a) **Mt 24:22** 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect [tribulational believers] those days will be cut short.
  - (3) Jesus will kill Antichrist with his word. The Lion will roar!
    - (a) **Da 9:27** 27 And on the wing of abominations one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate [Antichrist].
    - (b) **2 Th 2:8** 8 And then [as the tribulation begins] the lawless one will be revealed (*ἀποκαλύπτω*), whom the Lord Jesus will kill [at the end of the tribulation] with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming (*παρουσία*).
  - (4) Antichrist's kingdom will be destroyed forever.
    - (a) **Da 7:26** 26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and [Antichrist's] dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.
  - (5) Daniel's seventy weeks will be completed.
    - (a) **Da 9:24** 24 Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity [Jesus' first coming], to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place [Jesus' second coming].

## 10. Cast of Characters.

### a. Father.

- (1) In the tribulation, the Father will demonstrate his attributes in unmistakable way.
  - (a) The Father is sovereign, just, omnipotent, and faithful.
- (2) The Father stands behind everything that will happen in the tribulation. The tribulation is a crucial part of his plan in dealing with humanity.
  - (a) **Re 8:2** 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God [the Father], and seven trumpets were given to them.
  - (b) **Re 14:7** 7 And he said with a loud voice, Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come....
  - (c) **Re 16:14** 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.
- (3) Believers will continually praise the Father for what he causes to happen in the tribulation.
  - (a) **Re 7:12** 12 ...Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.
  - (b) **Re 19:1** 1 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven crying out, Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God....
- (4) It is through the tribulation that the Father's kingdom will come from heaven to earth.

- (a) **Mt 6:9-10** 9 ...Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- (b) **Re 11:16-17** 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God 17 saying, We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.
- (c) **Re 12:10** 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now the salvation, the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah have come, for the accuser [Satan] of our brothers has been thrown down....
- (5) The tribulation will be an unmistakable demonstration that earth is ruled from heaven.
  - (a) **Re 11:19** 19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.
- (6) The tribulation will complete the wrath of God.
  - (a) **Re 15:1** 1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.
- (7) In the tribulation, the justice of the Father will be satisfied.
  - (a) **Re 16:7** 7 And I heard the altar saying, Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!
- b. Son.
  - (1) Jesus is the only one who can officially begin the tribulational judgments.
    - (a) **Re 5:5** 5 And one of the elders said to me, Weep no more. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.
  - (2) Jesus is the only one who can officially end the tribulational judgements.
    - (a) **Re 19:11-16** 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
- c. Holy Spirit.
  - (1) The Spirit is not prominent in the tribulation. This is because he is taken out of the way before the tribulation.
    - (a) **2 Th 2:6-7** 6 And you know what is restraining [Antichrist] now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he [the Spirit] who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

- (2) The Spirit, however, will likely be present to convict the world and minister to believers.
  - (a) **Jn 16:8** 8 ...When [the Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- d. Angels.
  - (1) The word ἄγγελος is used 67 times in Revelation. The only chapters in Revelation where angels aren't mentioned are chapters 4, 6, and 13.
  - (2) **Re 1:1** 1 The revelation of Jesus Messiah, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel (ἄγγελος) to his servant John....
  - (3) **Re 12:7-8** 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon [Satan]. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
  - (4) **Re 22:16** 16 I, Jesus, have sent my angel (ἄγγελος) to testify to you about these things for the churches.
- e. Church.
  - (1) From Re 4-18, the church is not mentioned. This is one argument for the pretribulational rapture view.
  - (2) **Re 19:7-9** 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride [the church] has made herself ready. 8 It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. 9 And the angel said to me, Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
  - (3) **Re 19:14** 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.
- f. The 144,000.
  - (1) **Re 7:3-8** 3 ...Saying, Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, 6 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, 7 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, 8 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.
  - (2) **Re 14:1-5** 1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from

mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, 5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

