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My dear friend,

If you are reading this, I am guessing you fall into one of four categories:

1. You are actively watching what is going on in the world and have come to the conclusion that it matches what the Bible says is related to "the end times". Perhaps you are reading this and intend to leave it for, or give it to, someone who may be "left behind" in what is called the "rapture of the church". Alternately, you believe the church will live through what is to come and want to be prepared.
2. You are a friend or relative of someone that falls into category #1. You likely think this is ridiculous, to choose a polite term. Stick it in a drawer or a closet and hang onto it anyways. The day may come when you pull it out!
3. You are thinking "what on earth?!?", and intend to mock this book to the full extent of your abilities. This does not bother me :)
4. You have found this book, and are reading it because the time has indeed come. "The apocalypse" is upon you! It is YOU I have in mind as I write! Oh, friend, you have not found this by accident! The Lord of all, Creator of heaven and earth, has perhaps orchestrated this by His own hand. Why would He do such a thing? Because He LOVES you. He does not want you to be deceived by what is going on. Don't believe me? I encourage you to test it and see if you can prove me wrong! Read this whole book from beginning to end, and see if God speaks right into your heart. His word is "living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword", which means it will pierce your to the very core with its' truth. Listen - if the world has been thrown into chaos, do not be deceived! The millions that are missing were NOT "abducted by aliens", nor did the earth "cleanse itself of all who hindered mankind's next step in evolution". I'm not sure exactly what will be suggested as an explanation, but I can tell you the truth because I AM ONE OF THE MISSING. I was caught up to be with Jesus, as I EXPECTED. He promised that all who truly followed Him would escape the wrath to come - which He also clearly stated would occur. God ALWAYS keeps His promises. And now, He offers a promise specifically to YOU.

I write this because I care. I am not doing it for money, donations, popularity, or anything else. I believe that catastrophe is going to flood upon the earth, soon. I believe that God has told us *what* is going to happen, *why* it's going to happen, *how* it's going to happen, and a general indication of *when* it's going to happen. He also tells us *who* it's going to happen to, and *where* it will occur.

I write this to give you knowledge, courage, and above all, hope. When everything you know has been pulled out from under you, when you don't know what to expect, the fear might be paralyzing. Your days may be filled with terror, your nights with dread. Quite simply, this is the stuff nightmares are made of.

I have studied these things for a long time, but I am not going to be correct on every detail. I am not a prophet or a seer. I am simply a diligent student of the Word of God. I may not be correct on the order in which these things occur, but I encourage you to watch and see that they WILL occur - exactly as God has said they would. What I share with you can be verified in the Bible. I will give all references for you to study for yourself, to see if it is so! My main goal is not to see if I am

correct in my interpretation of what is to come. My main goal is to show you that God loves you enough to tell you what is happening so you are not deceived. He wants to be your God. He wants to save you. He is calling... will you listen?

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. (Romans 5:5)

PS - you may wish to print this in case you will not be able to access it on a device in the future.

The Point of No Return

If the world seems to be following an apocalyptic film script, I think it is fairly safe to say you probably should read this with an open mind.

We are rapidly approaching the point of no return where humanity's actions will tip the scales of God's wrath. Life as we know it will come crashing to a cataclysmic halt. It will be a time of chaos, destruction, and confusion. I am greatly burdened to write this for you, to show you what God has revealed. I want you to know what will happen next... and how you can prepare.

Whether you like it or not, you have found yourself in the midst of an interdimensional battle between good and evil. As in all battles, there will be casualties. In this war, humans are the weakest players. Amidst all the things you are able to see and sense, there is more going on in the spiritual realm! Angels, demons, God, satan, Jesus Christ, Anti-Christ, true and false prophets - all real. If "aliens" have shown up... they are not from other galaxies or universes - they are simply fallen angels from the spiritual dimension. I'm not sure how much background knowledge you have about the Bible, but it's probably a good idea to try to locate one and start reading it!

I will give a very, *very* brief overview here.

God is eternal. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present. God exists outside of time. He is able to see things from this unique perspective, as if they are pages in a book. He can flip to any page He desires, which is how He can know the end before the story even begins. He wrote the book! The Bible is His story of the world as we know it - its' creation, its' fall, its' redemption, and its' ending.

Which brings us to *our* story.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Why? Because He's creative. As part of this creation, God chose to create a heavenly host of angelic beings to serve Him. These spirit beings have supernatural powers, such as being able to move in and out of physical dimensions. As spirits, they can appear in different forms. At the top of the angelic creation was an "anointed cherub" named Lucifer. In his heart, he wanted to be as God. He was not content to serve, but wanted to be served. He initiated a rebellion against God, taking with him one third of the heavenly host. These were cast down from heaven (the spiritual heaven where God dwells) onto the earth (atmospheric heaven). Lucifer, also known as "the satan", "the dragon", "the accuser", and "the devil", has been working hard to deceive humanity ever since.

Which brings us to humanity. As part of His creative effort, God created humans - male and female He created them. Unlike the angels, God made humans "in His own image". This doesn't mean that we look like God, necessarily - as He is a spirit. It means that we are capable of relationship. We have feelings, we are creative, we can reason. God gifted us with true free will. Out of all of creation, humanity is unique. Just as God has three Persons in one being (Father, Son, and Spirit), we have three parts - body, soul, and spirit. God created humanity to be in fellowship with Him, eternally. He created us to be caretakers of the earth - it was His gift to humanity.

When God created the world, "it was very good". Unfortunately, it didn't take humanity long to use their free will to make things "very bad". Remember Lucifer the now-fallen angel we call satan? He took the form of, or possessed, a serpent:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened... (Genesis 3:1-7)

"Did God really say?" Surely not... Surely that is not what He meant... Satan appealed to humanity's weakness, which happened to be the same as his own - "you will be like God". And ever since, humanity has wanted to be its' own god. Disobedience does not come without consequence:

The Lord God said to the serpent,

*"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."*

To the woman he said,

*"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you."*

And to Adam he said,

*"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;*

*for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”*

(Genesis 3:14-19)

Why is there suffering? Why is there death and pain and loss? Why does God "allow" bad things to happen? Why is His judgement now upon the earth? Because of disobedience, which the Bible calls "sin". Humans repeatedly choose to disobey God out of their own free will. And disobedience results in death. Adam and Eve, in their original sin, effectively passed the title deed of the earth onto satan.

While God has had every opportunity and every reason to destroy us, out of His great love for us He has provided a way to be reconciled to Himself.

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

God sent a part of Himself - Jesus Christ - to be born of a virgin and live as one of us. Why a virgin? If you remember the sin of Adam and Eve and its' consequences, humanity now inherits the sin nature through the "seed of the man". God promised to send a Redeemer through the "seed of a woman".

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:12,18-21)

Though Jesus was tempted in every way that is common to man, He did not sin. When His time of earthly ministry was complete, He gave Himself up to be put to death - even death on a cross. For you, He kept silent and turned the other cheek. He took up your pride and your rebellion and He bore them. Because He loves you THAT MUCH.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He went up into heaven. Ever since, He has been acting as our "high priest" - praying for us, listening to our prayers, watching over us. He is calling to you, to come to Him! He created you and placed you in this time, in this location. He has a plan and a purpose for your life.

Though Jesus rightfully "won back" the earth and its' inhabitants through His death and resurrection on the third day, He has been waiting until the appointed time to claim it. What you are seeing now is the start of this process. You have entered the final age of the earth, which the Bible calls "the time of the end". The purpose of this time is to prepare both the earth and its' inhabitants for Jesus Christ to return in great power and glory. It is time for Him to redeem the earth and take back the reins we handed to satan!

The preparation period won't be pretty. Through great anguish and tribulation will the earth be delivered. The blood of the slain - God's precious martyred saints - has been crying out to Him for vengeance, and the time of this vengeance has come.

First, God has promised to remove His true followers from earth. In the blink of an eye, those who died believing in Jesus Christ, as well as those who were living believers, were transformed and taken into heaven. I'm not sure if the opened graves were obvious or not! The thing is, not all those who claim the Christian "religion" were spared - only those who had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you believe you are a Christian, but are still here, I have written a chapter specifically for you entitled "Why Wasn't I Taken?".

There are likely many natural disasters which occurred before, during, or soon after this event. These might have included earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, asteroids/meteors, sinkholes, and the like. While these disasters are within the natural realm, their severity will be unprecedented ("supernatural"). There will be some type of explanation offered for this by governments and the media. I can only guess what this might be, but suggestions include some type of influence from a "rogue planet", "aliens", magnetic pole shift, among other natural and supernatural explanations.

Now we are caught up in our story to where you have suddenly found yourself. As I said, you are involved in the ultimate battle - whether you like it or not. Many of the battle participants are spiritual. It seems that the fallen heavenly host will be allowed to appear and interact with humanity.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

My friend, what has begun isn't going to stop until it all plays out exactly as the Bible has said it will. Things will not go "back to normal"! I gently suggest to you that your odds of physical survival are not that great. The human death toll will be in the billions! Instead of focusing purely on surviving, I would encourage you to focus on what will happen *if and when you don't* survive.

You are not reading this by accident. What matters FAR MORE than the *length* of your physical survival is *who* you will choose to follow for the remainder of your days. This will determine what happens when your life ends. Both sides of this battle will be calling themselves "good". Your job is to discern which side is telling the truth.

On one hand, you have the God of the Bible. Thousands of years ago, He revealed to humanity what will unfold upon the earth in the upcoming years. This fore-telling will verify that He is outside of time and knows the end from the beginning. I hope you will read the subsequent chapters and recognize their truth in light of what has already occurred, and what will continue to occur. God communicated these messages to us, because He loves us. He loves YOU. He has His arms open wide to rescue whoever will believe in Him.

On the other hand, you have God's enemy - commonly referred to as satan. God has granted satan power over the earth temporarily, as the ultimate test for humankind. Satan is permitted to use whatever means he desires to destroy as many human lives as he is able. This destruction is not just physical, but even more so in the spiritual, eternal sense. Make no mistake, he has been planning this for thousands of years and it's going to be quite the show! But satan is evil to the core – he is the father of lies. He hates you. He knows he will lose this battle, and he wants to drag you down with him. He wants nothing more than to see your eternal torment. Even if you manage to survive this apocalyptic period, you will face judgement by God at its' end.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

God has allotted a certain amount of time for satan to rule and not a moment more.

And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. (Mark 13:20)

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will return. Oh blessed day this will be to see Jesus come back if you are one of His followers! Oh terrible day for those who have refused His call! The end will occur exactly as it has been written.

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 19:11-16)

Jesus will appear and defeat everyone who has gathered against Him. There will be no real "battle". There is no comparison between the power of God and the power of any other being that He has created!

There is only one "good" way out of this, dead or alive. And that is to find the Truth in Jesus Christ, and to follow Him. He is a gentleman - He won't force you to follow Him. It's completely your choice. But Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He

will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:3-8)

My friend, know that my heart is aching for you. I don't know how to express how much I wish that you weren't facing this time of trouble. While I have learned what is coming *someday*, it is hard for me to conceive of it *actually happening*. Faith is indeed a different perspective than sight! I have tried to warn those I could, but even my own family members aren't listening. I understand why. It sounds completely bizarre! But it is predicted to happen *exactly when life is seemingly continuing on "as usual"*.

I suppose that is how it actually did end up happening?

What I can tell you is that if you are reading this, I have prayed for you, I love you, and I have pleaded with my God to save you for eternity. Understand that you will not be spared from suffering in this life. However, I can truthfully tell you that you are eternal, and what you choose to do with that information matters. I want to show you the words Jesus left specifically for *you*. These are somber warnings, but they are pregnant with hope! This life you are living is not all there is. Although it seems long and at times unbearable, once it is done it will be but the briefest moment compared to the eternity that follows.

What God has told me, is that ***He needs witnesses during this time. Perhaps He has prepared and elected you specifically for this purpose!*** While this will be the most difficult period of time known to humanity, have courage. There is hope in what you are about to face!

I hope that through the course of this book you will see how much God loves you and how He has provided a way for you to come to Him. He knows how hard it is. He came here and lived among us, as one of us. Even in this time of trouble He calls to you - come to Him. Come home.

*“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster. (Joel 2:12-13)*

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until

now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:19-23)

I don't really know what else to say. Why should you believe me? I know how crazy it sounds, but if you are reading this, then know that it is true. God is real. He made you, He loves you, He wants you in His family. It probably seems like He has abandoned humanity. Indeed, God has granted certain power and authority of the earth to satan for a time. This is to fulfill what has been written ages ago. Humanity repeatedly yelled "Get out!" to God, and now they are tasting a bit of what that feels like. Satan wants nothing more than to deceive you and drag you down to eternal torment along with him. He already knows that's where he's headed. You, on the other hand, have a choice.

Jesus paid the price for you to go to heaven, forever. It's up to you if you take Him up on the offer. I would love for you to join me there someday. And so I write this book for you, through tears, despite how ridiculous it would seem to you if you found it right now. And I will pray for you and plead with my God for your heart for eternity.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place... Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:6,12-13,17-20)

From here on, this is part of *your* story.

♥ Stephanie Dawn

The Stage is Set

Indeed, the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing His counsel to His servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)

It is in God's character to issue warnings before acting in judgment. He gives signs heralding His interventions on the earth. He has done everything apart from rolling back the heavens and thundering in a loud voice, "*Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is near!*". Just as with His first coming, God commands us to watch the signs of His second coming, so that we are not taken by surprise.

He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?" (Luke 12:54-56)

And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch! (Mark 13:37)

It would seem that the time of intense "watching" of signs would mainly encompass the last 70-80 years prior to the return of Jesus Christ (Psalm 90:10). This is indeed what we have seen! There is so very much that can be researched with each of the signs I list below, but it seems redundant to do so here as they are in the past from your vantage point. Why do I bother listing them? I want you to know that God in all His fairness gave warning to all those who had ears to hear.

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

The Bible verses predicting these signs are given in parentheses for your personal study, should you wish.

Signs Regarding Israel and Its' People:

- **Israel's Rebirth as a Nation on May 14, 1948** (Jeremiah 31:10, Jeremiah 33:7, Ezekiel 36:8-13, 22-32, Ezekiel 37:1-6, 21-27, Ezekiel 39:27-29, Isaiah 66:8, Isaiah 11:11, Amos 9:14-15)
- **Israel would be reborn in one day** (Isaiah 66:8)
- **Ezekiel's 430 days of laying, which predicted Israel's rebirth in spring 1948** (Ezekiel 4:1-8, Leviticus 26:14-46)
- **Jerusalem Recaptured in the 6-day war, June 1967** (Zechariah 12:2-3)
- **Anti-Semitism worldwide** (Deuteronomy 28:37; Jeremiah 29:18; 44:8; Luke 21:20-24; Revelation 12)
- **Jewish Aliyah in progress (return of Jews to Israel)** (Jeremiah 31:10, Jeremiah 33:7, Ezekiel 36:8-13, 22-32, Ezekiel 37:1-6, 21-27, Ezekiel 39:27-29, Isaiah 66:8, Isaiah 11:11, Amos 9:14-15)
- **Jews will return from the north, south, east and west, from all over the world** (Isaiah 43:5-6, Jeremiah 31:7-10)
- **Before Israel's rebirth, it would be a wasteland** (Deuteronomy 29:23-28, Ezekiel 36:8-11, Ezekiel 36:33-36)

- **After Israel's rebirth, it will blossom and become a land "flowing with milk and honey"** (Isaiah 27:6, 35:1-2; Ezekiel 36:34-36)
- **Israel's economy would bloom** (Ezekiel 38:12-13)
- **Israel would plant vineyards** (Joel 3:18, Amos 9:13-15)
- **Israel would plant trees, specifically cedar, acacia, myrtle, oil, cypress, pine, and box** (Isaiah 41:18-20)
- **Hebrew language would be restored** (Zephaniah 3:9, Isaiah 19:18)
- **Jerusalem would be rebuilt on its own ruins** (Jeremiah 30:18, Zechariah 12:6)
- **Jerusalem would be a "cup of trembling" and a "burdensome stone" to all surrounding people** (Zechariah 12:2-2)
- **All surrounding nations would be united against Israel** (Psalm 83:4-8; Zechariah 12:2)
- **There will be attempts to divide Israel** (Joel 3:2; Daniel 11:39)
- **Israel will be restored as one nation, rather than two kingdoms** (Ezekiel 37:15-22)
- **Rebirthed Israel will be invincible** (Zechariah 12:6-9, Jeremiah 30:3-7; Zechariah 14; Mark 13:14-20)
- **Israel will be an "unwalled city"** (Ezekiel 38:8-11)
- **Most Jews remain blind to the fact that Jesus is their Messiah, which will continue until the upcoming time of trouble** (Luke 19:41-42; Luke 13:34-35; Romans 11:25-26)
- **Strong interest in forming a peace and/or land treaty with Israel** (Daniel 9:27)
- **Third Temple - plans are complete, Levite priests are trained, Temple furniture, garments, and sacred vessels have been made** (Revelation 11:1-3, Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Ezekiel chapters 40-48)
- **Temple sacrifices re-instituted, this has occurred in practice** (Daniel 9:27, 12:11)
- **A rare red heifer suitable for sacrifice is actively being sought/bred** (Numbers 19:1-22, Hebrews 9:13)

Signs Regarding the Church:

- **Many from Egypt to Assyria (Iraq and the Middle East) will call upon the name of the Lord and be saved** (Isaiah 19:16-25)
- **The gospel has been preached to all nations** (but not yet all people groups) (Matthew 24:14, Mark 13:10)
- **The Bible - God's word - will never "pass away" - The Bible is the best selling book in human history** (Luke 21:33)
- **Despite the good, as a whole the church will be marked by apostasy and a departure from sound doctrine** (Amos 8:11, Revelation chapters 2-3, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Luke 18:8)
- **Bible teachers will bring in heretical teachings, have many followers, and draw others away from the Christ of the Bible** (2 Peter 2:1-2)
- **False teachers would take advantage of their followers financially** (2 Peter 2:3)
- **Deceptive signs and wonders sought by the "church"** (Matthew 7:22-23; 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- **Some in the church will be led by deceiving spirits and the "doctrines of demons" - such as the "heavenly visitors and visitations"** (1 Timothy 4:1)
- **Disqualified Regarding the Faith: they are no longer considered to be a part of the faith, they have left the church** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Some will confess faith in Christ, but not obey Him** (Matthew 24:48-51; Matthew 7:22-23).
- **Some have lost their First Love, passion for Jesus Christ** (Revelation 2:1-7)

- **Some will compromise with the world, and bring that compromise into the church** (Revelation 2:12-17)
- **Some will bring an acceptance of sexual immorality into the church** (Revelation 2:18-19)
- **Some will go through the motions of religion, but actually be "spiritually asleep"** (Revelation 3:1-6)
- **Having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power** (choosing "religion" and some kind of profession of following God through outward appearances, but lacking true faith and true relationship with God in the heart) (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Burdened with sins and led astray by various passions** (following lusts of the flesh) (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Much of the church near the end times will be marked by lukewarmness** (Revelation 3:14-22)
- **Scoffing and Mocking of the "pretribulation rapture" will come from within the church** (2 Peter 3:2-4)
- **Christian martyrdom will increase** (Revelation 6:9-11)

Signs Regarding Society:

- **A final transitional generation of 70-80 years** (Matthew 24:34-35, Luke 21:32-33, Mark 13:30-31, Psalm 90:10)
- **Immorality will be prevalent in Society** (2 Timothy 3:1-8, Isaiah 5:20-21)
- **Youth will be increasingly rebellious and disobedient** (2 Timothy 3:2-3; Mark 13:12)
- **In the last days there will come times of difficulty: hardships** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will be lovers of self, narcissistic** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will be lovers of money** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will be proud, arrogant:** having the attitude of people who think that they are better or more important than other people (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Society will become more abusive** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will be more ungrateful** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Society will become unholy: not showing respect for a god or a religion** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Society will be heartless, unappeasable** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will become more slanderous (gossip)** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Without self-control: lacking control over feelings or actions** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Society will become brutal: extremely cruel or harsh** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will not love what is good** (high quality, correct, proper, holy) (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will be treacherous: not able to be trusted** - including governments (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Many will be reckless** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Many will be swollen with conceit: too much pride in their own worth or goodness** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Society will be marked by the love of pleasure rather than the love of God** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will be materialistic** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Learning will be widespread, but it won't bring people closer to the Truth that is found in the Bible** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **People will oppose the truth found in the Bible and choose instead to believe lies - such as about humanity's creation and purpose** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Christians will be hated, or at least resented** (Luke 21:17; Revelation 6:9-11; 20:4).

- **Many will reject the Ten Commandments as a moral code** (Matthew 24:12; Revelation 9:21)
- **Corruption will be common** (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
- **Sexual immorality will be rampant.** This includes sexual activity outside of marriage, lust, pornography, explicit shows and books, masturbation, adultery, etc. (Jude 18; Revelation 9:21)
- **Homosexuality will come to the forefront, as in the days of Lot** (Luke 17:28-30, Genesis 18:20-29, Jude 1:5-7, Romans 1:26-28, 2 Peter 2:4-10)
- **Society will be marked by violence, as in the days of Noah** (Genesis chapters 6-9, Jude 1:6-7, 2 Peter 3:1-7, Luke 17:26)
- **DNA manipulation will occur, as in the days of Noah** (Genesis chapters 6-9, Jude 1:6-7, 2 Peter 3:1-7)
- **There will be a denial of the Global Flood** (2 Peter 3:5-6)
- **Knowledge will increase greatly near the time of the end** (Genesis 11:1-9, Daniel 12:4)
- **Travel capabilities will greatly increase near the time of the end** (Daniel 12:4)
- **Some will have substantial wealth and luxuries** (James 5:1-3; Revelation 3:17; Revelation 18)
- **Global communications a reality** (Revelation 11:9-10; 17:8)
- **Interest in Vegetarian eating** (1 Timothy 4:3-4)
- **Some would forbid marriage, such as seen in Catholic Church leadership** (1 Timothy 4:3)
- **Technology exists to place a mark on someone's hand or forehead** (Revelation 13:16)
- **Technology exists to have a global economic system** (Revelation 13:16-17)
- **People will be open to being marked (tattoo'd, branded, tracked)** (Revelation 13:16)
- **Despite the Bible's numerous warnings, most people will be taken by surprise** (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6)
- **People will mock the warning signs and those who try to warn them saying that these signs have always been around, there is nothing new about them** (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Additional Signs:

- **False Christs, false Saviors, false "messiah" figures and prophets will come** (Matthew 24:4-5, Mark 13:5-7)
- **Specific sun, moon, and star sign which occurred on September 23, 2017** (Revelation 12:1-2)
- **Abortion and Euthanasia are "end time signs", as humanity tries to control its own beginning and end and "be as gods"** (Genesis chapters 3, 6)
- **The Euphrates River will be dried up** - a dam was completed in 1990 that could make this happen (Revelation 16:12)
- **Global population explosion** - compared to when the prophecy was written 1950 years ago (Revelation 7:9.14)
- **Egypt, once a superpower, will still exist but as a "lowly kingdom"** (Ezekiel 29:14-16)
- **Climate change and mass death of animals will occur near the end** (Hosea 4:2-3)

Satanic Signs:

As part of God's foretelling, we understand that satan is "chomping at the bit", waiting to unleash his nefarious plan. We may watch him move his pawns into place based on what the Bible tells us he is going to do.

