

The End Times

Today, more than any other time in history, events are being played out on the world stage that will bring an end to our current times. These are more commonly referred to as *The End Times* or *The Last Days*.

World events such as the rebirth of Israel in 1948 and the regathering of the Jewish people back into the land, conflicts and tensions in the Middle East, an increase of wickedness and evil, an increase of knowledge, nations that are blatantly anti-Israel and the instability of Russia as well as economic and technological advances that make possible events described in the Bible, that 100 years ago would have been inconceivable.

These signs exhort us to be like the five wise virgins in (Matthew 25:1-13) that kept their lamps full and their wicks trimmed as they waited and watched for their Lords return.

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for not discerning the times (Matthew 16:1-3) and to the disciples He spoke the parable of the fig tree about discerning the times (Luke 21:29-33).

Let's take a closer look at some of the signs that point to the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We see leaps in technological advances such as nuclear missile strike capability and satellite technologies that allow us to see real time events halfway around the world which were impossible one-hundred years ago.

Calls for a global economic system, a "world currency" and a one world government also demonstrate that we are closer to the end times then ever before.

- Dr. Tim LaHaye says that "The global economy is already a reality! The world government is already in the process of forming under the banner of democracy...A consensus of world religion does not exist today, but could easily develop after the rapture. In the meantime, the

sentiment of apostate Christendom continues to favor a religion of universal tolerance.”¹

Recently, a global currency has been a topic of much debate with the economic pressures that have recently taken its toll on the stock markets and the world economies. World leaders, heads of governments and heads of states have been in the process of meeting and discussing a global economy and currency.

- “The creation of a global currency should be put on the agenda of all major political and economic bodies, summits and forums, including the G8 and the G20.”²
- “The G20 moves the world a step closer to a global currency...The world is a step closer to a global currency, backed by a global central bank, running monetary policy for all humanity.”³

Of course this means that a global world government will need to have oversight and administer the global central bank that oversees a “future world currency”.

Daniel 12:4 says that “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” during the end times.

Some people believe this verse applies to the increase of knowledge and human understanding in regards to medicine, science, technology and travel.

- We are currently living in what’s called the “information age” of human existence.

For example, “There are more than 70 million blogs and 150 million Web sites today—a number that is expanding at a rate of approximately ten thousand an *hour*. Two hundred and ten billion e-mails are sent each day. Say goodbye to the gigabyte and hello to the exabyte, five of which are worth 37,000 Libraries of Congress. In 2006 alone, the world produced 161 exabytes of digital data, the equivalent of three million times the information contained in all the books ever

written. By 2010, it is estimated that this number will increase to 988.”⁴

- Modern technology doubles about every 17-24 months.
- In the last 100 years alone, we’ve gone from traveling 30 mph with horse and buggies to cars and aircraft that get you half way around the world in less than a day, along with space travel and space stations, etc.

Others believe that Daniel 12:4 refers to the increase in wanting to know more or “increasing knowledge” about prophecy and the end times.

- Many shows about the Mayan 2012 end time prophecies have caught peoples attention and even evangelicals are jumping on board.
- The History Channel alone has at least four documentaries examining these “predications” with one stating:

“DOOMSDAY 2012: THE END OF DAYS undertakes a sweeping examination of these fateful forecasts... consider the ancient Mayan Calendar, the medieval predictions of Merlin, the Book of Revelation and the Chinese oracle of the I Ching...Then learn of a new technology - a web-bot crawling the internet to predict the future - that has independently concluded there's no need to plan a New Year's 2013 Party.”⁵

Still, many believe that Daniel 12:4 refers to neither of these explanations but in context, teaches that “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” as people in the end times will look to the Book of Daniel and Scripture for answers as to what they are seeing and experiencing.

Author Allan MacRae writes that “Most interpreters...starting as early as St. Jerome, have considered the second clause as closely connected with the first, so that the increase of knowledge would be a result of the fact that many ‘go here and there,’ hunting through the document, and comparing Scripture with Scripture to find God’s truth.”⁶

But tonight, we’re here to see what the Bible, our *final court of appeal* has to say on the matter of *The End Times*.

The study of *The End Times* or *Eschatology* is the area of systematic theology concerning the last things.

The word Eschatology is derived from the Greek *eschatos*, which means "last" and *logos*, which of course means "word". The English suffix *logy* on the end of a word means "doctrine of, study of, or science of" and thus *eschatology* means "the study of the last word or the last times."

We are not trying to be alarmists or sensationalists and we are not date setting, but the Bible does tell us to watch because we will be able to discern the times, and this is what Jesus clearly desires we do:

- Jesus' own instructions on Matthew 16:1-3 tell us, "Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, 'When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times."
- Luke 21:29-31 says, "Then He spoke to them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.'"

Although there are many eschatological views, timelines and shades of gray concerning when these events will take place, our primary focus is on what the Bible ultimately has to say.

The order of the following events we'll be looking at tonight is outlined for us in the Book of Revelation.

