

The End Times

Family Camp 2008





The Nature of the Rapture

• 1 Thess 4:15 *According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Continued



- The Rapture is God's way of reuniting *believers*, both dead and living, with Christ, as he promised in John 14:
- 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.



*At the Rapture, we receive our
new bodies*

- 1 Cor 15:51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- 52in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.



The Immediacy of the Rapture

- There is no event, according to Scripture, that must precede the Rapture. It can happen at any time.
- *“You also must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*
Luke 12:40
- While there is no event preceding the Rapture, the Bible does teach that there are signs of the end times we can be aware of:

The Antichrist



- He is the central figure during the Tribulation for humanity on earth
- As Satan's special emissary, he serves to unite both sinful mankind and evil spiritual forces in rebellion against God
- Though true flesh and blood, he is empowered supernaturally by Satan, eventually becoming possessed by Satan



Antichrist: Biblical titles

- **1) The Beast:** Rev. 13:1
- **2) The Antichrist:** 1 John 2:18
- **3) The Man of Lawlessness:** 2 Thess. 2:3
- **4) The Lawless One:** 2 Thess 2:7
- **5) The King:** Dan 11:36-37
- **6) The Ruler (or Prince):** Dan 9:26-27
- **7) The Little Horn:** Dan 7:7



Characteristics of Antichrist:

- 1) He will be a human with supernatural powers: “The Dragon (Satan) gave the Beast (Antichrist) his power and his throne and great authority” Rev.13:2
- 2) He will deny Jesus’ role as Messiah:
- “The man who denies that Jesus is the Christ...is the Antichrist – he denies the Father and the Son.” 1 Jn.2:22



Characteristics of Antichrist:

- 3) He will be a clever propagandist (“a master of intrigue”), powerful (“very strong”), a deceiver (“cause deceit to prosper”), and a destroyer (“he will destroy many”). Daniel 8:23-25
- 4) A miracle recovery will launch his career: “One of the heads of the Beast seemed to have fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the Beast.” Rev.13:3



Characteristics of Antichrist:

- 5) Satanically empowered miracles will validate his rule: “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders.”
2 Thess 2:9
- 6) He will claim to be God: “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” 2 Thess 2:4



Characteristics of Antichrist:

- 7) He will blaspheme God and persecute God's people: "The king...will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods." Dan. 11:36



Identification of Antichrist:

- Revelation 13:18 gives the hint: his number is the number of men, it is 666.
- This has been applied to everyone from Nero, to the Pope, to Martin Luther, to Richard Nixon.
- Most scholars today believe he cannot be identified with accuracy until he appears. Then, the number 666 will make sense.



Antichrist's exploits:

- 1) A treaty granting peace/protection to Israel
- 2) various victories that by Mid-tribulation allow him popular approval to rule the world:
 - - recovering from assassination
 - - being indwelt by Satan
 - - destroying religion; replacing it with his own
 - - placing his image in the temple and demanding worship
 - - the systematic persecution of believers
- 3) his defeat by Jesus at the 2nd coming

The Satanic Trinity



- One of Satan's common tactics is to copy God's patterns, for inferior purposes; Revelation lists Satan, The False Prophet, and Antichrist as the devil's own trinity
- Satan is the source of all evil; The Antichrist is indwelt by Satan
- The False Prophet is Antichrist's Minister of Religious Affairs, so to speak. He raises Antichrist from the dead, and does miracles on his behalf. He creates a statue of Antichrist which can talk and requires all humanity to worship It. He institutes the mark of the beast. (Rev. 13)



The Rapture Ushers in the Tribulation



The 7 years of Tribulation

- Daniel 9:24-27 speaks of a total of 70 “sevens”, or 70×7 years. “70 weeks”.
- A total of 69 sevens (483 years) lead up to the time of the “Anointed One” who will be “cut off”.



- Dan 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven `sevens,' and sixty-two `sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26After the sixty-two `sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. 27He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.' In the middle of the `seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Continued



- The greater fulfillment of this passage is recognized by Jesus when he quotes Daniel 9 in Matthew 24 as he describes the end times.
- It recognizes the first 69 weeks as having been fulfilled. Following the 69th week, according to Daniel 9:26, the Anointed One is killed, and then the city is destroyed (70AD)
- The final week (7 years) is future; it has not yet arrived. It is the Tribulation.

Continued



- The Antichrist will signal the beginning of the Tribulation with a peace treaty between Israel and her enemies.
- This will last 3 ½ years.
- At the mid-point of the Tribulation, he will abandon his treaty, end sacrifices at the temple, and cause the “Abomination that causes desolation”
- It is commonly believed that this involves sacrificing a pig on the altar in the Holy of Holies.