For the mystery of lawlessness [rebellion against divine authority and the coming reign of lawlessness] is already at work... (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

- **People will be interested in sorceries, witchcraft, magic, the occult** (Revelation 9:21, 18:23, 21:8, Isaiah 47:9-15, Micah 5:10-15)
- **"Alien" (demonic) activity and sightings** (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12, Revelation 12:3-4, Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 11:14)
- **Fallen angels will interact with mankind** (1 Timothy 4:1; Luke 17:26; Genesis 6:1-4)
- **Macroevolution pushed as "fact"** (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12, John 8:44)
- **Blasphemy will become common - taking the Lord's Name in vain** (2 Timothy 3:2; Revelation 16:9, 11, 21).
- **Epidemic drug use** (Revelation 9:21)
- **People will worship idols of their own making - this simply means showing a strong devotion to someone or something that isn't God.** (Revelation 9:20; 13:12-15; 19:20; Micah 5:10-15; Zechariah 13:1-2, Romans 1:18-25)
- **Consciences will be seared - people will call evil "good" and good "evil".** (1 Timothy 4:2, Isaiah 5:20)

The Bible connects these things to the worship of satan and his world system. Even during this upcoming time of trouble, most of humanity will cling to these things instead of turning to the one true God:

Now the rest of mankind... still did not repent of the works of their hands. They did not stop worshipping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Furthermore, they did not repent of their murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft. (Revelation 9:20-21)

Signs of War:

- **Wars will occur, such as WW1 and WW2** (Mark 13:6-7, Luke 21:9, Matthew 24:6)
- **Rumors of wars** (Mark 13:6-7, Luke 21:9, Matthew 24:6)
- **Ethnic conflicts** (Mark 13:6-8; Luke 21:9-10)
- **Future wars:**
 - **Destruction of Damascus** (Isaiah 17:1, Jeremiah 49:23-27, Amos 1:3-5, Zechariah 9:1-8)
 - **Arab-Israeli War - Egypt, Jordan/Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon** (Psalm 83)
 - **Gog Magog War - Russia, Turkey, Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and perhaps others seem to attack Israel very unexpectedly** (Ezekiel 38-39)
 - **World War III** (Matthew 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:10)
- **The capacity to destroy all life would be a reality** (Matthew 24:21-22)
- **A global cry for "peace and security"** (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

Debatable Signs:

Lastly, I present to you some additional signs that there is some disagreement as to whether or not they apply:

- **Chaotic weather patterns** (Luke 21:25-26)
- **6000 years allotted for human government on earth** (Ecclesiastes 3:1, Psalm 90:4, 2 Peter 3:3-10, Hosea 5:15-6:2, Genesis 6:3)
- **Solar eclipse centered over the USA on August 21, 2017**
- **Planet X, Nibiru** - a somewhat enigmatic planet which does happen to appear on the NASA website. If it exists, it may explain some of the "super"-natural phenomenon which are to come.
- **Literal Babylon (formerly Babel) restored** (Zechariah 5:11; Isaiah 13)
- **Nuclear weapons would be available** (Zechariah 14:12)
- **Asia (the kings from the east) would be capable of deploying a 200-million-man army. This army may be human or demonic, I am unsure.** (Revelation 9:14-16; 16:12)
- **The Catholic Eucharist - some believe this fulfils the saying that Christ would be in the secret chambers and inner rooms** (Matthew 24:26)
- **False Signs - Eucharist "miracles"** (Matthew 24:23-27)
- **Apparition of "Mary", Mary as the head of a global counterfeit church, queen of heaven and earth** (Revelation 17, 18:7)
- **Mary representing Rome** - there is debate on the future identity of "Mystery Babylon" (Revelation 17:9, 18)

A Preview of Signs to Come:

God has clearly spelled out what will occur during the final seven-to-ten years of this age. From my vantage point, these have not yet occurred. However, previews have been given! The stage is set for them to occur in full force very swiftly - as soon as God's restraint on them is lifted:

- A preview of "birth pangs":
 - **New and devastating deadly diseases (pestilences)** (Matthew 24:7, Revelation 6:8)
 - **Global earthquakes** (Matthew 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:11)
 - **Global famines** (Matthew 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:11, Revelation 6:5-8)
 - **Terrors and great signs from heaven** (Luke 21:11)
- **A Global Government, with a "new world order"** (Daniel 2:40-44, 7:23; Revelation 13:7-8)
- **A Global Ruler** (Daniel chapters 7, 11, Revelation 13)
- **A One World Religion** (Revelation 13:8,12, Revelation 17)
- **Global Peace and Security promised** (Daniel 8:23-25)
- **Environmental Devastation** (Revelation 11:18)
- **Signs in the sun, the sun will scorch the inhabitants of earth** (Luke 21:25, Revelation 16:8-9)
- **The Eastern Gate in Israel will remain closed until the Messiah returns** (Ezekiel 44:1-3)
- **Israel will have no king until Jesus returns** (Hosea 3:4-5)
- **Ancient Petra, in Jordan would exist, and possibly will become a place of refuge** (Isaiah 16:1-4; Matthew 24:16; Revelation 12:6, 14)
- **Birds of prey will eat the dead flesh of the enemy armies that fall in battle against Israel. Fun Fact - Israel is the migratory bird capital of the world.** (Ezekiel 39:4, 17; Revelation 19:17-21)

That we are seeing hints of these signs beforehand, is a foreshadowing of what is to come. What we see beforehand disruptive, but what will occur then is incomprehensible!

Listen my friend, the book of Revelation is meant to REVEAL, not conceal. God gave us signs and prophecies to watch for, so that we can know His word is true.

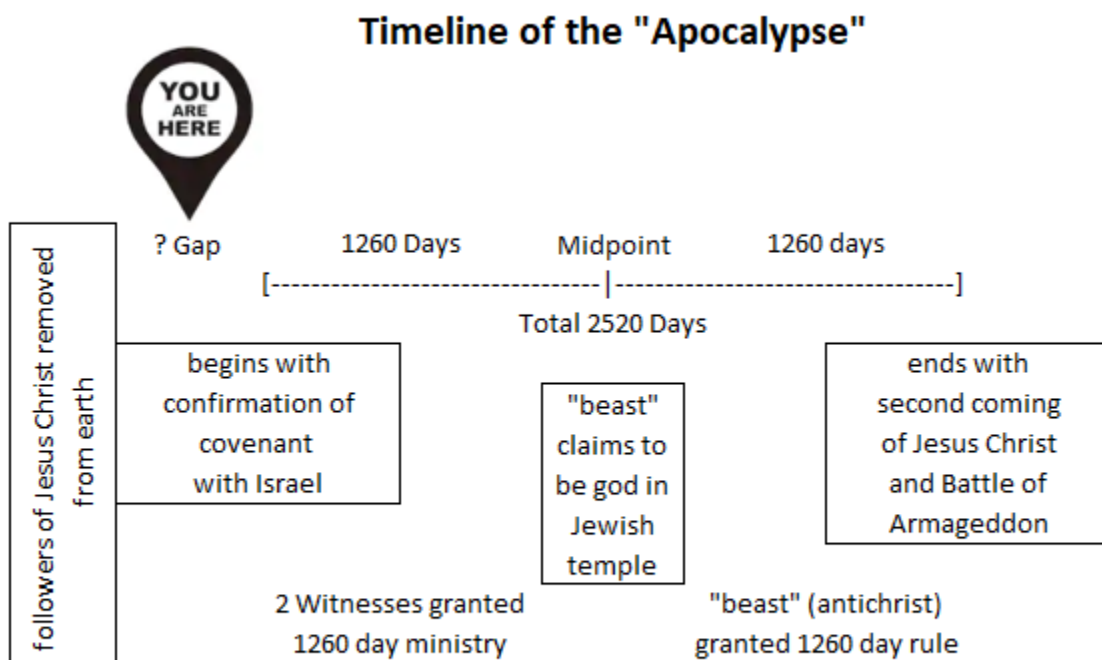
The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. (Revelation 1:1-3)

It's challenging to understand at times, yes, but God has hidden keys throughout the whole body of Scripture that unlock meaning. It's the most amazing and beautiful puzzle which ties together the entire revelation of God to humanity.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (John 16:13)

What I write here is my **best understanding** from Scripture, but it is a human understanding, and thus will be flawed in some points. *I urge you to search the Scripture for yourself to see if these things are so, praying for wisdom!*

It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out. (Proverbs 25:2)



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Act 1 - And So It Begins

Eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, planting and building, buying and selling, working and sleeping. These are everyday activities around our planet. As far as "normal" goes, life will proceed with reasonable predictability - until, suddenly, *it won't*.

In the city of Jerusalem, sudden panic! The mountains of Israel crawl with a vast army. Blow the trumpet in Zion! Sound the alarm!

It is too late - the enemy was cloaked by the hand of God Almighty, even as they were hooked and led by their jaws to do His will. Imminent destruction!

Will God remember? Does God see?

Awaken, oh God of Israel! Arise from your silence!

A barrage of missiles, the Iron Dome defeated. Israel was overconfident in her military might and now stands at the brink of annihilation. The mountains of Israel rumble. The ground begins to quake. He who led the enemy to do His will, will rise up and destroy it for the purpose of announcing to an unbelieving world that He intends to fulfill His covenant promises to His chosen people!

Earthquake in Israel! The ground heaves and falls, splits and groans. The army, sure of victory, is thrown into confusion. Chaos erupts. Torrential rains blind the soldiers. The ground continues to tremble.

And then - the dead arise. From the dawn of creation, those who believed in a coming Messiah, those who believed in the Messiah when He appeared, all those who believed upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross... **ARISE!** Let the earth bring forth her dead!

Worldwide, graves burst open. The Earth trembles, shakes, reels on its' axis. It sways like a drunken man.

We who believe in Jesus look up. Our redemption draws nigh. In an instant, all the dead and alive in Christ are transformed - in the blink of an eye! Buildings topple around us. Bridges collapse. The earth continues to sway and groan. This occurs at lightning fast speed, but it feels like slow motion. For those who follow Jesus - we are untouchable, there is no fear. Another blink of the eye - we are before the throne of God. The splendor of His majesty is before us. We are overwhelmed! We fall on our faces before Him and cry,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty! Who was, and is, and is to come! Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy to receive glory and honor and power forever!"

On the earth - terror.

The western coast of North America slips and the Cascadia Subduction zone heaves. The entire Ring of Fire erupts in earthquake activity of the like never before seen. Global volcanic activity is

triggered. Back in Israel, hail, fire, and brimstone rain down upon her attackers and the nations from which they came. What began as divine judgment on the troops surrounding Israel has expanded to include the whole world.

The air is thick with smoke, terror, and gloom. The atmosphere fills globally with ash and smoke. The days are darkened, the moon appears blood red.

In the heavens - war.

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. (Revelation 12:3-4)

...and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. (Revelation 6:13)

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

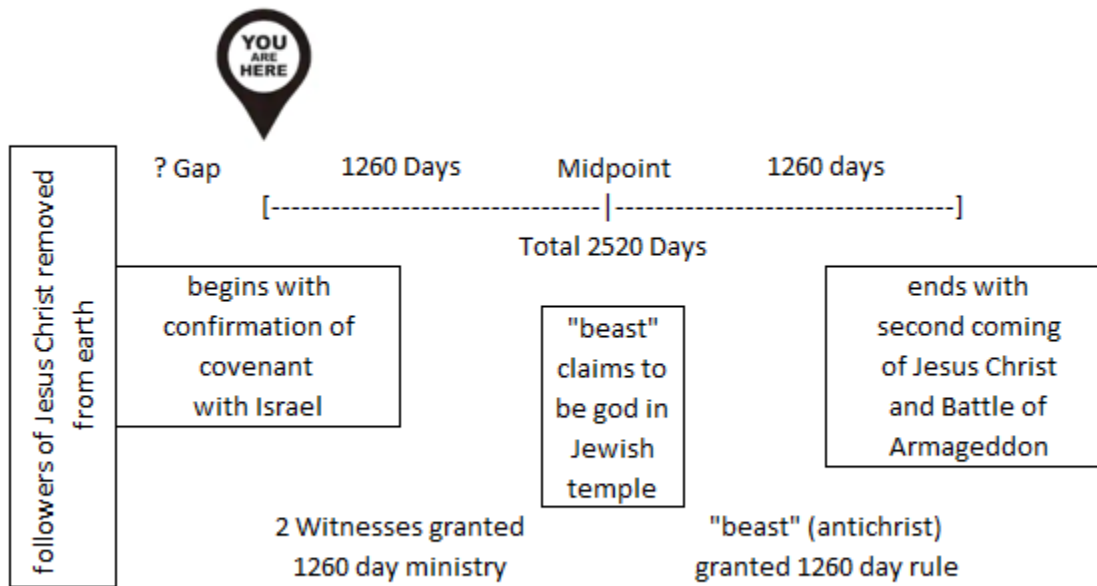
There is no longer a place or purpose for the accuser of the brethren in heaven, as they have all arrived; there is, momentarily, no one left to accuse. The dragon, that devil of old called "satan", comes down in great wrath upon those who dwell on the earth.

The days of darkness have arrived. Gloom, terror, death, and destruction. Those who refused to love the truth and so be saved will now experience the judgment found in the great and terrible Day of the Lord.

It has begun.

In Hollywood, the time period that you have entered is usually called "The Apocalypse". In the Bible, the time period you have entered into is called "The 70th Week of Daniel", "The Day of the Lord", "That Day", and "That Great And Terrible Day". In church language, it is commonly called "the Tribulation" or "The 7 Year Tribulation". It is generally agreed upon that it will last for a period of approximately seven years, although some believe it might last as long as ten.

Timeline of the "Apocalypse"



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*Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Because of this, all hands will go limp, every heart will melt with fear. Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; **they will writhe like a woman in labor**. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame. See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. (Isaiah 13:6-9)*

The Bible speaks of the "time of the End" as being similar to labor pains and childbirth. When the Apocalyptic period arrives, there will be no mistaking it. It will be marked *all at once* by the start of:

- widespread war (think, WW3 scale)
- global earthquakes
- global famines
- global pestilences
- terrors and great signs from heaven

Collectively, "*all these*", together, are the "*beginning*" of birth pains for the earth.

⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. (Matthew 24) ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. (Mark 13) ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. (Luke 21)

It will begin suddenly and unexpectedly:

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.” (Luke 21:34-35)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come **like a thief in the night**. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” **destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.** (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

These are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah: “Thus says the Lord: We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no peace. Ask now, and see, **can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor? Why has every face turned pale? Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.** (Jeremiah 30:4-7)

**Therefore my loins are filled with anguish;
pangs have seized me,
like the pangs of a woman in labor;
I am bowed down so that I cannot hear;
I am dismayed so that I cannot see.** (Isaiah 21:3)

**Now why do you cry aloud?
Is there no king in you?
Has your counselor perished,
that pain seized you like a woman in labor?
Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion,
like a woman in labor,
for now you shall go out from the city
and dwell in the open country;
you shall go to Babylon.
There you shall be rescued;
there the Lord will redeem you
from the hand of your enemies.** (Micah 4:9-10)

**For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.** (Isaiah 42:14)

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.** (Matthew 24:7-8)

Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. (Luke 21:23)



Every single person on earth will react in fear. They will try to hide from what they correctly recognize as God's wrath, as they cry "who is able to stand?"

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

The answer is no one, at least, not on earth – **"It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."** (Hebrews 10:31)

Taken, Or Left?

Prior to the beginning of the time of the apocalypse (the 70th Week of Daniel), God has promised to remove His true followers from the earth. I mentioned this in a previous chapter, as I am one who has disappeared. This did not take me by surprise, because I was expecting to be snatched away suddenly! This view, called the "pretribulation rapture of the church" was largely mocked - even within the church itself. But that mocking also fulfilled Bible prophecy:

*...you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. **They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."** For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. (2 Peter 2:3-7)*

Since there will be some type of deceptive excuse for what happened to me and others like me, I want to give you some of the verses that confirm what has truly occurred:

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, ***I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world***, to try those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 3:10)

"But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have ***strength to escape*** all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be ***saved by him from the wrath of God***. (Romans 5:9)

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, ***Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come***. (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ***waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ***, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)

Listen! I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but ***we will all be changed*** [all at once], in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and ***the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed***. For this corruptible must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal must be clothed with immortality. When this corruptible is clothed

with incorruptibility, and this mortal is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place:

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Death, where is your victory?

Death, where is your sting?

(1 Corinthians 15:51-55)

“Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and ***receive you to Myself***, so that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

Two men will be in the field; ***one will be taken*** [received] and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; ***one will be taken*** [received] and the other left. (Matthew 24:40-41)

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way ***God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus***. For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord’s coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep. ***For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pains, so we were before You, Lord. We became pregnant, we writhed in pain; we gave birth to wind. We have won no victories on earth, and the earth’s inhabitants have not fallen. ***Your dead will live; their bodies will rise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust! For you will be covered with the morning dew, and the earth will bring out the departed spirits. Go, my people, enter your rooms and close your doors behind you. Hide for a little while until the wrath has passed. For look, the Lord is coming from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.*** The earth will reveal the blood shed on it and will no longer conceal her slain. (Isaiah 26:17-21)

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

God has clearly foretold this event in scripture. The unbelieving world will have to scramble to provide a cover-up story for this disappearance. Satan will step in with his elaborate long-prepared reasons, and most will be deceived:

And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by

the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12)

The Holy-Spirit sealed body of Christ, the truly born-again, restrained the "revealing of the lawless one" and the full expression of the "mystery of lawlessness" - that is, the antichrist and the time of unbridled satanic activity upon the earth. God Himself will send a delusion upon those "left behind" that they might believe satan's lies.

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. (Matthew 24:24-25)

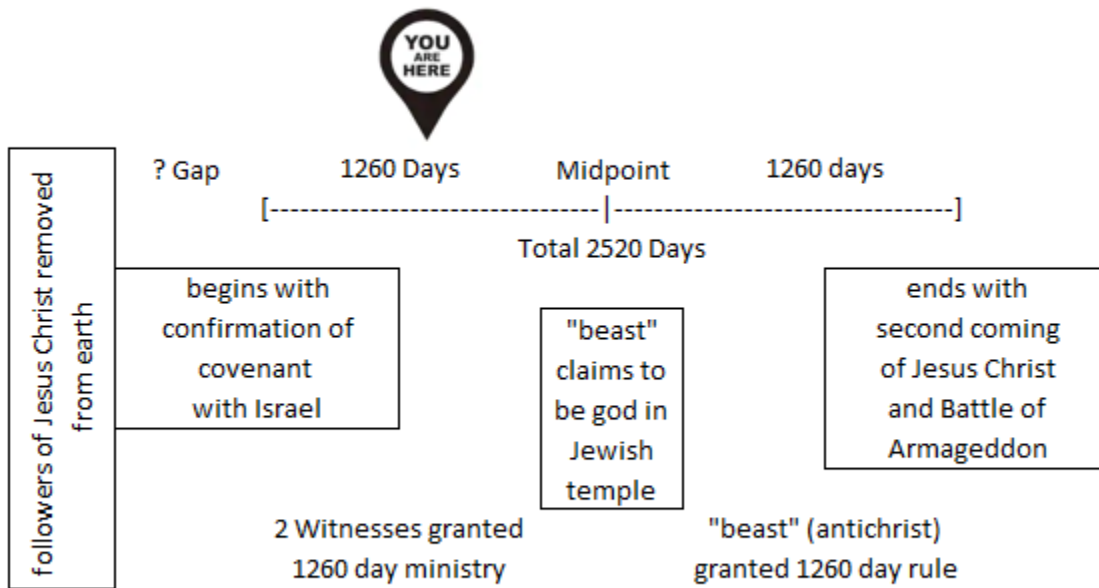
You have been warned. Do not believe the deception that is being unleashed upon humanity! There are some who are elected to salvation - please choose Jesus!

Act 2 - The First 1260 Days

As I mentioned previously, there are different interpretations of when and how these events will play out. Please allow some flexibility here as I give my best interpretation. Within the first 1260 days of the apocalyptic period, I suggest that the following will occur:

- 7 Seals release 7 specific actions
- Prophetic Wars will break out
- Certain individuals will be sealed by God
- A covenant will be confirmed with Israel
- There is a "dueling" of religions
- God will send 2 Witnesses
- 6 Trumpets release 6 judgments

Timeline of the "Apocalypse"



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The 7 Seals

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

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

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

Revelation 6:1-17

In Revelation chapter 6, I suggest to you that Jesus (the Lamb of God) opens the seven seals within moments of each other. This immediately begins what is known as "the tribulation" (or "the apocalypse"). Each seal is currently restraining an action; when the seal is released, the action is also released (unrestrained; allowed to begin). Some of these actions continue for a little while; some will continue throughout the entire 7 year period.

Seal 1 – White Horse with a Rider holding a Bow and wearing a Crown. It seems that a leader will begin a rise to power on the global stage. In 1260 days he will become THE global ruler and declare himself to be "god". The effects of this seal opening will persist throughout the entire time period and represent the man the Bible refers to as the "antichrist" or the "beast".

Seal 2 - Red Horse with a Rider Granted to Take Peace From the Earth. Many wars will occur as the world struggles to establish a "new world order" out of the chaos that has erupted. This seal also includes the brutal and massive violent response of humanity as they fight for survival. The effects of this seal opening will persist throughout the entire "apocalyptic" time period.

Seal 3 – Black Horse with a Rider Holding a Pair of Scales or a Yoke. There will be global famine of such a remarkable extent that a loaf of bread will cost a day's wages - the poor will have a difficult time surviving. It would seem that volcanic ash in the atmosphere will lead to a decrease in food production. The wars from Seal 2 will further disrupt the food chain. Transportation of goods may also be affected by war and natural disasters. The world might be unequally affected by this famine, with pockets of the population being relatively unscathed. The effects of this seal opening will persist throughout the entire period.

Seal 4 – Ashen (Pale/Green/Dappled) Horse ridden by Death, Given Authority to Kill a Fourth of the Earth. It seems that a quarter of the earth's population will die within a relatively short timespan, specifically from the causes of war, violence, famine, disease outbreaks, and wild animals. In current numbers, this would include the death of approximately 1.95 billion people. It would seem that the effects of this seal opening will be completed within a relatively short period of time (if I were to hazard a guess - maybe a few months to a year?).

Seal 5 - Martyrs Under the Altar cry out for Vengeance; Given White Robes and Told to Rest for a Little While. I believe that this describes the dead in Christ who were resurrected and taken up into heaven; others suggest that this pictures followers of Jesus Christ being killed for their faith. That will also certainly occur, particularly in the second 1260-day half. The effects of this seal opening seem to be immediate.

Seal 6 - Great Earthquake, Sun turns Black, Full Moon turns Blood Red, Stars fall from the Sky, Sky vanishes like a Scroll, Every Mountain and Island Moved, Earth Dwellers all Hide in Fear and Declare that the Great Day of the Wrath of God and the Lamb has Come. This is the "beginning of birth pains" as discussed in the previous chapter, and parallels what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 24. The "birth pains" mark the start of the "tribulation" or "apocalypse". The effects of this seal opening will be immediate, persisting for a short period of time (days? weeks?).

Seal 7 - Silence in Heaven for About Half an Hour, an Angel Offers the Prayers of the Saints Before God's Throne, The Angel Fills the Censer with Fire from the Altar and Throws it on the Earth, Followed by Thunder, Lightning, and an Earthquake. The Seventh Seal brings forth 7 Angels with 7 Trumpets. The opening of this seal suggests that after the initial onslaught of the effects of the seven seals, there will be a pause before the trumpet judgments sound.

Wars Are Decreed

Wars, and rumors of war, strike black marks along the entire span of human history. That humans fight with each other is not unique.

Israel, as God's chosen nation and people, is the central focus of Bible Prophecy. Throughout the Old Testament we are presented with prophecies and fulfillments of many wars involving Israel as she moves in to occupy and preserve her Promised Land.

There are several prophesied wars involving Israel that will occur in the future. The timing of these is broadly in "the latter years". I suspect that war may break out shortly before, during, or after the disappearance of those who follow Jesus Christ, and continue off and on throughout the entire "apocalyptic" period of approximately 7-10 years. This will fulfill the release of Seal 2 mentioned above.

I would like to give you a brief overview of these wars, so that you will be able to recognize them and know that they are occurring when and how God said they would. There are several opinions as to how this might play out. First, a summary:

- Concurrently, the world will first be divided into four main parts (“kingdoms”).
- Two kingdoms may be ruled by singular rulers.
- One kingdom will be ruled by 4 “kings”.
- The fourth kingdom will be ruled by 10 “kings”.
- In this fourth kingdom, three of these 10 kings will be quickly displaced by the man who will become the “antichrist”.
- This fourth kingdom, led by the antichrist, will progressively take over the other 3 kingdoms over the next 3.5 years.

Nation Rising Against Nation

One of the first true “Birth Pains” that will indicate that the “time of the end” has finally arrived is Nation Rising Against Nation, and Kingdom Rising Against Kingdom.

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. (Luke 21:10)

These phrases (“nation rising against nation”, and “kingdom against kingdom”) were a Hebrew idiom meaning war involving the entire known region. Since the entire world will be involved in the “time of the end”, it would suggest that the “nation rising against nation” mentioned by Jesus would most likely be along the lines of what we would consider World War 3. It will involve many nations.

The Destruction of Damascus – Isaiah 17

Isaiah 17 states that it is a prophecy against Damascus:

Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. (Isaiah 17:1)

The prophecy in Isaiah 17 points to the complete destruction of Damascus, never to be restored again. This is noteworthy because presently the city is recognized as the world’s longest continually inhabited city. Other cities (not specifically defined) are affected as well, and will be abandoned and desolated.

