

## **COMPILATION - HEAVEN AND END TIMES**

GENESIS 12 and the U.N. RESOLUTION	2
THE ROAD TO NEW JERUSALEM	4
HEAVEN OUR HOME	7
PRESENT HEAVEN (stage 1) : Where Is Heaven?	8
LIVING IN THE PRESENT HEAVEN	9
SETTING UP THE JESUS' THONE ON EARTH	11
DAY1, DAY 2 of the MILLENNIAL KINGDOM	12
JEWISH LIFE TO BE THE CENTER	15
ENTER NEW JERUSALEM: Millennial Kingdom Ends.	17
THE DAY OF THE LORD	19
WHEN WILL YOU RETURN?	22
7 YEAR TRIBULATION	25
GOD'S POWERFUL WITNESS	30
THE DRAGON and the BEASTS	32

# GENESIS 12 and the U.N. RESOLUTION

podcast [<https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/jerusalem-un-resolution/>]

The Bible warns the destiny of the World is inseparable from Israel and Jerusalem. The Bible says God would one day re-gather the children of Israel back into their land from among many nations around the world. The Bible says they would be re-gathered in unbelief ... God warns He is not re-gathering the children of Israel into their Land because they deserve it, but because His Name and His Word are at stake (see Ezekiel 36:17-23) ... and because He loves them. They are His chosen people. The Bible warns God would then make Jerusalem a world trouble spot. The Bible says all nations of the world will turn against Israel. The Bible warns a coming world leader (the 'Antichrist') will rise out of 10 nations which once formed the Roman Empire and will enforce a peace plan or treaty ('covenant') upon Israel ... Then, one day when the armies of the world will gather in and around nation Israel (the coming battle of Armageddon) and when all seems lost for the children of Israel, the Bible says a believing remnant will recognize their Messiah from Scripture, and will call upon His Name. He will then return to save Israel. The Bible also tells us 'after these things' the little nation of Israel and the children of Israel will rule over all the nations on Earth, in peace, under her King and Messiah Jesus Christ

**WHY?** Primarily to teach proper worldview on the recent UN Resolution and America's abstention and how Israel factors into our future. Jesus said to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria. Judea and Samaria are in the West Bank which is the area the **UN Resolution 2016** (and previous ones) deals with. And it is part of the historical lands given to Israel by God.

1st of 7 Promises Great Nation Genesis 12:3  
2nd of 7 Promises (the Land) Gen 13:14-18

## OUTLINE

-- 1.

Bless / Curse Israel 2100 B.C. Gen 12:3

Walk this Land 2100 B.C. Gen 13:14-18

Israel 70 A.D. 1948, 1967, UN Res 2014/2016

Jesus said, Be His Witnesses Acts 1:6-8

All World Against 2016 A.D.

Arab World v. Israel 2016 and beyond

-- 2.

Paves Way for Antichrist ? Daniel 7-9; Rev 6,13

Paves Way for Armageddon, Ret. of Christ Rev 16

-- 3.

1000 yr Kingdom; Saints begin rule with Jesus

Paves Way for Eze 38 War Eze 38:8,15,16,23

Revelation 20:7-10 1000+ yrs future

New Heaven - Earth - Jerusalem Rev 21.

Israel & Saints rule with Jesus 1000+ yrs future

## What's Special about Israel?

The land variously called Israel and Palestine is extremely small (about 10,000 square miles) compared to its neighbors. Its original Jewish occupants were scattered to the nations some 2,500 years ago and since then it has been occupied by Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Turks and the British. Even in 1900 the population of Israel was only some 500,000; it was politically and industrially insignificant, with a mix of many peoples representing some 50 languages. **So why is Israel frequently in world focus today?**

It is prophesied that all nations will eventually abandon support for Israel; in fact, all nations will eventually be gathered against her in war. T

## The Whole World Against Israel

This international bias is best seen in UN Resolutions. As of 2012, the UN had passed 79 resolutions directly critical of Israel, and 40% of UN Human Rights Council Resolutions have been against Israel. This is surprising since Israel is the only true democracy left in the Middle East. [http://www.seekingtruth.co.uk/israel\\_borders.htm](http://www.seekingtruth.co.uk/israel_borders.htm)

The UN Security Council voted on a resolution declaring that settlements "have no legal validity" and are a "flagrant violation" of international law.

1. Reaffirms that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;
2. Reiterates its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East

Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard;

The pre-Christmas resolution condemned Israeli settlements as illegal, siding with the Palestinians and their claims that Israel is trespassing on their territory in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Israel did not seize anything from “Palestine” in 1967. The territory known as **Judea and Samaria** or the West Bank was won in a defensive war from **Jordan**, which was occupying the land at the time.

The resolution passed only after the U.S. abstained rather than veto the resolution, which would have prevented it from passing.

The resolution also keeps Jews from praying at the Western Wall, keeps Jews from a nearby university and a hospital, and means they can't live in the Jewish quarter, the professor further explained.

NATIONS VOTING FOR RESOLUTION - France, Spain, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, Japan, Egypt, New Zealand, the Ukraine, Senegal, Uruguay and Angola. United States abstained.

As a direct result of the anti-Israel resolution that passed with an unanimous 14–0 vote, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered Israel's foreign ministry to put a temporary restriction on all working relationships with the embassies of the 12 members of the U.N. Security Council who cast their vote in support of last week's resolution.

[return to table of contents](#)

# THE ROAD TO NEW JERUSALEM

podcast [<https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/the-road-to-new-jerusalem/>]

Jerusalem is the spiritual center of the earth. All the surrounding nations will unite against Israel. The UN Resolution is but one example

God will enter into judgment at the battle at Armageddon

Psalm 83:4; Joel 3:2

## When?

The Antichrist

## 70th Week: Daniel 7:24-27; 9:24-27; 12:7-13

\_period of time known as the tribulation.

\_a 7 year period *beginning with* the confirmation of a treaty by the man of lawlessness.

\_During this period many things will happen, but the primary thing to know is God will release His Judgments and His Holy Wrath upon the Earth and it's remaining occupants. Rev. 4-19.

\_2 periods of 3 1/2 years (Rev & Dan)

\_plus a final of 30 + 45 days (Dan 12:11,12) wind carry...

## When?

**The Battle at Armageddon, Return of Christ & Saints** Rev 19:11,17

**1000 yr Kingdom sandwiched by two wars** Rev 20:1-3

**THE GOG - MAGOG WAR AGAINST ISRAEL**  
Rev 20:7-10 (Eze 38,39)

Why is this important to me? Where will we be during these events?

Jesus said, signs will inform us, look to the sky for His return, live for that day - use our talents.

[return to table of contents](#)

## Notes & Research

### [Gog-Magog details]

Many modern Bible prophecy teachers declare that Israel will soon be invaded by Russia, Iran and surrounding Arab nations in the very near future. For the invasion, as well as the identities of these modern nations, they point to **Ezekiel 38**. (They point to the names of Rosh, Meshach and Tubal in verse 2 as associated with Russia, while they say that Persia, in verse 5, stands for Iran.) The nearness of the invasion is based on the current rise of Russia and Iran as enemy powers to Israel, as well as the assessment of the current times with descriptions in Ezekiel 38.

Putting aside the association of the names found in Ezekiel 38 with Russia and Iran, clearly, Ezekiel chapter 38 does portray an invasion of Israel by a conglomerate of nations. But the question is, when will this invasion occur? *Many, if not most, modern prophecy buffs believe that this invasion of Israel will occur prior to the initiation of the seven-year treaty (the end-times treaty) with Israel.* In fact, this understanding of the timing of this Ezekiel "war" has become so prevalent that it seems to be assumed in evangelical circles.

But is this timing correct? Let us look at the evidence.

Upon first glance at Ezekiel 38, the reader will notice the names "Gog and Magog." Interestingly, those names are used together in only three chapters of the Bible—Ezekiel 38, 39, and Revelation 20 (verses 7-10). pagebreak

Specifically, Gog and Magog appear in verses 7-10 of Revelation chapter 20, *a context which is set at the end of the millennial kingdom* (the thousand-year rule of Christ following His return to the earth). This usage of Gog and Magog by the apostle John (the author of Revelation) brings up this critical question:

Since, outside of Revelation 20:7-10, Gog and Magog are only used together in Ezekiel 38 and 39, why would John choose to mention them by name where he does? After all, John could certainly have given a description of this scene without the use of Gog and Magog. In fact, Gog and Magog seem to stand out as if they almost do not fit in this description.

Since Gog and Magog do not seem to add to the understanding of Revelation 20:7-10 on its own, there appears to be no other reason for their listing in the context of these verses except to connect this passage with a passage of their previous usage. In addition, there is no explanation of Gog and Magog

in Revelation 20, which indicates both a prior understanding of these terms by the readers of Revelation and the intent of the apostle to take the readers back to another context where they have previously appeared.

This means that by the rare usage of Gog and Magog in tandem in Revelation 20:7-10, the apostle John is signaling that he is referring back to Ezekiel 38. *Thus, Revelation 20:7-10 presents the same event as in Ezekiel 38*, though the two passages are from different perspectives.

In addition to the passages being connected by "Gog and Magog," there are a couple of other similarities which indicate that Ezekiel 38 portrays the same event as that in Revelation 20:7-10.

- ~ First, both picture a great multitude invading Israel.
- ~ Second, the result in each passage is the same; God destroys them by fire.
- ~ Thirdly, that the scene in Ezekiel 38 will occur at the end of the coming kingdom, the time at which the Revelation 20:7-10 scenario occurs, is the state of peace and total security Israel will be experiencing when the nation is invaded by the hordes.

This state of peace and security experienced by Israel at the time of her attack is emphasized by phrases such as, "a land of unwall[ed] villages"; "a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates"; and "Israel dwell[ing] safely."

These descriptives indicate a state in which Israel has no fear of enemies. *Certainly, Israel does not experience that now*, and the nation will not dwell in that kind of security even after the seven-year treaty goes into effect. The only time Israel will dwell in that kind of security will be in the coming (millennial) kingdom.

Thus, based on this alone, the "war" in Ezekiel 38 will not occur until sometime after Christ begins to rule on the earth. Based on the connection with Revelation 20:7-10, it will take place at the end of Jesus' thousand-year rule on the planet. But there are still at least two more pieces of evidence that Ezekiel 38 will be fulfilled within the coming kingdom.

One of those is the description in verses 12 and 13 that at the time of this attack, Israel will exist in a state of bountiful possession. As these verses indicate, the wealth of Israel will be such that it will tempt a vast multitude to risk coming into Israel (while Jesus is ruling from Jerusalem) to plunder the nation. This is the kind of prosperity Israel will enjoy during the kingdom age.

According to verses 16 and 23 of Ezekiel 38, the result of God's judgment upon Gog in Ezekiel 38 is that God will be known and magnified and hallowed in the eyes of the nations. According to verse 16, the result of this "battle" is "that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog," and in verse 23, God announces this result: '

"Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD." ' Certainly, God is not "known in the eyes of many nations" today, and will not be known in that global sense prior to the millennial kingdom; this will only be true when God's kingdom arrives on the planet.

This means that Ezekiel 38 will be fulfilled sometime in the coming kingdom; and, as the connection with Revelation 20:7-10 shows us, its fulfillment will occur at the very end of the millennial kingdom.

Therefore, Ezekiel 38 does not support a soon invasion of Israel by Russia, Iran, and surrounding nations. In fact, no invasion of Israel will occur until three and a half years into the seven-year treaty with Israel when the king of the North brings his armies into the Jewish capital; but that will be a very different invasion than that described by Ezekiel 38.

Thus, do not look for a Russian-Iranian-Arab invasion of Israel to occur soon. **It is far more likely that Arab states (at least some) will back an Israeli military attack on Iran to halt its race toward nuclear capability.**

This, in turn, could lead to a regime change, which will affect the entire region. While Russia would love to get its foot in the Middle East door, it will not be a part of the regional treaty with Israel, which will occur sometime after Israel's attack on Iran. **It will be this treaty which will start the clock ticking on the final seven years leading to the return of Christ.**

[return to table of contents](#)

# HEAVEN OUR HOME

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/heaven-our-home/> ]

## Heaven is home. Christians have always thought of going to heaven as going home.

On earth, we always orient towards going home.

*Taken from scripture, we find...*

- **Home is about comfort.**
- Where **friends** come to visit.
- **Only good** things will happen in our heaven home. Jesus said He goes to prepare our home for us.
- When we or a loved one dies, we go to a **better home**, a better party. When we step through the door everyone is so happy to see us! We go around greeting, hugging, kissing.
- **In the 1000 yr Kingdom** the only new entries are babies of natural bodies. In the New Earth there are no new people.
- As **heaven transitions** from present heaven to 1000 yr kingdom to new earth it just keeps getting better. We go from 1) spiritual existence that has physical elements, to 2) resurrected earth, to 3) new earth. *Like getting that brand new car or brand new home. Got that new car smell!*
- **The resurrected earth** period will be much like living in a huge garden that we traveled to with ease. Upon arrival we start nesting and setting up things. We have much daylight and unending energy. We wanna go outside and play. We wanna go talk to the neighbors or check in with others we've been longing to see but haven't yet.
- **We are unrushed** because our frame of reference of time has been **80 years not 1000!**
- **As we settle in and start planting** we watch as things blossom so easily and beautifully. We are relaxed because we know no-one is there to do us harm. Snakes and spiders will not concern us. *We can't wait to go fishing in that great river.*
- At the same time **we know God is preparing this heavenly city** to come out of heaven down to earth. Something to look forward to!
- **At the end of the 1000 years** all of the elements are burned up with fire and we find ourselves in an entirely new earth with a new heaven and a new Jerusalem. *Almost like looking in the distance at Oz, except that we'll be in the City.*

- **As it lands on earth like a huge spaceship** it's beauty is beyond anything we've known. The great river starts flowing out from the throne past the gates and walls out onto the new earth.
- **We walk along the streets** that are paved with gold. Which gate will we use? The walls are spectacular, kinda clear, made of jasper. The foundations are made of beautiful jewels in them.
- **As we encounter people** we know they only speak truth, kindness, love to us. They are real. No hidden agendas. No talking behind our backs. No conflicts with other people. No cliques.
- **We are feeling so safe, secure**, happy as we see God literally sitting on His throne and Jesus there next to Him. *We can talk to them directly. His name is actually on our foreheads!*
- **How long before we decide** we want to leave this extravagant city and go out through the incredible gates of one huge pearl and put our feet on the new earth?

[return to table of contents](#)

# PRESENT HEAVEN (stage 1) : Where Is Heaven?

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/the-present-heaven-stage-1/> ]

As Christians, **we look towards heaven** as the place we go when we die. But where is it? What's it like? And what will we be like? [funeral=crazy ideas]

To complicate matters, there are three time **stages of heaven**. The present heaven, the coming 1000 year kingdom on earth, and the future new heaven.

Jesus never said we go to heaven, rather that we go through Him to the Father, or that He gives us eternal life, or that wherever he is, there we will be.

## Outline of the Present Heaven

Where is it? A. It's in the third Heaven where God lives with Jesus at His right hand. The bible mentions **three heavens**. It means, the atmosphere around our earth, space, and the 3rd heaven where God resides.

- 2 Cor 12:2-4 Paul's testimony
- It is a spiritual realm with physical characteristics; like earth but not exactly Rev 1:19; 4:1; 5:1,8,11,13; 10:9,10
- God resides in the temple there Rev 11:19; 3:12; 7:15; 14:15-17; 15:5-8; 16:1,17; The ark of the covenant is/will be there Rev 11:19 Jesus always referred to His Father who is in heaven.
- The human body cannot exist there. Has to die before we go there.
- Our spirit goes there upon death Eccl. 12:7; Psalm 146:4; 104:29
- We are given some type of spirit body in the nature of angels, as demonstrated at the transfiguration Matt 17:2 and the Appearance Luke 24:39 and the Ascension Acts 1:9; but isn't detailed in Scripture and isn't permanent, facilitates us living in the spiritual realm before we return to the physical realm
- Unknown how far away this spiritual realm is
- In this present heaven we are fully conscious and there are physical elements we are familiar with as revealed in Luke 16:9 and many other places throughout the bible.
- God departs from the temple He is residing in, takes up new dwelling in new Jerusalem Rev 21:3

- Not permanent. This heaven will 'pass away' when the new heaven is created Zech 2:10-12; Isa 65:17; Rev 21:22

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO STUDY ABOUT HEAVEN?

