

Tribulation Wrath & the Rapture

A Critical Framework to
Understanding Endtime Events



A Choose Your Own
Adventure Bible Study

Tribulation, Wrath & the Rapture

A Critical Framework to Understanding Endtime Events

by Scott Lynn, Last Revised October 2014
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Please contact me or contact Liberty Church of Grand Ledge if you would like to order more printed copies or have any suggestions for revisions.

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Welcome

Many think that the Book of Revelation is one of the hardest Bible books to understand, but if we ask the right questions and allow Revelation and other scripture to plainly answer them, you will be surprised how approachable this topic really is. This study is my attempt to show the key events in Revelation to better understand the Endtime period and the Rapture.

I have tried my best to be accurate and cautious in my research. If you find any errors, please contact me, I would love to know and correct them.

In His Service,
Scott Lynn

Warning: I am Biased

So is everyone else, but I thought it would be refreshing to admit it up front and declare some of my bias and avoid confusion. Everything you read in this Bible study assumes the following:

- The Bible is the understandable and inerrant word of God.
- The Book of Revelation and the Olivet Discourse clearly refer to mostly future events not yet fulfilled. Preterism is based on faulty reasoning and a selective interpretation of Endtime passages.
- We are living in the time of the Gentiles and Daniel's 70th week is a 7 year time period at the end of this age and prior to the Millennial Reign of Christ.
- The word rapture is not in the Bible but we do find the gathering of the saints. The word rapture fantastically and conveniently describes this event, so I will use it in its normal fashion without apology.

Where do you want to start?



- I love definitions → Continue below
- I hate dictionaries → Jump to page 8
- Take me to the conclusion first → OK, page 17

What is the Day of the Lord?

This phrase appears 18 times in the Old Testament, most prominently in Isaiah and Joel and 5 times in the New Testament. It is understood as the day when God judges the wicked and makes things right. We find the first description of this day throughout Isaiah chapter 2.

Isaiah 2:12, 17 KJV

For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low... ¹⁷ And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

Scripture teaches that there will be one last opportunity in this day for people to choose who they will serve.

Joel 3:14 KJV

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

When does this day begin? At the end of the 6th Seal. Rev 6:17 announces the start of this day, the beginning of the wrath of God.

Rev 6:17 KJV

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

This is not a 24-hour day. God's days are not like our days (Psalms 90:2-4) and Peter refers to this Psalm when discussing this very day. We find it starts in Rev 6:17 and goes through the Trumpets, the Bowls, and the Millennial Reign of Christ and even to the destruction of this planet (see Rev 21:1).

2nd Peter 3:4-10 KJV

...Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation...

⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day...

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

This is the day when God makes things right, judges the wicked, and takes control back from the rule of man. Announced in Rev 6:17 in the 6th Seal, it continues through the 7 Trumpets and the 7 Bowls, even through the Millennial Reign and possible into Eternity in the New Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:7-8 KJV

But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

⁸ And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

What does the Bible say about Tribulation?

There are many references to tribulation in the New Testament, most pointing to the experiences of God's people while on this Earth. You can hardly find a tribulation reference that isn't directed at God's children.

John 16:33 KJV

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Other tribulation references:

Matt 13:21, Acts 14:22, Romans 5:3, 8:35, 12:12,
2nd Cor 1:4, 7:4, Eph 3:13, 1st Thes 3:4,
2nd Thes 1:4, 1:6, Rev 1:9 and 2:9-10

Jesus promises that we will experience tribulation, but He also promises that He has overcome the same world that persecutes us.

15 references to tribulation point to the general persecution that the church will endure in its witness for Christ. 4 references point to the special Endtime period of persecution (called the Great Tribulation) that the church will experience prior to the rapture. This includes a reference to the church in Heaven, described as coming out of that Great Tribulation.

Matthew 24:21 KJV

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Other references: Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24 and Revelation 7:14

It seems significant to mention that there is no mention of tribulation once the wrath of God begins in Revelation 8. The rapture of the church ends the Great Tribulation (Matt 24:29-31), which makes sense, since there isn't anyone left to tribulate.

It does seem that those who choose Jesus during the Trumpets may face persecution from the Antichrist, but the Trumpet judgments will be so awful, that his persecution efforts will become less effective under the effects of God's wrath.

What does the Bible say about Wrath?

Three passages speak directly on the topic of the Church and the Wrath of God. Let's look at the two shorter ones (we get into the 3rd passage, in Luke 17, on page 9). After this, we look at where God's wrath is declared and begins in Revelation.