Isaiah refers to “that day” three times in this chapter. “That Day” is generally used in scripture to specifically refer to the “Day of the Lord”. Here, “that day” connects the destruction of Damascus with the “day” when the “glory of Jacob fades” and only “gleanings” remain. This is consistent with the Day of the Lord, or the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”, where 2/3 of the Israelites will perish and 1/3 will be brought through the fires of testing (Zechariah 13:8-9). The Day of the Lord is not a single day, but a timespan of up to 7 years. This does not suggest the battle lasts for 7 years, but that the effects of it might – especially when coupled with all the other events of the great and terrible Day of the Lord.

Jeremiah 49:23-27 contains a prophecy concerning Damascus that connects its’ destruction with “that day” where they will “melt in fear”, and will be seized in panic when anguish and sorrows take hold of her as of a woman in labor. There are strong connections between a woman in labor and the Time

of Jacob's Trouble (Revelation 12:1-5, Isaiah 26, Isaiah 66). Jeremiah is certainly talking about the same event mentioned in Isaiah 17, which seems to be connected to the start of the "Tribulation" (Daniel's 70th Week / the Day of the Lord).

Isaiah 17 also mentions that in "that day people will look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel". This is consistent with the purpose of the entire Day of the Lord, from start to finish – God will use judgment to get His people's attention and draw them back to Him.

The "many nations" and "peoples" who are attempting to plunder Israel are "driven before the wind like chaff on the hills, like tumbleweed before a gale" in the span of one evening/night. It seems that the enemies flee, and are not destroyed.

The Arab-Israeli Promised Land War of Psalm 83

Psalm 83 is a prayer of the prophet Asaph. In it, he requests for God to break His silence towards Israel and protect her. He mentions a specific group of nations wanting to wipe Israel off the face of the map. The nations include Edom, Ishmaelites, Moab, Hagrites, Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, Philistia, Tyre, and Asshur. Modern day equivalents would seem to be Egypt, Jordan/Palestinians, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon.

This war appears to have been at least partially fulfilled in the Six-Day War of 1967. The exact nations described in Psalm 83 issued a coordinated attack against Israel, and Israel was victorious.

It's also possible that the complete fulfillment, or a dual fulfillment, of this war is yet future. An interesting detail noted in Obadiah is that it places the battle against Edom (included in Psalm 83) near the Day of the Lord – "For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head." (Obad 1:15). The reference of being near the Day of the Lord *could* refer to 1967, which is "near" in the sense of not being thousands of years off.... or this war could yet be future. The Day of the Lord was drawing "near" upon all the nations 50 years ago... but it is certainly much nearer now.

Gog and Magog War of Ezekiel 38 & 39

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 detail a very specific war against Israel. For it to occur, Israel must be existing in a state of "peace and safety". What this is exactly is debatable, but it seems that it involves either some overconfidence or lack of awareness (carelessness) on Israel's part. She will not be actively at war when these nations attack her, and she will be caught by surprise.

A future leader or supreme commander will oversee a vast military alliance which will be heavily armed. In the Bible the leader is named "Gog". I do not believe this is the human leaders' name, but instead represents the spiritual entity behind the geographical region called "Magog". The modern nation that "Magog" represents would seem to be either Russia or Turkey. The alliance appears to be primarily Islamic, and their goal will be to overtake Israel's resources. It seems that Russia (Turkey?) will be joined by Iran and Islamic nations from north and east Africa (Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and others), plus Islamic nations of the Middle East and Central Asia (Turkey, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and others). There may be mild protest to this invasion from unspecified nations (USA?), but there will be no intervention in support of Israel and Israel may not even have time to defend itself.

God will completely destroy the invading armies and send destruction to their homelands through a global earthquake, internal chaos and infighting, pestilence, torrential rain, hail, fire and brimstone. What begins as divine judgment on the troops surrounding Israel will expand to include the whole world. (Note there are strong connections to Seal 6 in Revelation 6 as well as the first Trumpet Judgment in Revelation 8).

Basically, God will raise Israel's enemies up against her in such a way as to guarantee her destruction, *just so that He can prevent her from being destroyed.*

God breaks His silence with Israel for the purpose of announcing to an unbelieving world – Israel herself and all the nations – that He is still here! He intends to fulfill His covenant promises and reclaim Israel as His people and His land. God mentions this purpose 70 times in the book of Ezekiel; four times in these two chapters alone, to ensure He gets His point across.

It's impossible to overemphasize the significance that God Himself is arranging this war exactly according to His schedule. God has one final test for Israel. He will use Gog / Magog as a challenge for both Israel and the nations. It will be deliberately presented so that it can be interpreted by Israel as the final war (Battle of Armageddon). Will Israel then turn to Jesus as the true Messiah, or will she embrace the anti-Messiah that satan will raise up?

Gog, the commander, will die upon the mountains of Israel along with his armies. After God intervenes and destroys the army, Israel will spend 7 months cleansing the land and burying the dead. Israel will also be able to use the invaders' weapons as some type of fuel source and will plunder their equipment. They will do so for a period of 7 years (but there may be more than 7 years' supply available). At the 7 year point, something will happen to intervene with this use if the supply has not run out (I would suggest the Second Coming of Jesus Christ).

I would suggest that the wars of Isaiah 17, Psalm 83, and Ezekiel 38-39 might blur together and occur within a short span of time.

Regardless of the exact timing, God Himself will intervene to save Israel in these wars. As a result, Israel will want to re-institute their Temple worship of God with Old Testament-style sacrifices. The person (or 'being') who arises and takes credit for winning these wars won't be God, but he will end up claiming to be.

A Global Leader Begins to Emerge

I believe the 3 wars detailed above (Isaiah 17, Psalm 83, Ezekiel 38-39), in addition to the World Wars (Nation Rising Against Nation), occur in very close proximity to the removal of the true church from the earth (those who have been "born again" through the blood of Jesus Christ). However, they may possibly be included in the description of the Antichrist's rise to power. I am confident that it will become very clear at the time it occurs!

As the "apocalypse" begins, a great power vacuum will exist in the world. Prior social and economic structures will collapse under the burden of disaster. A man or being will rise to power quickly, to bring "peace" and "unity". This man is known in the Bible as "the lawless one", "the antichrist", "false christ", "false messiah", and "the beast". The "antichrist" will participate in ushering in a new

world order. The details of the Antichrist's rise to power is found in Daniel chapters 7, 11, and Revelation chapter 13. It would seem to fulfill the release of Seal 1.

A major calamity will come upon the world at some point, creating a power vacuum. I believe this will be the removal of the true church from the earth, with Seals 1-7 opening in its' wake. Out of the power vacuum will arise 4 kingdoms. These 4 kingdoms will burst forth suddenly upon the world and are described as:

A Lion – which will rise up swiftly and strongly, then be toned down considerably. It's possible this is parallel to the King of the South, who attacks the antichrist but will be subdued by him (Daniel 11:40).

A Bear – a ferocious kingdom acting out of perceived threat. It will have three initial great conquests. This kingdom may be tied to the King of the North (Daniel 11:40).

A Leopard with Four Heads – a very swiftly rising kingdom with 4 main leaders or nations. It may "lay in wait" patiently before suddenly rising up extremely quickly. Perhaps this kingdom is associated with the King of the East, or "news" from the east that troubles the antichrist (Daniel 11:44). It may make an agreement with the "King of the North".

A Beast – exceedingly strong kingdom with no hint of weakness. This coalition of nations may involve the west, plus a scattering of remnant nations not incorporated into the other 3 Kingdoms. It will initially be a coalition of 10 leaders/nations. An eleventh leader will rise up, replacing three of the original members. It would appear that this eleventh leader, the antichrist, will attempt to fulfill the messianic expectations of the Jews (Ezekiel 34:25; Isaiah 54:10).

The Beast Kingdom will Devour the Other Kingdoms – In Daniel chapter 11, we are given a description of how this fourth Beast kingdom devours the other three kingdoms until ultimately the antichrist rules the entire world. The antichrist, through the power of Satan, will succeed in conquering the world. His wars are detailed in verses 40-45; he may use generous diplomacy (rewards) in addition to actual fighting. We have now arrived at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week – halfway through the "Tribulation". The Antichrist is about to proclaim himself to be "god".

God's Special Seal

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

*12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,*

*12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.*

(Revelation 7:1-8)

Included within the opening of the sixth seal is a description of 144,000 specific individuals whom God will place His mark upon. It seems that these are perhaps the first Hebrews who come to faith in Jesus Christ after the start of the "apocalypse". They may currently be orthodox Jews. They likely do not know what tribes they descend from - but God does! This special seal upon them spares them from the effects of Trumpet 5. God may have other plans and purposes for them that has not yet been revealed. They may be spared from other judgments; we do not know in advance. Whether subsequent believers in Christ will also be sealed and spared some of these judgements we also are not told.

A Strong Covenant

A very important Bible prophecy for the time you are in is the 70 Weeks of Daniel, recorded in Daniel chapter 9. Most of this prophecy has been fulfilled - it is the final, 70th, "week of years" that remains. This final week, officially begins when a covenant is confirmed with Israel. Many people believe that the man who will become the antichrist (or perhaps his "false prophet") will make, or confirm, a peace or land (or land for peace) treaty with Israel. The covenant may be made for 7 years (peace agreement), or it may be presented as eternal (a "new messianic covenant").

*And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. **Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.*** (Daniel 9:26-27 ESV)

Another possible interpretation of this passage is more easily seen when using a different Bible translation from Hebrew to English:

“And one week shall establish the covenant with many: and in the midst of the week my sacrifice and drink-offering shall be taken away: and on the temple shall be the abomination of desolations; and at the end of time an end shall be put to the desolation.” (Daniel 9:27 LXX Interlinear)

In this translation it appears that God reconfirms His Abrahamic land and people covenant with Israel. I would suggest this would occur through His intervention in the wars we just discussed above. If this is the case, people may not be aware of any agreement made or signed. I present the options to you, in case a treaty or covenant is made, so that you will be able to identify it. If someone enters into an agreement with Israel, or if Israel is suddenly attacked and miraculously survives, mark that man and/or that date. The confirming of this covenant, whatever it turns out to be, will start an

event known as the **70th Week of Daniel**. This 70th Week pertains directly to the nation of Israel and ethnic Hebrews, and is generally known as "The 7 Year Tribulation". Hollywood refers to it as "the apocalypse". The clock starts ticking at the covenant being confirmed.

Regardless of who confirms the covenant and how, what we understand from this prophecy is that:

- A covenant will be confirmed with Daniel's people (Israel).
- This covenant confirmation will re-start the count of weeks. This is critical, because the confirmation of the covenant is the start-point for a number of day counts.
- In 1260 days, a man will declare himself to be "god" in the rebuilt Jewish Temple
- In 1260 days, the Jewish sacrifices in the Temple will cease
- In 1260 days, the altar of sacrifice will be desecrated. In the past, a shadow example of this was when Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificed a pig on the altar. This may or may not be repeated. Perhaps a sacrifice to this "god-man" will be made, or perhaps this is when his image will be set up and worshiped in the temple.
- In 2520 days, Jesus Christ will return in great power and glory.
- In 2520 days, Jesus will cast this "god-man" (antichrist) and his false prophet into the eternal lake of fire.
- In 2520 days, Jesus will defeat all those gathered against Him and establish His global kingdom.

Dueling Religions

There will be a dueling of religions on the world stage. On one hand, the man who is rising to power on the global stage will be forming a religion of some type. It may look a lot like Judaism in the beginning. He may be supportive of the rebuilding of the Third Temple by the Jews. On the other hand, God will send two witnesses who will act as prophets. These will be instructing Israel and teaching them to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

This "anti-messiah" or "antichrist" will be supported by a false prophet. The false prophet may identify himself "Elijah". These two, and their entourage, will be *extremely convincing* and will be accompanied by all kinds of miraculous signs and wonders. They will be empowered by none other than satan – forming an "unholy trinity".

At some point, the "antichrist" will likely identify as the Jewish messiah. He may also identify as the messiah for other religions as well, explaining that everyone had different understandings of the same thing. He may encourage Old Testament-style worship of God... at first. Some of Israel (up to 2/3) will seemingly embrace this man as their anticipated messiah, here to usher in the messianic kingdom. They will believe the events that will have already transpired (wars in which they survived, the building of the Third Temple, sacrifices restarting) have fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. They will believe that a time of peace and prosperity for Israel, the millennial kingdom, is nigh. In reality, their time of testing is *just beginning*.

God's Two Witnesses

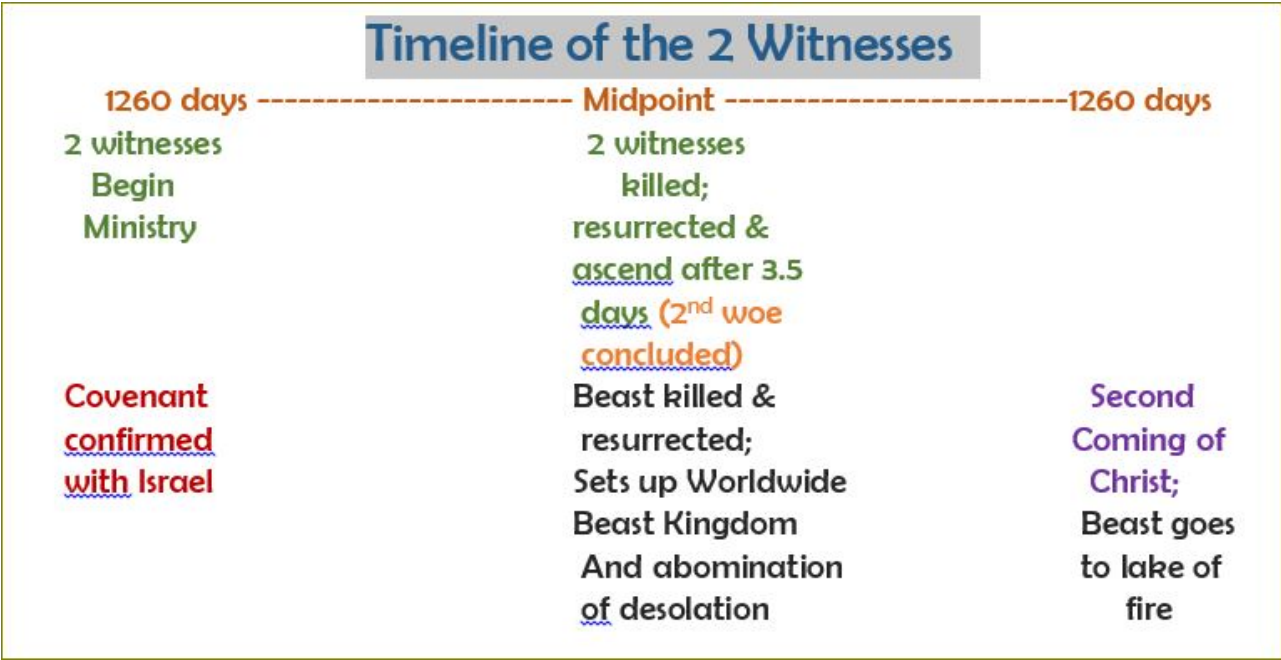
In Revelation chapter 11, we are introduced to two special individuals God calls His Witnesses:

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

From this passage, we note that:

- They proclaim the gospel for 1260 days as prophets
- They are clothed in sackcloth - traditionally representing repentance
- They are two olive trees - they will be Jews (Hebrews)
- They are two lampstands - they will be God's light, His representatives
- Fire pours from their mouths and consumes their foes - they are supernaturally empowered against being harmed
- They have the power to shut the sky (no rain) - this is similar to Elijah in his earthly ministry
- They have the power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire - this is similar to Moses in his earthly ministry
- When they have finished their testimony (they have an allotted number of days to prophesy - 1260), the beast that rises from the bottomless pit (an allusion to the resurrected antichrist) will conquer them and kill them - this indicates they have mortal bodies that can die.
- Their dead bodies will lie in the street for a period of 3.5 days, while people look on and celebrate with parties and the exchange of presents over their deaths.
- They will be killed in the "great city" where their Lord was crucified - this can be none other than Jerusalem.
- After 3.5 days, the breath of life enters their bodies as they are resurrected from the dead, likely to immortality
- God calls them to "Come Up Here", and they are taken into heaven.

The identity of these two individuals is debatable, but many believe they might be Elijah and either Moses or Enoch from Old Testament times. Alternately, they may be two current age individuals, who function similarly to how Moses ("the Law") and Elijah ("the Prophets") functioned in the Old Testament. The two witnesses will fearlessly proclaim God's judgment and the need for repentance - that the Kingdom of God is finally, truly, near!



The First 6 Trumpets (Revelation 8:6-9:21, 11:15,19)

When the seventh seal is opened, "approximately half an hour of silence" ensues. This is not silence as in the lack of sound, but silence as a "pause". Once the silence ends, seven angels will begin to sound their trumpets. Each trumpet releases a specific judgment.

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

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

The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!" (Revelation 8:1-13)

I believe that the first six trumpets sound in this first 1260 day period; others believe they will be spread out over the entire seven year period. You should be able to identify when the trumpet has sounded in heaven by observing the effects as they occur on the earth. Trumpets 1-4 could happen in very quick succession as they seem related to each other by similar space/atmospheric events.

Trumpet 1 - Land Judgment - Hail and fire mingled with blood, 1/3 of trees burned, all green grass burned. Hail and fire are frequent accompaniments of severe electrical storms. Will this judgment involve severe global thunderstorms with lightning and resultant forest and grass fire activity? Worldwide volcanic eruptions could represent the blood (reminiscent of Joel 2:30 – blood and fire and billows of smoke). Alternately, blood could be describing the death that results from the hail and fire. Blood is important in the description, because the Day of the Lord is about purging the land of its' blood guilt. However 1/3 of the earth, trees, and grass is burned, it will be devastating to the animals and humans that are yet alive. Food will become even more scarce and the death toll from famine will increase.

Trumpet 2 - Sea Judgment - Great Mountain burning with fire cast into sea, 1/3 sea becomes blood. The object plunging into the sea appears like a great mountain burning with fire – the most probable explanation is an asteroid or giant meteorite (the size of a mountain), surrounded by flaming gases. The devastation will spread worldwide and affect 1/3 of the seas – the contaminated water (blood) will kill 1/3 of the creatures and the giant waves that result (like tsunamis) will capsize 1/3 of the ships. Again, note the blood - this time in the sea.

Trumpet 3 - Fresh Water Judgment - Great star falls from heaven, 1/3 of fresh water made bitter. This is likely a meteor or comet (burning like a torch), which breaks up in the atmosphere. The fiery debris contaminates 1/3 of the fresh water around the globe. Wormwood is a toxic plant, and is associated with bitterness, poison, and death in the old testament. I'm not sure that the wormwood toxin will be the actual poison, or if it has been selected to represent some type of severe bitter judgment on the fresh water (possibly nuclear). It will be very difficult to obtain enough uncontaminated water to drink, and this will result in much animal and human suffering and death.

Trumpet 4 - Heavens Judgment - 1/3 of light from the sun, moon, and stars is dimmed. Light from the celestial bodies is darkened by 1/3, possibly by disruptions in the earth's atmosphere. The loss of heat from the sun will cause temperatures to plunge drastically all over the world. Weather patterns will be severely disrupted, leading to violent and unpredictable storms. Agriculture will be affected. For further research on how atmospheric disturbance from something like ash (from Trumpet 1?) can affect weather patterns and agriculture, you can look up "Nuclear Winter".

Now let's discuss the final 3 Trumpet Judgments, also known as the "Woe Judgments":

And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft

rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound. (Revelation 9:1-19)

We are not told how long it is after Trumpet 4 that Trumpet 5 sounds, but the duration of Trumpet 5 is given as 5 months. This is the first woe.

Trumpet 5 - Woe 1 - Demonic locust army is unleashed from the abyss and tortures men for 5 months. They are not allowed to touch the sealed 144,000. Death is suspended. Satan will have been already permanently cast down to the earth [see further details in Rev 12:7-9], and is now given the key to the abyss to release its inmates (fallen angels). These appear resembling locusts, which swarm out from the abyss to plague the people of the earth with painful stings for 5 months. The normal lifespan of a locust is from May to September - maybe this is when they will appear? There is no weapon that can harm them, and no cure for their torment. People will seek death (suicide?) but it will not be granted to them – Satan is holding the key to hell during that time and no one will enter. Note that the demons will not be allowed to affect the 144,000 Jews who have been sealed by God, placing the timing of this judgment after their sealing but before their martyrdom (Revelation 15). The locust army is not allowed to affect the physical world (grass, trees, greenery), which physical locusts would normally consume. Thus we can know that these are not literal locusts, but locust-like beings.

That this army is controlled by God is confirmed by Joel chapter 2, which discusses an attack in detail:

“They have the appearance of horses; they gallop along like cavalry. With a noise like that of chariots they leap over the mountaintops, like a crackling fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army drawn up for battle. At the sight of them, nations are in anguish; every face turns pale. They charge like warriors; they scale walls like soldiers. They all march in line, not swerving from their course. They do not jostle each other; each marches straight ahead. They plunge through defenses without breaking ranks. They rush upon the city; they run along the wall. They climb into the houses; like thieves they enter through the windows. Before them the earth shakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The Lord thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty is the army that obeys his command. The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?” (Joel 2:4-11)

The army is all consuming, just as literal locusts consume all vegetation. Note that the earth is shaking, the heavens are trembling, the sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars are not shining. The Day of the Lord is a time of darkness, throughout much of its course. This darkness may also indicate that trumpet 5 closely follows trumpet 4, or that the sheer number of demons roaming about literally darken the skies - YIKES!

Even yet God will call people to repent – “*“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.*” (Joel 2:12-13) Even in judgment, God extends His mercy. During the trumpets, repentance is still possible.

At the completion of the 5 month period of Trumpet 5, Trumpet 6 sounds. We are not told the duration of Trumpet 6, but we do know when it is completed. In Revelation chapter 11, we find out that the 6th Trumpet (2nd woe) ends after the 2 witnesses from God have been killed and resurrected from the dead 3.5 days later. The antichrist likely proclaims himself to be "god" and commits the "abomination of desolation" while the 2 witnesses are lying dead. Thus, whenever the 6th Trumpet Judgment begins, it appears to end approximately 3.5 days after the antichrist declares himself to be "god". We know that this event occurs halfway through the 70th Week of Daniel (7 year time period commonly called the "Tribulation").

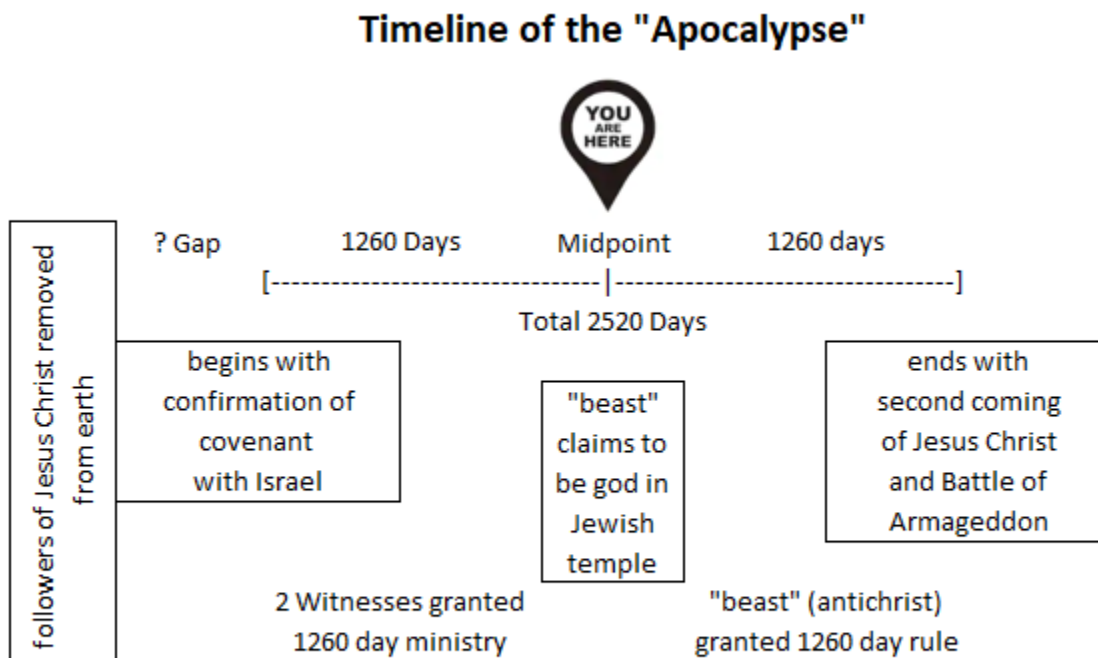
Trumpet 6 - Woe 2 - Demonic army of 200,000,000 is unleashed from the region of the Euphrates, where they have been bound, and kills 1/3 of humanity. Here is yet another "one third" judgment. Four angels, who have been prepared specifically for this hour and day and month and year, are released from their bindings (indicating that they are fallen angels – holy angels are not bound). The time has come for them to enact judgment upon the earth in accordance with God's purposes. It is not clear if humans are involved in this judgment or not. This demonic (or demonically inspired) army of 200,000,000 is released from the Euphrates river area and sent forth to slaughter 1/3 of mankind – death has returned to the earth. The number of bodies piled up is difficult to fathom. Still - the bulk of humanity does not repent or turn to God. *“The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” (Revelation 9:20-21).*

This brings us to the climactic midpoint of the "apocalypse".