- (3) **Mt 24:14** 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
- g. Great multitude.
  - (1)
    - (a) **Lk 21:36** 36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you [tribulational believers] may have strength to escape/avoid (ἐκφεύγω) all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man [Jesus].
  - (2)
    - (a) **Re 6:9-11** 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.
  - (3) The great multitude are tribulational believers from among the nations.
    - (a) **Re 7:9-17** 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! ... 13 Then one of the elders addressed me [John] saying, Who are these [the great multitude], clothed in white robes, and from where have they come? 14 I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones [believers] coming out of the great tribulation (τῆς θλίψεως τῆς μεγάλης). They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. And he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore. The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
  - (4) Satan will make war on them.
    - (a) **Re 12:17** 17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman [Israel] and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring [tribulational believers], on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.
    - (b) **Re 13:9** 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear: 10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes. If anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the [tribulational] saints.
  - (5) The Father will avenge the blood of the tribulational believers.
    - (a) **Re 19:1-2** 1 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven crying out, Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong

to our God, 2 for his judgments are true and just. For he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.

h. Two witnesses.

(1) **Re 11:3-13** 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days [3 1/2 years], clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. 6 They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. 7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast [Antichrist] that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them, 8 and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city [Jerusalem] that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days some from the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, 10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. 11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, Come up here! And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. 13 And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

i. Remnant of Israel.

(1) The tribulation will be a time of great distress for Israel, but she shall be saved.

(a) **Da 12:1** 1 At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people [Israel]. And there shall be a time of trouble/need/distress/anxiety (צָרָה), such as never has been since there was a nation [of Israel] till that time. But at that time your people [Israel] shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

(b) **Je 30:7** 7 Alas! That day is so great there is none like it. It is a time of distress/need/anxiety (צָרָה) for Jacob. Yet he shall be saved (יִשָּׁע) out of it.

(2) The tribulation will begin when Antichrist signs a covenant with Israel. Likely, Israel will be guaranteed security if she gives up her own armaments.<sup>10</sup>

(a) **Da 9:27** 27 And he [Antichrist] will make a firm covenant (וְהִגִּבִּיר בְּרִית) with the many [Jewish majority] for one week [seven years]....

(3) Antichrist will stop sacrifice and grain offering at the midpoint of the tribulation.

(a) **Da 9:27** 27 ...But in the middle/half (חֲצִי) of the week [the beginning of the great tribulation] he [Antichrist] will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering.

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<sup>10</sup> Stanley Toussaint.

- (4) When Antichrist sets up the abomination of desolation in the temple, Israel is to flee to the mountains.
- (a) **Mt 24:15-22** 15 So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel [Da 9:27], standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.
- (5) Israel is to hide until God punishes the earth-dwellers for their sin.
- (a) **Is 26:20-21** 20 Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. 21 For behold, Yahweh is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.
- (b) **Re 12:6** 6 ...And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days [3 1/2 years, the great tribulation].
- (c) **Re 12:13-17** 13 And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman [Israel] who had given birth to the male child [the church]. 14 But the woman [Israel] was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent [Satan] into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time [3 1/2 years]. 15 The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. 16 But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. 17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman [Israel] and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring [tribulational believers]....
- (6) The nations will battle against Jerusalem and take it.
- (a) **Zec 14:1-3** 1 Behold, a day is coming for Yahweh, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken, the houses plundered, and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
- (7) All these events will cause Israel to return to God.
- (a) **Dt 4:30-31** 30 When you are in tribulation/distress/harassed (צָרָר), and all these things come upon you in the latter days (בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים) [end times], you will return (שׁוּב) to Yahweh your God and obey his voice. 31 For Yahweh your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you, destroy you, or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.
- (8) God will judge the nations on Israel's behalf.
- (a) **Joe 2:32-3:2** 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom Yahweh calls. 1 For behold, in those days and at that time, when I

restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel....

- (9) Blessed are those who make it through the tribulation.
- (a) **Da 12:10-12** 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days [3 1/2 years plus 30 days]. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days [45 more days].

j. Satan.

- (1) **Re 12:7-17** 7 Now [at the midpoint of the Tribulation] war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon [Satan]. And the dragon and his angels [demons] fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ...12 But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short! 13 And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman [Israel] who had given birth to the male child [the church]. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. 15 The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. 16 But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. 17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

k. Antichrist.

- (1) See *Antichrist*.

l. False prophet.