1. **The Rapture**
2. **The Antichrist**
3. **The Tribulation**
4. **Armageddon**
5. **The Second Coming of Jesus Christ**

6. The Millennial Kingdom

7. The Eternal State

1. The Rapture

The rapture is the future event when Jesus Christ will descend from heaven with those who have already died and the dead in Christ will be resurrected and the Christians still alive will be instantly translated into their new resurrected bodies and will meet Jesus Christ in the air.

This means that one generation of believers will not die but will instantly inherit their new glorious bodies.

This is the one event that can happen at anytime, it's signless and imminent. In other words, we could be called at anytime and what a glorious time that would be!

The word *rapture* comes to us from the Latin word *raptus*. This word in the Latin Bible comes from the Greek word *harpazo* which means "to seize, to violently or suddenly remove or to snatch away, to pluck, pull, take by force."

Predominant Rapture Theories:

As mentioned before, there are different eschatological views on when events occur and the rapture is no different:

1. **Partial Rapture position** – This position does not have to do with the timing of the rapture of the church as much as the "who" will be raptured. This theory believes that only those who are "watching" and "waiting" for the event will be worthy to be included.
2. **Posttribulation Rapture position** – This position is that the church will be raptured after the 7 year tribulation period. In other words, the church will go through the entire tribulation period and be raptured at Jesus' Second Coming.
3. **Midtribulation Rapture position** - This position is that the church will be raptured around the 3 ½ year mark of the 7 year tribulation

period. In other words, the church will only go through part of the tribulation period.

4. **Pretribulation Rapture position** – This position holds that the church, in her entirety, will be raptured from the earth prior to the beginning of the tribulation period and will not endure any of the “seventh-week” of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27).

It is the last position, the Pretribulation theory that we believe the Bible gives a greater testimony for.

Prophecy expert John F. Walvoord (1910-2002) wrote that “if the pretribulationists are right, the rapture of the church is the next event of major importance in prophecy and will take the church from the earth to heaven.”⁷

Key Rapture Passages:

- Jesus says in John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 says, “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 says, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** [Greek: *harpazo*] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
- Revelation 4:1 is when the rapture of the church happens in Revelation. Chapter 1 talks about Jesus’ Person and His Power and

Chapters 2-3 are the letters to the seven churches and after that, the bride of Christ, His church, is no longer mentioned and the tribulation begins in Revelation 6-19.

A quick scan of the Bible shows that the word *church* or *churches* [Greek: *ekklesia*], is used twenty times in the book of Revelation with nineteen of those times in chapters 1-3 and then again in Revelation 22:16 after the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.

Kept From the Wrath to Come:

The Bible teaches that believers are "not appointed for wrath" and so we see examples in Scripture where God removed certain individuals from the wrath that was to come.

- Romans 5:8, 9 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, *we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*" (emphasis added)
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10 says, "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*" (emphasis added)
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9 says, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Dr. John MacArthur explains that "believers will not experience the **wrath** God will pour out on the unbelievers on the Day of the Lord, and for eternity in hell...But God's **wrath** here must also include the Day of the Lord, since that was the Thessalonians' primary concern. Paul assured them that they would face neither temporal **wrath** on the Day of the Lord (cf. Rev.6:17), nor eternal **wrath** in hell."⁸

- Revelation 3:10 says, "I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

Scripture Precedence of Being Kept From the Wrath to Come:

So what precedent do we have in the Old and New Testaments that demonstrate that God saves those who are His from the “wrath to come”?

The following are Biblical examples of a type of rapture that sets the precedence that believers will not go through the time of God’s judgment or wrath on the unbelieving world:

1. **Enoch** (Genesis 5:24) - Enoch was taken by God to heaven (Hebrews 11:5) before the judgment of the flood.
2. **Noah** (Genesis 7-8) - Noah and his family were securely in the ark away from the judgment of the flood.
3. **Lot** (Genesis 19) - Lot was removed from Sodom before God’s judgment was poured on Sodom and Gomorrah.
4. **Egyptian firstborn** (Exodus 11-12) - The firstborn among the Hebrew slaves in Egypt were kept safe by the blood of the Paschal Lamb before the judgment of the firstborn.
5. **Rahab and the spies** (Joshua 2; 6:22-23) - The spies were safely out of Jericho and Rahab was saved before the judgment fell on Jericho.

The following are examples of people who were “taken or caught up” to heaven:

1. **Elijah** (2 Kings 2:11) – Elijah did not die but was suddenly taken to heaven.
2. **Jesus** (Acts 1:9) – Jesus was taken up in the clouds.
3. **Philip** (Acts 8:39) – Philip was taken away but then he suddenly appeared somewhere else.
4. **Paul** (2 Corinthians 12:1-4) – Paul was **caught up** [Greek: *harpazo*] to the third heaven.
5. **The Two Witnesses** (Revelation 11:3-12) – These two were killed, then rose from the dead and ascended to heaven.

There are no Old Testament passages that mention the church during the tribulation period (See Deuteronomy 4:29-30; Jeremiah 2:4-11; Daniel 8:24-27; 12:1-2).

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When Paul teaches about the rapture in 2 Thessalonians 4:17b-18, the last thing he says is "and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words" because as we shall see in the next few parts of our teaching, between the rise of the Antichrist and not going through the Great Tribulation period is indeed something we should comfort each other with.