Act 3 - A Critical Turning Point

In our last chapter we detailed the first 1260 days of the apocalyptic time period. We have now reached a critical turning point! In a very short time span (1-4 days), a number of key changes will take place in the narrative that is earth's story:

- A Death
- A Resurrection
- Two Witnesses killed
- Religious Winds of Change
- Protection For Israel
- Two Witnesses resurrected
- The Antichrist



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A Death

So far we have gone through an overview of the first half of Daniel's 70th week, where some type of covenant was confirmed with Israel and the man who will become the antichrist has risen to power. This is possibly done under Jewish messianic expectations of the anti-messiah (Messiah ben Joseph) fighting and winning wars for them. Around the 3.5 year mark, this messiah figure will set up his headquarters ("palatial tents") in Jerusalem and declare it to be the capital city of the world. This is again what Jews are expecting from the "messianic kingdom age". But first, this messiah figure is about to die:

*“And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. **Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.** At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.”* (Daniel 11:45-12:1)

*And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. **One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound...*** (Revelation 13:1-3)

Israel may mourn over his death (seemingly in fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10, which won't come to TRUE fulfillment until the second coming of Christ). This death will likely come as a complete shock to the world.

Look for this death to occur approximately 1257-1260 days after a covenant is confirmed with Israel.

A Resurrection

This death is not the end of the beast, he will rise again:

*One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, **but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled** as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”* (Revelation 13:3-5)

This resurrection from the dead will be empowered by God, who alone has authority over death. Why would He allow this? To fulfill the scriptures:

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

The Bible doesn't tell us, but this man may lie dead for three days and three nights prior to his resurrection. Satan may be trying to replicate the "sign of Jonah" - Jesus' three days and three nights in the grave, with His resurrection on the third day. Thus, satan may resurrect his "beast" on the third day and claim this is "according to the scriptures". This may even occur during the Passover season (often referred to as Easter).

Two Witnesses Killed

It seems that the first course of action this newly resurrected beast-man will take is to kill God's two witnesses. Prior to this point, anyone who tried to kill them would be consumed by fire. However, their decreed 1260 day ministry has come to an end and it will occur as planned:

And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great

city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. (Revelation 11:7-8)

I would suggest this likely occurs in Jerusalem, the city where our Lord was crucified. Because the two witnesses were previously invincible, their death by the beast's hand will bolster the world's response of *"Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"*

The Beast may kill the 144,000 sealed Hebrew Christians at this time. Alternately, the 144,000 sealed Hebrew Christians we discussed in the previous chapter might be taken into heaven by God in a disappearance event like the "rapture". From one cause or another, these specific individuals appear in heaven right around this time.

Religious Winds of Change

Subsequent to killing God's two witnesses, the resurrected beast-man - the antichrist - will sit in the Jewish Temple and declare himself to be god. Do not marvel, this has been foretold:

*And the beast was given a mouth uttering **haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.** (Revelation 13:5-6)*

*And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and **for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.** (Daniel 9:27)*

The antichrist would appear to stop sacrifices and offerings to God (Jehovah / Yahweh) at this time.

Protection for Israel

We have spent much time on the antichrist and his rise to power, but we also need to discuss God's remarkable escape plan for the elect remnant of Israel which He has called unto Himself. Right after the antichrist's mortal wound and "miraculous" resurrection (at which point he is likely possessed by satan), he will seat himself in the Jewish Temple and proclaim himself to be "god". He will cause all sacrifices to cease. This is the trigger for those in Israel to flee to the wilderness/mountains:

***So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.** (Matthew 24:16-21)*

***...and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.** (Revelation 12:6)*

But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The

serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. (Revelation 12:14-16)

It's possible that this wilderness location is centered around the area known as Petra. Those who obediently flee to the place prepared for them will be sheltered under the wings of God Almighty. This will likely be done through the leading and the protection of the archangel Michael:

Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. (Exodus 23:20)

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

Michael is the angel assigned to protect Israel (Jude 1:9). It appears that Michael will stand for the obedient elect Israel who flee to the wilderness. He will stand guard over them for the 1260 days of the antichrist's rule – this is why Edom (Jordan) escapes out of the antichrist's hand? This leading to, and protection in, the wilderness is a similar parallel to the first exodus. Perhaps God will even supply His people with manna once again!

Two Witnesses Resurrected

After 3.5 days, God's two witnesses will be resurrected from the dead.

*For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. **But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. (Revelation 11:9-13)***

A great earthquake will accompany their resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The Antichrist

This is probably a good time to discuss how one might recognize the antichrist figure for who he is. As a Christian, I believe that Jesus fulfilled the predicted Suffering Servant role at His first coming, and will fulfill the Conquering King role at His second coming. However, the Jews who rejected Jesus are still anticipating the coming of a Messiah. Not everyone agrees, but I believe the antichrist will attempt to fulfill their expectations. I will let you be the judge of how closely he "fits the bill".

The Jews are expecting the coming messiah to:

- be descended from King David on his father’s side (see Genesis 49:10, Isaiah 11:1, Jeremiah 23:5, 33:17; Ezekiel 34:23-24). According to Jewish sources, the Messiah will be born of human parents and possess normal physical attributes like other people. He will not be a demi-god, (2) nor will he possess supernatural qualities.
- promise a future age of perfection characterized by universal peace and recognition of “God” (Isaiah 2:1-4, 32:15-18, 60:15-18; Zephaniah 3:9; Hosea 2:20-22; Amos 9:13-15; Micah 4:1-4; Zechariah 8:23, 14:9; Jeremiah 31:33-34)
- build, or allow the building of, the third temple (Ezekiel 37:26-28).
- gather all Hebrew tribes back to the land of Israel (Isaiah 43:5-6).
- lead the Jewish people to full Torah observance (Old Testament sacrificial system). (Deut. 13:1-4)
- reveal himself to the Jews at a national (not individual) level (Foundations of Torah, ch. 8; Deut. 5:3)

The earliest view of the church was that the antichrist, when he appeared, would try to convince the Jews that he was their messiah. This makes sense, and is well supported in scripture.

*Neither shall he regard the **God of his fathers**, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.* (Daniel 11:37)

While some translations state that the antichrist will not regard the “gods of his fathers”, the phrase “God of his fathers” is commonly used to refer to God, Yahweh (Genesis 31:29, 46:1,3; Exodus 3:16; 2 Kings 21:22; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 19:4; 2 Chronicles 33:12; Daniel 2:23). The “fathers” referenced are very specifically Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and this would be perfectly understood by the Jewish audience. Thus, if the antichrist is not regarding the “God of his fathers”, he must be Jewish. Note that it also states he won’t regard any other god, either, besides the God of his fathers. Instead, he will claim to be god himself.

I do not believe that the antichrist will come AGAINST Israel, but will try to WOO her as her messiah. She won’t believe that she is being attacked, but rather *protected* by this man. Israel won’t raise shepherds and princes against him, but will follow him in the ultimate act of harlotry. They will entice the world to follow him as well.

Jesus foretold that while Israel nationally rejected Him, at some point in the future they will receive one who comes in his own name:

I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. (John 5:43)

I suggest to you that the anti-christ (anti-messiah) will try to parallel what Jesus *did* at His first coming, *in addition* to appearing to fulfill what Jesus *will do* at His second coming. The Jews did not foresee the two-part role of the messiah, and were legitimately baffled when the Messianic Kingdom wasn’t inaugurated at Jesus’ first coming. In this way, the anti-messiah will appear to clear up all confusion and will be received.

Jesus came in His Father’s name to do his Father’s will, but was rejected. God is about to present to them an alternative – the anti-messiah. Basically, the antichrist is the final test for God’s people. Will they pass and choose Jesus Christ, or will they fail and choose the anti-messiah?

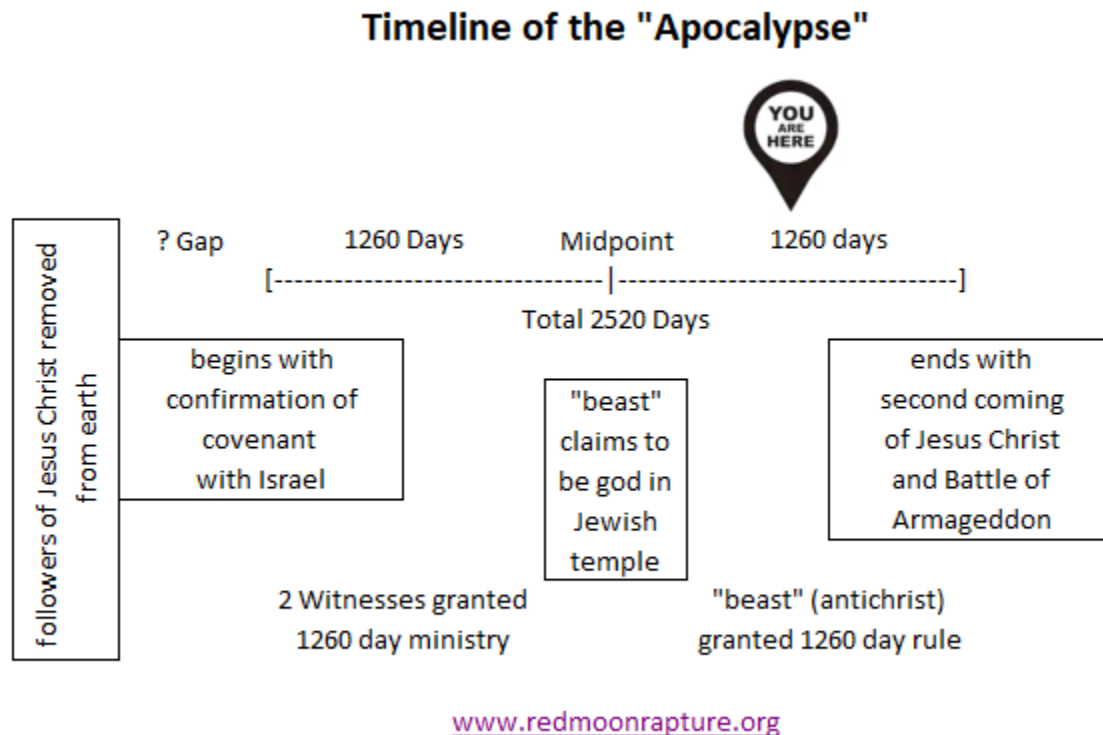
Scripture, and Bible prophecy in particular, is about Israel and its' physical and spiritual descendants. The consummation of scripture will include the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies and covenants. Daniel specifically states that the prophecy he received was for his holy people and holy city (Israelites and Jerusalem). God's covenant relationship is with Israel alone, and the books of Daniel and Revelation (Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah...) tell the story of how their relationship concludes.

Again, I am operating from a position of looking ahead far into the future (for me). Please test what I say against the Bible and against what occurs in real time. I am trying my best, but I will not be correct in all my hypotheses.

Act 4 - The Last 1260 Days

Within the last 1260 days of the time of tribulation upon the earth, I suggest that the following will unfold:

- One World Government
- One World Religion
- Christian Persecution
- One World Economy
- The Mark of the Beast
- 3 Announcing Angels
- Seventh Trumpet Sounds
- Mystery Babylon is Destroyed
- 7 Bowls of Wrath
- A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken



One World Government

The man whom the Bible refers to as the "beast", will now be granted by God 1260 days of global domination. I want you to note that if you take the beasts in Daniel 7 – a lion with wings, a bear, a four-headed leopard, and a ten-horned beast – and combine them all together, you get a seven-

headed, ten-horned beast with lion, bear, and leopard characteristics. And, this just happens to be exactly what we see when the antichrist declares to be “god”:

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear’s, and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. (Revelation 13:1-2)

Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper.” (Daniel 8:9-12)

The antichrist’s power will come from satan:

***And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.** One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” (Revelation 13:2-4)*

It seems that the world will marvel after and follow the beast because of his apparent resurrection from the dead as well as his military prowess. The antichrist’s 1260 days of rule (the last half of Daniel’s 70th week, or the last half of the covenant with many) is described further in Revelation 13:

*And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and **it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.** It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. **And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.** (Revelation 13:5-8)*

The antichrist’s rule will now be worldwide. The antichrist-beast’s rule is also described in the book of Daniel:

“As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.” (Daniel 7:21-25)

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

Daniel 7:21-25 and 12:1 describe the turning point where the Antichrist's Kingdom has taken over the entire world. The antichrist will try to change the "times and seasons", but his end is decreed. He will rule for no more than 1260 days. The time count starts when he declares himself to be god in the temple in Jerusalem. Both Daniel's and John's visions confirm that the judgment of the Beast occurs at the end of his rule, right before the Millennial Kingdom begins.

One World Religion

While the antichrist and his sidekick the "false prophet" may have been trying to set up a one-world religion during the first 1260 days of the tribulation period, it is at the midpoint where they will become successful in their goal.

Jesus clearly taught that there will be a singular false prophet who will point to a singular false messiah. This "messiah figure" may present for the Jewish religion (or, less likely, Islam, or perhaps "all religions"). However he presents, he will claim to be "god" 1260 days after a 7-year covenant is signed or strengthened with Israel. *This is a very, very bad thing.* These will be empowered by Satan himself, performing all kinds of supernatural signs and wonders. This will include the "antichrist" rising from the dead, and fire being called down from heaven (Revelation 13). God will grant this authority for His specific plans and purposes.

Jesus warns repeatedly against being deceived. This is Satan's last chance – you can bet that he has been planning this for thousands of years and that it is going to be very convincing.

At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time. (Matthew 24:23-24)

God grants this authority because those who remain on the earth rejected His truth.

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

This will be the greatest deception the world has ever seen, and most people will be deluded. You have been warned. Do not believe the lie.

The false prophet will arise "out of the earth" as opposed to the antichrist arising "out of the sea". While the sea depicts humanity, the earth is less clear. Perhaps he arises out of the pit of the earth (hell/abyss). He is depicted as having horns like a lamb but speaking like a dragon. He will appear gentle, docile, and persuasive; however, his words will come straight from satan (the dragon).

The false prophet is empowered by satan in action and speech:

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Revelation 12:9)

The false prophet is permitted by God, and empowered by Satan, to perform “great signs”. These signs and wonders might include a number of things, but it will certainly include calling “fire to come down from heaven to earth” (Revelation 13:13). Fire coming down from heaven could include asteroids, meteors, volcanic activity, or possibly even supernatural fire and brimstone. Elijah is the only prophet in the Bible who performed such a feat, which he did three times. Thus, the false prophet may claim to be “Elijah”. These signs and wonders will deceive humanity, through the “wow” factor, into following the false prophet’s teachings.

The primary function of the false prophet is to bring worship to the antichrist. He will set up an image of the antichrist, likely in the Jewish Temple, and will be given power to bring it to life. Whether it has actual LIFE or is something like a hologram (statue? android? hybrid creature? clone?) remains to be seen. The image of the antichrist will proclaim the message of the antichrist. It will “kill” all who refuse to worship it. This “living” image, which “speaks” and demands worship, is likely to be the abomination of desolation event we discussed in the last chapter.

Israel is to worship the Lord God and serve Him only (Deut 6:13, 10:20; Luke 4:8). Thus, setting up an idol of another god for the prime purpose of receiving worship in the Holy of Holies in the Jewish Temple is the ultimate abomination against Yahweh.

Jewish / Christian Persecution

When the “antichrist” claims to be “god”, this will begin the greatest persecution against Christians of all time. Those who are physically in the vicinity of Jerusalem can flee to the wilderness (likely Petra, in Jordan) and be supernaturally protected by God, along with believing Hebrews. If you can get to that specific wilderness area near Israel before the antichrist claims to be “god” (approximately 1260 days after the 7-year covenant signing), you would also be protected by God starting when obedient Israel flees. Otherwise, laying as low as you can, off the grid, would be a wise decision.

Jesus warns that His followers will be persecuted, hated, betrayed, and killed for His name. They will have to stubbornly persist in the faith, even unto death. The Holy Spirit will guide the words of believers, just as He did for the apostles and early Christians. There will be no special protection for Christians during this 1260 day period. This “antichrist” will actively hunt down and oppose all who believe in Jesus as the true Messiah. So, as the Jewish holocaust foreshadowed, Christians will be forced into hiding, imprisonment, and martyrdom.

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. (Revelation 12:17)

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. (Revelation 13:7)

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be

increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24:9-13)

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Mark 13:9-13)

He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (Daniel 7:25)

If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. (Revelation 13:9-10)

In Jewish end times study, once the Millennial Kingdom is established, they expect that unrepentant gentiles will be killed. All will be expected to submit to their messiah as “god”. I believe that this period of “greatest tribulation” starts from *within* the Jewish community that has embraced the antichrist, based on what Jesus says here about synagogues:

*But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in **synagogues**, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.* (Mark 13:9)

I may or may not be correct on this point. Regardless of how exactly your persecution comes about, may you endure in faith until the end and be saved. Many of you will become martyrs for Jesus.

If you die for Christ, you will immediately be escorted to heaven. You will appear on the crystal sea before God’s throne and worship Him!

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

*“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!*

*Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”*

(Revelation 15:2-4)

All God’s promises will be given to you. You will receive a glorified resurrection body and reign with Jesus in His Millennial Kingdom and into Eternity.

Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4)

One World Economy

The antichrist and false prophet will introduce a global economy of sorts. To ensure allegiance to their religion, they will control buying and selling. There will be no more "separation of church and state"! This control will be elicited through what is commonly known as "the mark of the beast".

The Mark of the Beast

At some point after the antichrist claims to be “god”, he will institute his “mark of the beast” system. He will likely actively seek out and kill those who refuse either. The mark is not specified in the Bible, but it will be on the right hand or the forehead. It may be something that affects DNA.

Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (Revelation 13:16-18)

No one will be able to take the Mark accidentally or unknowingly. The Mark will be related to the worship of the antichrist, and will declare allegiance to him. It will be required for all economic transactions. Unfortunately, taking the antichrist’s Mark seals each person’s fate with the wrath of God:

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.” (Revelation 14:9-11)

You have been warned. Do not take the mark, or worship this "beast", even if it results in your physical death.

God's Three Announcing Angels

In between the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments there is an interlude in the book of Revelation. In this interlude is a series of visions that give much greater detail to significant parts of the story that will unfold. While the book of Revelation is largely chronological, many of the “detail popouts” are overlapping.

In this vision, John sees 3 “Announcing Angels”:

- Angel 1 – Proclaims Eternal Gospel
- Angel 2 – Announces Judgement Upon Mystery Babylon
- Angel 3 – Announces Eternal Damnation for Those Who Receive the Mark of the Beast

We are given no reason to believe other than that the sequence of the announcing angels is as presented. However, whether they follow one shortly after another or are separated by some gap in time we are not told. It seems quite likely that they “follow” each other in short order as mentioned.

Based on their messages, it seems to me that the announcing angels are given their assignments near the end of the time of the apocalypse. This can be surmised because Angel 2 announces judgement upon Mystery Babylon, who we have learned entices all the world to worship the beast. It is unlikely that the beast turns on her until near the end of his reign. As well, it seems that Mystery Babylon’s complete destruction occurs as part of the 7th trumpet / bowl judgments based on the detailed description given in Revelation chapters 16-18. That is our best clue as to the time placement of the Announcing Angels. If the 3rd angel follows in order, it would seem that the Mark of the Beast *may* only be implemented near the END of the beast’s rule, rather than earlier as is often assumed.

Let’s examine the messages of the 3 angels in more depth. The first angel is described as flying “directly overhead”, which suggests up in the middle of the sky for maximum visibility. I would also suggest the angel circles around the globe. The entire earth, every nation and tribe and language and people, is reached with the angel’s message. This is assumed to be true for the two subsequent angels’ messages as well, although it is not explicitly stated. Here are their announcements:

Angel 1: Eternal Gospel

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgement has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” (Revelation 14:6-7)

This angel will complete what the church began, by proclaiming the gospel message to the entire earth. This will fulfill Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:14, “*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*” While the earth will have been undergoing God’s wrath (judgement) for some time now, this angel is announcing the final outpouring of judgement, which will come via the 7 Bowls. This is the final call for salvation before each human's fate is sealed. Once this message is proclaimed, the “end

will come”, which supports that it comes near the end of the beast’s rule and the outpouring of the Bowls of Wrath.

Whenever it occurs, it is certain that this is the final, supernatural call to Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is Here!

Angel 2: Judgment Upon Mystery Babylon

Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.” (Revelation 14:8)

The second angel announces the imminent destruction of Mystery Babylon, which for a number of reasons, I believe is the end-times city of Jerusalem. Others believe that Mystery Babylon is perhaps Rome and the Roman Catholic Church. Yet others believe it might be New York City, or other cities of the world.

Wherever, or whatever, Mystery Babylon ends up being, the Beast and his 10-king confederacy turn on Mystery Babylon near the end of their reign and destroy her. This comes much to her surprise, as she seems to have been drunk in worship of him. This also will come to the surprise of the nations who have become intoxicated in worship of the beast through Mystery Babylon. Her destruction is certain and will come to pass in short order (perhaps that day or the next?).

Angel 3: Eternal Damnation to Those Who Receive the Mark of the Beast

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.” (Revelation 14:9-11)

This angel gives a final warning not to worship the beast or receive his mark. To everyone who does, God’s wrath will be poured out full strength upon them. This wrath will come not only in the form of the 7 Bowls of Judgment, but also throughout eternity. To take the mark of the beast and to worship him seals one’s eternal fate, and destines one for the Lake of Fire.

The Seventh Trumpet Sounds

Before the 7th Trumpet is blown, there is a pause in the Revelation narrative as several other events are described. At the blowing, loud voices proclaim that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of Christ – it is certain, and it is coming to fulfillment. There are flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

The process that Trumpet 7 announces will take a number of days. The seventh trumpet heralds in the final events leading up to Jesus taking His earthly kingdom, and allows the 7 Bowls to be poured out. We are told in Revelation 10:7 that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled. This mystery is the redemption of all of creation, which began at the cross and is about to be completed!

In heaven, we will be rejoicing. The elders praise God who was and who is, but notably missing is the “who is to come”. With the 7th trumpet, the “is to come” has arrived – it is finished! The kingdom Christ paid for with His blood is now going to be claimed. There is a stark contrast on earth, where the nations are enraged.

It’s entirely probable that there is a long pause in between the completion of Trumpet 6 and the sounding of Trumpet 7. This would allow for the Beast to set up his rule and persecute the saints. At the blowing of Trumpet 7, loud voices proclaim that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of Christ – it is certain, and it is coming to fulfillment. The 7th Trumpet ushers in the 7 Bowl Judgments, and as such, I believe is likely near the end of the Beast’s rule.

Mystery Babylon is Destroyed

There is a range of teachings on Mystery Babylon, from symbolic to literal. Symbolic interpretations include viewing Mystery Babylon as a conglomeration of false religions, the United States of America, ecumenical “Chrislam”, Roman Catholicism, and others. Literal suggestions include Rome/Vatican City, rebuilt Babylon in Iraq, Mecca, New York City, and Jerusalem.

Having looked into all angles, I have come to the conclusion that Mystery Babylon is a literal city – the great city of Jerusalem as it will exist in the time of the end. This is not currently a common or popular viewpoint (at the time of this writing), and I may be incorrect. I suggest that you keep an open mind as you discern her identity. What I write here is along the lines of my interpretation - I leave it to you to discover if this is so.

Mystery Babylon, or Babylon the Great, and her destruction, is introduced in Revelation 16:

The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the Great was remembered in God’s presence; He gave her the cup filled with the wine of His fierce anger. (Revelation 16:19)

We are then given a very detailed description of the above verse in Revelation chapters 17-18. First, Babylon the Great is described as a prostitute. Jerusalem is specifically called a “harlot” (prostitute) hundreds of times in the Bible, always referring to its’ spiritual idolatry.