- 1) Jesus said, signs will inform us, look to the sky for His return, live for that day - use our talents.
- 2) Answers the q. of 'what happens when we die'
- 3) Gives us hope in this life, helps understand eternal life
- 4) Exposes Truth rather than legend, cancels fear
- 5) Heaven Is our eternal home
- 6) Jesus is evidence of the permanency of the physical realm
- 7) Inspires and directs us how to live now esp. in relationships, work, and sleep
- 8) We don't fear hell enough because we don't ave a full picture of heaven
- 9) Inspires & directs us what to spend our time on now
- 10) We truly don't want heaven bad enough
- 11) Inspires us to share the gospel with loved ones

[return to table of contents](#)



# LIVING IN THE PRESENT HEAVEN

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/living-in-the-present-heaven/> ]

[INTRO] **Chapters 4-19:10 in Revelation expose the 'Present' Heaven** \* What John's vision in Revelation pictures is the wedding feast of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His bride (the Church) in its third phase... **the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place in heaven between the rapture and the second coming (during the tribulation on earth).**

[QUESTIONS]

**What of the souls under the altar?** Rev 6:9-11; Lev 4:7; refers to the blood of Christian martyrs as being "under the altar". The Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering—"under the altar" is explained by how sacrificial blood was used in the sanctuary:

- Is this symbolic or literal? likely shadow
- They were killed for Christ while on earth. Demonstrates direct continuity between our identity on earth carrying over to heaven.
- People in heaven will be remembered for their lives on earth
- They had physical characteristics e.g.were able to call out, wear a robe, obviously had their heads back, could wear a robe, had a mind and emotion
- Have an audience with God, know His promises, but not fully His mind's timing
- Concerned for God's justice, knew they were martyred
- They seem to know what is happening on earth, however from a heavenly perspective only

**Where did Jesus mean when He said to the thief he'd be with Him in paradise?**

*Prior to Ascension Lk 23:43;*

*After Ascension Eph 4:8-10; 2 Cor 12:4; Rev 2:7.*

~HELL revealed as place of departed human spirits bet death / resurrection—O.T. uses sheol as hades.

(1) **Hades before the ascension of Christ.** *hades was formerly in 2 divisions, the abodes respectively of the saved and of the lost. i.e."paradise" and "Abraham's bosom." and "Prison"*

(2) **Hades since the ascension of Christ.** *So far as the unsaved dead are concerned, no change of their place or condition is revealed in Scripture. At the judgment of the great white throne, hades will give them up, they will be judged, and will pass into the*

*lake of fire Revelation 20:13 Revelation 20:14 .*

*But a change has taken place which affects paradise. Paul was "caught up to the third heaven. . .into paradise" 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 . Paradise, therefore, is now in the immediate presence of God. It is believed that Ephesians 4:8-10 indicates the change.*

**Will we be judged when we die?** sheep/goats (Matt 25:32 at the end of the tribulation), lamb's book of life... and finally the great white throne.

**Will we have the same identity, be male/female?** For sure. God created each of us. He chose us as individuals and saved each of us with our identity and personality. We are the ones who go to heaven. It is us that have our deeds judged, receive rewards

**Will we have memories from our old earth life?** pain of them will be remembered... won't be our constant focus... much to be gained in hearing of things from the past of some... we'll remember how people impacted our life. When Jesus is judging our deeds it would seem we'll remember them. Although this is later. I think for most people good memories tend to last.

**Will we experience time?** gen 8:22 ? in the coming kingdom and the new earth, yes. in the present heaven, it's a little more vague. I'd say no in that our spirit goes to be with God in the 3rd heaven and knowing He is 'outside' of time. I'd say we travel out of the reach of time and then return back into it. None of this puts any limits on our eternal life. What we're saying is the 3rd heaven where God presently dwells is outside of the physical realm of time. Time is a physical property not a spiritual property.

**How Old Will We Be? unknown for sure** in the present heaven...what age were Adam and Eve? we don't know. But they could work and could procreate...created as adult (Jesus born as a baby) Our question is usually framed with the wonder of whether we will suffer the shortcomings of age. e.g. children can't do adult things...they are still growing and maturing. The elderly can't make their bodies and minds do what they used to. But both of these examples forget that in present heaven we won't be bound by the shortcomings of the earthly body. I believe we'll be able to do all things without limitations and will know each other by some other method than recognizing us as we were last seen on earth. remember moises and elijah at the

transfiguration. Matt 17:2 The millennial kingdom age and the new earth age are a different answer to this question. Given that our body won't be solely physical we won't likely have the appearance of age similar to angels.

*Is this following scripture alluding to hell being outside the walls of new jerusalem and on the new earth somewhere?*

*Isa 66:22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth*

*Which I make will endure before Me," declares the Lord,*

*"So your offspring and your name will endure.*

*"And it shall be from new moon to new moon*

*And from sabbath to sabbath,*

*All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the Lord.*

*"Then they will go forth and look*

*On the corpses of the men*

*Who have transgressed against Me.*

*For their worm will not die*

*And their fire will not be quenched;*

*And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."*

### **Outline of the Millennium Kingdom Where is this kingdom? Is it spiritual or physical?**

A. it is on earth with Jesus reigning from Jerusalem. No Satan, he's bound.

- Who gets into the MK? the saints that return with Jesus, Jews that God protected, born-again Gentiles that lived through the Tribulation, Saints that lived through the Tribulation, i.e. those that didn't take the Mark of the Beast. The Sheep and Goats judgment sorts this out.
- Jerusalem will be the center-point and focus of power and influence. There will be a temple. It is where Jesus first stands Zech 14:1-8
- Jesus will reign from that city, nations will come to it to worship Isa 9:6,7; 16:5 And if not...
- Weapons will be destroyed, war will cease, military preparation will end. God will put an end to death and tears. Isa 11:1-13; 25:6-9; 33:2-24
- God's people will have spiritual understanding and know Jesus. Isa 32:1-4; 52:6-10
- The sun and moon will still be, and be brighter? Isa 30:26
- Believers reign and judge with Jesus
- Both spiritual bodies and natural bodies will exist

- Natural bodies will have children. How then do these get their spiritual bodies?
- At the end of the 1000 yrs the unsaved will unite with Satan against Jesus.

### **Outline of New Earth and New Jerusalem**

Where are these? A. Where they've been all along

- After the 1000 years God creates a new heaven, and new earth, and a new Jerusalem Is 65:17; Rev 21:9
- New Jerusalem will be the center-point and focus of power and influence. No temple.
- Jesus will reign from that city
- The city will have gates that remain open and people go in and go out.
- There will no longer be a sun and moon. God will be the light. At least in New Jerusalem
- The new city will have a river coming from it. There will be no sea.
- Only the saved can enter the city. (why is this mentioned? how can there be anyone who isn't saved left? esp. if there are no new people born)
- Somewhere outside the city is hell and for the unsaved.

[return to table of contents](#)

# SETTING UP THE JESUS' THONE ON EARTH

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/setting-up-the-jesus-throne-on-earth/> ]

The kingdom of heaven/kingdom of God **began with** Jesus' first advent. We exist in it's kingdom territory in the physical or in the 'present' heaven until Jesus' return wherein He sets up His throne on earth for 1000 years—which we'll also exist in.

**KING'DOM**, *noun* The territory or inhabitants subject to a king. The reign, Government; rule; supreme administration of the Messiah. Mat 3.

This helps us to understand Jesus' parables about the kingdom of heaven in **Matthew 13**.

**HEAVEN**, *noun* is the place where God is seated and rules from. It never moves or relocates. It never comes down to earth. It will be made new just like the earth and Jerusalem.

The fulness of Christ is the kingdom in substance. The kingdom of heaven is near, at hand.... Jesus came, introduced it, established it, described it. \*

## RELOCATION OF JESUS - SETTING UP THRONE PREPARING TO REIGN ON EARTH

The end of the tribulation is marked by the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the return of Jesus with the saints and angels. The Lord draws nations to the Jehoshaphat valley against Christ.

**Scriptures** (using Super Bowl metaphor)

Playoffs Are Over: **Matt 24:29-31**;

Picking Teams! **Matt 25:31-46**;

Crowds Will Assemble - **Mic 4:1-5**;

Super Bowl City Chosen - **Zechariah 14:1-8; 9-21**;

Umpire Declares Rules - **Joel 3**

Who Are The Winners

## SEPARATION OF SHEEP AND GOATS

Matthew 25:31-46, Eze 34:17. Jesus separates the nations (Gentile people groups) by how they treated His brethren, particularly the Jews.

Both saved (those who didn't take the mark) and unsaved people survive through the tribulation including Jews. Jews were protected in Petra.

Sheep=saved gentiles who survive in the natural body, Goats=unsaved gentiles (those who took the

mark), Brothers=Jews (saved and unsaved?) who survive in the natural body.

The wicked tares will have been plucked up off the planet as the first order of business as Messiah returns. The the end-time harvest of the tares and the wheat is described by Jesus in **Matthew 13** and He states quite unequivocally that the wicked will be plucked off first.

This separation is marked with the destiny to be adjudicated at the Great White Throne Judgment in Rev 20. However the unsaved are sent to the present hell. (what about the reaping Rev 14)

Zech 14:9-21 - It is important to note that unbelievers and nations will be present in the kingdom. Not everyone is, or becomes a follower of Jesus. People are born and the unsaved die during this time.

**The Sheep-Goat Judgment is showcased here on earth.** This is **not the Final Judgment** of immortal souls before the throne of God. Nor **Judgment Seat of Christ.** The people in question here are those remaining on the earth in their mortal bodies at the end of this age.

## Eternal City Chosen

WHERE - The place He returns to is the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (Acts 1:11; Zechariah 14:4) runs between the Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The valley of Jehoshaphat\*\* (the Lord has judged)... believed to be the same as the Kidron valley. Jesus is going to sit here someday. Joel 3:1-17!

- Beating plowshares INTO swords Joe 3:10

Jerusalem will be the center-point and focus of power and influence. There will be a temple. It is where Jesus first stands Zech 14:1-8

## Umpire Declares the Rules

- Jesus will reign from that city, nations will come to it to worship. And if not... Zech 14:9-21

## WHO WILL HE BE REIGNING OVER?

- Both spiritual bodies and natural bodies will co-exist; the redeemed, the sheep, the jews, angels.
- Natural bodies will have children Isa 65:20. (How then do these get their spiritual bodies?) Resurrection bodies won't (no marriage in heaven)
- Believers reign and judge with Jesus

# DAY1, DAY 2 of the MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/day-1-day-2-of-the-millennial-kingdom/> ]

The Scene: we've just been transferred from the present heaven to the earth. We've rode with Jesus and watched as He dispatched those arrayed in battle against Him. We've see the separation of the goats and the sheep. The Tribulation is over. Satan has been bound and put in the abyss.

The Tribulation period saw God execute His 7 seal judgments and pour out the 7 bowls of wrath.

**Daily Living** as we've known it back prior to the Tribulation will be quite different during the Millennial Kingdom.

During that glorious reign, we will see the earth flooded with peace, righteousness and justice, as the waters cover the seas ([Isaiah 11:1-9](#)).

## Conditions During the MK

**The period starts with a reunion** of the natural bodies and resurrection bodies on earth.

The Millennium will be a time for Jesus and glorified believers to **rule and reign over mortal beings** on the earth "with an iron scepter" (Revelation 2:27, 12:5, 19:15),

**Children born** to the natural bodies will die at 100 if they don't accept Jesus as Lord. [Isa 65:20](#)

**Natural bodies will not die.** They will live throughout the 1000 years. Their children if not saved will die. Therefore, health will be great, maybe no doctors needed! No need to medicate. No desire to drink or smoke anything that changes our chemistry from God's design. No recovery groups. No psychiatrists. No cancer. No need for CBD oils.

**Rebellion in heaven** is from the children born, even in the physical presence of Jesus. This phenomenon is not unprecedented. Did Satan and the angels not rebel in heaven? Did not Adam and Eve choose rebellion over fellowship of their Maker who walked with them? Did not Judas rebel against Jesus even after having been with Him for 3 years?

**Children born** to natural bodies will die at age 100 if they have not become born-again. [Isa 65:18-25](#)

**The ability to sin** will still be within mortal people during this time. We know this because it will not be until the very end of the Millennium that death is thrown into the [lake of fire](#) (20:14), and death is the

wage of sin (Romans 6:23). Jesus will reign, for a thousand years, until all of His enemies have been placed under His feet, with the last enemy being death (1 Corinthians 15:25,26).

**Another purpose of the Millennium** is to prove to mankind that, even without the temptation of Satan and demons, mortal man is fallen and sinful within himself, and unredeemable, apart from God.

**WEATHER HAS CHANGED**: There won't be any devastating and destructive weather - tornados hurricanes sand storms freezing temps that cause death to plants people animals. All redeemed.

**The sun and moon will still be, and be brighter** [Isa 30:26](#) (MK); [60:19](#) (NJ). But there will be no darkness now. Because the moon is too bright. I imagine this will give us a lot of time to live.

## Resurrection Realized

- The 1st Resurrection begins at the Rapture concluding when Jesus physically returns to earth.
- The 2nd Resurrection and Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the 1000 year Kingdom Age or Millennial Reign

**The changed conditions are due to the First Resurrection that has happened.** Believers were resurrected and given that new body. All of Creation has been resurrected as well. [John 5:28,29](#); [11:25,26](#);

[Isa 26:19](#). In antithesis to [Isa 26:14](#), "They (Israel's foes) shall not live"; "Thy (Jehovah's) dead men (the Jews) shall live," that is, primarily, be restored, spiritually ([Isa 54:1-3](#)), civilly and nationally ([Isa 26:15](#)); whereas Thy foes shall not; ultimately, and in the fullest scope of the prophecy, restored to life literally ([Eze 37:1-14](#); [Da 12:2](#)).

**Conditions are set for 1000 years of devil-free,** Christ-present living with no more war and destructive weather. Conditions where plants can grow into lush gardens. Geology has changed a little bit (earthquake, Zion now chief of mountains) At the end of the thousand years there will be a Second Resurrection.

**Rom 8:18-23 - For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**

**The ground has been resurrected now. The curse on the ground is lifted.**

**no more curse**--of which the earnest shall be given in the millennium (Zec 14:11). God can only dwell where the curse and its cause, the cursed thing sin (Jos 7:12), are removed. So there follows rightly, "But the throne of God and of the Lamb (who redeemed us from the curse, Ga 3:10, 13) shall be in it." Compare in the millennium, Eze 48:35.

Although it won't be the new heavens and earth that will come later, God through the Lord Jesus Christ will remove most of the curse from this Earth and its components and living things and perhaps in the heavens in the 1st resurrection.

This will result in better conditions for long healthy life in the Messianic Age as was the case before the flood of Noah when people often lived almost 1000 years.

CONSIDER YOUR DAILY LIFE - HOW MUCH OF IT SUFFERS FROM THE CURSE? WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THAT?

.the devil and demons who cause so much violence, fear and destruction and sickness in this world since the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden will be bound and have no effect on people or things on Earth for the entire 1000 years of the Messianic Age.

**Our bodies will be restored, redeemed, made new, not thrown away. The same with creation.**

This is GREAT news and flies totally in the face of the global warming religion. Man will not destroy the earth, God will. And God will make a new one. **If you can't believe He made the first one, you can't believe He'll make the second one.** Genesis 1-2; Revelation 21-22. Amen.