1st Thessalonians 5:1-9 KJV

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. ³For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them... and they shall not escape.

⁴But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness... ⁹For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 3:7-10 KJV

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write... ⁸I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name... ¹⁰Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

- The Day of the Lord will come quickly and be a surprise, especially for those living in darkness, but it will not be shocking to those in the light.
- This day will not overtake Christians since Thessalonians promises we are not appointed to receive God's wrath.
- Revelation 3:10 uses different language to say the same thing; stating that those who kept His Word will be kept from the hour of temptation and trial that will come to the entire world.

Revelation 6:17 KJV

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

- The Day of the Lord, the beginning of His wrath, is announced at the end of the 6th Seal, but it doesn't begin quite yet.

Revelation 7:1-3 KJV

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth... ²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

- The Angels with the power to hurt the Earth are told to wait. 144,000 servants of God receive a divine seal, seemingly to protect them as they remain on the Earth during the Trumpets. They show up in Heaven (Rev 14:1-4) before the final bowls of judgment are poured out. Perhaps they are here to preach during the Trumpets since the church will not be here during this time of God's wrath.

Revelation 8:1-6 KJV

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

³And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer... ⁵And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

⁶And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound...

- God's wrath is declared in Rev 6:17, but it begins a short time later (30 minutes to be exact) in Revelation 8 as the 7th Seal is opened.
 - Luke 17:26-36 has more to teach us, but we will look at that Rapture passage shortly. We have several excellent reasons to believe we won't go through or even be present for God's wrath, and not one verse of scripture teaches the church will be here for the Trumpet judgments.
-
- Let's look at the Rapture narratives themselves including Luke 17...

What do we Learn from the Rapture Narratives?

Let's start with the two most famous rapture accounts in scripture:

1st Corinthians 15:51-55 KJV

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality... ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope... ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

What do we find?

- It will be an instantaneous transformation into new bodies.
- A trumpet will sound, called the last trumpet.
- There will be a shout and the voice of an angel.
- The dead in Christ go first, then the living join them.
- We will meet the Lord in the air, in the clouds.
- We will forever be with the Lord.

This is a clear and distinct event, one every Christian should look forward to with faith, joy and expectation. To forever “be with the Lord” are some of the most wonderful words in scripture.

Don't let Endtime debates take away from the wonder and majesty of God's promise to us. He's coming back for His church!

Let's turn to Luke 17 to see what else we can learn...

Luke 17:26-36 KJV

And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. ²⁷ They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

²⁸ Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

³¹ In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back...

³⁴ I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. ³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

(You will find a very similar account in Matthew 24:37-42)

- His coming will be a surprise in the midst of normal living with marriages, buying, selling, planting and building.
- His coming and our gathering to Him will be on the very same day that God's wrath (the Day of the Lord) will begin.
- Only God's children will be taken, others will be left behind to face the judgment to come.

These rapture narratives paint a specific and clear picture. When we look for the rapture in Revelation, it should line up with the narratives here.

But let's look at two more passages that give us hints on the timing of the Rapture.
Turn the page to learn more...



Rapture Timing Verses?

Let's look at a couple timing verses to tell us when the Rapture will occur?

Matthew 24:14-15, 21, 29-31 KJV (See also Mark 13 and Luke 21)

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. ¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)... ²¹ For then shall be great tribulation...

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

2nd Thessalonians 2:1-4 KJV

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him... ³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

- These are the only explicit references to Daniel's 70th week prophecy or the Abomination of Desolation in the New Testament.
- The Gospel must be preached to the whole world first.
- The day of our gathering shall not come until the Antichrist is revealed and takes over the temple of God declaring he is God. Clearly the Rapture occurs after the Abomination of Desolation and after the Great Tribulation. The temple must be built first as well.
- Some say Matthew 24:29-31 is not the rapture, I do not know why... We see Jesus coming in the clouds, with a trumpet, gathering His elect throughout the world (Mark 13:27 even mentions Earth if you want to nit-pick). If you don't believe this is the Rapture, then who gets gathered here? Can you show where the Jews are the elect in the NT?

When does the Church Appear in Heaven?

Note: I am using Heaven in the general sense of being in God's presence or around His throne and not specifically referring to the New Heaven in Rev 21.