Babylon the Great sits on many waters, which is explained in Rev 17:15,18 as peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. She, along with the beast she rides (who rose out of the sea in Revelation 13), reigns over the kings of the earth. It appears that this city becomes the head of a world empire, or is raised above all other cities in the world. This is foretold in the Messianic Kingdom prophecies (Zechariah chapter 12 & 14, Isaiah 66). The antichrist seems to try to appear to fulfill these prophecies and convince Israel that he is ushering in the Messianic Kingdom. In Revelation 18, we do indeed see people bringing gifts and making pilgrimages to Jerusalem just as they will in the true Messianic Kingdom.

This “great city” corrupts the whole world with her fornication. I suggest that Jerusalem will promote the antichrist so intensely and passionately, that the whole world will be enticed (and likely pressured) to worship the beast. It seems that Jerusalem embraces the antichrist as her Messiah, and not only that, but as “god” himself. Her cup contains her own sin and idolatry, and the nations are made drunk with her idolatry.

She rides a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns, covered in blasphemy. We have seen this beast before, in Revelation 13:1. The beast is almost universally understood to be the antichrist. The antichrist is full of blasphemy (Revelation 13:1-6, Daniel 7:8, 20, 25, Daniel 11:36, 2 Thessalonians 2:4). The Great City is upon his back, but is a drunken passenger – she has no reigns or control.

Mystery Babylon is dressed in purple and scarlet, which are the colors of royalty. She is clothed in fine linen, and decked in gold, precious stones, and pearls. These all have strong parallels to Israel's temple and to God's clothing of Israel as described in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. She fulfills the role of an idolatrous high priest. (But is not the False Prophet).

Upon her forehead is a name, "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." Of note is that her name is on her forehead, just as upon Aaron's forehead was written "Holiness to the Lord" as high priest. The 144,000 sealed Israelites in Revelation 7 are also marked upon their foreheads. This is some kind of stamp, or seal, of loyalty and allegiance. It marks the bold and wholehearted belief that is out in the open (not concealed). The fact that the name is a "mystery" is an argument against it being the actual restored city of Babylon. In Revelation 11, Jerusalem is called by the names of Sodom and Egypt according to the sins of those cities. Now Jerusalem is being called Babylon, as she is spiritually reflecting the sin of that city – the heart of the antichrist religion. Jerusalem is the mother, and her inhabitants are her "children" or "daughters". The mystery is because she shares Babylon's sins, its' power over the other nations (Babylon was the "world capital" at that time) and will face similar judgment.

End-Times Jerusalem, in promoting the antichrist as messiah, will kill a lot of saints who believe Jesus is Messiah. We are told that the antichrist chooses Jerusalem to set up his "palatial tents" and is where he declares himself to be "god" (2 Thessalonians 2:4, Matthew 24:15, Daniel 11:31-32). While many cities and nations have persecuted saints in the past, Jesus defines the worst period of persecution as yet future. This event (the abomination of desolation) begins the greatest religious persecution of all time against true believers in Jesus Christ, and it centers around the city of Judea (Jerusalem) (Matthew 24:15-21).

Revelation 17 ends with the beast turning on the woman – *The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God's words are fulfilled.* (v16-17) This will be in fulfillment of the prophecy in Ezekiel 16:

Again the word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations...And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy. And I will give you into their hands, and they shall throw down your vaulted chamber and break down your lofty places. They shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare. They shall bring up a crowd against you, and they shall stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords. And they shall burn your houses and execute judgments upon you in the sight of many women. I will make you stop playing the whore, and you shall also give payment no more. So will I satisfy my wrath on you, and my jealousy shall depart from you. I will be calm and will no more be angry. (v1-2, 38-42)

In Jeremiah 4:30, Jerusalem's lover is prophesied to despise her and take her life:

*And you, devastated one, what are you doing
that you dress yourself in scarlet,
that you adorn yourself with gold jewelry,
that you enlarge your eyes with paint?
You beautify yourself for nothing.
Your lovers reject you;
they want to take your life.*

This is exactly what happens in Revelation 17-18.

The beast and his ten kings aren't the only ones to act in judgment upon Mystery Babylon. God will judge her too, with the 7th bowl of His wrath. This involves earthquakes and giant 100-pound hailstones.

Chapter 18 of Revelation gives a further detailed vision of Mystery Babylon's destruction. An angel declares that "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen" (Rev 18:2), which is the exact phrase used when the literal city of Babylon was destroyed (Isaiah 21:9). Its' destruction is imminent and certain. It has become the home of demons.

The antichrist, possessed by satan, ruling from Jerusalem is the epitome of satan's blasphemy against God. Israel is the land and people that God chooses for Himself; hence, it becomes the bulls' eye target for satan. Israel's history confirms this. Satan, through the antichrist, seeks to "change the times and laws" by setting up his rule on God's property – God's holy ground. It's his final attempt to resurrect his religion, his own worship and perhaps offering to humanity that "ye shall be as gods". That the majority of Hebrews will go along with this and raise him up as messiah is the mystery that leaves John absolutely astounded.

The ultimate blasphemy leaves no question as to the necessity of Mystery Babylon's judgment. Revelation 18:3 reiterates that the whole world has been enticed into this religion. Israel is so deceived by the antichrist that she passionately promotes him and worships him as her long awaited messiah, king, and "husband". Israel has finally heaped her sins as high as heaven, and the time of her ultimate judgment has come. Yet, God offers one last chance at salvation:

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. (Revelation 18:4-5)

I believe this is where Jesus splits the mount of Olives, to allow the Israelites one last chance to flee before the great earthquake that will destroy Mystery Babylon (Jerusalem):

On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. (Zechariah 14:4-5)

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls. (Joel 2:32)

That most of Jerusalem is not aware that she is worshiping the antichrist is seen in Revelation 18:7, where she “sits as a queen and is no widow”. Jerusalem believes she has found her true King. The fact that she is not a widow could refer back to the beast’s resurrection from the dead. It also is the exact phrase used by the ancient city of Babylon right before its’ destruction (Isaiah 47:8).

Mystery Babylon is wrong, she will indeed see mourning. Revelation 18:8 states that “*For this reason her plagues will come **in a single day**, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her*”. Verse 10 adds “*Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For **in a single hour** your judgment has come.*” Her destruction will come swiftly and suddenly. This hearkens back to Jesus’ statement that he will come as a thief, as well as His statement about “no man knows the day or the hour.” (Matthew 24). The Day of the Lord both begins and ends with Jesus coming suddenly and unexpectedly with destruction upon those who are not watching. Both times, however, those who are watching do not need to be taken by surprise. At the beginning of the Day of the Lord, the believing body of Christ is snatched out – away from the time and place of wrath. At the end of the Day of the Lord, the believing remnant has one last chance to “come out” before the final bowl of wrath is spilled upon Jerusalem.

The kings of the earth who mourn her destruction and wail at the smoke of her burning are not part of the beast’s 10 kings who help destroy her. These are the nations that are “living deliciously” with her through financial gain. Note that the merchants sell to her all kinds of items specifically used for Temple worship: gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls (Rev 18:12-13).

In Revelation 18:20, as the merchants of the earth mourn over Mystery Babylon’s destruction, they cry out “*Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!*” God has answered the prayers of the Seal 5 martyrs, and judgment has been meted out in completion. The multitude in heaven does indeed rejoice:

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” (Revelation 19:1-3)

Mystery Babylon is held accountable for the “*blood of the prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on earth*” (Revelation 18:24). Basically, end-times Jerusalem is being held accountable for all murders of the righteous from the beginning of humanity. In this way, the blood guilt of earth will be cleansed for Jesus’ Kingdom reign. Jesus says “*for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you...*” (Luke 13:33-34). Jesus also says “*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!...And so upon you will come*

all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.” (Matthew 23:29-32,35). We also know that the worst martyrdom in human history will originate from Jerusalem starting at the Abomination of Desolation. God’s judgments are true and just. Notably, Deuteronomy Chapter 21 details a procedure by which Israel was able to absolve itself of bloodguilt. If they had followed God’s commands, they would not have heaped judgment upon themselves. God always provides a way out, if only we would take it!

Revelation chapter 18 ends with the utter and complete destruction of Jerusalem as Mystery Babylon. The entire earth is refashioned in a giant earthquake, and the area of Jerusalem is raised up onto a plain. Jerusalem, it appears, will be rebuilt along with a Millennial Temple described in Ezekiel 40-48.

Seven Bowls of Wrath

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.” So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”

And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!” The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory. The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds. The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail,

because the plague was so severe.

(Revelation 16:1-21)

Revelation chapter 15 introduces us to the 7 angels carrying the 7 bowls of God's final wrath. John describes them as a great and amazing sign – *“Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.”* (Revelation 15:1).

The Bowls are like saucers, with contents that will be hurled upon the earth. Unlike the somewhat limited nature of the Trumpets, these are more severe and all-encompassing in scope. Based on their severity, and the unlikelihood of human survival following them, it is likely they occur in a very short period of time near the very end of Daniel's 70th Week / Day of the Lord.

Bowl 1 – Painful Sores

Harmful and painful sores will literally come upon those who have taken the Mark of the Beast. These sores will be painful and untreatable. This bowl reminds me of the sixth plague which God sent upon Egypt in the days of Moses (the plague of boils). Note that this judgment is specifically upon those who have taken the Mark despite the holy angel's warning not to do so. While believers will suffer many things, they will be spared from this act of God's wrath.

Bowl 2 – Sea Turns to Blood, ALL Sea Creatures Die

While the second Trumpet judgment affected one third of the sea, the second Bowl will affect the entire sea. What specifically occurs is not detailed, but it may be similar to the phenomenon of a “red tide” of toxic algae. This time, all the sea creatures will die.

Bowl 3 – Rivers and Springs Turn to Blood

Similar to the third Trumpet judgment, the third Bowl will affect the freshwater on earth. Instead of only one third being affected, ALL fresh water will be affected. Drinking water will be in critically short supply. John MacArthur, in his book “Because the Time is Near”, explains the interjection of the angel at this point – “God's judgment of sinners is unquestionably righteous because He is the Holy One. God is just and holy and will execute vengeance for His people (Romans 12:19, Hebrews 10:30). Having willfully rejected the knowledge of the truth (Hebrews 10:26), there is nothing left for the unbelieving world but to receive what they deserve, “a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:27)”. Again, this reminds me of the plagues of Egypt; specifically the first plague where the Nile River was turned to blood.

Bowl 4 – Sun Scorches Humanity With Intense Heat

Again, we are not told HOW this will occur, but somehow the heat from the sun will become unbearable. Imagine being covered in painful sores, and then getting them sunburned.... Besides extreme discomfort, there may be major ramifications from this heat depending on the duration of it: melting polar ice caps, drought, death of vegetation. Note that up until now in the book of Revelation, only the Antichrist is mentioned as “blaspheming God”. Now, humanity joins in.

Bowl 5 – Earth Thrust Into Darkness

The kingdom and throne of the Beast are thrown into darkness at this point. Since the Beast's rule is global, I see this as being a global judgment like the other Bowls. This is obviously a supernatural event. That the sores are still present notes that Bowl 5 will be poured out in reasonably close time proximity to Bowl 1. Humanity will be in such agony that they gnaw their tongues in torment... yet continue in their blasphemy of God and unrepentance towards Him.

Bowl 6 – Euphrates River Dries Up, Evil Spirits Collect Humanity to Fight God

In Bowl 6, we see 3 evil spirits come forth from the “unholy trinity” of the dragon, antichrist, and false prophet to deceive humanity and gather them in open rebellion against God. The Euphrates river dries up to allow access to Jerusalem from the East. This reminds me of Trumpet 6, in which 200 million demons were released from the Euphrates river to kill one third of humanity. The Euphrates river has been an important river from the dawn of humanity, and here we see the part it is playing in the close of this age of humanity. The evil spirits gather humanity at “Armageddon”.

Bowl 7 – Lightning, Thunder, Greatest Earthquake Splits Jerusalem into 3 Parts, All Cities Worldwide Fall, Islands Flee, Mountains Fall, 100 Pound Hailstones

With the outpouring of Bowl 7, the announcement comes that “It is finished”. Note that this bowl is poured out upon the air (atmosphere). This is when the heavens are shaken, not just the earth. God is literally shaking the kingdom of satan out of place and is taking hold of the heavens and the earth to possess them for Himself once more. The earth will be pelted with 100 pound hailstones. The greatest earthquake of all time will resurface the earth in preparation for Jesus' millennial kingdom; all islands and mountains will disappear. Jerusalem will be split into 3 parts, and raised up onto a flat plain. Bowl 7 includes the events of the Destruction of Mystery Babylon, the Second Coming of Christ, as well as the Battle of Armageddon, which are discussed further elsewhere.

As the Bowl Judgments are progressively released upon the earth, we see humanity become harder and harder in their hearts towards God. Their reactions of fear, terror, and giving glory to God (Seal 6, Revelation 6:15-16, Trumpet 6, Rev 11:13) have given way to cursing and blaspheming God (Bowls 4&7). By the time Bowl 7 is poured out, all of humanity has chosen a side and will now be judged for whose side they are on – For God, or Against Him.

A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

The antichrist is granted 1260 days of authority by God. After this, his reign will come to an end at the appointed time – the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Beast Kingdom will be destroyed – but not by human hands. Daniel's visions sum up this period of time nicely:

As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.

(Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45)

*“Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast,
there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth,
which shall be different from all the kingdoms,
and it shall devour the whole earth,
and trample it down, and break it to pieces.
As for the ten horns,
out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise,
and another shall arise after them;
he shall be different from the former ones,
and shall put down three kings.
He shall speak words against the Most High,
and shall wear out the saints of the Most High,
and shall think to change the times and the law;
and they shall be given into his hand
for a time, times, and half a time.
But the court shall sit in judgment,
and his dominion shall be taken away,
to be consumed and destroyed to the end.
And the kingdom and the dominion
and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven
shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;
his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom,
and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’*

(Daniel 7:23-27)

*“I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,*

*and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.*

(Daniel 7:13-14)

The ultimate endpoint is that Jesus will overthrow all the kingdoms of the world and set up His kingdom that can never be shaken:

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:18-29)

God will use all things for the good, for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes. Even the antichrist, his false religion, and the time of tribulation. Jesus Christ will reign victorious!

The End Is Decreed

“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”

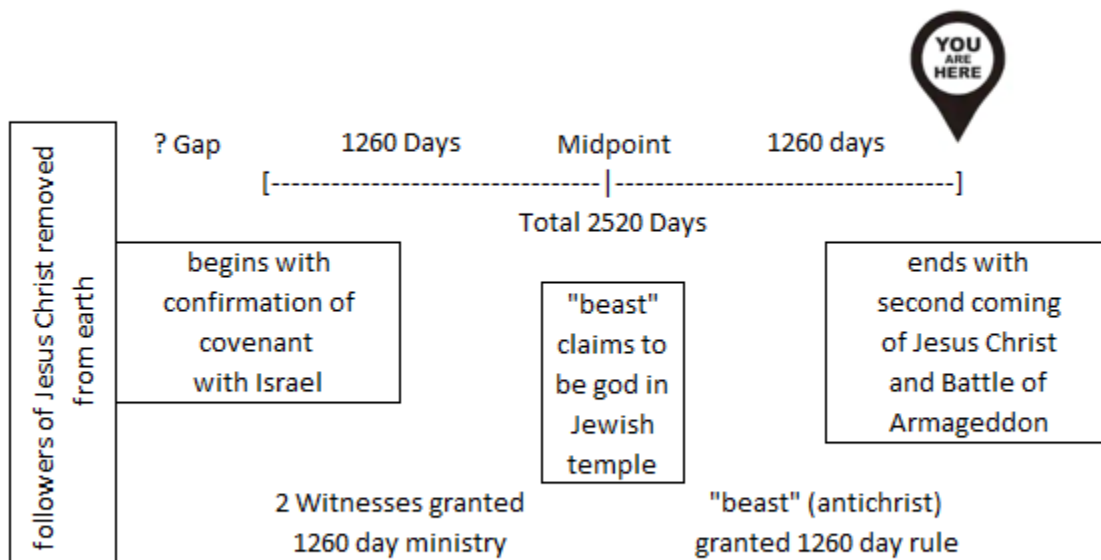
(Matthew 24:30)

There will be no guessing, when Jesus returns to the earth it will be very obvious. If there's any question, it's not truly Him.

“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matthew 24:26-27)

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will mark the end of the time of tribulation, or trouble, upon the earth. It will happen on a special day where *“there shall be no light, cold, or frost. And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.”* (Zechariah 14:6-7) The light that is seen is the Sign of the Son of Man coming in power and great glory.

Timeline of the "Apocalypse"



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The day of Jesus' coming can be anticipated. It will occur 2520 days after the confirming of a covenant with Israel. Additionally, it can be foreseen as occurring 1260 days after the "abomination of desolation" event mentioned previously. The first action that occurs is the "Battle of Armageddon".

The Battle of Armageddon

Before we discuss Jesus' return further, I want to point out that we saw in Revelation 16 (Bowl 6 Judgment) that the nations of the world will have gathered in and around Jerusalem *specifically to fight Jesus*. Three deceiving spirits will be sent forth from the "unholy trinity" of the dragon, beast, and false prophet to bring ALL the nations together in rebellion against God. The antichrist, empowered by satan, likely deceives the world into believing he is the "true messiah", or the "true god". In order for his rule to be complete, or for humanity to evolve spiritually (or whatever he's going to claim), humanity needs to collectively fight against and defeat Jesus. It's the ultimate battle between good and evil, the climax of the age of humanity.

The Euphrates river appears to dry up to allow the "kings from the east" access. The antichrist and his armies assemble in a Valley called Armageddon. In Hebrew, this word is Har-Magedone, meaning "mount" or "hill" called Megiddo. A possible location is the hill country surrounding the plain of Meggido, about 100km north of Jerusalem. Many battles have been fought in this region historically. It's also possible that this battle may occur in and around the city of Jerusalem. The connection between the battle of Armageddon and Jerusalem is made in Zechariah 14, when the Lord gathers all nations *against Jerusalem* to battle.

For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. (Zechariah 14:2-3)

Regardless of the exact location, those gathered will be *expecting* Jesus to show up, and they will be *preparing* to do battle against Him. Let's see how it turns out:

"So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. "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 heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:26-31)

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. (Revelation 1:7)

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (Zechariah 12:10-11)

"Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his

head are many **diadems**, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a **robe dipped in blood**, and the name by which he is called is *The Word of God*. And the **armies of heaven**, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were **following him** on white horses. **From his mouth comes a sharp sword** with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, *King of kings and Lord of lords.*” (Revelation 19:11-16)

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” **And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.** (Revelation 19:17-21)

The sun, moon, and stars will be darkened on a unique day. We know that in the judgment of Bowl 5, the light from the sun, moon, and stars is darkened. Does this darkness extend to the Second Coming of Christ in Bowl 7, or not? It is unclear to me whether it will be two separate darkness events, or if Bowl 5 will run straight through to Bowl 7. Regardless, in the evening on the final day, Jesus will appear in power and great glory. He will be flanked by the armies of heaven.

While the peoples of the earth had been collected in rebellion to FIGHT Jesus, when He shows up they will MOURN instead. Those who have been deceived by the antichrist, particularly those of the house of Israel, will weep bitterly as the realization that they rejected their true Messiah drives into their heart like a knife. The fact that they have been deceived will now be painfully obvious.

Jesus will descend and defeat those gathered against Him at the Battle of Armageddon. It will go something like this:

And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. And on that day a great panic from the Lord shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other. Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps. (Zechariah 14:12-15)

The antichrist and the false prophet will then be thrown into the eternal lake of fire, and satan and the demons will be locked in the abyss (hell) for one thousand years.

“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. **And as I**

looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:9-14)

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. (Revelation 20:1-3)

Survivors Will Be Gathered

Following the time of tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon, the population of surviving humanity will be quite small. It's difficult to estimate, but maybe less than 1 billion people will remain? Whatever the number is, those who are alive and remain will be gathered, sorted, and judged. The purpose of this judgement is to determine who will be allowed entrance into Jesus' Millennial Kingdom.

Bloodline Descendants of Abraham:

First, let's examine the gathering of the bloodline descendants of Abraham. These are called the "elect", and will include the portion of bloodline-Israelites who survive the tribulation physically. Many will have been sheltered in "the wilderness" for the second half of the tribulation period - the 1260 days in between the "abomination of desolation" and the "second coming of Christ". They will be gathered by angels and collected in Israel:

"And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matthew 24:31)

And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. (Mark 13:27)

And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob" (Romans 11:26)

"When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind." (Ezekiel 39:27-29)

"For behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the Lord, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it." (Jeremiah 30:3)

In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. (Isaiah 11:11)

*In the whole land, declares the Lord,
two thirds shall be cut off and perish,
and one third shall be left alive.*

*And I will put this third into the fire,
and refine them as one refines silver,
and test them as gold is tested.*

*They will call upon my name,
and I will answer them.*

I will say, 'They are my people';

and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.' (Zechariah 13:8-9)

It seems that God will have judged and refined Israel through the process of the apocalyptic period. Those who have survived seem to all be followers of Jesus Christ and will enter the Millennial Kingdom.

Gentiles (non-Israelites):

All remaining human beings will be rounded up for judgment. This is known as the “Sheep and Goats” Judgment, and is likely a continuation of the courtroom scene we saw in Daniel 7. The Sheep and Goat categories determine where each person will spend the Millennial Kingdom:

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:31-46)***

This judgment is also pictured in a similar parable about wheat versus tares (weeds that look like wheat):

*He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. **Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."**'" (Matthew 13:24-30)*

And also in a parable about fish:

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. **The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**" (Matthew 13:47-50)*

The "sheep" ("wheat", "good fish") are placed at Jesus' right hand, and are given an inheritance in the Millennial Kingdom. While not explicitly stated here, the sheep qualify for this inheritance by grace through faith in Jesus Christ – salvation (see John 1:12, Acts 15:11, Romans 3:22-24, Romans 4:4-8, Galatians 3:6-9, Ephesians 2:8-9). They demonstrate the **authenticity** of their faith through good works throughout the times of tribulation – a monumental task given that this will be the most difficult period humanity has ever faced. We know from Matthew 12 that Jesus considers those who do God's will to be His brothers and sisters – *"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."* (verse 49) Thus, humanity will be particularly evaluated as to the authenticity of their salvation through how they tried to meet the needs of other believers (food, water, shelter, clothing, and prison visitation mentioned here). Whatever we do for a fellow believer (or a fellow human being and "potential" believer), we do for God Himself. The good works are not the **cause** of salvation, but the **effect** of salvation. Salvation is, as always, by grace alone through faith alone.

Those who do not have an authentic and persistent faith, those who openly reject Christ, and those who took the "mark of the beast", are considered the "goats" ("tares/weeds", "bad fish"). Those who openly have rejected Christ and those who have taken the mark of the beast do not require further explanation. However, those who did not hold firm in the faith until the end, and those who did not have enough faith to demonstrate it through deeds, are also considered unbelievers. These unbelievers, the "goats", seem to be physically killed at this point. Their souls will enter hell to await the Great White Throne Judgment in one thousand years.

This completes the time of tribulation upon the earth.

The Temple in Jerusalem will be restored and cleansed at this time, in preparation for Jesus to rule the earth for 1000 years.

Summary

It appears that the overall sequence that surrounds the Second Coming of Jesus Christ would be something like this:

1. The antichrist, false prophet, and deceiving spirits collect armies assembled for battle against Jesus Christ. (Bowl 6)
2. The Mount of Olives will be split in two, from East to West. A large valley will form. All who believe Jesus (the believing elect in Jerusalem) are to flee at this time – this is the command given right before the destruction of Mystery Babylon – “Come out of her, my people!”
3. Mystery Babylon is destroyed by the antichrist, false prophet, and their entourage.
4. A unique day of darkness arrives, with no cold or light.
5. In the evening, there shall be light – the sign of the Son of Man. This is likely Jesus appearing on His white horse in the clouds of heaven, followed by his holy ones.
6. Jesus destroys the armies gathered at Armageddon.
7. The antichrist and false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire (eternal).
8. Satan and the demons are cast into the Abyss (temporarily chained, 1000 years).
9. Living humans are collected and judged for suitability to enter the Millennial Kingdom
10. The Millennial Temple is established and dedicated.
11. The Millennial Kingdom Begins.

