

Edge Pieces - Understanding End-times


By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Overview:

THE GOALS OF THIS SEMINAR ARE TWO-FOLD.

1. To gain an understanding of the end-times events associated with Christ's return by examining edge-piece, prominent, and key scripture verses, and . . .
2. To gain a much better understanding of *Revelation*, which is the principal New Testament book devoted to revealing the sequence and timeline of end-times events.

Some Bible verses about end-times events are clear and unmistakable in their meaning. These "edge-pieces" to the end-times puzzle help us frame the picture that God's Word gives us. Other verses are clear only when they are compared with similar verses in other Bible books. These "prominent pieces" also help us understand God's plan for the days of Christ's return. Finally, the Book of *Revelation* provides an excellent timeline of end-times events. When the edge-piece and prominent verse passages are slotted into the timeline provided by *Revelation*, the student of Bible prophecy gains a much clearer picture of the times and events associated with Christ's return. This approach also lends much greater clarity to the book of *Revelation* itself, arguably one of the most confusing books in the Bible.

In this outline, I summarize what I regard to be the main points for each chapter in *Revelation*. Key scripture verses in *Revelation* are marked with a key graphic (). I recommend that you first read the overview of each chapter before you read the actual chapter in *Revelation*. This outline of *Revelation* is based on several concepts, which will be explored later.

1. *Revelation* prophetically speaks to the future time (**REV 1:1**) of Christ's return, rather than a historical, or "preterist", viewpoint. After Christ gives advice to the Church, *Revelation* begins its narrative near, or at the beginning of, the "70th Week of Daniel" - the last 7 years before Christ's return.
2. *Revelation* is mainly a chronological timeline of the events that will lead up to the time of Christ's return.
3. Saints experience persecution for their faith; it will be no different for the end-times Christians. This persecution causes tribulation and may include martyrdom. The testimony of the faithful saints through tribulation and martyrdom provides a powerful testimony for Christ to a dark and wicked world.
4. God eventually will judge the world for its wickedness. He has postponed His judgment because of His great love and mercy.
5. God does not include the Church in His judgment of the world. It is important to distinguish God's judgment from the world's tribulation.
6. The entire remnant of Israel will be saved.
7. Satan's will be defeated when Christ returns to establish His kingdom on earth.
8. There will be a New Creation that will be secure from sin and death.
9. Bible symbolism is used consistently throughout the Bible. The meaning of a symbol is clearly defined somewhere in the Bible, if not in the passage in which it is now being studied.


⊠ This symbol designates an "edge-piece" scripture verse, which is unambiguous in its meaning.

◆ This symbol designates a "prominent" scripture verse, which becomes more clear in the context of other verses.

CHAPTERS 1-3:

- **Christ's return ("parousia")**
- **The apostasy of the unfaithful church**
- **The calling of the faithful church**
- **Christ's words of warning to the church and to the world**

Revelation, Chapter 1:

 **REV 1:1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. , ,

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☞ **REV 1:6, 7** and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

Revelation, Chapter 2: Christ's Instruction & Preparation of His Church

- To the church that left its first love (like Ephesus - **REV 2:1-6**)
☞ **REV 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.
- To the poor but faithful church (like Smyrna - **REV 2:8-10**)
☞ **REV 2:11** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.
- To the persecuted church that tolerates some compromise (like Pergamum - **REV 2:12-16**)
☞ **REV 2:17** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.
- To the church that tolerates immorality (like Thyatira - **REV 2:18-24**)
☞ **REV 2:25-29** Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’— just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation, Chapter 3: Christ's Instruction & Preparation of the Church

- To the dead church (like Sardis - **REV 3:1-4**)
☞ **REV 3:5** He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.
- To the patient, obedient church (like Philadelphia - **REV 3:6-11**)
☞ **REV 3:12** Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.
- To the lukewarm church (like Laodicea - **REV 3:13-20**)
☞ **REV 3:21** To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

✦ **2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12** Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God . . . Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

- Before Christ returns, at least 3 things **MUST** happen first; (1) there must be a great falling away from the truth (apostasy), (2) the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem must be rebuilt, and (3) Antichrist must be revealed when he sits down in God's Temple and claims he is God. These verse directly refute the “doctrine of immanency”.
- It takes Christ's personal return to earth to slay this Antichrist.


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- The great apostasy takes place because many people chose to believe what is false because they took pleasure in wickedness.
- Christ warns His church against “back sliding” in the first three chapters of *Revelation* so they will not fall into apostasy.


CHAPTER 4: The Apostle John is “transported” into God’s throne room.

Revelation, Chapter 4: John’s Invitation into God’s Presence to Receive the Prophecy

 **Rev 4:1** After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

CHAPTER 5: God shows John the scroll of God’s wrath. Only Christ is empowered to unleash the events of the Seals.

Revelation, Chapter 5: The Scroll of God’s Judgment & Wrath

 **REV 5:1** Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

Note: A sealed scroll was often a legal document, like a will or judicial verdict. The instructions on the scroll could not be executed until an authorized person breaks the seal(s). As we will see later, the scroll seen by John lists God’s “Trumpet Judgments” against Antichrist and the wicked world. Each broken seal sets into motion events that bring the world closer to these judgments.

CHAPTER 6: The events of the last 7 years are set in motion. These last 7 years are called the 70th Week of Daniel, which includes the Great Tribulation, the Resurrection and Rapture, and God’s Trumpet Judgments of Wrath.

Let’s take a look at two prominent verses first.

◆ **DANIEL 9:24-27** Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.