### What Will We Be Doing?

**Will we be bored?** Part of the answer begins with reflecting on WHO will be there. Knowing this, what desires and interests will that raise? [see also 'what will we do in the millennial kingdom]

**Boredom is a sin thought. We typically relate fun with sin.** You know... getting drunk or high, having immoral sex, breaking the law, etc. Think through things you like to do that don't involve sin... [can you?!! ha ha] and the fun you have doing that. Add in the likelihood that we won't be bound by mortal bodies and gravity. What fun can we have being unbound? We know what the first and second heaven looks like, won't the third heaven be AT LEAST as spectacular?

Consider that nobody who encountered the pre-incarnate Christ, the incarnate Christ, angels, or creatures from heaven or were shown into heaven or were told to write down what they saw—ever described things as boring. No way. Inexpressible. Unimaginable. Powerful. Nobody is described as trying to get out of heaven. Out of hell yes but not out of heaven!

**We will be fellowshiping and visiting and testifying and listening.** Think of all of the questions we could ask our bible heroes. What of the questions and stories we could ask of people we've known? What about connecting up with your relatives? And even your ancestors that you have not met yet. And likely every minute someone new will be saved or suddenly enter heaven. New people, new stories, new experiences. Loners will not be in heaven. Being in Christ is a draw to fellowship.

King David will be resurrected during the Millennium and installed as prince over Israel, ruling the Kingdom with Jesus Christ. Ez 34:24; 37:24

David will be resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium, along with all the other Old Testament saints. And David will be one of those who reign with Jesus in the Kingdom (Daniel 7:27). However, all believers will rule the nations (Revelation 2:26–27; 20:4) and judge the world (1 Corinthians 6:2). The apostle Peter calls Christians "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9). In Revelation 3:21, Jesus says about the believer who conquers, "I will grant him to sit with me on my throne." In some sense, then, Christians will share authority with Christ (cf. Ephesians 2:6). There is some biblical evidence, as in the Parable of the Ten Minas (Luke 19:11–27), that individuals will be given more or less authority in the Kingdom according to how they handle the responsibilities God has given them in this age (Luke 19:17).

Secondly, the answer varies somewhat depending on whether we are talking about a natural body or resurrection body.

**There will be work to do**, to rebuild, to plant and harvest, desolate land will become like garden of Eden. Isa 65:21; Ez 36:28

**Raw materials** will need to be collected and fashioned into finished materials ready for use.

Man's God-given **creativity will have time to flourish** in this safe haven from war. Art and Music will likely be something we'd spend time on.

Man's God-given **desire to worship Him will flourish**. People will stream to Mt. Zion, to the Millennial Temple Zech 14:18? I bet Church won't last 1 hour! Thought: what about nations that are halfway around the globe... will they go? After all, the cost and time it takes might prevent them. Ha! Think about the ways Jesus traveled in His resurrection body! Maybe it won't take so long.

**Traveling from place to place.** Think of all of the beautiful places we might travel to. Remember, all of the damage done during the trumpet judgments and the bowls of wrath will have been redeemed. Not every place on the earth will remain lush and paradise like... those nations that refuse to come up to worship at Mt. Zion will suffer a drought. This clues us in that there will still be rain in some form.

**What Leisure Activities do you love?** If they are sin based, you'll have unlimited amount of time to do them.

[Rule of Thumb: At times it is hard to know whether scripture is talking about the future millennial kingdom or the new earth/new jerusalem. Distinguish the time period by looking for clues within the prophecy that state other characteristics of the future it is talking about. Then, knowing some of the characteristics of the future, one can discern what part of the future it is talking about. e.g. in Ez 47 it talks about a river coming from the throne flowing east and west to the sea. We know that in the new earth there is no longer any sea so we determine this speaks of an event in the millennial kingdom. e.g.2 when the battle in Ez 38 talks about the living conditions for the Jews it paints a picture of the millennial kingdom not the pre-tribulation or especially at the end of the tribulation right before Jesus returns.]

Maybe **mission trips** to nations that aren't coming up to Mt. Zion to worship. Zech 14:17

The **children** of the natural bodies will need to be **schooled and evangelized**.

**Equipped:** God's people will have spiritual understanding and know Jesus. ??Isa 32:1-4; 52:6-10

[return to table of contents](#)

# JEWISH LIFE TO BE THE CENTER

## PROPHECIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE JEWS?

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/jewish-life-to-be-the-center/> ]

Israel is the unfaithful wife of the Lord (church is the Lamb's wife, the harlot is Babylon) in historic times, who is to be restored in the millennium. Is 54:1-10; Hos 2:1-17

Isa 26:19. In antithesis to Isa 26:14, "They (Israel's foes) shall not live"; "Thy (Jehovah's) dead men (the Jews) shall live," that is, primarily, be restored, spiritually (Isa 54:1-3), civilly and nationally (Isa 26:15); whereas Thy foes shall not; ultimately, and in the fullest scope of the prophecy, restored to life literally (Eze 37:1-14; Da 12:2).

*start out with current attitude toward the Jews...*

*A Cup of Reeling Zech 12:2-4  
1/10 of 1% of the world population  
5 million, 8000 sq mi*

*then,*

*A great calamity will come upon the land and two-thirds of Israel's people will be killed. The other third will be purified. The result of this national calamity will be that the purified will call upon the name of God, and they will be heard by Him. He will accept them and they will accept Jesus as their Messiah. This is why Jesus warned Israel to flee to the wilderness for protection during this time.*

Zech 13:7-9- 2/3 of Jews killed during Trib.

This is why the Jews are told to 'run for the hills' by Jesus both in Luke 21:20-24 and Revelation 12:6,13-17

Hosea - a metaphor of God's relationship with the Jews by using an unfaithful wife (Gomer) and a godly man (Hosea).

1 At the end of the Tribulation, when the Jews have come to the end of themselves, they will turn to God and receive Yeshua as their Messiah ([Zechariah 12:10](#), [Romans 9:27-28](#), & [Romans 11:25-27](#)).

2 Jesus will return and regather all believing Jews to Israel ([Deuteronomy 30:1-9](#)).

**TOPOGRAPHY CHANGES..** see prophecy book *afterwards,*

3 Israel will be established as the prime nation in the world ([Isaiah 2:1-4](#) & [Micah 4:1-7](#)).

4 The Lord will bless the Jewish remnant by fulfilling all the promises He has made to Israel ([Isaiah 60:1-62:7](#)) !!

5 The blessings of God will flow out to all the nations through the Jewish people during the Millennial rule of Jesus ([Zechariah 8:22-23](#)).

- **Feast of tabernacles will be re-instituted in Mill Kingdom** Zech 14:18 (see Feasts in Rose Pub). Originally it celebrated being delivered from slavery, across the Red Sea. Will then be celebrating how Jesus delivered us through the world. We'll then reign with Jesus over the nations who are invited to come and worship. According to Zech 14:17, if they don't come up, they will not have any rain.
- **They will build houses and inhabit them;** They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. Isa 65:21

### BIG PICTURE

#### **Eze 36:1-38. ISRAEL AVENGED OF HER FOES, AND RESTORED, FIRST TO INWARD HOLINESS, THEN TO OUTWARD PROSPERITY.**

Bringing the people out,  
Bringing them in,  
their conversion,  
their being filled with the Spirit

**God sets one shepherd over the Jews**, Ez 34:23; eliminates harmful beasts so they can sleep in the woods; no longer a prey to other nations; establishes a renown planting place; increases population significantly.

**God says the Jews will live in the land He gave to their forefathers** and they will be His people and He will be their God Ez 36:28. He will put His spirit in them. Cities and waste places rebuilt. Desolate land will become like garden of Eden.

**Restoration of Israel** - Amos 9:11-15; ISA 60:11-16

### **The Millennial Temple and it's Worship**

Ez 40-47

- **Feast of tabernacles will be re-instituted in Mill Kingdom** Zech 14:18 (see Feasts in Rose Pub). Originally it celebrated being delivered from slavery, across the Red Sea. Will then be celebrating how Jesus delivered us through the

world. We'll then reign with Jesus over the nations who are invited to come and worship. According to Zech 14:17, if they don't come up, they will not have any rain.

Doubtless these offerings will be memorial, looking back to the cross, as the offerings under the old covenant were anticipatory, looking forward to the cross. In neither case have animal sacrifices power to put away sin.

[Hebrews 10:4](#); [Romans 3:25](#).

**The whole sacrificial system is not aaronic, pertinent parts are left out....** e.g. no Ark of the Covenant, Table of the Law, Cherubim, Mercy Seat, Veil, Golden Candlestick, or Table of Showbread

### **Outline of Chapters 40-47**

The Millennial Temple and its Worship

Vision of the man with the measuring rod

Vision of the millennial temple

Chambers of the singers and priests

The most holy place, side chambers, rear buildings, interior

The priests chambers and final measurement of the temple

Vision of the glory of the Lord filling

The place of the throne in the coming Kingdom

Measure of the altar of sacrifice

The offerings

Gate for the prince to eat bread before the Lord

The glory fills the house

The priests of the future temple

The Lord's portion of the land

Portion of the prince

The prince to worship first; then he is to lead the people in worship

Place for boiling and baking

What's fascinating is that when John describes the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21-22, *he constantly uses imagery from Ezekiel 40-48*. For instance:

Ezekiel is transported to a high mountain in a vision (Ezek 40:2) and so is John in Revelation (Rev 21:10).

Ezekiel has an angelic guide with a measuring rod (Ezek 40:3) and so does John (Rev 21:15-17).

Ezekiel sees a river of life (Ezek 47:1-12) and so does John (Rev 22:1-2).

Ezekiel's temple is a perfect square and John's city is a perfect cube (Rev 21:16).

Ezekiel emphasizes purity and holiness (Ezek 40-42) and John does as well (Rev 21:27)

Ezekiel emphasizes God's glory dwelling in the temple (43:1-9) as does John (Rev 21:3-4).

[return to table of contents](#)



# ENTER NEW JERUSALEM: Millennial Kingdom Ends.

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/enter-new-jerusalem/> ]

**At the end of the Millennium**, we will be removed from this earth to the New Jerusalem the Lord has been preparing for us, and from that vantage point, we will witness the greatest fireworks display in history as God envelops this earth in fire, burning away the pollution of Satan's last revolt ([2 Peter 3:10-13](#)). Out of that fiery inferno will come new heavens and a new earth where we will live forever in the New Jerusalem in the presence of Almighty God and His Son ([Revelation 21:1-7](#)).

This is GREAT news and flies totally in the face of the global warming religion. Man will not destroy the earth, God will. And God will make a new one. **If you can't believe He made the first one, you can't believe He'll make the second one.** Genesis 1-2; Revelation 21-22. Amen.

## I. The Gog - Magog War Against Israel Eze 38,39\* Rev 20:7-10

Many modern Bible prophecy teachers declare that Israel will soon be invaded by Russia, Iran and surrounding Arab nations in the very near future

## II. 2nd Resurrection and Great White Throne Judgment 2 Peter 3:7; Rev 20:11-15

## III. Present Earth, Heavens Destroyed by Fire

Matthew 24:35; 2 Peter 3:7-13; Rev 21:1

Notice, the following:

- The present heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire on the same day as the final destruction of ungodly men occurs—all taking place on the day of the great white throne judgment (2 Peter 3:7; Revelation 20:11-15).
- The destruction will occur to *both* the heavens and the earth (2 Peter 3:10,12).
- The NIV indicates that the heavens will "disappear with a roar," and the KJV says that the heavens will "pass away with a great noise" (2 Peter 3:10).
- The NIV says that the "day [of the Lord] will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire" (2 Peter 3:12). The implication is that destruction will happen *after* the day of the Lord has transpired.
- *After* the first heaven and earth have passed away, there will be "a new heaven and a new

earth, the home of righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1). Even Jesus affirmed, quite clearly, that the present heaven and earth will pass away (Matthew 24:35).

Look how that passage, from Second Peter, is a *direct parallel* of the following passage, found in Revelation, after the millennial period is *over*:

*Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ... Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ... Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. ... He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 20:11,14, 21:1,5)*

## Heaven is home. Christians have always thought of going to heaven as going home.

On earth, we always orient towards going home.

*Taken from scripture, we find...*

- **Home is about comfort.**
- Where **friends** come to visit.
- **Only good** things will happen in our heaven home. Jesus said He goes to prepare our home for us.
- When we or a loved one dies, we go to a **better home**, a better party. When we step through the door everyone is so happy to see us! We go around greeting, hugging, kissing.
- **In the 1000 yr Kingdom** the only new entries are babies of natural bodies. In the New Earth there are no new people.
- As **heaven transitions** from present heaven to 1000 yr kingdom to new earth it just keeps getting better. We go from 1) spiritual existence that has physical elements, to 2) resurrected earth, to 3) new earth. *Like getting that brand new car or brand new home. Got that new car smell!*
- **The resurrected earth** period will be much like living in a huge garden that we traveled to with ease. Upon arrival we start nesting and setting up things. We have much daylight and unending energy. We wanna go outside and play. We wanna go talk to the neighbors or check in with others we've been longing to see but haven't yet.
- **We are unrushed** because our frame of reference of time has been **80 years not 1000!**

- **As we settle in and start planting** we watch as things blossom so easily and beautifully. We are relaxed because we know no-one is there to do us harm. Snakes and spiders will not concern us. *We can't wait to go fishing in that great river.*
- At the same time **we know God is preparing this heavenly city** to come out of heaven down to earth. Something to look forward to!
- **At the end of the 1000 years** all of the elements are burned up with fire and we find ourselves in an entirely new earth with a new heaven and a new Jerusalem. *Almost like looking in the distance at Oz, except that we'll be in the City.*
- **As it lands on earth like a huge spaceship** it's beauty is beyond anything we've known. The great river starts flowing out from the throne past the gates and walls out onto the new earth.
- **We walk along the streets** that are paved with gold. Which gate will we use? The walls are spectacular, kinda clear, made of jasper. The foundations are made of beautiful jewels in them.
- **As we encounter people** we know they only speak truth, kindness, love to us. They are real. No hidden agendas. No talking behind our backs. No conflicts with other people. No cliques.
- **We are feeling so safe, secure,** happy as we see God literally sitting on His throne and Jesus there next to Him. *We can talk to them directly. His name is actually on our foreheads!*
- **How long before we decide** we want to leave this extravagant city and go out through the incredible gates of one huge pearl and put our feet on the new earth?

[return to table of contents](#)

# THE DAY OF THE LORD

podcast 1 [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/the-day-of-the-lord-1488805254/> ]

## Day of the Lord 1

### Overview (major milestones)

Rapture (catching away, harpazo)  
Antichrist  
The Scroll is Opened  
7 Seal Judgments  
7 Trumpet Judgments  
7 Bowls of Wrath  
The Return of Jesus

Letters to the Churches: Rev 1-3  
Prior to Breaking of Seals: Rev 4  
Interludes: Rev 7; 10-14; 16:13-16

### Note

The 'day' of the Lord is a series of events not a 24 hour day  
The Rapture is BEFORE the Tribulation Period  
The Tribulation is 7 years followed by 1000 year kingdom (prophesied in the OT) aka 70th Week  
The Tribulation is broken into two 3 1/2 year periods  
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse can't race forward until Jesus permits it  
Jesus returns to keep the world from destroying itself through war  
The gospel goes worldwide, multitudes are saved, and the false religion is destroyed.  
Jesus wins and the earth will be restored for the 1000 years.

## Day of the Lord Summary

**Is a period of time when the Lord openly intervenes in the affairs of men—in judgment and blessing.**

Joel 1:15 - *"Alas for the day ! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty."* \*note that it is destruction and will be against the world, satan, wicked not believers. See also 1 Thess 5:1-24; Isa 13:9-16

It has been prophesied extensively. *See also by pastor mark - Minor Prophets and the Tribulation followed by Millennial Kingdom.pages and Day of the Lord beginning.pages*

BIG PICTURE: In short, it begins with the harpazo/ translation of the church and terminates with the cleansing of the heavens and the earth before

bringing into being the new heavens and the new earth.