2. The Antichrist

After the rapture of the church in Revelation 4:1 (the church will not know who he is), the antichrist will come on the scene riding "a white horse" according to Revelation 6:2 when the first of seven seal judgments are unleashed upon the world. This ruler will promise peace. But it will be a false peace.

The First Seal: The Antichrist – Revelation 6:2 says "And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer."

- The person pictured here on "a white horse" has a bow but no arrows and thus many prophecy experts believe that he will usher in a false peace or "confirm a covenant" (Daniel 9:27) of peace with the Nation of Israel (Ezekiel 36-37) for the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation period.

The term *anti* means "against or opposition" as well as "in place of or instead of" and we see the term antichrist used five times in the New Testament (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7).

Although John's usage here is primarily to correct false doctrine and false teachers of his day, it doesn't eliminate the fact that these types will typify or foreshadow the final antichrist spoken about in the last days.

Prophecy expert J. Dwight Pentecost says that "Satan is seeking to give the world a ruler in place of Christ, who will also be in opposition to Christ so that he can rule over the world, instead of Christ."⁹

The Bible has a lot to say about the final antichrist. He's called the **little horn** (Daniel 7:8), **A king [with] fierce features, [skilled in] sinister schemes** (Daniel 8:23), **the prince who is to come** (Daniel 9:26), **one who makes desolate** (Daniel 9:27), **the king [who does] according to his own will** (Daniel 11:36), **a foolish shepherd** (Zechariah 11:15), **the man of sin** (2 Thessalonians 2:3), **the son of perdition** (2 Thessalonians 2:3), **the rider on a white horse** (Revelation 6:2), **the Beast** (Revelation 13:1-9; 17:3, 8).

According to the Bible the rise of the antichrist will happen at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period. He will usher in a peace accord with Israel (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:2).

Near the middle of the seven year tribulation period, the antichrist will be assassinated (Daniel 11:45; Revelation 13:3, 12, 14).

He will then descend into the abyss (Revelation 17:8) and return back to life (Revelation 11:7; 13:3, 12, 14) to the amazement of nations and peoples around the world and they will follow him (Revelation 13:3).

The antichrist will be controlled or energized by Satan (Revelation 12:2-5) and will overthrow or conquer three of the ten kings of the revived Roman Empire (Daniel 7:24) and the remaining seven kings will give their power and authority to this man (Revelation 17:12, 13).

Once he has established power and control, the antichrist will invade Israel, desecrate the rebuilt temple (Daniel 9:27; 11:41; 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Revelation 11:2) and set himself up as god (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

He will then kill the two witnesses (Revelation 11:7) that God has appointed to preach the gospel to the world.

The antichrist will be worshiped as god for three and one-half years (Revelation 13:4-8) and while speaking great blasphemies against God (Daniel 7:8; Revelation 13:6), will be accompanied with "power, signs, and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

The antichrist will be promoted by the false prophet, also known as the second beast, who will lead the world in worshiping the antichrist (Revelation 13:11-18).

Mark Hitchcock, speaking of the false prophet says that "the second beast will be a religious figure. He will be a kind of 'Satanic John the Baptist' preparing the way for the coming of the Antichrist. The false prophet will be the beast's chief propagandist, right-hand man, and closest colleague and companion."¹⁰

He will move his capital to Babylon (Revelation 18:16) and his "reign" for three and one-half years will bring to fruition a one world political and economical agenda as well as establishing a one world religion (Revelation 13:4-8, 16-18).

He will require that anyone who wants to buy or sell will need to take the mark (666) on the right hand or the forehead (Revelation 13:16-18).

He will gather and lead all the nations and peoples to battle against Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:1-2; 14:1-3; Revelation 16:16; 19:19) and will suffer ultimate, final defeat (Revelation 19:19) as Jesus Christ returns in His Second Coming.

Jesus will capture the antichrist and cast him and the false prophet "alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Daniel 7:11; Revelation 19:20).

3. The Tribulation

After the rapture of the church in Revelation 4:1, Revelation chapters 6-19 lay out the tribulation period or the "time of Jacobs trouble" so called because of Israel's rejection of their Messiah (see Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1-4).

It is also a time of judgment of the nations due to their sin and their rejection of Jesus Christ (see Isaiah 26:21; Revelation 6:15-17). This period will last seven years and is broken into two, three and one-half years according to Daniel 9:24, 27.

Dr. Ron Rhodes points out that "scripture is graphically clear that this period will be characterized by **wrath** (Zephaniah 1:15, 18), **judgment** (Revelation 14:7), **indignation** (Isaiah 26:20-21), **trial** (Revelation 3:10), **trouble** (Jeremiah 30:7), **destruction** (Joel 1:15), **darkness** (Amos 5:18), **desolation** (Daniel 9:27), **overturning** (Isaiah 24:1-4), and **punishment** (Isaiah 24:20)."¹¹ (emphasis added)

This will be a time like no other in human history and the death toll will be immense, the destruction astounding and the suffering during this time beyond anything that has ever come before it.