On Earth As It Is In Heaven

There is a glorious promise to those who follow Jesus Christ. Those who physically survive the time of tribulation and pass the testing of their faith, will enter the millennial kingdom rule of Christ on earth. For those who have died in Christ prior to the millennial kingdom, they will be resurrected to rule WITH Christ during this kingdom age.

There is a specific 1000-year timeframe mentioned repeatedly in Revelation 20. This is known as the Millennial Kingdom, the Kingdom Age, or the Messianic Age, and is where Jesus will reign on earth as anticipated by the Israelites/Jews for millennia. It begins at the Second Coming of Christ, at the conclusion of the apocalyptic period on earth (called the "70th Week of Daniel" or "The Tribulation"). The purpose of the tribulation period was to prepare both the earth and its' people for this kingdom. The Millennial Kingdom will fulfill the Feast of Tabernacles, the last of God's appointed times. After this, the reign of Jesus Christ will continue on into eternity.

In the millennial kingdom, the curse upon humanity will be at least partially lifted, life will be restored to utopia-like conditions, and God will dwell in the midst of the people. Mortals will repopulate the earth and enjoy healthy, long lives. Satan and his fallen horde will be bound and justice and grace will prevail. Sounds wonderful, doesn't it?

Who Rules the Millennial Kingdom?

Jesus is clearly in charge during the 1000 year reign, but whether He Himself will sit on the throne or a resurrected King David will, I'm not entirely sure. We see a picture of God handing Jesus the Kingdom here:

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14)

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD : He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (Psalm 2:7-12)

The resurrected and caught up body of Christ, the "church", will reign with Christ as promised in Revelation 2:

I will give authority over the nations to the person who overcomes and continues to do what I've commanded to the end, and 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; shattering them like clay pots.' (v26-27)

Those who died during the time of tribulation for the sake of Christ ("martyrs"), will also be resurrected and reign with Him:

I also saw the people who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of God's word, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and who had not accepted the mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with the Messiah for 1,000 years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the 1,000 years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of the Messiah, and they will reign with Him for 1,000 years. (Revelation 20:4-6)

The previously caught up body of Christ (the “church”), and the tribulation martyrs, will be in eternal resurrection bodies. They will not reproduce (Matthew 22:30).

What Will It Be Like on Earth at the Beginning?

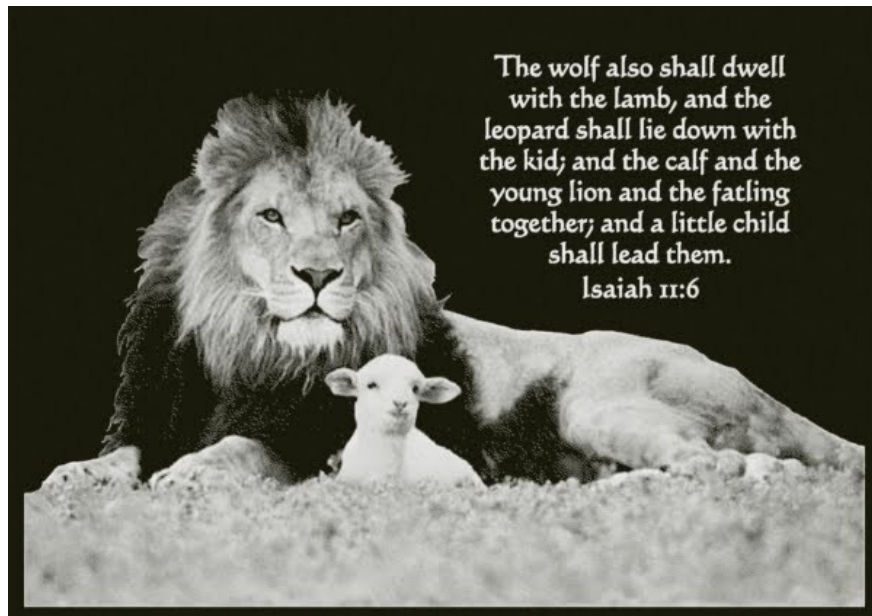
At the beginning, life will be as close to perfection as we can imagine. The earth will be refashioned during the shaking of the heavens and the earth at Jesus' Second Coming, and Jerusalem will be raised up (physically and spiritually) as the world capital. It will be renamed “The Lord is There” (Ezekiel 48:35). There will be peace on earth:

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:2-4)

The earth will produce food abundantly and there will be leftovers from year to year (Amos 9:13). People will build houses, plant vineyards and tend the earth. People in their physical bodies will bear children. Elements of the curse will be reversed and long life will be enjoyed once again. Humans and animals will be vegetarian:

“I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the Lord. (Isaiah 65:19-25)



There will be fresh waters issuing from the Temple, that brings life. Fish will be included in the human diet. Trees will not lose their leaves and will bear fresh fruit every month. The leaves of the trees will bring healing:

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing." (Ezekiel 47:6-12)

We know Ezekiel 47 is talking about the Millennial Kingdom and not Eternity because in Eternity, the new earth will have no sea (Rev 21:1). Ezekiel 47 is parallel to Revelation 22, which seems to blend the Millennial Kingdom into the Eternal Kingdom:

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (V1-5)

The land of Israel will be divided and distributed among the tribes of Israel (Ezekiel 47-48).

It appears that during the Millennial Kingdom, those who rebelled against God will be viewable via a portal of sorts outside the city of Jerusalem to serve as a visible reminder to worship God:

“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain. From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord. “And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.” (Isaiah 66:22-24)

What Will It Be Like on Earth at the Ending?

Jesus and His resurrected saints will rule the earth "with an iron rod". That doesn't mean He will beat people, but He will have strict laws and require obedience. Remember the Old Testament laws given when Israel was a Theocracy (nation run by God)? I imagine many of the rules will be similar. Now, with no fallen angels to tempt humanity, you would think it wouldn't be *that* hard to follow God's rules when He's RIGHT THERE. After all, the rules are fair and just.

Unfortunately, the Bible predicts another response. While many will follow God in obedience, many will harbor resentment in their hearts. Despite the reversal of the curse, humanity's sin nature will still be intact. All these years humans have been placing blame: the serpent made me do it...Eve made me do it...the devil made me do it...unbelievers around me made me do it... God is about to show humanity that even without external temptation, our fallen nature is rebellious against Him. *I* made me do it.

Although Jesus' Kingdom rule will never end, we are told that after the thousand years, Satan will be released from the pit for “a little while”. We can see how this ends here:

And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:7-10)

Even without the influence of Satan or the fallen angels, without the challenges of the curse, with God living among them, humans still retain a sin nature and many will rebel against God's rule. Shockingly, “their number is like the sand of the sea”. Humans want to be their own rulers – they want to be “as gods”. When Satan is released, he will have no trouble collecting them in a final stance against God. Humanity hasn't learned its' lesson that there is no battle when opposing God – fire will come down from heaven and consume them in short order. The final test of humanity, as with all the others, will result in human rebellion followed by God's judgment. At this point the Millennial Kingdom is complete. It will be followed by the Great White Throne Judgment, which is then followed by the Eternal State.

The Great White Throne Judgment

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 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. (Revelation 20:11-15)

The Great White Throne Judgment occurs immediately after the Millennial Kingdom, after the “Last Battle”. It bridges the Millennial Kingdom and Eternity. The Great White Throne Judgment should terrify anyone who isn’t clothed in the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. Like an ominous courtroom scene, the evidence will be brought forth to be examined before God. There will be no debate over guilt or innocence. No one at the great white throne judgment will have any defense to make for themselves. After this judgment, everyone will enter their eternal destinations.

Current believers WILL NOT participate in the Great White throne judgment. All believers in Christ from the beginning of humanity up to the start of the Millennial Kingdom will have already been judged and will be in their eternal, glorified, rewarded states. These will have participated in the First Resurrection. They will not participate in the Great White Throne Judgment except perhaps as observers.

All humans who died in rejection of Jesus Christ since the dawn of humanity will be resurrected from the dead as part of the Second, and Final, Resurrection. They will stand before the throne of God at the Great White Throne Judgment.

It is possible that believers who die in Jesus Christ during the Millennial Kingdom will also stand for judgment at this time, but their judgment is not specifically discussed. Judgment before God at some point is certain for every human.

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (Romans 14:10-12)

The general resurrection at this time is described as the “resurrection of judgment” (John 5:29), the resurrection to “disgrace and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2), and the resurrection “of the wicked” (Acts 24:15).

God has placed eternity on our hearts because we are, in fact, all created to be eternal beings. Where we spend eternity is up to us, and is decided while we are in our physical bodies on earth.

Each person will be summoned and take a turn standing before the throne of the Almighty God. Books will be opened. There are two different types of books. The first is the singular Book of Life. This book contains all the names of people who are saved by grace through faith through the blood of Jesus, throughout the entire age of humanity. If your name is found in this book, you will receive eternal life. If your name is not found in this book, you will be cast into the Lake of Fire with

the devil and his angels. It's a "yes or no" type book. Because God knows the beginning from the end and is not constrained by time, everyone's name in the Lamb's Book of Life has been recorded in there since the foundation of the world (Rev 3:5, Phil 4:3, Rev 13:8, Rev 21:27, Rev 17:8).

The second set of books contains the record of everything every human has thought, said, and done while in physical existence on earth.

Those whose names are found in the book of life will find that all their bad deeds have disappeared out of this second set of books. Psalm 103:12 states that "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us". These sins against God have been blotted out by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Judgment will determine degrees of reward.

Look, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to repay each person according to his work.
(Revelation 22:12)

Those whose names are NOT found in the book of life will have all their thoughts, words, and actions held up against God's perfect holy laws. God's expectation is stated in Matthew 5:48 – "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." If even a single rule is broken, the death penalty is prescribed. The balance of good deeds versus bad deeds will be taken into account as to HOW bad their eternal suffering will be. However, everyone whose name is not found in the Lamb's book of Life will be cast into the eternal lake of fire.

The Great White Throne Judgment boils down to a single verse in Romans 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Jesus paid the price so that every human ever born could have been redeemed and had eternal life. It is only by rejecting God's free gift that humans choose to pay their own debt with their eternal life.

Upon the completion of the Great White Throne judgment, Death and Hades (hell) is also cast into the Lake of Fire. The decision is final and complete.

God's holiness demands that He deal with sin and rebellion against Him. This is why He offered Himself as a sacrifice, in order to provide a way for us to escape His wrath. One thing we can be certain of is God's fairness, justice, and mercy. There are some things we just can't know, such as how God will judge those who can't understand or who haven't heard His truth. We are told that He will judge by the heart and the conscience.

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting

thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (Romans 2:5-16)

We all deserve God's wrath, because we all have sinned against Him. Through God's great mercy, we are each extended the offer of eternal forgiveness. It is our free will whether we ask for that offer to be applied to our individual account.

A Glimpse of Eternity

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9)

It's clear that our minds are unable to even imagine what God has in store for us for Eternity! That said, God gives us a small glimpse of what is to come.

After the Millennial Kingdom is complete, the general resurrection of the dead and the Great White Throne judgment will proceed. When God sits in His court of judgment, earth and sky flee away. This is the first heaven and the first earth "passing away" (Revelation 21:1), and is further described by Peter after he briefly touches upon the Day of the Lord:

...on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, it is clear what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness as you wait for the day of God and hasten its coming. Because of that day, the heavens will be dissolved with fire and the elements will melt with heat. But based on his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:10-13)

Then the end will come, when he (Jesus) hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet" (Psalm 8:6)

Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:24-28)

The new heavens and earth will be created after the Great White Throne Judgment is complete and the eternal destinations of each human have been established. Here is a small peek into the eternal destiny of those who have been saved by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he

said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:1-26)

From this chapter on Eternity, we can tell:

- At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, after the Last Battle and the Great White Throne Judgment, God will make a new heaven and a new earth. Whether he completely refashions the current versions or starts from scratch isn't clear. It's likely the universe remains intact, but the Earth for sure, and possibly our solar system, is remade.
- The new earth won't have any seas. The earth will no longer be divided by waters.
- God will dwell among the people.
- There will be no more sadness.
- There will be no more death.
- There will be no more mourning (no death / separation).
- There will be no more crying.
- There will be no more pain.
- All things will be made new – this is an entirely new order of life.
- All the overcomers, those who have conquered (for the entire span of humanity), qualify to enter this eternal kingdom.
- There is a literal heavenly city called Jerusalem, where the “wife of the Lamb” - all who have believed in Christ - will live.
- Heavenly Jerusalem appears to be either cube or pyramid-shaped, and heavily jeweled. Its' radiance is incomprehensible.

- Its' size is measured in human measurements (literal), and is 1400-1500 miles long, wide, and high. For reference, the moon's diameter is 2100 miles. If it were a cube its' relative size is approximately:



- Heavenly Jerusalem will be the light for the earth. It may orbit around the new earth? There is no longer a need for sun or moon in Heavenly Jerusalem, as the glory of God is the light. It is not clear if the current sun and moon will be done away with. It does not tell us how far above the earth Heavenly Jerusalem will be.
- There will no longer be night in the Heavenly Jerusalem; it is lit by the eternal light of God in its midst.
- There may be night on earth if Heavenly Jerusalem orbits around it like the moon (?)
- There will be people dwelling on earth, living in "nations", and ruled by "kings". These are all in their eternal resurrected state as well (after the Great White Throne Judgment).
- These earthly kings, and possibly other earth dwellers, will be able to come and go into Heavenly Jerusalem to bring wonderful things from the earth into it.
- The gates of Heavenly Jerusalem will never be shut.
- All the dwellers in Heavenly Jerusalem and on earth are those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

We also know that our eternal resurrection bodies will be like Jesus' resurrection body - "we will be as He is". Our new bodies:

- Will be unconstrained by our current dimensions. Jesus was able to appear and disappear at will.
- Will be able to pass through physical materials. Jesus was able to walk through locked doors.
- Will be able to eat, but probably won't have to. Jesus ate after His resurrection, and angels ate several times in the Old Testament. It is unclear what happens to the food after we eat it ;)
- Will not reproduce. That is not to say they couldn't, but we will be as the angels in heaven and not marry nor be given in marriage. Eternal creatures have no need for reproduction. (Matthew 22:30)
- Won't need sleep. It won't ever be night in the Heavenly Jerusalem.

We are given a glimpse of the New Earth in Isaiah:

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create;

for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress." (Isaiah 65:17-19)

As far as I am able to tell, this passage in Isaiah 65 describes the new heaven and new earth (which comes after the Great White Throne Judgment). However, it goes on to discuss life in the Millennial Kingdom. Thus, it seems that some elements of the Millennial Kingdom may also be present in Eternity. From Revelation 21 it does appear that God "makes all things new", which to me suggests it will be an entirely new format.

What Will We Do?

What will we do in eternity? I believe once we are given our glorious new bodies, it will be clear that life is not about "us". Life *never was* about us, but on earth it's so easy to get caught up in ourselves. Eternity will be about glorifying our Father and doing His work. The Bible tells us that we will worship God and serve Him for eternity.

We will likely be assigned duties based on our interests and talents. There is suggestion that how we have used our "talents" (time, energy, resources) while on earth will determine how much we will be entrusted with in the afterlife.

I believe we will also have time to explore all of God's creation and the majesty of heaven. We will learn the answers to the questions of humanity; we will probably never stop learning! And of course, there will be fellowship with all the saints since the dawn of creation! Loved ones who have died in the faith, and new brothers and sisters in Christ. Eternity will be a time of joy and rejoicing!

Eternal State for Unbelievers

On a much sadder note, God also gives us a glimpse of the eternal state for those who reject His offer of salvation. This is the destiny of those who choose to rely on their own works to try to "earn" salvation, and for those who either completely ignore or outright reject God. There is only ONE way to eternal life, and that is through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

"Death" in the Bible is used to refer to separation. Physical death is the separation of the eternal spirit from the physical body. Eternal death (the "second death"), then, is the separation of the eternal spirit from God permanently. The eternal destiny of those who aren't written in the Lamb's Book of Life (followers of Jesus Christ) will be cast into the lake of fire. **God does not desire for any human to go there**, He created it for the fallen angels. Unfortunately, much of mankind rejects God's offer of reconciliation and therefore chooses an eternity of separation from Him. Hell is often joked about as one big party, but the reality is that it is a place of torment and anguish. The lake of fire will also be a place of separation and torment. It does appear that there are different levels of

punishment in the lake of fire: *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were **judged according to what they had done** as recorded in the books.* (Revelation 20:12; see also Matthew 10:14-15, 11:21-24; Mark 12:38-40).

Hell, and the Lake of Fire, will be incomprehensibly awful to the same extent that Heaven will be incomprehensibly wonderful. No one would choose hell/lake of fire if they truly understood what it would be like. It is frequently described in terms of fire. It is also described as a place of total darkness and isolation (Matthew 22:13, 2 Peter 2:17), a place of banishment from God's kingdom (Matthew 8:12, 22:13), and a place of "weeping and gnashing of teeth", symbolizing regret and suffering (Matthew 13:42, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30; Luke 13:28).

Is the Lake of Fire Eternal?

It is popular to believe that the lake of fire couldn't possibly be eternal. I examined the verses pertaining to this:

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting [o-w-lam #5769] life, others to shame and everlasting [o-w-lam #5769] contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal [aionion #166] fire prepared for the devil and his angels." Then they will go away to eternal [aionion #166] punishment, but the righteous to eternal [aionion #166] life. (Matt. 25:41,46)

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever [aionas #165], and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." (Revelation 14:9-11)

The same word is used for eternal life (which we know is truly eternal) and eternal punishment.

Then death [thanatos] and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death [thanatos]. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:14-15)

The human side of me truly hopes that the "second death" is an annihilation-type event instead of eternal suffering. However, from scripture, it seems very clear that it is not.

Whatever it is, I have faith in a good God, who sees and knows more than I can comprehend. I trust that His ways are perfectly righteous and just.

Choose A Side

I understand that your thoughts are likely centered around survival. How will you make it through this day? Will you have enough food and clean water for yourself? For your family? What about medications and healthcare? Will you be safe? Will you come through this time of chaos alive?

My friend, even if you can meet your basic needs for today, you will not be satisfied. Without a deeper understanding of the war that is going on for your soul, you will continue to feel fear and panic. You see, God made humanity for his pleasure, and it was always supposed to be a mutual relationship. We messed it up, on our end. And ever since, God's been reaching out to us with His solution. Perhaps He has reached out to you before this. Perhaps many times? He still is reaching out - right now.

*“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord your God?*

(Joel 2:12-14)

There is an appointed time for humanity's reign over the earth to be complete, and that time is almost up. You live in a very unique time period - the very final warning of God before the "end of this age" closes. The world isn't going to end, at least not yet, but the world *as you knew it* has, and will. There is a purpose for you in this big overarching story - this purpose is wrapped up in your being reconciled to God. *If you miss this, you miss the entire point of your existence.*

Your primary purpose isn't survival, it is finding God.

We were meant to live in harmony with God, our Father. His Spirit is meant to comfort us, to guide us, to bring us love, joy, peace, and hope. Apart from Him, everything is meaningless (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

We are born into this world as spiritual orphans. We remain that way unless we listen to God's call and find our way home. God wants to restore relationship with you. But you have to want to restore the relationship too. Relationships go both ways!

If you do not know Him personally, then right now, God is calling you. He has chosen you for this time, and for this purpose. Your soul is never going to die. While your body lives, you have the free will to choose your eternal destiny. If you follow Jesus, He will help you and direct you through the

rest of your days. When you die, you will go to an eternal place called "heaven" and be with Him forever. No one can truly comprehend how wonderful heaven is!

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:3-5)

If you choose not to follow Jesus, you will go to an eternal place called "the lake of fire" and live in suffering and loneliness forever. No one can truly comprehend how horrible the lake of fire is.

...their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur... (Revelation 21:8)

The time that you have now entered will be the most challenging time humanity has ever faced. God’s escape hatch has closed, and there is no longer a possibility of being sheltered from what is to come. There will be natural disasters and a shortage of essential survival items – food, water, shelter, and medical care. The world will be violent and spiritually dark. Satan will be actively targeting and suppressing the Truth of Jesus Christ. In our humanity, it will be impossible to follow Jesus. But with God, all things are possible.

Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” (Luke 18:26-27)

God is offering you salvation by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. The price has already been paid; the gift has been purchased. *God is offering it to you – will you take it?*

Know How God Sees You

God loves you, and has known you from before the creation of the world. He knew there would be a “you”. You were created specifically to be in His family. So, what’s wrong? Why does it feel like God doesn’t care – that He is absent? Or even worse, why does it feel like He is allowing - or even causing - misery and suffering?

The answer is sin. Sin separates us from God. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God’s laws. This world is broken because people are trapped in sin. Our sinful choices affect ourselves, each other, and even entire generations and societies. God has given us free will to choose to do as we please, and many times, people choose sin.

What are the laws of God? In the Bible, God has given many instructions for living right before Him. These include the 10 Commandments among others. But apart from the Bible, God has written His commands on human hearts, which we refer to as “conscience”. Our conscience is what tells us that murder is wrong. It is what makes us angry at injustices, abuses, and crime. We know we violate our consciences. The telltale signs are lying about it, hiding it (doing it in secret), or covering it up. This is how God can hold us as being without excuse (Romans 2:14-16).

Above all, God tells us to love Him with all our soul, heart, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. If you love anything in your life more than you love God (or a fellow human being), you have broken this command. Whenever you do anything you know you shouldn't (lying, gossiping, pornography, stealing, cheating, sleeping around, saying "Oh my God", disobeying your parents, etc), it is "sin". We hold ourselves up to God's standards and see that we fall hopelessly short. We've blown it, many times, and we know it.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

You may ask – "What if people choose to be good?" There are many non-religious and religious people who are "good" and kind, by human standards. But no matter how "good" we are, we aren't perfect. God's holiness requires us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48).

God's laws are a mirror, to reflect back to us where we have failed.

Know Where You're Headed

You know you've sinned, you've broken God's laws. So what does that mean?

Our physical bodies die someday. However, God created humans to be eternal. That means the part of you that's "you" – your spirit – is going to live on forever. God says that He has "placed eternity in the hearts of men" – deep down, we know that physical death is not the end (Ecclesiastes 3:11). When you die, you will stand before God and give an account of EVERYTHING you have done while alive (2 Corinthians 5:10). Everything done in the darkness and secret will be brought to light before Him (and perhaps before the angels and the rest of humanity as well - Luke 8:17).

According to God, breaking even ***one*** of His laws, ***once***, results in the death penalty.

"For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)

Death?? Isn't that extreme? God, as a supreme holy and righteous being, cannot tolerate any sin (breaking of the law) in His presence. God sees one sin as the same as being guilty of all sins. That's how high His standard is. Unless we repair our relationship with God we will "die" for eternity. Eternal "death" is eternal separation from God and others, in "hell" and then the "lake of fire" – places of torment and suffering.

While your physical body is alive, you can choose the eternal destiny of your spirit. Once your physical body dies, there are no second chances (Hebrews 9:27).

There's Only One Way Out

A change of heart, seeing ourselves as utterly lost/sinful and wanting to do something about it, is called repentance. Just recognizing that we do bad things (as defined by God), but not having a desire to stop, is not true repentance. We must truly want to be changed, to be restored to right relationship with God, to be saved. Are you wanting to go to heaven, are you wanting to be spared from suffering, or are you wanting to be saved from your sins?

Following Jesus isn't about religion. Being a true Christian comes down to a heart transformation. We can never be worthy of a "heart transplant" from God. In fact, all our works are as "filthy rags" in trying to earn it. Going to church, reading through the Bible, acting morally, these count as nothing - even worse, they are as soiled menstrual garments (what filthy rags means) towards salvation.

There is nothing *we* can do to fix our “wrongness” – no good work, no sacrament, no penance. But because God our Father loves us, He has provided a way to restore the relationship.

Jesus says “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.” (John 14:6)

God does not want you to be separated from Him for eternity. He created hell and the eternal Lake of Fire for Satan and the fallen angels, NOT for humans (Matthew 25:41). But you will go there if you reject God's rescue plan. He wants you to come back to His family. So He sent a part of Himself, Jesus Christ, to die for you. The Bible makes it clear that every sin has to be punished by death and paid with innocent blood. Jesus lived a perfect life on Earth – though He lived as a man under God's Law, He never broke the Law. This qualified Him to take our sins upon Himself to become a perfect sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross to take our punishment for us. His blood paid the price required by God for our sins.