1. Rapture/Harpazo 1 Thess 4:13-17
2. Fulfillment of Daniel's 70th week Dan 9:27
3. The return of the Lord in glory to establish kingdom on earth Mt 24:29,30
4. destruction of the beast, the false prophet and their armies Rev 19:11-21
5. judgment of individual gentiles according to their treatment of Christ's brethren, the Jewish people (Zech 14:1-9; Mt 25:31-46) and the judgment of Israel (Eze 20:34-38).
6. the millennial reign of Christ on earth Rev 20:4-6
7. the satanic revolt and its judgment Rev 20:7-10
8. resurrection and final judgment of the wicked (not believers) Rev 20:11-15
9. destruction of the present earth and heaven by fire preparatory for the future day of God (2 Peter 3:10-12)
10. creation of the new heavens/earth Is 65:17-19; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1

## The Rapture

**1 Cor 15:51-53;** (1 Thess 4:14-17) **Rapture** (catching away, harpazo, translation of the church) (our rapture not specifically part of Revelation) The word "rapture" is not used in the Bible. The Bible uses "caught up" or "gathered" "harpazzo" (Ezek 8:3; Acts 8:39; 2 Cor 12:2; 1 Thess 4:17; Rev 12:5). The word primarily refers to the event wherein those who have died "in-Christ" will be resurrected and return with Jesus to meet those "in-Christ" who remain alive on Earth. This reunion will take place in the air. (*Rapture is not the Return, are 2 distinct events.*)

If you don't believe this happens before the 7 year tribulation, keep your mind open while we continue to study. *See also rev 4-5 pre-trib 10 reasons for pre-trib.pages*

## Timing of Rapture Events overview

Jesus comes once for believers perfecting their salvation and not punishing them for sin (Hebrews 9:27-28), second time to wage war against all unrighteousness even having the blood of the evil who are slain on His robe, accompanied by armies ready to strike down nations and treading the wine press of the fierce wrath of God (Rev 19:11-16) just after God's 7 bowls of wrath are meted out (Rev 16) .

**PREMISE: Pre-rapture/tribulation Believers do not go through the wrath of God** (1 Thess 5:9; Rev 3:10; )

Length and time of Tribulation known as 70th week (Daniel 9:24,27) begins with the Man of Lawlessness confirming the covenant. The gathering or translation of the church or rapture has already happened by the period of the great tribulation as evidenced by Rev 7:14. The great tribulation is the final 1260 days or midway of the tribulation and is marked by the abomination of desolation in the temple (Dan 9:27, Mt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:4) further supported by the requirement of all earth dwellers to receive the mark of the beast or be beheaded (not a test of faith that God would put believers through who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit prior to this moment) (Rev 13:16,17). This midway is also marked by the rapture of the two witnesses (Rev 11:3,12). This midway point is between the 6th and 7th trumpet (Rev 9:13-21) and (Rev 11:15-19).

## Views of End Times

1. **Amillennialists** believe that God's promises regarding the end times are figurative and will not be literally fulfilled, particularly the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.

Amillennialism is the teaching that there is no literal 1000-year reign of **Christ** as referenced in Revelation 20. It sees the 1000-year period spoken of in Revelation 20 as figurative. Instead, it teaches that we are in the millennium now, and that at the return of Christ (1 **Thess. 4:16-5:2**) there will be the final judgment; and the heavens and the earth will then be destroyed and remade (2 **Pet. 3:10**). The Amillennial view is as old as the Premillennial view which says there is a future 1000-years reign of Christ.

2. **Postmillennialism** which states that in the future the world will be converted, and we will usher in the kingdom of **God**.

3. **Pre-millennialists** believe that Jesus Christ will return to the earth prior to His literal reign on the earth for 1000 years.

Three groups of pre-millennialists include the following:

1. **Post-tribulationists** believe that the rapture will not occur until the end of the seven year tribulation, just prior to the beginning of the millennial kingdom.

2. **Mid-tribulationists** believe that the rapture will occur three and one half years into the tribulation, at beginning of the three and one half year great tribulation.

3. **Pre-tribulationists** believe that the rapture will occur prior to the seven year tribulation, but not necessarily immediately before the tribulation.

THIS IS THE END TIME VIEW THAT AMAZING GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH TEACHES.

## Antichrist: Man of Lawlessness is Revealed

*How do we know who he is and when he has arrived and the tribulation started?*

Apostasy must come first. Rapture must happen (1 Thess 4). If you don't believe the rapture is prior to the tribulation and the antichrist you will see/ experience him: The antichrist will be a world leader that announces he is greater than anyone, everything. He will be seeking worship. He will not have power until the HS is taken out of the way. He will speak against God and persecute His people. He will be anti-Christian and anti-Semitic. He shall intend to change times and law (all the laws based upon the bible's teachings).

**The scroll must be opened in heaven** and the first seal judgment would confirm that the man of lawlessness has already been revealed. The first seal judgement is sending the antichrist to the earth.

**There should be a temple for the Jews.** This future temple is believed will be sited where the Dome of the Rock held by the Muslims is, or where the present Dome of the Tablets is. This is a gazebo just a couple hundred feet away from the mosque. The antichrist sees to it that the Jews are allowed to have this temple and reinstitute the temple sacrifice on this spot.

Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem

The Mosque of Omar is located in Jerusalem's Christian Quarter, directly adjacent to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It was built in the 12th century by Muslim Caliph Umar ibn Al Khattab, who was offered to pray at the Holy Sepulchre Church but instead decided to construct his own mosque, avoiding religious confrontation between Christians and Muslims. The mosque's spire, built in the 19th

century, is slightly taller than that of the nearby Holy Sepulchre Church.

### **Man of Lawlessness 2 Thess 2**

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

At present [speculation] it seems we'll know the identity by, his rise to world power in the EU **Dan 9:26**, will rise to power after the world is split into ten regions **Dan 7:7,8,24**, after rising to power in Europe he'll take over the UN **Dan 2:40-43**, he'll sign a covenant with many, promising to protect Israel for 7 years **Dan 9:27**. It seems that it is only likely to happen within the UN, possibly the EU. Where else can the antichrist convene many nations to sign an agreement relating to Israel?

Things are shaping up for the fulfillment of of the arrival of the antichrist. The UN is being transformed into a world government, they recently passed a resolution to divide up Israel's land and give it away to her enemies, the Roman Empire is being revived in the form of the EU, the western nation Great Britain has left the EU (Britain is the only 'western' culture in the EU), Israel is back in their land, the quest for a peace treaty in the middle east is going

strong, and preparations for rebuilding the temple are well under way.

### **Prince who is to come - Dan 9:26,27**

*Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*

[return to table of contents](#)

## Day of the Lord 2

# WHEN WILL YOU RETURN?

## What Will Be The Sign of Your Coming and When Will The End of the Age happen?

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/when-will-you-return/> ]

Read through Matthew 24 (maybe compare with Mk 13 if needed) {see Missler for Mk 13:5+ & Courson commentary for Mt 24:9-16} Matt 24:1-14 spoken to the nations; 15-36 to Israel; 37-42 to the church

Apostles asked Jesus this while walking near the temple. Jesus said to look for this - *“But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, - before His Return. Note that the Return is not the same as the Coming (Rapture) or the End.* The Coming is to get the Saints. The Return He brings the Saints with Him. The End is end of the tribulation right before He returns. The Coming happens like a thief in the night. No warning. Kicks off the Day of the Lord.

## Don't Look For Signs & Wonders in the Sky for the Rapture

In fact, the Antichrist and the Beast will deceive and dazzle people with signs and wonders, not Jesus. (We have a problem with people chasing signs & wonders rather than signs & wonders following those preaching the gospel.) Any dramatic events in the heavens wrought by God are destructive and judgmental in nature. They do not happen prior to the Coming/Gathering/Rapture. Especially the 4 blood moons prophecy associated with Joel.

E.G. Matthew 16:1 - *The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He replied to them, “ When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.” And He left them and went away.*

## The Scroll is Opened - (Literally) Rev 5

We now arrive at the opening of the seven-sealed scroll by Jesus Christ which includes the false christ, war, famine, death, martyred remnant, anarchy. Prior to the seventh seal, 144,000 Jews as well as an unnumbered amount of Gentiles are sealed to keep them from the harm of the 7th seal composed of seven trumpet judgments (Rev 8-9).

vv.1-4 - **The scroll represents the title deed to the earth.** In Jewish culture the title deed to property had 1 seal applied upon purchase (Jer 32:6-29). Upon foreclosure 7 seals were applied and the redemption conditions are written on the back of the scroll, and the 7 seals put on it. When in default you have up to 7 years to redeem, or up to the Jubilee. See Lev 25.

### **These seven seals will be removed by Jesus.**

“Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain, showing Him all the splendor of all the world's kingdoms. Satan, being the temporary ruler of this world, told Jesus, “All this I will give you...if you will bow down and worship me” (Matt. 4:8,9)”. **(Remember, Satan was given the “title deed” to the earth by mankind through Adam and Eve.)**

vv.6,7 - **The "seven spirits of God"** are mentioned in Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; and 5:6. The seven spirits of God are not specifically identified, so it's impossible to be dogmatic. Revelation 1:4 mentions that the seven spirits are before God's throne. Revelation 3:1 indicates that Jesus Christ "holds" the seven spirits of God. Revelation 4:5 links the seven spirits of God with seven burning lamps that are before God's throne. Revelation 5:6 identifies the seven spirits with the "seven eyes" of the Lamb and states that they are "sent out into all the earth."

### **There are at least three possible interpretations of the seven spirits of God.**

The **first** is that the seven spirits of God are **symbolic of the Holy Spirit**. The Bible, and especially the book of Revelation, uses the number 7 to refer to **perfection and completion**. If that is the meaning of the “seven” in the "seven spirits," then it is not referring to seven different spirits of God, but rather the perfect and complete Holy Spirit. In Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6 scripture defines the 7 spirits differently: e.g. 7 lamps before the throne, 7 horns, 7 eyes. Rev 8:2 talks about the 7 angels and 7 trumpets. Note that we are talking about the 7 seals at the moment too.

The **second** view is that the seven spirits of God refer to **seven angelic beings**, possibly the seraphim or the cherubim. This would fit with the numerous others angelic beings that are described in the book of Revelation (Revelation 4:6-9; 5:6-14; 19:4-5).

A **third** possibility is based on Isaiah 11:2, which says, “**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.**” This could possibly explain the seven spirits of God: (1) Spirit of the LORD, (2) Spirit of wisdom, (3) Spirit of understanding, (4) Spirit of counsel, (5) Spirit of power, (6) Spirit of knowledge, (7) Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

{However, since we’re talking about the Spirit of the Lord, it doesn’t seem that would also be one of the 7 spirits. Further, the spirit of the fear of the Lord doesn’t quite fit as a spirit essentially fearing Himself.}

Zech 4:10; ..But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—these are the eyes of the Lord which range to and fro throughout the earth.”

Rev 8:2; And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

Zech 3:9; For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; on one stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,’ declares the Lord of hosts, ‘and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

2 Chr 16:9; For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.

Prov 15:3; The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Jer 16:17; For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.

**Fourth:** The Seven Spirits of God represent both the Holy Spirit and the spiritual qualities that establish a godly person. Jesus Christ embodied all of these spirits perfectly and thus can proclaim Himself to be ” he that hath the seven Spirits of God.”

**Fifth:** Which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth - See the notes on Revelation 1:4. That is, which represent the seven Spirits of God; or the manifold operations of the one Divine Spirit. As the eye is the symbol of intelligence - outward

objects being made visible to us by that - so it may well represent an all-pervading spirit that surveys and sees all things. The eye, in this view, among the Egyptians was an emblem of the Deity. By the “seven Spirits” here the same thing is doubtless intended as in Revelation 1:4; and if, as there supposed, the reference is to the Holy Spirit considered with respect to his manifold operations, the meaning here is, that the operations of that Spirit are to be regarded as connected with the work of the Redeemer. Thus, all the operations of the Spirit are connected with, and are a part of, the work of redemption. The expression “sent forth into all the earth,” refers to the fact that that Spirit pervades all things The Spirit of God is often represented as sent or poured out; and the meaning here is, that his operations are as if he was sent out to survey all things and to operate everywhere. Compare 1 Corinthians 12:6-11.

**SPIR'IT**, *noun* [Latin spiritus, from spiro, to breathe, to blow. The primary sense is to rush or drive.]

**1. Primarily, wind; air in motion; hence, breath.**

All bodies have spirits and pneumatical parts within them. [This sense is now unusual.]

**2. Animal excitement**, or the effect of it; life; ardor; fire; courage; elevation or **vehemence of mind**. The troops attacked the enemy with *great spirit* The young man has the *spirit* of youth. He speaks or act with *spirit* Spirits, in the plural, is used in nearly a like sense. The troops began to recover their spirits.

**3. Vigor of intellect; genius.** His wit, his beauty and his *spirit* The noblest *spirit* or genius cannot deserve enough of mankind to pretend to the esteem of heroic virtue.

**4. Temper; disposition of mind**, habitual or temporary; as a man of a generous *spirit* or of a revengeful spirit; the ornament of a meek and quiet *spirit* Let us go to the house of God in the *spirit* of prayer.

**5. The soul of man;** the intelligent, immaterial and immortal part of human beings. [**See Soul.**] the *spirit* shall return to God that gave it. Eceles. 12.

**6. An immaterial intelligent substance.** *spirit* is a substance in which thinking, knowing, doubting, and a power of moving do subsist. Hence,

**7. An immaterial intelligent being.** By which he went and preached to the *spirit* in prison. I Pet. 3. God is a *spirit* **John 4:23.**

**8. Turn of mind; temper;** occasions; state of the mind. A perfect judge will read each work of wit, with the same *spirit* that its author writ.

**9. Powers of mind distinct from the body.** In *spirit* perhaps he also saw Rich Mexico, the seat of Montezume.

**10. Sentiment; perception.** Your *spirit* is too true, your fears too certain.

**11. Eager desire;** disposition of mind excited and directed to a particular object. God has made a *spirit* of building succeed a *spirit* of pulling down.

**12. A person of activity;** a man of life, vigor or enterprise. The watery kingdom is no bar to stop the foreign spirits, but they come.

**13. Persons distinguished by qualities of the mind.** Such spirits as he desired to please, such would I choose for my judges.

**14. Excitement of mind; animation; cheerfulness;** usually in the plural. We found our friend in very good spirits. He has a great flow of spirits. -To sing thy praise, would heaven my breath prolong, Infusing spirits worthy such a song.

**15. Life or strength of resemblance;** essential qualities; as, to set off the face in its true *spirit* The copy has not the *spirit* of the original.

**16. Something eminently pure and refined.** Nor doth the eye itself, that most pure *spirit* of sense, behold itself.

**17. That which hath power or energy;** the quality of any substance which manifest life, activity, or the power of strongly affecting other bodies; as the *spirit* of wine or of any liquor.

**18. A strong, pungent or stimulation liquor,** usually obtained by distillation, as rum, brandy, gin, whiskey. In America, *spirit* used without other words explanatory of its meaning, signifies the liquor distilled from cane-juice, or rum. We say, new *spirit* or old *spirit* Jamaica *spirit* etc.

**19. An apparition;** a ghost.

**20. The renewed nature of man. Matthew 26:41. Galatians 5:5.**

**21. The influences of the Holy *spirit* Matthew 22:43.**

**HOLY SPIRIT**, the third person in the Trinity.

**SPIRIT**, *verb transitive*

**1.** To animate; to actuate; as a *spirit*

So talked the spirited sly snake. [Little used.]

**2.** To animate with vigor; to excite; to encourage; as, civil dissensions *spirit* the ambition of private man. It is sometimes followed by up; as, to *spirit* up.

**3.** To kidnap.

To *spirit* away, to entice or seduce.

**Conclusion:** The Bible doesn't tell us specifically who/what the seven spirits are, but the first interpretation, that they represent the fullness and completeness of the Holy Spirit, seems the most likely. Spirit Isaiah 11:2; Rev 1:4 the Holy Ghost in His perfect fulness: seven being the sacred number. The prophets had only a portion out of the "fulness" in the Son of God (Joh 1:16; 3:34; Col 1:19).