Everyone agrees that the church is in Heaven for the announcement of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We find this in **Revelation 19:1-8** with some highlighted verses below:

¹ ...I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God...
⁴ And the four and twenty elders... fell down and worshipped God...
⁶ And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters... saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. ⁷ ...for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Did you know this is not the first appearance of the church in Heaven? The church is formally announced as appearing in Heaven in **Revelation 7:9-17**:

⁹ After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb...
¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?
¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

After the resurrection, Jesus commissioned the church to preach to the whole world and to every nation. Matthew 24:14 tells us this must be accomplished. And now we see the church in Heaven, a multitude of saved believers, from everywhere in the world, made clean by the blood of the lamb.

The church appears in Heaven between the 6th and 7th Seal and before the Trumpets sound. In fact, this same chapter tells us that the Angels who have power to hurt the Earth (Rev 7:1-3) must wait until the 144,000 servants are sealed in their forehead. The hurting of the Earth begins in Rev 8:1.

One last note that shouldn't be ignored, this multitude that cannot be numbered includes those that came out of "Great Tribulation".

So Where in Revelation is the Rapture?

Quick review... what have we learned so far about the Rapture?

- It will be an instantaneous transformation to new bodies. A trumpet will sound & the dead in Christ go first, then the living join them. We will meet the Lord in the air, in the clouds.
- The world will continue with life as normal up to this point: marrying, building, buying, and planting. The rapture will be on the very same day God's wrath begins.
- We are twice told to look for the Abomination of Desolation as the sign that proceeds the Rapture (2nd Thes 2:1-4 and Matthew 24:15).

Revelation contains 21 critical Endtime objects:

- Rev 5-8 → 7 Seals on a Scroll
- Rev 8-11 → 7 Trumpets of Judgment to get the world's attention
- Rev 15-16 → 7 Bowls of Final Judgment

When considering the Seals of Revelation 6, we find an amazing connection to the Endtime signs Jesus gives in the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 (also Mark 13 and Luke 21). The first 5 Seals, symbolic in their descriptions, contain the same elements Jesus describes in Matthew 24:3-13:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> False Christs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wars | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Earthquakes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Famine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disease | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christian Martyrdom |

After the Abomination of Desolation and the Great Tribulation, we see the 6th Seal of Revelation clearly described in amazing detail in all three records of the Olivet Discourse (Matt 24:29-33, Mark 13:24-29 and Luke 21:24-31). Let's compare these passages...

Revelation 6:12-17 KJV

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

¹⁵ ...every [man] hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come... who shall be able to stand?

Matthew 24:29-33 KJV

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³² Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

³³ So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Look at how many amazing details are found in both narratives...

- The sun & moon darken and the stars fall from heaven. Are these literal or figurative signs? The scripture does not say, but the same signs are given in both passages.
- A great earthquake as the lands shift and everything shakes.
- The whole world, everyone, from the rich to the poor, all the tribes of the Earth, will see the face of God and mourn.
- Even the fig tree is mentioned in both accounts.
This is symbolic of Israel (see Jeremiah 24 and Matthew 21:18-22).

Then we find the sound of that great Rapture trumpet and the Angels come and gather the elect throughout the Earth (Matthew 24:31 & Mark 13:27). We find the Church in Heaven in the very next chapter in Revelation 7:9-14.



Where do you want to go next?

- What about other Rapture teachings → Next page
- I am ready for the conclusion → Jump to page 16



Pre-Trib Position Questions?

If the rapture is before the Seals in Rev 4,
then a number of things don't add up...

- If the church is in Heaven symbolically in Revelation 4, why is the church formally introduced in Heaven in Rev 7:9-17?
- Why do you believe the first 5 seals are the wrath of God when the wrath is declared in the 6th seal in Rev 6:17, and the angels who hurt the Earth are told to wait in Rev 7:1-3 and then it begins in Rev 8?
- Who is gathered to meet Jesus in the clouds in Matt 24:29-31 (and Mark 13 and Luke 21)? How is this gathering different than the rapture passages in 1st Thes 4 and 1st Cor 15?
- All Christians are to look for Christ's return, but is this the very next thing we should expect? Matt 24:14 says the Gospel must be preached to the whole world. Matt 24:15 tells us the Abomination of Desolation comes next. 2nd Thes 2:1-3 tells us that the Antichrist must be revealed and come into the temple before our gathering. How do these warnings work if Christ's imminent return comes next?
- If the rapture comes before the Abomination of Desolation, why do the only two clear New Testament references to Daniel's 70th week tell us that the Abomination of Desolation happens before the day of our gathering (Matt 24:15, 29-31 & 2nd Thes 2:1-4)?
- If the church is raptured prior to the Great Tribulation, why does Rev 7:14 describe those who came "out of great tribulation"?
- If the church is raptured prior to all the tribulation years, why do the resurrected saints in Rev 20:4-5 (in the first resurrection) specifically include those beheaded by the Antichrist and those who did not receive his mark?