But God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

It doesn't end there, though. On the third day, Jesus was raised to life, to a new eternal body. When we join God's spiritual family, we, too, will get a new eternal body someday.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

“the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord” (Romans 3:23)

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Philippians 3:20-21)

Turn From Yourself Towards God and Believe

We chose to sin and Jesus chose to be a “sin-bearer” and take God's wrath for us. God offers an all-inclusive “forgiveness slip” to every human on earth. If we believe what God has said about us (we are totally lost and have no hope of saving ourselves), and what He has done to fix it (Jesus is the only way as a Savior), we can obtain this “forgiveness slip”. We can ask God for Jesus' payment to be applied to our account. This allows us to be declared innocent and sin-free in God's eyes – the debt we owed for our crimes is paid. Salvation is a change in legal standing before God – from

“guilty” to “not guilty”. Jesus didn’t just pay PART of our debt, or even MOST of it, leaving some on the tab for us. He paid our ENTIRE debt.

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

When you say Jesus is Lord, this means you believe He is God and He deserves to be Lord of your life. When you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you accept that what the Bible teaches about Jesus is true and that His death paid the price for your wrongdoings.

For many years I didn’t “get” the simplicity of salvation and tried to “earn” it, be "worthy of it", and “prove it to myself” by repeating the sinner’s prayer, trying to live morally, reading the Bible, and doing other good works. My dear ones, *salvation is not about anything we DO, but about what Jesus has already DONE.* We must truly rest in faith. Faith in Jesus’ provision. Faith in His completed work for us on the cross. That’s the beauty of God’s grace - “It is finished”.

For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Asking for Jesus’ sacrifice in our stead results in immediate salvation. That’s what being “Born Again” means (1 Peter 1:23). We are forgiven (1 John 1:9).

Salvation Prayer

Repeating certain words or saying a specific prayer won't save you. There is no formula for salvation - it's a heart change! *You don't even need to say any words at all!* Maybe you have reached this point and your heart's desire is truly in agreement that you want to fully surrender your life to Christ. Maybe you've never heard anyone pray (talk to God) before. If this is you, here is an example of what you can say to God in your own words:

“God, as I am reading this through I know it to be true. Open my mind and my heart fully to your Truth today! I realize that I have broken your rules and I’m so, so sorry. Please forgive me. Apply the blood of Jesus to my heart, and wash away my sins. Grant me saving faith, change me, and make me new! Help me to walk with You until my very last breath. I understand that I may well lose my life for You. Give me boldness and courage to walk out my faith in You. Strengthen me by Your Spirit. Give me the words to say. May I bring You glory for the rest of my days and even in my death, if it comes to that.

In Jesus Name I pray,

Amen.”

Allow your heart to open towards God, mentally and emotionally releasing all that you are to Him. I really want to emphasize that it's the *desire and authenticity of your heart* that matters, far more than any specific words you use. Jesus tells a story about that here:

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14)



Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days,

Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move

At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be

Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,

Always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

If you asked God to forgive you, and have truly chosen to follow Him, you are now part of His family. It's time to learn more about Him, grow your relationship with Him, and choose to obey Him. It's like any relationship – it takes time and dedication!

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

Specific Warnings!

I do not wish to paint a false rosy picture for you. Jesus Himself called this time period in human history the time of "greatest tribulation". Synonyms include persecution, affliction, anguish, and distress.

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. (Matthew 24:21-22)

In this time of global disaster, over half the population will die within a few years' time from famine, disease, war, natural disasters, and various other causes. So no one's prognosis is good. Following Jesus Christ will put a supernatural target on your back, and you can be sure that satan and his horde will go after you with all their vicious might.

Is it worth it? Well, of what value to you is absolute truth? Of what value to you is your purpose and your destiny?

Act on Your Faith

You are required to act on your faith. Anything you do for other believers is done for Jesus Himself. Anything you don't do for other believers you are withholding from Jesus Himself. You will be held accountable - judged - for what you do, or what you do not do.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:31-46)

Mark of the Beast

Also [the "false prophet"] causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (Revelation 13:16-18)

At some point you will be required to take a certain mark on your right hand or forehead to be able to buy or sell. It might be a microchip, a tattoo, a vaccine, or it could be none of these. It may be something that affects DNA. They may say it offers health, longevity, or even spiritual evolution - I do not know. What I do know, is that it will be tied to allegiance to someone who sits in the Jewish temple and claims to be "god". In the Bible, this person is called the anti-Christ, the beast, or the lawless one. This person will be indwelt (possessed) by satan himself. If you take this mark, you will be eternally lost to God. Your soul will be tortured forever in the eternal lake of fire. You must surrender your life if necessary rather than take the mark.

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Revelation 14:9-13)

Holding Fast to Faith

Now that you have entered into this time of trouble, it seems from a few passages in the Bible that you will be able to lose your salvation. There are different interpretations on this point, so I do not know for sure. God may provide further instructions through His two Witnesses, or Prophets, who are to come.

What I do know is that you will be responsible for remaining faithful to Jesus in the face of severe deprivation and persecution. You will have to choose faith, even when everything around you is falling apart and looks for all intents and purposes that the enemy is winning. You are required to hold firm in your faith until the end.

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." (Matthew 24:9-13)

Plead with God not to take His Holy Spirit from you.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

(Psalm 51:1-12)

It's going to be extremely difficult, but you need to admit to your faith in Jesus before others, even if it means physical death.

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

God may have called you exactly for this purpose, and the witness of your death may plant the seeds of salvation in others.

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." (Mark 8:35)

Remember that God's viewpoint is one of eternity. Our viewpoint is often limited to the here & now. Be encouraged:

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:7-18)

Do not give up! Do not despair! Cling to God with all your might, no matter how things look, no matter what others are believing, no matter how you feel. There is a very high possibility that you will lose your life for Jesus Christ. Remember that He gave His for you, first. Here is His promise to you:

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4)

Jesus will raise you up to reign with Him when this time of trial is complete.

What if I STILL Don't "Feel" Saved?

Let's say you've gone through the steps to salvation above. You agree with them all. You're not holding back from God, and you truly desire to follow Him with all your heart. You've examined yourself, have found that you have faith, but you still doubt.

Listen, there's a difference between being plagued by doubts and never having had assurance of faith at all. Do you find you sometimes have assurance, and sometimes not? Have you ever had a moment where you KNOW you've turned your life over to God? If you've had a "light bulb moment", where everything has clicked, and you surrendered your heart to Jesus, it's time to consider that the enemy is attacking you through fear and confusion.

Far be it from me to give anyone false assurance in this ear-tickling generation - that's why this section is at the bottom. However, there is biblical precedence that there are some who are truly in the faith, who doubt.

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

My dear ones, Jesus wants you to have faith and not doubt. For you, we are going to prescribe several exercises:

- Stand on the Promises of God
- Take Thoughts Captive
- Put on the Armor of God

Stand on the Promises of God

I want you to memorize these verses. Read and repeat them over and over, whenever you doubt your salvation.

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (John 10:28-29)

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (John 6:37)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

True assurance of salvation comes from the objective truth of God's word, not from our subjective experiences. God promises that we will find Him if we seek Him with all our hearts. He promises that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. He promises that ALL who receive Him will become His children. He promises to reward those who seek Him (I would suggest the greatest reward is Himself). He promises that NO ONE can snatch us out of His hand. ALL who come to Jesus, He will never cast out. Jesus will come in to ALL who open the door of their hearts to Him. These are promises God has made and He MUST honor them, for He is Truth.

Take Thoughts Captive

In addition to keeping in mind the promises of God, you will need to take every thought captive that opposes these promises. When we focus on our doubts, we have taken our eyes off of Jesus.

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Practically speaking, whenever doubts of salvation enter your mind, you are going to acknowledge them and reject them. It's more effective to do it out loud, even if just a whisper, because then you hear yourself saying it.

"Doubt, I command you to STOP in the Name of Jesus."

"I will NOT fear. I gave my fear to Jesus."

"Jesus will NOT lose me. He has promised."

"I WILL find God, because I'm seeking Him with all my heart."

"No, I will not entertain doubt. Be gone in Jesus' Name."

Once you have commanded the thought to leave, recite the scriptures you have memorized above. Repeat until the thought has left. In my experience, it sometimes takes three or more repetitions.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. (Psalm 46:1-3)

When you take your thoughts captive, you make them submit to God in the Name of Jesus. You use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, to do battle. Which brings us to our next exercise - examining the Armor of God.

Put on the Armor of God

If you have a sincere heart that is seeking God, but you continually struggle with assurance of salvation, you need to consider the very real possibility that you are prone to doubts and worries. Satan's forces recognize this weakness, and will use it to seize your attention - tearing your eyes off of Jesus, and placing them on your own fears and insufficiency. The remedy for this is to stand strong in the armor of God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle. (Isaiah 59:17)

Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist. (Isaiah 11:5)

Helmet of Salvation - When we are sure of our salvation, this belief protects our mind. We use the helmet to keep out ungodly thoughts and lies from the enemy.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... (Romans 1:16)

“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:10)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Breastplate of Righteousness - When Jesus comes into our hearts, He clothes us with His righteousness. We use the breastplate when we guard our hearts.

Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow springs of life. (Proverbs 4:23)

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Romans 6:18)

Belt of Truth - Wrapping ourselves with the Truth of God's word enables to spot the enemy's lies.

We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception. (1 John 4:6)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. (John 17:17)

However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13)

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

Sword of the Spirit - Hiding God's word in our hearts makes it accessible when we need to wield counter attacks against the enemy. Reciting scripture during an attack is how we use this offensive weapon.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)

Shield of Faith - Holding unswervingly to the hope we profess is how we use the shield to ward off attacks from the enemy. We choose to stubbornly, resolutely cling to faith - no matter what.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:23)

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.' (Matthew 17:20)

Feet of Peace - Staying in a state of attentive readiness is how we use the shoes of the armor. We flee from sin, we are ready to share the gospel, we wait on the Lord actively.

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7)

...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect... (1 Peter 3:15)

Wait patiently for the LORD; be strong and courageous. Wait patiently for the LORD. (Psalm 27:14)

No matter what - do not give up! Do not despair! Cling to God with all your might, no matter how you feel. Hold on firmly and stubbornly to your faith until death. Refuse to allow thoughts of giving up to creep into your mind.

Assurance Prayer

If you are struggling with assurance of salvation, are "losing faith", or need to come back to God, consider praying along with me, in your own words:

Jesus, I want to love you, more than anyone and anything else!!! I believe I am a sinner and that You are my Savior. Help me in my unbelief! Help me, Holy Spirit! Intercede for me now I pray! I plead with You for the assurance of salvation that I so deeply crave. Give me wisdom and understanding of the scriptures! Open my eyes to see you! Open my ears to hear you! Open my heart to receive you. Flow through me! Flood my heart with Your peace, and confirm in my soul that I am a child of God! From this day forward, I choose to stubbornly cling to faith. When I have doubt, I will choose to stand on the Truth of Your Word. Give me a burning, passionate love for you! Make me like You, Jesus! Take away my desires for the things of this world that don't please You. I acknowledge that they cannot satisfy. Lead me and guide me. I surrender my heart, my life, my love to you!

In Jesus' Name I pray,

Amen

Finding God is a Process.

It doesn't happen overnight, nor is there a magical formula. We seek Him, and we will find Him, ***IF*** we seek Him with all our heart. That means we don't give up. We press on and search as we would for a lost child, for our entire lives if necessary. He's *that* worth it. And He wants to be found. But He wants to be found by people who are willing to give their all to pursue Him. Until the very end.

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Why Wasn't I Taken?

Oh, my dear friend. Say that all this isn't new to you - you believe in God. You've attended church. You may call yourself, and believe you are, a "Christian". The last chapter on how to be saved is something you have heard many times before. Listen, friend. You are probably starting to realize that something is really, really wrong. If you have been "left behind" on the earth, if you were not "counted worthy to escape all these things", I can only imagine the thoughts and feelings that are racing through your mind.

If the "rapture of the church" (its' sudden whisking away into heaven) has occurred and you recognize this event for what it is, you are probably one of the most distraught people on earth at this moment. Perhaps there is a gnawing reminder that you knew, you were warned, and you didn't take heed. In the pit of your stomach you recognize that "they were right", and are in great anguish.

Or perhaps, you may believe whatever the media and governments are saying about those who have disappeared. Perhaps you never have, and still don't, believe in the "rapture of the church". You are still here, because you expected to be here. You might be glad you weren't "taken".

Listen - I am one of the "taken".

Whether you believe my story or not, does not affect *me* in any way - I am not here! It does affect YOU, though.

I have been actively watching and waiting for Jesus to come and take me away, from what I clearly see coming. I do not believe that there will be a "partial rapture", in that only those believers who are actively watching for it and believing in it will be taken. However, I do know others who believe that will be the case. Whether you were not truly saved, or whether you were saved but not watching and ready, I cannot say. *Only* Jesus knows your heart as it pertains to salvation.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

I would like to discuss two main errors that lead people astray, and will ask you to examine your own heart to see if you can figure out where you went wrong. For a detailed explanation of the true saving gospel, I would encourage you to read through the preceding chapter on salvation entitled "Choose a Side". Pay particular attention to any parts where you have thought differently in the past.

The Road Is Narrow

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (Proverbs 14:12)

Narrow is the way that leads to life, and few find it. The size of Jesus' flock is described as "little". In contrast, the ditches on either side of this narrow road are broad. They both lead to destruction.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:6-10)

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray... And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. (Matthew 24:4-5,11)

There is only one gospel which saves. There is only one Christ who saves. There are *many* false gospels and false Christs. ***It is likely that people who follow a false gospel or a false Christ are not aware they are following the wrong path and person!*** Therefore, I greatly urge you to reconsider all that you have been taught. If you were following the right gospel and the right Christ, you would not still be here!!! Start anew and read the Bible with fresh eyes.

First, I would like to share with you a statement of faith, which reveals the true gospel and the true Christ. Once we have found the "right Jesus", I will review the two main errors found in Christian church teachings. The first error is one of incomplete surrender to Jesus Christ. This is common in inclusive beliefs - being in the world and also of it. The second error is one of adding human works to the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is common in many religions - rules, traditions, ceremonies and the like. Those in both ditches may look, act, and feel deeply "religious" or "spiritual". But, my friend, neither are truly saved.

Statement of Faith

Jesus warned that there would be much false teaching towards the end of this age. For this reason, let's go through a brief review of what the Bible says.

THE BIBLE

I believe that the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments (66 books), is supernaturally inspired and inerrant in the original manuscripts. I believe it has been preserved in meaning by God throughout translation, and is both sufficient and authoritative in our lives! The Bible is our "daily bread" – the Word of God. It is the main way God speaks to us! We can only identify the false if we know the true. Thus, I would greatly encourage you to find one and read it as much as possible!

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

I would encourage you not to read or trust any other religious works, such as the Book of Mormon, the New World Translation (Jehovah's Witnesses), the apocrypha, etc.

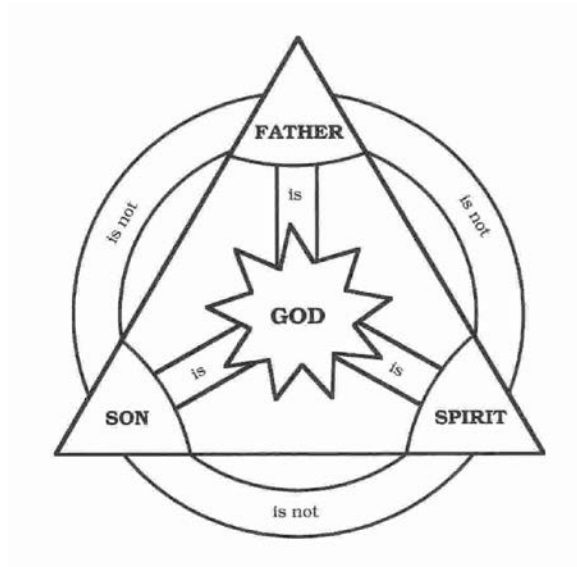
THE TRINITY

I believe in one God who eternally exists and reveals Himself in three persons – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – each having the same nature, attributes and perfections.

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... (Matthew 28:19)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)



GOD THE FATHER

God is our Creator and Sustainer – life exists by Him and through Him. The purpose of this life is knowing God. God is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, infinite, and unchanging.

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him. (Deuteronomy 4:35)

There is so much more that could be said about the Father; however, most error is found within the teachings on the Son and the Spirit.

GOD THE SON

Jesus is our Lord and Savior! Jesus was not created and has no beginning and no end. Jesus **is** God. If you have previously believed that He is "a god" or separate from the Father, that is untrue. By Him and through Him all things were created and are sustained.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1:18)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17)

I and the Father are one. (John 10:30)

...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily... (Colossians 2:9)

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, therefore being fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life under the Law. He taught and performed many wonders and signs exactly as revealed in the four gospels. By His sovereign choice He came into the world to save those of humanity who would receive Him.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (1 John 4:14)

Jesus willingly laid down His life, was crucified, and died to pay the penalty for our sins. He raised Himself from the dead on the third day. Forty days later He ascended to the Father's right hand where He has remained ever since, interceding for his followers as our heavenly High Priest. From there He will come again personally, bodily and visibly to this earth to set up His millennial kingdom.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:14-15)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

I believe that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Holy Trinity, possessing all the divine attributes. He convicts of sin, regenerates, and indwells all believers at the moment of their salvation, with the goal of conforming them to the image of Christ. He teaches, comforts, gives understanding, and power according to our willingness to yield to Him.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:7-11)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:15-17,26)

The Spirit gives spiritual gifts to each believer for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. I respectfully acknowledge that there can be some difference of opinion surrounding the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We see the Holy Spirit working in signs and wonders where the gospel of Jesus

Christ is actively being preached, to give testimony to the truth of the gospel (as in Acts). God is not the author of confusion or chaos and believers must always be on guard and test the spirits. (John 16:13-15; 1 John 4:1; 1 Corinthians 12).

It seems probable that the "sealing" ministry of the Holy Spirit ceases at the "rapture" of the church. Therefore, believers would seem to be able to "lose" salvation and must actively persist in the faith until the end (the second coming of Christ).

HUMANITY

Humanity was created in the image and likeness of God.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

Through the sin of Adam, the human race has inherited a sin nature and is alienated from God. We remain "dead in our sins" unless we are "born again". We are enslaved to sin and the god of this world unless we receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Humans are morally corrupt and completely unable to save themselves by any amount of effort. Our works to try to earn or maintain salvation are as "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Each human ever created will consciously exist in either glory or torment for eternity.

SALVATION

Salvation is a free gift of God that cannot be earned in any way. Salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone. The Bible makes it clear that every sin has to be punished by death and paid by the penalty of innocent blood. Jesus lived a perfect life on Earth – though He lived as a man under God's Law, He never broke the Law. This qualified Him to take our sins upon Himself to become a perfect sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross to take our punishment for us. His blood paid the price required by God for our sins. On the third day, Jesus was raised to life, to a new eternal body. When we join God's spiritual family, we, too, will get a new eternal body someday.

Jesus didn't just pay PART of our debt, or even MOST of it, leaving some on the tab for us. He paid our ENTIRE debt.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:12, 17-21)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

Jesus’ sacrificial death was sufficient to save every human, but many will reject it. God, existing apart from time, has known since before creation (foreknowledge) what each human will choose. Saving faith is demonstrated by actions – faith without works is dead. (James 2:14-26) Actions do not necessarily indicate saving faith – salvation is a heart matter.

We are saved when we believe what God says about us – we are sinners desperately in need of saving – and what God says about Jesus – He is God Himself and a Savior, who paid the price for our sins. This change of mind about ourselves and Christ is called repentance.

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the *heart* one believes and is justified, and with the *mouth* one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

It is possible to reject salvation, despite a knowledge of the truth. This is why it is right and good to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).

THE CHURCH

The body of Christ, or the true Church, is composed of all those who have saving faith in Jesus Christ. It exists apart from any building or denomination or tradition. We are united together in one body, under the headship/Lordship of Jesus. We are to gather together for worship, prayer, accountability, fellowship, teaching, good works, spreading the gospel, and exercising spiritual gifts.

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:22-23)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-28)

It will likely be very difficult and dangerous to gather together with other believers during this time period.

BAPTISM

Total immersion water baptism is an act of obedience to Christ following salvation. It is an outward manifestation of an inward reality, and represents identification with Christ's death and resurrection. It is a symbol of the "new birth". Baptism itself does not save and is not required for salvation. However, if you are able to find a way to be baptized, it would seem advisable to do so.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Baptism can be performed by any true believer and should be done in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

COMMUNION

As believers, we are commanded to observe the Lord's Supper, or communion, in remembrance of the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. We are not saved through communion, but perform it to fellowship with Christ. The bread and wine are not actually the body and blood of Christ; they are symbols of a spiritual reality. Often crackers and grape juice are used in place of bread and wine - substitute and participate as you are able!

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat

of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

We are to examine our hearts before taking part and are not to take it lightly. Each time we participate in communion we look forward to being with the Lamb of God forever!

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Once saved, we are called to abide in Christ and grow in holiness. We are to lay aside the world with its' passions and walk in newness of life. We still sin, but the Holy Spirit will convict us when we do. It is our job to listen to Him and follow His lead. If we "grieve" or "quench" Him, we may be disciplined by God.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:16-25)

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:20-24)

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.” (Hebrews 12:6)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (John 14:15)

We are called to a life of service and good works – we are meant to bear fruit. These things don't save us or maintain our salvation, but are the *result* of saving faith.

"Jesus Minus"

Many churches in these "latter days" are preaching a "watered-down gospel". Their message is one of inclusion and love. Filled with feel-good messages designed to build its' hearers up, it is lacking in the call to repentance. God *is* love, but that's not all that God is. God is also holy.

In the statement of faith above, I want you to particularly pay attention to the section on "the Christian life". Followers of Christ are called to devote themselves to Him wholeheartedly. We are to be in the world, but not of it. We are set apart for holiness!

Jesus often actively turned away those who did not desire to follow Him with all their hearts:

"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:15-19)

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (1 John 2:19)

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? (Matthew 16:24-26)

In my own journey to saving faith, God used several illustrations to reveal my half-hearted commitment to Him. The first illustration has to do with Jesus' stern warning to the lukewarm church:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

I had heard Jesus knocking on the door of my heart. I had opened the outer door, and spoken with Him many times. But He revealed to me that I was talking through the "screen door" - I was keeping Him out on the porch!

Another illustration God brought to my mind was one of a four course meal. This illustration relates to the parable of the soils. I will not quote the entire parable here, but you can find it in Matthew chapter 13. This is Jesus' explanation of its' meaning:

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who

hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” (Matthew 13:18-23)

While you are possibly quite familiar with this parable, I will illustrate it for you in another way. The hard packed soil, is like one who is offered a new food to try, but refuses - spitting it out. The rocky soil is like someone who views following Jesus like an appetizer - something to try or snack on, little bits at a time. The weedy soil is like someone who views following Jesus as a side dish - He's there, in their lives, but on the side. The good soil is someone to whom Jesus is their main course - their life revolves around Him.

If this is you, don't hold back any longer! Choose to love God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength.

"Jesus Plus"

The other grievous error that may have gotten you to this point is the belief that humans can and must somehow add to the finished work of Christ. Note how the ones Jesus doesn't know are making their plea based on what **they** have **done**. My friend, trying to work to earn or maintain your salvation in any way, shape, or form is the equivalent of heaving dirty menstrual pads at the cross of Christ.

For we all have become like one who is [ceremonially] unclean [like a leper], And all our deeds of righteousness are like filthy rags; We all wither and decay like a leaf, And our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing], like the wind, takes us away [carrying us far from God's favor, toward destruction]. (Isaiah 64:6 AMP)

You cannot be worthy of salvation. Nothing - NOTHING AT ALL - can make you worthy. Trying to do so is commonly known as "legalism". It is what the Pharisees were guilty of - missing the heart of the gospel.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. **So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.** (Matthew 23:23-28)*

*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven... You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.** (Matthew 5:17-20, 48)*

There is only One who is good - Jesus (Luke 18:19). The only way we can be perfect, is by having Jesus' perfection applied to us. We are utterly, and completely, helpless to do anything about our condition.

My personality type is very stringent - I like rules, lists, organization. I like to be in control and know what to expect! I did not personally struggle with believing the facts about the Bible or salvation. What I struggled with was getting my heart to surrender fully to what my head believed. This verse in particular terrified me:

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, **did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’** (Matthew 7:21-23)*

I knew I wanted to be saved - or, at least I knew I wanted to go to heaven. I tried to "be saved" by doing what saved people do... in order to prove to myself that I was saved. But, my friend, we can't be saved by our own efforts, no matter how much we try! No matter how badly we want it, we can't work hard enough to earn it or be worthy of it. There is only one way off this crazy wheel and that is to STOP.

Very clearly, Jesus tells you to STOP.