## **Jesus is the only One in creation worthy to take the scroll and open its seals.**

God's law requires that a next of kin redeem that which a family member has lost (Leviticus 25:25). According to the law a son could redeem what his father had lost, but in the transaction Adam had become a sinner, disqualifying all of his sons from ever redeeming him. The coin of redemption was the blood of a sinless man, and all of Adam's sons were sinners, having been born in their father's likeness. (Gen. 5:3) Adam was a son of God (Luke 3:38) so only another son of God would suffice.

Since the sins of the fathers are visited upon the sons (Exod. 20:5) a woman could give birth to a sinless man, but only if she could do so without the aid of a husband. Thus, in the garden God announced that the seed of the woman would redeem what Satan had stolen, (Gen 3:15) a prophecy of the virgin birth. In due time, the Son of God, born of a virgin, gave His life to pay mankind's debt of sin and redeem Adam's stolen property, Planet Earth. (Romans 5:12)

[return to table of contents](#)



## Day of the Lord 3

# 7 YEAR TRIBULATION

podcast [ <http://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/7-year-tribulation/> ]

We'll look at the 7 Seal Judgments, 7 Trumpet Judgments, 7 Bowls of Wrath

## 7 Seal Judgments - Rev 6,8

Have these seals already been opened? i.e. happened already?

**How do these seals and judgments match up with Mt 24/Mk 13?** Short answer - some are signs of the tribulation coming and others are of the end right before Jesus returns. Mt 24:3-8 are signs of coming 70th week. vv.9-14 during the seals. Verse 15 introduces the second half of the Tribulation called the Great Tribulations (see also Mark 13:14-27) vv.16-20 speaks to the Jews during the last half of the Tribulation; v.21-28 warns Jews and tribulation believers; and v.29-31 the imminent return of Christ. Note that the sun being darkened and the moon turning to blood happens at this point. Some of the events sound similar to the sixth seal and earlier seals but these are the signs.

**Seal judgments** - are against the proud of the earth; Holy Spirit has moved out so that God can release the judgments. The church, believers, and the Holy Spirit within them are moved away/out of the way. God cannot hurt Himself by judging the world while He is still there.

Once we're taken off the earth the antichrist comes riding in. The world says hallelujah and worships him. He conquers the world by a message of peace, false peace. A 7 year peace plan that he breaks midway. 1 Thess 5:3; Dan 11:17+; 9:27

**Remember;** Jesus is opening the seals. Each seal releases a judgment from God aimed at the proud and unbelieving on earth.

**After the rapture things will grow progressively worse.** The world will go through a false sense of peace #1; several wars and rumors of wars #2; economic collapse and famine #3; death of millions of unbelievers due to war, famine, plagues #4; the persecution and death of believers #5; earthquakes with disturbances in the heavenly bodies #6; then the trumpet judgments #7.

Judgments in Revelation come in sets of 7. Each set can be broken into categories of 4 and 3.

**Seal 1** - antichrist heads out on a white horse to conquer. (The second white horse comes with an army not just by Himself. They come in battle.)

**Impact** - Rises to power with great deception, saying and doing many good things to give people a false sense of hope. He will talk peace.

**2nd Seal** - Red horse rides out, takes peace away, causes war.

**Impact** - Undoes the peace treaties and sparks conflicts around the world.

**3rd Seal** - Black horse, famine. oil & wine = rich\*\*

**Impact** - Surges forth with the consequences of war; economic disaster, famine, worthless currencies, food shortages, misery, poverty, starvation.

**4th Seal** - ashen horse whose rider is death, hades following. Authority over 1/4 earth to kill with sword, famine, pestilence, wild beasts.

**Impact** - Billion die from multiple calamities. Consider that a billion believers (adult, children) already left earth. Some countries more vacant than others. Some professions more vacant than others. Imagine the accusations and jubilations. Who will be burying all of these people?

**5th Seal** - Martyrs under the altar. Believers being killed by non-believers because they blame them for the troubles everyone is suffering.

**Impact** - Untold numbers. Media and leaders will portray these new Christians as enemies of world govt, world peace, world religion, and the environment, starting religious wars, and call for their elimination to preserve dwindling food supplies.

**6th Seal** - Anarchy, great earthquake, sun became black, moon like blood, stars falling from the sky, sky split apart, rolled up, every mountain and island moved, men hiding wishing for death. (Matt 24)

**Impact** - worldwide panic, people trying to hide, chaos, realization (late) tribulation has arrived.

**Interlude** - time out to seal 144,000

**7th Seal** - silence in heaven for 1/2 hour.

Seven angels were given each a trumpet. An eighth was given a golden censer with much incense. Takes it, fills it with fire from the altar and throws it to earth and there follows peals of thunder, sounds and flashes of lighting and an earthquake. The angels prepared themselves to sound their trumpets.

## 7 Trumpet Judgments - Rev 8,9,11:15

1. hail and fire mixed with blood; 1/3 of the earth burned up, 1/3 of trees, all the grass burned up

**Impact** - people grossed out and in fear, alters balance of nature, greenery gone, oxygen production reduced certainly much beauty lost, much animal life impacted with less to eat or roost in. denuded.

2. great mountain thrown into the sea, 1/3 of the sea became blood, 1/3 of sea creatures died, 1/3 ships destroyed.

**Impact** - no-one can miss a burning mountain hurled into the earth. Evolutionists believe this is what created life or destroyed the dinosaurs. Now they get to see one! Likely a tsunami from the splash.

3. great star (satan isa 14:12) fell from heaven, 1/3 of rivers, called wormwood, made waters bitter, many men died

**Impact** - people die w/o fresh water, fights over water. everyone will be for themselves - no missionaries taking water, drilling wells.

4. 1/3 of sun, moon and stars struck became darkened for 1/3 of the day. Eagle flying saying **woe, woe, woe.**

**Impact** - depression and grumpiness and fear will increase. long term reduction of sunlight impacts crop and plant growth; which is much needed after the 1st trumpet. The time intervals between trumpets is not too long since the seals and trumpets happen within 3.5 years or less. maybe one every 2-3 mo. if on reg. basis. There will be overlap.

5. the great fallen star (satan) given key to bottomless pit, opens it, smoke comes up, sun and air are darkened. locusts come upon the earth, power given to them, told not to hurt grass or green things or trees only men who are not sealed by God. Torment for 5 months. men seek death and won't find it. Apollyon is the locust's king. The **first woe** is passed. (angel pronounced 3 woes in previous trumpet)

**Impact** - again, more darkness, fear, anger, depression. many suicidal but not able. much pain from torment of scorpions. The 144,000 and

saints? won't be tormented.

6. voice from the four horns of the golden altar (jesus), release the four angels bound at Euphrates river. kill 1/3 of mankind by fire smoke brimstone. their number 200 million. rest of mankind did not repent.

**Impact** - another batch of hundreds of millions of people. mostly adults. earlier lost 1/4 or billion. This army must be demonic based on the description of the horses. Alt. if human then the horses are not literal. People don't repent of their murders and sorcery or immorality or thefts. obviously God doesn't approve of these sins now either. Not many nations can pull together 200 mil for an army. At present only China, India, USA, Indonesia exceed 200 mil. population. This is before the judgments killing large populations. Only China, India, possibly Indonesia will have large populations left after the rapture. Might be a large coalition of a world army. Again, more likely a demonic army. If human, China, India, Indonesia, will likely travel by sea and maybe up the Euphrates river. Remember 1/3 ships destroyed earlier. It isn't dried up till 6th bowl of wrath.

7. (11:15) kingdom handed over to God, ark of covenant appears in temple of God, lightning, thunder, earthquake, great hailstorm.

**Impact** - great tumult, physical damage.

## 7 BOWLS OF WRATH Rev 15,16

**Bowl 1** ~Enemies of God's people tormented with painful sores...

**Impact** - All those who have taken the mark of the beast will have these ugly painful sores. The antichrist will not be able to heal them and people will then know he is a fake god.

**Bowl 2** ~The water in the ocean and the sea turns **to blood**, all sea creatures die

**Impact** - a significant food source for people and animals lost. dead rotting fish will cover the seas and shorelines.

**Bowl 3** ~The springs and rivers turns **to blood** -

**Impact** - similar impact to previous bowl only now it is inland reaching more people. These two bowls reflect the spilling of the blood of God's people who were martyred.

**Bowl 4** ~Sun scorches men with fire and fierce heat, blaspheme God, don't repent

**Impact** - what would you do if you found yourself in this situation? if you would repent, why not do it now? or do you need more pain? What will happen to Believers who haven't taken the mark...will they be scorched too?

**Bowl 5** ~bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

**Impact** - Same questions as bowl #4. Will Believers have light or night vision?

**Bowl 6** ~Euphrates river dried up signals the final battle between God and the evil...

**Impact** - The devil gathers his forces **from the East** (the forces comes across the **Euphrates** river - east of Israel) to fight against Jesus and His followers (who has been gathered to Jerusalem) The final conflict will take place in **Armageddon**. Armageddon is a Hebrew word that means "hill of Megiddo" (har, which means "mountain or hill" plus mageddon meaning "Megiddo;" in English it becomes Armageddon).

**Bowl 7** ~The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air..."It is done!" flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and

the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men.

**Impact** - And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. **This is a Divine Stoning - see Law** A hundred pound anything will crush whatever it strikes. [largest hail stone so far is 8.0" in diameter and 1.9375 pounds] Based on current physics it would likely be 400"/33 ft in diameter? Like trucks falling from the sky. Think you'll be able to dodge that? It'll be falling at easily 100 mph. Seems unreal huh.

## Ok God, Why All This?!

**He's been warning us about this for thousands of years.** It shouldn't sneak up on anyone. Consider He could do all of this in one day instead of 1007 years.

**But isn't this a little hateful from a supposedly loving God?** No. Consider that if people didn't want God in their lives while on earth, why would they want to live with Him face to face? He's not going to be any different than He is now. Same God. Same rules.

— —-end of podcast 3

## Notes and Commentary only, no podcast

### \*\* 3rd Seal Rev 6:6 ‘don’t harm oil/wine’...

#### a quart

“The measure spoken of here is the Greek measure of capacity of very ancient usage, the choenix. As early as the time of Homer it was indicated as the amount of wage given to a workman for a full day’s work (Odyssey XIX:XXVIII). Herodotus also gives this as the measure of wheat consumed by each soldier in the army of Xerxes (VIII:CLXXXVII).”<sup>1</sup>

#### wheat

σίτου [sitou] , used of wheat in the context of hardship “as an indication of severe famine and rising prices . . . Ignatius, in his fervent longing for martyrdom, uses this symbolic language . . . I am God’s wheat and will be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts.”<sup>2</sup>

#### a denarius

That famine is intended here is evident for this amount “was a workman’s average daily wage.”<sup>3</sup> Men will work an entire day and barely procure enough to stay alive. “Ordinarily, from sixteen to twenty measures were given for a denarius.”<sup>4</sup>

### do not harm the oil and the wine

ἀδικήσης [adikēsēs] , second person singular, imperative mood. The voice from the midst of the four living creatures is commanding the one on the black horse not to harm the oil and wine. Again, we see the judgments which pour forth are precisely under the control of God. See commentary on [Revelation 6:1](#).

**Some attempt to understand this verse** in relation to an edict of Domitian restricting vine production in favor of corn:

It is argued that Rev. [Rev. 6:6+](#) refers to Domitian’s edict against vines in AD 92, a measure which may have been intended as a drastic means of increasing corn production, but which hit Philadelphia with exceptional severity because of its dependence on viticulture.<sup>5</sup>

Because of the earthquake, which drove them from the city proper, and because of the fertility of the soil, many of the people had turned to farming as a means of livelihood, specifically to the cultivation of vineyards. Apparently, because of famine, in A.D. 92 Domitian issued an edict that at least half the vineyards in the provinces be cut down and no new ones planted. This action was designed to increase

production of corn which the Empire needed badly. This crisis affected Philadelphia more critically than any other, because no city of Asia depended on the fruit of the vine more than it. Dionysius, god of wine, was the principal deity.<sup>6</sup>

**This seems unlikely** for the four horsemen ride out after the Lamb begins opening seals—something which remains future even to our own day. Moreover, it appears Domitian’s edict was not motivated in response to famine.<sup>7</sup>

**Others have understood the reference to oil as pertaining to the marking upon the foreheads of the servants of God** who are anointed for protection during this time (Rev. [Rev. 7:3+](#); [Rev. 9:4+](#); [Rev. 22:4+](#)), but this seems unlikely since the context concerns food supply and famine.

**Another suggestion** is that the common commodities are hard to come by, but luxury items will remain available for the upper classes.

This intimates that the famine is by no means universal: yea, it suggests that side by side with abject suffering there is abundance and luxury.<sup>8</sup>

Some interpreters have suggested that the brunt of the suffering falls upon the poorer classes, but the rich are left largely untouched, but this is a less likely interpretation, for while fine wine and oil could be understood of the luxuries belonging to the rich, the poorer quality product may be in view here as descriptive of the ordinary provisions used by the common people.<sup>9</sup>

**One of the great criticisms of the present time is that there is scarcity in the midst of plenty.** This is the situation which will be accentuated a thousandfold when the Antichrist begins his reign. It is a social maladjustment.<sup>10</sup>

**Still another idea is that the oil and wine denote medicinal supplies.** That although food will be lacking, there will be an abundance of medicine.<sup>11</sup> This seems unlikely in view of the catastrophic conditions (medicinal supplies require careful storage and efficient distribution) and the number of deaths inferred.

**Others suggest another possibility.** They point to a similar passage in 1 Samuel which records famine conditions caused by rainy conditions which destroyed the grain crop, but under which vineyards and olive trees would flourish:

The proper understanding of the phrase “do not damage the oil and the wine” is found in an event recorded in 1 Samuel [1S. 12:1](#). . . . Samuel was

threatening to call upon the Lord to bring thunder and rain as punishment. Why? . . . Heavy rains at the time of harvest would destroy the wheat, thereby bringing famine. . . As Nogah Hareuveni of Neot Kedumim, the Biblical Gardens of Israel, has pointed out: “The ripe, heavy-eared wheat can suffer from a downpour not only through physical damage from the force of the wind-driven rain, but also by rotting from the sudden moisture combined with the high temperatures that prevail in Israel by Shavuot (in late May-early June). This interpretation explains why the Israelites cried out to Samuel ‘pray. . . to save us from death’ (1S. 1S. 12:19)—from death by starvation that would follow the destruction of the grain crop.”. . . “the oil and the wine,” will not be affected by this rainstorm because they will have already been pollinated. In fact, the water might even help them, thus giving oil and wine for all, rich and poor alike.<sup>12</sup>

The reverse scenario might also be possible: that of drought. “Since the roots of the olive and vine go deeper, they would not be affected by a limited drought which would all but destroy the grain.”<sup>13</sup> However, the nature of the famine which attends these “beginning of sorrows” (Mtt. Mat. 24:8) is probably uniquely severe in history and argues against understanding the distinction between food items as denoting a limited famine. This situation contrasts with a locust-induced famine, such as that of Joel, in which all crops were ruined: “The field is wasted, the land mourns; for the grain is ruined, the new wine is dried up, the oil fails” (Joel Joel 1:10).

The problem with taking this as a reference to limited famine is that it underrates the severity of the seals. This famine will be serious enough to make it unique in history up to that time. The world has already seen many limited famines, but never one like this. . . . So it is wrong to take a major feature such as this prohibition against hurting the oil and the wine and interpret it as a limitation on human hardship. It indicates rather the inequity that will prevail. The poor will have it extremely hard while the wealthy will experience no interruption to their luxurious lifestyle.<sup>14</sup>

**Both oil and wine are listed among the commercial wealth of Babylon at the time of her destruction** (Rev. Rev. 18:13+). See commentary on [Revelation 18:13](#).

#### Notes

1 Donald Grey Barnhouse, [Revelation](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971), 127.

2 Frederick William Danker and Walter Bauer, [A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature](#) (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 752.