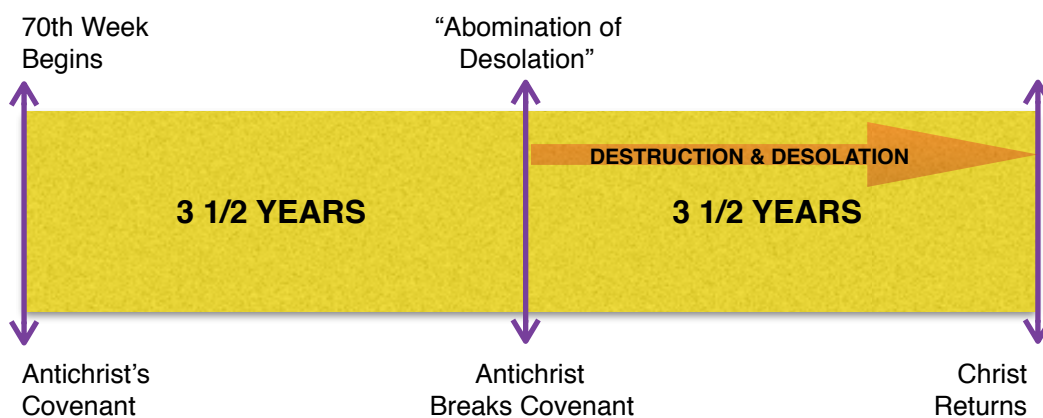
◆ **EZEKIEL 4:5** For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity . . .

- When we correlate these two prominent verses, we learn that a “day” in prophetic scripture symbolizes a “year”. Thus, “70 weeks” means 70 X 7 days, or 490 days, which symbolizes 490 years.
- **Daniel 9** was given to the prophet Daniel during the Babylonian Captivity of Israel, or from about 605 to 535 BC. Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple were destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar at the start of this 70 year captivity. The Jews were exiled from Israel to many parts of the Babylonian empire. Daniel was among the exiles. The Babylonian Captivity ended after the Persians conquered the Babylonians in October 539 BC. Thereafter, royal Persian decrees allowed the Jews to return to Israel to rebuild Jerusalem and their Temple. Although there were four royal Persian decrees, the 4th decree by King Artaxerxes is probably the one referred to in *Daniel 9:27*. (although there is an emerging thesis that proposes that significant events date from each decree). This 4th decree was issued on March 14, 445 BC. It begins the critical final “week” or 7 years of time before Christ returns and is called the “70th Week of Daniel”.

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- Notice the events specified by the 70th Week of Daniel. (1) A covenant, or treaty, will be made between someone and “the many” (nations) for 7 years, but (2) in the middle of the 7 years, the person who makes this treaty will break it by stopping the religious offerings and sacrifices (in the Jewish Temple). Then, this persons will (3) establish an abomination that will set into motion a sequence of events that will cause complete destruction and desolation.
- Comparing *Daniel 9:27* with *2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*, allows us to conclude that the person who makes this covenant, or treaty, is none other than Antichrist. The abomination that causes this desolation is his claim to be God, when he sits down in the Jewish Temple and demands that everyone worship him as God!
- This points out one more thing that must happen before Christ returns - the Jewish Temple must be rebuilt in Jerusalem. It does not exist on the Temple Mount at this time. Many scholars believe the “covenant” of Antichrist will allow the Temple to be rebuilt. The 70th Week of Daniel can be graphed like this.



If we now study an “Edge-Piece” verse, we gain clear answers to some difficult theological questions that are outlined in *Revelation 6*.

- ❖ **MATTHEW 14:15-31** Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

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These critical verses in Matthew's gospel answer critical questions and supply important details to our understanding of Christ's Second Coming.

- The Abomination of Desolation begins a sequence of critical events that leads to Christ's return. As we've seen earlier, this takes place about 3.5 years after Antichrist's treaty and the resumption of Israel's Temple services in Jerusalem.
- A period of "Great Tribulation" follows the Abomination of Desolation. This Great Tribulation is unparalleled in the history of mankind. It would eradicate ALL believers if this Great Tribulation were allowed to run its full course.
- But the Great Tribulation is "cut short" when Christ returns with His angels to collect "His elect" (*i.e.* believers) from "the four winds" (the entire world). This is the Resurrection and Rapture. It is associated with a dramatic darkening of the sun and moon and a shaking of the heavens.
- The Resurrection and Rapture happen almost simultaneously, but the Resurrection precedes the Rapture by a short interval.

❖ **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-17** *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.*

The Resurrection and Rapture must precede God's Wrath. The Rapture also rescues the saints from the world before God's wrath comes upon it.

- ❖ **1 THESSALONIANS 1:10** . . . and to await for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
- ❖ **1 THESSALONIANS 5:9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- ❖ **ROMANS 5:9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Thus, a post-tribulation, pre-wrath Resurrection and Rapture is strongly support by prophetic scripture. If this is correct, this sequence should be found in *Revelation*, beginning with Chapter 6. As we will see, it is.

Revelation, Chapter 6: Breaking the First Six Seals

- First Seal (**REV 6:1, 2**) - A Conqueror arises who appears to be good. He is Antichrist and the "70th Week of Daniel" is near or starting (see below). In fact, he rides a white horse like a "good guy", but he carries and weapon of war. His activities set into motion the 70th Week.
- Second Seal (**REV 6:3, 4**) - War begins.
- Third Seal (**REV 6:5, 6**) - Food shortages, although oil supplies continue.
- Fourth Seal (**REV 6:7, 8**) - Antichrist obtains authority over a quarter of the earth, inflicting famine, disease, and social disorder.

The first 4 Seals unleash the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse". These events introduce Antichrist to the world scene and empower him to seize enough influence to institute a near-global persecution of Christians and faithful Jews. With supernatural Satanic power and modern technology, no believer will be safe from this Great Tribulation. (Note: See Zechariah 6, for another prophetic view of these horses, now pulling chariots, clearly preceding the Millennial reign of Christ — "Branch". Also, notice the "flying scroll" of *Zechariah 5*, precedes these "horses" and represents God's judgment of wickedness.)