Stop striving, stop trying. Throw yourself at Jesus' feet, acknowledging that you are wretched, poor, blind and naked. Release control. Surrender the process to God - “**I** can't do anything, God! Please do it for me! **It's too big for me** – I need YOU!”

My friend, it is finished.

Rest in the finished work of salvation. Only then will your works be “a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God” (Phil 4:18). You've been going about this your way - the wrong way - and you must choose to follow HIS way, with HIM in control.

Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3)

It's exactly as Jesus said, we must become like little children. Salvation is described as being “born-again”. When we are born, we are babies. Helpless, dependent. Like little children, we have faith that our Father will take care of us (and this heavenly Father does so perfectly). He says what He

means, He means what He says, and we choose to obey Him because we trust and love Him. Even if you don't understand His rationale. Some day, you will understand!

Examine Yourself

At this point, it doesn't matter where you went wrong. What matters is what you choose to do *today, and from this day forth*. When we see how far short we fall of God's glory, when we realize our utter inability to do anything about it, when we desire to clothe ourselves with Jesus' blood and righteousness, when we TURN from following ME to following HIM, we are saved. We don't have to SAY or DO anything. It happens in our hearts – it doesn't even have to be a prayer.

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Memorize this verse. From now on, you will need to repeatedly examine yourself to see if you are in the faith - because it will be possible to lose your faith. God is offering you a second chance to pass the test! This time, you need to surrender your whole heart to Him and be willing to die for Him, just as He died for you.

You Will Need More Than A Towel

The Bible tells us that this time of trouble will come **suddenly** and **unexpectedly**, "like a **trap**", "**birth pains**", "a **thief in the night**". Depending on how much has occurred already, it may be difficult for you to find materials for survival. Water will be contaminated. Electricity will be unreliable. Based on the Covid-19 Pandemic model, I suspect people will hoard essential supplies and that supply chains will be disrupted. I anticipate that people will become increasingly violent and fight, even to the death, over essential supplies at some point.

From beginning to end, the Bible tells us that a period of approximately seven (to maybe ten) YEARS will ensue.

You will need food, water, shelter, medicine, and clothing. Each item will become more and more difficult to find as time goes on. Most of us are unable to stockpile seven years' worth of materials, even if we wanted to! I hope that you are able to access the stashes of things left behind for you from someone who suspected this would occur. However, as I have mentioned earlier, your chance of physical survival is very slim. As you struggle to survive, keep in mind the spiritual reality of what is playing out. The part you play from an eternal perspective is ***FAR MORE IMPORTANT*** than your physical survival. Remember, anything you do (or do not do) for others - particularly followers of Christ - you are doing (or not doing) for Jesus Christ Himself. Think in terms of surviving long enough to:

- come to saving faith in Jesus Christ
- lead others into the truth found only in Jesus and the Bible

This is the primary purpose of your life. With that said, here are my suggestions of what you might try to locate and buy while it is still available.

Water:

- Clean water will be scarce. Locate as much water as possible and keep it in a secure location. If you have access to bottled water, even better.
- Fill freshly washed water storage containers with clean tap water and store these securely. You may want to fill bathtubs and basins. Add bleach as per the chart below.
- Purchase a bottle of plain, unscented bleach that they can use to purify water. Print this chart

Treating Water with a 5-6 Percent Liquid Chlorine Bleach Solution		
Volume of Water to be Treated	Treating Clear/Cloudy Water: Bleach Solution to Add	Treating Cloudy, Very Cold, or Surface Water: Bleach Solution to Add
1 quart/1 liter	3 drops	5 drops
1/2 gallon/2 quarts/2 liters	5 drops	10 drops
1 gallon	1/8 teaspoon	1/4 teaspoon
5 gallons	1/2 teaspoon	1 teaspoon
10 gallons	1 teaspoon	2 teaspoons

and tape it to the bottle:

- Ideally you want at least 1L of water per person per day, but water will likely have to be rationed.
- Consider buying a water sterilization pen/system.

- Consider buying a standalone water filtration system (I chose a Brita jug with filters). This won't take out bacteria, but it can remove ash and larger particles from rainwater, snow, etc.
- Consider buying rain collecting barrels.
- Ensure there are clean cloths (this can even be torn up old cotton shirts) to filter water through.

Food:

- Squirrel away high nutritional value foods that store well and don't need cooking.
- protein powders
- Protein:
 - protein bars
 - canned beans
 - canned meats
 - nuts
 - seeds
 - dried meats (beef jerky etc)
 - peanut butter
 - nut and seed butters (almond butter, tahini etc)
- Grains:
 - boxed cereals
 - crackers
 - granola bars
- Fruit:
 - canned fruit (no sugar added)
 - canned vegetables
 - dried 100% fruit, fruit bars
- Dairy:
 - shelf milks (almond, coconut, etc)
 - this is not a critical food group
 - consider calcium gummies for children
- Multivitamins
- Baby formula if needed
- Store in sealed plastic storage containers

Shelter:

- Locate a shelter source that will shield you from the elements.
- Consider that electricity may be unreliable.
- Consider finding:
 - blankets, sleeping bags
 - mosquito/bug netting
 - fans (the old-fashioned non-electric ones may prove useful!)

Clothing:

- Locate clothing for all seasons, taking into account growth for kids, and weight loss for everyone.

- Shoes (such as runners) and boots (rain and/or snow)
- Ensure there is clothing available that would be useful in the event of colder weather (ash in the atmosphere can drop temperature considerably). Boots, coats, mitts, hats, etc.
- Towels, wash cloths
- Wash and dry laundry as able

Medical Supplies:

- toilet paper!
- medications refilled
- emergency medications as needed
- a plan for essential medications (i.e. thyroid medication - natural remedy includes dessicated animal thyroid; check online or with your natural health food store)
- hand sanitizer
- face masks (for germs as well as ash)
- medical gloves in appropriate sizing
- goggles (for ash)
- bleach (for germs, can also be used in water)
- dish soap
- clean cloths, rags
- bandaids
- hydrogen peroxide
- antibiotic cream (Polysporin)
- bug spray
- sunscreen
- tylenol / advil
- antihistamine medication
- anti-nausea medication
- anti-diarrhea medication
- emergency kit
- tensor bandage
- disinfecting wipes
- baby wipes (these are so useful for cleaning hands!)
- doggie poo bags - it's entirely possible that toilets won't work
- garbage bags - sanitation services may be discontinued, but garbage will have to be bagged to prevent illness
- diapers if needed

Emergency Supplies:

- matches, lighters, flint
- firewood, fire pit
- tinfoil (for cooking on fire)
- flashlights
- lots of batteries
- candles, candle warmers
- hand crank radio
- hand crank flashlight

- shovel (for dirt, ash, snow etc)
- compass
- non-electric cooking source with extra fuel
- backpacks to store and transport things in

Practical Points:

- Please, get a Bible and read it... Find a New Testament at the very minimum! Easier to read versions include The Living Translation (TLB), Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB), Christian Standard Bible (CSB), and New International Version (NIV). I prefer the English Standard Version (ESV) or the Berean Study Bible (BSB).
- I'm not sure if you will have access to the internet or books. If you do, I would suggest:
 - The Fullness of Times, hardcopy book, by Douglas Berner
 - This free downloadable ebook, Understanding Revelation by Jack Kelley, at www.gracethrufaith.com
 - These websites: www.redmoonrapture.org; www.unsealed.org
 - No one currently understands these things perfectly, but these are good resources to have on hand to help interpret events as they occur.
- Stay away from fault lines, mountains, and sea shores as much as possible.
- Think about humane plans for your pets. They are unlikely to survive.
- Consider living/survival arrangements with others.
- Consider learning how to survive in the wilderness. This might include:
 - How to trap or hunt animals/fish
 - How to humanely kill animals/fish and prepare them for consumption
 - How to make a fire from scratch
 - How to build a shelter
 - Safe plants and vegetation to eat in your area

I'm sure you can find other survival lists on emergency prepping websites. Many of these things are good to have on hand all the time anyways, as you should be prepared to survive 72 hours completely self-sufficiently in the event of power outages, severe storms, etc. I would try to prepare for at least a month of supplies.

Basically you want to think about a worst case scenario and basic survival. Anticipate having no electricity and no way to contact anyone or obtain anything. Then throw in a bunch of crazy people and unpredictable weather. There will be natural disasters but also dead bodies, infectious disease, and lack of sanitation.

Elijah Box

I feel like God laid on my heart something I call the "Elijah Box". In a time of severe famine and drought, God provided for Elijah supernaturally through a jar of flour and jug of oil that miraculously refilled day by day. He provided in this way after all hope was gone. I am sharing it here in case

God will relent and spare you through supernatural means, for the sake of His glory and His kingdom. We know that some people will survive and make it through the time of tribulation to enter and repopulate the Millennial Kingdom. Perhaps YOU have been elected for this purpose - and what a great purpose that would be!!!

There is nothing special about the contents of the box specifically. I was thinking of what might best meet basic nutritional needs. Substitute as you see fit/have available. For each person, make one box. In it, place:

- 2 liters of water, bottled
- One small jar of peanut or other nut butter (or a jar of nuts/seeds) - for protein & fat
- Dried fruit bars or cans/jars of fruit - for vitamin C especially
- One jar filled with cereal (or any grain product like crackers etc) - for carbohydrates
- Ensure only enough food and water for ONE day is placed in the box.
- A printout of 1 Kings 17:7-16 as below
-

Replace all contents every night and close box.

1 Kings 17:7-16

And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

The Widow of Zarephath

Then the word of the Lord came to him, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

When all hope is gone, all supplies have run out, and you have no other means of survival, open the box. Consume the contents throughout the day, then put all the empty packaging and bottles back in the box and close it for the night. Pray over the box, asking God to provide for you for the next day.

"Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not." (Exodus 16:4)

Your prayer might go something like this:

"Jesus, you are my only hope. I am trusting in You to provide for me, however You will. Without access to food and water, I will die. I am putting my life in Your hands. Please give me my daily bread for tomorrow - refill this box as per Your will. Sustain my life, that I might be able to tell others about You. Keep me alive to fulfil Your plans and Your purposes for me.

In Jesus' Name I pray,

Amen"

You Are Loved

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

(Jeremiah 31:3)

I wish I could give you a picture of how much God loves you. The creator of the universe is crazy enough about YOU that He listens to not only your words, but to your unspoken requests and to the deepest desires of your heart.

**O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.**

(Psalm 139:1-4)

He smiled as He designed you. He pictured your whole life story as he knit you in your mother's womb. Before you took your first breath, He saw all your heartaches, all your elation, all the mundane in your life.

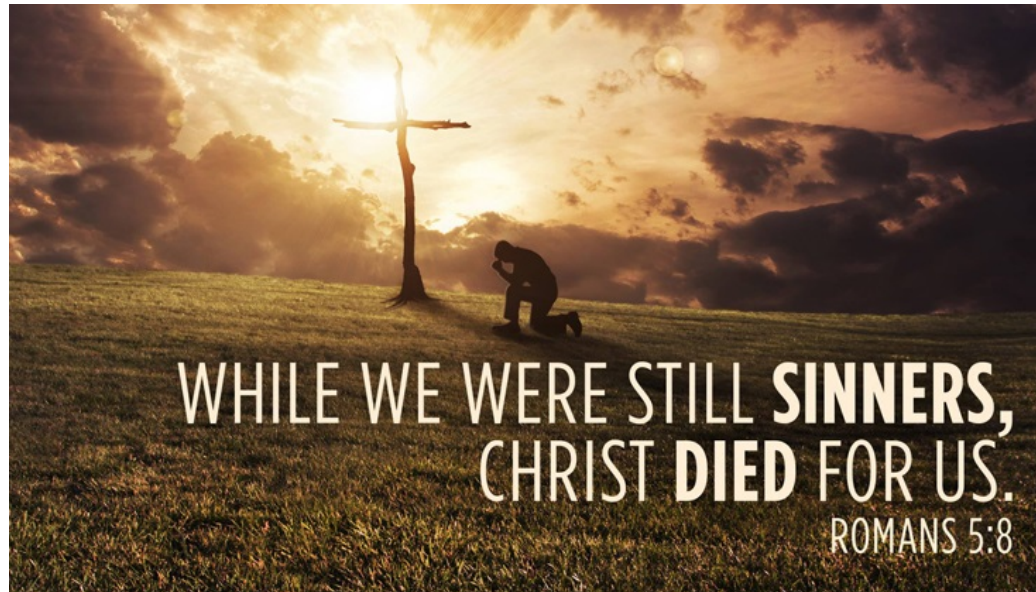
**For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.**

(Psalm 139:13-16)

He knew that for the most part, you wouldn't – couldn't – love Him as He loves you. You would elevate many things above Him in your life – money, beauty, entertainment, achievement, friends, sex. He knew you would curse His name at some point, or even at many points. He knew that instead of spending one day a week as a “date day” with Him, you would devote your time and passions to other interests. You would disobey your parents, your employer, even the law, at times when you thought that no one was looking. He saw your anger, your bitterness, and the rages in your heart. He could see your sexual passions and lusts as you acted on them – or not – and everything done in

darkness was not hidden from Him. When you took what wasn't yours – He saw. He knew that you would wrestle with your conscience and often choose against Truth. He knew that the deepest longings of your heart would be for the things and pleasures of this world.

And He loves you anyways.



God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

For you, He kept silent and turned the other cheek. For you, He took up His cross. He took up your pride and your rebellion and He bore them. Because He loves you THAT MUCH.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

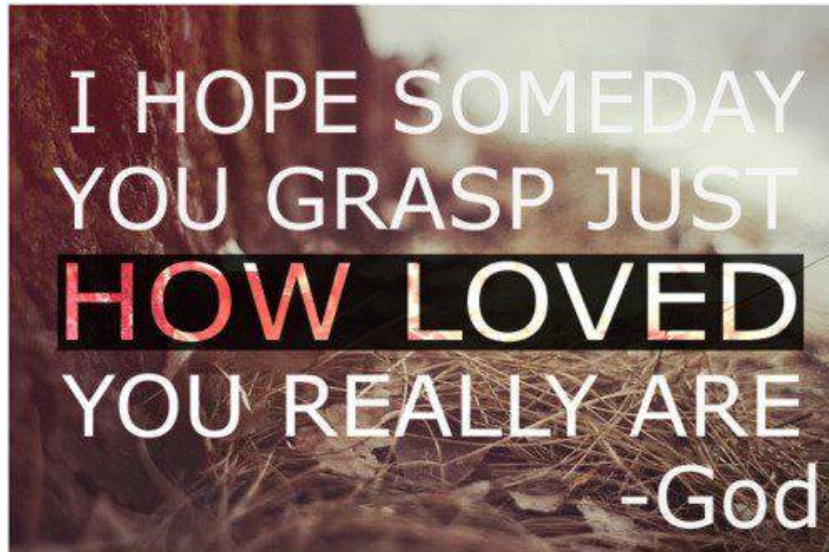
**“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”**

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)

God loves you more than anyone ever has or ever will. More than you can understand. He longs to have you run into His arms.

Just.... let go. Let it all go. Pour your heart out at His feet. That's all He's waiting for. That's why God made the world. That's why Jesus came to die. That's why He's coming back.

For you.



“the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord” (Romans 3:23)

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the *heart* one believes and is justified, and with the *mouth* one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

Occupy Until He Comes

Perhaps you have read through this book. You have chosen to believe what God says about what is happening around you, and you have chosen to follow Him. What next?

He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. (Luke 19:12-13)

Jesus is coming back for you. Your story does not end here, and it does not end with your death! While you await Jesus to return (oh blessed day!), you are encouraged in Scripture to occupy yourself with Kingdom work. Basically, this includes growing in holiness, spreading the gospel, and encouraging others to grow in the faith.

Talk To God. This can seem awkward at first, but talk to Him as you would to a best friend. Nothing fancy, no complicated words or phrases, just talk to Him. Tell Him how you feel, what you're doing, what questions you have, what you need. God's not a magic genie – he doesn't give us things for our selfish purposes. He wants you to see yourself in His bigger picture. He wants you to grow in holiness, to become more like Him. If you ask God to help you know Him better, to help you understand His word and how He wants you to live, he always answers those prayers!

Prayer should be a part of your daily life. Talk to God as you go about your day: rejoicing in thanksgiving, casting your cares upon Him, asking for help in temptations. *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Read The Bible. The Bible is more precious than gold – find one and keep it safe! Try hard to read it every day. A suggestion might be to start in the book of John, then Romans, and then read the rest of the New Testament. The prophetic sections that pertain to the time in which you are living include Revelation, Daniel, Matthew chapter 24-25, Zechariah, and portions of other books. Each time you read, ask God to help you understand.

The Bible is to our spiritual health as food and drink are to our physical health. Without an adequate intake of “spiritual food”, we wither spiritually. *“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”* (John 6:35) *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”* (2 Timothy 3:16). Personal Bible study is extremely important so we can grow in knowledge, understanding, and discernment. *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions”* (2 Timothy 4:3). Personal Bible study is also essential to be able to teach others.

Apart from the Bible, there are books and articles and sermons online you can learn from. I'm not sure what access you will have though - it's entirely possible that technology and even electricity will be disrupted. Print articles out if possible.

Obey God. Ask Him to help you. As you read the Bible, He will teach you what He wants you to do. Deliberately choose to stop doing things He doesn't like and commands against. Deliberately choose

to allow Him to help you be more like Him – patient, kind, forgiving, joyful, serving, gentle, self-controlled, honest. You will still struggle with doing what you don't want to do, and not doing what you want to do. When you sin, ask God to forgive you, then don't dwell on it. Get right back up and keep on going. Jesus wants you to keep your eyes on HIM, not on yourself (neither your failures nor your successes!), and not on the fearful things occurring around you.

Our enemy, the devil, prowls around looking for any opening he can take to pull us away from God. He tells us there are “little sins” that are “no big deal”. He tells us the Bible is “boring” and that it “doesn't matter if we miss one day”. Whatever your personal weaknesses are, guard your heart against the clutches of the fallen ones. They are actively trying to get you to stumble and stray from the narrow path that leads to life. *“For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.”* (Ephesians 6:12)

Be Baptized in the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This can be done in any body of water and can be performed by any true follower of Jesus Christ. It should be done by full immersion (under the water) if possible. Baptism isn't necessary for salvation, but it is an important act of faith and obedience. If you have an opportunity to do so, you should take it. Through baptism, you symbolize your spiritual death and resurrection, and publicly declare your decision to follow Christ.

Find Other Christians. Our friends can influence our attitudes and behaviors. Find other people who are willing to forsake all for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You will need the support of other believers, and they will need you. Regularly meet with other believers specifically for the sake of growing in Christ. This meeting can be anywhere - I am not sure if you will have internet access, if you will be able to get together in groups, or if you will have to hide. The main point is to keep our focus on God and good works, and to encourage others to do the same. *“Walk with the wise and become wise”* (Proverbs 13:20). Choose your companions on this earthly journey wisely! This truly will be a time that harkens back to the days of the "Acts 2" church. The book of Acts in the Bible can tell you about the early days of the first believers.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

Teach Others. As a follower of Christ, your eyes are opened and you can see! Tell others of the spiritual battle that is going on and help deliver them from deception. In this way you will literally pull them out of the flames of eternal fire! Encourage others in the faith!

Being reconciled to God is the main purpose of this earthly life. We are to spread the good news to those around us! Each one of us is a unique witness exactly where and when God has placed us. We are ALL called to be Seed Planters! *“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”* (2

Timothy 4:1-2) Once we have planted seeds, it's up to God to do the rest – *“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”* (1 Corinthians 3:7)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) Making disciples isn't just about an initial commitment to Jesus. The Christian walk is a day by day turning from sin and towards God. We need to constantly be picking out the rocks and pulling out the weeds in our own soil, so that we can bear fruit for His Kingdom. Likewise, we come alongside others to help them with their rocks and weeds. We are ALL called to be Sprout Waterers!

Never stop planting, watering, and praying!

Observe Communion. We are to regularly remember Christ's sacrifice for us, and how it points to our ultimate redemption. *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”* (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Confess Sins. *“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”* (James 5:16) We are to confess our sins to one another so that we can be healed. Harboring secret sin allows it to bloom in our hearts – confessing it releases its' power over us.

Forgive. *“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:32) Jesus taught a lot about forgiveness. In His model of prayer, we are to ask God to forgive us *as we forgive others* who sin against us. The debt we owe God is higher than what anyone else can owe us, and He has wiped our debt clean (Matthew 18:21-25). Harboring unforgiveness in our hearts not only hurts us emotionally, but hurts our relationship with God. Sometimes absolutely terrible things happen in this world. I know it's easier said than done, but release it to God. He has stated *“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”* (Romans 12:19)

Show Love. *“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”* (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13) Love can be a feeling, but showing love to others is a choice. 1 Corinthians 13 explains how to do this well: *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”* (v 4-7) In all our interactions with others, let's strive to show love.

Encourage One Another. *“But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.”* (Hebrews 3:13) We need each other. As a part of a collective body, what WE say and do influences the other parts of the body! God has given each of us unique talents and personalities. Let's be builders of the body of Christ, with whatever abilities God has gifted us. *“So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”* (1 Corinthians 12:26) *“And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works”* (Hebrews 10:24).

Store Treasures in Heaven. Instead of accumulating worldly goods, we are to use our resources – talents, time, abilities, money, energy – to store our “treasures” in heaven. *“Do not lay up for*

yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21) There is no greater treasure than a human soul! So this goes along with making disciples and preaching the Word. As well, anything we do for other believers we do as for Jesus Himself. “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:40)

Seeking His Kingdom:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33 ESV) God knows we need food, water, shelter, and clothing. We also need health and safety. Most other things are “wants”. If we spend our time, attention, and resources on God’s kingdom, He will ensure our needs are met. Money won’t literally fall into our laps, but He will provide a way for us to earn or be given what we need. “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2 ESV)

Abiding in Christ:

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.” (1 John 2:28 ESV) To be a Christ-follower is to walk with God. We try to please Him in all we say and do. We even try to please Him in our thoughts and the attitudes of our heart. In this way, we can be a fragrant aroma, pleasing to God. “For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:11-13 ESV)

, *pray specifically*. God’s Spirit works where the gospel of Jesus is being preached and where people are desperately seeking Him. He WANTS to help you. Pray for healing, protection, and deliverance. With that said, trials of faith will most certainly be on your path. Trust God in both the little and the big things in life. Put your faith in Him.

Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful. (Revelation 13:10)

What if I Still Struggle With Sin?

Of course you will still struggle with sin. Even the godliest people struggle with sin – doing what we don’t want to do, or not doing what we want to do (Romans 7:15-20). However, our hearts and minds are freed from being enslaved to it. If we call for help, God will provide a way out - even if it's hard. The trick is identifying temptation early, and halting it before we are sucked into full blown sin.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

You can be sure you will be tempted - often!

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)



Predators look for weakness. Our enemy looks for ANY opening he can find to pull us away from God. He tells us there are "little sins" that are "no big deal". He tempts us, saying "surely this one time won't make a difference". And if we fall, he hisses in our ears that we are guilty, shameful. We are "too bad" for God to save. He tells us the Bible is "boring" and that it "doesn't matter if we miss one day". He says God doesn't care and doesn't answer. My friend, what makes you question your faith? What makes you turn away from Jesus and towards the world? You can be sure that the enemy will sink his teeth into those specific weaknesses. Have you already been targeted? Think again if you have put something down to "chance", "bad luck", or "accidents".

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Coming to Christ, and abiding in Christ, puts a huge spiritual target on your back. God won't allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, but He certainly allows us to be tempted. While no weapon formed against us will succeed, weapons will most certainly be formed against us (Isaiah 54:17)!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

While you will still do wrong things, you should have a desire to get back on track. If you don't, examine your heart as to *why*. Are you desiring to hold back a part of your life from God? Have you

surrendered to Jesus fully, or only partly? *Is there anything in your life that is worth more to you than God?* Remember that Jesus frequently turned half-hearted followers away and finds lukewarmness repulsive (John 6:53-66, Revelation 3:16). That is incredibly sobering! If you can continue in habitual sin *without feeling remorse and guilt* then you should be *very concerned* and take up the matter before God.

When the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin, it is your job to listen to Him and follow His lead. Apologize to God with a sincere heart, and determine to practice taking sinful thoughts captive before they bloom into action.

*Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

(Psalm 19:12-14)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Maintaining a pure heart before God will cause you to progress in holiness (sanctification), and become more like Jesus. It will also ripen His fruit in your life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control - Galatians 5:22-23).

Above all, WATCH, and BE READY for the appearance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!