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost points out that "no passage can be found to alleviate to any degree whatsoever the severity of this time that shall come upon the earth."¹²

Indeed, Jesus points out in Matthew 24:22 that "unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved."

This time will be unprecedented in human history as Jesus Christ; the Lamb of God will open the first of three sets of seven judgments on the unbelievers during the end times. The **seal judgments**, the **trumpet judgments** and the **bowl (vial) judgments**.

The Seven Seal Judgments:

In the last section, we saw the opening of the first seal which was the revealing of the antichrist.

The Second Seal: War – Revelation 6:4 says “Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.”

Many prophecy experts believe that this is the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39 since Israel will be “living securely” (Ezekiel 38:8, 11, 14) due to the “covenant” of peace by the antichrist and the Northern nations rise up to attack Israel but will ultimately be defeated by miraculous intervention (Ezekiel 38:19-22).

The Third Seal: Economic Disaster – Revelation 6:5, 6 says, “and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”

The Fourth Seal: Famine – Revelation 6:7, 8 says “So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.”

The Fifth Seal: Martyrs in Heaven – Revelation 6:9, 10 says “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’”

The Sixth Seal: Earthquake and Astronomical Events – Revelation 6:12-14 says “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth...Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.”

The Seventh Seal: Begins the Seven Trumpet Judgments – Revelation 8:1 says “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Notice that the seventh seal is not a judgment per say, but it produces the seven trumpets.

The Seven Trumpet Judgments:

Whereas the Lamb of God opened the seven seal judgments, these are trumpets that are sounded by seven angels.

The First Trumpet: 1/3 of the Vegetation Destroyed – Revelation 8:7 says “The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.”

The Second Trumpet: 1/3 of the Oceans Polluted – Revelation 8:8, 9 says “Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”

The Third Trumpet: 1/3 of Fresh Water is Polluted – Revelation 8:10, 11 says “Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.”

The Fourth Trumpet: Darkness Falls Over The Land – Revelation 8:12 says “Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.”

The Fifth Trumpet: Demonic Invasion – Revelation 9:1-12 says “Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit...Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth...The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron...They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.”

The Sixth Trumpet: Fallen Angels – Revelation 9:13-21 says “Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.”

The Seventh Trumpet: The Heavenly Announcement - Revelation 11:15 says “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”

The Seven Bowl or Vial Judgments:

Just like the seven trumpet judgments, the seven bowl judgments will be poured out by seven angels.

The First Bowl: Sores on the Worshipers of Antichrist – Revelation 16:1, 2 says “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.’ So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.”

The Second Bowl: The Dead Sea - Literally – Revelation 16:3 says “Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”

The Third Bowl: Fresh Water Turned to Blood – Revelation 16:4 says “Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.”

The Fourth Bowl: Scorching Sun & Burning Heat – Revelation 16:8-9 says “Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.”

The Fifth Bowl: Kingdom of Darkness and Pain – Revelation 16:10 says “Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.”

The Sixth Bowl: Prepare for Armageddon – Revelation 16:12 says “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.”

The Seventh Bowl: Total Calamity and Destruction – Revelation 16:17-21 says “Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done!’...there were noises and thunderings and lightnings...a great earthquake...the cities of the nations fell...every island fled away, and the mountains were not found...And great hail from heaven fell upon men...”

The environmental, economic, and death toll will be of a magnitude never before seen (Matthew 24:21).

So, how many people will die in the tribulation? In the fourth seal judgment (Revelation 6:8), one-fourth of the population will be killed by war, famine, pestilence and wild beasts. That’s 1.7 billion people!

In the sixth trumpet judgment (Revelation 9:13-21), another one-third of humankind is killed which is another 1.7 billion people.

Out of 7 billion people worldwide, that's a staggering 3.4 billion or half the world's population killed by just two of the twenty-one judgments!

4. Armageddon

Revelation 16:16 says "And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."

The word *Armageddon* is made up of [Hebrew: *Har*] which means "mountain" and [Hebrew: *Megiddo*] which is in Northern Israel and located west of the Jordan River, 10 miles south and across the Plain of Esdraelon from Nazareth and 15 miles inland from the Mediterranean sea.

For a word that resonates with terror, war, holocaust, end of the world images of global death and destruction and world changing catastrophes, this is the only place in the Bible where the word *Armageddon* is found.

And although Armageddon is its most recognized name, the Bible ascribes different titles as well:

- the day of the LORD's vengeance (Isaiah 34:8)
- the great winepress of the wrath of God (Isaiah 63:2; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:19-20)
- the great and awesome day of the LORD (Joel 2:31)
- the harvest (Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:15-16)
- the day is coming, burning like an oven (Malachi 4:1)
- the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Malachi 4:5)
- the battle of that great day of God Almighty (Revelation 16:14)

So, is Armageddon an event that happens in the last days, or is it a place where campaigns and battles are waged? The answer is both. It is an event that will happen when the Antichrist will gather massive armies against Israel.

- The LORD says in Zechariah 12:2, 3 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay

siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it."

- The LORD again says in Zechariah 14:1-4, "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming... For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations... And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."