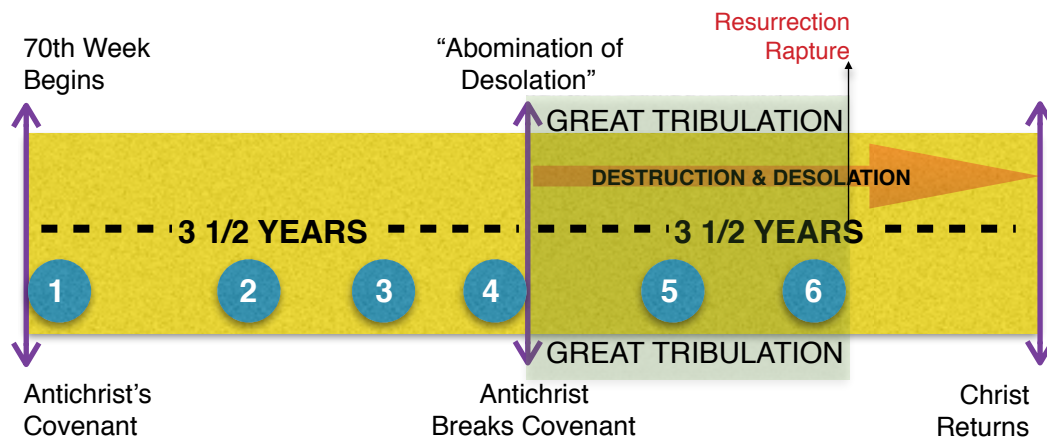
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- Fifth Seal (**REV 6:9-11**) - Antichrist begins the “Great Tribulation”. The “Abomination of Desolation” has taken place and we are now past the midpoint of the “70th Week of Daniel”. Notice the martyrs of the Great Tribulation.

Theologians who insist the Resurrection and Rapture occurs BEFORE the Great Tribulation must ignore all the evidence presented in this study, including Christ’s own teaching in Matthew 24. Don’t be deceived! Jesus Himself said, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

- Sixth Seal (**REV 7:12-17**) - The resurrection and rapture of the saints by Christ and His angels delivers the Church from “Great Tribulation”, setting the stage for God’s Judgment. The Scroll has but one more broken seal before it can be opened and read. Notice the darkened sun and moon and the shaken heavens of Seal 6. Christ is returning for His Bride, leading to the Resurrection and Rapture. Only the 7th Seal remains before the scroll of God’s Trumpet Wrath can be opened. Here is a summary of what we now know, so far.



CHAPTER 7: After the Resurrection and Rapture of the Church, God must designate the “remnant of Israel”, who must survive God’s subsequent Trumpet Wrath judgments. According to Chapter 7, the resurrected and raptured Church is now clearly present in Heaven, having been rescued out of the Great Tribulation.

REVELATION 7: Preparation for God’s Judgment & Wrath

- God seals the remnant of Israel, represented by the heads of households from each of the twelve tribes, to protect them from the coming wrath and judgment. (**REV 7:1-8**) Israel’s unbelief in Christ is only temporary, until the Age of the Gentiles is complete. Thereafter, the remnant of Israel - Jews from every tribe — will be “awakened”, will accept Christ, and will be saved at the end of the 70th Week. These edge-piece scriptures make this clear. We see this remnant “sealed” for protection before God’s Trumpet Wrath comes, but after the Resurrection and Rapture of the Church.

◆ **ROMANS 11:25, 26** For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved . . .

◆ **ROMANS 9:6, 27** But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel . . . Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;

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- The resurrected and raptured Church is revealed, now in Heaven. (**REV 7:9-17**) Recall that this took place during the 6th Seal of Revelation.

✎ **REV 7:13, 14** Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the 'Great Tribulation'"; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- The "Bema Seat of Christ" (sometimes called the "Judgment Seat of Christ") occurs at the time of the Resurrection and Rapture. Believers are **NOT** judged for their sins, which have been wiped away by the shed blood Christ. Instead, it is a time of reward or loss of reward, depending on our faithful obedience and good works.

✎ **2 CORINTHIANS 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

✎ **1 CORINTHIANS 3:8-15** Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

✎ **Luke 14:13, 14** But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

CHAPTERS 8 & 9: The first 6 Trumpet Plagues of God's Wrath.

The Trumpet Judgments seemed to be foreshadowed prophetically in Noah's flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the 10 Plagues of Egypt, and Elijah's 3-year drought in Israel. All these judgments show that (1) God does not judge the righteous with the wicked, but delivers the righteous from destruction before the wicked are judged, (2) Human prophets are often the agents of God's actions to bring His judgment, (3) God's wrath ultimately proves His sovereign power and restores His people while vanquishing His enemies. All these points are present in the Trumpet Judgments. Now that the Church has been rescued and the remnant of Israel has been sealed, the way has been prepared for God's Trumpet Plagues to come upon the world.

REVELATION 8: First Four "Trumpet Judgments"

- The prayers of the saint seek God's justice for a wicked world (ruled by Antichrist) --**REV 8:1-6**.
- First Trumpet Judgment - hail, mixed with fire, burning up 1/3rd of the earth - **REV 8:7**.
- Second Trumpet Judgment - blazing "mountain" smites 1/3rd of the sea - **REV 8:8, 9**.
- Third Trumpet Judgment - "Wormwood" (possibly an angel) poisons 1/3rd of the freshwater - **REV 8:9-11**.
- Fourth Trumpet Judgment - darkness on 1/3rd of the earth - **REV 8:12**

REVELATION 9: Fifth & Sixth "Trumpet Judgments"

- Fifth Trumpet Judgment: Locust-scorpion demons that torment men for five (5) months (**REV 9:1-12**).
- ✎ **Rev 9:5, 6** They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

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- Sixth Trumpet Judgment: Demonic army bringing more torment to wicked men (**REV 9:13-21**)

70th Week Begins

Antichrist's Covenant

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3 1/2 YEARS

Antichrist Breaks Covenant

Abomination of Desolation

GREAT TRIBULATION

DESTRUCTION & DESOLATION

Wrath

Trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Bema Seat of Christ
Resurrection
Rapture