- (1) It rises out of the earth and makes the earth-dwellers worship the Antichrist.
- (a) **Re 13:11-12** 11 Then I saw another beast (θηριον) rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.
- (2) It performs great signs and deceives the earth-dwellers.
- (a) **Re 13:13-14** 13 It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth....
- (3) It tells the earth-dwellers to make an image for the Antichrist.
- (a) **Re 13:14** 14 ...Telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

- (4) It gives breath to the image of the Antichrist, so that those who do not worship the image are killed.
  - (a) **Re 13:15** 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.
- (5) It causes all earth-dwellers to be marked with the name or number of the Antichrist.
  - (a) **Re 13:16-18** 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.
- m. Demons.
  - (1) **Re 16:13-16** 13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ... 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.
- n. Earth-dwellers.
  - (1) The earth-dwellers is a technical term for unbelievers living in the tribulation.
    - (a) **Zep 1:14-18** 14 The great day of Yahweh is near, near and hastening fast. She sound of the day of Yahweh is bitter. The mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring distress/fear/anxiety/worry/depression/harassment (צרה) on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against Yahweh. Their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of Yahweh. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed, for a full and sudden end he will make of *all the inhabitants of the earth*.
    - (b) **Is 24:17-18** 17 Terror and the pit and the snare are upon you, O *inhabitant of the earth!* 18 He who flees at the sound of the terror shall fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit shall be caught in the snare.
    - (c) **Lk 21:34-35** 34 But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon *all who dwell on the face of the whole earth* (ἐπὶ πάντας τοὺς καθημένους ἐπὶ πρόσωπον πάσης τῆς γῆς).
    - (d) **Re 3:10** 10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial (τῆς ὥρας τοῦ πειρασμοῦ) that is coming on

the whole world, to try (πειράζω) *those who dwell on the earth* (τοὺς κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς).<sup>11</sup>

(e) **Re 13:7-8** 7 And authority was given [the beast] over every tribe, people, language, and nation, 8 and *all who dwell on earth* will worship (προσκυνέω) it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

(2) Characteristics of the earth-dwellers.

(a) Wickedness.

(1) **Da 12:10** 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

(b) Unpreparedness.

(1) **1 Th 5:3-4** 3 While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

(c) Fear.

(1) **Re 6:15-17** 15 Then the kings of the earth, the great ones, the generals, the rich, and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath (ἡ ἡμέρα ἡ μεγάλη τῆς ὀργῆς τῶν αὐτῶν) has come, and who can stand?

(d) Deception.

(1) **2 Th 2:9-12** 9 The coming (παρουσία) of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power, false signs, and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

(2) **Re 13:13-14** 13 [The second beast] performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast [Antichrist] it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast [Antichrist] that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

(e) Worship of Satan and the Antichrist.

(1) **Re 13:3-8** 3 One of [the beast's] heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marvelled/were extraordinarily impressed/wondered/were astonished (θαυμάζω) as they followed the beast. 4 And they worshiped (προσκυνέω)<sup>12</sup> the dragon [Satan], for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped

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<sup>11</sup> This is a technical phrase for tribulational unbelievers.

<sup>12</sup> “[T]o express in attitude or gesture one’s complete dependence on or submission to a high authority figure, (fall down and) worship, do obeisance to, prostrate oneself before, do reverence to, welcome respectfully...” (BDAG, 882).

(προσκυνέω) the beast saying, Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it? ...7 And authority was given [the beast] over every tribe, people, language, and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship (προσκυνέω) it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

(2) **Re 13:12** 12 [The second beast] exercises all the authority of the first beast [Antichrist] in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

(f) Mark of the Beast.

(1) **Re 13:16-17** 16 Also [the second beast] causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

o. Nations.

(1) **Zec 12:2-3** 2 Behold, I [Yahweh] am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. 3 On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

## 11. Primary Locations.

a. Heaven.

b. Earth.

(1) **Is 24:19-20** 19 The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. 20 The earth staggers like a drunken man. It sways like a hut. Its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again.

c. Jerusalem.

(1) **\*Joe 2:30-3:2** 30 And I [Yahweh] will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of Yahweh comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom Yahweh calls. 1 For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel....