3 *Ibid.*, 179.

4 A. R. Fausset, “[The Revelation of St. John the Divine](#),” in Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, [A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments](#) (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, 1877), Rev. 6:6.

5 Colin J. Hemer, [The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1989), 175.

6 Robert L. Thomas, [Revelation 1-7](#) (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1992), 272.

7 *Ibid.*, Rev. 6:6.

8 Arthur Walkington Pink, [The Antichrist](#) (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1999, 1923), s.v. “Antichrist in the Apocalypse.”

9 Jerome Smith, [The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge](#) (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992), Rev. 6:6.

10 Barnhouse, [Revelation](#), 128.

11 “For while there is a famine of food, there will be an abundance of medicine, for the oil and wine are not hurt. These items were used for medicinal purposes.”—Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, [The Footsteps of Messiah](#), rev ed. (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003), 219.

12 Gordon Franz, “[Was ‘Babylon’ Destroyed when Jerusalem Fell in A.D. 70?.](#),” in Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice, eds., [The End Times Controversy](#) (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2003), 226-227.

13 Robert H. Mounce, [The Book of Revelation](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977), 155.

14 Thomas, [Revelation 1-7](#), Rev. 6:6.

[return to table of contents](#)

## Day of the Lord 4

# GOD'S POWERFUL WITNESS

## The 144,000 + 2 Witnesses

**Interludes: Rev 7; 10-14; 16:13-16**

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/gods-powerful-witness/> ]

### **Rev 7 - Jews/Gentiles saved during Tribulation:**

v.1-3 The four angels who have been tasked with harming the earth and sea (first four Trumpets Rev 8). Fifth angel ascends from the east horizon calling to the 4 angels to pause until they have sealed the bond-servants. They are sealed by the HS.

The sealed remnant of the Jews (v.4-8) evangelize (v.9-17) many who then believe and suffer martyrdom while others enter the millennium with their natural bodies.

*(other remnants - church age Rom 11:4-5; Eph 1:13; 4:30; OT Elijah 7000, during captivities, and upon end of Babylonian captivity)*

### **So Who Are The 144,000?!**

v.4-8 An angel seals the bond-servants of God on the forehead. 144,000 Jews (12k from each of the 12 tribes). This is a Jewish remnant that now presumably evangelizes other Jews and the rest of the world. We are still in the early stages of the Tribulation, prior to the half-way mark, between 6th and 7th seals.

Remember earlier we looked at Zechariah's prophecy in Chap 13:8,9 looking ahead to this time (the tribulation—the time where 2/3 of the Jews will be killed and 1/3 come through the 'fire'.) eventually to 12:10 (the Return). This is also the time spoken of by Ezekiel 37:14 (having already come into their land, but will continue in the millennial reign); **39:29 (the sealing is but one fulfillment of 39:25-29; Isa 32:15; Ezek 36:27; 37:14; Joel 2:28).**

[premillennial, pre-tribulation view of end times]

These 144,000 appear again (Chap 14) with Jesus standing together on Mount Zion. They are identified as to whom was selected within each tribe.

[Why do the Seventh Day Adventists say they will be the 144,000 in heaven? Not true. They distort scripture and build a whole theology on Eze 9. A link to what they say... <http://www.adventistonline.com/forum/topics/the-144000-who-really-are-they> ]

v.9-17 **Uncountable multitude of Gentiles** get saved and taken to heaven during the 7 years, not

at one time. This is God's heart that none should perish (2 Peter 3:9).

## VISION OF THE LITTLE BOOK

### **Rev 10 - Time's Up, No More Delay**

The seventh angel standing on the sea and on the land. John is told to get the book from that angel and to eat it. This happens approaching the midpoint and must happen prior to the 7 bowls of wrath.

### **Rev 11:1,2 - Times of the Gentiles**

**conclude in 42 months (3.5 years)** - The times of the Gentiles began with the Babylonian captivity in 700 b.c. appx and concludes somewhere between the midpoint of the tribulation and the end of the tribulation. (arguments both ways)

### **Rev 11:3 The Two witnesses**

The two witnesses (\*see discussion of identity below) stand and prophesy for 1260 days (3.5 years). Fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies. Have the power to shut up the sky and to turn the water into blood and strike the earth with plague.

When they finish the beast comes up out of the abyss and kills them. Their dead bodies lie in the street where Jesus was crucified. People look at the dead bodies for 3.5 days and will not permit burial. (v.8 refers to Jeremiah 23:14 - ..All of them have become to Me like **Sodom**, And her inhabitants like **Gomorrhah**.)

**People (unsaved) rejoice over them and send gifts to one another because they are dead.** Then God calls them up into heaven and a great earthquake occurs; a tenth of the city falls and 7000 people are killed. **the second woe.** (believe the 3rd is Babylon in ch.17)

These two witnesses start early on in the tribulation and are called up to heaven right before the midpoint. Their witnessing to the Gospel is just one more example of God's heart that none should perish (2 Pet 3:9).

### **God's Powerful Witness**

God uses the 144,000 to preach the saving gospel to the world during the tribulation, uses the 2 witnesses to preach the saving gospel to the world during the tribulation, uses an angel flying across the sky declaring the gospel to the world during the tribulation, uses an angel to warn people not to take the mark of the beast during the tribulation (2 Pet 3:9).

## Discussion over Two Witnesses

### \*"Who are the two witnesses in the book of Revelation?"

**Answer:** There are three primary viewpoints on the identity of the two witnesses in [Revelation 11:3-12](#):

(1) Moses and Elijah, (2) Enoch and Elijah, (3) two unknown believers whom God calls to be His witnesses in the end times.

**(1) Moses and Elijah** are seen as possibilities for the two witnesses due to the witnesses' power to turn water into blood ([Revelation 11:6](#)), which Moses is known for (Exodus chapter 7), and their power to destroy people with fire ([Revelation 11:5](#)), which Elijah is known for (2 Kings chapter 1). Also giving strength to this view is the fact that Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus at the transfiguration ([Matthew 17:3-4](#)). Further, Jewish tradition expected Moses and Elijah to return in the future. [Malachi 4:5](#) predicted the return of Elijah, and the Jews believed that God's promise to raise up a prophet like Moses ([Deuteronomy 18:15, 18](#)) necessitated his return.

**(2) Enoch and Elijah** are seen as possibilities for the two witnesses because they are the two individuals whom God has taken to heaven apart from experiencing death ([Genesis 5:23](#); [2 Kings 2:11](#)). The fact that neither Enoch or Elijah have experienced death seems to qualify them to experience death and resurrection, as the two witnesses experience ([Revelation 11:7-12](#)). Proponents of this view claim that [Hebrews 9:27](#) (all men die once) disqualifies Moses from being one of the two witnesses, as Moses has died once already ([Deuteronomy 34:5](#)). However, there are several others in the Bible who died twice—e.g., Lazarus, Dorcas, and the daughter of the synagogue ruler—so there is really no reason why Moses should be eliminated on this basis.

**View (3) essentially argues that Revelation chapter 11 does not attach any famous identity to the two witnesses.** If their identities were Moses and Elijah, or Enoch and Elijah, why would Scripture be silent about this? God is perfectly capable of taking two "ordinary" believers and enabling them to perform the same signs and wonders that Moses and Elijah did. There is nothing in [Revelation 11](#) that requires us to assume a "famous" identity for the two witnesses.

**Which view is correct?** The possible weakness of (1) is that Moses has already died once, and therefore could not be one of the two witnesses, who die, which would make Moses a contradiction of [Hebrews 9:27](#). Proponents of (1) will argue that all of the people who were miraculously resurrected in the Bible (e.g., Lazarus) later died again. [Hebrews 9:27](#) is viewed, then, as a "general rule," not a universal principle. There are no clear weaknesses to view (2), as it solves the "die once" problem, and it makes sense that if God took two people to heaven without dying, Enoch and Elijah, it was to prepare them for a special purpose. There are also no clear weaknesses to view (3). All three views are valid and plausible interpretations that Christians can have. The identities of the two witnesses is an issue Christians should not be dogmatic about.

[return to table of contents](#)

## Day of the Lord 5

# THE DRAGON and the BEASTS

## The Revelation 12 Sign

podcast [ <https://amazinggraceco.podbean.com/e/the-dragon-and-the-beasts/> ]

This topic and chapter is subject to much speculation and conspiracy theory especially rampant on the internet. Let us maintain our composure and rationality and look at it in a biblical manner.

## What This Chapter Means

We are in the middle of the tribulation as this vision is shown to John. The child who will rule the nations is Jesus and the dragon is Satan. When Jesus came to earth as a human child, Satan tried to have him killed. When Jesus began his ministry Satan tried to destroy that by tempting him with the kingdoms of the world. When Jesus was dying on a cross for the sins of the world, Satan tried to stop that by having others encourage him to save his life. Following his death, Jesus was resurrected and he ascended into heaven. During the Tribulation at the midpoint, Israel will have to flee into the mountains, and Satan will lose his access to heaven and be cast to this earth with many of his fallen angels. They will do as much damage on earth as they can. Satan will also try to destroy all the Jews, but God will not allow that. He will help many of them escape and supernaturally protect them.

## Rev 12 - The woman, Israel, red dragon, male child, archangel, Jewish remnant

These signs and events go beyond the tribulation and span all of time but seem to conclude during the tribulation.

v.1,2 **The woman represents Israel.** The symbols associated with this woman (the sun, moon, 12 stars) are all found in a single dream Joseph had in the OT about the nation of Israel. (Gen 37:9).

The **twelve stars** are the twelve tribes of Israel.

The **sun likely represents Jesus** (woman is clothed in the sun, prophesied as the sun of righteousness in Malachi, is the source of light) and,

The **moon likely represents the church** or believers as we reflect the light of Jesus and as the messiah came out of Israel.

**This symbol is** a picture of the spiritual relationship between God, Jesus, Israel, and the Church all originating in heaven.

v.3,4 **The red dragon represents Satan.** The seven heads are likely 7 geographical kingdoms possibly the 7 hills in Rome. The ten horns are the ten rulers of kingdoms/nations seen in the dream in Daniel 7:7. The seven diadems are the symbols of royalty of each of the heads i.e. crown [Easton Bible Dictionary] Diadem the tiara of a king (Ezek 21:26; Isa 28:5 62:3; the turban(Job 29:14)). In the New Testament a careful distinction is drawn ..the diadem as a badge of royalty (Rev 12:3 13:1 19:12)...

**This symbol is a picture of Satan's false sovereignty** and kingdom in contrast to the woman's godly symbol. It appears again in Rev 13:1 when the beast of the sea arises. Great speculation abounds over the identity of the 7 hills/mountains, 7 kings, the 5 kings who have fallen and the one who is and the one to come.

Pulling from Rev 17:9-12 we find scriptural clarification - *Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.*

!! The Hebrew, "tetragrammaton," or sacred four letters in **Jehovah**, "**who is, who was, and who is to come**," the believer's object of worship, has its contrasted counterpart in the beast "**who was, and is not, and shall be present**," the object of the earth's worship.!!

— — — — additional study — — — — [JFBC]

**seven heads and seven mountains**--The connection between mountains and kings must be deeper than the mere outward fact to which incidental allusion is made, that Rome (the then world city) is on seven hills (whence heathen Rome had a national festival called Septimontium, the feast of the seven-hilled city [PLUTARCH]; and on the imperial coins, just as here, she is represented as a woman seated on seven hills. Coin of



Vespasian, described by CAPTAIN SMYTH [Roman Coins, p. 310; ACKERMAN, 1, p. 87]).

The seven heads can hardly be at once seven kings or kingdoms (Re 17:10), and seven geographical mountains. The true connection is, as the head is the prominent part of the body, so the mountain is prominent in the land. Like "sea" and "earth" and "waters ... peoples" (Re 17:15), so "mountains" have a symbolical meaning, namely, prominent seats of power. Especially such as are prominent hindrances to the cause of God (Ps 68:16, 17; Isa 40:4; 41:15; 49:11; Eze 35:2); especially Babylon (which geographically was in a plain, but spiritually is called a destroying mountain, Jer 51:25), in majestic contrast to which stands Mount Zion, "the mountain of the Lord's house" (Isa 2:2), and the heavenly mount; Re 21:10, "a great and high mountain ... and that great city, the holy Jerusalem." So in Da 2:35, the stone becomes a mountain--Messiah's universal kingdom supplanting the previous world kingdoms. As nature shadows forth the great realities of the spiritual world, so seven-hilled Rome is a representative of the seven-headed world power of which the dragon has been, and is the prince. The "seven kings" are hereby distinguished from the "ten kings" (Re 17:12): the former are what the latter are not, "mountains," great seats of the world power.

The seven universal God-opposed monarchies are Egypt (the first world power which came into collision with God's people,) Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Medo-Persia, Rome, the Germanic-Slavonic empire (the clay of the fourth kingdom mixed with its iron in Nebuchadnezzar's image, a fifth material, Da 2:33, 34, 42, 43, symbolizing this last head).

These seven might seem not to accord with the seven heads in Da 7:4-7, one head on the first beast (Babylon), one on the second (Medo-Persia), four on the third (Greece; namely, Egypt, Syria, Thrace with Bithynia, and Greece with Macedon): but Egypt and Greece are in both lists. Syria answers to Assyria (from which the name Syria is abbreviated), and Thrace with Bithynia answers to the Gothic-Germanic-Slavonic hordes which, pouring down on Rome from the North, founded the Germanic-Slavonic empire.

The woman sitting on the seven hills implies the Old and New Testament Church conforming to, and resting on, the world power, that is, on all the seven world kingdoms. Abraham and Isaac dissembling as to their wives through fear of the kings of Egypt

foreshadowed this. Compare Eze 16:1-63; 23:1-49, on Israel's whoredoms with Egypt, Assyria, Babylon; and Mt 7:24; 24:10-12, 23-26, on the characteristics of the New Testament Church's harlotry, namely, distrust, suspicion, hatred, treachery, divisions into parties, false doctrine.

— — — — end additional study — — — — —

**v.4 The scene is revealed in the middle of the tribulation as this vision is shown to John.**

**v.5,6 the male child** - this is a sign showing the heavenly view of the birth of Christ.

**v.7-12 This war in heaven happened before Eden** (Isa 14:2) and is again fought with more finality. The angels that were cast down with Satan are now known as demons. Hell was created for Satan and the demons. In the OT angels were also referred to as stars. e.g. Job 38 God asks Job where he was while God was creating. v.7 The stars of heaven were singing. It appears God likes "background music" while He is doing His work. :)

Satan is cast out into the earth along with his angels / demons. The accuser is cast down. This happened prior to the Garden of Eden (Isa 14:12) but he still had access to heaven. Surprised? Ha. This is where he accuses the brethren. We clearly see in Job where Satan and God were in heaven talking about him. The accuser also whispers into our ears on earth.. "we're not good enough, God isn't good, He doesn't love us."

Here, as Satan loses access to heaven he intensifies his persecution of Jews and Christians knowing he has little time left to carry out his desire.

**Satan has always opposed God.** He has tried to thwart God's plans from day 1. He tried to get Joseph to divorce Mary when it was discovered that she was pregnant with the Christ. He tried to use Herod to kill Jesus as a baby. Since that time Satan has used people, armies, religions to persecute God's children. (e.g. Cain, Pharaoh, Haman, Herod, Hitler, Islam)

**Satan seems to believe** if there is no Jerusalem, no Israel, no Jewish people, that Jesus could not fulfill the prophecies of His return to rule and reign His people. Satan wants to keep Jesus from returning to Israel by destroying Israel first. This would remove the desire and location for Jesus to return.