Further Scriptures on the 7 years

- Rev 11:1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. 2But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for *42 months*. 3And I will give power to my two witnesses, and *they will prophesy for 1,260 days*, clothed in sackcloth."
- This is the first 3 ½ years.



Further Scriptures on the 7 years

- Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. 4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"
- 5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority *for forty-two months*.
- This is the second 3 ½ year period.



God's Purpose for the Tribulation

- 1) To glean Gentile converts (Rev.7:9,14)
- 2) To bring Israel to himself (Ez.20:36-38)
- 3) To deal with rebellious humanity (Isa.13:11)
- 4) To deal with Satan (Rev.12:9; 20:3)

Conversion during the Tribulation



- 1) The primary call is to repentance: Rev. 9:20
- 2) The ministry model will be that of the pre-Church era: Today, a loving Saviour seeks a bride; then, a wrathful King looks for penitent citizens.
- 3) The Holy Spirit will continue convicting efforts (Acts 2:18-21) cf. 2Thess2:7
- 4) Justification still depends on Christ's sacrifice (Rev.7:14)

The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Seals 1-4



- *The Rider on the White Horse:* identity debated. Many Futurists believe this is the Antichrist, bent on world conquer.
- *The Rider on the Red Horse:* a symbol of War; given power to make men slay each other.
- *The Rider on the Black Horse:* a symbol of famine. A whole day's wages for the food of the common man; the food of the rich not harmed
- *The Rider on the Pale Horse:* a symbol of death. The unbelieving dead, as Hell follows closely. 1/4 of humanity killed, today equaling 1,500,000,000 people



The Fifth Seal: Martyred Tribulation Saints.

- These are those who became believers during the beginning of the Tribulation, and have already been martyred.
- They are told to wait a little longer, as other new believers must also be martyred during this period.
- They were slain because of the Word of God and the testimony they maintained



The Sixth Seal: Catastrophe on Earth

- There is a great earthquake, and the sun turns black, and the moon turns red
- The stars fall to the earth, perhaps speaking of meteors
- The sky recedes like a scroll, and the mountains are each removed from their place
- Every man, both rich and poor, powerful and common, will hide themselves in fear
- They will be aware that this has been a judgment from God for the persecution of His Saints.

From Seals to Trumpets



- The Seventh Seal brings in the Seven Trumpet Judgments
- The silence in Heaven indicates the ominous nature of what is about to befall the earth; the normal worship and joy of Heaven are stilled in the realization of what is in store for the earth.
- The prayers of the Saints for God to avenge himself, held for this very time, are hurled to the earth, mixed with fire from the altar.
- The earth is about to feel God's wrath and responds with "thunder, rumblings, and an earthquake."

Trumpets 1-4



- **The First Trumpet:** literal hail and fire that fall on the earth, burning up 1/3 of all green vegetation. Predicted in Joel 2: “I will show wonders in the Heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.”
- **The Second Trumpet:** A huge mountain, like a burning meteorite, falls into the sea, turning all salt water into blood, and destroying 1/3 of all ships and living creatures in the sea.

Trumpets 1-4



- **The Third Trumpet:** A great star, named Wormwood, falls into fresh water, turning 1/3 of the fresh water bitter. Many die as a result.
- **The Fourth Trumpet:** 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars are blackened. Day and night will be reversed, with 16 hours darkness, and only 8 hours daylight.

Woe #1: Trumpet #5



- **The Fifth Trumpet (Woe 1):** A star, likely an angel, comes from Heaven to earth, given the key to the Abyss; not Hell or Hades, lit. “bottomless pit”.
- The angel opens the pit, and releases many locusts, likely demons.
- Scripture speaks of two types of demons: 1) those who are free to roam the earth and inhabit humans; 2) those bound for judgment

Trumpet 5 / Woe 1 c'ont



- The locusts have tails like a scorpion, and have been given power over those who do not have the mark of God
- They torture mankind for 5 months, but are not permitted to kill them.
- Their sting is like that of a scorpion, one of the most painful stings known to mankind. In agony men will seek death, but will not be able to die. Death will allude them.
- The King over the angels (demons) of the Abyss is named Apollyn: Destroyer.

Trumpet 6 / Woe 2



- Four angels, presumably evil because they are bound, are kept at the Euphrates River.
- They are released to kill 1/3 of all mankind, assisted by 200 million mounted demonic troops, breathing fire and sulfur which kills, and having tails which inflict death also.
- Another 1/3 of mankind is killed. At 6 billion today, 1.5 billion would have been killed by the 4th horseman. Another 1.5 billion would now be killed, totaling 1/2 of the earth's population, or 3 billion souls.