(2) **\*Daniel 9:24-27 [NASB]** 26 Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah (מָשִׁיחַ) will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the [false] prince (נְגִיד) who is to come [Antichrist] will destroy the city [Jerusalem] and the sanctuary [temple], and its end with a flood. Even to the end there will be war. Desolations are determined. 27 And he [Antichrist] will make a firm covenant (וְהִגִּיר בְּרִית) with the many [Jewish majority] for one week [seven years], but in the middle/half (צִדְדֵי) of the week [the beginning of the great tribulation] he [Antichrist] will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering. And on the wing of abominations one who

makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate

- (3) **\*Revelation 11:1-7** 1 Then I [John] was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there, 2 but do not measure the court outside the temple. Leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city [Jerusalem] for forty-two months [3 1/2 years]. 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days [3 1/2 years], clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. 6 They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. 7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast [Antichrist] that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them....
- d. "Babylon."
  - (1) Babylon could be literal Babylon, Rome, Jerusalem, or Satan's world system in general, the city of man.
  - (2) **Is 25:2** 2 For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin. The foreigners' palace is a city no more. It will never be rebuilt.
  - (3) **Re 17-18**
- e. Armageddon.
- f. Bozrah.
  - (1) **Is 34:5-8** 5 Behold, it descends for judgment upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction. 6 Yahweh has a sword. It is sated with blood. It is gorged with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For Yahweh has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7 Wild oxen shall fall with them, and young steers with the mighty bulls. Their land shall drink its fill of blood, and their soil shall be gorged with fat. 8 For Yahweh has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.
  - (2) Re 12:6 6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days [3 1/2 years, the great tribulation].
  - (3) Re 12:14 14 But the woman [Israel] was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent [Satan] into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time [3 1/2 years].
- g. Valley of Jehoshaphat.
  - (1) **\*Joe 2:30-3:2** 30 And I [Yahweh] will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of Yahweh comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom Yahweh calls. 1 For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley

of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel....

## 12. Types.

- a. Noah's flood.
- b. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- c. The ten plagues of Egypt.
- d. Israel's conquest of Canaan.
- e. Assyria's invasion of Judah.
- f. Babylonia's invasion of Judah.
- g. Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration of the Jerusalem temple.
- h. Rome's invasion of Judah.

## 13. Beliefs of the Early Church.

- a. When we examine Christian writers of the first two centuries, we notice a remarkable understanding of future events that will take place during a particular period, often called the "tribulation," and even assigned to the seventieth week of Da 9. If preterists are correct in identifying the tribulation with the events of ad 67-73, nobody in the early church seems to have understood it this way.
- b. "And then the deceiver of the world will appear as a son of God and will perform signs and wonders, and the earth will be delivered into his hands, and he will commit abominations the likes of which have never happened before. Then all humankind will come to the fiery test, and many will fall away and perish."<sup>13</sup>
- c. "When the Son comes he will destroy the time of the lawless one and will judge the ungodly and will change the sun and the moon and the stars, and then he will truly rest on the seventh day."<sup>14</sup>
- d. "For he [Antichrist] being endued with all the power of the devil, shall come, not as a righteous king, nor as a legitimate king, in subjection to God, but an impious, unjust, and lawless one; as an apostate, iniquitous and murderous; as a robber, concentrating in himself satanic apostasy, and setting aside idols to persuade that he himself is God raising up himself as the only idol, having in himself the multifarious errors of the other idols. This he does, in order that they who do [now] worship the devil by means of many abominations, may serve himself by this one idol, of whom the apostle thus speaks in the second Epistle to the Thessalonians.... For three years and six months, during which time, when he comes, he shall reign over the earth... And then he [Daniel] points out the time that his tyranny shall last, during which the saints shall be put to flight, they who offer a pure sacrifice unto God: 'And in the midst of the week,' he says, 'the sacrifice and the libation shall be taken away, and the abomination of desolation into the temple: even unto the consummation of the time shall the desolation be complete.' Now three years and six months constitute the half-week."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *Didache* 16.4-5 (50-100 ad).

<sup>14</sup> *Epistle of Barnabas* 15.5 (c. 80s).

<sup>15</sup> Irenaeus of Lyons [c. 180], *Against Heresies* 5.25.2-4.

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