[JFBC] **There are four gradations in the ever deeper downfall of Satan:** (1) He is deprived of his heavenly excellency, though having still access to heaven as man's accuser, up to Christ's first coming. As heaven was not fully yet opened to man (Joh 3:13), so it was not yet shut against Satan and his demons. The Old Testament dispensation could not overcome him. (2) From mid-tribulation down to the millennium, he is judicially cast out of heaven as the accuser of the elect, and shortly before the millennium loses his power against Israel, and has sentence of expulsion fully executed on him and his by Michael. His rage on earth is consequently the greater, his power being concentrated on it, especially towards the end, when "he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Re 12:12). (3) He is bound during the millennium (Re 20:1-3). (4) After having been loosed for a while, he is cast for ever into the lake of fire.

Eze 28:11-19 **Ezekiel's prophecy is God speaking to the power behind the king, Satan.** He was beautiful. The worship leader in heaven. He still has access to heaven. He continues to accuse us. Thus, the name accuser of the brethren.

Lucifer was the worship leader in heaven. He was a shining or mega star. He was beautiful beyond compare. He lost that position when he was cast out of heaven. Therefore, we know that worship music drives him crazy. If we want him to flee, we start to worship. He goes crazy because he isn't the one getting the worship. It reminds him where he used to be.

v.13-17 **Israel is sequestered away to Petra/Bozrah** at the middle of the tribulation. this is the way the seals/bowls don't kill them. Satan is angry and goes after the gentile Christians. (Zechariah 13:7?) (*other remnants - church age Rom 11:4-5; Eph 1:13; 4:30; OT Elijah 7000, during captivities, and upon end of Babylonian captivity*)

**There are three clues that hint at Petra being the hiding place for the Jew during the Great Tribulation.**

**One** is in Daniel 11:41 where we learn that Jordan will be one of the only places that elude the Anti-Christ's control during the Great Tribulation.

**The second** is in Rev. 12:14 which says that the woman, who represents the believing remnant of Israel, will flee into the desert to a place prepared for

them during the Great Tribulation. The closest desert hiding place is Petra.

**And the third** is in Isaiah 63:1 where the Lord is shown coming from Bozrah, the region where Petra is located, having defeated His enemies there. Many scholars believe that He will do this just prior to arriving in Jerusalem at the 2nd Coming, to protect the believing remnant.

From the non-Biblical side, Jordan does have a peace treaty with Israel, and Petra is an ideal location for the Jews to seek refuge.

**In the Book of Daniel 13** - an Angel of God is revealing the Mystery of the End Times to Daniel while he is a captive in Babylon. In the following passage, the Angel explains that the Antichrist will enter Israel and other nations:

*41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon (Daniel 11:41 KJV)*

**Edom, Moab and Ammon are all in Jordan ...** these areas must escape the Antichrist so that Israel can flee to Edom (Petra/Bozrah is in Edom) where she escapes during the last 1/2 of the Tribulation (times = 2 years, time = 1 year and 1/2 time = 1/2 year ... total = 3.5 years):

*14 And to the Woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the Serpent (Revelation 12:14 KJV)*

[Easton's Bible Dictionary] Petra, 20 miles to the south-east of the Dead Sea. A Moabite city in the "plain country" (Jer 48:24), i.e., on the high level down on the east of the Dead Sea. It is probably the modern Buzrah

**In the Gospel of Matthew**, (written more specifically to the Jew) an escape route for the remnant of Israel is noted by Jesus as He identifies the kickoff event (cf. Daniel 9:27) for the last 1/2 of the Tribulation Period. This "kickoff event" is the Antichrist setting up an idol to himself in Israel's rebuilt Temple of God:

*15 Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel*

*the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader understand), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains; (Matthew 24:15-16 NASB)*

**During the terrible last 1/2 of the Tribulation Period**, 2/3 of the population of the Nation of Israel falls to the armies of the Antichrist. The remaining 1/3, the remnant, flees this tyranny foretold in the prophecy of Zechariah 13:

8 It will come about in all the land, Declares the LORD, That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on 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 NASB)

**In Micah, we find a prophecy from the Lord declaring Bozrah** as the sheep pen of the remnant of Israel:

*12 I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold (Bozrah - KJV); Like a flock in the midst of its pasture they will be noisy with men. (Micah 2:12 NASB)*

When the Antichrist tries to finish Israel off at Bozrah/Petra in Edom ... Jesus Christ returns to save them ... After the Battle of Armageddon, His clothing reflects the Winepress of God in Isaiah 63:1-6

[return to table of contents](#)

# The Beasts of the False Trinity

## Revelation 13

### The Rise, Reign of the Beast and False Prophet

**The first beast** arises out of the Gentile population (sea). Satan (dragon) gives him power, throne, great authority. Rev 17:11 indicates this beast is the antichrist (timing is confusing. is this looking back at the revealing of the antichrist or a second revealing with a new look and message?). The world follows after him. This would be about the midpoint of the tribulation and only has 42 months to carry it out. One of his heads has a fatal wound that was healed mimicking Jesus' death. (This is either literal or metaphorical of the revived kingdom.)

**A second beast** comes out of the earth with two horns like a lamb and speaks as a dragon. Makes those left on earth worship the first beast. Performs great signs, deceived. Tells earth dwellers to make an image of the first beast from the sea and to worship it or be killed. He causes everyone to put the mark on their right hand or forehead in order to buy / sell.

**Satan creates a false trinity** of himself as God, the first beast (antichrist) as Jesus, second beast (prophet) as Holy Spirit.

identities/definitions:

**beast out of the sea** (gentiles) = beast 1 gets power from dragon, has 7 heads, 10 diadems. beast had head like slain, and **is the antichrist aka the false prophet.**

**beast out of the earth** (israel) = beast 2 false prophet, a counterfeit holy spirit; horns like a lamb (religious symbol)...**spoke as a dragon.** exercises all authority of the first beast in his presence. makes earth dwellers worship the first beast. performs signs. gives breath to the image of the 1st beast. causes everyone to get the mark of the beast.

v. 12 The first beast has a fatal wound caused by a sword (v.14) that was healed.

v.13 Performs great signs even calling down fire from heaven. This mirrors signs that God did in the OT.

### Forced Worship

v.14 The second beast makes an image of the first beast and insists all worship it. This is reminiscent of

Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel, Stalin, Buddha, Hitler, Mao, Kim il Sung, etc. These leaders begin to view themselves as god. Breaks the first three commandments.

**The first Beast** / little horn of Dan 7:8 focuses on the military and political realms. While the **second beast**, the False Prophet will **focus on the religious and economic means of submission.**

**First half of tribulation** is used to unite everyone under one world religion. The **second half** is about worshipping the Beast.

This is why the Church and the Holy Spirit need to be moved out of the way via the Rapture and 2 Thess 2:7. Else, they would tell everyone what was going on, who the Antichrist is, and keep him from deceiving so many.

### The Mark of the Beast 666

v.15 the first and second beast conspire to make the image come alive and speak. Those who don't worship the beast are killed by the unholy trinity.

Rev 13:15.. causes all to take a mark on their right hand or forehead. the mark is required to buy or sell (not having anything to do with worshipping on Sunday as the Seventh Day Adventists profess). Who is this man? Unknown at this point. \*\*

### What's The Big Deal of Taking the Mark?

Rev 14:9 - angel warns those who take the mark they will drink of the wine of the wrath of God.

If you haven't put your faith in Jesus by this point, and have miraculously survived, you will have no reason to not accept the mark. It'll make sense. You will see no penalty for taking it. Much like Esau selling his birthright to Jacob because he was hungry.

### Difficulty For Believers Living At This Time

We can only imagine what it would be like for those having to refuse the mark, refuse to worship the beast, and having the spiritual discernment knowing who these two beasts are and whom is empowering them. Many will be killed for their faith and become "tribulation saints".

All this difficulty while God is pouring out His 7 bowls of wrath. It seems probable that non-Jew believers

will even die as collateral damage from the bowls of wrath. This is no different really than believers dying now in connection with calamity or car accidents etc.

## Things to Remember

The Church is gone, in Heaven

We won't need to know who 666 is nor who the 10 nations are or who the Antichrist is.

Unsaved people we know will go through tribulation  
Take note of what happens to those who are forced to worship the image, make sure you worship only God.

God will create a new earth and has a dwelling just for you.

We overcome ONLY by the blood

*"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."* Revelation 12:11

— — —end podcast

## \*\* Commentary Excerpts on Identity of 666

-----Jon Courson

When John wrote this there had been 7 Roman emperors (Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Tiberias, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, and Domitian) the lives of five were cut short. When John penned this, Domitian was the present emperor of Rome. 5 had already come and were killed. Nero committed suicide. His name equals the Hebrew numeric value of 666. Antichrist is to be one who was (one of the seven, is not - Nero, and is the eighth Rev 17:10,11) i.e. Caesar Nero. he killed tens of thousands of Christians.

-----Greg Laurie on 666

Revelation 13 talks about spiritually dark times, the tribulation period, he went on to say. "**Satan's son**" will emerge on the scene... "the man of perdition, the man of sin, the beast... best known as the antichrist... the most evil man who's ever lived... history's vilest embodiment of sin and rebellion." The antichrist's agenda will be to deify Satan. The antichrist will come to take the place of Jesus, and to kill all Christians. And the antichrist will have with him his "devilish worship leader, a religious guru," the false prophet, referred to as the "second beast" in Revelations.

Laurie then quoted Revelation 13:15-18: "**The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak** and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666."

If you google the number 666, you'll receive 543 million results, the pastor said. "And you probably will find 543 million ideas about what it actually means. I don't think anyone can answer this with complete certainty, but this much we do know... The antichrist is going to introduce a cashless society... The endgame of this is to cause people to engage in devil worship."

This scenario is unfolding before us, Laurie said. The technology to make that happen is already here. He quoted Mark Hitchcock, a writer on the topic of prophecy, as saying, "The fact that the words of Revelation 13 were penned in the age of wood, stones, swords and spirit, makes this prophecy one of the powerful proofs of the inspired nature and reliability of God's word that one could have ever imagined. Who could have predicted a one-world economic system that controls all commerce but God?"

Laurie added, "The antichrist's economic policy will be very simple. Take my mark and worship me, or starve to death... No mark, no merchandize... No seal, no sale."

The technology to do this is already here,

We don't know when the tribulation period will begin, five or 20 years from now, Laurie said. But with the technology today, we know all this is "totally plausible." But let's not overreact, Laurie advised. **Not every stamp put on someone's hand by some authority is the mark of the beast. Or, if an office building's number is 666, that's not the mark of the beast.**

A great delusion will come upon the world and many will believe the lie leading to their destruction, as 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 warns. Destruction will happen "because they refused to believe the truth that would save them." **At the time of the tribulation,**

they will choose to believe in a lie that the antichrist is "God," Laurie said.

God has given us a free will, the pastor emphasized. He's not going to force us to believe something we do not want to believe. And if we continue to harden our hearts, there will come a day when God will strengthen our own resolve not to believe, he warned. But those who respond to the Holy Spirit are also strengthened in their resolve to believe, he added.

The false prophet will appear to be harmless – like a baby rattlesnake – but will be as harmful as the antichrist, Laurie said. He will mislead many people.  
— — — —- end commentary excerpts— — —-

[return to table of contents](#)

## Doom of Babylon - Rev 17,18

[There is no podcast to go with this topic]

This topic and chapter is subject to much speculation and conspiracy theory especially rampant on the internet. Let us maintain our composure and rationality and look at it in a biblical manner.

The great harlot, apostate Christendom exerts power over the revived fourth world empire. While a literal city and the birthplace of false religion, during the end times it has two faces - **political babylon and ecclesiastical babylon.**

**Political Babylon** is the Beast's confederated empire and Ecclesiastical is apostate Christendom (one world religion?) the great harlot and is destroyed by political babylon.

**Literal Babylon** may or may not be rebuilt (rebuilding is presently underway), it won't change the issue of it being against God and being utterly destroyed in one hour.

**Babylon is not America.** However America has allowed in false religions began in literal Babylon and drank of the passion of her immorality and merchant ships become rich by the wealth of her sensuality (huh).

**Babylon isn't Rome either.** Although some of the language hints at this and certainly Rome fits much of the other descriptions, it isn't the city that birthed false religion and sensual commerce.

See *babylon.pages in mysteries*

## DOOM OF BABYLON

**Rev 17: 1-6 The great harlot:** apostate Christendom exerts power over the revived fourth world empire. Note that it is fairly said that all false religions began in Babylon. (See also studies on Nimrod and Gen 10). And in the end times, Babylon will seek to pull everyone under a singular false religion led by the antichrist.

Babylon is used in the bible as the ancient city or nation. In the end times it is used in form of political Babylon (vv.8-17) (the beast's confederated empire, the last form of Gentile world dominion) and ecclesiastical Babylon (vv.1-7,18; 18:1-24)(all apostate Christendom). Ecclesiastical Babylon is the great harlot and is to be destroyed by political Babylon. i.e. Satan's followers turn on his other followers (v.16,17).

**vv.7-13: The harlot is overthrown.** The beast is carrying the harlot. i.e. the foundation of the false religion is the beast.

## vv.14-18 Victory for the Lamb

Matthew Henry Commentary

I. Here is a war begun between the beast and his followers, and the Lamb and his followers. The beast and his army, to an eye of sense, appear much stronger than the Lamb and his army: one would think an army with a lamb at the head of them could not stand before *the great red dragon*. But,

II. Here is a victory gained by the Lamb: *The Lamb shall overcome*. Christ must reign till all enemies *be put under his feet*; he will be sure to meet with many enemies, and much opposition, but he will also be sure to gain the victory.

III. Here is the ground or reason of the victory assigned; and this is taken, 1. From the character of the Lamb: *He is King of kings and Lord of lords*. He has, both by nature and by office, supreme dominion and power over all things; all the powers of earth and hell are subject to his check and control. 2. From the character of his followers: *They are called, and chosen, and faithful*. They are called out by commission to this warfare; they are chosen and fitted for it, and they will be faithful in it. Such an army, under such a commander, will at length carry all the world before them.

## Speaking of Babylon in Revelation 17...

Matthew Henry Commentary

Turn to Gen 10 ....