Although the Campaign of Armageddon will be centered around the mountain of Megiddo, it will be spread over a much larger area such as *the valley of Jehoshaphat* (Joel 3:2,12-13), *the valley of Esdraelon (also known as the valley of Jezreel)* (Revelation 16:14-16) and *Bozrah/Edom* (Isaiah 34:1-5; 63:1).

Revelation 16:14, 16 says that the antichrist will "gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty... And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon." [NASB]

The word *war* [Greek: *polemos*] can mean "a single encounter or a series of battles, war."

Many battles throughout history have been waged in and around Megiddo also known as the *valley of Jezreel* including:

- In 1479 BC, Egyptian Pharaoh Thutmose III had a decisive victory over the Canaanites and the Syrians.
- Joshua 12:21 - Joshua conquered the King of Megiddo in the early conquests of Canaan.
- Judges 4 and 5 - Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites.
- Judges 7 - Gideon defeated the Midianites.
- 1 Samuel 31:8 - King Saul was killed in a battle with the Philistines.

- 2 Kings 9:27 – Ahaziah, King of Judah was killed by succeeding King Jehu.
- 2 Kings 23 and 2 Chronicles 35:22 – King Josiah was killed by the advancing Egyptians.
- Napoleon stood at Megiddo before being thwarted by the Ottoman Empire in 1799 and declared, “All the armies of the world could maneuver their forces on this vast plain.”
- It’s estimated that 34 major campaigns have been waged in the *valley of Jezreel*, the most of any location on earth.

The Campaign of Armageddon will find the antichrist gathering his forces against Jerusalem as the most intense and climatic event of the Tribulation period happens.

Mark Hitchcock points out seven key phases that will happen in the Campaign of Armageddon:¹³

Let’s look at the first three since these apply specifically to our topic of Armageddon and we’ll continue with the remaining in the next section.

Phase 1: The Euphrates Dries Up - Revelation 16:12 says, “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.”

The kings of the east will most likely include such modern nations as China, India, Japan, Pakistan, and Russia.

Dr. John F. Walvoord points out that even though this could be a super natural event, “Russia has already built a number of dams across the Euphrates River, and when these are closed, the Euphrates River dries up in several sections.”¹⁴

Phase 2: The Antichrist’s Armies Gather – Revelation 16:13-16 says, “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For

they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."

Here we see demons "coming out of" or coming from the satanic "trinity" (Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet) to entice and gather the "kings of the east" against Jerusalem. These kings will gather at the plain of Megiddo where the campaign will take place or serve as a staging area before coming against Jerusalem.

Phase 3: The Fall of Jerusalem – Zechariah 12:2-3 says, "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it."

Zechariah 14:1-2 says, "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city."

As we have seen, the Campaign of Armageddon will be the beginning of the end to the antichrist and the false prophet with their upcoming end finally secured in the lake of fire.

5. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

No scholar of academic substance denies that Jesus lived almost 2,000 years ago. And we find three times as many prophecies in the Bible relating to His second coming as to His first. Thus, the second advent of our Lord is three times as certain as His first coming, which can be verified as historical fact.¹⁵

In fact, the second coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned over 1,800 times in the Bible.

LaHaye points out in his book, *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*, that the second coming of Jesus Christ is such an important topic that God thought it vital enough to mention it in 23 of the 27 New Testament books, 321 times which averages out to 1 out of every 30 verses, second in prominence only to the doctrine of salvation.

During the rapture, Jesus returns but doesn't set foot on the ground (1 Thessalonians 4:17), but during His second coming, Jesus returns with His church on white horses (Revelation 19:7-8, 14) and with multitudes of angelic hosts (Matthew 25:31).

As with the rapture, the second coming of Jesus, also called the Second Advent, has its views as well.

1. **The Spiritualized (non-literal) Return** – In this view, the return of Jesus Christ is seen as a non-physical return that had been fulfilled in the judgment and destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Preterism).

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus came back spiritually in 1874 and then again in 1914 and still others say that Jesus' second coming was fulfilled in Pentecost, or the death of a saint, or the conversion of the individual, or any crises in history or the individual's experience.¹⁶

2. **The Postmillennial Return** – In this view, the literal return of Jesus Christ happens when the whole world is Christianized after the gospel is preached and thus Christ's return happens after this golden age of Christian dominance or *after* [Latin: *post*] *millennial*.
3. **The Amillennial Return** – In this view, there is no literal thousand-year long, physical reign of Jesus Christ after His second coming, but that this is a symbolical reference and not a literal one that has already begun and is identical to the church age. The word comes from the *Latin* "a" meaning "against" + millennialism.
4. **The Premillennial Return** – In this view, after Jesus Christ returns, Satan will be bound and Jesus will set up a literal thousand-year theocratic kingdom of peace over which He will reign. At this time, Israel's covenant promises will be fulfilled for a thousand-years until

Jesus gives His kingdom to the Father and the two will merge into the eternal kingdom.

It is the last position, the Premillennial Return of Jesus Christ that we believe the Bible gives greater testimony for than the other three views.

Continuing on with number four of the seven key phases that will happen in the end times, let's start with where we left off in the Campaign of Armageddon with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Phase 4: - The Second Coming - Zechariah 14:4 says, "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."