Jews Sealed

Christ Returns

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- Two prophetic witnesses against Antichrist minister in Jerusalem, Antichrist's capital city for 1260 days (3^{1/2} years). One witness is known to be Elijah (see **MAL 4:5**), while the second witness is thought to be Moses (see **MAT 17:1-9**). Although these prophets openly oppose Antichrist, he is unable to kill them because they are divinely protected until God lifts that protection. These two witnesses invoke the "Trumpet Plagues" on Antichrist and his wicked world empire. (**REV 11:3-6**)

- ◆ **MALACHI 4:5** Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

- ◆ **MATTHEW 17:1-3** Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

- At the end of the 70th Week, Antichrist kills the two witnesses, causing the world to celebrate because they believe the plagues now will end. The bodies of the two witnesses lie in the streets, unburied, for 3^{1/2} days. (**REV 11:7-10**)

- After the 3^{1/2} days, the two witnesses are resurrected, associated with a great earthquake in Israel. (**REV 11:11-14**)

Several questions now must be answered. (1) Why did God allow His two faithful prophets to be killed in Jerusalem? (2) How did the deaths of Elijah and Moses affect the remnant of Israel, which has been hiding in the desert for the last 42 months? (3) Why was there a little more than a 3-day delay before these two prophets were resurrected? Several edge-piece and prominent scripture verses provide some answers to these questions.

- ✦ **2 CORINTHIANS 3:14-16** But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

- ✦ **HOSEA 6:1-3** Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him. So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth

- ✦ **ZECHARIAH 12:9, 10** And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

It is reasonable to conclude that the beleaguered remnant of Israel will take great comfort in the 42-month prophetic ministries of Elijah and Moses. Both of these Jewish prophets successfully prevailed against antichrist-like rulers in Israel's past, and they were prevailing against Antichrist so far. It is also reasonable to conclude that the Jewish remnant put their hope in these two prophets for their eventual salvation from Antichrist. When God lifts His protection from these two prophets, He also lifts His divine protection from Israel, which had been the target of destruction for Antichrist's army. God's actions forecloses all other sources of hope for Israel other than the Lord. In desperation, I believe Israel finally turns to the Lord for salvation, causing their eyes that have been veiled to the gospel to be opened. Israel repents of her unbelief, grieves over her treatment of Christ in the past, and confesses Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and God. After 3 days of mourning, prayer, and repentance, Jesus Christ appears to the Jewish remnant and God pours out the Holy Spirit on His people. It is during these 3 days that the two prophets in

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Jerusalem lie in it streets. When Israel is redeemed, God resurrects the 2 prophets. Speaking of lost Israel, the Apostle Paul wrote,

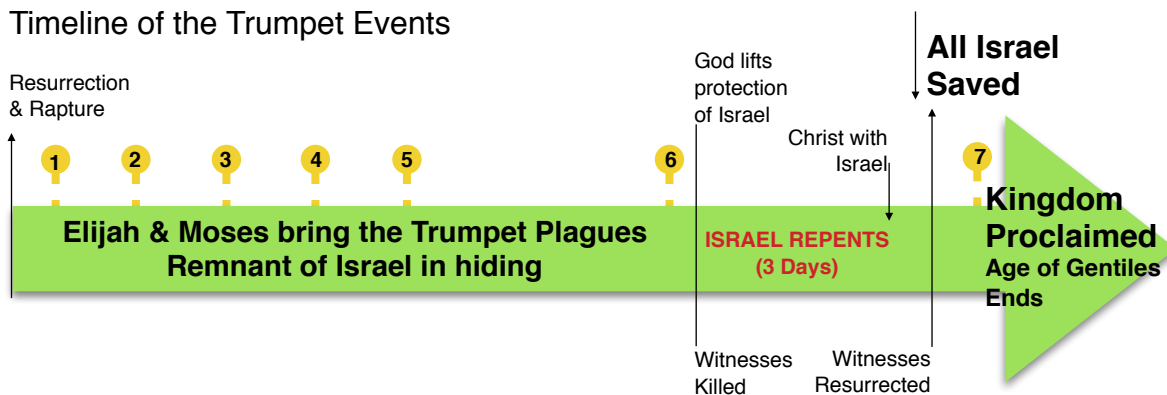
◆ **ROMANS 11:15** if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

• The Seventh Trumpet sounds, ending the “70th Week” and announcing the Kingdom of Christ on Earth (**REV 11:15-18**)

👉 **REV 11:15** The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

• God’s heavenly Temple reveals the Ark of the Covenant, announcing the redemption of Israel and heralded by a comic display of awe. (**REV 11:19**)

Timeline of the Trumpet Events



◆ **REVELATION 11:15, 18** Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of dHis 1Christ; and eHe will reign forever and ever.” . . . And the nations were enraged . . .

The 7th Trumpet announces the earthly reign of Christ, but the nations of Antichrist’s empire become enraged by this, which sets into motion their military campaigns against the Kingdom of God. The Lord destroys them through His Bowl Judgments, which come AFTER the 70th Week of Daniel.

Revelation, Chapters 12 & 13 - Parenthetical Chapters that Explain the Cosmic Spiritual Conflict of End-times

Revelation 12 introduces the first of three highly symbolic chapters intended to sum up the end-times cosmic conflict between God and Satan. This chapter begins by telling us that we are dealing with a sign (Greek: “*sameion*”, *shmeivon*), or symbol.

- The symbolism in **Chapter 12** may be understood in this way.
 - The woman symbolizes Israel. Compare Joseph’s dream with the sun, moon, and stars in **GEN 37:9** to the description of this woman is **REV 12:1**.
 - The woman’s child (**REV 12:2-5**), a son who will rule the nations with an iron scepter, is Jesus Christ. (Compare these verses to **REV 19:15**.)
 - The red dragon is Satan (**REV 12:3**), which is plainly stated in **REV 12:9**.
 - Often, stars symbolize angels (**REV 1:20**), although they can represent leaders.