That which is observable and improvable in these verses is the account here given of Nimrod, [8-10](#). He is here represented as a great man in his day: *He began to be a mighty one in the earth*, that is, whereas those that went before him were content to stand upon the same level with their neighbours, and though every man bore rule in his own house yet no man pretended any further, Nimrod's aspiring mind could not rest here; he was resolved to tower above his neighbours, not only to be eminent among them, but to lord it over them. The same spirit that actuated the giants before the flood (who became *mighty men, and men of renown*, [vi. 4](#)), now revived in him, so soon was that tremendous judgment which the pride and tyranny of those mighty men brought upon the world forgotten. Note, There are some in whom ambition and affectation of dominion seem to be bred in the bone; such there have been and will be, notwithstanding the wrath of God often

revealed from heaven against them. Nothing on this side hell will humble and break the proud spirits of some men, in this like Lucifer, [Isa. xiv. 14, 15](#). Now,

I. Nimrod was a great hunter; with this he began, and for this became famous to a proverb. Every great hunter is, in remembrance of him, called a *Nimrod*. 1. Some think he did good with his hunting, served his country by ridding it of the wild beasts which infested it, and so insinuated himself into the affections of his neighbours, and got to be their prince. Those that exercise authority either are, or at least would be called, *benefactors*, [Luke xxii. 25](#). 2. Others think that under pretence of hunting he gathered men under his command, in pursuit of another game he had to play, which was to make himself master of the country and to bring them into subjection. He was a *mighty hunter*, that is, he was a violent invader of his neighbours' rights and properties, and a persecutor of innocent men, carrying all before him, and endeavouring to make all his own by force and violence. He thought himself a mighty prince, but *before the Lord* (that is, in God's account) he was but a *mighty hunter*. Note, Great conquerors are but great hunters. Alexander and Cesar would not make such a figure in scripture-history as they do in common history; the former is represented in prophecy but as a he-goat pushing, [Dan. viii. 5](#). Nimrod was a mighty hunter *against* the Lord, so the LXX; that is, (1.) He set up idolatry, as Jeroboam did, for the confirming of his usurped dominion. That he might set up a new government, he set up a new religion upon the ruin of the primitive constitution of both. *Babel was the mother of harlots*. Or, (2.) He carried on his oppression and violence in defiance of God himself, daring Heaven with his impieties, as if he and his huntsmen could out-brave the Almighty, and were a match for the Lord of hosts and all his armies. *As if it were a small thing to weary men, he thinks to weary my God also*, [Isa. vii. 13](#). II. Nimrod was a great ruler: *The beginning of his kingdom was Babel*, [10](#). Some way or other, by arts or arms, he got into power, either being chosen to it or forcing his way to it; and so laid the foundations of a monarchy, which was afterwards a head of gold, and the terror of the mighty, and bade fair to be universal. It does not appear that he had any right to rule by birth; but either his fitness for government recommended him, as some think, to an election, or by power and policy he advanced gradually, and perhaps insensibly, into the throne. See the antiquity of civil government, and particularly that form of it which lodges the sovereignty in a single person. If Nimrod and his neighbours began, other nations soon learned to incorporate under one head for their common safety

and welfare, which, however it began, proved so great a blessing to the world that things were reckoned to go ill indeed when there *was no king in Israel*. Nimrod was a great builder. Probably he was architect in the building of Babel, and there he began his kingdom; but, when his project to rule all the sons of Noah was baffled by the confusion of tongues, *out of that land he went forth into Assyria* (so the margin reads it, [11](#)) *and built Nineveh, &c.*, that, having built these cities, he might command them and rule over them. Observe, in Nimrod, the nature of ambition. 1. It is boundless. Much would have more, and still cries, *Give, give*. 2. It is restless. Nimrod, when he had four cities under his command, could not be content till he had four more. 3. It is expensive. Nimrod will rather be at the charge of rearing cities than not have the honour of ruling them. The spirit of building is the common effect of a spirit of pride. 4. It is daring, and will stick at nothing. Nimrod's name signifies rebellion, which (if indeed he did abuse his power to the oppression of his neighbours) teaches us that tyrants to men are rebels to God, and their *rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft*. Cush and Nimrod were known for their "channeling" - communicating with those of the spirit world. These were actuality the dead spirits of their antediluvian ancestors.(10) From them, the two acquired a great deal of occult knowledge, allowing them the ability to accomplish great feats of construction, such as the building of the Tower. Just as their ancestors did before the flood, Nimrod and Cush "made a name for themselves" after. In fact, their descendants admired them so much they began to revere them as "gods." The names *Cush* and *Nimrod* became incorporated into the cultures and mythologies of many empires since the Tower. For example, Cush also became known as the gods *Thoth, Hermes, and Mercury*; Nimrod as *Jupiter, Osiris, and Mars*.(11) The Bible even references them as the gods *Baal* and *Merodach* (Judges 6:25-8, Jeremiah 50:2). In consequence, the thought of there being one God - *one and only one* - was about to be challenged.

### **What happened to Nimrod's Babylon?**

The religion formed by Cush and Nimrod marked the beginning of polytheism in the post-flood world: the worship of many gods. The snake, sun, and fire became their symbols of god on earth. Human sacrifice became openly practiced.(1) Even though God wanted His people to spread out and only serve Him, Nimrod, through the empire and religion of Babylon, began to unite the people - all under his



"one-world government." This early Babylonian religion began to be abhorred by pious, God-following generations of the era. One of them, Noah's son Shem, decided to do something about it. According to tradition, Shem gathered 72 co-conspirators to help him, and all of them made their way to the palace where Nimrod lived. After catching him in a double-cross, Shem killed Nimrod, and cut his body into little pieces! He alerted his co-conspirators - each of them - to take a piece of Nimrod's body and distribute it to the cities under his rule. They did as they were told. All of this gore had a purpose, however: to show the world, proof-positively, that Nimrod wasn't a god. It was Shem's warning to all of Nimrod's followers: stop what they were doing and start obeying God, *or else!*(2) Nimrod's followers became very frightened. They worshipped him as a god - a god who would live forever. Now, he was dead; the validity of his religion was in question. Cush, his father, was already shamed for his actions previously. He, also, was not able to unite the people under this system as Nimrod could. Their whole system of control had to go in a different direction. The way they maintained their power would be accomplished by another up-and-coming character: a woman. Little-known by her proper name, Semiramis was to be exalted to one of the most famous women since the flood! She was Cush's wife at the time of the tower, and was also the mother of Nimrod! After Cush was disgraced, subtle Semiramis did not want to go down with him. To maintain her reputation, she did the unthinkable: marrying her own son!(3) By marrying Nimrod, Semiramis could still maintain somewhat of a position of authority - as long as her husband remained in power, *so did she*. Once Nimrod was murdered, however, Semiramis was, once again, in danger of losing all she had. Not so long after, Semiramis was pregnant; the father unknown. This was her golden opportunity to further corrupt those looking for answers. If we recall, from [Cain: Seed of the Serpent](#), there was a famous prophecy, given by God, to Adam and Eve: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy (the serpent's) seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15 (KJV) This prophecy was well-known to the people of Noah's day. It simply stated that, one day, a savior would be born - one that would arise from the seed of Eve. This savior would "bruise the head" of the serpent and any of his seed, in order to save the people from their worldly sins. Semiramis believed that if she could convince the world *her unborn son* was the one who would "save the world," she might still retain her power.

What if her unborn child was "the promised seed" - the one destined to "crush the serpent's head," the one to remove the curse of sin and death Adam allowed in the garden? He would, practically, be a god in his own right. Her unborn child, according to Semiramis, would be just that - none other than Nimrod *reborn*.(4) According to her, Nimrod reincarnated himself in her womb. Semiramis "slept with no man," and became pregnant by his "holy" spirit. Sound familiar? In the end, this slaughter of Nimrod was actually a good thing. He now was a martyr. Nimrod *died* for the sins of the whole world, and rose again as this child. Semiramis would, naturally, be looked upon as the "great mother" - or virgin - a necessary part of this wonderful, miraculous birth. (5) I'm sure it sounds familiar by now! Yes, this was the greatest twist in the history of the world - the twist of Jesus Christ. Now, this corruption of God's prophecy would rob millions of what would be the true savior of the world - Jesus Christ. The people now began to accept Nimrod as the fulfilment of prophecy. *His* death saved everyone from the curse of the Garden. Semiramis, naturally, became deified - she was "mother of the child". Many of the images the people created for her looked like this:(6) Now, this image of *mother and child*, two thousands years before the true birth of Christ, became the object of worship. Ultimately, the Babylonian religion was saved by the borrowing of God's prophecy, and twisting it all around. Over time, Nimrod became the basis for the pagan *Horned God*; Semiramis the *Goddess*. Semiramis, once again, managed to stop the attempt of Shem and his conspirators to halt the progress of their false religion. She also managed to explain away any doubt and confusion that steeped in the minds of her believers. Nimrod didn't die, ultimately. He was born into a god, *again*.(7) The Babylonian religion *of old* seemed harsh to some. Now - to make the religion look more pure and wholesome - there had to be changes in here, as well. No longer could some of their graphic practices be openly practiced. No more human sacrifice out in the open, for example. Their whole religion had to change - to make sure that no-one of God (like Shem) would be able to go to such a high levels again, and almost devastate their control! The system that began in Babylon - the knowledge, authority, beliefs and culture - eventually molded and assimilated into each political empire and religious theology that succeeded the former. God was still their enemy. His ways were not *these* ways. *Man's* thought became the measure of all things. These two avenues of belief have at odds with each other since the beginning - even after the Babylonian system

went through these changes. The rise of Christianity, eventually, would push many of the old, harsher- looking facets of the old Babylonian religion under cover. A once-great city (and system) would, over time, also be able to assimilate itself into a number of ideologies - often finding itself into various thoughts and ideals behind our major political, religious, and cultural influences! All of these different facets, according to the Bible, can be collectively amassed into one, conglomerate title: **MYSTERY BABYLON!** What happened after the adoption of Semiramis' deception can be found in [Legacy of Nimrod](#). It gives details on how one aspect of this Mystery System was even adopted by a descendant of Shem, *Esau*, and how he used this new-found power towards the establishment of another, more powerful empire and religion. For more on the background of Babylon, from the beginning, all the way up the time leading up to Cush and Nimrod, please begin with [The Gap Theory](#).

Footnotes: (1) Louis Ginzberg, *The Legends of the Jews Volume V: Notes for Volume One and Two*, trans. Henrietta Szold (Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1909), 215. (2) Rev. Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons* (Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux Brothers, 1916), 66. (3) Herman L. Hoeh, *Compendium of World History*, Vol. 1, Ch. 3, 4, <http://www.earth-history.com/Various/Compendium> (accessed Dec. 19, 2007). (4) Rev. Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons* (Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux Brothers, 1916), 305. (5) *ibid.* p. 74-77, 295, 304-06. (6) *ibid.* p. 74, 264. (7) William Schnoebelen, *Wicca: Satan's Little White Lie* (Chino, CA: Chick Publications, 1990), 172; Rev. Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons* (Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux Brothers, 1916), 58. Copyright 2013, Brett T., All Rights Reserved

## Babylon

the Greek form of BABEL; Semitic form Babilu, meaning "The Gate of God." In the Assyrian tablets it means "The city of the dispersion of the tribes." The monumental list of its kings reaches back to B.C. 2300, and includes Khammurabi, or Amraphel (q.v.), the contemporary of Abraham. It stood on the Euphrates, about 200 miles above its junction with the Tigris, which flowed through its midst and divided it into two almost equal parts. The Elamites invaded Chaldea (i.e., Lower Mesopotamia, or Shinar, and Upper Mesopotamia, or Accad, now combined into one) and held it in subjection. At length Khammu-rabi delivered it from the foreign yoke, and founded the new empire of Chaldea (q.v.),

making Babylon the capital of the united kingdom. This city gradually grew in extent and grandeur, but in process of time it became subject to Assyria. On the fall of Nineveh (B.C. 606) it threw off the Assyrian yoke, and became the capital of the growing Babylonian empire. Under Nebuchadnezzar it became one of the most splendid cities of the ancient world.

After passing through various vicissitudes the city was occupied by Cyrus, "king of Elam," B.C. 538, who issued a decree permitting the Jews to return to their own land (Ezra 1). It then ceased to be the capital of an empire. It was again and again visited by hostile armies, till its inhabitants were all driven from their homes, and the city became a complete desolation, its very site being forgotten from among men.

On the west bank of the Euphrates, about 50 miles south of Bagdad, there is found a series of artificial mounds of vast extent. These are the ruins of this once famous proud city. These ruins are principally (1) the great mound called Babil by the Arabs. This was probably the noted Temple of Belus, which was a pyramid about 480 feet high. (2) The Kasr (i.e., "the palace"). This was the great palace of Nebuchadnezzar. It is almost a square, each side of which is about 700 feet long. The little town of Hillah, near the site of Babylon, is built almost wholly of bricks taken from this single mound. (3) A lofty mound, on the summit of which stands a modern tomb called Amran ibn-Ali. This is probably the most ancient portion of the remains of the city, and represents the ruins of the famous hanging-gardens, or perhaps of some royal palace. The utter desolation of the city once called "The glory of kingdoms" (Isa 13:19) was foretold by the prophets (Isa 13:4 22; Jer 25:12; 50:2 3; Dan 2:31 -38).

The Babylon mentioned in 1 Pet 5:13 was not Rome, as some have thought, but the literal city of Babylon, which was inhabited by many Jews at the time Peter wrote. In Rev 14:8 16:19; Rev 14:8 and Rev 14:8 "Babylon" is supposed to mean Rome, not considered as pagan, but as the prolongation of the ancient power in the papal form. Rome, pagan and papal, is regarded as one power. "The literal Babylon was the beginner and supporter of tyranny and idolatry...This city and its whole empire were taken by the Persians under Cyrus; the Persians were subdued by the Macedonians, and the Macedonians by the Romans; so that Rome succeeded to the power of old Babylon. And it was her method to adopt the worship of the false deities she had conquered; so that by her own act she became the heiress and successor of all the

Babylonian idolatry, and of all that was introduced into it by the immediate successors of Babylon, and consequently of all the idolatry of the earth." Rome, or "mystical Babylon," is "that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth" 17:18 ).

### **Babylon, kingdom of**

called "the land of the Chaldeans" (Jer 24:5 Ezek, Jer 12:13), was an extensive province in Central Asia along the valley of the Tigris from the Persian Gulf northward for some 300 miles. It was famed for its fertility and its riches. Its capital was the city of Babylon, a great commercial centre (Ezek 17:4 Isa 43:14). Babylonia was divided into the two districts of Accad in the north, and Summer (probably the Shinar of the Old Testament) in the south. Among its chief cities may be mentioned Ur (now Mugheir or Mugayyar), on the western bank of the Euphrates; Uruk, or Erech (Gen 10:10) (now Warka), between Ur and Babylon; Larsa (now Senkereh), the Ellasar of Gen 14:1 a little to the east of Erech; Nipur (now Niffer), south-east of Babylon; Sepharvaim (2 Kings 17 Gen 17:24), "the two Sipparas" (now Abu-Habba), considerably to the north of Babylon; and Eridu, "the good city" (now Abu-Shahreim), which lay originally on the shore of the Persian Gulf, but is now, owing to the silting up of the sand, about 100 miles distant from it. Another city was Kulunu, or Calneh (Gen 10:10).

The salt-marshes at the mouths of the Euphrates and Tigris were called Marratu, "the bitter" or "salt", the Merathaim of Jer 50:21. They were the original home of the Kalda, or Chaldeans.

The most famous of the early kings of Babylonia were Sargon of Accad (B.C.3800) and his son, Naram-Sin, who conquered a large part of Western Asia, establishing their power in Palestine, and even carrying their arms to the Sinaitic peninsula. A great Babylonian library was founded in the reign of Sargon. Babylonia was subsequently again broken up into more than one state, and at one time fell under the domination of Elam. This was put an end to by Khammu-rabi (Amraphel), who drove the Elamites out of the country, and overcame Arioch, the son of an Elamite prince. From this time forward Babylonia was a united monarchy. About B.C. 1750 it was conquered by the Kassi, or Kosseans, from the mountains of Elam, and a Kassite dynasty ruled over it for 576 years and 9 months.

In the time of Khammu-rabi, Syria and Palestine were subject to Babylonia and its Elamite suzerain; and after the overthrow of the Elamite supremacy, the Babylonian kings continued to exercise their

influence and power in what was called "the land of the Amorites." In the epoch of the Kassite dynasty, however, Canaan passed into the hands of Egypt.

In B.C. 729, Babylonia was conquered by the Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III.; but on the death of Shalmaneser IV. it was seized by the Kalda or "Chaldean" prince Merodach-baladan (2Kings 20:12-19), who held it till B.C. 709, when he was driven out by Sargon.

Under Sennacherib, Babylonia revolted from Assyria several times, with the help of the Elamites, and after one of these revolts Babylon was destroyed by Sennacherib, B.C. 689. It was rebuilt by Esarhaddon, who made it his residence during part of the year, and it was to Babylon that Manasseh was brought a prisoner (2 Chr 33:11). After the death of Esarhaddon, Saul-sumyukin, the viceroy of Babylonia, revolted against his brother the Assyrian king, and the revolt was suppressed with difficulty.

When Nineveh was destroyed, B.C. 606, Nabopolassar, the viceroy of Babylonia, who seems to have been of Chaldean descent, made himself independent. His son Nebuchadrezzar (Nabu-kudur-uzur), after defeating the Egyptians at Carchemish, succeeded him as king, B.C. 604, and founded the Babylonian empire. He strongly fortified Babylon, and adorned it with palaces and other buildings. His son, Evil-merodach, who succeeded him in B.C. 561, was murdered after a reign of two years. The last monarch of the Babylonian empire was Nabonidus (Nabu-nahid), B.C. 555-538, whose eldest son, Belshazzar (Bilu-sar-uzur), is mentioned in several inscriptions. Babylon was captured by Cyrus, B.C. 538, and though it revolted more than once in later years, it never succeeded in maintaining its independence.

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[return to table of contents](#)