Questions for the Post-Trib Position?

If the rapture occurs between the Trumpets and Bowls in Rev 14, then a couple things don't add up...



- If we are living in the midst of the Trumpets right now, then the announcement of the wrath of God in Rev 6:17 already happened. How does Post-Trib explain the very monumental shift in the tone of Revelation in Rev 6:17 and 8:1?
- The Bible tells us that the world will be quite normal (marrying, purchasing, planting and building) right up to the rapture, but many Post-Tribbers say that the rapture will follow World War 3. How does this match the normalcy of Luke 17:26-30?
- The Bible clearly promises that we will be spared from God's wrath (1 Thes 5:9 and Rev 3:10) yet the Post-Trib position says the church will be present for the Trumpets. It is true that Israel was present and yet not judged during the plagues of Egypt, but Luke 17:26-36 gives us a very different picture of the judgment to come. We are told the Rapture will be like Noah's flood and the destruction of Sodom, in that the righteous will be taken out of here the very same day as the beginning of the judgment. How can Luke 17 be true if we are still here for the Trumpets?
- The Rapture is clearly described as the taking of some and the leaving of others (i.e. Luke 17:34, Matthew 24:40). How can this possibly match the double harvest picture of Rev 14:14-19? Who is left behind in a double harvest by sickles?
- If we are going through the entire 7 year period, why is the church warned twice (Matt 24:15, 29-31 & 2nd Thes 2:1-4) to look for the Abomination of Desolation as the sign of His coming and the rapture?
- If the rapture occurs after the Trumpets, why does the church clearly appear in Heaven in Rev 7:9-17 before the Trumpets?

Pre-Wrath Questions?

If the rapture is between the 6th and 7th Seal, then there are a couple of ideas that you have to come to terms with...

- The events of Revelation happen largely in order. The 7th Seal introduces the Trumpets and the 7th Trumpet introduces the Bowls. (Rev 11-13 still jump around in time a little, everyone agrees on that.)
This is hard for some, who have heard for years that the Trumpets and Bowls overlap, repeat or come out of order, but Revelation presents the events largely in order with no reason to shift the Trumpets around.
- The Last Trumpet of 1st Cor 15 is not the same as the 7th Trumpet of Rev 11. There are many references to trumpets in scripture, they don't all point to the same trumpet or trumpets.
- The Pre-Wrath position does not put a specific date on the Rapture only that it happens after the Abomination of Desolation and before the Wrath of God is poured out. Pre-Wrath does have to explain why the description of the resurrected Church in Rev 20:4-5 does focus a whole lot on those killed by the Antichrist. How long is the time period between the Abomination of Desolation and Rev 6:17?
The scriptures do not clearly say...
- The Day of the Lord is announced in Rev 6:17 and continues through the Millennial Reign of Christ and beyond. This is not a 24-hour day.

A note from the author:

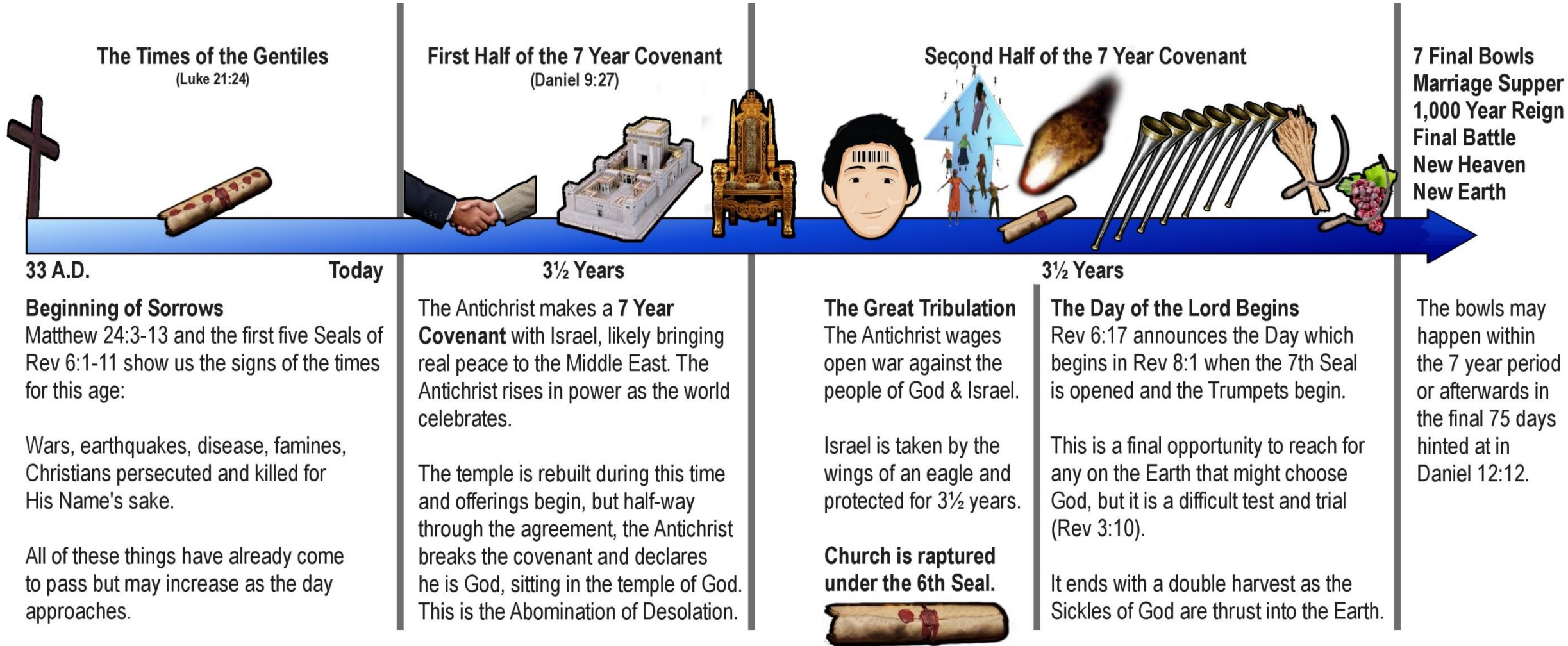
It's probably unusual to see someone acknowledge the weaknesses or challenges of their own position openly in a Bible study like this. Most Endtime Bible studies ignore the difficulties that their side faces, almost pretending they don't exist. I don't care much for that perspective, I would rather face the whole counsel of the Word of God with as open a heart as I can muster and seek the truth at any cost. You can be the judge as to whether I have done so.

Thank you for taking the time to explore my Bible study. Let's take one final look at the key verses we have examined in this short booklet:



Pre-Wrath Scripture Timeline

Matt 24:3-13 Rev 6:1-11	First five seals on the scroll are the signs of the times for the Gentile age, called the Beginning of Sorrows.
1 st Thes 5:9 Rev 3:10	We are not appointed to receive God's wrath. The church will be kept from the trial of the whole world.
2 nd Thes 2:1-4	The day of our gathering won't come until the Antichrist stands in the temple of God declaring he is God.
Matt 24:14-31 Mark 13:24-27 Luke 21:25-28 (Compare with Rev 6:12-17)	The Gospel will be preached to the whole world and then the end. We should look for the Abomination of Desolation, then shall be great tribulation. Afterwards, we will see the 6 th Seal of Revelation where Jesus will appear in the clouds with the sound of a trumpet to gather His elect from the Earth.
1 st Cor 15:51-55	The rapture is an instantaneous transformation into new bodies when the trumpet sounds.
1 st Thes 4:13-18	The Lord will come in the clouds and the church will be caught up to meet Him in the air.
Luke 17:26-36	We are told the Rapture will be like Noah's flood and Sodom, in that the deliverance of God's people will be on the very same day as the outpouring of judgment.
Rev 6:17	The 6 th Seal ends with the declaration of the wrath of God, the Day of the Lord is at hand.
Rev 7:1-3	The angels with the power to hurt the Earth are told to wait a bit, the Endtime judgments have not yet begun.
Rev 7:9-14	The church appears in Heaven before the throne. They are described as coming out of great tribulation.
Rev 8:1-6	The 7 th Seal is opened and the hurting of the Earth begins after a 30 minute pause. A censer filled with fire from the altar is thrown at the Earth and the 7 Trumpets announcing judgment and wrath begin.
Rev 14:14-20 (See also Joel 3:13-14)	The final harvest of the Earth is a dual-harvest of those who choose God during the trumpets and those who do not. Both cut down by sickles thrust into the Earth.