👉 **REV 12:9** The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

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- From the key verse, shown above, we see that the third of the stars swept from sky to earth by the dragon's tail, represent his demons, or "fallen angels", and are different from the stars associated with the woman, which may represent the 12 patriarchs of Israel.
- Satan and his demons establish an earthly empire through Antichrist and his false prophet. The immediately use their power to seek the complete destruction of Israel.

◆ **REVELATION 12:6** Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she *had a place prepared by God, so that there 1she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

This prominent verse tells us that Israel, (the "woman") fled from Antichrist into the desert for the last 3^{1/2} years of the "70th Week of Daniel". The dragon (Satan - also symbolized by "Leviathan" in the Bible) tried to destroy the remnant of Israel, but they are divinely protected during this time.

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

- When Satan can't destroy the remnant of Israel, he begins his persecution of the Church, who are the ones who "hold to the testimony of Jesus", resulting in the "Great Tribulation" and the martyrdom of many saints (**REV 12:17**).

These verses again refer to the Great Tribulation of the Church and Israel. Although this event already arose in **REVELATION 6**, as a result of breaking the 5th Seal on the Trumpet scroll, **REVELATION 12-14** provides a spiritual, symbolic explanation of events that culminate in Christ's earthly reign.

An understanding of edge-piece verses in the book of **DANIEL** is required to understand **REVELATION 13 & 14**.

◆ **DANIEL 2:31-45** introduces the Age of the Gentiles, an era when gentile world powers dominate Jerusalem. In this chapter, King Nebuchadnezzar is perplexed by a statue that he sees in a dream. The prophet, Daniel, interprets this dream for him, explaining that each part of the statue represents a great world power, as is shown here.



Statue of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream:

- 605 BC Gold Head - Babylonia
- 539 BC Silver Chest/Arms - Persia/Medes
- 167 BC Bronze Belly/Thighs - Greece
- 37 BC Iron Legs - Rome
- GAP
- Future Iron/Clay Feet - Empire of the Antichrist

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According to **DANIEL 2**, Messiah's Kingdom will come to destroy Antichrist's Kingdom to usher in the Millennium. Knowing this sequence of gentile empires that dominate Jerusalem helps us interpret the important "beast" symbolism of **DANIEL 7-8**. (Note: the extended GAP in time between the Roman and Antichrist occupation of Jerusalem prolongs the Age of the Gentiles and may be explained by Israel's rejection of Jesus as Messiah.)

❖ **DANIEL 7-8:** These are "edge-piece" chapters! They reveal the following "beast" symbolism.



Symbolism: Age of the Gentiles

Babylon

Daniel 2: Head of gold

Daniel 7: Winged lion

Persia-Medes

Daniel 2: Chest & arms of silver

Daniel 7: Bear, with 2 ribs

Greeks

Daniel 2: Belly & thighs of bronze

Daniel 7: Winged, 4-headed leopard

Romans & Antichrist

Daniel 2: Legs of iron

Daniel 7: 10-horned dreadful beast

Credit, Chuck Missler, at [http://amos37.com/dan07/Revelation 13](http://amos37.com/dan07/Revelation%2013) is also highly symbolic, revealing more about Antichrist and his empire.

- The sea (**REV 13:1**) represents the world of international gentile power politics. (See **REV 17:15**; **DAN 7:2**). All gentile empires emerge from this "sea".

- The beast that has 10 horns and 7 heads with 10 crowns represents the final antichrist kingdom (**REV 13:1-3**). Sometimes, it represents Antichrist, himself. Consider the following evidence. The beast that symbolizes Antichrist's empire is difficult to imagine or draw because it is an amalgam of Daniel's beasts. This means Antichrist's empire will contain elements of the Babylonian, Persians, Greek, and Roman empires. One artist envisioned this beast amalgam to look like this.

- The beast resembles the dragon, but is not the dragon (compare **REV 13:1** to **REV 12:3**).
- The beast resembles an **amalgam of the gentile "beast" empires revealed in DAN 7**. Assuming the symbolism is consistent, the Antichrist's empire, or confederation, will include elements of the Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman empires. All of these empires have sought Israel's destruction at some time and in some way and all have ruled in Jerusalem. (See comments under **Rev 17**.)
- The persuasive power of the beast kingdom will cause it to influence and dominate the entire world (**REV 13:7**).
- The second beast is often called a false religion or **false prophet**. It is like a lamb, pretending to be gentle, but with horns, having the ability to inflict harm. The dragon, Satan, speaks through this beast, compelling all men to worship Antichrist and Satan. (**REV 13:11-15**)

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- Persecution from Antichrist is enforced by restricting buying and selling to those who worship him. The number of his name is six hundred sixty-six (Greek: "hexakosioi hexakonta hex", e°xako/sioi e°xh/konta e°x). The subject of much speculation, 666 remains a mystery. (**REV 13:16-18**)



One artists conception of Antichrist's amalgam beast empire

(Credit:: http://www.lovethe truth.com/jis_images/beast_of_revelation.jpg)

The meaning of the "Mark of the Beast" remains a mystery. Four clues from history and scripture may be helpful. (1) The Antichrist empire should be an amalgam of the other beast empires. Somehow, the "Mark of the Beast" should be relevant to the nature of this particular empire. (2) The Apostle John's vision of the Mark of the Beast caused him to say it was "666". also said to be the "number of his name." (3) The Antichrist kingdom should be radically opposed to both Christianity and Judaism, so as to seek their obliteration. (4) Other Biblical prophecies should condemn the countries of this final beast empire because of their heinous deeds. Here is one theory that addresses all these clues - but this is SPECULATION. Consider a future renewed Muslim Caliphate, like the Ottoman Empire! Here is the evidence.