Revelation 19:11-16 gives great detail about the second coming of Jesus Christ and Dr. John MacArthur points out three key points of these passages:

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1. **The Return of the Conqueror (Revelation 19:11-13)** - The first time Jesus came, He was lowly (Zech. 9:9), a servant and a lamb, suffering for the sins of the world, dying on the cross and rising again so that we could have eternal life, but this time He comes as a conquering King to destroy the antichrist and set up His millennial kingdom.
2. **The Regiments of the Conqueror (Revelation 19:14)** - The armies of heaven accompanying Jesus will be the Bride of Christ, that is the *church* (Revelation 19:7-8), the *tribulation saints* (Revelation 7:9), the *Old Testament saints* (Daniel 12:1-2), and the *holy angels* (Matthew 25:31).
3. **The Rule of the Conqueror (Revelation 19:15-16)** - Jesus will rule from here forward. No more will the nations run democratic societies, socialists societies, dictatorships or any other form of flawed human government, but Jesus will "strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron", and it will be the ultimate Messianic theocratic rule.

Phase 5: - Jerusalem Rescued – Revelation 19:19 says, “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.”

This will be the quickest battle on earth as the proceeding two verses (Revelation 19:17-18, 21) make it clear that the 200 million man army (Revelation 9:16) will be supper for the birds of the air that will “gorge themselves on their flesh.”

Phase 6: The Remnant Delivered – Isaiah 11:11-16; 34:1-7; 63:1-5, Ezekiel 39:25-39, Joel 3:19-20 says, “Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness, because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land. But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.”

In Revelation 12, a great number of Jews flee into the wilderness to be supernaturally protected by God for the remaining 3 ½ years of the tribulation.

Mark Hitchcock says that “it appears that after His descent to the Mount of Olives at His Second Coming, Christ will lead His army down to Edom to rescue the hiding Jewish remnant there.”¹⁸

Phase 7: The End of the Beasts – Revelation 19:20 says, “Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

J. Vernon McGee says, “The two arch-rebels and tyrants, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, have the questionable distinction of being the first two who are cast into hell. Even the Devil hasn’t been put there yet.”¹⁹

Around this time all those who rebelled against God and survived the tribulation period will either be executed at Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-20) or during the goat and sheep judgment (Matthew 25:41-46).

And so, the reign of human rule has ended and we begin a new rule, the theocratic rule of Jesus Christ for one thousand-years.

6. The Millennial Kingdom

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

The word *millennium* comes from [Latin: *mille*] meaning "one thousand" and [Latin: *annum* or *annus*] meaning "year".

In the Greek, the word is *chilias* which also means "one thousand" and thus, the words "thousand years" are mentioned in Revelation 20, 6 times (verses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7).

J. Vernon McGee says, "It is true that the Millennium is mentioned only in one chapter, but God mentions it six times. How many times does He have to say a thing before it becomes true? He mentions it more than He mentions some other things that people emphasize and think are important..."²⁰

So, the meaning of the *Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ* refers to the 1,000 year reign of Jesus that immediately precedes the eternal state or heaven.

As we saw in the last chapter, the second coming will usher in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ but first, Satan will need to be dealt with as his demise is about to begin.

Dr. John MacArthur says that "the final step in preparation for the kingdom will be the removal of Satan and his demon hosts, so that Christ reigns without the opposition of supernatural enemies."²¹

Revelation 20 demonstrates that Satan will not just be restricted and restrained (See Job 1:6-22), but will be completely bound and totally inactive during the millennial reign of Jesus.

The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy points out four key aspects of the Millennium: ²²

1. **Personage of the Millennium**

While the first few verses of Revelation 20 deal with binding Satan in the abyss, the emphasis of the millennial kingdom will be on Jesus Christ.

God the Father reveals His plan for Jesus as the eventual ruler of the earth in the following verses:

- Psalm 2:6-9 says, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill. I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter you will dash them to pieces like pottery.'" (NIV)
- Daniel 7:13-14 says, "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." (NIV)

Dr. John F. Walvoord says that this passage "referred to Jesus Christ in His incarnation approaching the 'Ancient of Days'...an obvious reference to God the Father. The reference to giving Him complete authority over all peoples would be fulfilled in His millennial kingdom which, as far as dominion is concerned, will continue forever."²³

Jesus Christ will rule and reign after having conquered His enemies replacing the previous kingdoms on earth.

2. Principal Characteristics and Conditions of the Millennium

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost says that "A larger body of prophetic Scripture is devoted to the subject of the millennium, developing its character and conditions, than any other one subject."²⁴

There are many prophetic passages that speak of the "character and conditions" during the reign of Jesus Christ in the millennial kingdom and what it will look like.

For example, Isaiah speaks quite often describing the characteristics of Jesus' millennial reign:

- A time of holiness (Isaiah 1:26-27)
- A time of learning from the Lord (Isaiah 2:3-4)
- A time of peace for nations (Isaiah 2:4)
- A time of abundance and prosperity (Isaiah 4:1-2)
- A time of increased joy (Isaiah 9:3-4)
- A time of justice and righteousness (Isaiah 9:7)
- A time of wisdom and understanding (Isaiah 11:1-2)
- A time of peace with the animal kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9)
- A time of comfort (Isaiah 12:1-2)
- A time of glory (Isaiah 24:23)
- A time with no more sickness (Isaiah 33:24)
- A time of protection (Isaiah 41:8-14)
- A time of living a long life (Isaiah 65:20)

There is a serious amount of prophetic verses that I am only scraping the top of the surface on. In fact, 28% of the Bible is prophetic in nature, so we'll just leave you with these few above.