The Times of the Gentiles
(Luke 21:24)

First Half of the 7 Year Covenant
(Daniel 9:27)

Second Half of the 7 Year Covenant

**7 Final Bowls
Marriage Supper
1,000 Year Reign
Final Battle
New Heaven
New Earth**

33 A.D.

Today

3½ Years

3½ Years

Beginning of Sorrows

Matthew 24:3-13 and the first five Seals of Rev 6:1-11 show us the signs of the times for this age:

Wars, earthquakes, disease, famines, Christians persecuted and killed for His Name's sake.

All of these things have already come to pass but may increase as the day approaches.

The Antichrist makes a **7 Year Covenant** with Israel, likely bringing real peace to the Middle East. The Antichrist rises in power as the world celebrates.

The temple is rebuilt during this time and offerings begin, but half-way through the agreement, the Antichrist breaks the covenant and declares he is God, sitting in the temple of God. This is the Abomination of Desolation.

The Great Tribulation

The Antichrist wages open war against the people of God & Israel.

Israel is taken by the wings of an eagle and protected for 3½ years.

Church is raptured under the 6th Seal.



The Day of the Lord Begins

Rev 6:17 announces the Day which begins in Rev 8:1 when the 7th Seal is opened and the Trumpets begin.

This is a final opportunity to reach for any on the Earth that might choose God, but it is a difficult test and trial (Rev 3:10).

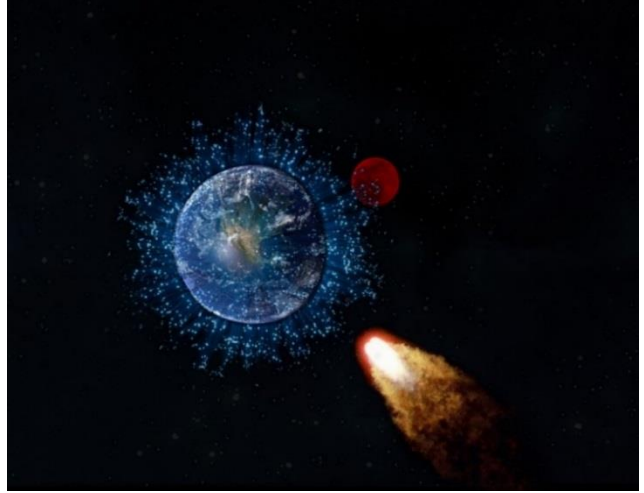
It ends with a double harvest as the Sickles of God are thrust into the Earth.

The bowls may happen within the 7 year period or afterwards in the final 75 days hinted at in Daniel 12:12.

Final Thoughts and Thanks

The cover graphic on this booklet provides a visual portrayal of the Pre-Wrath Rapture. A special thanks to Brandon Mangrum for helping create this amazing image of the 6th Seal of Revelation. (Rev 6:12-17, also described in Matt 24:29-31, as well as Mark 13:24-27 and Luke 21:25-28)

The blood moon represents the darkening of the sun, moon and stars. We see the saints of the church gathered from the Earth and departing in glorified bodies. The golden censer filled with fire from the altar (Rev 8:1-5) is hurtling towards Earth and perhaps only 30 minutes away.



Even so, Lord, come quickly!

But I pray you and I will be

ready for His return. Many Christians believe we cannot understand the Endtime events to come. I certainly agree that we won't know the day or the hour of His return, but we can know the season and Jesus instructed us to watch for the signs. We also have the promises of scripture that we can remain in the light and His church is not appointed to endure God's wrath when it comes.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my study of these critical Endtime events. I have strived to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. I challenge you to pursue Godly knowledge following this same simple rule. The Word of God is the only authority on which to base your salvation, doctrine and beliefs.

If you want to know more about salvation, or other Bible topics, please visit my website (www.OnlineSolutions.com) for more Bible studies that will hopefully bless you. Look for our **Revelation Passages Study Booklet**.

If you have any questions or comments about this Bible study, or if it has challenged you or helped, I would love to hear from you.

In His Service,

Scott Lynn

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*For the Lord himself shall descend
from heaven with a shout, with the
voice of the archangel, and with the
trump of God: and the dead
in Christ shall rise first:*

*¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain
shall be caught up together with them
in the clouds, to meet the Lord
in the air: and so shall we ever
be with the Lord.*

*¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another
with these words.*

1st Thessalonians 4:16-18



Tribulation, Wrath & the Rapture

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