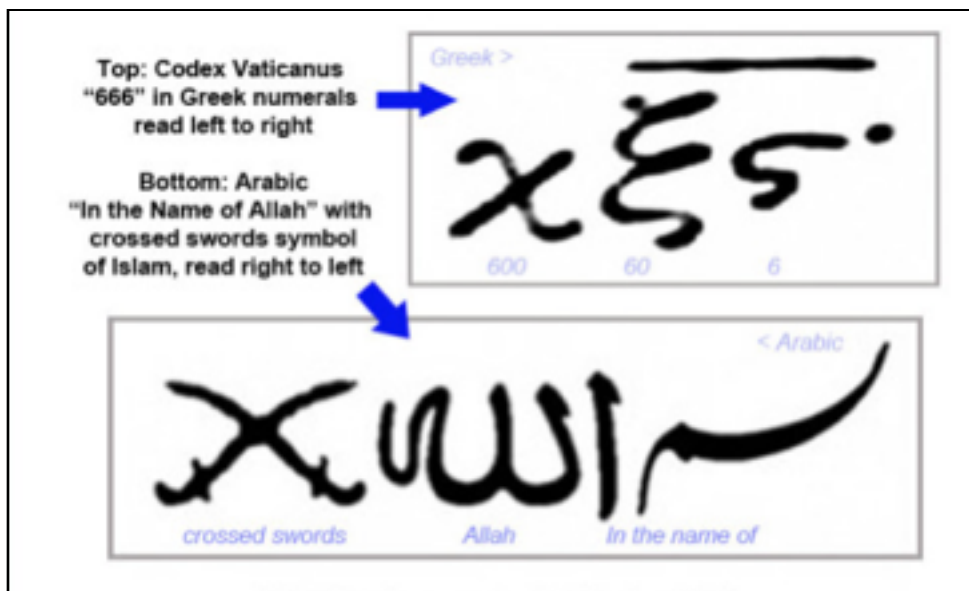
1. The Muslim Ottoman Empire resembles the Roman Empire, containing elements of the Babylonian, Persian, and Greek empires, as well. European powers may be aligned with this empire without disrupting this resemblance.



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2. There is an eerie resemblance to “666”, written in Greek, to the Arabic slogan that says “In the name of Allah”. Perhaps this brings some meaning to the phrase, “the number of his name”, since Allah is the name of the Muslim god and it resembles 666, written in Greek? The Mark is received when a person worships Antichrist and swears allegiance to him, allowing that person to buy and sell. To do this, one must renounce Christ and the Hebrew God. Faithful Christians and Jews will not do this.



3. The Bible outlines the characteristics of the spirit of antichrist.
 - A. Passages from the Koran are consistent with these characteristics. Islam denies the divinity of Christ, the humanity of Christ, and His death and resurrection on the cross.
 - “They blaspheme who say that Allah is the third of three.” (Qur’an 5:73)
 - “In blasphemy indeed are those that say that God is Christ, the son of Mary.” (Qur’an 5:17)
 - “The Most Gracious has begotten a son! You have uttered a gross blasphemy. It is not befitting

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the Most Gracious that He should beget a son.” (Qur’an 19:88-92)

- “. . . the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. . . Allah’s curse be on them . . .” (Qur’an 9:30)

Note: “Far be it from God that he should have a son!” encircles the inside of the Dome of the Rock Mosque, in Jerusalem.

- “Regarding the crucifixion of Christ, “That they said ‘We killed Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah’; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no knowledge . . . for as surety they killed him not.” (Qur’an 4:157-8)

- “Strike off the heads of the disbelievers . . .” (Qur’an 47:4) Compare with **Revelation 20:4**, speaking of the saints martyred during the Great Tribulation, “And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

B. Passages from John’s epistles that define the characteristics of antichrist. Although these passage address a heresy called “gnosticism”, they also clearly apply to Islam.

- ❖ **1 JOHN 2:22** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son
- ❖ **1 JOHN 4:2,3** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
- ❖ **2 JOHN 7** ... those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

3. The Old Testament specifically condemns the Muslim nations that now surround Israel in the context of the end-times. They are all Muslim countries that are part of the Ottoman Empire. They all have invaded Israel and actively seek to occupy Jerusalem.

- Ammon & Moab: **Jordan** (Ez 25; Is 15; Jer 48; 49)
- Damascus: **Syria** (Is 17; Jer 49)
- Edom: **Jordan & Saudia Arabia** (Ez 25; Jer 49)
- Philistia: **Palestinians** (Ez 25:15-17; Jer 47)
- Tyre & Sidon: **Lebanon** (Ez 26-28; Is 23)
- **Egypt** (Ez 29 - 32; Is 19; Jer 46)
- Babylon & Assyria: **Iraq** (Is 13-14; 21; Jer 50)
- Cush: **Ethiopia, Sudan** (Is 18)
- Elam: **Iran** or Persia (Is 21; Jer 49)

Thus, I speculate that Antichrist’s empire could be the renewed Ottoman empire caliphate, a loose affiliation of Muslim nations that will gain the support of western powers and broker a “deal” with Israel to rebuild her Temple. If this is so, Antichrist will be their leader. He will break the treaty, invade Jerusalem, declare himself to be the Messiah, the Christ, and the Muslim Mahdi, all in one, and will compel everyone to worship him as God. Those who refuse to do so will be subjected to Great Tribulation and, potentially, martyrdom.

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Revelation, Chapters 14 & 15, shows Christ victorious with redeemed Israel extending grace and warnings to the enraged nations of Antichrist's empire s. These chapters sets the stage for the great slaughter of the Bowl Judgments yet to come.

Revelation, Chapter 14, symbolically sums up the outcome of the conflict between Christ and Satan.

- The remnant of Israel is now seen to be reconciled with their Messiah and in His physical presence on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem. (**REV 14:1-5**)
- With the founding of the earthly Messianic kingdom comes a proclamation of grace to the survivors of "Trumpet Judgments". Along with an offer of amnesty, comes a warning to people who refuse God's grace and support Antichrist. (**REV 14:6-12**)
- Having warned the world, God now begins a harvest of judgment during the days immediately following the 70TH Week. This harvest is often called the "grapes of wrath", as the judgment results in terrible bloodbath in the final, cataclysmic battle. (**REV 14:13-20**)

Revelation, Chapter 15 - Preparation for the Final Wrath of God


This chapter shows all the saints - both Jew and gentile - gathered with the angelic host before God, who is enraged at the world's reprobate wickedness. The command to bring the final plagues of wrath - the "Bowl Judgments" - is about to be given.