Suffice to say, the time we spend during the millennium will be a time of dedication to the physical appearance and presence of Jesus Christ.

3. Place of Jerusalem in the Millennium

I find it highly significant that it is the Mount of Olives that Jesus ascended to heaven from (Acts 1:12) and where He will return to at His Second Coming (Zechariah 14:4).

At Jesus' return, the topography of Jerusalem will be changed as Christ sets His feet in the Mount of Olives.

- Zechariah 14:4 says, "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."

It's from Jerusalem and the temple mount that worship will be centered and Jesus' theocratic government will reign (Isaiah 2:3):

- Isaiah 2:3 says, "Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

Mark Hitchcock points out that "these sacrifices will serve as a powerful memorial to the final sacrifice for sin, Jesus Christ. They will serve, like the Lord's Supper today, as a vivid reminder of the holiness of God, the awfulness of sin, and the death the Savior died in our place."²⁵

If you've never been to Israel or Jerusalem, don't worry about it because we will make yearly pilgrimages during the millennium.

- Zechariah 14:16 says, "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles."

4. Participants of the Millennium

As we have seen earlier, around this time all those who rebelled against God and survived the tribulation period will either be executed at Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-20) or during the goat and sheep judgment (Matthew 25:41-46) with the living saints continuing on into the millennial kingdom.

J. Dwight Pentecost says that "Since no unsaved person is to enter the millennium, Israel anticipated a conversion that would prepare them for this promised kingdom."²⁶

Dr. Pentecost also says that "The living saints who go into the millennium in their natural bodies will beget children throughout the age. The earth's population will soar. These born in the age will not be born without a sin nature, so salvation will be required (Jer.30:20; 31:29; Ezek. 47:22; Zech. 10:8)."²⁷

Those believers who returned with Jesus at His second coming will also be there in the millennial kingdom as pointed out in the above section that "The armies of heaven accompanying Jesus will be the Bride of Christ, that is the *church* (Revelation 19:7-8), the *tribulation saints* (Revelation 7:9), the *Old Testament saints* (Daniel 12:1-2, 6, 13)..."

It appears from Scripture (Daniel 7:18, 22, 27; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; Revelation 2:26-28; 20:4-6), that those believers who return with Jesus at His Second Coming will rule and reign with Him in the millennial period.

There are a lot of theories about the governmental structure and who will reign in the millennial period (e.g. David, David's line, believers and lesser authorities, Israel, the apostles, judges) and there is Scriptural evidence for them all, but one thing I know for sure, Jesus Christ will be the head of the entire government and from there, we'll just have to wait and see how it shakes out.

7. The Eternal State

Just after Millennial kingdom and Prior to the Eternal state is what Dr. Pentecost calls the "Purging for the Eternal Kingdom"²⁸

This involves removing and purging the last remaining remnants of the curse and comes in three separate events:

1. **Satan is Released** – Revelation 20:7, 8 says, "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea."

A question that always arises at this point is why would God release Satan after having him bound up for so long?

The answer is that those born in the millennium age will need to be tested just like everyone else was.

God's purpose is to show that even though people have lived through the millennium and prospered under the theocratic rule of Jesus Christ, men's hearts are still wicked and evil.

Dr. Pentecost notes that "while those going into the millennium were saved, they were not perfected."²⁹

After Satan is released he will again deceive men into following him and they will surround Jerusalem, but God will protect that which is His and "fire will come down from heaven and devour them." (Revelation 20:9)

Revelation 20:10 says, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

2. **Judgment at the Great White Throne** - Revelation 20:11 says "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them."

This judgment at the Great White Throne is not to be confused with the Bema Seat judgment of believers (Romans 14:10-21; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10) where Christians are rewarded for Godly things done while on earth.

The Great White Throne judgment is for the resurrected unbelievers who died throughout eternity.

The Bible says that the sea will give up the dead and these unbelievers will be judged according to their works (Revelation 20:13).

Revelation 20:14, 15 says, "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

There's a saying "Born once, die twice; born twice, die once." In other words, those who were not born-again will be cast into the lake of fire..."this is the second death."

3. **The Purging of Creation** – Revelation 21:1 says "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea."

See also Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 1:10-12; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 20:11.

Because of the curse in Genesis 3:17, God removes the first heaven and first earth to make way for the new heaven and new earth.

Tim LaHaye says, "Isaiah 65:17, which speaks of this event, uses the Hebrew word *bara*, (which means to create *ex nihilo*), implying a brand new heaven and earth."³⁰

This new heaven and earth will last forever. Isaiah 66:22 says that "the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD."