Woe #3 / Trumpet #7



- Much like the 7th Seal introduced the 7 Trumpets, the 7th Trumpet introduces the 7 Bowl Judgments
- Immediately after the 6th Trumpet, there is another lengthy break which details events taking place during the entire Tribulation period:
 - Chapter 12: Persecution of God's children
 - Chapter 13: The Antichrist and False Prophet
 - Chapter 14: A heavenly vision
 - Chapter 15: Introduction to the Great Tribulation

7 Bowl Judgments



- **#1: Painful sores** upon those who have worshipped the Beast by taking his mark. Believers are exempt.
- **#2: The Seas turn to blood.** Every living thing in them dies. (2nd Trumpet already affected 1/3 of the sea)
- **#3: Rivers turn to blood.** All fresh water will be ruined also. This judgment is God's revenge upon the death of so many Saints.
- **#4) Scorching Sun.** Even though 1/3 of the sun was darkened, it will scorch mankind.



- **#5: Complete darkness.** The entire Kingdom of the Antichrist plunged into complete darkness. Men will gnaw their tongues in agony, but will refuse to repent.
- **#6: The Drying of the Euphrates River,** and release of the tremendous demon forces that will gather the rebellious armies of the world to the Valley of Megiddo to oppose the Lord
- The three evil spirits which look like frogs will go into the earth, deceiving the nations by working miracles before them, leading them into battle against Christ.



- **#7: The Wrath of God Almighty.** The final judgment will appear in the form of a great earthquake, such as has not been seen on the earth up to that time.
- - It will destroy Babylon, splitting it into 3 parts.
- - All the cities of the earth will be destroyed - Every island will vanish, and mountains will disappear.
- - Great hailstones, weighing 135lbs each, will fall on the earth as well
- Men will curse God because of this plague.



The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- Rev.19:7-10 describe the marriage supper of the Lamb, which follows the wedding of the Lamb and his bride, the Church (Eph. 5:32)
- We believe, therefore, that the wedding will take place at the end of the Tribulation, just before Christ returns to the earth on the White Horse to defeat Satan and his armies at Armageddon (vv.11-21)
- As the Church is the bride, OT saints, along with martyred Tribulation saints may make up those invited to the wedding

Rider on the White Horse



- Christ is the rider on the white horse, called “Faithful and True”, who judges with justice. His robe is dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.
- The armies of Heaven follow him (The Church? Angels?)
- “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” is written on his robe.



Second Coming vs. Rapture

- The Second Coming is very different from the Rapture, which comes like a thief in the night, unnoticed by the world until after the fact. At the Second Coming, every eye will see him.
- At the Rapture, the Church is taken to be with Christ. At the Second Coming, the Elect, likely Jews who are alive, and possibly OT saints, will be gathered to Christ as well.



Battle of Armageddon

- Literally, “the valley of Megiddo”
- Crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa
- The valley is an area of 52,000 sq km
- All of the nations gather together to fight among themselves, but change their minds and attack the Jews, who retreat into Jerusalem.
- The entire valley from north to south (320kms) and east to west (160kms) becomes a battlefield
- After 2/3 of the Jews are killed, they repent and accept Jesus as Saviour and Defender



The Second Coming

- As Christ appears, the armies get together to make war against Him
- Christ appears with the Saints, riding white horses, as Heaven invades earth.
- The Antichrist and False Prophet are seized and thrown into the lake of burning sulfur
- The rest are killed by the sword coming from Jesus' mouth; blood flows through the valley about 3 feet deep for 300kms. (Rev.14:17-20)



Revelation 20: The Thousand Years

- Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Satan Is Bound



- After the Second Coming of Christ, the Antichrist and False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire (19:20)
- An angel then comes from Heaven with a key to the Abyss, holding a great chain.
- Satan is bound, by this angel, for 1000 years in the Abyss.
- No one will be deceived or tempted during this 1000 period, as Christ reigns on earth.



- Rev 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.



The Millennial Kingdom

- OT prophecies focus mainly on the restoration of Israel. God fulfills his promise to return Israel to the promised land (started in 1948).
- Ezekiel 40-48 predicts the rebuilding of the Temple and a restored ritual of sacrifices, as a memorial.
- The prophets saw a day when Israel would once again live together on earth, enjoying God's peace.



Continued

- Although Israel becomes a part of the Church, Israel will still be Israel.
- The Millennium will see the fulfillment of the specific prophecies that concern the people and nation.
- The purposes of God for Israel and the Church will find fulfillment during Christ's reign in the millennium



What will it be like?

- It will be a time of restored peace, blessing and righteousness (Mic.4:3-5)
- Even creation will reflect the change, as the deserts bloom and the animal world is changed (Isa.11:1-9)
- The Holy Spirit will continue to work in the Millennium



What will it be like?