 **REV 15:7, 8** Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Revelation, Chapter 16 outlines God's Bowls of Wrath Judgments, which are required because the world refused Christ's grace yet again. Antichrist and his beast empire of wicked nations are defeated and destroyed by the 7th Bowl, the Battle of Armageddon.

Revelation, Chapter 16 - The Seven "Bowl Judgments"

God inflicts Antichrist and his kingdom with the Seven "Bowl Judgments", or Plagues, during the month, or so, following the "70th Week of Daniel". These plagues cause great desolation on the earth, completing the "Abomination of Desolation".

 **Rev 16:1** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."

- First Bowl - ugly, painful sores (**REV 16:2**)
- Second Bowl - sea turns to blood and all sea creatures die (**REV 16:3**)
- Third Bowl - all fresh water turns to blood. The "blood judgments" inflict on Antichrist the blood he sought through the martyrdom of the saints. (**REV 16:4-7**)
- Fourth Bowl - scorching heat from the sun. (**REV 16:8, 9**)
- Fifth Bowl - painful darkness (**REV 16:10, 11**)
- Sixth Bowl - deceptive demons that gather the nations of Antichrist's empire for final battle at Armageddon. (**REV 16:12-16**)
- Seventh Bowl - Final destruction of Antichrist's capital, "the great city", and kingdom, 100 pound hail stones, and the final desolation of a wicked world. (**REV 16:17-21**)

Note: Babylon the Great, the Harlot of Babylon - Revelation uses symbolic language to identify Antichrist's capital city. This "great city" is called the "Babylon the Great" (**REV 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21**). Many people have speculated about the identity of this city, with some popular eschatologists claiming ancient Babylon, in Iraq, will be rebuilt and others claiming the city is Rome. Scripture also calls Babylon the Great the "Harlot of Babylon" and the "great city". With these additional clues, there should be no doubt that Babylon the Great is Jerusalem, which is why John was so astonished (**REV 17:6**) when he saw her identity. **REV 11:8** says "the great city" is "where also their Lord was crucified" - clearly a reference to Jerusalem, where Jesus went to the cross. Notice that **REV 11:8** also symbolically calls Jerusalem "Sodom and Egypt", showing its wickedness and that it will become the subject of both

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judgment and plagues. Also, Jerusalem, “the faithful city”, is said to have become a “harlot” in **ISA 1:21** and **NAH 3:4**. Finally, that Jerusalem has become the capital of murdering the prophets and the saints was affirmed by Christ Himself, as recorded in **MAT 23:37** and **LUKE 13:34**.

- ◆ **REVELATION 16:9** The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. **Babylon the great** was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath
- ◆ **REVELATION 18:2, 10** And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is **Babylon the great**! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird . . . standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.
- ◆ **REVELATION 18:21** Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will **Babylon, the great city**, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer

So, Babylon the great, the Harlot of Babylon, is THE great city. If there is another scripture that tells what that great city is, we will know what Babylon the great, the Harlot of Babylon is in Bible symbolism. Fortunately, this edge-piece verse is in the Bible.

- ◆ **REVELATION 11:8** (Speaking of the 2 prophets) And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.
 - “Their Lord” was crucified in Jerusalem, which also is called “the great city”. In this verse, Jerusalem is being compared to wicked targets of God’s judgment wrath
 - “Babylon the great”, the “Harlot of Babylon” also is wicked and is called “the great city” and is the target of God’s judgment wrath.
 - Therefore, Jerusalem is Babylon the great, the Harlot of Babylon, not Rome or the rebuilt ruins of Iraq’s ancient city of Babylon. That Israel’s holy city could become a cesspool of demons and the capital of Antichrist’s empire astonishes the Apostle John, who saw this in a vision
- ◆ **REVELATION 17:6** I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

Jerusalem also became the capital of Antichrist’s Great Tribulation campaign to destroy faithful and Christians. Since Jerusalem is Israel’s holiest city, the site of God’s Temple, John was astonished to see it had become Antichrist’s capital. The city had become unfaithful to God - a harlot. This interpretation of these prominent verses on the transformation of Jerusalem into the Harlot of Babylon is substantiated by these edge-piece verses.

- ◆ **ISAIAH 1:21** See how the faithful city has become a harlot! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her— but now murderers!
- ◆ **LUKE 13:34** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Revelation, Chapters 17 & 18 - These too are very symbolic, explanatory chapters that explain the composition and fate of Antichrist’s beast empire and its capital, Jerusalem, the Harlot

REVELATION, CHAPTER 17 - More Details About Antichrist’s Empire

This is another symbolic chapter, and within it, we find the keys to understanding more of the symbolism used in *Revelation*.

- The meaning of some of the prophetic symbols are as follows.
 - The “many waters” is reminiscent of the sea out of which the Beast emerges, thus representing international politics. (**REV 17:1**)

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- The woman is the Harlot of Babylon, as was already mentioned, representing Antichrist's empire and capital city, Jerusalem. She is portrayed as a prostitute with whom the nations have relations. (**REV 17:1-6**)
- The woman's scarlet color represents sin and the spilled blood of the saints. (**REV 17:4-6**)
- The Beast is the Antichrist empire, as explained earlier. It is not simply Rome (though Rome may be part of the Beast), because **Rev 17:8** says the Beast didn't exist when John received the *Revelation*, in about 95 A.D. This Beast existed earlier, though, and it will arise again in the final days, according to this chapter. Since the Beast is a mongrel of the animals that representing the empires (see **DAN 7**), many believe Antichrist's empire will incorporate portions of these former empires.
- The seven heads on the Beast represent seven kingdoms (symbolized by mountains - see **DAN 2:45**), headed by seven kings, which are part of the historical effort to destroy God's people. Five of these kingdoms had already existed by the time of John's life. Some speculate these kingdoms have been used by Satan to try to destroy Israel. If this is so, perhaps these kingdoms would include Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persian, and Greece. At the time of John's *Revelation*, one kingdom ("head", or "mountain") "is", meaning it existed in 95 A.D. -- undoubtedly, Rome. (**REV 17:9-11**) The final kingdom is yet to come, and will be the short-lived empire of Antichrist.
- The ten horns are ten rulers who will make up leaders in Antichrist's kingdom (**REV 17:12**). These rulers correspond to the ten toes of Daniel's vision (**DAN 2:33;41-44**).
- The ten rulers give their power to Antichrist and they collectively begin the "Great Tribulation" of the Church and of the remnant of Israel. All this is demonically empowered. (**REV 17:13-18**)