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse (1895-1960), theologian and pastor writes that "the wicked are no more. They have been judged at the great white throne and have been cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone...God's Day has come; the earth has been physically and morally cleansed of all evil...Now the heirs of eternal life begin to live in all fullness."³¹

Finally, Heaven!

Revelation 21:2 says, "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Heaven is pictured as a huge city called New Jerusalem in Revelation. Let's look at some characteristics of our new home:

- **The city** is described as 1,500 miles by 1,500 miles by 1,500 miles or 3,375,000,000 cubic miles of space which is enough to hold 100,000 billion people.³² (Revelation 21:16)

Some believe it's a giant cube and others believe it'll be shaped like a pyramid, but whatever the shape, it's going to be greater than anything we could ever imagine.

- **Its walls** are 216 feet thick, made of "a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." (Revelation 21:11, 17, 18)

J. Vernon McGee says that the "diamond seems to fit the description better than any other stone known to man."³³

- There are **twelve gates**, 3 in each side of the city, each made of a single pearl guarded by an angel and each one inscribed with one of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Revelation 21:12)
- The massive structure will sit atop **twelve foundations** "and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (Revelation 21:14)

Ephesians 2:20 tells us that the Church of Jesus Christ is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone."

- **The great street** will be made of "pure gold, like transparent glass." (Revelation 21:21)

Just like everything else in the Heavenly new city of Jerusalem, it's material is transparent which will blaze with Gods Glory as His light shines unrestricted from His throne.

Revelation 21:23 says, "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."

- **The river of life** that's pure and "clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb." (Revelation 22:1)

This is a literal river that brings "eternal refreshment"³⁴ or, since without a sea (Revelation 21:1) and no hydrologic cycle, hence no rain to fill this river, the river could be figurative and the water could be symbolic for the eternal life that we have.³⁵

- **The throne of God and of the Lamb** from which the river of life flows from (Revelation 22:1).

Thrones of course, represent rulers and God the Father and Jesus Christ will rule the universe from this heavenly throne.

- **The tree of life** "which bares twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month" will grow "on either side of the river." (Revelation 22:2) What a great verse. Man was banned from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23) and was never allowed to eat from the **tree of life** (Genesis 2:9; 3:22) but here in Revelation 22:2, we will have access to it.

What a great and glorious city heaven will indeed be but what will we do there for all eternity?

1. **Singing and Worshiping** – Many times we read about singing and worshiping God in heaven, and we'll be right there in the midst of it, so go ahead and start learning these songs now. (Revelation 4:10-11; 7:9-12; 11:16-17; 14:2-3; 15:3-4; 19:4-6)

2. **Serving and Being Served** – These verses speak of being priests before our Lord and serving Him day and night in His temple. Also, Jesus, who is always serving, even now as He mediates to the Father on our behalf, will serve His bride forever more. (Revelation 1:6; 7:15; 19:5; 22:3; Luke 12:35-37)
3. **Reigning and Ruling** – Adam and Eve were placed in the garden to tend and care for it. In the millennium and in heaven, we will be placed in charge and will reign over many things according to the job description of Gods design. (Matthew 25:21; Revelation 20:3; 22:5)
4. **Seeing Jesus and Sharing Fellowship** – We shall see and hang out with Jesus for the rest of eternity. If fellowship is sweet now, wait until we get to heaven and it'll be an ongoing, never ending time of joy. (1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:3; 22:3-4)
5. **Studying and forever learning** – God is and has always been infinite and we...aren't. There will be so many things to learn, see and do. Since we currently live in a fallen world, our bodies and intelligence are never able to reach the full potential that we were created to have, but with the curse removed (Revelation 22:3) we will spend eternity learning from the Master. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Revelation 21:3-4 says "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'"

Conclusion

Obviously, we can only cover so much in this little time but the topic of *The End Times* is endless. Just talking about heaven (i.e. the atmosphere, the starry sky and the abode of God) alone would take weeks if not months of study since it is mentioned over five hundred times in the Bible.

If there are no prophetic events that need to happen before the rapture of the church, then we should be living in the power of the Holy Spirit in such away as to impact the culture for the Kingdom of God.

How close are we to the end? Only the Father knows (Mark 13:32), but we can see that the signs and discern the general times we're in even though it's foolishness to try to set a specific day and hour.

As we mentioned earlier, the Bible is about 28 percent prophecy and if it's that important to God, shouldn't it be important to us?

The point is how should we then live if Jesus could come back at anytime?

I've heard it said that we should look forward to His coming and be ready as if it were tomorrow, but continue serving the Lord as if it were still years to come.

The good news we have to look forward to is that we can have confidence that we will one day see our loved ones and we'll spend eternity with Jesus, our friends and those loved ones who've passed on before us and as first Thessalonians 4:18 says, "Therefore comfort one another with these words."

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4. *Charting the End Times*, Tim LaHaye & Thomas Ice, Harvest House Publishers, ISBN-13: 9780736901383
5. *101 Answers to the Most Asked Questions About the End Times*, Mark Hitchcock, Multnomah Publishers, ISBN: 157673952X
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9. *Northern Storm Rising*, Ron Rhodes, Harvest House Publishers, ISBN-13: 9780736921749

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to email info@calvaryCO.church

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