- The government will be a Theocracy; that is, ruled by God.
- The millennial reign is Christ's kingdom, and He will personally reign over it.
- There may be both believers and unbelievers alive during the millennium, for if only believers with glorified bodies are present, there is no one for Satan to tempt when he is loosed at the end.



What will it be like?

- There will be the usual span of ages, both old and young (Zech 8:4-5)
- Humanity will live in unexcelled physical health, and live much longer; they will no longer exploit each other, and will enjoy the fruits of their labour. (Isa 65:17-25)
- Peace will be everyone; righteousness will become the basic human standard. People everywhere will follow Christ.

God's purposes for the Millennium



- 1) To recover creation from the curse
- 2) To fulfill His promises to Israel
- 3) To win a final company of humanity to himself
- 4) To reward faithful believers.

Satan is loosed

- At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be loosed to once again go and deceive humanity. Scores of people will choose to follow him. In this way, God separates those who truly love and follow him from those who have simply followed the righteous way of life during the millennium. (Rev.20:1-10)



Final outcome

- Satan and those he has deceived will march against Jerusalem. In number they are like the sands of the seashore. Fire will come down from heaven and destroy them all. The devil will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where the beast and false prophet had already been thrown.



Bema Seat vs. Great White Throne Judgment



- The purpose of God's judgments is not to determine character, but to manifest it. He confirms creatures in their status.
- He is not creating anything that is not already there – people will simply be seen for what they truly are. Nothing will be hidden from Him.

The Bema Seat: For Believers Only



- 2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
- Matt 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

The Bema Seat



- In its secular context of NT times, the *Bema* seat denoted a raised platform where a judge would sit to evaluate and award successful participants in sports.
- We will one day stand before Christ and give account of our lives: “We will all stand before God’s judgment seat...each of us will give an account of himself to God” Rom.14:10,12
- The true quality of one’s works will be revealed (1 Cor 3:13)

The Bema Seat




- The focus is not on punishing the things which do not stand the test of fire, but rewarding those things which do.
- Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."



Bema Seat: Standards

- 1) Faithfulness in service: 1 Cor 4:2
- 2) Wholeheartedness: Col 3:23
- 3) Souls won to Christ: 1Thess 2:19
- 4) Endurance of Trials: 1 Pet.1:6-7
- 5) Personal Conduct: 1 Cor 9:26-27
- 6) Treatment of others: Matt 10:41-42
- 7) Readiness for his return: 2 Tim 4:8



The Second Resurrection: The Great White Throne Judgment

- Does not take place until the end of the 1000 year millennial reign (Rev20:5) and the Battle of Gog and Magog has ended (Rev 20:8-9)
- It is the final end-time judgment of the unbelievers.
- Believers are not thought to be present at the Great White Throne judgment. If they were, however, their names would be found in the book of life.

The Great White Throne: For Unbelievers Only

- All humans still dead will be resurrected. This will concern the wicked dead, since the dead in Christ are resurrected at the Rapture.
- Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”
- John 5:28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29and come out-those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”



Subjects and Terms



- The GWT event is the final judgment determining the sinner's eternal fate. On this solemn occasion, the sinner is condemned and committed to the Lake of Fire.
- While death and hell are portrayed as though they were the city jail, the Lake of Fire is the penitentiary.
- Scripture appears silent on the issue of the judgment of the righteous millennial citizens. Perhaps this is the reason for the Book of Life.



The New Heavens and Earth

- As it is God's intent that humanity should inhabit the earth forever, in fulfillment of His promises, He does away with this earth and our heavens, and creates something better than ever before
- Heavens likely refers to the second heaven, the atmosphere of the earth; not to the third Heaven, God's Heaven.
- No area of the earth will be covered by seas; humanity will be able to inhabit all areas of the new earth.
- "He will wipe every tear from their eyes": no longer will there be any sorrow or mourning as we are accustomed to on this earth.

The New Jerusalem



- This city, inhabited by the Saints of God, is pictured coming down out of Heaven, as a bride, prepared with great care for her bridegroom.
- It has a high wall with 12 gates, with an angel for each gate, and the name of a tribe of Israel on each gate; with 12 foundations, each named for an Apostle of Christ.

The New Jerusalem



- The 12 foundations are made from the rarest and most beautiful of gems
- The gates are each made from a single pearl
- The streets of the city are paved with gold
- The angel measures the city and find it to be 2,200 kms in all directions; literally, from St. John's to Toronto, Toronto to Dallas, Texas, and just as high again!
- There is no temple in the city or need of light, for the Lord is its Temple and Light



Revelation 22: Heaven on Earth

- Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Paradise Restored



- 1) The River of the water of life
- 2) The Tree of Life
- 3) No longer any curse
- 4) We will see God, and His name will be on our foreheads
- 5) There will be no more night
- 6) We will reign forever and ever.