Rev 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

Revelation, Chapter 18 - More on the condemnation & destruction of the Harlot of Babylon


- Antichrist's kingdom will emphasize fleshly pursuits, commercial trade, and money. The nations of the world will be seduced by her wealth and commerce. (**REV 18:1-19**)
- This Great Harlot is judged and destroyed by God because of its martyrdom of the saints.

 **Rev 18:24** In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.

Revelation, Chapter 19 - Christ comes with all His army to destroy Antichrist and his multinational army. Antichrist, the False Prophet, and allies are thrown into the abyss. Satan is captured and bound.

Revelation, Chapter 19 - Celebration of the Saints & Wedding Supper of the Lamb


- The celebration of the saints as a result of their deliverance and the triumph of God's righteousness over evil (**REV 19:1-6**)
- Preparation of the Bride of Christ for the wedding. (**REV 19:7-10**)
- Revelation of Christ as the Captain of the Host, now coming to claim the earth as His kingdom, as it is in Heaven (**REV 19:11-16**)
- Destruction of Antichrist and his army by Jesus and His army. (**REV 19:17-21**)

 **Rev 19:9** Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Revelation, Chapter 20 implies the Millennium, but gives details about its end, when Satan is paroled from his imprisonment, only to engage in wickedness again.

Revelation, Chapter 20 - Imprisonment & Release of Satan, Gog, the Great White Judgment Throne

- Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss for 1000 years. (**REV 20:1-3**)

 **Rev 20:2** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

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- The saint rule and reign with Christ on earth for 1000 years. The Judgment of the Nations (**MAT 25:31-46**) just before the beginning of this Millennium. (**REV 20:4-6**)
- At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be released and returns to his wickedness.
 - Satan deceives the nations, which revolt against the Kingdom of Christ, led by a man named "Gog". (Rev 20:7, 8)
 - Gog's army lays siege to Jerusalem, but it is divinely destroyed (Rev 20:9)
 - Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire forever (**REV 20:10**)

Gog is the final "antichrist" who, empowered by Satan, leads another multinational rebellion against the Kingdom of Christ, at the close of His millennial reign. There are prominent verses in **EZEKIEL 37-38, that tell us much about Gog. Please go read these verses. Key points from these passages include the following.**

❖ **EZEKIEL 37:27-38; 38:14-39:8** - main points

- Influenced by Satan, Gog will arise in the "latter days" to lead a multinational army that includes troops from countries north of Israel, the Middle East, and Africa.
- Gog will surround Jerusalem, which had been enjoying 1000 years of peace and prosperity under the reign of Christ and His saints. Gog's attack is without provocation.
- Christ will destroy Gog's armies instantly, along with his coalition of nations.
- The purpose of Satan release is to deceive the nations under Gog. The purpose of Gog and his rebellion is to put all doubt about God's sovereignty and power to rest forever, thus preparing the way for the resurrection of the wicked, the final Great White Judgment Throne, and the New Creation.

Note: The NASB says Gog is from Magog, and is the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. The NIV is probably a better translation of the Hebrew, saying Gog is the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. (Hebrew:- pronounced "*nashi rosh meshech tubal*"). In Hebrew, "nashi" means "leader, or prince" and "rosh" mean "head, or chief". Thus, among the leaders of Meshech and Tubal, Gog is the "boss"

The defeat and destruction of Gog and his armies closes the Millennium with the "second resurrection" of the unrighteous, which leads to judgment at the "Great White Judgment Throne" and eternal perdition for the wicked.

- The Great White Judgment Throne condemns the wicked, who are thrown in the Lake of Fire. This follows the Second Resurrection. (**REV 20:11-15**) The Great White Judgment seals all sin away forever, thus securing the Kingdom of God for eternal peace and blessing.

☞ **Rev 20:14, 15** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

❖ **1 CORINTHIANS 15:23-26** But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

- Death itself, the "final enemy", is destroyed in this judgment. Recall that death comes from sin (**ROMANS 6:23**) and anything that does not come from faith is sin (**ROMANS 14:23**). Thus, God's plan all along was to remove all doubt and all possibility of doubt, ever again, about His wisdom and holiness. Having accomplished this in time and through judgment, He has secured His eternal kingdom and family for love and peace.

❖ **EPHESIANS 3:6-11** To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; **so that the manifold wisdom of God**

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might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Revelation, Chapter 21 & 22 - Very symbolic chapters the predict a New Creation that will be an eternal kingdom of peace and blessing, where there will be no more death or suffering.

Revelation, Chapter 21 & 22 - The New Creation and the Glorified Bride of Christ

- The New Jerusalem is revealed to be beautiful and glorious. It is also called the Bride of Christ, so the language is very symbolic and mysterious.
- God is the light of the New Creation; there is no sun or moon.
- There will be no more sin, death, or darkness.

 **Rev 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

 **Rev 22:5** 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.

The diagram shows the 75 days following the 70th Week of Daniel, leading up to the Millennial reign of Christ, redeemed Israel, and the saints. Although not covered in this document, the diagram proposes a relationship for this time period to the traditional Jewish feasts.

Final 75 Days To Millennium & Beyond

